



Office of the Bishop

February 19, 2016

Dear Priests, Deacons, and Religious,

Peace be with you.

Several years ago, as a parish priest in the Diocese of Knoxville, I joined a group of lay men and made a Cursillo weekend. It profoundly affected my life and those of the other men, most of whom still meet today to pray and support one another in following Jesus as intentional disciples. These men serve their families and parishes more generously, and they are more confident in living and sharing their Catholic faith.

When I arrived as your bishop, I was excited to learn that our diocese has an active Cursillo Movement. In fact, Cursillo weekends have been offered here for men since 1962 and for women since 1965. Separate weekends are held for men and women twice a year. The weekends are also now offered regularly in Spanish.

Cursillo, which means "little course" in Spanish, leads a person by prayer, learning, faith sharing and the Liturgy to encounter the person of Jesus Christ anew (or perhaps for the first time), and leads to a decision to follow him more intentionally. The added benefit to the movement is that there is follow through. Participants are led to continue their journey together as friends of the Lord and one another.

By now, I think you can tell that I am a big fan of Cursillo! At a time when our people are pulled in so many directions; at a time when so many are seeking a deeper relationship with God; at a time when so many need good Christian friends to find strength and encouragement; Cursillo is well suited to meet these many needs.

I hope that you will be able to make a weekend, and I hope that you will encourage your parishioners to take advantage of this gift that could change their lives forever.

For additional information on the Cursillo Movement and upcoming weekends, contact Dino Durando, Director of the Office of Family Life 816-714-2371.

Yours in Christ,

+ James V. Johnston, Jr.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph