

# Rector's Guide

## Appendix



Cursillos in Christianity

September 30, 2021

## **Rector's Guide**

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## APPENDIX 1

### THINGS TO BEAR IN MIND

#### 1A Thru 1G

[The Rector is responsible for leading ALL prayers: The Examination of Conscience, Rosary, Stations of the Cross; Everything that is spoken unless stated otherwise in the Rector's Guide.]

#### **1A About the Contents of the Texts:**

**1A-1)** To avoid being repetitive in the description of the steps to follow during the Cursillo weekend, the guidelines relating to "brightening the atmosphere" in the rollo room and dining room, and to the attitude and stance to adopt in places like the dining room and the chapel etc., before, during and after the acts that recur every day of the Cursillo weekend, have not been included in the schedules of the second and third day.

**1A-2)** The schedules and timetables listed in "steps to follow" are appropriate for Spain. In every other country they will have to be adapted to the local habits and customs in terms of time, while respecting, however, the order in which the various acts occur.

**1A-3)** In order to simplify and make the reading of these texts easier we have used generically the articles (he for he/she - him for him/her), and the same "Rector" has been used for both man and woman.

#### **1B In General:**

**1B-1)** We use the bell for the purpose of summoning the Cursillistas to the place intended for any of the activities of the Cursillo weekend, because we consider it more suitable than any other audible form (clapping of hands, alarms, etc.). [While the bell is not being used it should be placed out of sight.]

[Remember to ask the new cursillistas to turn their cell phones off for the weekend and to please leave them in their rooms. They may keep their watches.]

**1B-2)** To avoid making any of the participants at the Cursillo weekend look bad, before the start of each activity, either in the chapel or in the Rollo room or the dining room, make sure they are all present: Cursillistas, Team Leaders and Priests. [This means that if they are inadvertently missing because they did not hear the bell, one of the Team Leaders unobtrusively makes sure they know the bell has rung. If a Table Group is in the chapel, the Rector will wait until they come to the rollo room. If a new cursillista wishes to stay in the chapel, their Team Leader offers to stay with them if they wish. If not the Cursillo continues. The Rector or Team Leader will check to make sure that all is well.]

**1B-3)** From the first prayer, before the “Preliminary” Rollo, the Team Leaders will pray slowly and clearly, loudly and with conviction, whether in the Rollo room, dining room or chapel.

**1B-4)** [So that the atmosphere stays light and any tensions felt in the Rollo Room are dissipated, a few of the team invites the cursillistas to join in some games. They have balls, jump ropes, etc. for the cursillistas to use. This may seem strange to our American mind-set, but this practice has a well thought out and psychologically sound basis. The rationale for this is that it is another way that cursillistas can let down their defenses. Of course, they may be hesitant at first, who in their 40s and 50s uses a jump rope on a regular basis or plays ball or street hockey, but it is intended to reach the person at a deep level, behind all the masks and walls that we all put up to shield or protect ourselves. It creates laughter and a childlike reaction to the fun, assisting in opening the person to the grace that God wants to pour into their hearts.]

**1B-5)** [The timeline for the Mallorca weekend does not have coffee breaks as such. They have coffee available outside the rollo room and the people can help themselves whenever they go outside to stretch their legs or go for a smoke, etc. Also, they do not split the time up between rollo and discussion, summary and poster. They allow two hours for everything to do with that rollo. If the rollo is longer than usual, then the time is flexible for table discussions, summaries, posters, and break etc.]

[The rollos are typically 45 to 60 minutes long except for the Ideal and Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo rollos which should not exceed 30 minutes.]

[The table members are told at the beginning that they will need to take notes, make a table summary and prepare a poster of the day’s rollos to be presented to the whole group in the evening. They are asked to organize themselves into how that work will be done. Throughout the day the Rector will remind them of the work that needs to be done and the Team Leaders at the tables will also give gentle reminders. The point of this is the cursillistas are left free to respond in their own way. Some will work diligently at the summary and poster and some will gain far more from engaging in the corridor work for which the Team Leaders are constantly available. The premise is that they need to be and feel free, not regimented or restricted. What is said in the rollos is not nearly as important as what is seen as being lived in the lives, actions and reactions of the Team Leaders. The bottom line is they are not treated as if they were in school, at a seminar, or at a workshop. They are left as free as possible in order to respond to the action of God’s grace which works in different ways in everyone. In Cursillo it is about criterion rather than rules.]

**1B-6)** [“Corridor Work’ is of vital importance. Every leader should be concerned that no new cursillista leaves the weekend without having been able to share with someone the **thing** that they really need to talk about. It is in this context that the bonds of friendship are formed, paving the way for the friendship that continues into the 4th Day. Of course, no one can be forced to talk about anything, but the point is that the leaders must give them every opportunity to do so. If the team is not able to reach them then this is discussed at the team meeting on the last night and he or she passes the new

cursillista on to another Team Leader. Each Team Leader must have a goal to speak with every new cursillista on the weekend not just those at his table.]

**1C** [mis-numbered in original... no section C.]

### **1D Third Day**

**1D-1)** If any of the cursillistas inquire about the closing ceremony just downplay it and say that it will come later; say that the Rector will talk about it in due time. Stress the importance of living intensely every moment and activity of the last day of the Cursillo weekend.

### **1E In the Dining Room:**

#### **For the Leaders:**

In order to be able to sit next to cursillistas in whom we are specifically interested, and to avoid having to ask someone to give up their seat for us:

**1E-1)** Sit at a different seat at each meal, separated from the other leaders and clergy, and be the first to occupy your seats in the dining room.

