

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI METHODIST CURSILLO

A JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

The Gospel of St. Luke relates the story of the risen Christ appearing to two who were going 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. 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 recognized him as the risen Christ and they rushed to Jerusalem to tell the others. (Luke 24:13-35)

WHAT IS CURSILLO?

The story above provides the image for Cursillo, a program that calls forth and renews 'Christian discipleship. Cursillo de Cristiandad (Spanish for "short course in Christianity"), or Cursillo, as it is called in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, is a three-day experience which takes a New Testament took 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, congregations and the world in which they live. The Cursillo is a combined effort of laity and clergy toward the renewal of the church. The Guide used is designed especially for the weekend by the Upper Room of the United Methodist Church.

WHAT HAPPENS AT CURSILLO?

The Cursillo is a 72-hour experience. The weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. At Cursillo, you will spend three busy, but very enjoyable, days at a retreat center. You will live and study together in singing, prayer, worship and discussion. Discussions are held on talks given by laity and United Methodist 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 daily celebration of Holy Communion, and to begin to understand more fully the presence of Christ in his body of believers. You will experience God's grace personally through the prayers and acts of service of a living support community.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CURSILLO?

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. Those who attend a Cursillo are encouraged to do two things:

1. Expand their own spiritual lives through study and congregational participation;
2. Become more active disciples of Christ in the world through their churches.

To nurture this process of discipleship, Cursillo offers two specific opportunities. First, reunion groups meet weekly to reflect on their quest for spiritual growth and encourage each other in their discipleship. Second, there are monthly fellowship/worship meetings called Ultreyas for everyone in a particular community who has attended a Cursillo.

WHO SHOULD GO TO CURSILLO?

Cursillo is for the development of Christian leaders who:

- > wish to strengthen their spiritual lives;
- > may have unanswered questions about prayer, study, and sharing their faith;
- > understand that being a Christian involves responsibility.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

We invite you to join in a refreshing weekend spent meeting Jesus as He comes to you through other Christians.