

CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

Source: National Cursillo Center Mailing – August 2006

Christianity In Action Vs. The Christian Community

The title of this rollo had been replaced in the Cursillo® literature by one called, Christian Community or Christian Community in Action. Several years ago, perhaps when the title was changed, the content was also changed, therefore, also changing its original focus. The content of this rollo, is to me as having found a loss or hidden treasure. As a consequence, here lies one reason about the weakness of the 4th day and of the Group Reunion.

The rollo commonly called "Christian Community" has very little in common with the original 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 rollo has taken the focus far from its original intent.

One of the keys to understanding the message of this rollo is understanding the intended meaning of the title. In Spanish it is called "Cristiandad en Acción" which literally translates, "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. "Cristiandad" 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 us review a statement that adds clarity to this 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?

In perennial dissatisfaction and continuous progression, is the fruit of some Christians devoted to the Lord by their own free will, who through their living together, admiring and understanding each other, create a climate in ordinary life, a conscious and growing realization where the promises of the Lord become reality, and in the one who, leaning totally on the wonder of their Baptism, lives with integrity and with a perennial freshness the infinite range of possibilities that the New Commandment offers.

The life of the rollista, fruit of the wakefulness of a “Christianity in Action”, like an instrument of the Father’s hope, is a living testimony of a layperson, that shows by itself that it is possible today, to live as a Christian, amazingly unrestrainedly in its effectiveness, truly victorious, bringing salvation, able to convert and to renew the face of the earth.

In conclusion of the difference between these two rollos, this rollo on Christianity in Action is a radical departure from what you are used to hearing on a Cursillo® weekend. The challenge here is to forget what you have heard in the past and look at this with fresh eyes. The effort will be worth it!

The Rollo Christianity In Action.

It is the third rollo of the third day. In the Cursillistas there is a climate of general euphoria, fruit of personal and common experiences, of overflowing Grace and they realize through the explanation of the Service Sheets, that there is a way to make every hope of holiness both possible and perennial when defining the real position that corresponds to each one. However, the heaviness of the hour should be overcome by the rollista.

Above all, it is sought to show in this rollo the incarnation of the theory of the “Study of the Environment” rollo, so that it will not just be a detached abstract truth of one’s life. In this rollo, the Cursillista enters into, and becomes familiar with, the world of Christian truths and realities joyfully lived, in which he should naturally penetrate. This rollo should also serve to dispel the fear that some may still have about becoming apostolic in their actions.

The message portrayed in this rollo is very clear that, 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 in “friendship groups”. This presentation should form a firm foundation for the message to come later in the final rollo of Total Security where the Group Reunion and Ultreya are finally presented in their entirety to the candidates. This rollo evokes the hunger for these tools.

This rollo is essentially a personal witness. The rollo is a testimony and it punctuates more of the rollista than the rollo itself. The life of the Cursillista that is translated into the rollo is the irrefutable proof of the constant mystery of the Grace of God and the living reality of “Christianity in Action”. Since this is a witnessing rollo, it is logical that it is also moving.

As is evident, no Cursillo® rollo can be “standardized” and it is renewed every time when adapted to the personality of the rollista, to the circumstance of his life, and to the mentality and the problems of those listening, without changing its essence. The “Christianity in Action” rollo has this characteristic hundredfold, because it is, at the heart of it, the joyful testimony of the life of the rollista who is a part of the nucleus of Christians, living in grace, who are 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. It is upon this in which the rollo develops.