

# What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is a lay movement within the Catholic Church with the purpose of making Christian Community possible in neighborhoods, parishes, work environments and all the other places where people live the greater part of their lives.

Your Cursillo (pronounced KER-SEE-O) experience begins with a three-day weekend retreat of learning, sharing, and experiencing living in a Christian Community. The word “Cursillo” is Spanish, meaning “a short course.” Cursillo is an abbreviation of the full title: *CURSILLO DE CRISTIANDAD*, which means “A Short Course in Christian Community Living.”

During the three days of a Cursillo weekend, a person not only hears what it really means to be a Christian, but actually experiences the joy of building, and being part of, a genuine Christian community.

## History and Purpose

Cursillo started when a group of Catholic Laymen and priests in Majorca, Spain, examined the condition of the Church. From 1943 to 1947 they formulated a “method” to help renew the Church. They called it a “short course” or “short experience” in the basic teachings of Jesus as shared with other Christians. They also developed an ongoing program so the initial enthusiasm of the experience would continue.

The Movement of Cursillos in Christianity is a powerful instrument of renewal in the Catholic Church. Cursillo was introduced into the Bay Area in 1961, and the San Jose Diocese Cursillo Movement is part of a worldwide Cursillo Movement.

## What Can I Expect on The Weekend?

The Cursillo weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. During the day those attending live and work together listening to talks given

by lay people and a Catholic priest. They also share the Eucharist and pray together. The atmosphere of the weekend is one of joy and grace.

The weekend’s talks (called Rollos) emphasize the true meaning of grace, the sacraments, the Mass, the nature and need of prayer, living one’s daily life in union with God, living one’s faith in a secular world and introducing Christ to others by word and deed. A small group discussion follows each talk.

Besides the talks there is also, sharing, singing, fun, laughter, spontaneous informal prayer and great food.

## Who Should Attend a CURSILLO Weekend?

The Cursillo Movement encourages commitment to Christ. Adult Catholic/Christians looking to grow closer to Christ may apply.

San Jose Cursillo Movement is centered in the Roman Catholic Faith. As such candidates for weekends are primarily from that denomination.

The Cursillo weekend provides the participant with the opportunity to grow spiritually. For example, as we begin the Cursillo weekend, we ask people to reflect on who they are and on their current state of spirituality in a community of Love.

The Weekend is not meant to solve problems that exist within one’s self or with relationships they have with other individuals.

The Weekend is also not intended to convert non-believers into believers. All candidates should accept Christianity’s basic beliefs.

*Cursillo provides a method to find, form, and sustain a closer, lifelong relationship with Christ and His people.*

## What Happens After the Cursillo Weekend?

After the Cursillo weekend, the Cursillista (one who has made a Cursillo) is encouraged to expand his or her own spiritual journey via many different venues, such as renewal retreats, spiritual gatherings, Cursillo events and to become a more active apostle for Christ.

- The Cursillo weekend in itself is simply a beginning.
- The “after” activity of the Cursillo is known as the “Fourth Day” or Post Cursillo. During this time perseverance and participation are important just as it is in any other method of renewal.

In the Cursillo Movement the community spirit is continued after the three days though the Friendship Group Reunion (called 4<sup>th</sup> Days) and Ultreya. One can grow with the School of Leaders and by sponsoring new candidates and by working a weekend.

Post Cursillo weekend activities are available as a means of personal growth in living what is fundamental for being a Christian and for encouraging one another in proclaiming the best news of the best reality that God in Christ loves us.

## You are Invited to Attend the CURSILLO Weekend!

San Jose Cursillo invites you to the 3-day weekend experience. You may contact or email a member of the San Jose Diocese Cursillo Secretariat through the website at [www.sanjosecursillo.org](http://www.sanjosecursillo.org). We would be happy to hear from you and answer your questions or provide you with an application. The method of Cursillo has very positive results in spiritual revitalization of one’s self and the Christian community.

Bringing Christ to  
Our World  
One Friend at a Time

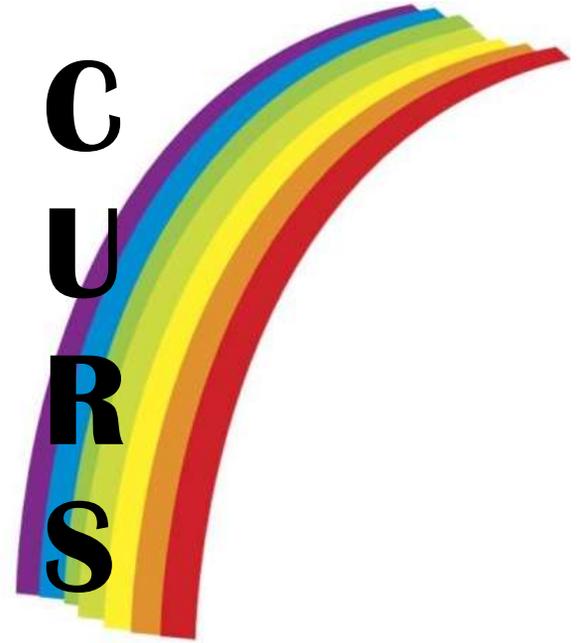
For more information please visit:

<http://www.sanjosecursillo.org>

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*"Where two or three gather  
together in my name, I shall be  
there with them."  
Matthew 18:20*