

Big Sky Cum Christo

(Application Form)

*Christ and His Church need spiritually formed leaders for today's apostolate.
One means of finding inspiration and direction for Christian leadership is the Cum Christo.*

BIG SKY CUM CHRISTO is a Roman Catholic movement (an outgrowth of the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Billings – Great Falls) designed to serve the renewal of the Roman Catholic Christians. However, each Cum Christo Weekend has a limited space for non-Catholics. Each application is evaluated in the light of the total weekend experience and the needs of the individual applicant. While we are not able to accommodate everyone, we try to give fair consideration to all. Division within Christianity is a sad fact of history; intercommunion remains an unreached goal. Perhaps the Cum Christo may serve indirectly to further the cause of Ecumenism by stressing what we share in common. The Cum Christo is not a problem-solving session. It is not a counseling session that deals with traumatic upsets of life. Some applicants may be encouraged to seek spiritual guidance in a setting other than the Cum Christo. Usually an applicant is urged to postpone attending a Cum Christo for one year if he/she is recently divorced or is experiencing some other painful transition in life. New applications must be submitted for each weekend. The purpose of Cum Christo is not to bring new members into the Catholic Church. If interested, there is another program for that – the Catechumenate or RCIA program. See your local priest for more information.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT In today's world, can Christianity penetrate the many areas of secular life? Can it live there? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past and in keeping with the times? The Cum Christo Movement thinks so. It proposes no new type of spirituality, but simply a method throughout which one's spirituality may be developed, lived, and shared in any area of human life where there are Christians willing to dedicate their lives to God in an on-going manner.

INSTRUMENT OF RENEWAL The movement of Cum Christo is a powerful instrument of renewal in the Catholic Church. Its aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The goal of the movement is that Christ be the prime influence in society. The Cum Christo gives those who attend it, a living understanding of basic Christian truths and the desire to serve the Church. What's more, it provides a means to continue the Christian formation, which is just begun in the three-day exercises.

WEEKEND FORMAT The Cum Christo begins on a Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday night. During those three days, the candidates live and work together, listening to talks given by priests and laypeople. They also attend Mass, receive Communion, pray the rosary and visit the Blessed Sacrament daily. The priest, who is the "spiritual director", and the laypeople whom make up the Cum Christo "team", spend weeks praying and working together in preparation. The Cum Christo takes careful planning because the time is short and the subject extensive.

NOT A RETREAT A Cum Christo can be made only once in a lifetime, therefore it is not a substitute for a retreat. The basic atmosphere of a Cum Christo differs greatly from the individual solitude of a retreat. During the three-day exercises, the teachings of Christ are discussed in a climate of joy with many song and joke sessions. Actually, the Cum Christo makes succeeding retreats more profitable and candidates are encouraged to make regular retreats.

THE FOURTH DAY The "after" activity of the Cum Christo is known as the "fourth day" that is the balance of the candidate's life on earth. During this time, perseverance is important just as it is in any method of renewal. In the Cum Christo Movement, the community spirit is continued after the three days through the "Ultreya's" or reunions of community. These are available weekly as a means of growth in the understanding and zeal with the Christian community. Reunions of smaller groups of friends are also available in order for them to encourage one another in spiritual improvement and the Christian apostolate.

ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST The Cum Christo Movement is an encounter with Christ. That sounds too simple but it's not. Think about it, a real meeting with Christ. If that is understood then the power, beauty, and joy of the Cum Christo Movement will be understood. Interested? Attend one!

For BSCC use only:

APPLICATION FOR THE BIG SKY CUM CHRISTO

Diocese of Great Falls – Billings
EASTERN Montana

_____ Date Received

_____ Registration Fee Paid

To be completed by Applicant: (Please type or print clearly)

Name: _____ Sex: Male Female Maiden Name _____
Last first middle

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Name you would like to appear on your name tag _____

Occupation: _____ Where employed: _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (cell) _____

Email Address _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth _____ # of Children _____

Are you baptized? _____ What Religion? _____

When? _____ Where? _____

FOR CATHOLICS

Present Parish _____

Pastor _____

Check One:

- Catholic Marriage
- Married outside church
- Separated
- Widowed
- Single
- Religious/Clergy
- Engaged
- Divorced

FOR OTHERS

Religious Affiliation _____

Name of Church _____

Pastor _____

Check One:

- Single
- Divorced
- Married (Name of Church) _____
- Engaged
- Separated
- Widowed

Religions or Civic organizations to which you belong: _____

Offices held: _____

Do you have any history of illness (physical, emotional, mental, other) that would be helpful for us to know about as you go into the Cum Christo? (Women, are you pregnant?) _____

