

## Leaders Workshop

Good evening, I think most of you know me, but those who don't, my name Don White and I am a member of St Charles Borromeo parish here in Hampshire, I made my Cursillo in the fall of 2002. Tonight I will be giving a workshop on the leaders rollo. Over the years I have have the honor of giving this talk twice. This rollo is this last talk on Saturday night and is the tenth rollo of the weekend. It should not be more than 35 minutes in length. Let me repeat that, it should NOT be more than 35 minutes in length. Over the past few years much effort has been spent trying to give the candidates more free time to digest what they have heard. So just because this is the last talk on Saturday, doesn't mean you can run 20 minutes long.

We often joke with the speaker that their particular talk is the most important talk of the weekend. But the leaders rollo is really one of the pivotal talks of the Cursillo weekend. It is critical, because most candidates don't view themselves as leaders. Some of them may be in management or high level executives, and still don't view themselves as leaders in a spiritual or religious context, I know I didn't. I figured the leaders of the church were the bishops, priests, deacons, and theologians. I thought it was their job to lead others to Christ. So if the speaker does not correct this error and show the candidates what a true leader is, then the rest of the talks on the weekend will not make any sense.

By the time this rollo is given, most of the candidates are living in grace. They have reconnected with the Lord, some may have encountered Him for the first time. The candidates will be referring to their tables as families and strong bonds will be forming. Their interest is growing and they are looking forward to what is next. They have encountered their self and

Christ and are pretty comfortable with that. They've just had a nice dinner or maybe even a nap. They walk into the conference room thinking they may learn how to deepen their faith and are hit with the leaders talk. They are told that they are all leaders and that it is their responsibility to influence others, to lead them to Christ. So if this talk is not given correctly, if what is meant by a true leader is not explained correctly, you will lose some of the candidates. It is extremely important not only to win over their hearts but their minds also.

This talk is broken up into six sections.

- 1) The Introduction; it gives a brief overview of what a leader is and isn't
- 2) The Definition; It shows the candidates exactly what a true Christian leader is.
- 3) What the Leader Should Be Like; Shows the candidates how a leader should act
- 4) The Factor In Formation; Shows the candidates how a leader is formed.
- 5) The Specific Qualities of a Leader: Show the candidates both the natural and supernatural qualities of a leader.
- 6) The Conclusion; Wraps up all of the main points.

In the first two sections there are two main points that must be stressed so that the candidates will understand what a leader is. First, you must redefine what many of the candidates think a leader is. Start by showing them what a leader is not. Point out the false leaders in our society and show how they have failed in that capacity. Just because someone is in a leadership position, does not make them a leader. Now you have to show them what a true leader is. Emphasize that true leaders come from all walks of life, and that anyone can become

a leader. One of the best ways I have found to do this is to completely turn the traditional definition upside down. I first heard this in a leaders talk given by Ken Aurand and it really helped me understand what a true leader was. He equated a leader with a servant and called it one of the great paradoxes of the Christian faith. Some of his example were;

You must give in order to receive

In order to be first you must be last

You must die in order to have life

Then he showed that the greatest leader the world has ever known came to serve. He read from Luke CH 22 vs 24 to 30..... For those who cannot envision themselves as a leader, can see themselves as a servant. The two are synonymous, for one cannot be one without being the other.

The second point that must be stressed, in these sections, is that a true leader influences those around them. The candidates must understand that you are either influencing others or being influenced by others. Many times it is a combination of both, but a true leader is one who has a greater influence on those around him and therefore, people follow where they lead.

Once you have defined what a real leader is, you can now discuss what a leader should be and what it takes to become one. This is discussed in sections three and four. The speaker should show the candidates that the tripod of piety, study and action are a natural part of their life. They should show that they, as a leader are continually striving form themselves into the

Christian ideal. It is important to show your everyday struggles and hardships. That being an apostles involves hard work and determination.

The fifth section of the rollo, is the most important part and the bulk of the time should be spent here. It should inspire the candidates with the idea of what might be attained when a group of Christians put all of their natural and supernatural abilities in the service of Christ. This section discusses the qualities of a leader, both natural and supernatural. This is the section that should contain most of your personal witness. Your witness should illustrate each of the qualities. The purpose of the witness is to show how important the quality is in your life, not what a great leader you are. You should also demonstrate how piety, study and action are part of your life, and how you use the tripod to help you become the leader God has called you to be. This point should not be made directly, but should be scattered throughout your witness. Your reliance on God must be made clear, but just as clear, you must illustrate your human effort. To emphasize either too much is wrong, you should present a picture of a leader as one who prays as though everything depends on God, which it does, and acts as though everything depends on them, which it does.

This rollo should present a picture to the candidates of who and what a true Christian leader is. Your witness and examples should make this very apparent. It should also show them how they can become one. It should show them that becoming a Christian leader is readily attainable. Therefore, the examples and your witness should not be grand and glorious. It should be simple enough so that the candidates can relate and put themselves in that situation. The leaders talk is the bridge between the piety, study and action rollos and all the remaining

talks on Sunday. The Sunday rollos deal specifically with how it can be done, but leaders should point out that it can be done.

Your witness, should high light examples of your Christian leadership. It should demonstrate how you have used your natural and supernatural qualities to become a leader in your environments. Examples of other leaders may help, but the most effective presentation are examples taken from your own life experience. This is not an opportunity, no matter how temping, to present a personal witness of your conversion. If you want to do that, give the piety talk. This witness should start after this point and progress to where you are today. Your examples should reflect your humanity and how even through failures, you have grown in your leadership skills.

This rollo should be simple, forthright, and strong. Through your witness and examples, the candidates should be able to picture themselves as leaders, and be able to set a goal within themselves to transform their lives to be an effective leader. Remember, most of the candidates before this talk do not view themselves as leaders. If your examples and witness are too grand, the candidates could get the impression that leadership is only for a select few. They must come away with the idea that leadership is a capability that all people possess. Thus your witness must fit the level of the candidates so that each one can see their place in God's plan.

This is how the sample rollo concludes this talk and I think it sums up very well what this talk is about.

“The world will receive the Good News of Christ, not through Christians who are sad, discouraged, impatient, angry or anxious, but through those whose lives radiate the joy, peace, and love of Christ; those whose lives are dedicated and consecrated to Him.

We are called to make use of our talents, live out our responsibilities, and engage in service to others. In other words, we are called to develop totally the potential of baptism. Even where we lack, the Lord, if we live in grace and give ourselves totally to him, makes up for our limitations-“For Christ and I are an overwhelming majority! With him we can accomplish anything.”

The day when Christ can count on a group, a nucleus of Christians who put into action their love of God and their talents, offering not only what they have, but all that they have, guided by the Holy Spirit, bearing witness to the Word and moved by Christian love to serve the truth, on that day the prophecy will be fulfilled: “even greater things you will see.”

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