**1E-2)** Before serving the table, wait for all Cursillistas to be seated at the table. Do not begin serving before the Spiritual Advisor has said grace. It is not necessary that all the leaders serve or clear the tables, it is better that different leaders take turns each day, unless the number of guests recommends doing so.

**1E-3)** From the first breakfast, and at every meal, before giving thanks for the food received, make use of any spare time to ensure that there is a joyful atmosphere, through jokes and funny stories that entertain, to give a rest to the mind and prepare the spirit.

**1E-4)** After an appropriate lapse of time, the Rector will ask the Priest to give thanks and will announce a short break until the beginning of the next activity. He will ask everybody to come to the place appointed at the sound of the bell.

### **1F In the Chapel...**

**1F-1)** The leaders will occupy the places that were agreed to at the Team Leaders meeting the previous night.

**1F-2)** During every activity in the chapel, a Priest will be present in the confessional or at an appropriate place to hear confessions (with discretion) in the same chapel.

**1F-3)** After each meditation, before giving thanks, it is appropriate to remain silent for a few minutes in order to reflect on what has been said.

**1F-4)** At the end of the first and second day, after evening prayer, the Heads and the Secretaries of the table groups will remain in the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament, together with the Rector and the Team Leaders, to thank God for the developments of the day and to commend the next day's activities to Him. The Rector will point out to the table Heads and the Secretaries that it was the Lord who **chose** them for this task, to become His instruments at the Cursillo weekend. Finish the visit with an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Gloria.

## **1G In the Rollo Room**

**1G-1)** Starting with the rollo, "Habitual Grace", before starting each Rollo, brighten the atmosphere with songs – wherever possible no pious songs - in order to ease and positively predispose the attitude of the cursillistas. Rather than providing the cursillistas with songbooks it is better to give stanza to stanza and let them take notes and sing the words as they are being provided to them. [This is another one of the small things that is done to engage the cursillistas in the process. The songs should be very simple and easy to learn. See 'An Apprentice Christian', p.106 regarding origins of De Colores song.]

**1G-2)** Before each Rollo and the meeting of the table group, it is advisable that the Rector asks the Head or the Secretary of each table whether all the members are present and "whether we can get started."  
[Before each Rollo, the entire team prays with the Rollista in the chapel. It is only 2 or 3 minutes.]

**1G-3)** During the rollos the Team Leaders should remain in their place, being attentive and taking notes.

**1G-4)** After each rollo, besides what has been expressly stated after the rollos: "Piety" (Appendix 8) and "Study" (Appendix 9), it is appropriate that the Rector says what he deems most appropriate for the smooth running of the Cursillo weekend, depending on the situation. For instance:

- If they work too much with the summaries and posters, he will remind everybody that it is necessary to spare some time for getting some fresh air, stretching our legs, especially if young people are present, to play ball or Frisbee, etc.
- On the contrary, if they work too little, he will stress the need to spend more time on the preparation of the summaries and posters.: "do not leave everything for the last minute" in case we have no time to finish them, "to avoid missing the boat" etc.

The same goes for the “Study” Rollo after initiating the visits to the Blessed Sacrament, or with the signing of the *Pilgrim's Guide* and the delivery of the “Service Sheets”. The Rector must be aware of, and devote his constant attention to, what is happening at the Cursillo weekend so that he can act and redirect efforts, if necessary, into more suitable channels; and do it all without becoming “a pain in the neck” and apologizing in advance for “being a pest.”

[Reminder to Team Leaders: After every rollo there is table discussion, summary of the rollo, work on posters, and free time based on when this is completed.

[Materials for Cursillo Weekend – next page]

## **MATERIALS FOR CURSILLO WEEKEND**

Readings for First Night [Copies of Bankruptcy story, Appendix 2, for readers]

Summary of Cursillistas notes [Summary of information from notes on the candidates]

Sheets with Names of Tables [Candidates' names are entered once they are assigned to their tables.]

Sheets of all names by Table [Sheets of paper to make each team member a Master List that contains the table names and all the candidates listed under the appropriate table. This is a Master List, which is only available to Team Leaders, with all the candidates and the tables that they are at so that the Rector and team can quickly see if everyone is where they are supposed to be.]

Hobbies sheets

Notepads [for tables]

Pens

Poster paper

Pencils [Colored Pencils]

Pencil sharpener

Erasers

Pilgrim's Guides

Bell

Soccer or football [jump ropes, etc.]

Candies

Service Sheets

Group Reunion sheets

Moment of Pain Envelopes [for the donations after 'Moment of Pain' talk on Sunday after lunch].

Song books [to be handed out at the end of the Cursillo as a memento]

Ultreya blueprint [Information and location of Ultreyas, maps if necessary]

First-aid kit

[Kleenex]



## APPENDIX 2

### BANKRUPTCY

[Note: this story needs to be read with varied tone and emphasis in order to demonstrate to the cursillistas the joy, sadness, irony, the lost opportunities, etc. of the situations. Remember we are telling several stories that will have an impact on the listeners. Readers should have practiced `their lines` just as if they were going on the stage for a play!]

#### *Three Wise Men*

Legend has it that a Persian king once summoned three wise men to his palace and asked them to tell him what they considered to be the greatest misfortune in this world.

After a long pause, the first man said: "The greatest misfortune is to be sick."

