

Canadian Anglican Cursillo

CURSILLO CHURCH TALK



Introduction

A Cursillo Church 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 events, diocesan Synod meetings, etc.

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

Preparation for this Talk

A Cursillo Church 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 Church Talk can be booked through the local diocesan Cursillo Secretariat.

The length of the talk should be about 8-10 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 Church talk package.

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

Content of the Cursillo Church Talk

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

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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 in the 1940s, 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 (or Friday afternoon) 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.
- All things can be explained and there are no secrets but there are a few surprises!
- And finally, there are lots of meals and snacks, so no one goes hungry.

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5. 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.

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

Insert your own experiences/thoughts

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

8. 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.)

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