



June 20, 2026

WORKSHOP ON
Growing Strong
Reunion Groups

Cursillo
Make a Friend,
Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ

FAITH • FRIENDSHIP • GROWTH • COMMUNITY

Better Together in Christ

We are
an Easter people
and
Alleluia
is our song!
Cursillo

De Colores!

ROOTED IN CHRIST • NOURISHED IN COMMUNITY • FRUITFUL IN MISSION

Panel

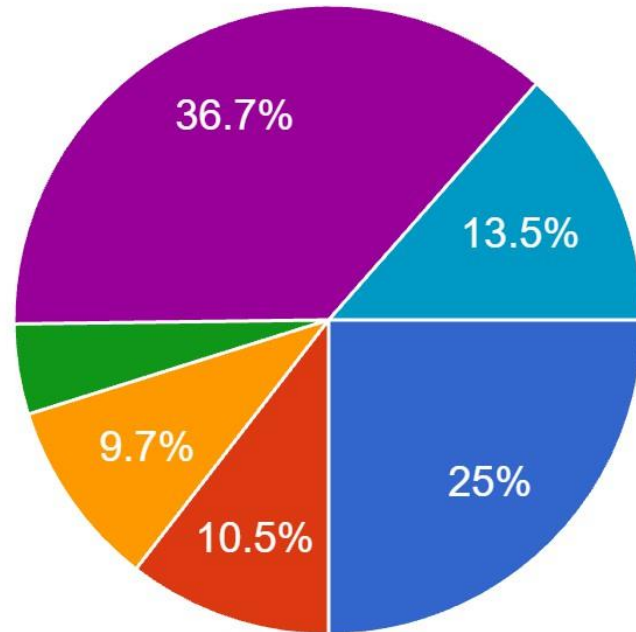
- ❖ Kevin Mallon, Oregon and SW Washington
- ❖ Scotty Brock+, Upper South Carolina
- ❖ Angel Lopez+, Central Florida
- ❖ Janet Jendron, Upper South Carolina
- ❖ Carol Gibbs, Southern Virginia
- ❖ Rose Wilson, Georgia

What is a Group Reunion (GR)?

- ❖ Nothing special about “Reunion” – it just means “meeting”
- ❖ Small group 2 to 6, in person or electronically
- ❖ Meet regularly – the model is weekly
- ❖ Review
 - ❖ Piety (connecting with God)
 - ❖ Moment Closest to Christ
 - ❖ Study (what am I learning about my relationship with God and Creation)
 - ❖ Apostolic Action (what am I doing to share the Good/Great News/build the Kingdom of God)

In terms of participating in a Group Reunion, please select one of the following (if your are in more than one Group Reunion, respond on the basis of the group that meets most often):

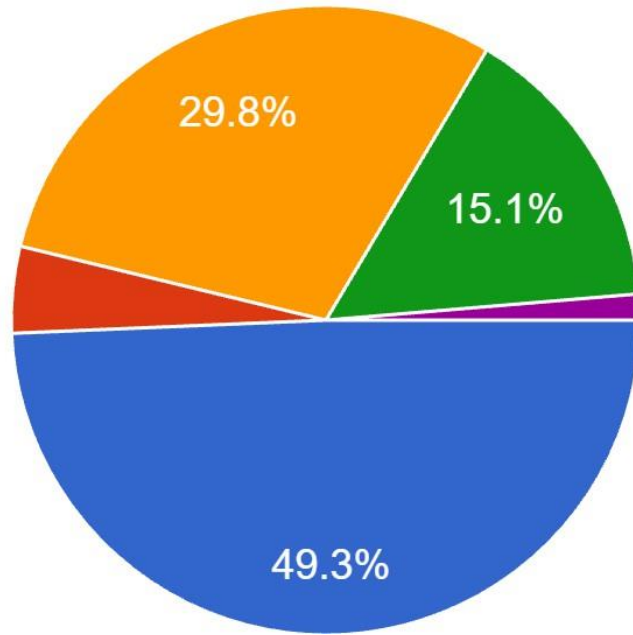
496 responses



- 1. I am in a Group Reunion that meets at least weekly
- 2. I am in a Group Reunion that meets two to three times a month
- 3. I am in a Group Reunion that meets monthly
- 4. I am in a Group Reunion that meets less than monthly
- 5. I was at one time active in a Group...
- 6. I was never really a part of an activ...

