



Cursillos in Christianity

Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Memphis

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY THE CANDIDATE

What is Cursillo?

(pronounced Cur-see-yo)

Cursillo is a movement of the Catholic 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?

Twice a year, a Cursillo 3-day weekend is held (separately for men and women) to introduce others to Cursillo and provide an experience to enable them to follow Jesus more faithfully and effectively. 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. Candidates come with many questions and some apprehensions, but they leave full of joyful enthusiasm as brothers and sisters in Christ, determined to extend His kingdom.

What is the format?

The Cursillo weekend format consists of a series of spiritual talks and discussions, blending seriousness and lightheartedness. The weekend is a personal, lively and informative event with talks, discussions, singing, worship and fellowship. The talks are conducted by clergy and lay people. Although Cursillos are lay-directed and controlled, the clergy assist in this effort most enthusiastically.

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 a more relaxed atmosphere or learning and discussion. 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 night of the weekend. So, additional activities are available to increase their knowledge and keep aflame their enthusiasm. Cursillistas are encouraged to form small reunion groups that meet regularly to share their walk with Christ, and their progress with piety, study, and action. Periodically, another larger type of reunion, called an *Ultreya* (Spanish for *Onward*) is held in which Cursillistas give brief talks developing one of the points covered during the Cursillo weekend. School of Leaders is also offered for continued faith formation.

Who should go on a weekend?

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

- baptized, committed Catholics
- able to receive the Sacraments of the church
- active in their parishes
- interested in examining what it means to be a Christian in today's world.

A Cursillo weekend is **also of value to** baptized Catholics who:

- live as Catholics, but are not presently involved in the Church
- have slipped away from the Church, but are beginning to move back

Experience over the years, has led to the following **recommendations**, which we ask you to consider. 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
- People with acute emotional problems or in psychiatric treatment

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Retreat Center offers single and double bedrooms each with a shower, including sheets, blankets, pillows, soap, and towels. Please bring your own toiletries, including shampoo. All meals will be provided. Dress is comfortable and casual. Please bring appropriate clothes for Sunday Mass. Remember to pack your medications and reading glasses. You will need a Rosary, but all other material will be provided. Also, bring your favorite (clean, please) jokes to share at mealtimes. We try to provide a cloistered environment, so we ask you not to bring a cell phone, laptop computer, newspapers, magazines, radio or TV. With the exception of prescription medication, drugs, alcohol, and other controlled substances are prohibited.

CANDIDATE'S APPLICATION – Please print legibly. All fields are required.

All Cursillo weekends in English are held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center in Stanton, TN and begin on Thursday night and end on Sunday evening. You are expected to be present for the entire weekend. It is your sponsor's responsibility to bring you to and from your Cursillo weekend.

Weekend: Men's Women's (circle one)

Upcoming Cursillo weekend dates are posted at www.memphiscursillo.com.

Season: Fall Spring (circle one)

If I am unable to attend, I would like my application automatically carried forward to the next Cursillo weekend: Yes No

My sponsor is: _____ I need a sponsor: Yes No

Name: _____ Parish: _____

Nickname: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: _____

E-mail: _____ Employer: _____

Marital status Single Married Separated Divorced Widowed

If Married: married in the Catholic Church? Yes No

Spouse's Name: _____ Is spouse Catholic? Yes No

If applicable; Spouse's Cursillo Number, Year, and Diocese: _____

If not, has Cursillo and Post-Cursillo been explained to your spouse? Yes No

Why would you like to make a Cursillo? _____

Do you suffer from any physical limitations which would require special attention or diet? Yes No
(Health, Diet, Disabilities, Allergies, limited mobility, etc.) Explain: _____

Activities you are currently involved in: (Church, Civic, Professional, Hobbies, etc.)

