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## Why You Should Get Involved

The Cursillo movement can have very positive results in the spiritual revitalization of the person, and in turn, the world. "Christ-likeness" in a few good people is contagious. The transference of Christ's values to others in one's family, neighborhood, workplace, school, business, and community is the evangelization of environments that the Cursillo promotes. The goal of Cursillo is that Christ will become the prime influence in society. This evangelization is what the Cursillo movement is all about.

We, as laity in the Church, should not take our role lightly. The future of our society is in our hands. We need to realize that we, as individuals, can have an impact on our society. The Cursillo offers a simple method to seek and develop Christians: Spirituality, Mentality, Activity and Community.



"The Cursillo was born of a desire to help those already baptized experience anew the living Christ. They have incorporated their members into the Church's mission to tell the whole world who Jesus is: a savior and friend to whom we introduce our friends who do not yet know Him. The Cursillo movement is a great blessing for the Church and keeps all Catholics aware of the reason that Christ founded the Church."

Francis Cardinal George, OMI  
Archbishop of Chicago  
October 2008

### **UPCOMING WEEKENDS:**

#### **MEN'S:**

**OCTOBER 3-6, 2013**  
**MARCH 20-23, 2014**

#### **WOMEN'S:**

**NOVEMBER 7-10, 2013**  
**MAY 1-4, 2014**

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*Building Christian Leaders One by One*

## The Cursillo Movement: What Is It?



## History

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Cursillo (meaning short course) comes from Cursillo de Cristiandad, Spanish for short course in Christianity. The Cursillo movement began in Spain in 1949, when a group of men dedicated themselves, after the Spanish Civil War, to bringing the men of Mallorca, Spain closer to Christ. These men of prayer were seeking to serve the Lord, and the Cursillo movement was formed by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit working in them so that they could bring to others a knowledge of Christ.

The first Cursillo weekend in the United States was held in Waco, Texas in 1957. From there it spread to Arizona and throughout the United States. In 1965, the Cursillo Movement was organized nationally, and is now linked to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Today it is a worldwide movement with centers in many countries. It is a member of the International Catholic Organizations for the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome. In 1980, Pope John Paul II, addressing the first National Italian Ultreya in Rome, said: “Your movement, which recently celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, devotes itself to drawing forth from Christians a commitment to live lives consistent with their faith whether individually or as a community – and to bring this ferment to the environments where you live.

“You have discovered anew the explosive

truth of the evangelical message: God, Father of all, comes to us as we encounter him in Jesus Christ to reunite us through the grace of the Spirit in one family which is the Church.

“In her we are truly able to experience even now the love which will be the inexhaustible fountain of eternal joy in heaven. Here then is the synthesis of all of Christianity. This is news that all human hearts hope for without realizing it. Therefore dedicate yourselves more and more to being tireless apostles in your environments.

My apostolic blessing goes with you as a pledge of this divine grace which enables you to live forever.”

### What It Is

The purpose of the Cursillo movement is to make Christian community possible in neighborhoods, parishes, work situations, and other places where people live the greater part of their lives. It makes it possible for anyone in the world to live a Christian life in a natural way.

We can change the places where we spend time by being Christ-like in our thoughts, words and actions. The movement allows people to live their lives in a way that is fundamental to being a Christian. It helps people to discover and fulfill their personal vocations, and promotes the crea-

tion of core groups of Christians who leaven their environments with the Gospel.

The Cursillo movement is designed to help each of us fulfill our baptismal responsibility: to go forth, as apostles, and proclaim the Gospel. We cannot sit passively and hope that the world comes to know Christ. We must make a conscientious effort to “tell” the world about Christ. The Cursillo movement provides us with the tools and training to accomplish this.

The Cursillo begins with a three-day weekend. Those attending live and work and pray together, listening to talks given by clergy and laity. The Eucharist is celebrated daily.

After the weekend, the candidate joins the greater Cursillo community, where perseverance is important, just as it is in any method of renewal. The community spirit continues through group reunion and Ultreya (a Spanish word meaning “onward”). These provide the support we need in order to persevere as a part of God’s plan.

Cursillo is an encounter with self, Christ and others. It sounds simple but it is not.

Come, join us.