

## **IDEAL**

- A) At this point in the weekend each candidate is encountering himself or herself. They desire to become something more than they are.
- B) The proclamation of the weekend's message begins with this talk. The talk does not have a religious tone. It does not mention God. The most common mistake in writing this talk is to give personal witness. Only examples may be used. Don't talk about your spiritual life.
- C) Each candidate is asked to discover his or her ideal. At the end of the talk each candidate must feel the need for a worthwhile ideal.
- D) The 5 talks of this day are intended to present the ideal of a Christian living the life in Grace.
- E) This talk lays the foundation for all the talks to follow.
- F) This talk gives the candidate a way of thinking about their lives. A way to examine themselves in relation to Christianity.
- G) The speaker must make it clear that a human being is the only of God's creatures that have an ideal.
- H) The purpose of the talk is to help the candidate to discover his or her ideal, by describing other types of ideals.
- I) The candidate is in a tense mood as the day begins, and it will be the end of the day before they feel comfortable. This talk should be straightforward and simple. We should not attempt to dazzle them with our words. The talk is not theoretical, not exciting, not profound or religious. Meant merely to get the candidate thinking about his or her own lives.
- J) The talk is secular, does not mention God, Christ, church, sin, grace, salvation redemption or any of the things that relate directly to religion.
- K) The talk must not begin with a prayer.
- L) L. writing this talk requires a great deal of restraint. This is A low-key talk which should take a maximum of 30 minutes and a minimum of 20 minutes.
- M) The talk should finish with the power formula, "where do you spend your free time, where are your thoughts, where do you spend your money"?

## **Habitual Grace**

This talk is given by a religious. The ideal talk calls the candidate to be a human person. The habitual grace talk calls the candidate to be a Christian human person. It is an invitation to live a new relationship with God. It tells about his great love for us, and that our response must be faith. The process is an on going conversion "metanoia". It compliments the following talk of "lay persons in the church, laity"; together they proclaim what is fundamental for being a Christian.

## **Laity**

- A) The layperson as the church in the world.
- B) This talk as the title implies is about the role of the layperson in accomplishing the mission of the church.
- C) It is important that the speaker gets the point across that each of us is the church. Not the bricks and mortar but every baptized catholic.
- D) Getting the candidate to realize that he or she is the church and have a responsibility for the churches mission of bringing Christ to the world is the whole reason for this talk.
- E) No attempt should be made to tell the candidate how to accomplish this. Don't tell them how to act. What to do or how to change environments. This is the purpose of later talks such as Action.
- F) At the finish of this talk the candidate must be firmly convinced they must evangelize, but have not been told how.

- G) In this talk it is easy for the speaker to get off track by giving a full explanation of the church or the laypersons role. The talk should not say everything a Christian should know about the church or the layperson opportunities for service within the church.
- H) The talk must be lively and is not intended to be a theological discourse. The candidate does not need a lot of theory. They do need to feel the importance of the apostolate to their life.
- I) Stick to the simple points of the outline and develop them with excitement. Layperson is not simply a witness talk.
- J) The speaker should give witness to the importance of Christianity and the apostolic life, but this witness should not be on a personal level.
- K) Care must be used in the examples used. It is good to show the needs of people for Christ and the apostolate through stories. It is good in a personal way to show what the apostolate means to the speaker. But not attempt should be made to illustrate, "how to", this will come in later talks.
- L) Time should be between 30 and 45 minutes.

## **Actual Grace**

This talk is given by a religious.

God offers a share of his own existence; faith must be our response.

The challenge of the earlier talks may have given the candidate a feeling of weakness and limitations.

This talk should remove these feelings, as the candidate is reassured of the power of Gods grace.

This is the talk where palanca is introduced. The clergy usually has selected a few letters to read.

