To the best of my knowledge Cursillo started in the Diocese of Scranton around 1967. I don't know what triggered it but Msgr. McDonough gathered men of the diocese together and brought in a team from Harrisburg to present the first Cursillo here at the Little League field in Williamsport. That would have been around 1967. I have no information about laity or clergy who served in the early years. I suspect most who know are living their 5th day. I doubt all of this would even be in the historical document we have not yet found since I don't remember it listing names and places. Cursillo prospered for many years with much involvement of people from Williamsport and Wilkes-Barre as well as Scranton areas.

When Renew was brought to the diocese, Cursillo went into decline. After the 35th Men's weekend in 1988 Cursillo was essentially dormant except for some long-running group reunions. Msgr. John Esseff , however, recognized its worth and was looking for something to Christianize prison environments. He assembled a group of men to put on a weekend at SCI Waymart in the spring of 1995. Ultimately two weekends were run at Waymart (now, by the way, the chapel of St. Faustina as a direct result of the weekends there) in about a year's time, with more in years to follow.

Inspired by that success Leo Lynn, Fr. Jim Nash, Dick Barnes, Bob Blatz & Jim Scoblick (and maybe a few others) got together informally to discuss bringing back Cursillo to the diocese. A few more men joined the group at later meetings. After much discussion plans were put in place to have the first Cursillo in years – the Men's 36th in June of 1996 at Kirby Episcopal House in Mt. Top. No women were involved at the time. It was some time before there was a Women's weekend. The Women's 35th was in June of 1997.

The group presented names of former rectors and prayed over the names written on scraps of paper. (As I understand it, ultimately the women did something similar to pick a rectora, the first of whom was Adeline Orloski). One name was drawn and Dick Barnes was picked as the first rector. After a series of weekends we outgrew the Kirby House, searched for another location and settled into St. Gabriel's in Clarks Summit around 2000 (possibly 1999).