



## WHAT IS CURSILLO?

noun | Cur-see-yo

A short course in Christianity, is a ministry that began in the Roman Catholic Church and has since spread to other Christian denominations, some of which have retained the name **Cursillo** while others have given the program a different name, such as “The Walk to Emmaus” in the Methodist Church.

## HISTORY

This movement originated in Spain in the 1940's. It began when a group of men dedicated themselves to bringing the young men of their city in Mallorca, Spain to know Christ better. It developed as they prayed and worked together and as they talked together, sharing their thoughts about the state of the world and the effectiveness of their efforts to bring the light of Christ to it. **Cursillo** has spread to all Continents and many countries.

## CURSILLO FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Cursillo** is a movement fully within the church. The **Cursillo** movement has as its goal, to share with the community, the essence of Christianity and Christian values and in this way, gradually transform the community from within. This is the natural extension of the life-changing experience of the **Cursillo** weekend. **Cursillo** is focussed on Jesus Christ, as Saviour and Lord. St Paul is its Patron Saint.

The mission of **Cursillo** is the Church's mission, fully Catholic, and obedient to the Magisterium.

**Cursillo** has as its Spiritual Directors, the Bishop of the Diocese, and is obedient to his leadership. Popes Paul VI (1966) and John Paul II (1980) mentioned **Cursillo** as one of the hopes for the church.

The **Cursillo** movement invites Christians to build a world, founded on the rock of love and friendship.

## THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

The weekend is an intimate encounter with Jesus Christ. The **Cursillo** must be lived to be appreciated. There is more, so much more. The **Cursillo** lasts three days and is usually held over a weekend. We begin on a Thursday evening and finish on a Sunday late afternoon. During these three days, a short course is given on the fundamental aspects of Christianity and the Christian way of life.

## WHAT THE WEEKEND INCLUDES

It is not of an academic nature and includes:

- † 15 talks, some given by priests and some by lay-people
- † Small group discussions
- † Summaries
- † Fellowship
- † Mass
- † Reconciliation
- † Rosary
- † Meditation
- † Songs
- † Laughter
- † Free time
- † Community meals
- † Eucharistic Adoration
- † Warm fraternal atmosphere

A Priest, will be part of the team and present throughout the weekend, as Spiritual Director. There may be separate gender retreats and from time to time, we will run mixed gender **Cursillo** weekends. This is a safe, yet challenging weekend. It will be mentally and emotionally strenuous, however you WILL be renewed and refreshed like never before!

The **Cursillo** is a unique opportunity in which to deepen your awareness of Christ's love and our sharing in His saving mission through prayer, study and witness – all rooted in a true spirit of community.

“**Cursillo** will change your life immensely! I know from personal experience” – the Most Reverend Paul Loverde, Bishop of Arlington, Virginia, USA.

## WHO CAN ATTEND THE CURSILLO WEEKEND?

The **Cursillo** is for all confirmed Catholics. Those who want to look seriously at themselves and their lives, their relationship with other people and their relationship with God.

It is open to persons from any walk of life, man or woman, married or single. The **Cursillo** was conceived especially for laity, but priests and others in holy orders are most welcome.

For those who are married, it is preferable (but not necessary) that the husband and wife both be willing to participate because it is an experience that is worthwhile sharing between partners.

It is important to emphasize that the **Cursillo** is not only for churchgoers. If someone has fallen away from the Church, they are encouraged to come on **Cursillo**. Any Catholic person willing and able to accept the Gospel message and to serve the community, may live the **Cursillo** experience.

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED AND ATTEND?

Should you feel moved to participate in the **Cursillo**, you are most welcome to apply. You will need a Spiritual Sponsor, either a friend who has invited you or someone recommended by the Spiritual Director. The sponsor is either a Catholic who has already attended a **Cursillo**, or a non-Catholic who has attended the "Walk to Emmaus".

The Sponsors job is to pray for you before, during and after the weekend and to assist you with finding a Group Reunion.

If you have not already been contacted by a member of the **Cursillo** community and would like to join the Movement, or you would simply like more information, you are most welcome to contact:

**Fr Keith Gordon- Davis**

[spiritualdirectorjhb@cursillosa.co.za](mailto:spiritualdirectorjhb@cursillosa.co.za)

**Karon Willson 0824932542**

[decolores@cursillosa.co.za](mailto:decolores@cursillosa.co.za)

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CURSILLO WEEKEND?

The ultimate goal for the **Cursillo**, is for Christians to become living proof of God's love and able to make a difference in the world. It is evident that this cannot happen in 3 days.

The **Cursillo** weekend represents the first, essential step along the way. The **Cursillo** Movement recognises that the revelations and the enthusiasm need to be nurtured and deepened so that the individual and the community gain maximum benefit. It is for these reasons that the **Cursillo** Movement proposes two types of regular meetings:

- † *Weekly Group Reunions*
- † *Monthly Ultreya (noun | Ull-tray-ya)  
a Spanish word meaning "forward" and "encouragement".*

How do we continue to grow in the community after we leave the glow of **Cursillo** for the real world?

Through weekly Group Reunion. This is where we stay in touch with the lived reality of daily life. Jesus said "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead I call you friends, for everything that I have learned from my Father, I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

Friends love each other and listen to each other. We help each other and hold each other accountable in growing in our faith through:

- † *Piety – what we do to grow in holiness*
- † *Study – learning, the bridge between holiness and helping our neighbour; and*
- † *Action – bringing our Christian values to bear in all our environments*

Using these three topics we break open our lives at Group Reunion, so we can grow from our shared experiences, our successes and failures. Group Reunion provides the environment that helps one to grow in Christ's love.

# NEXT **Cursillo** IN JOBURG

**2018**  
**MIXED CURSILLO #20**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**VENUE:**  
**KOINONIA**  
**Bezuidenhout's Valley**

### COST OF THE WEEKEND

R1350 per person for the entire weekend, accommodation, meals and program.

### BANKING DETAILS

STANDARD BANK

CLEARWATER BRANCH 001206

BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT 044254830

NAME: CURSILLO JOHANNESBURG

You are most welcome to complete a form and submit your Application for the upcoming weekend.

If you would like to be kept informed of future weekends and receive more info, you are welcome to submit a form too.

Please send forms to JHB Registrar:

**DIRK VAN DOORENE**

Email: [dirkwvandoorene@gmail.com](mailto:dirkwvandoorene@gmail.com)

Cell: 083 209 1036

Fax 086 276 0359

## APPLICATION FORM

This application form must reach the Registrar two weeks before the weekend

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

GENDER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_ DD \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ MM \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ YYYY \_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND AGE/S OF CHILD/REN

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON AT HOME \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORS NAME & SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS OR OTHER SPECIAL

NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CURSILLO DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Or would you like more info? \_\_\_\_\_