

SCRIPT TO ACCOMPANY POWERPOINT PRESENTATION AT.....

GROWING IN THE LOVE OF GOD (@ 8 MINS. TO READ)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE UNDERLINE MEANS PRESS FOR NEXT SLIDE/WORDS

SLIDE:1 (Welcome). My name is and accompanying me today are
We would like to thank (Fr ?)..... for inviting us to to share this presentation,

SLIDE 2
'Cursillo – Growing in the Love of God'.

Cursillo is a world wide movement within the Christian church. It began in Spain in the 1940's and is now well established in most Anglican Dioceses in Australia. Cursillo was introduced to the Tasmanian Diocese in 1995. Since then the Cursillo Movement has had the blessing and encouragement of each of our Bishops.

SLIDE:3 Cursillo is a Spanish word that simply means a short course. It refers particularly to the 3 day weekends which are described as

- 'a short course in Christian living'
- which helps us to consciously live in God's grace
- It aims to help us develop as Christian leaders with a wider understanding of what that means.
- and to bring into our daily lives the spirit of community we can have as Christians

While the name means 'a short course' the Cursillo movement is really about the long haul – helping us on our Christian journey.

SLIDE:4 Put simply the purpose of Cursillo is

- to help us live more effectively as Christians.

- It encourages us to be channels of God's love and to equip us for our witness to Christ. It aims to help Christians discover and live out their own personal calling from God. The nearer we come to reaching our potential as Christians, the more the benefits of Cursillo flow out into the church and into the community.

- It has been expressed very simply 'for us – to others.'
As we receive blessings hopefully we allow God to bless others through us.

SLIDE:5

- A Cursillo 3 day weekend brings together up to 30 Christians from all over the diocese. Men and women attend separate weekends. A Lay Coordinator leads the weekend. It is run by a team, mostly lay people but with clergy having an important role as Spiritual Advisers.
- The focus is on our personal relationship with God, as well as developing a sense of Christian community
- On the first evening, after a meal and some time getting to know one another there is a time of quietness – a silent time for reflection - to help leave the stresses of the world behind and prepare for the short course.

SLIDE:6

- On the 3 day weekend there are -
- Talks, which are given by team members and include many aspects of Christian living– about God’s call to live in his grace, and what this may involve in practical terms. Nothing new may be heard in theological terms as the talks are grounded in Biblical teaching. Many talks are illustrated by relevant witness from the speaker’s own experience, which may help the reality of being a Christian in today’s world to come alive.
- There is an opportunity to respond to each talk within a small group discussion
- There are times to share and work together on some activities.
- Talks are interspersed with singing.
- There are worship services each day, times to be still,
- to chat, as well as to, just relax and have fun.

SLIDE:7

- During the 3 day weekend -
- The Cursillo community covers these weekends with prayer from the beginning of the first day through to midnight of the final day.
- A feature of this time together is the deep sense of fellowship that develops. Many experience a real joy that can be found in being part of a Christian community
- Participants are encouraged to respond, within an accepting and supportive community, only as they feel able.

SLIDE:8

- The experience of the 3 day weekend is unique for each person.
- As we are all individuals, responding from where we are and within the events of a particular weekend, it is hard to explain to people, how they, may find the weekend.
- Many feel that they have a higher vision of Christian living and
- are inspired to want to act on that vision in the future

SLIDE:9

In living the vision of Cursillo

We benefit from the support and encouragement of other Christians – working together as Christian communities, strengthening each other, within our homes and families, our church, our workplaces – or in the community. The Cursillo method provides an ongoing support system – a way of helping us to be effective Christians in what we call the Fourth Day.

- On a Cursillo weekend most participants value the support of the small groups in which they share. After the weekend they are encouraged to join a small informal group for what is called group re-union.
- Group reunions meet on a regular basis to provide prayerful and mutual support and encouragement as friends. These groups can provide the focus for intentional Christian living as members help one another to be accountable and to stay on track. Members encourage one another to look around at their environments and plan to make a difference for Christ.
- There are also larger gatherings which may be parish or throughout the diocese. They are called ‘Ultreyas’ a Spanish word which means ‘Keep going onward and upward’

.SLIDE: 10

Cursillo builds community among its members. It develops a strong bond between people from different parts of the diocese. People are drawn closer together by sharing and experiencing the depths and hopes of our Christian faith. Each year Diocesan Ultreyas are held in Campbelltown.

SLIDE: 11

Cursillo is not a closed community. It is not something separate from or in competition with the church. It is a movement within the church. Its aim is always to draw in more people – not for its own

benefit but for the enriching of the church. As people's gifts are enhanced their work is strengthened by mutual support.

SLIDE:12

An illustration which clearly shows the place of Cursillo within the church is this 3 C's diagram. The outer C represents Christ who encompasses the Church (the body of Christ) which encompasses Cursillo (a movement within the body of Christ).

SLIDE:13

Hopefully this presentation has given you an insight into what Cursillo is about.. How do you get involved?

- If you are interested in finding out more about Cursillo talk about it with people who are part of the movement. They should be able to answer your questions.
- Try to attend an ultreya gathering.
- Look on the Internet. You can just Google 'Cursillo Tasmania'
- If you are invited to consider going to a weekend, pray about it. See if the time seems right – there may be reasons why it would be better at a later time. Next year there are two Cursillos: one for women and one for men, held in and at

We believe it is important that people have a sponsor for the weekend. A sponsor is someone who has already attended a Cursillo 3 Day Weekend and who is actively involved in a small group re-union.

Cursillo may be something you would wish to be involved in, for all it has to offer, as you move on with God.

SLIDE: 14

Thank you for listening. Please see (me,...??.....,any people in Rainbow Scarves?) after church if you have any questions or comments.