In regards to your Group Reunion experience, please select one of the following:

450 responses



- 1. I am happy/satisfied participating in my current Group Reunion
- 2. I am "not so happy" with my current Group Reunion
- 3. I am not in a Group Reunion, but would like to be part of one
- 4. I am not in a Group Reunion, and am not interested in being part of one
- 1. I am happy participating in my current Group Reunion

Why We Have GR: Keeps the Fire Burning

- ❖ Because sharing is the “secret sauce” that drives a Cursillo Weekend, where I experience that God loves me
- ❖ Because a log pulled from the fire dies out
- ❖ Because my hearing from you encourages me & vice versa
- ❖ Because GR sharing builds friendship, the heart of Cursillo

Enemies of GR

- Shame / guilt – “I haven’t done enough”
 - Ultreya means “Keep going, continue, don’t give up, onward”
- Rugged Individualism – “I have to make it on my own”
- Consumerism – “What am I getting out of this?” (vs. “What am I giving out of this?”)
- Staying on the surface

What is a Group Reunion?



June 20, 2026
Fr. Scotty Brock

What is a Group Reunion?

Or a better question - Why a Group Reunion?

We must go back to St. Benedict of Nursia

St. Benedict of Nursia

Monk and Abbot who lived in 5th and 6th Century

Became disillusioned with the corruption and immorality of his world

He retreated and became a hermit.

Was asked to be the Abbot of a small monastery where he retreated

Thus came up with his Rules of Life

Rule of Life

The original purpose of the Rule of Life was to:

- ❖ Support and honor each other
- ❖ Explore Sacred Scripture and develop an intentional prayer life
- ❖ Work to being self-sustaining centered in a life in Christ.

?

Group Reunion reflects the intention of the Rule of Life

The purpose of Group Reunion is to

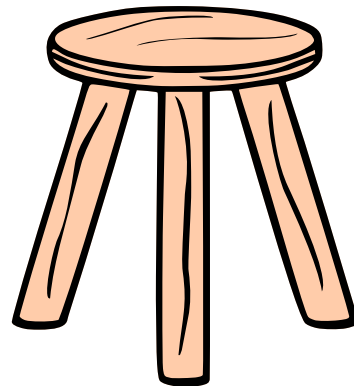
- ❖ Unite members in friendship and union with Christ's love
- ❖ Help members mature in faith, hope and love
- ❖ Strengthen each other's commitment to evangelism

Remember the three-legged stool?

Formation

Function

Sharing

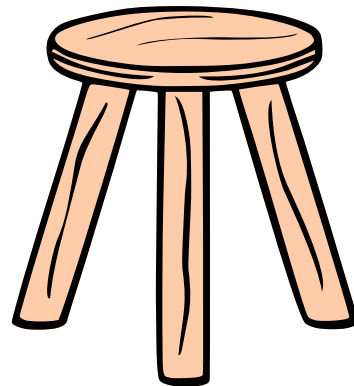


A more popular set of labels are these:

Piety

Study

Action



Group Reunion's Basic Principles

Prayer
Confidentiality
Compatibility
Vulnerability

Honesty
Being Supportive
Being Kind

These are components that enable us to deepen our pilgrimage to Christ and to one another.

Dynamics of Communication

To listen and let each person talk without interruption.

To allow each person to tell as much of their story as they are comfortable with.

To avoid giving advice.

To avoid passing judgment.

Listen, Listen, Love, Love

Follow the Card

And remember: Make a friend. Be a friend. Bring a friend to Christ.

Dynamics of Communication



June 20, 2026
Fr. Angel Lopez

The Importance of Communication Dynamics

What Communication Dynamics Mean in the Cursillo Context

Maintaining Healthy Communication Dynamics

- ❖ Regular meetings
- ❖ Setting aside time for each member to share
- ❖ Practicing confidentiality

Communication Dynamics and “Building and Maintaining Reunion Groups”

Practical Strategies for Enhancing Communication Three-Legged Stool

Conclusion: Communication as the Lifeblood of Reunion Groups

Different Approaches to Forming Reunion Groups



June 20, 2026
Janet Jendron

Group Reunion - Goals and Purpose

- ❖ Help each another become the people God calls us to be
- ❖ Honest, vulnerable sharing of successes, struggles, commitments
- ❖ Support for each person's spiritual growth without judgement or offering solutions
- ❖ Help identify God's work in our lives

More Goals

- ❖ Increased commitment and accountability for piety, study, action
- ❖ Help each other identify ways to bring Christ into environments where we live, work and serve
- ❖ Prayer support between meetings via email, text or messaging groups

Consider ...

- ❖ “Reunion Group” doesn’t only mean a reunion of Cursillistas
- ❖ Pave a way for the Holy Spirit to open our minds and spirit to new ways, new venues
- ❖ A group could include people from other denominations and people who haven’t been to a weekend
- ❖ Groups don’t have to separate clergy from lay people
- ❖ Include people of all ages

Some Options

- ❖ In Person – restaurants, homes, church, park
- ❖ Virtual
- ❖ Lunch Group at work
- ❖ Email
- ❖ During a weekend, Table Leaders, staff, Sponsors create a clear path for new Cursillistas to find a GR
- ❖ During the weekend, have Table groups do an actual GR

More Options

- ❖ **Open Reunion Groups:** A parish actively invites people to form reunion groups and provides initial facilitators, meeting space and guidance.
- ❖ **Covenant Groups:** members commit to meeting together for a defined period of time, maybe for a specific purpose
- ❖ **Devote a parish gathering** (e.g., parish breakfast, Sunday School class) to introducing the concept of small groups and divide into groups to share specific questions

Strengthen and Refresh...

