

## Who may take part?

Cursillo is open to all adult Episcopalian men and women, married or single. Laity and clergy alike are invited to join the fellowship. Couples may attend the same Cursillo Weekend, or they may go on different weekends.

## How do I apply?

Every participant has a sponsor who has attended a Cursillo weekend. This sponsor will assist you in preparation for the weekend and, more importantly, assist you after the weekend. If you know someone in your parish who has attended a Cursillo weekend, ask them to tell you more and how to get started. Pray about it, and if you conclude that you should go, submit an application that your sponsor will provide. If you don't know anyone in your parish who has attended Cursillo, ask your Rector or contact the Cursillo office.

## What if I have special needs?

Include that information on your application. The Cursillo community is more than willing to make special arrangements for access and to accommodate dietary or other needs.

## What is expected of Participants?

- To be open and willing to respond to what you experience.
- To share your feelings with others and allow them to share with you.
- To make a genuine effort to discover where you are and how you can grow in your Christian life.
- To feel secure in the knowledge that you are accepted where you are and as you are, and to know that a specific response is not expected of you.
- To be curious enough and thirsty enough for spiritual exploration and nourishment to acknowledge a need to commit a weekend of your life totally to Christ.

## What do I bring?

- Comfortable clothes
- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Personal items
- Open mind (most important)

**Episcopal Cursillo  
Community of Minnesota**  
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## What is Cursillo?



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## What is Cursillo?

Cursillo (pronounced -kurseeyo-) is a short course in Christianity. A Cursillo weekend is, among other things, the experience of living for three days in a community of persons who are consciously trying to live as Christians.

The Cursillo begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Part of the purpose of the weekend is to help us recognize Christ's presence and action in our lives and in the lives of others. That is also part of the Church's purpose, but Cursillo is a concentrated opportunity to do so. A Cursillo weekend consists of, among other things, a number of talks by laity and clergy and worship services. During the weekend we have the opportunity to share through discussion our thoughts and ideas with others, which helps us to clarify our feelings about a lot of the Church's teaching and a great deal of learning takes place in a short time.

There is nothing new, different or unusual about any aspect of the Cursillo weekend. What makes it a special time is that we experience Christianity in a concentrated time period and we actually live it.

So why is a Cursillista (a person who has been to a Cursillo) so enthusiastic about the weekend? Simply because that person has experienced the fullness of Christian living in a way not usually possible in our fragmentary everyday lives.

### Cursillo is:

- An opportunity to grow in faith and in spirituality
- A deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus and how we can serve Him.
- An experience of living and sharing with others in a loving and caring Christian community and realizing that this can be extended into our own environment
- A continuing community that gives support and encouragement empowering the renewed Christians to persevere in carrying out their Baptismal vows.

### How did Cursillo begin?

The first Cursillo Weekends were developed in the Roman Catholic Church in Majorca, Spain. Cursillo was brought to the United States by Spanish airmen stationed in Texas in the late 1950's. The first official Cursillo Weekend in the Episcopal Church was conducted with help from Roman Catholic sponsors in the Diocese of Iowa in 1972. Episcopal Cursillo in Minnesota began in the same year. Since then more than 4,000 men and women have attended Episcopal Cursillo weekends in Minnesota and the movement has spread to many other Protestant denominations.

### Do I need Cursillo?

Cursillo is not necessary for one's salvation. But Cursillo can be a significant and very real experience of what it is like to live in a community which is focussed and centered on Jesus Christ. That is the joy that makes those who have attended Cursillo so enthusiastic for the weekend.

## What is Cursillo like?

The Cursillo weekend is not a retreat. There is no fasting or extended period of silence. Food and music are both plentiful. The weekend is an opportunity to meet clergy and laity who are seeking to strengthen their faith. It provides an opportunity through shared prayer, worship, study, fellowship, laughter, tears, and love to experience the reality of the gift of God's love freely and unconditionally given. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated daily.

Cursillo is not in any way an encounter group or sensitivity training, nor is it a weekend of retreat and meditation. It is just living basic Christianity. The weekend consists of a series of talks, most of which are by lay persons, discussions about the subjects of those talks, and responding to the talks. Time is spent in worship each day. Each day there is some free time, but most of the time is spent in group activities.

### Are there any secrets?

Absolutely not! There are no secrets in Cursillo. All the Spanish words used in Cursillo often seem to make Cursillo out to be a secret society, but the Cursillo movement originated in Spain and because the movement is international in scope, the Spanish terms have been retained as a common language to describe Cursillo. More than two million men and women of various languages and races and communions in more than 50 nations have participated in Cursillo.