

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

“Cursillo” (pronounced “kur-SEE-yo”) is a Spanish word meaning “little course.” Specifically, it refers to a short course in Christian living. The Cursillo Movement is made up of individuals who have participated in such a short course by attending a Cursillo weekend and who endeavor to apply Christian principles in their daily lives.

## WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?

The Cursillo Movement was started in 1947 by the Bishop of Majorca and has now spread to every continent. It is Roman Catholic in its origins, and bears the approval of the Pope and the Council of the American Bishops.

## CURSILLO’S PURPOSE?

The Cursillo is designed to help practicing Christians:

- ✚ Renew and strengthen their love of Jesus.
- ✚ Grow in faith, knowledge, and personal holiness.
- ✚ Bring Christian values to all environments and people with whom they come into contact and make those values the pattern for their own lives.

## WHAT IS “THE CURSILLO WEEKEND”?

The three-day weekend opens on Thursday evening and closes on Sunday evening. A group of about twenty people listen to a series of coordinated talks presented by a team of laypersons and clergy. The weekend provides opportunities for –

- ✚ Daily Eucharist
- ✚ The Sacrament of Reconciliation
- ✚ Prayer and Introspection
- ✚ Sharing of Experiences
- ✚ Spiritual Counseling
- ✚ Fun!

The Cursillo Weekend is not a silent retreat. Weekends are planned for men and women separately. In our area, one women’s and one men’s weekend is held each year.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The Cursillo Weekend is for adult practicing Catholics from all walks of life. The weekend is not recommended for people who are currently undergoing an emotional or family crisis, since the Cursillo Weekend team is not professionally trained to fully meet such needs. It is designed for people who want a deepening of their faith. Information and Application Instructions available at: [www.birminghamcursillo.com](http://www.birminghamcursillo.com)

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE WEEKEND?

Cursillistas (those who have made a Cursillo weekend) are encouraged to continue the weekend experience. This is accomplished by meeting regularly with a small group of friends —a Group Reunion— to share with one another their progress in Christian living. Larger group gatherings, called Ultreyas (another Spanish word, meaning “progress”), are held at area parishes monthly for the spiritual and social enrichment of the entire Cursillo community. Those who attend Group Reunion and Ultreya consider it a joy rather than an obligation. These gatherings facilitate both giving and receiving of support in the effort to make the world more reflective of Christ’s love.

## WHO RUNS THE MOVEMENT?

Although there is a single national Cursillo Organization, the movement operates primarily at the diocesan and regional level. These local groups:

- ✚ Coordinate activities
- ✚ Provide training for team members
- ✚ Plan the weekends
- ✚ Arrange the physical facilities, etc.

The Cursillo is completely staffed by volunteers, and there are no dues or assessments for individual Cursillistas.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS  
PEOPLE GO ON A CURSILLO  
WEEKEND.

### IS CURSILLO FOR YOU?

Yes, if you want to deepen and enrich  
your spiritual life.

Yes, if you want fresh information  
about the Church and your role in it.

Yes, if you are looking for new  
meaning and direction in your life.

Yes, if you want to move closer in your  
relationship with Jesus.

Yes, if you hope to be a more effective  
Christian leader.



### HOW DO I GET INVOLVED WITH CURSILLO?

People interested in learning more about  
Cursillo are encouraged to contact local  
Cursillistas at the parish or community  
level. Birmingham Diocese Cursillo has  
designated Cursillo Liaisons in many areas  
of the diocese. Their names and contact  
information are available on our website.  
Because Cursillo relies heavily on the  
concepts of community and mutual  
support, attendance at a weekend is  
normally the result of friendships  
established at the parish level. Since  
weekends fill up quickly, an application  
process is used, and a “sponsor” helps each  
applicant with the application. The charge  
for the weekend is just \$250.00 per person  
for participants and team members. After  
the weekend, a request for donations is  
made to help cover accommodations and  
food for future attendees. Donations are  
requested, but not required.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email Donna Tamas

Diocese of Birmingham Cursillo Contact:

[tamas4family@gmail.com](mailto:tamas4family@gmail.com)

Weekend Dates, Information, and  
Application instructions available at:

[www.birminghamcursillo.com](http://www.birminghamcursillo.com)

### WHAT IS CURSILLO?

Cursillo in Christianity



“Here I stand, knocking at the door. If  
anyone hears me calling and opens the  
door, I will enter his house and stay with  
him, and he with me.” - Rev. 3:20

Diocese of Birmingham Cursillo

On the web:

[www.birminghamcursillo.com](http://www.birminghamcursillo.com)

Email:

[tamas4family@gmail.com](mailto:tamas4family@gmail.com)

### Regional Cursillo Contacts:

Anniston – Allen Smith  
256-525-2441

Birmingham - Greg Clark  
205-215-9462

Cullman – Kathleen Camardella  
256-531-3086

Huntsville/Madison – John Kutsor  
256-658-2425

Montevallo – Bill Drescher  
205-515-1927

Tuscaloosa – George Lake  
205-292-3547