

CURSILLO 'Pulpit Talk'

Good morning. We feel very privileged 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 over 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.

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.

Bishop Jane states: Cursillo is an important resource for those seeking to live out our mission to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and further the kingdom. ...I ask you to consider attending Cursillo. For many, this has been a transforming experience for their walk with Christ. I invite you to take this step and I hope that Cursillo will inspire and strengthen you.

The basic format of the weekend is as follows:

- It starts on a Thursday evening, and ends late Sunday afternoon.
- There are usually 20 to 30 individuals that attend the weekend as well as approximately 20 team members.
- It revolves around a series of talks given by a team of lay people and clergy. (You sit together in groups of 6 to 8 people during the talks, and remain in those groups throughout the weekend.)
- There are also services, times for worship, fellowship, personal reflection, fun, prayer and singing.
- There is time allotted to speak with clergy.
- This year will be our first ever co-ed weekend. This is not a couples weekend though couples are encouraged to go together. We have found that men and women experience the weekend differently so couples will be separated to allow each to have their own experience.
- And finally, there are lots of meals and snacks, so no one goes hungry.

Cursillo is more than a weekend experience. Cursillo is an active community that provides regular opportunities for support, fellowship and spiritual growth. 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

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

-- Add personal experiences and thoughts -- (We all have different experiences)

-- There is also a power point presentation on the Cursillo website --

<http://www.edmontoncursillo.ca/pdf/CursilloMovementWithInTheAnglicanChurch.pdf>

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*.

A Quote from our Primate Fred Hiltz ... I believe the Cursillo Movement is a blessing in our Church. Indeed many women and men attribute their experience of a Cursillo to the kindling or rekindling of their faith. The movement contributes much to spiritual discipleship, abiding friendship in Christ and a lively witness to the gospel. I have always believed that like other great spiritual movements, Cursillo exists not unto itself but for the good of the whole Church, like salt that flavors...

- Archbishop Fred Hiltz