The second man said: "Nothing is more terrible than being old."

The last man, an illiterate shepherd, stated: "The greatest misfortune of all is to find oneself at death's door and realize that our life has been wasted."

Let's see which of the three was right.

The old adage that "time is money" is true in business, the fact that "time is eternal" is true in every environment.

All of us had a beginning and all of us will have a mortal end! All of us were created for eternity... for everlasting life... a life that will never end. Our eternity is at stake in the course of our mortal life, and it can be determined in an instant.

And so, the lowly shepherd was right, when he said to his king: "Your Majesty, both of us will have an equal reward... an eternity of heaven or an eternity of hell."

In the business environment, every company, every bank, every factory and every store keeps an inventory. At the end of each year, the inventory determines if the business has operated at a profit or a loss. The greater the assets compared to the liabilities of the company, the better the health of the business.

But if the assets start decreasing and the liabilities start increasing, the company is on its way to disaster.

There is another kind of inventory! A more important balance sheet that we are creating by our actions. It is the spiritual balance of our soul where our actions are registered as an entry in our Book of life.

Will there be any pages in that 'book of your life' that you will deeply regret when you see your balance sheet in the hands of the Divine Justice?

A sixteenth-century English poet, named Greene, lived a sinful life and was already harvesting the bitter consequences of his moral decline. Given the misery he was in, he came to his senses and, deeply regretted his immoral life. He repented and, in his remorse, he wrote a book with the title: A MILLION DOLLAR'S WORTH OF REPENTANCE FOR A PENNY'S WORTH OF PLEASURE.

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### *The Banker – Money*

Many of us are like a Banker who was consumed with the rise and fall of the stock market. He thought about nothing but money and followed the stock market religiously. His fortune grew from day to day, and he became something like a king among financiers.

His obsession for more and more wealth came at the expense of his own health. One day the Banker became seriously ill. Still the stock market remained his major concern.

There were people who warned him that it would be wise for him to take stock of his life. But he ignored their warning when an urgent financial problem arose. The Banker noticed a downward trend of some shares of which he was the majority stockholder. He sold these shares and invested a large amount of money in stocks showing a steady upward trend. He foolishly postponed a solution to the problems of the spirit, even though death was rapidly approaching. His family secretly called a priest.

The priest arrived at the house and found the Banker feverishly listening to a report of the latest stock market trading. No one dared to interrupt him despite his serious condition.

The priest was waiting in the adjacent room when a servant opened the door. The priest saw the Banker take his last breath and drop the pen with which he had just written a note.

The priest gave the Banker "conditional absolution" in a last attempt to save his soul. Then the priest looked at the note to see if the Banker's last words had been a cry of his soul to God.

But all there was on the paper was a figure indicating a million-and-a-half-dollar profit, and a note, "The largest gain of my life!"

In contrast, in his own notebook, the priest wrote these words, "Today I have witnessed the saddest bankruptcy of my life."

It is tempting to think this story has nothing to do with us if we have never dabbled in the stock market, or if we do not spend our time and energy on money matters.

But we would be wrong. All of us are Bankers! There is no higher capital asset, nothing more worthwhile and priceless than our own lives.

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### *Rich Merchant – Power and Success*

There was a merchant who lived in the city of Siena at the beginning of the fourteenth century. His name was John Colombini. He was the richest man in the Mediterranean. His time was spent overseeing the financial, commercial, and agricultural aspects of his vast empire. He neglected his family and things of the spirit!

Then adversity and pain entered the life of John Colombini. His son and his daughter died at a young age. Childless and with no heirs he cursed his fate. His wife begged him to remember that he was not only a merchant, but also a Christian. But nothing affected him until one day a book about the life of one of the Saints fell into his hands, and through that book, light filtered into his soul.

When he finished reading it, he exclaimed: "Oh vanity of vanities! ... All is vanity except loving God and living for Him."

John Colombini had taken a good look at the forty years of his sad life and came to a decision. Through the grace of God, he went to confession, and returned with his heart filled with joy.

In an instant, John Colombini was filled with the love of God. He began to visit the homes of the poor to serve them and take care of the sick.

People thought he had gone mad. But that did not deter John Colombini. He was still the great merchant he had been before. Only now he was dealing in the realm of the spirit. He knew that the balance sheet of his life showed a tremendous imbalance and he wanted to make reparation at all costs.

And he made reparation through many years of great tribulation - sickness, poverty, scorn, and loneliness, caring for the sick of the proud city of Siena, without pay and without thanks.

The day came when his countrymen finally realized the miracle of grace that had occurred among them. Many sons of the most distinguished families in Siena took John Colombini as their tutor.

He remained as humble and poor as before, and traveled around visiting cities and villages, announcing to all the wonders that God had wrought in his soul.

When the day arrived for him to account for his life, he was in a position to confidently present his “Ledger of Life” for inspection to God.

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### *Time to Awake and Reflect*

I would like us to meditate on the story of John Colombini, who became a Merchant for the Gospel, who sold everything he had to buy the precious pearl, as well as the story of the Banker, whose last thought was the million and-a-half dollars he earned that morning in the stock exchange. Think about their decisions, and ours, in light of our immortal souls. When our eyes close in death, what will be our legacy? On which side of the ledger will our actions be recorded.

