

## What is Cursillo?

Cursillo (pronounced ker-see-yo) is a plan for living a Christian life. A Spanish term, the proper name is Cursillo de Cristiandad, which means "short course of Christianity." As a movement within the church, its purpose is to help individuals understand their personal callings to be Christian leaders, and to exercise their positive influence at work, in their family and social life, in leisure activities, and within the church environment. Cursillo begins with a 4-day weekend (Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon), **which is not a traditional retreat, but rather a gathering of clergy and laity from the diocese who are seeking to strengthen their faith through shared prayer, worship, music, study, discussions, fellowship, laughter, and love.** Most importantly, Cursillo provides continuing support through ongoing small "reunion groups," where participants meet regularly to share reflections on their prayer life, Christian study, and involvement in the world, and sustain themselves and each other in their Christian walk.

## Where Does Cursillo Come From?

The word "Cursillo" means "little course," and it began in the late 1940's as a brief training program for Roman Catholic lay people. It soon became recognized as a vibrant means of Christian renewal for both individuals and parishes. Since then, Cursillo has spread throughout the world, and for over five decades Cursillo weekends have been held in Episcopal dioceses. In such dioceses, the movement is coordinated by a group of lay people and clergy called the Cursillo Secretariat.

## Information for Sponsors & Candidates

The Cursillo weekend lasts from Thursday evening to Sunday evening, with about forty people taking part. The weekend is free to all candidates. Thanks to a significant donation from of all those who have made a Cursillo weekend already- we support our own movement.

In this diocese, all Cursillos are open to both men and women. Applications will be considered if the applicant has spoken to the Rector or Officiating Priest of his/her Episcopal parish, and has the application signed by one of them. Cursillo is not suggested for those who are having substantial problems with their faith or for those who are experiencing serious difficulties in their personal lives.

For additional information and upcoming Cursillo Weekend please check out the website.

[www.nycursilloepiscopal.com](http://www.nycursilloepiscopal.com)

Or contact:

Ann Mayfield, *Lay Diocesan Director*

Phone: 718-618-0458

Email: [ann.mayfield@aol.com](mailto:ann.mayfield@aol.com)



Copyright 2012



*Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ*

*"Cursillo is an encounter with Christ. That may sound simple, but it's not. Think about a real meeting with Christ! If that's understood, then the power and the beauty and the joy of the Cursillo experience will be understood."*

**Interested?**

**Read on . . .**

## What Does Cursillo Stand For?

The Cursillo does not present a new type of spirituality, nor does it speak for a particular party or group within the Church. Yet a Cursillo weekend has a definite and challenging message.

### The movement believes:

- That the creation of Christian community is the vital means for bringing the knowledge and love of Christ to the world.
- That both clergy and laity are called to this apostolic mission through their baptisms.
- That as Christians we are prepared and strengthened for this mission by participation in the full sacramental life of the Church and by a disciplined program of personal prayer and study. This happens through support by fellow Christians in small groups and larger gatherings, both during the three days of the Cursillo weekend and in the "fourth day" - the rest of one's life.

Cursillo offers a way to strengthen Christian community in parishes, so that participants may encourage one another to grow in the love and service of Christ. Cursillo weekends are held at the Convent of the Dominican Sisters of Hope (Mariandale) in a lovely setting on the Hudson River. Pictures of Mariandale are available on their website ([www.mariandale.org](http://www.mariandale.org)).



## Cursillo . . . a Lifetime of Growth

The Cursillo experience does not end with the conclusion of the Weekend in fact, it's just the beginning of a lifetime of growth and renewal. Meeting regularly with a small group to share, review, plan and ask for support of the group is the cornerstone of building our ongoing commitment to a life in Christ. A Group Reunion is a small, regular gathering of Cursillistas in which the members pray together and discuss with one another their lives since their last meeting, in terms of Piety, Study and Action. Usually, Group Reunions meet weekly, at the same time, in the same place, and consist of three to five members. In order for trust and intimacy to develop, the membership should be fairly stable. However, new Cursillistas may join the existing groups in their parish or form new ones. The Group Reunion is the most important part of our Fourth Day experience. In fact, the three day weekends are held to make Group Reunions possible.

## Cursillo in New York — A Brief History

Cursillo came to the Diocese of New York in 1979 when several Cursillistas in the New York area who had made their Cursillos in other dioceses met to form the basis of the movement in this diocese. After receiving permission from the Bishop, those who attended that first meeting were invited to form the first Cursillo Secretariat. Cursillo #1 was held in October, 1979 at St. Mary's Institute for Christian Studies in Peekskill, New York.

## What is the Goal of Cursillo?

The goal of Cursillo is the goal of the Church: to bring all to Christ.



This is done when informed, trained leaders set out with the support of others having a similar commitment.

## What does Cursillo do?

It helps to renew and deepen Christian commitment. Cursillo is one of many renewal movements. Many people have said Cursillo provides an important learning experience that causes many to feel like newly made Christians with a purpose and with support.

## Are there Cursillo Secrets?

Some people have been told by some who have attended the weekend that they cannot tell you what Cursillo is all about or what goes on during a Cursillo weekend.

**THIS IS NOT CORRECT.** Everything that goes on during the weekend may be told to anyone. Cursillo literature is available to anyone who wishes to read or purchase the materials.

*"... But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. . ."*

Ephesians 4:7, 11-12

