

Canadian Anglican Cursillo



QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

The Weekend and the Charismata

Christians are realizing that the church is moving out of the Christendom era. In post-Christendom, it is not surprising to find that many of the Gifts of the Spirit which were well known in the pre-Christendom early church are appearing again in the lives of Christians. The best gifts are always motivated by love. God's spiritual gifts are expressions of His love. We give thanks to God for these gracious gifts.

The Gifts of the Spirit as described in 1 Corinthians 12 may be conveniently divided into three groups. The first listed are Wisdom, Knowledge and Discernment, which are gifts of an intellectual nature and relate to revelation. Faith, Healing, and Miracles involve the miraculous and have to do with the Power of God. The third group has to do with the spoken word, and is sometimes described as gifts of utterance. This group includes Prophecy, Tongues, and the Interpretation of Tongues.

In the Church around the world, Christians are also experiencing unusual manifestations of God's Holy Spirit. Some of the phenomena include falling down, (sometimes referred to as Resting in the Spirit), shaking, weeping, laughter, and strange noises.

Some of these Gifts and the Manifestations have been experienced at Cursillo Weekends.

To questions that have been raised, the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat wishes to make the following response:

Cursillo was developed to help Christians understand their mission to transform, i.e. Christianize, their environments. Through piety, study of God's Word, and action, they are prepared to become effective witnesses in the world. The Cursillo focus is on the Fourth Day of apostolic outreach. The Cursillo method is clear and focused, and the authentic Cursillo weekend has long been the means of attaining the clearly defined aims. The method should not be used for purposes other than that for which it was designed.

The purpose of Cursillo is not to encourage persons to receive the Gifts but to know the Giver. This is not to deny the importance of the Gifts or the Manifestations, but simply to state the purpose of the Cursillo Movement. On a Cursillo Weekend, persons turn to Jesus Christ and commit themselves to His service. Normally, there are other times and other places where they may receive Manifestations of the Spirit and be guided and strengthened by the Gifts of the Spirit. The Cursillo leaders on a weekend should not lead persons to expect the Manifestations of the Holy Spirit. Cursillo leaders need to have a clear understanding of their roles and the methods they have at their disposal to

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bring persons into a loving community in the service of Jesus Christ. Deviations from the authentic weekend will have the effect of changing the focus of Cursillo into something it was not intended to be.

If persons receive the Gifts of the Spirit or experience Manifestations of the Spirit on the Weekend, the leaders should not give undue attention to the incident before the whole community. The leaders may bring the persons involved to a private area and commit the matter to God in prayer and thanksgiving, following which they can return to share in the regular events of the weekend as they unfold.

It would be helpful if the persons who have received the gifts can be referred as soon as possible to some Priest or Counselor in the Church who has experience in the Gifts and Manifestations of the Spirit This would enable the person to receive instruction to understand, appreciate and utilize the Gifts received.

Cursillo is not everything. It is just one thing. We give thanks to God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the development of the Cursillo Movement and for all the blessings which He has bestowed on the Church -through Cursillo. An Authentic Cursillo Weekend consists of 15 Talks & 5 Meditations plus Sacraments and Compline, as described in the booklet "The Authentic Three-Day Weekend" in the National Episcopal Cursillo Library. All the other parts of the weekend — agape meal, mananitas, healing service, etc. are traditions which have sprung up in some movements. While in themselves they may be wonderful, they should never detract from the authentic weekend and the purpose of Cursillo. If they do, they should without hesitation be removed.