Are you on a special **medical** diet? _____ Specify: _____

Are you on medication? _____ Specify: _____

Name of spouse _____ Has spouse made a Cum Christo? _____

If yes, when? _____ Where? _____

If no, will your spouse be attending this set of weekends? _____

Have you applied to attend the Cum Christo before? _____

Has your sponsor explained to you the mission and the method of Cum Christo? _____ Yes _____ No

Has your sponsor explained the content and the format of the weekend? _____ Yes _____ No

Has your sponsor explained Fourth Day activities including Group Reunion and Ultreya? _____ Yes _____ No

In case of emergency, please provide the name, address, and phone number of closest relative not living with applicant:

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

SPONSOR ENDORSEMENT

To be completed by Sponsor: *(please type or print clearly)*

A sponsor makes a serious commitment to the spiritual formation of his/her candidate before, during, and after the Cum Christo Weekend. In sponsoring this candidate, I understand that I have the obligation to prepare him/her beforehand, through personal friendship and explanation. I have the obligation to explain the details regarding the application as printed on the front of this paper, especially the details about non-Catholic application and the deadline for submitting applications.

It is also my understanding, that I am expected to follow through with this candidate for at least six (6) months after the Cum Christo. To help him/her to find an active, meaningful place in the Movement, and to assist him/her as much as possible in Christian development through the Fourth Day.

Sponsor's Name: _____

Last

First

Middle

Address: _____

Street

City

Zip Code

Parish: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Email Address _____

When and where did you make the Cum Christo? _____

Date

Location

Do you receive a Cum Christo Newsletter? _____ If not, would you like to? _____

Are you grouping? _____ How long have you known the candidate? _____

How frequently do you see the candidate? _____

What are the major work, civic, and religious environments of the candidate? _____

Why do you think this person is a good candidate? _____

If the candidate is married, have you discussed the Cum Christo with their spouse? _____

Does the candidates spouse plan to attend this Cum Christo Weekend? _____ **If not. Why?** _____

Are you aware of any history of illness (physical, emotional, mental) or any other problems that would be helpful for us to know as your candidate goes into the Cum Christo? It is important that you know your candidate well enough to be aware of his/her strengths and weaknesses, joys and sufferings. _____

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

I understand that I may sponsor NO MORE THAN TWO (2) CANDIDATES for a Cum Christo Weekend, that is NO MORE THAN FOUR (4) candidates for a set of Cum Christo Weekends.

Check one: This is my 1st 2nd 3rd 4th candidate.

It is recommended that you get page 4 completed by the candidate's priest or pastor prior to turning it in to the Pre-Cum Christo Committee. If at all possible, it is best to do this in person, if it is not possible, then by phone or mail.

I HAVE PRAYED ABOUT THIS CANDIDATE ATTENDING THE CUM CHRISTO. I HAVE READ AND I UNDERSTAND THE RESPONSIBILITES OF A SPONSOR AND PLEDGE THAT, WITH CHRIST'S HELP, I WILL DO MY BEST TO MEET THEM.

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form needs to be completed in its entirety before it can be dated for consideration by the Pre-Cum Christo committee.

Please bring the application form and \$10.00 non-refundable registration fee to ULTREYA or your local parish office.

CLERGY ENDORSEMENT

The primary purpose of the Cum Christo movement is to develop in adult Christians, a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in the work of Christian renewal, and to sustain them as they participate in diocesan and parish programs. These leaders can then provide a Christian leaven in civic, social, and economical life.

The Cum Christo Movement is a course in Christianity to train people to become effective lay apostles in the world. A candidate of the Cum Christo should be active in apostolic work, or have the potential to become apostolic in his or her parish, in their life or in their environment.

The person should be physically and emotionally sound. Anyone with a very serious personal or family problem, or anyone who is extremely nervous or emotional should not be recommended. People that are not baptized may not attend the weekend.

When Jesus and His message reach the hearts and minds of people, they can be changed forever. This is true evangelization, and any movement that accomplishes this has my blessings. It is clear to me that the positive effects of Cum Christo in this diocese are invaluable for helping our parishes to "Go Make Disciples."

Jeffery M. Fleming
Bishop of Great Falls - Billings

TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERGY AFTER READING THE ABOVE

(Please type or print clearly)

NOTE: It is recommended that this part be completed and signed before the applicant can be accepted.

Pastor's Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

How long have you known the candidate? _____

Comments: _____

I have read the above statement; I support his/her attending the Cum Christo Weekend.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mission Statement

Big Sky Cum Christo, Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, supports the mission of the Diocese by providing Cum Christo weekends, periodic Ultreya renewals and encouraging involvement in small sharing groups which support individual efforts of Holiness, Formation and Evangelization. The specific goal of Cum Christo is to strengthen the leadership of the laity in the work of the Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings.

SEE YOUR LOCAL PASTOR