

# **An Invitation to Empowerment Through Christian Community**

**Y**ou may be an active Catholic or just a “Sunday” Catholic. But you have a gut feeling that if you could tap into your Catholic faith, you could enjoy a fuller life.

You are also concerned with the breakdown in society. Widespread loss of values. Environments with poor role models. Constant media barrage of sex, consumerism and sensationalism. A more heartless business world.

So, you’re faced with two important and related questions. How can you live life more fully? How can you make society more livable? Bringing about change in yourself and in the world around you is an overwhelming task. You can’t do it alone, and you don’t need to. You can have a community to support your efforts.

Spend a weekend with our Cursillo community of laypersons and clergy, and let this community be an enabling force in your life, and you in ours.

## **What is a Cursillo Weekend?**

Originated in Spain, Cursillo® (pronounced kor-see-yo) means “short course” in Christian living. The Weekend is a unique array of experiences as varied as the colors in a rainbow:

- It is an encounter with Christ.
- It is an encounter with self.
- It is an encounter with others.
- It is a course in leadership skills.
- It is a Weekend with a post-Weekend support program.

## **What is an encounter with Christ?**

Is Christ a notion or is He real to you? Talks and discussions lead you into Christ’s reality and power. You come to experience Christ, the empowering force in people’s lives for almost 2,000 years. If you want to change yourself and the world around you, you must Christianize anew yourself as well as your surroundings.

## **What is an encounter with self?**

Personal and spiritual growth begin with self-discovery. God is deeply involved in the process. The activities on the Weekend help you discern the direction the Spirit is leading you. It is a time to discover or deepen your unique spirituality, to find fulfillment as a person and as a Christian.

## **What is an encounter with others?**

Laypersons share with you their attempts to live their lives as Christians. You exchange your reactions and views with others in small groups. As the Weekend progresses, you discover the power of a Christ-centered community to help you grow in spiritual understanding. This caring community creates an environment for personal and spiritual growth amid light-hearted fun and laughter.

## **Why a course in leadership skills?**

When organizations want to bring about change, they attempt to develop leadership skills in their people. Can we Christians do any less if we want to be effective in bringing about change? So, the Weekend helps develop or enrich your leadership skills and provides a method for having a Christian influence on one’s family, parish, workplace and other institutions in society.

## **Why a post-Weekend support program?**

Sharing a journey is more energizing and more fun than going it alone. Your Cursillo community helps you persevere in personal renewal and in your efforts to Christianize your environments. You are supported through activities with the Cursillo community in your local area—also, occasions for meeting old friends and making new ones.

## **Is the Cursillo Weekend a retreat?**

No, it differs greatly from a retreat’s silence and solitude. The Weekend’s uniqueness is your encounter with the joy and camaraderie of a Christian community—like that experienced by the first Christians. Further, the Weekend’s focus is on bringing the Christ you newly experience to your surroundings. Made only once in a lifetime, the Weekend deepens your future retreat experiences.

### **Who may apply?**

Anyone who is still surprised and overjoyed at the sight of a rainbow! More seriously, applicants should be practicing Catholics who are at least 25 years old. If you are “in recovery” (widowed, divorced, separated, or alcohol/drug-related), it is recommended that you wait at least 12 months before making a Weekend; for persons out of therapy, at least two years. Non-Catholics may participate in weekend experiences offered by their faith, which are similar to Cursillo.

### **How much does it cost?**

Each person on the Weekend is given a blank envelope and asked to make an offering. No one is ever refused the opportunity to make a Cursillo Weekend for lack of funds. Weekends cost \$150 to \$175 per person depending on location.

### **When can I attend?**

Men and women make separate Weekends, which are offered in the Spring and Fall. Women’s Weekends follow men’s by a month. Held at local retreat centers, they begin on a Thursday evening and end Sunday night.

### **How do I apply?**

If you know someone who has made a Cursillo Weekend, ask for that person’s sponsorship and an application form. Otherwise, contact the Cursillo representative listed on the back of this brochure.

### **A Worldwide Movement**

Cursillo Weekends are given all over the globe and are part of a dynamic movement. His Holiness Pope Paul VI expressed it well in December 1963: “This method of Christian teaching, commonly called Cursillos in Christianity, extends already over a great number of the faithful and has produced abundant fruit: Christian renewal of family life; vitalization of parishes; and faithful observance of duties. All this has filled the Bishops and the other shepherds of souls with the greatest satisfaction.”

**For more information look up our Web Site,  
[www.nycursillo.org](http://www.nycursillo.org)  
or contact:**

**New York Archdiocesan  
Cursillo Movement**

# **The Cursillo Weekend**



*An Experience  
as Colorful and Joyful  
as a Rainbow*