

TESTIMONIES

Here are a few of them sharing what the experience meant to them.

As a priest sharing the Cursillo experience in the late 1980's, I found my own faith deepened and strengthened. Encountering the love of Christ in such a profound manner of small group sharing as well as the larger community of faith still mark for me as a standout experience of the meaning of Church.

Fr. Steve Sallot

After many months of cajoling from close friends ("I don't need this" - "I don't have 3 days to spare"), my wife and I attended a Cursillo weekend in March of 1994. You talk about an epiphany; my Cursillo weekend changed my life and was one of the seminal spiritual events of my life. Cursillo communicated to me the love of Christ and a way to live it, truly a "short course in Christianity" - why did I wait so long?

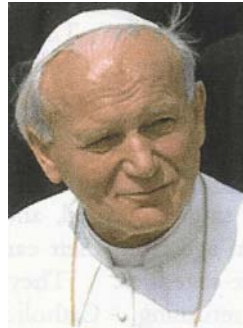
Gregory Weiler

Cursillo brought me and my husband closer to Christ. It made us realize that as a couple we needed to pray together, which we did daily. It taught me that Christ is in me and everyone else and it is my responsibility to bring my friends to Christ by my words and actions. As Cursillo tells us make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ.

Carol Lavigne

JOHN PAUL II SPEAKS

VATICAN CITY – MAY 6, 2002



John Paul II offered encouragement to the Cursillo movement, a Christian renewal effort now present in 60 countries and 800 dioceses. "The little seed sown in Spain more than 50 years ago has become a great tree rich in fruits of the Spirit," the Holy Father said. The initiative spread and today is lived by over 8 million people.

"Dear Cursillistas! Follow confidently the way of formation and Christian life that you have undertaken with so much generosity," John Paul II concluded.

Pray.

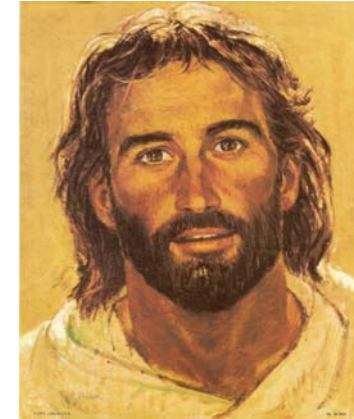
If you have more questions or feel the spirit calling you to make a Cursillo, please contact the St. Edward's Cursillo Representative: Chris Mino at: chrismino@cox.net, or 218-1733, or the Parish Office at 949-496-1307.

Orange County California USA

CURSILLO 

You're Invited

You're invited to make a Cursillo, and undoubtedly have some questions. This document has been prepared for you.



Many of us struggle to make all of life work. Staying on top of our finances, our jobs, our family life, our marriages, our health, and all of our other responsibilities can be challenging. When we view our spiritual life as an additional piece of the puzzle, it's hard to keep everything in balance.

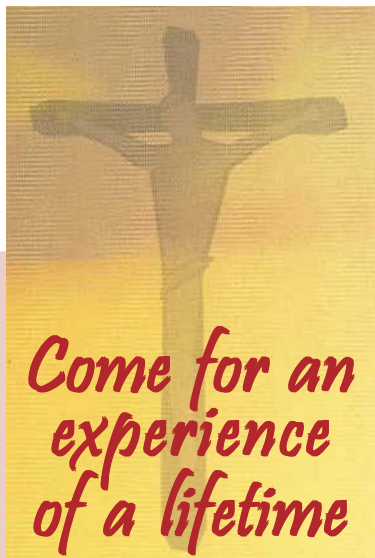
But this is not how Jesus intended our lives to be. He called us to be Christians first and foremost ... and to build all other aspects of our lives upon this foundation.

He offered us a life **of meaning, of context, of fulfillment and deep joy.**

Part of that life will involve jobs, relationships, finances and many other responsibilities. But He calls us to make Him the integrator of our lives, not just one additional element.

Knowing this in our minds is different than being able to live it. The Cursillo provides us with several things necessary to deepen our journey. It provides an **adult understanding** of our Catholic Faith. It provides a **lived experience** of what it means to be in community with Christ. And it provides a **lifelong framework** for continuing our journey after the weekend is complete.

Your invitation to attend a Cursillo is pure gift. It is a call into deep relationship with Jesus Christ and an opportunity to discover the true joy of your life's meaning. It is one of the greatest gifts you will ever receive. May the Holy Spirit guide you in your discernment.



COMMON QUESTIONS

What does Cursillo mean? It is a Spanish word for "short course." The Cursillo is a short study or course in Christianity. The word is pronounced "Kur-see'-oh."

Who can attend? Catholics making the weekend are single, married, and divorced. They range in age from their early-twenties to their late-seventies. They are new Catholics, returning Catholics, cradle Catholics, and Catholic clergy. No matter where you are in your walk, it's a chance to fall deeper in love with Christ.

What is the format of the weekend? It starts on Thursday evening at about 7PM. Friday morning, each participant is assigned to a table with 2 leaders, and 3 to 5 participants. This group remains intact throughout the weekend. Participants listen to talks about and discuss various subjects. Participants share as much or as little as they desire. The talks explore the Ideal for a fully human life, the sacraments, the role of the laity in the Church, prayer, grace, faith, Christian action, and a methodology for living a fully expressed Christian life in today's world. The weekend is as intellectually stimulating as it is emotionally shaping. Together, the mind and heart understand.

Where is it held? At Marywood, located in Orange at **2811 East Villa Real Drive**, near the intersection of the 91 and 55 freeways.

Why are there separate weekends for the men and women? First, because it makes the sleeping and bathroom logistics much easier.

Also, it is typically more comfortable for men to relate to other men than it would be for them in a coed group. The same is true for women. Couples generally find greater spirituality and joy in their marriage after both have completed their individual weekends.

What happens after the 3-day weekend? The intent of the 3-day weekend is to provide both a powerful encounter with Christ AND the tools for participants to sustain a fully Christian life. Accordingly, participants are encouraged to integrate everything they learn and experience during the 3-days into their daily lives by informally forming small Christian groups among themselves. These small "groups" typically consist of 4 to 5 men (or 4 to 5 women) who meet regularly to share their journey and encourage each other.

What is the cost? The cost of the weekend is \$95 per person to cover food and other direct items. However, no participant is denied an opportunity to attend the weekend for financial reasons.

Is the weekend available in other languages? Each calendar year, there are typically 3 English Cursillos, 2 Spanish Cursillos, 2 Vietnamese Cursillos, and 1 Portuguese Cursillo.

Is there a website? www.occursillo.org (Orange County) or www.cursillo.org (National)