

A Message from Bishop J. Peter Sartain

When I first came to the Diocese of Joliet in 2006, I was pleased to learn that there is an active Cursillo Movement here. I personally have been involved with Cursillo for almost thirty years. I was encouraged to participate by many parishioners, and after I made the three-day weekend, I eventually became Spiritual Director of the Cursillo Movement for my home diocese. I have found Cursillo to be a powerful tool for evangelization within the Church, as it renews and strengthens Catholics in their faith and links them even more closely to the Church and to Christ. God's grace is very evident in the Cursillo Movement, which is nothing more than a Catholic life fully lived, with additional supports to strengthen and encourage Cursillistas. I am pleased to continue my involvement with Cursillo now as Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet!

The Retreat that Never Ends

Cursillistas share in Post-Cursillo activities such as:

- Small weekly discussion groups called "Group Reunions"
- Monthly Ultreyas (Group Reunions from Parishes within neighboring communities attend Mass and share fellowship.)
- Yearly Ultreya Grandes (Group Reunions across the Joliet Diocese attend Mass and share fellowship.)

Cursillistas are encouraged to attend a monthly Leaders' School to study the Cursillo purpose and method as well as Catholic Doctrine.

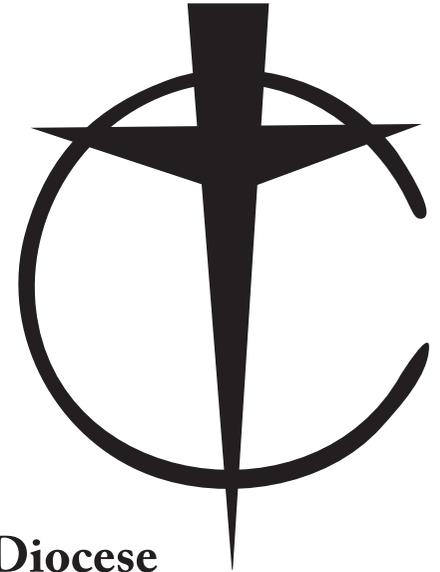
"My Cursillo Weekend planted many seeds— seeds that help me grow...in my faith and in my dedication to others...These seeds are nurtured by friends who are also blossoming and growing. We join together like branches of a vine that not only nourishes each one of us, but reaches out to others. With Jesus as the vine, we receive strength and grace while continually planting new seeds!"

—Marjorie Collette, St. Walter Parish
Roselle, IL

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

The Joliet Diocese offers several men's and women's English and Spanish language Cursillos each year.

For more information, please visit
www.jolietcursillo.org



Joliet Diocese Cursillos in Christianity

A lay Catholic movement providing a simple method for women and men to live and share a conscious and growing life of faith, hope and love in union with the Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the Cursillo Movement strives to bring about the Incarnation of Christ into all sectors of society.



"Come and see where He dwells."

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day...

John 1:38-39



The History of Cursillo in the Joliet Diocese

The Cursillo (short course in Christianity) came to the United States in 1957. The first Cursillo in the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois was held August 15, 1963 at St. Isaac Jogues Parish in Hinsdale, IL. That first Cursillo was put on by Cursillistas from the Chicago Diocese Cursillo Movement. Fr. Joseph Shimanek attended the first one and became Spiritual Director for over forty years. Today there are thousands of Cursillistas in the Joliet Diocese. The Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement is now spiritually directed by Father Mark Jendrysik, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Addison, IL.

“We, as laity in the Church, can no longer take our role lightly... We must realize that we, as individuals, can have a great impact on our society. More importantly, we can have an even greater impact when we find other individuals that are ready and able to accept the challenge.”

—From *Cursillo—What is it?* National Secretariat

A Message from Father Mark Jendrysik

Spiritual Director of the Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement

It was with much prodding and continual asking that I finally came to my Cursillo in January of 1994. Having been ordained for over nine years and preaching of God’s love for me, I thought I had a pretty good picture of what that was like. I also felt that I could do a good job of changing an environment for Christ. It was on my Cursillo during the Actual Grace talk that the words “God loves me” came back to me again and again. It was never so clear in my life. All the preaching became real. God loves me for who I am and not for what I do. It was a life-changing moment. The Cursillo is three days, but the living out of the 4th day is a lifetime. I encourage all women and men who are truly seeking to know the Lord and to find out just how much our God truly loves them, to please come and make a Cursillo. The results last a lifetime.

What to Expect from Cursillo

Your entrance into the Joliet Diocese Cursillo community begins with an invitation from a Cursillista who will serve as your sponsor. Applications, which can be downloaded from the Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement website at www.jolietcursillo.org, must be filled out by the candidate, sponsor and candidate’s pastor and then mailed to the Joliet Diocese Cursillo Movement’s Pre-Cursillo Chairperson.

Once the candidate’s application is processed, the candidate will attend a three-day (72-hour) weekend usually held at a Pastoral Center. The Cursillo begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. Transportation to and from the Pastoral Center will be arranged by the candidate’s sponsor. Meals are included as part of the room and board fee and snacks and beverages will be readily available all weekend.

The Cursillo is an opportunity to form and live in community with other Catholics and clergy members. It is immersed in Catholic Doctrine and the Sacraments. The weekend begins with meditation and silence. Daily mass will be celebrated. There will be morning and night prayer, rosary, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Candidates may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as spiritual direction. They will listen to 15 Apostolic talks, ten given by laity and five given by clergy, and will take part in small discussion groups following each talk.

“...After my Cursillo weekend, I came into an even deeper relationship with Jesus and His Church, and a deeper understanding of and dependency on the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. I made so many holy, caring, GOOD friends....I came to realize what true friendship in Christ is – and it took my breath away!”

—Barb Frazee, St. Pius X Parish
Lombard, IL

“...It seemed that I had heard all of these things before; however, the message was structured in a way that finally made sense....God loves me and wants to have a relationship with me....He wants me to be a part of a Christian community. Through word and example he wants me to make his presence known in the world....The path I’m on now includes time for a brief meeting each week with a special group of friends, so we can discuss our faith and prayer life. It’s a time to encourage one another, and to be encouraged....”

—Dominic Longo, St. Philip the Apostle Parish
Addison, IL