## **Piety**

- A) Piety is the last talk of the first day, and is a key talk in the Cursillo. It sums up the talks of the first day, and presents the first basic step of being an apostle.
- B) This talk lays bare ways of avoiding full dedication to God. And through the living witness of the speaker, it presents the picture of what it means to be a Christian.
- C) Piety does not instruct the candidate as to how they should direct their lives to God, except only in general terms through the speakers witness.
- D) This talk is the first talk of a group of three portrayed in the form of a tripod, Piety, Study and Action.
- E) The Piety talk if handled properly has the greatest impact on the candidates of all the talks. The chief impact of the talk comes from the personal witness of the speaker.
- F) Concepts of false Piety are presented in this talk. "Holy Joes", "Mechanical Mikes" and "Pharisaical Phils" for the men. "Holy Hannahs", "Routine Ritas", and "Pharisaical Phyllises" for the women. These must be presented with care, care that no one takes the implication too personally. Most of us see all of these in our own lives. Pointing this out in our own lives is sometimes used. We don't want any of the candidates to be offended.
- G) Personal witness is very important to the Piety talk.
- H) Where the speaker was prior to conversion.
  - 1) How the change came about.
  - 2) What the life of a union with God means to the speaker now. This change need not be a dramatic change or a big conversion. All the candidates should feel capable of the same.
- I) Do not give the impression that all of the conversion is peaches and cream. Point out some of the low spots.
- J) The talk must end with a strong upbeat note. Through the witness of the speaker you show how what you have said can come true.
- K) Time should be between 30 and 45 minutes.

## **Study**

- A) Study is the first talk of the second day, the beginning of the conversion phase of the Cursillo. It should not be a learned dissertation but a call to a progressive conversion, (metanoia). That is a call to the candidate to a change of their mentality through Study.
- B) At this point in the weekend the candidate realizes he or she must live a life in grace, but is badly in need of an explanation of how to do this.
- C) Study is the second leg of the tripod. This talk in part tells the candidate how to act as a Christian. Knowing, loving and doing must be more directed to God.
- D) The first day's talks told the candidate they should live as a Christian. They were meant to inspire the candidate to live the ideal of Christianity. In this talk we begin the instruction of how this can be accomplished.
- E) Study must include 3 important points.
  - 1) Christian Study is not merely the Study of Christianity, but a way to become friends of God.
  - 2) The principle, source of Study is life itself.
  - 3) Daily Study is the source of the daily metanoia asked of each of us.
- F) It is important to this talk to encourage the use of books, lectures and other common sources of information, not so much as a gathering process but more as a sharing of insights gained by the authors on life and its meaning.
- G) The Study talk is meant to answer the questions created in the Piety talk. How do I find the paths to God?
- H) The Study talk cannot be dry or intellectual on schooling or formal knowledge. But more a call to change ones life daily by learning more about God. The Study talk must have much witness. The speaker must be a person living the Study style presented. He or she must give witness as to their search for God. He or she must give witness that they are trying to live the Cursillo method.
- I) The talk must be done simply, stating facts with assurance and strength.
- J) The basic purpose of the talk is not to show how to read books but to show a path leading to a lifetime of spiritual growth.
- K) The time of this talk should be between 30 and 45 minutes.

## **Sacraments**

The sacraments talk is given by a religious. The sacraments talk is meant to prepare the candidate for the authentic living of Christianity. This talk presents the sacraments as the central encounters with Jesus Christ in the church, which make possible the fullness of the Christian life. The sacraments, rather than things received are expressive Actions of Christ. This talk is followed by a mass. Usually the priest will explain the Eucharist at the mass; this is followed by the agape meal. The time of this talk may be between one to one and one-half hour.

## **Action**

- A) This talk concludes the tripod of Piety, Study and Action. Conversion of the candidate will not be complete until they become aware that being a Christian, if authentic, necessarily leads to Christian Action.
- B) The principle points of this talk are:
  - 1) Christian Action is the natural result of Piety and Study.
  - 2) Christian Action is the giving of self to another for the purpose of allowing the other to mature.
  - 3) Christian Action is the love of God and his creations.

