



Heartland Cursillo: A summer of faith, friendship, and De Colores!

Dear Fellow Cursillistas,

As summer unfolds, we are reminded that God continues to work through simple acts of kindness, friendship, prayer, and community. The Heartland Cursillo movement is alive and growing because of faithful servants like you who continue to share Christ’s love with others.

Your witness matters. Your Fourth Day matters. And the friendships formed through Cursillo continue to change lives every single day.

We are excited to announce two upcoming Ultreyas at new host churches! Mark your calendars, invite your friends, and plan a road trip filled with fellowship, worship, laughter, and communion.

Upcoming Ultreyas

- **July 18, 2026** – St. David’s, Topeka, Kansas
- **September 26, 2026** – Christ Church, Springfield, Missouri

Come reconnect with old friends, meet new Cursillistas, and be renewed in the joy of the movement. We would love to see communities from across the Heartland gather together in faith and friendship.

We also ask you to begin praying now for our upcoming:

2026 Heartland Cursillo Weekend
October 16–18, 2026
Heartland Retreat Center

Please prayerfully discern who in your life may benefit from a Cursillo weekend experience. Think about those who are searching for deeper faith, Christian community, encouragement, or renewal.



Workshop on Growing Strong Reunion Groups

🕒 2026-06-20 @ 01:00 PM - 2026-06-20 @ 02:30 PM

📍 Online Event

Class, Training, or Workshop

Sign up for this online workshop hosted by the national Episcopal Cursillo Ministry!

Before inviting someone, please remember to speak with their priest first so everyone feels supported and respected throughout the process. Then begin planting seeds! Use the Save the Date card and informational pamphlet available on the Heartland Cursillo website to help answer questions and share what the movement is all about.

And remember — Cursillo is no longer secret! We joyfully welcome opportunities to share openly about the movement and the many ways it strengthens lives and communities through Christ-centered friendship and discipleship.

As you travel, gather with family, enjoy the sunshine, and make memories this summer, keep your eyes open for those little “God winks” — the unexpected reminders that God is always near and working through us.

May your summer be filled with kindness, goodness, joy, and abundant blessings.

De Colores!

Roberta Coons
Heartland Chairman

The gift of Cursillo: Renewing the church through lay leadership

Across the Episcopal Church, we often ask important questions about renewal, evangelism, leadership, and how we nurture vibrant parish life. One of the most faithful and effective answers to those questions continues to be the ministry of the Cursillo movement.

For decades, Cursillo has transformed lives by helping Christians deepen their relationship with Christ, strengthen their understanding of the Church, and discover their vocation as disciples in the world. A Cursillo weekend is far more than a retreat. It is an invitation into intentional Christian community, spiritual growth, servant leadership, and lifelong formation.

In every diocese where Cursillo flourishes, the Church benefits. A healthy Cursillo ministry raises up committed lay leaders who return to their parishes energized, equipped, and ready to serve. Cursillistas often become some of the most faithful and active members of congregational life. They teach, lead outreach ministries, serve on vestries, assist with worship, organize fellowship opportunities, mentor new members, and strengthen the spiritual life of the parish. They understand that ministry is not reserved only for clergy, but belongs to all baptized Christians.

Cursillo helps people recognize their gifts and gives them confidence to use those gifts for the glory of God. One of the great strengths of the movement is its emphasis on Christian community. In a time when many people feel isolated or disconnected, Cursillo reminds us that

we are never meant to walk the Christian journey alone. Through table groups, reunion groups, Ultreyas, and parish involvement, participants discover meaningful relationships rooted in prayer, accountability, encouragement, and shared faith.

Those relationships often become the foundation for stronger congregations. Parishes with active Cursillistas frequently experience renewed energy and hospitality. Cursillistas tend to invite others into the life of the Church, encourage participation, and foster an atmosphere of welcome and joy. They understand that evangelism is not simply about programs, but about living authentic Christian lives that reflect the love of Christ.

Cursillo also strengthens diocesan life by connecting people across parish boundaries. Participants come from different congregations, backgrounds, and experiences, yet they gather around a shared commitment to Jesus Christ and the mission of the Church. Those connections build unity within the diocese and remind us that we are part of something larger than our individual parishes.

Importantly, Cursillo forms leaders who lead with humility, prayerfulness, and servant hearts. The movement teaches that authentic Christian leadership begins not with power or status, but with discipleship. The best Cursillistas are not those seeking recognition, but those quietly serving others, praying faithfully, and helping build up the Body of Christ.

A Cursillo weekend plants seeds that continue to bear fruit for years. Many clergy can point to Cursillistas as some of their most dependable parish leaders and spiritual encouragers. Many dioceses have seen vocations discerned, ministries launched, and struggling parishioners renewed through the grace experienced during a Cursillo weekend. Time and again, lives are changed because someone was invited to spend a few days intentionally focusing on Christ.

The Church needs faithful lay leaders now more than ever. We need Christians who are grounded in prayer, formed in community, passionate about the Gospel, and willing to serve. We need people who understand that the work of the Church belongs to all of us together. Cursillo continues to help form exactly those kinds of disciples.

The Cursillo movement remains one of the great gifts of renewal within the Church — strengthening parishes, encouraging clergy, developing leaders, and helping ordinary people discover the extraordinary joy of walking with Christ.

De Colores!

Raja Reed



Heartland Cursillo

Heartland Cursillo Weekend

October 16th – 18th, 2026

Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

Heartland Episcopal Cursillo

Candidate & Team Member Application

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____

Preferred Name for Badge: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parish Information

Home Parish: _____

City / Diocese: _____

Priest / Rector: _____

Applying As

Candidate (First-time participant)

Team Member

Cursillo Weekend (if known): _____

Weekend Date: October 16th – 18th, 2026 (Friday evening through Sunday afternoon)

Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Parish: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Church Life & Spiritual Background

How long have you attended your parish?

Briefly describe your involvement in church life or ministry.

Why would you like to attend or serve on this Cursillo weekend?

For more information about Cursillo, visit www.heartlandepiscopalcursillo.org

Questions? Email: rajareed@gmail.com



HEARTLAND EPISCOPAL CURSILLO

TEAM MEMBER INFORMATION

Cursillo Weekend Attended (Location / Year): _____

Previous Team Roles: _____

Preferred Role(s): _____

HEALTH, DIETARY & ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

Health / Dietary / Accessibility Needs: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____ Color Preferred: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

CLERGY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Clergy / Rector Name: _____

Parish: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARTICIPANT AGREEMENTS

Liability Acknowledgement: I understand that participation in a Heartland Episcopal Cursillo weekend includes communal activities and shared accommodations. I voluntarily assume ordinary risks associated with participation.

Photo / Media Release: I grant permission to Heartland Episcopal Cursillo to use photographs or video taken during the weekend for newsletters, publications, websites, and ministry communications.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Raja P. Reed
Parish Administrator
(816) 984-9770

Forward return application to Raja Reed at RajaReed@gmail.com
or mail application to Raja Reed, 1307 Home Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106.