In the prophecies of Isaiah, we find the anxious question: “Watchman, how much longer the night?” [Isaiah 21:11]

St. Paul in his Letter to the Romans tells us: “Now is the hour to awaken from sleep...” [Rom 13:11]

To awake from the sleep of a life from spiritual matters.  
From the sleep of a selfish and idle life.  
From the sleep of a life dreaming of material things.  
From the sleep of a life ruled by the senses and our passions.  
From the sleep of the heart that forgot God.  
Or do we awake with a heart beating for no one and nothing but Him.

We have seen the parallel lives of two brilliant men and yet, the stark contrast in their outcomes. We have seen two very different results, even though they were both given the same means to make a logical choice: business talent, an immense fortune, and enough years to reflect on what is really important in life. Two of them were asleep, having temporary desires satisfied, but only one of them responded to the voice of St. Paul: “It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep...”

So, never blame the circumstances of life if you go bankrupt, if you come to the tragedy of a wasted life, so common, so ordinary, and, so terrible...

Three things can happen to you:

First, you want to be happy at all costs.

Second, you might envy those who seem happier than you.

Third, you might think you have years before having to think about spiritual matters.

But you would be wrong on all three points.

First, happiness is something very different from what you imagine.

Second, to think those with better lives than ours are happier is not true.

Third, to rely on living a long life is a fatal error.

No matter what our age, the day the last grain of sand drops in the hourglass of life, you must have finished the mission assigned to you in God's Divine plan.

A mission has been given to each of us that no one else can carry out for you. Most of us have never thought about our mission. We should, because we do not know the day or the hour when the Lord will call us to account for our life.

There are no extensions or postponements. If you have not completed your assignment on that day, you will have failed, you will have gone bankrupt!

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### *Craving Attention – Pleasure*

Consider the self-possessed girl who enjoyed being the center of attention. People who knew her always said the same thing: "She is so lucky!" "What an exciting life she leads!"

But let me tell you how that girl ended up. Her actions had been the source of bitterness and disdain in many people, and jealousy in others, as she flaunted her lifestyle...

One night - in the early hours of the morning - she shivered from the cold on her way back home from a dance. Despite her makeup, her face showed that she was becoming very sick. A few hours later she became deathly ill with pneumonia and hovered between life and death.

The following night, in an ironic twist of fate, a famous fashion designer delivered to her home, a magnificent new dress that she had purchased to wear that very night.

The girl wanted to look at the dress and so it was placed where she could see it, along with the matching accessories. As evening approached, her fever was so high that she began to hallucinate and thought she could see her best friends dancing.

She thought the music she heard in the distance was the party she was supposed to have attended.

Yes ... the other girls were laughing ... the other girls were dancing ... for them life was exciting!

An inner voice suddenly interrupted the bitter thought of the sick girl: "Well, this is how it has been for you until now!"

"Oh! She answered in horror. Won't I be returning to my previous life? Won't I be going back to the theatre, to the dances, and to parties? Won't I be able to go on any

more trips? Won't I be able to wear my new fur coat again? And what about my beautiful new dress that they brought to me tonight... won't I ever be able to hear people say that I outshine all the other girls again?"

As her fever rose higher and the delirium increased, her thoughts became increasingly irrational. She saw herself dead wearing the magnificent new dress that she was so eager to wear in public.

But now, she saw how revealing the dress was, how it left her dead body so exposed, and she began to suffer.

She cried for her maid to bring another dress and another. All her dresses were equally revealing.

In her tortured mind she could see no solution.

Just then she regained consciousness. It would be the last time. She did not notice those around her. Her dying gaze was fixed sadly on the back of the room. She saw the closets which contained the wardrobe that had given her so many apparent successes. Her eyes wandered over her new dress, resplendent in its finery.

Her relatives interpreted her gaze and, removing the dress, they said to comfort her: "You will see... you will be able to wear it soon!"

With terrible sadness the unfortunate girl answered: "I would never want to! ... I would rather see it burn! ... The dress and everything!"

Her eyes, which were beginning to glaze, looked back to the closets. The others thought she was hallucinating, but then she added... "I want to confess!"

The priest did not arrive in time.

She had already crossed the threshold from which no one returns. Although she was now contrite, sadly she was convinced that her life had been a tremendous bankruptcy.

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### *Conclusion*

Now, if you are listening, you will probably say with disdain, "This has nothing to do with me!" Especially if you're not a woman... But you are wrong.

No matter whether you are a man or woman, the story of this poor obstinate girl, always longing for luxury and fashion, also concerns you.

Of course, your time and energy cannot be taken up by problems as insignificant as those of that girl. Things that take up your time and energy will be financial, cultural, political, scientific, or business-related problems. Things more or less important to the world.

How many times have you let worldly things become an obsession with you! As John Colombini or the Banker did, allowing those things to take control of your life, making you forget you have an immortal soul which is of more importance than anything in the world.

Don't forget that you are a child of God, and therefore, you should evaluate your work, efforts, the world, and all things, through the eyes of God.

We all must stop our frantic activity for a moment - as John Colombini did - so we can fill our lives with values that do not end with this world, those things that have no value at the time of our death...

Let us now think only of the immortal words of St. Augustine "You have made us for Yourself O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."

It is from the awareness of the restlessness within your heart, that the conscious longing for God will come... and if this longing makes your heart **tremble**, it will not be possible for your soul to fail. For your thirst for God, your desire for "things above", will lift you up on eagle wings to that height where your heart will suffer only one pain;

...the pain of having known God so late, so late.

