

## † Cursillo - A Journey With Christ

The Gospel of St. Luke relates to the story of the risen Christ appearing to two who were along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Two friends were walking together, sharing their hearts' deepest concerns. The risen Christ joined them and explained the scriptures as they walked, how it was ordained that Christ should suffer and so enter his glory. This experience on the road was a heart-warming experience as the risen Christ walked and talked with them. The illuminating climax of the experience was when Christ took bread and said the blessing, then broke it and gave it to them. The two had their eyes opened and they recognized him as the risen Christ and they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell others. (Luke 24:13-35).

## † What is Cursillo?

The above story provides the image for Cursillo, a program that calls forth and renews Christian discipleship. The Cursillo experience is available in the Protestant community and is known as "Walk to

Emmaus", an ecumenical movement. Walk to Emmaus and Cursillo de Cristiandad (Spanish for "short course in Christianity") are each a three-day experience, which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them their families, churches and world in which they live. Cursillo is a combined effort of laity and clergy toward the renewal of the church.

## † What Happens At Cursillo?

Cursillo is a 72-hour experience. The weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. At Cursillo, you spend three busy but very enjoyable days, usually at a retreat center. You will live and study together in singing, prayer, worship and discussion. Discussions center around various talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace and how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and expresses itself in the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, and how you can live in the life of grace, bringing grace to others. You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily

celebration of Holy Communion, and to begin to understand more fully the presence of Christ in his body of believers.

## † What Happens After Cursillo?

The objective of Cursillo is to inspire, challenge, and equip candidates for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work. Cursillo lifts up a way for our grace-filled life to be lived and shared with others. One of the primary strengths of Cursillo is the follow-up. Your weekend lasts only three days, but you are invited to build on it for the rest of your life. The Cursillo method includes the means by which the seeds God plants in our lives can grow and bear fruit during the "Fourth Day", which is the rest of our lives. If you feel a desire to draw closer to Christ and His Church, if you seek to better discern and respond to God's call, then do not miss this opportunity to encounter Christ in a powerful way which is both personal and communal.

