

# Cursillo, a path to grow closer to God



Cursillo is a Roman Catholic movement founded in 1944 on the Spanish island of Majorca as a short course in Christianity. The Cursillo founder, Edwardo Bonnin Aguiló, is now on the first steps to beatification and canonization.

Cursillo was created to prepare men for the Camino de Santiago, a pilgrimage to the grave of St. James the Apostle. It was also intended to bring men back to church. The three-day short course was so successful that the women asked to attend. Cursillo came to Texas in 1947 and to California in 1957. Cursillo was declared a *charism of the Holy Spirit* by the Catholic Church. It has been in the Monterey Diocese, since 1962.

## WHAT IS A CURSILLO?

- It is a three-day retreat-like experience teaching basic life principals with a series of short talks by both lay people and a priest or deacon as the spiritual director for the weekend.
- The three pillars of Cursillo are Piety, Study and Action.
- Cursillo is intended to strengthen your Catholic faith; to experience the love of God; and to develop a deeper relationship with God and His Church.
- Participants arrive on Thursday and the Cursillo starts that evening and ends Sunday afternoon.
- Men attend the weekend first, while the women attend the following weekend.
- There is a kitchen team that focuses on great food and snacks for both the team and candidates. (Cost: \$200)

## WHAT DO PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY AFTER ATTENDING A CURSILLO WEEKEND?

*Cursillo was an amazing and surprising experience. It is not like any other retreat I have attended. The Weekend helped me strengthen my personal journey with God. Cursillo touched all aspects of my life. If you are asked to attend, say YES. It will be the best weekend of your life. (Lisa Gonzales, St. Theodore's Church, in Gonzales)*

*Cursillo was a wonderful and life changing experience. I left all my devices at home—this gave me the freedom to absorb what I was learning without distractions. The Cursillo Weekend has helped my relationship with Christ. (Rob Ross, St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Spreckels)*

*Cursillo was a beautiful retreat—I experienced the love of God. It changed my life! It was the greatest gift to be invited to attend. I immediately wanted to get more involved in my church and I wanted to give back by working a Cursillo Weekend. (Cindy Stefani, Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church in Castroville)*

*As a convert, ready to leave the Catholic Church, Cursillo was there when I needed it the most. I experienced a newfound love for Jesus. (Angel Gabriel "Rocky" Rivera, San Carlos Church in Monterey.)*

*I discovered a new closeness to God and the Church. The Cursillo experience changed me. I began attending daily Mass, reading the Bible and praying regularly. (Tom Lukes, St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Spreckels)*

## UPCOMING CURSILLO WEEKENDS

Men's weekend: September 4-7 Contact: Angel "Rocky" Rivera [vistarocky@aol.com](mailto:vistarocky@aol.com)

Women's Weekend: September 11-14 Contact: Maria Villaseñor [villasenorme1974@gmail.com](mailto:villasenorme1974@gmail.com)

**QUESTIONS:** Tom Lukes 831.484-1854 at [ShareGodIncidents@gmail.com](mailto:ShareGodIncidents@gmail.com) or

Cindy Stefani at [LayDirector@MontereyCursillo.org](mailto:LayDirector@MontereyCursillo.org)

**WEBSITE:** [MontereyCursillo.org](http://MontereyCursillo.org)