

“Take a Christian or a handful of Christians who, in the midst of their own community, show their capacity for understanding and acceptance, their sharing of life and destiny with other people, their solidarity with the efforts of all for whatever is noble and good. Let us suppose that, in addition, they radiate in an altogether simple and unaffected way their faith in values that go beyond current values, and their hope in something that is not seen and that one would not dare to imagine. Through this wordless witness these Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst? Such a witness is already a silent proclamation of the Good News and a very powerful and effective one.”

Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization in the Modern World #21.



The “De Colores” rooster is the unofficial trademark of the De Colores song that has become the unofficial song of the Cursillo Movement.

## Is Cursillo for Me?

Are you 21 or older?

Are you able to receive the Sacraments of the Catholic Church?

Do you have or desire to have a personal relationship with Christ?

Are you willing and able to commit three days to attend a Cursillo Weekend?

If your answer to these questions is YES, then Cursillo IS FOR YOU!

The experience of the Cursillo Weekend is something that has to be experienced! And everyone’s experience is different. The beauty is that God takes you wherever you are in your faith walk and gently helps you grow.

Clergy, Religious and devout as well as inactive Catholic Laypersons encounter Christ in their own way, but everyone is blessed in some way.

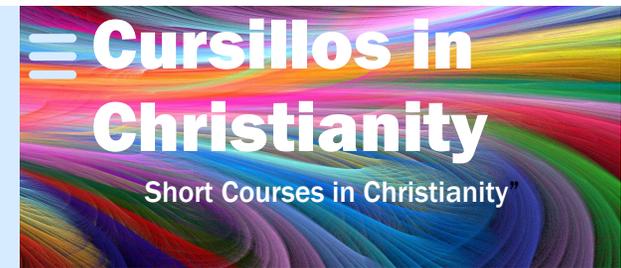
This brochure gives you basic information about Cursillo but the experience can only be lived. If you would like more information, it may be found by

Visiting- [gaylordcursillo.org](http://gaylordcursillo.org).

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

visiting a Cursillo exhibit at your parish.

Contacting someone you know who has made a Cursillo or contacting the person listed on the cover.



- ◆ is a world-wide Lay *Movement* of The Roman Catholic Church.
- ◆ presents a *Method* to find, form and link lay discipleship for Christ and His Church.
- ◆ provides a *Means* to sustain, support and nurture participants in the world in which they live.

Roman Catholic Cursillos in Christianity  
Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan

## A Little History

Cursillo (pronounced Kur-see-oh) originated in Spain. Spain was nearly 100% Catholic but two thirds of them didn't practice the religion.

A young Spaniard named Eduardo Bonnín developed what became known as The Study Of The Environment, a systematic approach on how to make an environment a Christian one. In 1941 Bonnín's Study Of The Environment became the centerpiece of study for leaders on the pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James the Apostle. The leaders developed week-long courses called Cursillos of Pilgrim Leaders.

By 1944, Bonnín had condensed the courses into a three day program. His new format was first given August 20-23, 1944 in Mallorca, Spain and is considered to be the first Cursillos In Christianity. As the first pilgrims made their journey, they chanted "ultreya," meaning 'onward' or 'moving forward.'

The first Cursillo in the United States was held in Waco, Texas in 1957. The Cursillo Movement spread quickly and by 1981, it had been introduced to almost all of the 160 dioceses across the country.

Cursillo was brought to the Gaylord Diocese in 1995 from the Diocese of Marquette. The first Men's Weekend was held in March of 1996 at the Augustine Center in Conway, Michigan and the first Women's Weekend followed two weeks later.

## 3-Day Cursillo Weekend and the Fourth Day

The Cursillo Weekend begins on a Thursday evening and goes through early Sunday evening. In the Gaylord Diocese, the Cursillo Weekend is held at the Augustine Retreat Center in Conway, MI. There are separate Weekends for men and women. Transportation to and from the Center is provided as well as lodging and meals. Participants remain on campus throughout the three days.

### The Weekend format

On Thursday night, the retreat phase begins with a series of short talks and meditations designed to help leave the outside world so to open ourselves up to the presence of God in our midst.

On Friday, talks are given by a team of clergy and lay people focused on our humanness and our role as inhabitants in God's Creation.

On Saturday, talks concentrate on the gifts of our Catholic Faith including the Sacraments, the Figure of Christ in our lives, Catholic Formation, and Christian Leadership in our surroundings.

On Sunday, the focus is on being a Catholic Christian where we live, work and worship. We are introduced to tools to help us "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15).

Many think "to go into the world..." is evangelization that means preaching from a soapbox. We evangelize when we go to Mass, when we say Grace at dinner - at home and in the restaurant. We evangelize when we remind our children they have Faith Formation class before they make plans to be with their friends. We also evangelize when we ask a coworker to refrain from using God's name in vain, or organizing a group of people to help an elderly neighbor in need of yardwork.

### The Fourth Day

Cursillo refers to the period after the 3-Day Weekend as the Fourth-Day. Cursillo provides tools to help implement what you learned and experienced on the Weekend.

The Friendship Group. This is the opportunity to join a small group of like-minded Christians committed to helping each other persevere in their faith. The "group" usually consists of 3-6 people who meet for an hour or so once a week.

Ultreya. This is the opportunity for all who have made a Cursillo in the area to come together once a month to be "nourished." The "nourishment" includes sharing in apostolic successes and failures, song and prayer. Following in the footsteps of Christ, Cursillo prepares us to carry out the Father's Will as community.