

CURSILLO PULPIT TALK

Good morning. We feel very privileged to be able to speak to you about the Cursillo movement in Edmonton.

“Cursillo” is a Spanish word meaning ‘short course’. The three day weekend is simply a short course in Christian living. It started in the Roman Catholic Church in Spain about 60 years ago, and has spread all over the world, and to several other denominations. The first Edmonton Anglican Cursillo men’s and women’s weekends were held in the spring of 1990. Our bishop, Victoria Matthews, is a strong supporter of Cursillo. She states:

“The Diocese of Edmonton is fortunate to have a variety of courses which equip Christians to minister. Cursillo has made an outstanding contribution in this regard.

In particular, Cursillo offers participants an opportunity to deepen their discipleship through prayer and learning about the faith.

For some, it is a turning point in their journey in Christ, which leads to a more active participation in the apostolic ministry of our Lord.”

Bishop Victoria invites you to consider Cursillo part of your pilgrimage of faith.

One of the strengths of the Cursillo weekend is that it meets each person where they are in their personal journey towards knowing and loving the Lord more.

The basic format of the weekend is as follows:

- It starts on a Thursday evening, and ends on Sunday afternoon.
- There are usually 20-30 individuals who attend the weekend, as well as approximately 20 team members. You sit together in groups of 6-8 people during the talks, and remain in those groups throughout the weekend.
- There are a number of services, including Eucharists, Morning and Evening prayer, as well as other worship times.
- There is a lot of singing and music.
- There is time allotted to speak with Spiritual Directors.
- The weekends for men and women are held separately, with the men’s weekend preceding the women’s by two weeks.
- And finally, there are lots of meals and snacks, so no one goes hungry.

After the Cursillo weekend itself is over, further direction and support is offered. This comes in the form of regular gatherings and events known as ‘Grouping’, ‘Ultreya’, and ‘Servant Community.’ These are all geared to helping and encouraging us on our Christian journeys. They are also wonderful ways of getting to know more members of the Christian community.

Experience over the years has led to the following recommendations:

- A person should wait at least a year before attending a Cursillo weekend, following major life events such as:
 - A Marriage Encounter weekend
 - Alpha
 - Change in marital status
 - Serious illness
 - Bereavement
- For married couples, it is desirable that both partners attend a Cursillo weekend.
- People with acute problems, or in psychiatric treatment, should not attend a weekend at the present time.

We’d like to conclude with a few words about some of the personal effects of our involvement with Cursillo.

- insert own experiences/thoughts -

The next men’s weekend starts the evening of Thursday, November 10th, 2005, and concludes Sunday, November 13th. The women’s weekend follows two weeks later, starting on Thursday, November 24th and ending Sunday November 27th. There are still openings on both weekends, and we have the necessary forms with us.

We would be very happy to talk to any of you individually after the service. Thank you very much for the gift of your time and attention to us this morning.