- C) Through example and witness this talk must show the candidate what apostolic Action is and how it differs from good deeds.
- D) During the entire second day a picture is being built up of the kind of things the candidate must do to become a formed Christian leader.
- E) This talk must emphasize "personal contact", making friends with others to make them friends of Christ.
- F) The powerful phrase "make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ" is an important ideal the speaker must get across to the candidate. This phrase should be stated and perhaps restated.
- G) The Action talk is not the only talk in Cursillo that speaks about Action. Because the talk is named Action does not mean the speaker has to say everything there is to say about Action.
- H) The Action talk must describe a method of apostolic Action, it draws up a plan, and it describes an approach.
- I) The Action talk is a talk about love. We engage in apostolic Action because God's love is in us and we want others to share this love.
- J) The Action talk comes on Saturday after the Sacraments talk and after the agape meal. The candidates are emotionally drained and sleepy. However most have accepted the call of Christ by this time and are eager to learn how.
- K) The Action talk should be clear and explanatory rather than enthusiastic. It is not intended to be a ringing call to Action. However the talk cannot be dull or the candidates will follow their inclination to sleep.
- L) The talk should have examples of apostolic Action. These examples do not have to be inspirational they should be more instructional.
- M) The speaker should not try to do too much. His or her main job is to explain the place of Action in the life of the Christian and to present a method of Action.
- N) The talk length should be between 30 and 45 minutes.

## **Obstacles to a Life in Grace**

This talk is given by a religious.

This talk continues the conversion phase of the Cursillo by showing the candidate how to overcome sin. The most important part of the talk is the presentation of the remedies for sin: Prayer Sacrament of penance, Mortification, Spiritual Direction and Christian Friendship.

## **Leaders**

- A) The function of this talk is to prepare the candidates for returning as Christians to the same world that they came from before they encountered the Lord.
- B) Each candidate should bloom where they are planted. They must be shown they do have talents and must make them bear fruit.
- C) Principle points:
- D) All persons are leaders in their environments. The transformation of the world depends on each of us individually.
- E) This talk must emphasize that becoming a leader, becoming a Christian is hard work. It cannot be just wished for.
- F) This last talk of the day must be inspiring. Like the Holiness talk it must say, "it works".
- G) Becoming a Christian Leader is summarized in the tripod; it is necessary to do certain things. These things are Piety, Study and Action.
- H) The leaders talk must convince the candidate that it is truly possible to live as a Christian in today's world. .

- I) This talk must also speak to the person that is still struggling with the Ideal. This is done by reassuring them that a Christian is a real person, growing, struggling and mixture of Faith and unbelief.
- J) Leaders is the most exciting and most stimulating talk of the second day and should contain much witnessing.
- K) It contains a message that must be clearly transmitted to the candidates. Christian
- L) Leadership is not something we have or have not, but must be cultivated and learned.
- M) Sections 4 and 5 are the most important of the talk. Stories and witness must illustrate each quality, supernatural and natural. Christian Leaders are those who combine Natural leadership with Christian virtue.
- N) A Christian Leader should be described as a person who "prays as though everything depends on God" and "acts as though everything depends on them".
- O) The stories and witness should not be all grand and glorious, but should be simple enough that most can relate and see a pathway to grow in.
- P) The speaker should be one that exemplifies Christian leadership but at the same time the humanness of the speaker should be made evident.
- Q) The talk should be simple, forthright and strong, showing that success and failure are both part of life.
- R) The time of this talk should be 45 minutes.

## **Environments (Study and evangelization of the environments.)**

- A) This is the first talk of the third and final day.
- B) The objectives of this talk are to present, analyze and judge the environments that we live in, and commit them to their Christian formation.
- C) The third day presents the broad lines of the Cursillo approach. It explains the Cursillo strategy of making the living of what is fundamental to being a Christian effective in transforming the world.
- D) The point must be brought out that the Cursillo movement is not simply the renewal of the church but the renewal of all society. And that this must be done by Christians that are part of the world not by the institutional church.
- E) The speaker must show that the aim of Cursillo is to change the environment the candidate is already in. Cursillo does not suggest
- F) That the candidate should take on something new or get more involved, but that they change the quality of the involvement they already have.
- G) By this third morning the candidates are asking, "are you going to show us how to keep what we have found?" They want to get going, "do something" but they are confused.
- H) The first two days of the Cursillo have not introduced any new ideas, which are unique to Cursillo. The third day must convert the candidates to the Cursillo method.
- I) The talk should be clear and systematic, laying out a method, a plan of attack. At the end of the talk the candidates must know what they have to do when they return home. The talk should be concrete and specific.
- J) The speaker should tell them definite things they can and should do. The types of witness and examples must be very specific.
- K) The talk should have as many examples as possible of successful Study and penetration of environments. These examples do not have to be personal witness.
- L) There is a temptation in section 5b for giving personal witness. However greater stress should be placed on witness in sections 5c and 5d. Concrete examples of how we and or our group work with others and with an environment.

