**Christianity In Action**

The Road Ahead

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will, does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

(Thomas Merton 1915-1968)

Hi everyone,

This talk is to be no more than 45 minutes which if you look at the outline in the Cursillo Manual would seem like an eternity, since it is only 2 pages outline. The few items that need to be covered are:

* To giving the definition and explaining that definition
* how “Christianity in Action” works
* what “Christianity in Action” can achieve

The Definition is a group of Grace filled Christians who journey together in a climate that makes it possible for each one to live and spread the Gospel in the world.

The overall thrust of this talk is on how to actively live your Christian faith with the help of a small group of friends who are striving towards the same goal.

It is the third talk of the third day. The candidates are in a position of general excitement, as a result of both personal and common experiences. They feel in a state of Grace and they realize there is a way to make holiness both possible and permanent. However, the heaviness of the hour needs to be overcome by the speaker.

Above all the candidate must see that the “Study of Environment” talk is not just a theoretical truth but must become part of one’s life. In this talk, the Candidate enters into, and becomes familiar with, the world of Christian truths and realities joyfully lived, which one can accomplish. This talk should also serve to drive out the fear that some may still have about becoming apostolic in their actions.

The message portrayed in this talk is very clear, in order to be effective in our efforts of spreading the message of the Gospel to the world, we need the support provided by continuing contact with like-minded individuals. This talk should form a foundation for the message to come later in the final talk of Total Security where the Group Reunion and Ultreya are finally presented in their entirety to the candidates. This talk needs to stir up a hunger for these tools.

This talk is essentially a personal witness. The talk is a testimony and it is more about the speaker’s Christian life and his contacts then the talk itself. It is the life of the Cursillista that is translated into the this talk is the overwhelming proof of the Grace of God and the living reality of “Christianity in Action”. Since this is a witnessing talk, it must also be moving.

I would like to spend a few minutes with a short example. There was a lady in the Rockford area who was living with cancer. Ann would not give up leading a “Why Catholic?” until it was just too painful to continue anymore. She has a husband and 3 teenage kids so there is plenty to be done at home. This woman so lived Christianity in Action that the women in her group cooked and cleaned, and whatever needed to be done. The men in her husband’s group mower and drove the kids to their sporting events, but that is not the story.

The woman’s faith was so open to the community that at her funeral the church was packed, there were 5 priests on the Altar to welcome her into her eternal home, the cemetery was packed, the luncheon was packed and that is still not the message.

The message is that even after she passed 3 women went on a Cursillo so that they might find some of the “Christianity in Action” that Ann displayed everyday of her live.

No Cursillo® talk can be “standardized”, it is renewed every time when personalized to the personality of the speaker and to the circumstances of his life. The “Christianity in Action” talk has this characteristic hundredfold, because it is, at the heart of it, the joyful testimony of the life of the speaker who is a Christian, living in grace, who has friends that journey with each other, who come to know each other intimately, and humbly admire each other, therefore, creating a climate that makes it possible to spread the Gospel in the world.

**Christianity In Action Vs. The Christian Community**

This talk’s title was changes in 2006 Cursillo Manual and the message of the talk had to be changed. I would like to give you a history of the titles for this talk:

* 2006 – Christianity in Action
* 1999 – Developing Christian Community within our Environments
* 1984 – Christian Community
* 1972 – Christian Community in Action
* 1964 – Christianity In Action

Several years ago, perhaps when the titles were changed, the content was also changed and also changing its original focus. The content of this talk is that if finding a lost or hidden treasure.

The talk commonly called "Christian Community" has very little in common with the original talk that came to us from Majorca (Christianity in Action), and focuses on the aspect of community. For the Hispanics in general, community means something very intimate, as in a family or in a group reunion. They don’t understand “groups of Christians” as a community because there is often little but superficial contact between the members.

Renaming the talk had taken the focus far from its original intent. One of the keys to understanding the message of this talk is understanding the intended meaning of the title. In Spanish it literally translates as, “Christendom in Action.” The word Christendom is not commonly used in English and the traditional meaning of Christendom only offers us a glimpse of the intended meaning. The Spanish word has the proper climate for everyone to grow in friendship and in grace. A community, normally, does not take into consideration the friendship of its members. In order to gain a clearer understanding of the original intent, let’s review a statement that adds to the translation by a leader from Majorca:

*"When the persons who have understood the Cursillo® and the value of friendship have actualized the three encounters that have been initiated (The encounter with oneself, the encounter with Christ and the encounter with others) and understand how they are related to each other in order to share and coordinate their Christian life, they have generated a new environment that is “Christendom”.* (Ramón Armengol Rodo, II Conversations of Cala Figuera)

**What is a Christianity in Action?**

When one is constantly dissatisfaction and looking for evolution we find the fruit of some Christians devoted to the Lord. By their own free will Christians who through their living together, admiring and understanding each other, create a climate, a conscious and growing realization where the promises of the Lord become reality, live the New Commandment of love.

The life of the speaker is a living testimony of a layperson that shows by itself that it is possible today, to live as a Christian, truly victorious, bringing salvation and able to renew the face of the earth.

DeColores