

STEP II: Primary objective, purpose and goals

Step II was developed in 2002 after determining a need for renewal within the Cum Christo movement of the Great Falls – Billings Diocese in Eastern Montana. Step II originated in the Western Diocese of Montana as a program for “4th Dayers” (those having attended a Journey, Cum Christo or Cursillo weekend).

The Step II weekend experience, unlike the Cum Christo, is a retreat and can be attended as often as desired.

The intent and purpose of Step II is to strengthen the faith of the participant and to support, nurture and renew in them their desire to continue in the work as laity in the Catholic Church.

This program is similar to Cum Christo in that it is based on a series of talks, one building upon another. The central theme that ties the talks together is “building up the body of Christ”. The opportunity for group discussion and reflections, Mass, meditations and prayer services are integrated daily, as well as the opportunity to receive individual Spiritual Direction and/or the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Simplicity is stressed throughout preparation and during the three days. Team members are minimal, there are no decorations in the dining room, no palanca, meals are kept simple and there are no outside visitors. Allowances are made for those who are unable to sleep at the facility due to infirmity, handicap, or age.

Registration fees are set by each Vicariate Secretariat and should be sufficient to cover all costs.

The closing prayer service is a call for empowerment from the Holy Spirit and signifies the goal of the Step II weekend with this powerful “sending out” to continue the mission as evangelists in the Catholic Church.

Approved by the Diocesan Secretariat on Saturday, January 24, 2009