- M)** The talk should be optimistic and confident. It is outlining a plan for success, only minor failures are possible since it is in Christ's cause.
- N)** the time of this talk is 45 to 60 minutes

## **Life in Grace**

This talk is given by a religious.

This can be either the second or third talk of the last day.

There is some advantage to the latter placement as it compliments the Rector/Rectora talk. This talk should reflect the spirit of the Cursillo. It is important because it is an important part of the "insertion phase". The emphasis is on prayer, liturgical group and personal.

Spring this talk the service sheet is distributed. However the talk deals only with the Piety section.

## **Christianity in Action**

- A)** Everything that the Cursillo has proclaimed from the very first moment, besides being personal has been communal. That is the function of this talk. The communal realization of our Christian being within the strategy of the movement.
- B)** The speaker must show through living experience that we neither make the pilgrimage alone, nor should we.
- C)** We must prepare the candidates to go as Christians into the human groups they are part of.
- D)** The most important point to be made in this talk is that it is always the group, which leavens the environment.
- E)** The primary concern of the Cursillista in any environment should be to form a group, whether it is fellow Cursillistas, fellow Catholics or fellow Christians.
- F)** This talk must explain the strategy of providing a backbone for Christian life. If this is done properly the candidate will be most receptive of the ideas presented in the "group reunion and Ultreya" talk.
- G)** three important steps in providing this backbone are:
  - 1)** Find leaders and beginning an ongoing conversion.
  - 2)** Help them to find their proper evangelizing role.
  - 3)** Link these leaders together.
- H)** The first step, finding leaders and beginning the ongoing conversion is explained during the first day.
- I)** The second step finding ones role in the mission of the church is explained primarily in the environments talk.
- J)** The third step, linking them together must be explained in this talk. Forming Christian communities in Action, groups that live together and share their Christian life together.
- K)** Most Christian communities in our world lie hidden. This talk points out that we must form a Christian community that lives in normal everyday environments, not hidden.
- L)** The talk on Christian community must bridge a very large gap. It must transport the candidates from thinking of themselves as isolated individuals, to seeing themselves as part of a small closely-knit group, intensely living out their Christian lives as part of a larger evangelizing community.
- M)** In giving this the speaker must show confidence. Confidence based on experience relating to what he or she has seen happen. In other words the talk must be filled with personal experience and examples.
- N)** The speaker must not only be enthusiastic, but also clear.
- O)** The time of this talk is 45 minutes to one hour.

## **The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo**

- A) This was formerly the "4<sup>th</sup> Day" talk which was given at Closing. It is now the second to last talk given in the conference room.
- B) This talk is to give the Cursillista a synthesized vision of their mission and of the possibility of carrying it out, pointing out to them the dangers that they will encounter and the ways to avoid them.

### **Total Security**

- A) If Christianity is not lived in community it is not lived. Every Christian should share the Christianity he or she is living.
- B) The talk must project the candidates into their fourth day. After being shown the spirit and style of a community life this shows them the way, "group reunion and Ultreya". It is the union between the 3 days that they have experienced and their fourth day.
- C) Group reunion and Ultreya presents the uniquely important follow through of the Cursillo movement. It explains to the candidates how they can maintain and grow in what they have received during these 3 days.
- D) The talk must be both a perseverance talk as well as presenting a practical means to grow in being a saint and an apostle.
- E) The speaker must show the importance of personal contact through example and explanation, the point must be made that a Christian cannot make it alone.
- F) The talk must emphasize many of the fine points of the weekend with reference to power phrases, examples and stories from other talks.
- G) The candidates must be assured that group reunion and Ultreya will work for them as beginners as well as for the strong personalities they have met on this weekend.
- H) During this talk the service sheet must be explained in detail.
- I) A model group reunion may be used, but if it is not each table
- J) Should have its own group reunion following the talk. This should mostly be "how to" directed by the professors at each table.
- K) This talk is the one the entire weekend has been geared for. And above all others must not be skimmed on or shortened so as to save time.
- L) "We must remember that group reunions are not held so that there may be people to attend Cursillos, but that Cursillos are held so that there may be people to make group reunions". It would be well to repeat this power phrase for the candidates.
- M) The time of this talk should be one hour or whatever is necessary.