

Sample Cursillo Witness Talk for Parish Mass (3-5 minutes)

My name is _____ and today I want to tell to you about the Catholic Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Memphis.

Cursillo, which means “short course,” started in Spain in the 1940’s, is a lay movement within the Catholic Church. The Cursillo came to the United States in 1957, and to our diocese in 1964. The Cursillo Movement and its method are highly encouraged by the Catholic Church, and supported by our diocese. In fact, over 6,300 Catholics in our diocese, and numerous priests, deacons and religious have made a Cursillo weekend.

Each winter and fall, a Cursillo 3-day weekend is held separately for men and women. These weekends are open to all Catholic adults, young or old, who have the desire to re-energize their faith in their daily lives. The weekend is made up of teams of “normal” Catholics, not religious freaks, not saints, but those who have struggled with their faith, those who are firmly planted in their faith, and those who are the prodigal sons and daughters welcomed back into the embrace of our Lord. All of these people share one thing in common at the beginning of the weekend and that is the challenge to be a better person, a better Christian, a better Catholic, in a world torn away from God’s love and mercy.

From Thursday evening until Sunday evening, lay people and clergy live and work together to gain a deep, permanent, living awareness of the treasure and responsibility of their faith. You begin the weekend as total strangers. The weekend is full of talks and discussions, singing, laughter, joy and tears. The Cursillo movement is built upon a tripod of study, piety and action and you learn how incorporating these three things into your life can truly enrich and change your understanding and practice of your faith. Throughout the weekend a transformation takes place: strangers become friends and “Sunday” Catholics become everyday Catholics. Candidates often come with many questions and some apprehensions, but they leave full of joyful enthusiasm determined to extend God’s kingdom.

You may make a Cursillo only once in your life, but you are encouraged to build upon it for the rest of your life. The Three Day Cursillo weekend is not meant to be a mountain-top experience for people without a follow up plan. After the weekend, the new Cursillistas get involved in Group Reunions. Group Reunions are the weekly gatherings where 4 to 8 Cursillistas (cur-sa-e-stas) meet to share their faith, encourage each other, and further develop the Catholic Christian Community in the Diocese of Memphis.

<< Insert Witness Here.... Why you decided to make a Cursillo? Where you were spiritually before the weekend, how you changed, how the weekend created a framework for your piety, study action, etc. >>

There are Cursillo weekends held each fall and spring, and the next weekends are not far off. I hope you will give some consideration to deepening your spirituality and building a closer relationship with Jesus Christ by attending a Cursillo weekend. If you would like to learn more, you can visit our website at www.memphiscursillo.com and there are applications and brochures in the narthex/vestibule. I’ll be available after mass as well to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you!