

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is intended to help Christians learn and live what is fundamental to being a Christian. It is to help these same Christians discover and live out a personal vocation. Cursillo is a ministry of the Episcopal Church, under the authority of the Presiding and Diocesan Bishops. The goal of Cursillo is to bring the world to Christ by empowering adult Christian leaders. It uses a specific Cursillo Method which equips and encourages Christians to live out their Baptismal Covenant in service to Christ.

What is the Purpose of Cursillo?

Cursillo's purpose is to help those in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian Leaders. The leadership may be exercised in work situations, in the family, in social life, in leisure activities, and within the Church environment. Leadership, in Cursillo, does not mean power over others, but *influence* on others. It helps all of us to be aware that we can exert a positive influence on those around us as members of the Jesus Movement.

What Does Cursillo Do?

Cursillo helps to renew and deepen Christian commitment. Many people have said Cursillo provides an important enrichment experience which helps them feel renewed as Christians and able to move forward with purpose and with support.

How is the Cursillo Ministry Lived?

Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example. He searched out and called a small group of potential leaders (pre-Cursillo); He trained them by word and example and inspired them with a vision (the Episcopal Cursillo Weekend); He linked them together and sent them out into the world to bring the world to Him (the Fourth Day).

❖ Pre-Cursillo

During this period, sponsors (*i.e. those who have been to the Weekend and are living the Fourth Day*) identify and recommend the candidacy of those Episcopalians who are leading an active Christian life and are a living witness to their love for Christ. It is also the period in which selected candidates are informed of what to expect at the Cursillo Weekend and are assisted in appropriate preparations.

❖ Episcopal Cursillo Weekend

The Weekend brings together a diverse group of Episcopalians to share the richness of many modes of worship and to broaden each one's appreciation for our Church. Lay people conduct the Weekend with two or three members of the clergy functioning as spiritual advisors. Cursillo presumes that those who attend weekends are already well grounded in the faith. It is intended to be a deepening of what is already there, not a conversion experience. It often provides new insights into our faith as well as fostering ministry among lay people.

The Weekend usually begins with time in a Chapel or quiet place with meditations, discussions, and Compline. Then, there is a blessed period of silence. Participants are part of a small community as they are assigned to table groups for the Weekend. The days are filled with talks and group discussions with emphasis on the doctrine of Grace, the Sacraments, and of the great Cursillo tripod: *Piety, Study, and Action*. Plus, there is fellowship, singing, good food, and time for privacy, meditation, prayer, and walks. Eucharist is celebrated each day. *The Weekend is secondary to the Fourth Day in importance.*

❖ Fourth Day

The Cursillo Weekend is not an end to itself. It is only the starting point for the rest of one's life. It is a springboard to a long-range practice of the Baptismal Covenant in the life of the Church called the Fourth Day. The Fourth Day is composed of three major elements:

Group Reunion, the heart of Cursillo, is a small group of friends (usually 3-5) who meet weekly hold each other accountable for their spiritual journey. They report on their piety, their study, and their apostolic action. A bond develops that institutes a strong support group for life.

Ultreya, which is usually held monthly, is a "reunion of the reunions." It provides support and builds community by allowing the sharing of communal experiences.

Spiritual Direction is an important element of the Cursillo Ministry. It is a commitment to seek out skilled clergy or lay persons for spiritual direction to provide help to deepen one's union with Christ.

How Do I Learn More?

Everything about the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry is freely available to everyone. Cursillo is not about secrets or being set apart. It is a way to help us all be active parts of the Jesus Movement and bring others to Christ.

To find out more about the the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry — how it functions, the full details of the Cursillo Weekend, or any other aspects of interest — go to its website (episcopalcursilloministry.org) and download publications provided at no cost. “What is Cursillo?,” “Cursillo — Our Story,” “The Cursillo Path,” and “Living in the Fourth Day” should all be helpful. These may be printed and shared as long as they are not sold.

If additional information is needed or questions occur, please contact us at: ecmoffice@episcopalcursilloministry.org or 303-823-1802.

“... 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

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(Replaces Brochure #300 - 2015)

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A Ministry of the Episcopal Church