- ❖ Service Projects, Retreats, Prayer Walks, Parish events
- ❖ Periodically review: “How are we doing?”
- ❖ Share leadership – different members start or end with a prayer, meditation
- ❖ Don't be a slave to the card or nitpick the details
- ❖ Avoid “apostolic gossip”

Strengthen and Refresh

Alternate between the traditional Group Reunion structure and more conversational formats

- ❖ Share a favorite scripture, saint, spiritual practice or book
- ❖ Consider different forms of prayer (Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, Taizé)
- ❖ Write collective prayers based on the group's concerns and thanksgivings
- ❖ Share one success and one challenge
- ❖ Share about a person who shaped your faith
- ❖ Bring an object that reflects your spiritual journey
- ❖ Dedicate a GR to a specific concept (e.g., forgiveness, gratitude, Rule of Life, humility)

Promoting to a wider audience

Fourth Day Stories in Publications

Cursillo News



My Fourth Day Story: Maintaining a Life in Grace

Do you ever wish you were a part of something more? We all want our lives to be meaningful, but despite our best efforts, it's easy sometimes to feel unfulfilled. ...

[READ MORE](#)



My Fourth Day Story: The Places the Fourth Day will Take You

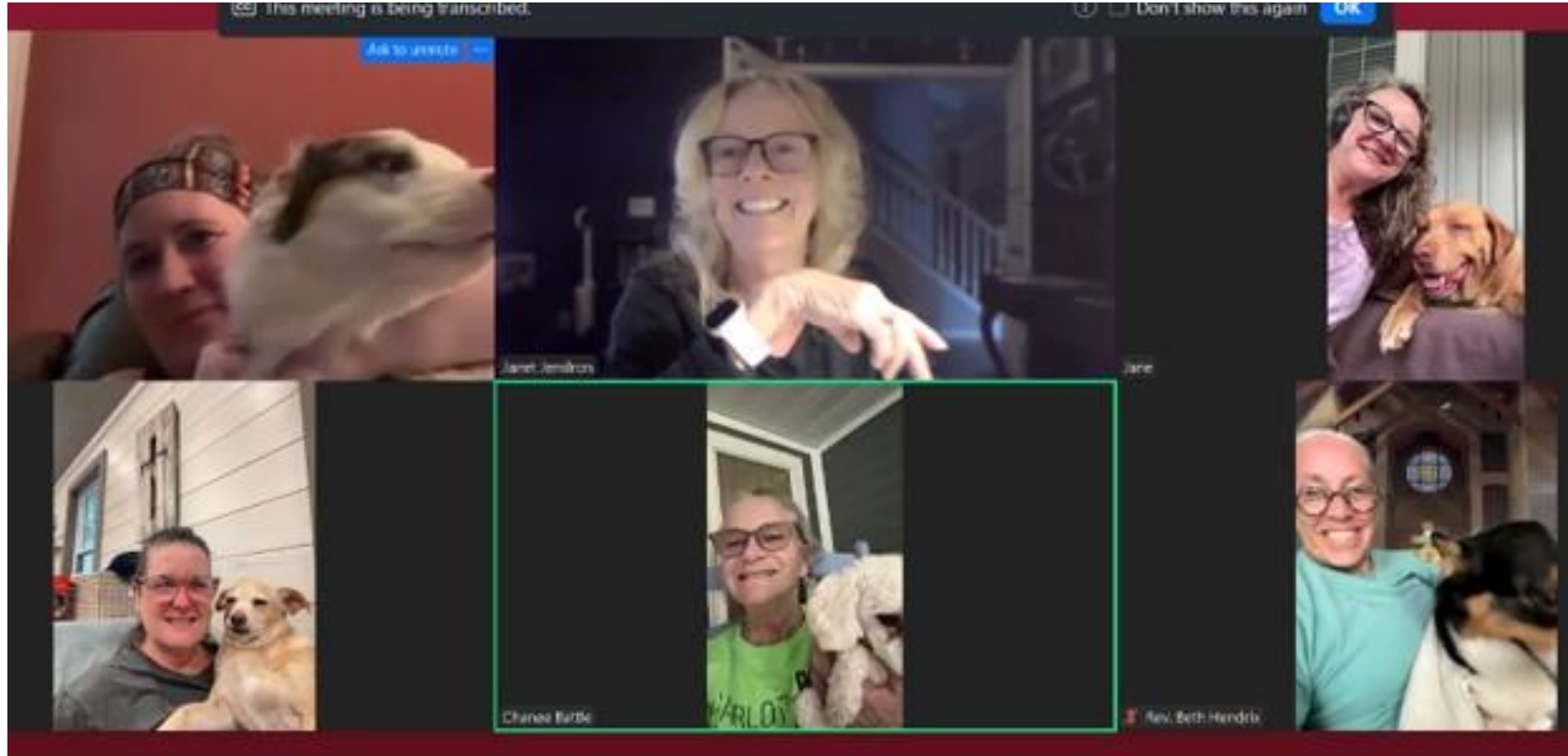
pictured, left to right: Danny Shelton (St. Matthew's, Spartanburg), Jane Bird (St. Matthew's, Spartanburg). Cursillo #119 found me. If I'd gotten my way, I would not have attended. That is ...

