

## **Who Should Go to Lutheran Cursillo?**

Lutheran Cursillo is chartered to offer the Cursillo program to members of the Lutheran Church. It is intended for Lutherans who are leaders or potential leaders within their congregations. It is for those who desire to grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, bible study, experiencing their faith, and sharing that faith with others. It is for those who seek more joy, purpose, and meaning in their faith and their church.

In the case of married couples, it is customary for the husband to attend first. Both husband and wife attend a Cursillo to strengthen their relationship as one in Christ Jesus. Exceptions can be made, on an individual basis, for extenuating circumstances.

People who attend a weekend are required to attend for the entire weekend and are asked to "give up the time" to be with their Lord. That means they are "out of touch" from Thursday evening until late Sunday afternoon. In the event of a real emergency they can be reached, of course. We ask that those attending a weekend not bring their cell phones, "to do lists", or pagers with them. The weekend is carefully structured and each event on the weekend builds upon the previous events.

## **Who Should Not Go to Lutheran Cursillo?**

Lutheran Cursillo is not for everyone! The Cursillo is not attended for those who do not have a committed relationship to Jesus Christ, nor is it intended as an outreach to non-members of the Lutheran church. If a person is not a member in good standing of a Lutheran congregation, they should not attend a Lutheran Cursillo weekend. Why is that? The Cursillo is a ministry for the church, with an outcome of cultivating leaders and workers for that church. The church is defined by wherever Word and sacrament ministry takes place. Therefore, the Cursillo is not for people to create in themselves a church or to make Cursillo a church. Each candidate is asked to go back and serve in their congregation and/or for their congregation. Therefore, only those individuals who desire that outcome should attend a Cursillo weekend.

The Cursillo weekend is not a psychotherapy workshop, a self-discovery venture or a substitute for counseling. The staffs of the Cursillo weekend are dedicated Christian Lay people and Clergy but they are not trained or equipped to provide psychological counseling services. The Cursillo can be an extremely moving experience, and with the opportunity to do personal self examination and assessment people with psychological problems should not attend a Cursillo without the express permission of their medical advisors or counselors.

Also, people dealing with substance abuse should not attend a Cursillo weekend until they are confident they can remain "clean" for the weekend. Alcohol and non-prescription drugs have no place at and are not a part of a Cursillo weekend.

If you are considering a person as a candidate, pray about it and then ask yourself the following questions:

Does/Is the applicant:

- Desire to grow as a Christian?
- A member in good standing of a Lutheran Congregation?
- Have potential for leadership in his or her environment?
- Have the capacity for careful listening and understanding?
- Seriously open to change?
- Mature, responsible, and in good emotional health?
- Physically capable of fully participating in the weekend?
- Willing and able to be completely "out of touch" for the weekend?
- Understand that Lutheran Cursillo involves more than just attending a fun weekend?
- Really want to attend a Cursillo weekend?

If the answer to these questions is "YES" then you have identified a potential Cursillo Weekend candidate. Discuss the opportunity with the candidate and get an application form in the mail ASAP.