

HOW TO PURCHASE MATERIALS

It is very important that Christian Experience Weekend manuals are available for team members who are leadership personnel and speakers on the weekend. The manuals contain the presentation talks, schedule, and pertinent information to conduct a CEW renewal weekend.

Each fall leadership training workshops are held that offer a deeper understanding of CEW. These are intended for anyone involved with a weekend - before, during and after it takes place.

The CEW manual as well as video and audio cassettes are available for purchase. Mime materials are available for loan.

Contact:

Office of Adult Faith Formation

Archdiocese of Dubuque

1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue

Dubuque, Iowa 52003

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CEW

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE WEEKEND

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL FOR ADULTS



ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

WHAT IS CEW?

CEW or Christian Experience Weekend is a renewal weekend for adults, designed to enable them to more deeply “experience” themselves and their relationship to God and the Christian community.

Most areas have two to four CEWs per year. Most have separate weekends for women and men, although some areas have co-ed CEWs.

It begins on Friday at 8:00 p.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

The core of the CEW is in the process which occurs as the weekend unfolds. Personal involvement

of each participant is essential as the content of the weekend progresses from the awareness of self-worth, to relationship with God and others, and then to Christian mission.

The weekend involves large and small group processes, and individual reflection.



HOW CEW BEGAN

Adult Catholics may not have experienced the Christian life in a significant way. Since the Christian life is a community life, it needs to be experienced in community in some manner. Realizing that need, Bishop Hervas of Spain began the Cursillo Movement in the early part of the 20th century. The Christian Experience Weekend is an adaptation of the Cursillo Weekend.

In eastern Iowa, the Cursillo Movement had been active since 1966 providing an excellent process of spiritual leadership formation and an active spiritual life.

After study and reflection, Sister Carole Freking OSF, Father George Karnik and Father Joe O'Brien created the renewal program, Christian Experience Weekend.

Christian indicates its ecumenical nature and Christian basis, Experience emphasizes the experiential and theological presentations and Weekend clarifies the Friday evening to Sunday format.

The first CEW was held in January 1974 in the Dyersville, IA area.

WHERE ARE CEWS HELD?

Christian Experience Weekends are held in multiple sites in the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Some parishes/clusters sponsor their own CEW weekends, while others are area-wide, or ecumenically based.

Locations in the Archdiocese of Dubuque where CEWs have recently been active include: Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Farley, Guttenberg, Marshalltown, Preston, Stacyville, Waterloo and Waukon.

Other Iowa dioceses where there are active CEWs are: Des Moines

and Davenport. Other states with active CEWs are: Wisconsin, Illinois, Texas, Florida, Minnesota, Arizona, and Colorado.

Adaptations of the CEW weekend are provided for the Iowa State Men's Penitentiary in Anamosa, IA. once each year.

WHEN ARE CEWS HELD?

Christian Experience Weekends are generally held in the fall to the spring of each year, September to April.

HOW TO KNOW WHERE CEWS ARE HELD

Parishes/Clusters may sponsor a weekend at their individual locations or at a renewal center. They advertise their dates of renewal weekends in their local areas.

Because Christian Experience Weekends are held in multiple sites, it is best to contact the Office of Adult Formation in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for further information.

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