## APPENDIX 3

### EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE - FIRST NIGHT

[Led by the Rector]

#### **JESUS SPEAKS TO YOU:**

Hello, I have noticed you, among many others, and I have called you to spend three days in my company, because I wanted to and because I love you. I need you ... But do not worry, do not be afraid ... I am your God and want to be your friend.

Those who really know me realize that my yoke is easy and my burden light ... The world is much more demanding than me.

Be calm! Think of this situation! I invite you to feel at peace ... You are at a Cursillo weekend!

It was not the circumstances, or your friend or your companion, or anything or anyone in the world who brought you here.

It was I who called you and I have prepared this meeting with love and hope and I have been looking forward to these three days that, if you want, can give a new meaning to your life.

The unfolding of the Cursillo weekend will depend on: your enthusiasm, your dedication, your spirit of charity (love) and on all that you contribute to it.

Trust your friends and be patient. Do not express an opinion in advance. Do your part and your utmost to take advantage of these three days.

Try to be the happiest, the most optimistic, the bravest, and the best friend of all here! Open yourself to all and be the friendliest you can be to all.

Leave your reputation, your family, your environment behind. Be instrumental in communicating the message to those who still do not know what it means to live in friendship and Grace.

Use your time wisely.

If you contribute your enthusiasm, your dedication and your spirit of charity (love), you will live three days of very special Grace. I hope that you do not let this slip through your fingers. Do not waste it; your effort is needed for the weekend to be effective. Do not spare your efforts!

Think of the fact that many people out there are praying and sacrificing themselves for you and for the weekend to give us the opportunity to see life with new eyes.

Do not coast along on the prayers and sacrifices of your brothers and sisters. Set the pace with determination and enthusiasm.



For everything you want, you have a permanent audience here at the Blessed Sacrament.

So far, in your occupation, in your studies, in your job, have you been gathering or scattering? (Matthew 12:30). In your entertainment and free time? In all this, have you ever found yourself satisfied?

Note that I consider you now my FRIEND, and ... the infidelities of my FRIENDS are the ones that hurt my heart most deeply.

From now on I seek your spirit and energy, your passion and zeal; your commitment. A Christian should not look sad.

Try to be cheerful.  
If you want, you can.

From now on, I count on you, on YOU!

And you, who or what do you count on?

## APPENDIX 4

### OUR PETITIONS DURING THE MASS (Led by the Rector)

It is now time to ask the Lord for all our needs. It is now the moment when the Lord is paying special attention to our requests. No matter how strong or weak our faith may be now. No matter how clear or vague our vision of things is, let's take advantage of this moment.

After each request, please respond: "**Lord, hear our prayer**".

For the Pope, for our bishop \_\_\_\_\_ [Name], for the Universal Church, for the Diocese of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of diocese in which the Cursillo is being held).  
[We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all of us here, Lord help us to become friends, show us Your thoughts and Your ways ...Let us not turn our backs on Your Grace.  
[We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the one most in need of God's help and for the one who believes he does not need it. [We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

For all our 'stuff'. To some it will be their wife (husband) or their girlfriend (boyfriend); to others their job... their children ... their business ... For whatever it is - You already know about it, Lord, even if it is foolish... because it is no longer foolish when it is discussed with You. [We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the problems that each one of us is faced with; And for those who believe they have no problems to face. [We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

For the bravest of us and the not so brave... for the smartest of us and those who are not as smart. We ask You Lord, let us all find what You want us to find... Your Grace ... which is our own true happiness. [We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

For those we do not know, who are praying and offering sacrifices for us and will continue offering sacrifices during these three days... to petition you to pour out Your Grace on us. [We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

We do not yet know each other well, but it is quite possible that among us there is someone whose father or husband, mother or wife, child or sibling or friend ... has already passed on to eternal life... Spiritually united with all, we pray for all of our deceased. [We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

We ask You Lord to help us see... to see clearly... that we may see all things clearly...and knowing that you have asked us to contribute our "enthusiasm, dedication and spirit of charity (love)" help us to not skimp on them, but ... please help us...help us see... to see clearly...to see all things clearly...help us not to close our minds or our hearts to Your Grace anymore. [We pray...] ... **Lord hear our prayer.**

## APPENDIX 5

### WE FORM THE GROUPS

[ Note: The Table Heads and Secretaries have been chosen by the Rector and team at the first team meeting on Thursday night.

The table Head is a person who has the capability to fulfill the role.

When the Rector addresses the group as a whole, the table Head is responsible for making sure that whatever is said is understood and that the posters and summary are being prepared. Before each rollo the Rector asks if all the members of the table are present and it is the table Head or the Secretary who responds to this. Their role, as their title suggests, is to make sure that everything at the table is being taken care of. If, as sometimes happens, the person selected does not live up to expectations, nothing is done. What usually happens is that someone else at the table will assume the responsibility.

The Secretary, in addition to making their own notes, prepares a summary for the table. This role of the table Heads and Secretaries is also explained further in Appendix 11.]

#### **Rector's talk before the "Ideal" Rollo**

- Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- Explanation of what the Table Groups are and their composition:
- To make the work more effective and so that we may all be enriched by the contributions of all, we will form groups that we will call Table Groups, giving each one a proper name.
- Play down the positions of the roles of the Heads and Secretaries of the Table Groups.
- Explain that the new cursillistas have been separated, those who are friends, who come from the same neighborhood, age, profession, etc. in order to achieve greater diversity in friendship among all.
- Presentation and "fashion show" [irony].  
In this way we will get to know each other and to know who is who. [This is a tongue in cheek use of the words to explain the manner in which the introduction is done. The rationale is to let everyone take notice of the person being introduced, their name and what they look like. This means take a few seconds to let the person stand there and be seen, not stand up and sit down immediately. It is to 'show them off'. Some will stand up and make gestures as if they are famous etc.]

