



Who is the Cursillo For?

The Cursillo is for all those who want to look seriously at themselves and their lives, their relationship with other people and their relationship with God. It is open to persons from any walk of life, man or woman, married or single. The Cursillo was conceived especially for the everyday man or woman in the street, and does not intend to cater only for the elite, the Cursillo is open to all, God sees potential in people, where we do not.

For those who are married, the ideal situation would be for both the husband and wife to be willing to participate, because it is an experience that is worth sharing between partners, but this is not essential, there are many people who are in relationships and only one of them has attended a Cursillo and they have enjoyed the benefits of attending a Cursillo as much as everybody else. It is important to emphasise that the Cursillo is not only for churchgoers, Church attendance is not a prerequisite. Any normal, mature person, willing and able to accept the word of our Lord may live the Cursillo experience.

However, you should know that it may not be the right time for everyone to experience a Cursillo weekend, the Cursillo is not intended to resolve psychological or emotional problems. The Cursillo team is not specialised in counselling nor in group therapy. For those who have problems to settle or are going through a difficult phase in their lives e.g. a recent separation, it is preferable that they seek emotional stability before taking part in a Cursillo. Only then could they really benefit from the experience. The same advice applies to those who have alcohol, drug or depression problems. The Cursillo is not the proper solution to their problems, other organisations are in place that specialise in treating such problems.

There is a misconception that the Cursillo Movement is a secret society, that those that have previously attended a Cursillo weekend cannot reveal its content. The Cursillo Movement is not a secret society, it has no secret knowledge, no secret ceremonies, no exclusivity. On the contrary, its aim is to let the world know about the best of news, that God loves us, by the best of means, through friendship. It is open to people from all walks of life. What the Cursillo is all about and what goes on during the weekend may be told to anyone but explaining what a profound spiritual experience is, is not easily communicated by words. Having said this, it must be made clear that any personal matters that may be discussed during the Cursillo weekend remain confidential to the group and will not be shared with anyone outside the Cursillo. There are a few surprises along the way during the Cursillo weekend – pleasant surprises, which bring joy and spontaneity to the

experience. As men and women attend the weekend separately they are asked to avoid revealing those minor aspects of the weekend to their partners, so as not to lose spontaneity to the experience for future attendees. Unfortunately some focus too much on these “surprises along the way” and forget to testify about the fundamental of their experience which is that special encounter with the Lord.

There is another myth that says that the Cursillo is for older people, that it is not suitable for the younger element of our community, this could not be furthest from the truth and there are three reasons why this is not so:

First, because the Cursillo Movement was created for and by young people.

Second, because in order to survive, the Movement must open its doors to young people, they represent the future of our society.

Third, because young people do not only represent an environment to be evangelised but is indeed among the pastoral priorities set by the Church of today.

There are those that believe that the Cursillo Movement is a local creation and that this only happens in Gibraltar. The Cursillo weekends take place all over the world, the Cursillo Movement is present in 63 countries Africa (5), Asia (17), Europe (18), North America (3), and South America (20). In Gibraltar, over 3000 men and women have experienced a Cursillo weekend, considering our size that is a massive figure that represents approximately 10% of our community. In Canada there are about 150,000 people that have gone through a Cursillo since 1963. Some countries have a much higher membership. In Brazil, 3.4 million have experienced a Cursillo weekend. The United States count about a million. The Philippines had already reached their million in 1995. In Mexico, there are over 500,000, in Spain, 300,000, in Italy, 200.000, in Argentina, 175,000, in Venezuela, 125,000 to mention a few.

Why not join us at one of our Cursillo weekends at the Retreat Centre, if you are interested please contact us on 58008885 or 57221000 or send us an email on cursillogibraltar@gmail.com and we shall send you the enrolment forms, we look forward to seeing you there.

God Bless.

Cursillo Team of Leaders