

# *What is Cursillo?*

## **CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY**

In today's world, can Christianity penetrate the many areas of secular life? Can it live there? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past and in keeping with the times? The Cursillo Movement thinks so. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which a person's spirituality may be developed, lived and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an ongoing manner.

Cursillo teaches that the Gospel should be proclaimed in very natural ways; i.e., we should be Christ-like as we go about our daily activities, right where God put us. Unfortunately, while most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult. Cursillo provides a method (with tools) to meet the challenges and respond to the opportunities presented each day. The method is introduced by a little course.

## **FORMAT OF THE EXERCISES**

Cursillo (pronounced **kur-see-yo**) is a Spanish word meaning "little, or short, course." It begins on a Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday evening. During the three days, those attending live and work together listening to talks given by priests and laypersons. They also share the Eucharist and pray together.

Titles of the talks indicate their content: Ideal, Habitual Grace, The Layperson: A Christian in the World, Actual Grace, Piety, Study, Sacraments, Action, Obstacles to a Life of Grace, Leaders, Study of the Environment, Life in Grace, Christianity in Action, the Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo, and Total Security. Each talk is followed by a discussion period.

## **THE FOURTH DAY**

Cursillo recognizes the importance of persevering beyond the Weekend itself, so its design includes a method for increasing and continuing the conversion process beyond the Three Days by providing a means for living the "fourth day" (each day after the Three Day Weekend is referred to as the "fourth day"). In the Cursillo Movement, the community spirit is continued in the fourth day through a monthly gathering or reunion called "Ultreya", during which we encourage one another to continue to grow in Faith, Hope, and Love (Ultreya means "onward"; we encourage one another onward ... to continue/persevere). In addition, reunions of smaller groups of friends (Group Reunion) are available weekly for fostering spiritual growth in the individual members, helping each to better take Christ out into the world.

## **CHRISTIANIZING ENVIRONMENTS**

The Cursillo Movement can have very positive results in the spiritual revitalization of the world ... the "New Evangelization." The Christ-likeness in a few good people is contagious. The transference of Christ's values to others in one's family, school, place of business, etc., is the Christianizing of environments the Cursillo promotes.

The goal of the Cursillo Movement is that Christ be the prime influence in society. Its primary objectives are to develop in Christians a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of Christian renewal, and to sustain them as they provide a Christian leaven in civic, social and economic life. This "Christianizing of environments" is what the Cursillo Movement is all about.

## **CURSILLO**

Cursillistas (persons who have lived a Three Day Cursillo Weekend) believe that Christianity CAN penetrate the many areas of secular life. Cursillo is not a new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which our spirituality is developed and lived – right where we are!!

A Cursillo Weekend's aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. Truly, a Cursillo is an encounter with Christ ... a real meeting with Christ. Cursillo gives those who participate a living understanding of basic Catholic truths and the desire to serve the Church. What's more, it provides a means to continue the Christian formation that begins on the Weekend.

Interested? You are invited ... Come and see!!

## **For More Information, Contact:**

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<b>Fr. Bernard Lorenz (Spiritual Advisor)</b>	<b>308-414-1195</b>
<b>Fr. Mark Seiker</b>	<b>402-694-3427</b>

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<http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>

## **Additional Information for Candidates re: the Cursillo Weekend (2022)**

The Coordinators for the upcoming Cursillo Weekends are Greg Vandenberg (308-530-7587) for the Men's Weekend (October 20-23, 2022) and Kathy Springer (402-826-2699) for the Women's Weekend (October 27-30, 2022). Cursillo Weekends are held in various locations around the Diocese. This one is being held at St. Michael Parish, 715 Creighton Ave; Hastings, NE 68901 (phone number in case of emergencies during the Weekend is 402-463-1023; option 7).

The purpose of this note is to pass along some helpful information, based on questions we're commonly asked. If other questions arise, please do not hesitate to call Greg or Kathy (see contact information below).

- ✠ The weekend will start at approximately 7:00 p.m. on Thursday ... it is best to plan to arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m. The Weekend concludes about 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- ✠ Someone will be there to meet you, greet you, and help you with your things.
- ✠ Please let us know if you have any special dietary (or other) needs.
- ✠ All meals, snacks, and drinks (tea, soda, water, coffee, etc.) are provided.
- ✠ You will need to bring a pillow and sleeping bag (or sheets and a blanket). We have foam mats to put underneath your sleeping bag (these are surprisingly comfortable). You are welcome to bring an inflatable bed or cot.
- ✠ You may want to bring ear plugs if "background" noise bothers you at night.
- ✠ Bring comfortable clothing and any personal items you need (towels/washcloth, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, a couple of hangers for towels and clothes, flashlight, prescription medications, etc.).
- ✠ Dress is very casual, as most wear jeans and shirts/sweaters/sweatshirts, although we usually dress up a little nicer for the Lord's Day.
- ✠ Don't worry if you forget something, as we can get whatever you need.
- ✠ **There are showers available throughout the weekend.**
- ✠ There is usually time for sharing jokes, so please bring a number of your favorite clean jokes with you to share.
- ✠ You may want to bring a Rosary (if you have one) and a Bible.
- ✠ Was it mentioned that we have food?!?!?!?
- ✠ The Lincoln Diocese Cursillo Website is: <http://www.seas-np.org/cursillolincoln.html>

We look forward to spending the Cursillo Weekend with you in the company of our Lord.

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