Are you a lector? Yes Eucharistic Minister? Yes Musician? If so, what instrument? _____

Do you have any questions about the weekend that your sponsor has not been able to answer? _____

Has the Recommended Follow-Up Program of Group Reunion & Ultreya been explained to you? Yes No

Emergency contacts: Day _____ ph# _____

Night _____ ph# _____

I understand that the purpose of the Cursillo Movement is to promote the creation of core groups of Catholics who are committed to changing their environments with the message of the Gospel; that the weekend is a "short course" in Christianity and that my commitment to Group Reunion and Ultreya can assist me in bringing Christ to the world in which I live, work and play. A \$225.00 minimum donation, normally due upon arrival (or with this application), is asked to help cover the cost of the weekend. A lack of funds should not discourage anyone from making a Cursillo 3-Day Weekend. Financial assistance is available- please discuss with your sponsor so that arrangements can be made. All requests will be kept in strict confidence.

I have read the above statements and answered all questions honestly and completely as possible. I have prayed about the Cursillo and my application, and I wish to attend.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Questions? Call Tera Simmons (901) 240-0046

Submit applications one of two ways:

(1) **Mail** completed form to: Tera Simmons, Pre-Cursillo Chairman; 208 Fleur De Lis Cove Memphis, TN 38117

(2) **Scan** and e-mail to: precursillo@memphiscursillo.com

SPONSOR'S SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

The Cursillo Movement is an instrument of the Roman Catholic Church for the revitalization of Christian life. The Cursillo, as intended by its founders, is a method of giving those who have the potential of influencing others, a personal encounter with Christ. The Cursillo gives them the desire and tools to bring Christ into their own environment and share Him with everyone around them. For the people in the Movement, it involves a restructuring of their lives through an ongoing program of sharing and mutual support. The 3-Day experience is an *introduction* into a growing, supporting and persevering community of friends in Christ who are trying to structure their lives in such a way as to be more effective in Christianizing their environments. No one may be sponsored to attend a weekend until they have been fully advised of these community activities, and agree to be at least open to participation in them. The role of the sponsor in the Cursillo movement is twofold. First, a sponsor seeks appropriate people to encourage attending a Cursillo weekend. Second, a sponsor responds prayerfully to associates who volunteer to attend a Cursillo weekend.

In short, to sponsor a Candidate is a significant commitment of energy and attention. Please do not take the responsibility lightly. As a sponsor, you assume considerable responsibilities, and you may be contacted to confirm that you understand them, and that you are prepared to fulfill them.

Candidate Selection:

- In prayer ask God to assist you in your choice of candidate. Have you spoken to God about your Candidate before speaking to your candidate about Cursillo?
- Is the he / she a baptized Catholic? Is the candidate able to receive the Sacraments? Does your candidate have the ability and desire to take part in the sacrament of reconciliation?
- Is he / she active in the parish or leaders in their own way? Has he /she the ability to become a leader and change his / her environment to Christ? Does he / she show potential for taking an active role in the Church and sharing their faith with others?
- Does he/she show strength of character and self control? Does he/she have strong Christian values?
- Is he / she interested in examining what it means to be a Catholic in today's world?
- Is he / she a mature person? Is your candidate healthy both emotionally and physically?
- Is he / she capable of capturing the message of Cursillo?
- Is he / she able to live the Fourth Day (Ultreya, Group Reunion and School of Leaders?)
- LASTLY: Invite them to Cursillo. Remember the steps...Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ – before, during, and after the Cursillo.
 - Be a friend, spend time with your Candidate and explain the whole purpose of the Cursillo Movement, as well as the format of the weekend. Make sure they know it is not a retreat. Explain that Cursillo expects a Catholic recommitment. While we do not want to give away surprises that make the weekend more meaningful, secrecy has no place in Cursillo. Make sure the Candidate is going because he or she wants to, not as a favor to you.
- Sponsors should do Palanca **before** and **during** the Cursillo.
- Pray for guidance, know the goals and methods of Cursillo, and live the message of the weekend.

