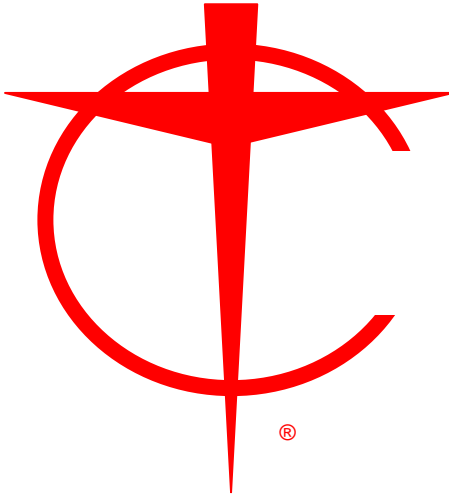


Catholic Cursillo Diocese of Knoxville
860 Louisville Road
Alcoa, Tennessee 37701

To:

The Catholic Cursillo



*What Does It Offer?
A method to seek and develop:*

Christian Spirituality

Christian Mentality

Christian Community

Visit us on the Web at:
www.knoxvillecursillo.org

Place
Stamp
Here

Dear Friends in Christ,

I made a Cursillo a number of years ago as a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and am pleased to offer my whole hearted endorsement of the Cursillo Movement here in East Tennessee. A Cursillo weekend is indeed a spiritual journey, an opportunity to slow down and allow the presence of the Holy Spirit to touch one's life in a deep and meaningful way. However, what happens after the weekend is when the real benefit begins. You will learn how to truly enhance your spiritual life in ways that bring you closer to Our Good and Gracious Lord, and also give you specific methods to bring that same spiritual renewal to all your environments. This encounter with Christ allows you a deeper understanding of what it means to be a friend of Christ, and to bring your friends to Him. I believe you will find a Cursillo weekend to be one of the best ways you choose to spend three days. De Colores.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Stika".

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Bishop of Knoxville

Cursillos In Christianity

In today's world can Christianity penetrate the many areas of secular life? Can it live there? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past and in keeping with the times?

The Cursillo Movement thinks so.

It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method through which one's spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared in any area of human life, where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to Christ in an ongoing manner. The method is introduced on a Cursillo weekend.

The Three Days

Cursillo (pronounced kur-see-yo) is a Spanish word meaning "little" or "short course." It begins on a Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday evening. During the three days, those attending live, pray, work together and listen to talks by priest, religious and laity. Each talk is followed by a small group style discussion period.

The basis atmosphere of Cursillo differs greatly from the solitude of an individual retreat. Community, and personal sharing is built-in throughout the weekend in a spirit of joy.

The Fourth Day

The "after" activity of the Cursillo is known as the "Fourth Day." During this time perseverance is important, just as it is in any method of renewal. Three means of perseverance are encouraged in your Fourth Day. Reunions of small groups of friends are formed in order to encourage one another in spiritual improvement and Christian apostolate. The "Ultreya," a Spanish word meaning "Onward," is a reunion of the larger Cursillo community. Lastly, the School of Leaders is a reunion of Cursillistas that reinforces, enhances and enlarges the learning of the Cursillo weekend. Through all these ways, one is exposed to the spiritual growth, example and leadership of other Cursillistas in the community.

Pope Paul VI

In 1963, the Holy Father, Pope Paul the VI appointed St. Paul as the official Patron of the Cursillo Movement. On that occasion he said:

"This method of Christian teaching, commonly called Cursillos in Christianity, extends already over a great number of faithful and has produced abundant fruit; Christian renewal of the family life, visualization of parishes, faithful observance of duties, in private, as well as public. All this has filled the Bishops and other Shepherds of souls with the greatest satisfaction."

Finding Cursillo Members

Cursillo members, also known as Cursillistas, can be found throughout most of the parishes in the Knoxville diocese. Asking your parish priest is a good place to start. Checking the parish bulletins or watching the bulletin board for scheduled Cursillo Group Reunions and Ultreyas are excellent ways to discover the Cursillo Community. The Chancery office will have the Cursillo Lay Directors contact information as well. The Catholic Cursillo – Diocese of Knoxville can be found on the web at www.knoxvillecursillo.org.

An Invitation

You are cordially invited to attend any of the Cursillo gatherings. Ultreyas are held in each of the geographic regions of the diocese on various nights of the month. We welcome all inquiries.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to a Cursillo member, possibly a three-day weekend and, finally, a lifelong commitment to Christ's service in whatever environment you happen to live.

Christ is counting on you!

For more information please contact

Name

Contact Information