

CURSILLISTA BEYOND THE CURSILLO

Source: National Cursillo Center Mailing – October 2006

Following is an explanation for reintroducing this Rollo on the Cursillo weekend. In many places this Rollo has been dropped from the weekend schedule and if it is given, it is not given in the sequence that was originally intended.

Eduardo Bonnín has expressed concern and cannot understand why it was dropped. In his opinion, Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo is vital in understanding the Total Security Rollo which follows it. It contains many of the points that are sometimes given in what is now known as the 4thDay Witness Rollo at the Closing. Although the Cursillo has evolved in some ways since its beginning, there has always been a specific purpose for each day and for each Rollo being presented at a specific point in the unfolding of the weekend. This is the only way the complete message of Cursillo can be delivered and experienced.

The overall message is missing when a piece (Rollo) of the picture is presented out of sequence. It is like giving a person a box containing a jigsaw puzzle but without a picture or reference on the outside of the box. They have all the pieces except they don't know how they fit together.

This Rollo gives the candidate a picture of the whole so that the pieces can then be fitted together. This is the purpose of the Rollo and why it is important that it be given on the weekend and in the proper sequence.

- It sums up and synthesizes all that they have heard
- It helps the candidates to concretize the message of Cursillo within themselves
- It bridges the gap between the personal aspects of Cursillo: the encounter with self and with Christ
- To the social aspect, the encounter with others: in Group Reunion and Ultreya
- It then points the way ahead, towards the 4thDay

The 4th Day is not healthy in many places; many are not grouping or attending Ultreya. The question often asked is: How can we get people to commit to the 4thDay? Did we ever present it to the candidates in a convincing manner? On the Cursillo weekend, did they hear that we have a solution to the problems and dangers that they might face in the world? Are we convinced that we have found a solution? Did they understand that the solution is:

- Contact with Christ.
- Contact with their brothers and sisters.

The method is alluded to but not explained. They hear the terms “Group Reunion” and “Ultreya” and it makes them curious. The candidates need to hear at the end of the three days:

- What they will be.
- What they will have.
- What they should know.

They need to hear it summed up in simple terms. They need to hear from the rollista that he/she is convinced that what they have experienced and what they are feeling is real and that it can be lived. That they can respond to what they have heard: To live as Christ in the world is not to lose anything, but to increase the value of one’s own life. The Cursillista evangelizes his/her environment by:

- Encouraging others and infusing life.
- Their actions are supported by their piety and guided through the method of the Cursillo.
- Life can be a perennial Cursillo.

This particular rollo is primarily a witness rollo. It sums up the whole of the weekend to that particular point in time, coming as it does between the Christianity in Action Rollo and Total Security. Its purpose is to center in the candidate all that they have heard to that point, to help them to concretize the message within themselves.

At this point in the weekend the candidates are not only tired, they are in transition, perhaps reluctant to leave and yet eager to get going with all their apostolic plans. This Rollo cautions them, while encouraging them by the conviction and witness of the rollista. It lets them know that because they contributed the simple things asked of them, God has showered them with His Grace.

It reminds them that they did not come to Cursillo just for themselves, that they have changed, but their environments are the same as they were when they left. They have the mission to lead them to Christ; to bring others to Christ. The Rollo communicates their response to the mission. Eduardo prefers the word possibility vs. responsibility. Responsibility means the obligation to answer for something, and, possibility is the capacity or ability to do something or not do it. Nobody likes to feel obligated to do anything. It is easier to get a response when people are told that they have possibilities. When people are asked to take on responsibilities they

usually think twice before committing themselves, but when they discover their possibilities they assume the responsibility.

Cursillo has awakened in us a lot of possibilities and we have the mission of sharing them with others because God wants it this way. We respond before God and before the Church the “Mystical Body”. The world gets lost, because there are few Christians who live and act as Christians. This Rollo points out two possible dangers that the candidates may face when they return to their environments. The first is a lack of humility, believing “that we are important and indispensable” because we just attended a Cursillo; and the second, a lack of confidence, believing that we cannot do anything to cure those ills. Nothing good can be done without Christ and with Christ all things are possible; “Christ and I an overwhelming majority”.

If the Study of the Environment rollo has been well presented, the Cursillistas will be much better prepared for what he/she has to face. The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo Rollo gives hope that we, as Cursillistas have found a method to continue what was experienced in the Cursillo, and not only maintain it but to have it grow. It bridges the gap between the personal experience of encountering self and Christ and the social aspect of Cursillo, the encounter with others.

The Rollo sketches the kind of person the Cursillista should be: an active apostle, someone who works in a dedicated way for Christ. The Cursillista should be a witness of Christ, one who carries on His mission; someone who brings Christ to their environments of family, neighborhood, workplace, social, etc. If the Cursillista does not understand what he/she should be, the Cursillo has not communicated the right message.

A few final admonitions are made to help the Cursillistas avoid making some of the “classic” mistakes. One of the most common problems is caused by the tendency to think that everyone should do the same thing. Their apostolic action is carried out in different ways, according to their potential and personal circumstances, but they all have a common purpose, to build up the Kingdom of God through evangelization.

The Cursillista should not leave the Cursillo expecting that everyone will understand them. They will find people who are prejudiced against the Cursillistas, and even some who might have the sad mission of making the figure of Christ unfriendly. The Cursillista must aspire to live in Grace in the normality of life. There is a tendency for people who have just found Christ to think that living as a Christian is incompatible with normal life. They will tend to feel that they must give

up all their old friends, their pastimes, their entertainment, their social life, etc. Sometimes changes need to be made. Occasionally a person will lose an old friend, and perhaps some other things. The difference the Cursillo makes should not be that they be out of touch with reality. What should distinguish them is their love of Christ, the joy and optimism that comes from knowing Him. This is where they are being called to live their life in Grace.

The Cursillista should be like leaven in dough. We've got to see to it that in each environment there is an effective person who gives life to the environment. They should bring the ideas found in the Cursillo into society. They must do it by means of sharing their Piety, Study and Action, increasing their life in Grace and their awareness of it through Group Reunion and Ultreya; this is, making life a perennial Cursillo.