

## ***Ask yourself, do you...***

- *wish to enrich your relationship with God and live your faith in your daily life?*
- *want to make a serious and mature recommitment to your Catholic faith?*
- *desire a Catholic community with which to share your faith journey?*
- *want to be more confident in sharing your faith with our secular world?*

## ***Cursillo will enable you to...***

- expand your prayer life
- have an ongoing study program
- share your faith with others

## ***If you want to participate...***

To attend a Cursillo Weekend you must have a sponsor who is an active, grouping Cursillista. Your sponsor is responsible for preparing you for the weekend, establishing you in a Group Reunion, and introducing you to the Ultreya. If you do not know someone to serve as your sponsor, please contact us.

The Catholic Cursillo is open to any baptized Catholic who is presently able to participate in the Sacraments. Cursillo weekends are held separately for men and women. Cursillo is a wonderful gift to married life and both spouses are encouraged to participate, if at all possible.

Because Cursillo is a powerful encounter with Christ, potential candidates are encouraged to discern the circumstances of their life to be sure one is open to hear the full message of the weekend. Cursillo is for mature adults who are ready to make committed changes to grow closer to Christ. Sponsors should assist potential candidates in discerning individual situations to determine if they are ready.

## **Cursillo Weekends**

*All weekends are held at Our Lady of the Hills, Columbia, SC*

### **2026 (English)**

**Men – Feb 26-Mar 1 & Aug 27-30**

**Women – Apr 30-May 3 & Oct 22-25**

### **FINES DE SEMANA DE CURSILLO 2026 (español)**

**Hombres 12-15 de marzo & 24-27 de septiembre**

**Mujeres 9-12 de abril & 8-11 de octubre**

### **Websites:**

**SC Cursillo:**

<https://sccatholiccursillo.com>

[www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

### **YouTube Channel:**

[@sccatholiccursillo5944](#)

### **Flocknote:**

[www.flocknote.com/sccatholiccursillo/](http://www.flocknote.com/sccatholiccursillo/)

**For more information about making a Cursillo weekend, or to sign up, contact:**

**Or:**

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**803-237-2833**

**Pre-Cursillo Chairperson**

# **Cursillo**

**An Encounter with Christ**

**Diocese of Charleston, SC**



***A Method to Find, Form, and Sustain Lay Leadership for Christ and His Church.***

*Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) is a movement of the Church that promotes Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. It provides an opportunity to deepen your Catholic faith, and to experience the love of God within a supportive and prayerful community. The Cursillo is a method of giving those, who have the potential of influencing others, a personal encounter with Christ and the means to further enhance, support, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelizing their environments.*

## What is a Cursillo weekend?

Each spring and fall, a Cursillo 3-day weekend is held (separately for men and women) to introduce adults to Cursillo and provide an experience to enable them to follow Jesus more faithfully and effectively. From Thursday evening until Sunday afternoon, lay people and clergy live and work together to gain a deep, permanent, living awareness of the treasure and responsibility of their faith. Candidates come with many questions, but they leave full of joyful enthusiasm as brothers and sisters in Christ, determined to extend His kingdom.

## What is the format?

A Cursillo weekend is a personal, lively, and informative event consisting of a series of spiritual talks and group discussions, blending seriousness and lightheartedness. The talks are conducted by both clergy and lay people.

## Is it a retreat?

The *retreat* portion of the Cursillo lasts only from the opening night until the following morning. Thereafter, the basic teachings of Christ are discussed in an enthusiastic and inspiring atmosphere. You may make a Cursillo only once in your life, but you are encouraged to *build* upon it for the rest of your life. It is not a substitute for a retreat, but rather compliments it. The Cursillo will make succeeding retreats more profitable.

## What happens after the Cursillo?

The weekend lasts three days; the *fourth day* is the rest of one's life, and **Cursillistas** (*Cur-see-e-stas*) are urged to make some sort of commitment to God to intensify the growth and deepening of their faith. The Cursillo weekend neither pretends nor is able to give a complete Catholic formation in just three days. Cursillistas are by no means

finished products on Sunday afternoon at the close of the weekend. So, additional activities are available to increase their knowledge and keep aflame their enthusiasm. ***Cursillistas are strongly encouraged to form small reunion groups that meet regularly to share their walk with Christ, and their progress with piety, study, and action.*** A local monthly gathering of the groups is called Ultreya (UI-trey-yah).

## The History of Cursillo

Cursillo, was started in Majorca Spain in the 1940's, is a movement of the laity within the Catholic Church. "Cursillo" means "short course." The full name of the Movement, Cursillo de Cristiandad, translates into English as "short course in Christian living."

The founders were dedicated in helping Catholics get to know Christ better. Their intention, then and now, was to give the laity a renewed spirituality and a clear understanding of how Christ can work through them.

The Cursillo Movement came to the United States in 1957 and the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend was held in Waco, Texas. In the Diocese of Charleston, our 1<sup>st</sup> weekend was held in 1984. The Cursillo Movement and its method are highly encouraged by the Catholic Church. Over 1,500 Catholics in our diocese, and numerous priests, deacons, and religious have made a Cursillo weekend!

## Our Spiritual Advisor...

Since 1984, the Cursillo Movement has been active in the Diocese of Charleston. Officially recognized by the universal Catholic Church and by our *Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, who is also a Cursillista!* Our Bishop has appointed *Deacon James Chin* as spiritual advisor for our movement. Deacon James is a deacon at Our Lady of the Lake, Chapin SC. As Spiritual Advisor, Deacon James is the link between the Cursillo and the Bishop.

## We are challenged...

In our struggle to live in the secular world we are challenged to be Catholics, not just on Sundays, but in all that we are and all that we do. Cursillo provides the support and growth we need to enrich our relationship with God. The Cursillo is an encounter with Christ that promotes spiritual revitalization and the Christianization of our world through the witness of Christ's values to others in our family, school, and workplace. Cursillo develops in adult Catholics a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of Christian renewal,

## Who should go on a weekend?

**Cursillo is intended for those who are:**

- baptized and committed Catholics who are spiritually mature and want to grow in their faith.
- able to receive the Sacraments of the church.
- active in their parishes.
- interested in examining what it means to be a Catholic in today's world.

**Cursillo is also of value to:**

- baptized men and women who live as Catholics but are not presently involved in the Church.
- those who have slipped away from the Church but have begun to move

**Note:** A person may want to wait at least a year before attending a Cursillo weekend, following major life events such as:

- a Marriage Encounter weekend
- change in marital status
- serious illness
- bereavement
- other significant emotional issues

**Note: Weekends are paid for by past attendees, but A \$100 donation is requested to help pay it forward to help cover future weekends. However, a lack of funds will not prevent anyone from making a Cursillo weekend.**