

### **Ask yourself, do you...**

- wish to enrich your relationship with God and live your faith in your daily life?
- want to make a serious and mature recommitment to your Catholic faith?
- desire a Catholic community with which to share your faith journey?
- want to be more confident in sharing your faith with our secular world?

### **Cursillo will enable you to...**

- expand your prayer life
- have an ongoing study program
- share your faith with others

### **If you want to participate...**

To attend a Cursillo Weekend you must have a sponsor who is an active, grouping Cursillista. Your sponsor is responsible for preparing you for the weekend, establishing you in a Group Reunion, and introducing you to the Ultreya. If you do not know someone to serve as your sponsor, please contact us.

The Catholic Cursillo is open to any baptized Catholic who is presently able to participate in the Sacraments. Cursillo weekends are held separately for men and women. Cursillo is a wonderful gift to married life and both spouses are encouraged to participate if at all possible.

Because Cursillo is a powerful encounter with Christ, potential candidates are encouraged to discern the circumstances of their life to be sure one is open to hear the full message of the weekend. Cursillo is for mature adults who are ready to make committed changes to grow closer to Christ. Sponsors should assist potential candidates in discerning individual situations to determine if they are ready.

## **Cursillo Weekends**

**Men:** #125 September 8 -11, 2016  
#126 February 2-5, 2017  
#127 September 7-10, 2017  
#128 February 1-4, 2018  
#129 September 6-9, 2018

**Women:** #103 Sept 29-Oct. 2, 2016  
#104 March 2-5, 2017  
#105 October 5-8, 2017  
#106 March 1-4, 2018  
#107 October 4-7, 2018

*In addition to the English weekends, weekends are also held in Spanish. Contact us for more information.*

#### **Websites:**

[www.memphiscursillo.com](http://www.memphiscursillo.com);  
[www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

#### **Facebook:**

MemphisCursillo

**For more information about making a Cursillo weekend, or to sign up, contact:**

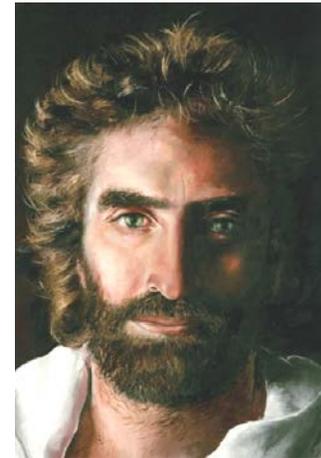
**Or:**

**Tera Simmons: 901-240-0046**  
**[precursillo@memphiscursillo.com](mailto:precursillo@memphiscursillo.com)**  
**Pre-Cursillo Chairperson**



# **Cursillo**

**An Encounter with Christ**



**A Method to Find, Form,  
and Sustain Lay Leadership  
for Christ and His Church.**

*Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Church that promotes Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. It provides an opportunity to deepen your Catholic faith, and to experience the love of God within a supportive and prayerful community. The Cursillo is a method of giving those, who have the potential of influencing others, a personal encounter with Christ and the means to further enhance, support, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelizing their environments.*

## **What is a Cursillo weekend?**

Each winter and fall, a Cursillo 3-day weekend is held (separately for men and women) to introduce adults to Cursillo and provide an experience to enable them to follow Jesus more faithfully and effectively. From Thursday evening until Sunday afternoon, lay people and clergy live and work together to gain a deep, permanent, living awareness of the treasure and responsibility of their faith. Candidates come with many questions, but they leave full of joyful enthusiasm as brothers and sisters in Christ, determined to extend His kingdom. A Cursillo weekend is a personal, lively and informative event with talks, discussions, singing, worship and fellowship.

## **What is the format?**

The Cursillo weekend format consists of a series of spiritual talks and discussions, blending seriousness and lightheartedness. The talks are conducted by both clergy and lay people.

## **Is it a retreat?**

The *retreat* portion of the Cursillo lasts only from the opening night until the following morning. Thereafter, the basic teachings of Christ are discussed in an enthusiastic and inspiring atmosphere. You may make a Cursillo only once in your life, but you are encouraged to *build* upon it for the rest of your life. It is not a substitute for a retreat, but rather compliments it. The Cursillo will make succeeding retreats more profitable.

## **What happens after the Cursillo?**

The weekend lasts three days; the *fourth day* is the rest of one's life, and Cursillistas are urged to make some sort of commitment to God to intensify the growth and deepening of their faith. The Cursillo weekend neither pretends nor is able to give a complete Catholic formation in just three days. Cursillistas are by

no means *finished products* on the Sunday afternoon of the weekend. So, additional activities are available to increase their knowledge and keep aflame their enthusiasm. **Cursillistas are strongly encouraged to form small reunion groups that meet regularly to share their walk with Christ, and their progress with piety, study, and action.**

## **The History of Cursillo...**

Cursillo, which started in Majorca, Spain in the 1940's, is a movement of the laity within the Catholic Church. "Cursillo" means "short course". The full name of the Movement, *Cursillo de Cristiandad*, translates into English as "*short course in Christian living.*"

The founders were dedicated in helping Catholics get to know Christ better. Their intention, then and now, was to give the laity a renewed spirituality and a clear understanding of how Christ can work through them.

The Cursillo Movement came to the United States in 1957 in Waco, Texas. In Memphis, the 1<sup>st</sup> English weekend held was in 1964 and the 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish weekend was held in 1998. The Cursillo Movement and its method are highly encouraged by the Catholic Church. Over 6,000 Catholics in our diocese, and numerous priests, deacons, and religious have made a Cursillo weekend!

## **Our Spiritual Advisor...**

Since 1964, the Cursillo Movement has been active in our Diocese. Officially recognized by the universal Catholic Church and Bishop J. Terry Steib, SVD, the movement falls under the direction of the Secretariat for Spiritual Life. Bishop Steib has appointed as spiritual advisor for our movement, *Rev. Rick Mickey*. He is also diocesan archivist and administrator of Villa Vianney and is the priest assigned to our movement. As Spiritual Advisor, Father Mickey is the link between the Cursillo and the Bishop.

## **We are challenged...**

In our struggle to live in the secular world we are challenged to be Catholics, not just on Sundays, but in all that we are and all that we do. Cursillo provides the support and growth we need to enrich our relationship with God. The Cursillo is an encounter with Christ that promotes spiritual revitalization and the Christianization of our world through the witness of Christ's values to others in our family, school, and workplace. Cursillo develops in adult Catholics a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of Christian renewal, while sustaining them though Catholic Community.

## **Who should go on a weekend?**

**Cursillo is largely intended for those who are:**

- baptized and committed Catholics who are spiritually mature and want to grow in their faith
- able to receive the Sacraments of the church
- active in their parishes
- interested in examining what it means to be a Catholic in today's world

**Cursillo is also of value to:**

- baptized Catholics who live as Catholics, but are not presently involved in the Church.
- those who have slipped away from the Church, but have begun to move back.

**Note:** A person may want to wait at least a year before attending a Cursillo weekend, following major life events such as:

- a Marriage Encounter weekend
- change in marital status
- serious illness
- bereavement
- acute emotional problems or psychiatric treatment

**Note:** A \$200 donation is asked to help cover the cost of the weekend. However, a lack of funds should not discourage anyone from making the weekend. If help is needed, please let your sponsor know so that arrangements can be made. Requests remain confidential.