As all are seated; when we read aloud the first and last name of each of the cursillistas, he will stand up. It is not necessary to mention his profession, marital status, children or place of residence to avoid turning the "fashion show" into a "celebrity parade". After reading out the names of the members of each Table Group, we will indicate to them which table they will join. (Applause).

- Before the announcement of the Table Groups, the Team Leaders must already be at the table assigned to them, so that they do not have to take their place later.
- Explain that after supper each day the Table Groups will get together to share what the group has agreed are the Rollo's key ideas. Therefore, it is necessary to take notes and prepare posters of the Rollos.
- Explain that the key ideas of the Rollos are illustrated on the posters (two Rollos in the morning and three in the afternoon.) If someone has difficulty in writing he should not worry, and just focus on listening.

If someone has difficulty in writing he should not worry, and just focus on listening.

Say that we have available to everyone: candies, gum, medicines, etc.

Read and explain the story of "Professor Cook" and its application to the Cursillo weekend. **(See Appendix 6)**

## APPENDIX 6

### PROFESSOR COOK

It is said that:

*“In New York City, where so many things happen, Professor Cook’s School occupies two floors of a skyscraper.*

*This man has become famous for his culinary recipes; his dishes enjoy great prestige, and so do his classes, which are usually attended by important people who enroll in the school as a hobby and learn to cook out of a desire for trendiness. In the room where he gives his classes there are fully equipped kitchens for each student, as well as a kitchen assistant at the service of each registered student, to cut the potatoes, onions etc.*

*This man has become famous for his culinary recipes and the delicious dishes he prepares with the help of his students because each class is basically hands-on. He gives instructions via a microphone and everyone, listening and doing what he says, will prepare his culinary delights.*

*But it is not this alone. He indicates the precise quantity to use according to the number of guests, so that when the class is finished each student has prepared a complete meal (appetizer, entrée, and dessert.)*

*And the class does not end here, because every kitchen assistant that was assigned will take all that was prepared by the student in the class to the home of the student.”*

Imagine if Professor Cook said, "now we have to add some sugar" and the student adds some salt, or if he uses vinegar instead of oil... at the end he would not have a succulent dish, but quite the opposite...

#### Explanation:

This "story" is relevant to us because in this Cursillo something similar happens. The leader says at every moment what to do so the Cursillo weekend fulfills its purpose, which is not exactly to prepare a succulent meal, but a platter of brilliant ideas that will serve to shed light along the path of your lives.

- What we put in, is what we will get out.
- The one who is going to eat what was prepared...is each one of us.

To conclude if I may, I would like to point out a few things that can help you to live the weekend more fully.

- Do not form judgments in advance.
- Continue to trust the one who sent you, keep trusting God, and all of us who He has delegated to be here.
- Live the weekend in order to use it later as a standard for your lives.
- Contribute enthusiasm, dedication and a spirit of charity (love).
- Let all the good you have inside you come to the surface like the dew that appears on a clear night after a cloudy day.

## APPENDIX 7

### **HOBBIES SHEET** **(Leisure activities and interests)**

Explain the Hobbies sheet (Rector).

[The Rector explains that we ask them to complete the sheet listing their interests and hobbies to help in getting to know them better. It is used as an icebreaker at the tables.]

The Rector will:

- Explain the purpose of the hobbies sheet and how to fill it in. (The Hobbies sheet must also be completed by the Team Leaders and Spiritual Advisors).
- Say that once they have been filled in they are to be delivered to the Head or to the Secretary of the table and that they will be collected before the start of the next Rollo.
- At the end of the Cursillo weekend, we will have a sheet with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of everyone who has experienced this Cursillo weekend.
- It is important that the data is clear; it is advisable to review the Hobbies Sheets before putting them away to see if anything is missing and to check that everything can be read easily.

Give out sheets of paper, pencils, crayons, erasers, pencil sharpeners, etc. for the completion of the posters.

After this, announce that there is a break. It is advisable for each Table Group to use this free time to organize themselves and to decide how to carry out the summaries and posters, and to stretch their legs and clear their heads.

It would be a good idea to take out the ball, games, etc. at the beginning of the break.

[The Rector will collect the Hobby Sheets before the Habitual Grace Rollo. Then an explanation of the origins of the “De Colores” song is given before the Habitual Grace rollo. See: An Apprentice Christian, p.106 for this explanation.]



