

## **How to give: The Study of Environments**

I was asked a couple of Cursillos ago when Barb Hayes was Rectora to give the Study of the Environments Rollo. I was shocked and surprised that I was asked. Of course, and hopefully we all know before jumping the gun to say a resounding “Yes” or a quick unabashed “No!”, we really need first to pray about our response in silence and allow the Holy Spirit to give us the grace to respond with the certainty of our intentions.

After the panic of saying “YES” settles a little, we must become keenly aware of the way we have lived, are now living and hope to live and grow in and conduct our Faith life in Jesus Christ.

I wrote down what my environment had been and what was the major catalyst for my Faith journey and how it affected others. For me it was and is music. I used this to describe my environments.

Choosing something that we are passionate about and is a major part of our own character make-up is very important in order to get this idea of who “I am”, to others and then to the world. If I am not passionate in my delivery the candidates will not be compelled to listen and act.

The study of environments is the first rollo of the third day. In this phase of Cursillo we give attention to the different areas where a person’s activity should develop, so that they may be the ferment, **EXPOUND ON THIS WORD**, of a better world.

Before I began writing my Rollo I went back and read the synopsis of all the previous Rollos. I really wanted to get a sense of the building blocks or as Science would call it, the Epigenetic flow of the previous rollos.

***We are to begin with ourselves (the convinced will***

***convince others)*** then reach out to the others, and

thereby influence our environments. In this way, one

will have an accurate view of the possibilities, and the

most effective way to make it a reality,

together with our brothers and sisters. This is the most

practical, attainable and

Christian way of giving backbone to Christianity.

Definition of Environment - The environment is the

“combination of ideas and

circumstances which are sustained by the persons who

surround us”.

There are three steps in the process that we have to concentrate on.

- First; ourselves (strengthen and convince ourselves that Christ is the answer).

1. As yourself what type of relationship do I have with the Triune God.

2. Do I spend adequate time alone?

3. Is there too much noise in my mind and heart to really focus on the task at hand?

4. There is nothing I can't accomplish without God's help, but am I filled with myself and trying to do it on my own, or with the Spirit of the Living God and trusting in His timing and guidance.

- Second; others (acquaintances, associates, casual friends) and the process of getting to know them, treating them with dignity, respect and as persons.

This can be a little tough at times for me. I really had to stop, think and pray about who were my friends, my acquaintances, and casual people I see every few months.

1. Do I treat all with dignity?
2. Do I expect more from some then from others?
3. Do I expect others to treat me better then I treat them?

These are difficult questions to ask because none of us are completely free from ulterior motives.

- Third; the environment (those who surround us where we exist).

1. Being humble enough to ask for help.
2. Reaching out and letting others who have given this talk advise me on some areas.

3. Knowing my weaknesses and being honest with what they are so that in my transparency the will do a mighty work.

Now when we are present at the Sunday morning conference room, The Cursillo, at this time, is usually infused with a climate of overflowing Grace and an admiration for each other that will keep on growing until the Closing. The Cursillista is already concerned with how to communicate to the others in their environment what they have discovered, assimilated, and lived.

It has been said that brevity is a virtue. My aim was to keep my witness brief yet exciting. To use words that were understandable to all and not to impress others with my vocabulary.

Use my music, since this is my catalyst, weaving it through my rollo and ending it with a positive note. I gave several scripture texts and made sure the candidates had a handout at the end of my rollo should they need to refer back to it at a later time.