

CURSILLO – A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

The Gospel of St. Luke relates the story of the risen Christ appearing to two disciples traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. The two friends were walking together, sharing their heart's deepest concerns, when they were joined by the risen Christ, still unrecognizable to them. Our Lord explained the scriptures to them as they journeyed, and how it was ordained that Christ should suffer and die, and so enter His glory.

This experience on the road was at first enlightening, as the risen Christ walked and talked with them. The journey became life-changing when Christ took the bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to His disciples. The two disciples had their eyes opened and they recognized their Lord in the breaking of the bread. And having had their eyes opened, they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell others. Luke 24: 13-35.

WHAT IS CURSILLO?

The story of the road to Emmaus provides the image for Cursillo, a movement of the Catholic Church which calls forth and renews Christian discipleship. The Cursillo experience starts with a three-day weekend, which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Catholic Christians, and through them their families, parishes, work environments, and the world in which we live. Cursillo is a combined effort of laity and clergy toward the Church.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CURSILLO WEEKEND?

The weekend is a 72-hour experience, which begins on a Thursday evening and concludes three days later on Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends. At the Cursillo weekend, you spend three busy but very enjoyable days living and studying together in prayer, liturgies, singing and discussions. The discussions focus on the various talks given by clergy and laity over the course of the weekend. These talks present the theme of God's grace and how grace comes alive in the Christian community and expresses itself in the world. You will also discover how grace is real in your life, how you can continue to live a life of grace, and how you can be a part of bringing that grace to others. You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and to begin to understand more fully the presence of Christ in His body of believers.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CURSILLO WEEKEND?

The objective of the Cursillo Movement is to inspire, challenge, and equip candidates for Christian action in their homes, parishes, and work environments. Cursillo helps us to realize that our grace-filled lives are to be lived and shared with others. One of the primary strengths of Cursillo is the follow-up after the three-day weekend experience. While the weekend lasts only three days, you are invited and encouraged to build on that experience for the rest of your life. The Cursillo method presented on the weekend provides the means by which the seeds God has planted in your life can grow and bear fruit during the "Fourth Day" -- which is the rest of your life.

If you feel a desire to draw closer to Christ and His Church, if you seek to better discern and respond to God's call in your life, then do not miss this opportunity to encounter Christ in a powerful way which is both personal and communal.

WHO SHOULD GO ON A CURSILLO WEEKEND?

Cursillo is for the development of Catholics who:

- Wish to strengthen their spiritual lives.
- May have unanswered questions about prayer, study, and sharing their faith.
- Understand that being a Catholic Christian includes responsibility.
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner.

In order for your application to be accepted:

- You must be a practicing Catholic.
- You must be free to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church.
- You must be strong and mature in the Catholic faith, psychologically and emotionally stable, and physically able to participate in the three-day weekend.
- You must be sponsored by an active member of the Cursillo Movement.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

We invite you to prayerfully consider whether you are being called to join in an enlightening weekend of renewal and become part of the Cursillo community. For details on the dates and locations for the Cursillo Weekends in this Diocese, please contact any one of the Cursillo representatives listed below:

- Donna Holmstrom, Diocesan Coordinator (St. Peter/Jupiter): 772-708-0414; donnaholmstrom@gmail.com
- Bill Mallette, Asst. Diocesan Coordinator (St. Peter/Jupiter): 561-373-8789; billmprays@gmail.com
- Tony Bellantoni (St. Ignatius/Palm Beach Gardens): 203-570-9413; ajb.pbcursillo@gmail.com
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