

THE OTTAWA ANGLICAN CURSILLO MOVEMENT

www.oacm.ca

The Ottawa Anglican Cursillo Movement began in the Diocese of Ottawa in 1981 and more than one hundred weekends have been held since then. It operates under the direct authority of the Bishop of Ottawa. Over 2,500 members of the Diocese have attended Cursillo weekends.

THE OACM Secretariat, a committee of lay people and clergy, carries out the administrative responsibilities of the movement.

INTERESTED?

If you are interested in participating in a CURSILLO weekend, it is recommended that you discuss the possibility with your parish priest or someone who is active in the Cursillo Community. Applications are available through your parish representative or on the OACM website at www.oacm.ca

There will be no financial cost to you when you participate in a weekend, since your weekend is a gift to you from the Cursillo Community. You have an opportunity to make a donation that will assist others to attend a future weekend and will receive a tax receipt for your donation.

**CURSILLO is more than simply
a weekend experience**

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**GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT continues
to make all things new,
and the CURSILLO Community is
overjoyed at being called by God
to assist in the process**

...

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**CURSILLO
IN THE
ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF
OTTAWA**

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WHAT IS CURSILLO?

Cursillo is a Spanish word that means “short course” and is pronounced “kur-SEE-yo.” The movement began in the Roman Catholic Church in Spain during the late 1940s with the intention of building faith and renewing the Church. It has since grown into a worldwide movement, which has taken root within a number of denominations. The CURSILLO weekend experience explores the fundamental aspects of a life lived in close contact with Christ. It offers a way to deepen knowledge and partake of the love of God in a personal, lively and informative event. It is a weekend in which we examine what it means to be a Christian in today’s world. All aspects of life are considered; our churches, workplaces, communities, even ourselves and our families. The weekend is a time when we can be strengthened in our spiritual journey to follow Jesus more fully and effectively.

HOW CAN I ATTEND A WEEKEND?

CURSILLO weekends are open to all baptized Christian adults who are interested in a learning and growing experience. EVERYONE attending a weekend is sponsored by a member of the CURSILLO community, someone who helps make arrangements for attending the weekend

and provides practical and prayer support. The sponsor is responsible for introducing new CURSILLO members to the wider community within CURSILLO. The parish priest must support each registration.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE WEEKEND?

THE WEEKEND revolves around a series of talks given by a team of laypeople and clergy. These are combined with small group discussions where opinions and ideas are shared. There are also times for worship, fellowship, personal reflection, play, prayer and a lot of singing. But the CURSILLO weekend is more than just another course; it is an invitation to Christian growth through an encounter with the living Christ in the context of a supportive prayerful community.

CURSILLO weekends (Friday evening to late Sunday afternoon) are held yearly and there are separate weekends for women and men.

MEMBERS of each weekend’s organizing team, both lay people and clergy have been selected prayerfully and under the guidelines of the Diocesan Safe Church program.

AFTER THE WEEKEND

CURSILLO is intended to be an ongoing means of support to the individual Christian, a method by which Christians are developed and equipped to serve God in their personal environments. It is intended to develop leadership skills and community, which will in turn build up the parish church. The CURSILLO community does provide follow-up support for its members through regular meetings held throughout the Diocese and through the establishment of small groups for individual support.

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"I believe Cursillo offers something of great value to our diocese. I continue to see Cursillo as a unique residential “retreat” opportunity that builds up lay leadership — helping laity better understand and develop their ministry as servant leadership, following the example of Jesus. I have a close and respectful relationship with the Cursillo Secretariat, and have enjoyed many constructive and candid conversations with them."

Bishop Shane Parker