

How is the Cursillo movement linked to the Catholic Church?

We are focused on Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord. Our patron saint is St. Paul. Our mission is the Church's mission. We're fully Catholic, and obedient to the Magisterium. We are joined to the national Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) through our official liaison, Most Reverend Ronald Gainer, Bishop of Lexington, and through the Bishops' Secretariat for the Laity in Washington, DC.

Popes Paul VI (1966) and John Paul II (1980) mentioned Cursillo as one of the hopes for the church.

Bishop Ronald Gainer, himself a Cursillista, knows who we are and supports what we do. Many of us are active in our parishes. However, the Cursillo aim is to teach you how to live the Christian life. Your apostolate may be in the parish (and beyond) or elsewhere.

How do I get involved?

You need a Sponsor, a friend who invites you to the Cursillo. This person may have already invited you to his or her group reunion. The sponsor's job is to arrange transportation to the weekend site; to pray for you before, during, and after the weekend; and to help you into a group reunion. Contact us if you need help arranging sponsorship.

I heartily encourage you to say YES when you are invited to make a Cursillo. The experience has been a strong influence on my life in Christ since 1973 when I made my Cursillo. The Cursillo Movement not only directs us toward living the Gospel ideals more fully but also provides a method and a community to support us. I pray that you will choose to encounter Christ anew through Cursillo.

Bishop Ronald Gainer
Diocese of Lexington
Lexington, Kentucky

For more information about Cursillo, or to obtain an application, contact:

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The Cursillo Movement of the
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CURSILLO IN CHRISTIANITY

CURSILLO DE CRISTIANDAD

“But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ....”*Ephes.4:7,11-12*

**Diocese of Lexington
Lexington, Kentucky**

***Find a friend. Be a friend.
Bring that friend to Christ.***

Those three sentences – easy to say, so challenging to do – are at the heart of Cursillo (pronounced cur-SEE-yo), a Lay Catholic movement. Jesus said, “I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you....” (John 15:15). Friends love each other, and listen to each other. We help each other and hold each other accountable in growing in our faith, through:

- Piety** What we do to grow in holiness,
Study Learning; the bridge between holiness and helping our neighbor, and
Action Bringing our Christian values to bear in all our environments.

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo starts with a three-day weekend to examine and celebrate yourself, your relationship with Christ, and your relationship with the Christian community. We begin with a silent retreat Thursday evening through Friday morning. For the rest of the weekend, you’ll hear short talks on a variety of topics from faith perspectives. During the days, you’ll discuss the talks and your impressions with the same small group. In the evenings, each group summarizes its discussion for the other tables.

We believe so strongly in the power of grouping that we call Life after the retreat your “Fourth Day.”

We strive to provide an environment that helps you to grow in Christ’s love.

We offer meditation and reconciliation time as well as community meals. Two spiritual directors, at least one of them a priest, will be on the team and present throughout the weekend. And there’s music and singing – if you play an instrument, bring it along! Throughout the weekend, your experiences will bring you closer to knowing yourself and Christ and the Christian community.

Men and women have separate retreats because the way we communicate is different. This is a safe but challenging weekend. We strive to provide an environment that helps you to grow in Christ’s love.

What Comes Next?

How do we continue to grow in the community after we leave the rosy glow of the retreat for the real world? Through weekly group reunion, which is where we stay in touch with the lived reality of our Fourth Day. In these small groups, we share our ongoing efforts at Piety, Study and Action. We open our lives so we can grow from our shared experiences, successes and failures. This accountability helps us all stay on track. Our goals for a week may be large or modest. Mostly, group reunion is the most real conversation we’ll have all week.

Your own group reunion will be unlike any other in your parish. That’s okay. Find the one that meets your needs and fills your soul. Unlike the retreat, men and women may participate in the same group reunion. These groups renew contact with each other at larger gatherings we call Ultreya (ull-TRAY-ya), a Spanish word of encouragement. Ultreya usually features a guest speaker and music, even a potluck meal. How much time you choose to invest is up to you, but we encourage you to give group reunion a try after the three-day retreat.

***On the weekend,
there is no magic.
There is no mystery,
other than the
Divine Mystery of
Christ’s Endless Love.***



How do I approach the weekend?

- ♦ Be open, and live in the present moment.
- ♦ Be honest with yourself as to where you are on your pilgrimage.
- ♦ Be yourself. A specific response is not expected of you.
- ♦ Allow others to respond in their way, and yourself to respond in your way.