Final Checklist:

- I have described the weekend to my candidate.
 - 3 days, 15 talks by lay and religious, talks followed by discussions, mass every day, good meals!
- I have explained *Fourth Day* to my candidate.
 - Group Reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders
- I have explained group reunion to my candidate?
 - Piety, Study, Action, Close Moments, Far Moments, and personal accountability.
- I have a group reunion awaiting him / her?
 - The new Cursillista joins your group reunion, or another existing group reunion.
- If I need help in placing the candidate in a Group Reunion, have I begun to seek one out for my candidate?
 - Will the table from the weekend form a group? Have I checked with the parish rep on options? Have I reviewed the list of current group reunions?
- Arrange transportation to and from the Cursillo weekend. Your candidate should not drive their own car. You should be at Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center with your candidate no earlier than 6:00 P.M. and no later than 7:00 P.M. on Thursday night. A light dinner will be provided. You should be present to greet your candidate promptly at 3:00 P.M. Sunday afternoon. Offer to help the candidate with any family or home needs during their weekend. Make sure their family has your phone number and emergency number at the retreat center.

The Cursillo Group Reunion is not optional for sponsors. If you are not in a weekly Cursillo Group Reunion, you cannot, and should not, sponsor alone since this activity, and Ultreya, are such key components to the "ongoing program of sharing and mutual support," and a primary goal of the 3-Day Weekend. You may, however, co-sponsor with a Cursillista who is in a **Cursillo** Group Reunion. (Other diocesan faith sharing groups such as *Light of the World, Fishers of Men, Emmaus, Men's/Women's Prayer Groups*, etc. are not **Cursillo** group reunions as they do not follow the **Cursillo** format.)

SPONSOR'S APPLICATION - Please *print* legibly. All fields are required.

Candidate sponsored by: Individual Couple Group Reunion

Candidate Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____ Parish _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Sponsor's Cursillo Number, Year, and Diocese: _____

I am active in: Group Reunion Ultreya School of Leaders

When, where, and what time do you meet in group reunion? _____ How often? _____

I have described the weekend to my candidate. Yes No Is the candidate a relative? If so, how? _____

I have explained *Fourth Day* to my candidate. Yes No

I have explained group reunion to my candidate? Yes No A group reunion is awaiting him / her? Yes No

I need help in placing the candidate in a Group Reunion? Yes No

Is your candidate free to receive the sacraments? Yes No Not Sure

How long have you known him/her? _____

Is there any reason this candidate should not be table leader or secretary? If so, please explain:

Has the candidate experienced any life altering events in the past 18 months that could interfere with the candidate or others during the 3-Day Cursillo Weekend? If so, please explain:

Why, in your opinion, should this candidate make a Cursillo and what environments would he/she impact? Please be as thorough as possible as to aid the lay rector and team members on the 3-day weekend.

Circle all the words that describe your candidate:

- | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Quiet | Talkative | Friendly | Reserved | Optimistic | Particular | Thoughtful | Old-Fashioned |
| Happy | Flexible | Sharing | Spontaneous | Shy | Contemporary | Skeptical | Expressive |
| Fearful | Nervous | Sad | Decisive | Fun | Punctual | Growing Angry | |

As a sponsor, I say yes to Christ to fulfill these responsibilities in such a way that His grace and love are revealed to my candidate through my Christian action. I commit myself to serving as a companion, guide and witness to the candidate before, during and after the Cursillo 3-Day weekend. I pledge to support the candidate by my ongoing example of living the Cursillo method through Group Reunion and Ultreya. Further, if I am not active in the Cursillo method, I will be faithful to my friend by finding a co-sponsor. My signature on this application indicates my commitment to the high calling of servant hood.

Sponsor's Signature _____

Date _____

A \$225.00 minimum donation, normally due upon arrival (or with this application), is asked to help cover the cost of the weekend. A lack of funds should not discourage anyone from making the Cursillo. Financial assistance is available- please discuss with your sponsor so that arrangements can be made.

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