

**The purpose of Cursillo is to help those in the Church understand the individual callings to be Christian leaders.**

This leadership may be exercised in one's work situations, in one's family and social life, in one's leisure activities, and within the Church environment.

Leadership in Cursillo does not mean power over others, but influence on others; all of us need to be aware that we can exert a positive influence on those around us.

The goal of Cursillo is the goal of the church: to bring all to Christ. This is done when informed, trained leaders set out with the support of others having a similar commitment.

### **Who can attend?**

Any Episcopalian, 18 years of age or older may attend a Cursillo. Episcopalian is defined as any baptized Christian and member in good standing, as defined by your parish priest, of any parish in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

# CURSILLO

## Relationship Evangelism Reconciliation

### **When/Where is the next Cursillo?**

In the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, Cursillo weekends are usually held at Gravatt Conference Center, near Aiken, South Carolina. These weekends are offered two times a year and the deadline for registering is a month before the date listed. Applications can be downloaded from the website:

[www.edusc.org/cursillo](http://www.edusc.org/cursillo)

### **Begins with a weekend**

A three-day weekend will help you more richly experience your faith and encourage a spiritual life that is filled with joy, hope, and enthusiasm.

The weekend begins Thursday evening, which is spent in the Chapel with meditations, discussions, and Compline. Then blessed silence is kept until after the worship on Friday morning. After breakfast, participants are assigned to table groups for the weekend.

The next two days are filled with talks and group discussions with emphasis on:

- † The need for a prayerful relationship with God
- † The meaning of Grace and the sacraments

- † Ways of living in a more intimate union with God and His people

- † The Cursillo method: Piety, Study, Action

There is fellowship, singing, good food, and time for privacy, meditation, prayer, and walks. Eucharist is celebrated each day.

### **Ends with the Fourth day**

The Three-Day weekend is not an end to itself. It is a starting point that lasts 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:

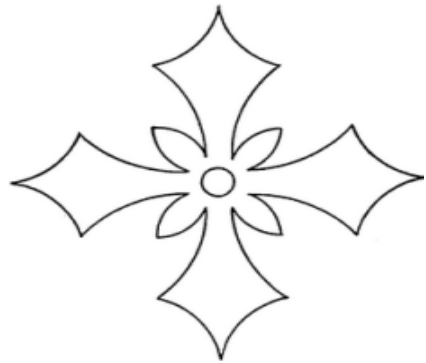
- † **Group Reunion**, the heart of Cursillo, is a small group of friends (usually 3-5) who meet weekly and hold each other accountable for their spiritual journey. A bond develops that institutes a strong support group for life.
- † **Ultreya**, usually held monthly, is a "reunion of the reunions." It provides support and builds community by allowing the sharing of communal experiences.
- † **Spiritual Direction** is an important element of the Cursillo Movement. It is a commitment to seek out skilled clergy or lay persons for spiritual direction to provide help in deepening their union with Christ.

CURSILLO started in Majorca, Spain in the 1940's and it's a movement of the laity within the church. The word Cursillo means "little lesson." The intention then and now is to give the laity a renewed spirituality and a clearer understanding of how Christ can work through them.

CURSILLISTAS are people who have attended a Cursillo. The most common way to get to a Cursillo is to be 'sponsored' by a Cursillista or your rector.

SPONSORS can answer questions, take you to Cursillo, and provide support for you after your Cursillo.

There are no secrets during Cursillo. Everything that goes on during the weekend may be told to anyone. Cursillo literature is available to anyone who wishes to read or purchase the materials.



## Upcoming Weekends:

**Weekend 147 – October 3-6, 2024**

**Weekend 148 – March 27-30, 2025**

Cursillo weekends are structured based on a national movement, the National Episcopal Cursillo program with local flavor and traditions. Since each weekend is basically the same program, with variations due to the individuals who make up the team, one only "makes" one Cursillo weekend, but can participate as a team member at subsequent weekends.

### **JESUS MOVEMENT — FOUR STEPS FOR CURSILLO ACTION:**

1. **Find Christians** who have the potential to influence their environments, which may be home, work, church, geographic, or social in nature
2. **Encourage those Christians** – help them to see that God is calling them to do His work where they are and help them offer themselves to that work
3. **Empower those Christians** with the means God offers through the Church to be effective apostles, help them identify their particular Christian vocation within their environments
4. **Link those Christians** with one another for the work of apostolic action through spiritual direction, regular small group reunions, and frequent gathering of the groups for encouragement

# A Movement, A Method, A Ministry

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