Cursillo No: \_\_\_\_\_

Where Cursillo Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITIES**

**MUSIC:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Classical
<input type="checkbox"/>	Modern
<input type="checkbox"/>	Folk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Country
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**THEATRE:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Drama
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comedy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Musicals
<input type="checkbox"/>	TV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Movies
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

- SCULPTURE
- PAINTING
- CINEMA
- COLLECTING
- OTHER

**LITERATURE**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Poetry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prose
<input type="checkbox"/>	Magazines
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fiction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non -fiction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Science fiction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Murder Mysteries
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historical Novels
<input type="checkbox"/>	Detective Stories
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**CRAFTS**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Woodworking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knitting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crocheting
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SPORTS:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Football
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basketball
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soccer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Skiing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ice Skating
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rugby
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hockey
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tennis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cycling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Driving
<input type="checkbox"/>	Motorcycling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gymnastics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gym
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shooting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hunting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Running
<input type="checkbox"/>	Roller Blading
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golf
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sailing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snowmobiling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Table Tennis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Snooker
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**LIVING ROOM GAMES**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Board Games
<input type="checkbox"/>	Billiards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shuffle Board
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chess
<input type="checkbox"/>	Video Games
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cards
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**All information gathered here is strictly confidential and will not be shared with outside parties.**

## APPENDIX 8

### RECTOR'S INTERVENTION AFTER THE "PIETY" ROLLO

Just after the Piety rollo, before the Thanksgiving prayer, in a confident tone of voice that will inspire confidence in the listeners, and talking in a heartfelt manner, the Rector will say:

"By now you are beginning to realize that the Cursillo is a serious thing. We are here not to just pass the time... but to make good use of our time.

You have all had to make an effort to come here, some of you may have had to ask for time off from work, others leaving your families and friends in your town or city, others have probably had to postpone resolving important matters for a few days.

But I do hope you don't feel like a Cursillista we had some time ago who, at this point of his weekend, said that he had had a good time here and he was glad to have come, but he remembered a trip to...\_\_\_\_\_. (Use a place that is known to the local Movement) where he had had a better time.

This was because he had not understood anything of what had been said. In fact, he had been present at the Cursillo but he hadn't lived it at all.

To live the Cursillo it is necessary that you open up to it. This is something that depends only on you because the head and the heart can only be opened from the inside.

It's like a bottle in the ocean. Whatever amount of water there is around it, if we do not open the cap, not a single drop will go into the bottle.

Let's open the bottle! Let's leave it open at least for these three days. Then we will see.

It could be that some of you feel like taking your first steps along the path of Cursillo but, despite your wish to start it, you may have a feeling that something is preventing you from doing so.

Perhaps what is happening is like a girl who has always lived in her home village was moving into the city to serve as a housemaid. When the lady of the house realized the girl was wearing very old shoes, she decided to buy her a new pair of sandals.

Upon returning home after the purchase the lady realized that the girl was lagging a long way behind her and was taking very short steps. She then noticed that the sandals were still joined by a string and the girl had not cut the string.

Perhaps some of you are in the same situation and, because of some circumstance you are dealing with in your lives, you have your 'sandals' still joined together, and this is preventing you from keeping pace with the Cursillo.

The solution is very simple: just cut the string!!!

What happens in the Cursillo weekend is that we are showered with a rain of actual Graces, and it is possible that someone is walking under this shower of Grace with an open umbrella!

If we want to be soaked with Grace ...we need to close our umbrella ...

In some small towns the priest can only go there for a few hours a week.

This is not our situation here. Here we have a priest exclusively for us and available to all of us. Take advantage of this, go and talk to him, go for reconciliation or just get to know him.

### **Option to choose faith**

Possibly you have never been so close to people whom you do not even know, people who pray and think about all of you so that this Cursillo weekend is for you what it was for them:

Finding their true happiness. A solution to their life, forever.

Cursillo is an opportunity to choose faith.

What is faith? I shall start with an example:

*Imagine that I work at the same company as ... \_\_\_\_\_ (name one of the leaders at the weekend). On a Saturday afternoon, I realize that I left my glasses in the office and I decide to go and get them.*

*The security guard opens the door for me and I take advantage of the opportunity to clear out my pending files. On Monday morning, when I returned to the office, I find a huge stir; there had been a major theft in the company over the weekend and the police were questioning the security guard who said no one had entered the office on Saturday. However, when he sees me arrive, he remembers that I had been there on Saturday, and for quite a long time. He tells the police and they arrest me.*

*My friend stands up for me and defends me against the other colleagues because he is convinced that I am not the thief...*

*On the other hand, there are other colleagues who comment: "Look, lately he has been spending a lot, and he has recently been on a trip...."*

*This bothers my friend a lot, but he still believes that I am innocent. All this is published in the newspapers and I am still in jail. My friend begins to have doubts and to think that he is risking making a fool of himself in public if in the end, I turn out to be the culprit.*

*But he keeps thinking and saying: to himself, "No ... he would never do that, I'm sure of that ..."*

*In the end, the police find the real thief.  
The police let me go and simply say: "We apologize."*

*Let us assume that during this time my friend has had access to a videotape in which the real thief can be seen.*

*If this were the case there would be no merit in his defending me, because he would have been defending a certainty.  
His merit lies in the fact that the more severe his doubts about whether I had been guilty or not, the more he reaffirmed his faith in me.*

When one person has that kind of faith in another it produces a deep bond that unites them.

Notice that what separates us from God is a huge doubt and He certainly has put us in the place where we have faith in Him, which is what unites us to Him the most.

We can have certainty that we love somebody; but to believe that we are loved by someone we must have faith.

**THE CURSILLO WEEKEND WE ARE DOING FACILITATES AND PROVIDES US WITH THIS OPTION TO CHOOSE TO HAVE FAITH.**

You know that pilots test their engines before take-off.  
I invite you to also test your engines.

The time has come to make a decision and we have two options:

Enter fully into the weekend by providing Enthusiasm, Dedication and a Spirit of Charity (Love), or ... be at the weekend as the tables and chairs are ... they have been in numerous weekends and ... have not learned anything.

