

Ottawa Cursillo Movement

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Cursillo is a lay movement which promotes Christian renewal by providing a joyful three-day experience of dynamic and enduring Christian living. It can be the start of a new and fuller awareness of what Christianity can mean in your daily life at home and work, with neighbours and with members of your Church.

It began in Mallorca, Spain in 1944. In 1966 Pope Paul VI designated Cursillo a renewal movement of the church and named St. Paul as the patron. Since 1966 there have been over 200 Weekends in Ottawa.

The Ottawa Cursillo Movement's weekends are organized by Roman Catholics. In Ottawa, Anglicans also provide Cursillo Weekends.

The weekend program consists of talks by both lay people and clergy. You will be seated at a table with 5 or 6 others to discuss the talks. There will also be periods of prayer and reflection, and many opportunities to socialize with fellow Christians. You may even get some sleep.

Cursillo Weekends take place at Notre-Dame-de-la-Providence Retreat House, 1754 St Joseph Blvd. in Orléans. Your sponsor will provide transportation to and from the Retreat House. Weekends begin Thursday evening at 8 p.m. and end late Sunday afternoon. You are expected to be present for the entire time. Please be sure that your family is aware of your absence and your transportation arrangements. During the Weekend messages for you will be taken at (613) 824-1610. There is a pay phone for emergency use.

Plan to arrive at the Retreat House between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening. There is a No Alcohol policy and smoking is restricted to outside in order to provide a smoke-free environment. In order to remove outside distractions befitting a 'retreat-like' atmosphere, we recommend that you do not bring alarm clocks, radios, cameras, iPods, laptops, Blackberries etc... Pagers and cell phones are not permitted in the conference area. Bring casual/comfortable clothing (it is usually very warm), toiletries, your medication, a bath robe (the nuns may be in the halls) and a bath towel. You will be assigned a single room with a sink. The showers and washrooms are down the hall. Musical instruments (and music) are welcome; you will have a chance to use them.

The cost of a Cursillo Weekend, including accommodation and food, is \$200 per person payable by cash or cheque (current or post-dated) upon arrival.

To encourage lively table discussions, an attempt is made to 'mix' candidates according to age, parish etc... It is for this reason that some personal information is requested on the application form. It will be destroyed after the Weekend.

If you think a Cursillo Weekend would help renew your Christian walk, please fill in and sign the top portion of the application form and return it to your sponsor as soon as possible.