[READ MORE](#)

Group Reunions Fill Our Needs



Group Reunions are FUN!



We're all in this together

Road to Emmaus “Group Reunion: Keeping the Fire Aive and Your Nose to the Grindstone: *You may need to change groups for any number of reasons, but you never outgrow your need to belong to one.*

Episcopal Cursillo Ministry: “Group Reunion: *If Group Reunions get mechanical or formal, or if we are not getting anything out of them, it is a sure sign we are not putting enough into them.*

Catholic Cursillo: *We have the 3-Day Cursillo so that there will be Group Reunions.*
Eduardo Bonnín

Lutheran Via de Cristo: *The reunion group is the primary element in the Fourth Day.*

Traditional Cursillo saying used by Canadian Cursillo: *The coals will burn if they are together; if you separate them, they go off.*

Reunion Groups: The Roll of Sponsors



June 20, 2026
Carol Gibbs



Sponsors are the Key

Sponsors are **the key** to preparing participants for a joyful Cursillo Weekend and fully living into the Fourth Day.

Characteristics of Successful Sponsors:

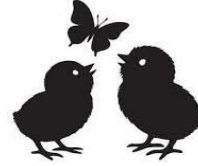
- ❖ They avoid secrecy – Its NOT part of the weekend.
- ❖ They answer every question a candidate has before the weekend. That doesn't mean they give details just answers.

More about Sponsors ...

❖ They make candidates aware of Grouping and Ultreya so they aren't blind-sided. I knew about both, but I wasn't told about silence on Thursday and that put a chip on my shoulder!

❖ Plan how you can invite them into 4th day activities. You could even invite them to experience your group and take them to an Ultreya BEFORE they ever attend the weekend?

❖ Help them build a group or join your group. Do it again and again until it works for them.



Call them Pilgrims, Candidates, or Babe Chicks

Sponsors should look for the following

- ❖ They should be a baptized Christian. Confirmation is not necessary, but it is indicative of an appropriate commitment to the Church
- ❖ They worship in an Episcopal congregation or a congregation of a faith group in communion with the Episcopal Church (in this case, a person's participation should be agreed to by your Bishop)
- ❖ They show an interest deepening their Christian life

And the following ...

- ❖ They have the potential to influence their environments
- ❖ They are they willing to participate in the Fourth Day
- ❖ They are NOT in a current personal crisis. Those who are, or who have recently been in crisis should not normally attend a Weekend until life has returned to a better order.
- ❖ Please encourage your Secretariat to organize sponsor workshops to foster more creative and dedicated sponsorship.

Strong Reunion Groups



June 20, 2026
Rose Wilson

Is the Come Holy Spirit prayer working?

Can others in the group count on you?

Respect each other's time.

Be a friend.

Stay on task.

Starting a new reunion group

- ❖ Home Circles
- ❖ New Groups as a Result of a Cursillo weekend

**Need "Christ is Counting on You"
cards? Go to ...**

www.episcopalcur sillom inistry.org

Christ is Counting on You

Cursillo Conference Coming September 2027

- Wednesday, September 22 – Saturday, September 25, 2027
- Roslyn Conference Center, Richmond, Virginia

Your Opinions are Needed

ECMC wants your opinions about the 2027 Conference (even if you won't be attending) and other topic in a brief, online survey.

- <https://tinyurl.com/New2026-27CursilloOpinions>



Breakout Groups Group Summaries

Breakout Room Discussion

Before you begin, please *select*:

- A facilitator to help guide the conversation.
- A recorder/spokesperson to take notes and share your group's key insights when we return to the main session.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you hear today that especially caught your attention or resonated with you?
2. What strategies have you, your Secretariat, or your Cursillo community used to strengthen and grow Group Reunions?
3. What challenges or obstacles interfere with building strong Group Reunions? What actions or resources might help address those challenges?

Please be prepared to share highlights from your discussion with the larger group.



EPISCOPAL
CURSILLO
MINISTRY

GROWING CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS

Thank You
for joining
&

De Colores

