

Canadian Anglican Cursillo

CURSILLO PULPIT TALK



Introduction

A Cursillo Pulpit Talk is meant to be given to any parish in the diocese as one way of encouraging people to become involved or further active in Cursillo. It can also be given at any diocesan event, clergy retreat days, diocesan Synod meetings, etc.

The diocesan Secretariat may have Cursillistas trained to provide pulpits talks throughout the diocese so that they are available upon request.

Preparation for this Talk

A Cursillo Pulpit Talk is meant to explain what Cursillo is and invite listeners to consider getting involved in the local Cursillo movement and attending a Cursillo weekend. It is given by a knowledgeable Cursillista, preferably designated by the local Secretariat. Usually the Pulpit Talk can be booked through the local diocesan Cursillo Secretariat.

The length of the talk should be about 10 to 15 minutes, and should include personal examples where appropriate in the talk. It has been found that having a man and a woman jointly give this talk provides more credibility and is applicable for both sexes.

The Secretariat can supply the speaker(s) with appropriate printed materials. If there are any pamphlets concerning the Cursillo movement, these should be available for distribution at the talk. Also, weekend application forms and information should be supplied as part of the pulpit talk package.

Part of preparing for this talk might be to provide the parish priest with Cursillo information in advance.

Content of the Cursillo Pulpit Talk

1. Greet the community and offer a few opening remarks.

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2. (Optional) Refer to the Scripture readings for the day, and how they might relate to some aspect of Cursillo and this talk you are giving.

3. What is Cursillo? “Cursillo” is a Spanish word meaning ‘short course’. The three day weekend is simply a short course in Christian living. It started in the Catholic Church in Spain about 60 years ago, and has spread all over the world, and to several other denominations. Our first diocesan Anglican Cursillo weekends were held in DATE. Our bishop, NAME, is a strong supporter of Cursillo, and says this about Cursillo:

Include a quote from your diocesan bishop

Cursillo equips Christians to minister. It offers participants an opportunity to deepen their discipleship through prayer and learning about the faith. And for some, it is a turning point in their journey in Christ, which leads to a more active participation in the apostolic ministry of our Lord.

Our Bishop, NAME, invites you to consider becoming involved in Cursillo as part of your pilgrimage of faith.

One of the strengths of the Cursillo weekend is that it meets each person where they are in their personal journey towards knowing and loving the Lord more.

Give a personal example from your own weekend.

4. The basic format of the weekend is as follows:

- It starts on a Thursday evening, and ends on Sunday afternoon.
- Individuals who attend the weekend are both weekend candidates and team members.
- You sit together in groups of 6-8 people during the talks, and remain in those groups throughout the weekend.
- There are a number of services, including Eucharist, Morning and Evening prayer, as well as other worship times.
- There is a lot of singing and music.
- There is time allotted to speak with Spiritual Directors.
- The weekends for men and women may be held separately, with the men’s weekend usually preceding the women’s.

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- And finally, there are lots of meals and snacks, so no one goes hungry.

5. Walk the congregation through the weekend and into (what Cursillistas call) the Fourth Day.

DAY ONE

From Thursday evening to Friday evening we are invited to look at ourselves.

We look at how we spend our time, treasure and talents – the three Ts and examine our values and determine if they are Christian values. We learn about God's Grace – his gift to us – and how, as Lay people, we can accept that Grace and use it to further the Kingdom TODAY.

We learn about Faith, and how it can change things for us and for others. Towards the end of the day a lay person provides a witness as to how his or her faith made a difference in their life, and talks about the means of living a life of Grace.

The day then closes with a service of reconciliation – an opportunity to give our burdens to God and so be freer to hear his call to us.

DAY TWO

On Saturday, we examine our relationship with Jesus and the tools we need to build that relationship. The first of these tools is study and we are invited to study, both Holy Scripture and books that interpret and explain scripture. We also can study God's intentions through the works of others, through art, music and drama – there are no boundaries to study.

The second tool is the Sacraments. During the weekend we experience the sacraments of reconciliation, healing, and Eucharist, and renew our baptismal vows. God meets us in these sacraments both individually and as a community.

The third tool is prayer – preparation time; a moment when we invite God into our lives and ask Him to help us. During the weekend there is opportunity for both personal and group prayer.

Later in the day, we discuss how to use these tools as action for Christ and what obstacles stand in the way of this action. We end with a call to be Leaders in our own communities. Remember we are all baptized to be leaders in some way.

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DAY THREE

On Sunday we move away from ourselves and look at how we can work in community. We look at the environments within which we live, work, play and worship and examine how we might change those environments. How we can win people's hearts so that they, too, want to be like Jesus.

So we look at what it means to *live* a Christian life and how a community of faith, like this one, can help us to do that. And here we get to the heart of the Cursillo method – life in community. The afternoon of Sunday prepares us for:

DAY FOUR

Day Four is the rest of your Christian walk after the weekend ends: The Day in which you start putting into place what you have learned. Cursillo enables you to form a small group of friends to meet on a regular basis with the goal of living out Christ's call for your life, while sharing your journey.

6. After the Cursillo weekend itself is over, describe how further direction and support is offered in the form of regular gatherings and events known as 'Group Reunion', 'Ultreya', and 'Servant Community.' Ultreyas in the diocese are offered on DATE and anyone in the diocese is welcome to attend.

7. Conclude with a few words about some of the personal effects of your involvement with Cursillo.

Insert your own experiences/thoughts

8. Inform the listeners of the dates of the upcoming Cursillo weekend(s).

9. Invite people to talk after the service. You may also wish to invite people to write down their questions and bring them to you after the service.

(NOTE: Bring Cursillo weekend application forms with you.)

10. Thank the congregation and priest for being invited to share Cursillo information with them.