

Bishop Michael T. Martin

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Is Cursillo for me?

We invite you to find answers and grow in
“Friendship with Ourselves, Christ and Others”

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Men's Cursillo
Weekend
June 26-29, 2025

Women's Cursillo
Weekend
July 10-13, 2025



Deacon Ralph D'Agostino, Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, pictured with Bishop Martin.

“Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one finds a treasure. Faithful friends are beyond price, no amount can balance their worth. Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; those who fear God will find them. Those who fear the Lord enjoy stable friendship, for as they are, so will their neighbors be.” (Sirach 6:14-17). The charism (or spiritual gift) of the Cursillo movement is Christian friendship: Friendship with Christ, Friendship with Others, and Friendship with Ourselves. 14). If you seek this type of community in your walk with the Lord, Jesus may be calling you to consider the Cursillo movement.

On January 27th, Cursillo Diocesan Coordinator Tricia Bunch and I, Deacon Ralph D'Agostino, Cursillo Spiritual Advisor, traveled to Charlotte to meet with Bishop Martin. The purpose of the visit was to have an opportunity to talk with the Bishop about the Cursillo movement in our diocese and request his official approval for the movement. But as often happens with the Holy Spirit, there was much more planned for us. From the minute we walked into Bishop Martin's office, and he shook our hands, we knew he was a man who was naturally living in the charism of Christian friendship. We felt invited and welcomed as if we were old friends. He offered us his favorite treat from a bowl of delicious dark chocolate on the coffee table and before our meeting was over at least five empty wrappers lay on the table right in front of me.

As friends often do, we started to talk and share stories. We chatted about the Cursillo movement and how it has been part of the diocese of Charlotte for more than 50 years. We spoke about building up the Body of Christ one friend at a time in our communities. We talked about ourselves, our faith, and shared special spiritual moments together in our lives. Some stories made us laugh; others gave us pause.

Bishop Martin shared about his extensive involvement in similar ministries and how there are many channels for building up the Body of Christ in our Diocese that can appeal to a variety of people in all phases of life. He reminded us, in words and by example, about one of the keys to a meaningful friendship. He told us he had experienced the fruits of the movement in his previous parish, St. Phillip Benzi in Jonesboro, Georgia. He shared that the deacon at his parish was an active Cursillista who always kept him informed and invited him to participate so that he was able to attend a couple of Ultreyas.

Bishop Martin later told us that, “In my years in ministry I have been so edified by the people who have had Cursillo as part of their faith journey. What is most striking is that it is not simply a retreat, but a reframing of one’s perspective on their journey in faith that lasts long after the retreat is over, usually for a lifetime!” As I think back to our meeting with him, it felt as if we rekindled a friendship. And that’s what the Cursillo Movement is all about. We had his “official” approval and so much more. I felt like the message was clear “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19