



The Cursillo® Movement

National Cursillo® Center • P.O. Box 210226 • Dallas, TX 75221 • 214-339-6321 • Fax 214-339-6322 • www.natl-cursillo.org

April 2006

To: National Mailing Recipients

Fm: National Cursillo® Center

Re: April National Mailing

Dear Fellow Cursillistas,



Bishop J. Peter Sartain

My name is Bishop Peter Sartain. I made Memphis Cursillo #81 in January of 1981, and I sat at the table of St. Peter.

It's hard for me to believe that I began my participation in the Cursillo Movement 25 years ago! Since then, I have served as Spiritual Director for many Cursillo Weekends, attended countless weekly Ultreyas and group reunions, and served as Diocesan Spiritual Director for the movement in the late 1980's and early 1990's. I have seen God do powerful things in the lives of Cursillistas, and through the years I noticed that Cursillistas are the most likely to be involved in parish life.

As you know, Cursillo is a "movement," which means that its purpose is to gather Catholics together for nourishment and mutual support; no one is a Cursillista by him/herself! The purpose of the weekend – the "Little Course in Christianity" – is to reintroduce Catholics to the substance of our faith and offer them a method for growing in that faith, their relationship with God and other Catholics, and support them in their mission to live the gospel in daily life. Christians are to be leaven in their environment, bringing the fragrance of Christ everywhere they go. Essential to the on-going life of the committed Cursillista is participation in a group reunion and Ultreya.

To support the movement on a diocesan basis, there is always a Secretariat, a group of lay people animated by a spiritual director and under the jurisdiction of the bishop, which guides the movement and ensures that it follows the national norms. Crucial to any diocesan Cursillo movement is the School of Leaders, which prepares men and women in more comprehensive way to lead the diocesan movement through regular pastoral and theological formation, spirituality, and the movement itself. It is from the School of Leaders that team members for the weekends should be selected. That kind of formation ensures that we don't develop our own way of doing Cursillo, which could take us farther and farther from the founder's original insight and intent.

We are blessed that our diocese has experienced the Cursillo movement for many years, and I see its fruit all around me. I am happy to offer my support to the movement and encourage everyone, especially the Secretariat and School of Leaders, to do their part to make the movement even stronger.

Please do your best to help support the movement. You know how important it has been for you, and you will have a profound impact on the environment of our diocese if you renew your own understanding of Cursillo as directed by the National Secretariat.

Sincerely in Christ,

Bishop J. Peter Sartain
Diocese of Little Rock, AR