**MAKE THE MOST OF IT!** Let the Cursillo seep into you and I assure you that you will find what you seek: your happiness.

Not all problems will be solved, but you will find the way to go about solving them.

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## **THE SKI-ING STORY**

Let me tell you a story to illustrate what I mean,

*A group of boys and girls decided to go winter skiing at \_\_\_\_\_ (Name a ski resort that is familiar to people in your area).*

*By mid-afternoon, they hear the safety sirens warning of an approaching snowstorm. They set off back to the ski lodge because they were quite far from it. As they advanced, the storm was worsening, and they had great difficulties getting back to the lodge. They found shelter and once there one of the boys realizes that his girlfriend has not arrived. He waits until the last group of people arrive, but his girlfriend has not come with the last group either.*

*As it was starting to get dark and the storm was increasing the boy decided to go and find her. Some friends also ventured out and decided to join him with ropes and flashlights ready for whatever might happen. The path was so bad and so dangerous because of the storm that eventually his friends decide to give up the search and they tried to convince the boyfriend that "this is getting very dangerous", but he insists on going on with the search despite the danger. In the end, he keeps looking for her on his own.*

*Night falls and by a flash of lightning, he sees a vague shape at the end of a trail. Despite many dangers and difficulties, he manages to reach the body and indeed, it was his girlfriend lying completely unconscious.*

*He grabbed her and managed to put her on his shoulders. If it had been difficult on the way down, the way back, weighed down by his girlfriend, was a lot worse. By making a superhuman effort he managed to carry her safely back to the shelter. There he met with everyone and told them of his adventure.*

*On hearing his story, the people are divided into three groups:*

- *Those who had given up the search and had arrived back at the shelter much earlier criticized the boyfriend saying, "Listen to how he is bragging about what he has done!"*
- *Those who were his friends admitted they had been cowardly and admired his courage,*
- *And the girl, who was responding little by little, was listening to what her boyfriend was saying, and said: "**All this for me, he has done all this for me.**"*

*Now you may be asking yourself, what is the meaning of this story?*

*Consider this! The Cursillo weekend is now about to reach a high point. You may be thinking what is all this about? Because on the one hand you tell us jokes, on the other you tell us serious things; and then you tell us stories ... Well, we are trying to live and pass on what can only happen through a living experience – this alive, normal and close Christ, is knocking at **your** door and you can meet Him if you say in the depths of your heart, what this girl said: **ALL THIS FOR ME!!!***

*The jokes in the dining-room and the attention we have given you are only for you to get to know yourself. There are many people who are praying and offering their sufferings so that you meet Christ, the Christ who suffered and died on the cross **FOR YOU AND FOR ME**: All this has been for the sake of each one of you, **for you**. So if you want to find the way to take off and make the most of the Cursillo, it is only a question of understanding how deep and true this phrase can be for each one of **you**: **"ALL THIS FOR ME"**.*

Think for a moment about the person who invited you to this Cursillo, all the people who are praying so that these three days will be the starting point for a new way of life... God has used all of them so that all of us understand what He is doing for me, and for you.

[Rector says the Thanksgiving prayer for the "Piety" rollo just heard.]

[Proceed to the chapel.]

## APPENDIX 9

### VISIT TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AFTER THE PIETY ROLLO

The Rector will invite everyone to approach the altar (at the foot of the Tabernacle), and to remain there standing or kneeling:

*"Here we are, Lord, all the participants in this Cursillo weekend ...*

*"Are we all In Grace?*

*This, only you can know, Lord ... Only you know who of us are in Grace ..."*

*"When visiting an important person for the first time, the truth is that we do not know where to place our hands or where to look ... where to cast our eyes ...*

*And we are now before You, Lord, for the first time in this Cursillo weekend.*

*And You are the most important person of all ... the most important person in the world, and so, we... do not even know where to put our hands ... but You, Lord, You know all about us, and You understand us... and are so willing to forgive us..."*

*"Lord, the truth is that all this about Cursillo is gradually arousing our interest ... yes, we are really getting interested because now we realize that all this, everything ... You have done this for me ..., you have done it for me, just for me, and we now fully understand the ... ALL THIS FOR ME!"*

*"It is true, Lord, that many times we have been off the path where there is true joy, true happiness ... that always or almost always we went the wrong way and now, ... now we see clearly ... it is ... all this, that when we are sensible, we want the same as you do..."*

*(Carry on with the visit saying what you consider appropriate depending on the progress of the Cursillo weekend. Emphasis should be placed on the enthusiasm, dedication, and the spirit of charity (love) that is needed to find what we all crave.)*

The visit must be done without affectation, but very naturally, actually talking with the Lord, so that it permeates and makes a deep impression on the cursillistas who have not been accustomed to making visits or talking to Him. We have to show them that this is very simple when you put in your heart into it and trust ...

The visit ends with the Lord's Prayer.

## APPENDIX 10

### REUNION OF THE TABLE GROUPS

#### Prayer to the Holy Spirit

- This last act today in the Rollo room is a happy event because we will do a review of the day, but at the same time, it is a serious act, because we must respect the speakers who will explain their summaries and the drawings on their posters.
- The speakers will not give a rollo or a lesson, nor a criticism. They will just express the basic idea of each Rollo.
- If it's all right with you, I will call you out by Table Groups and you will read the summary of the Rollo that I will assign you and then you will explain the five drawings related to today's Rollos: Ideal, Habitual Grace, Layperson in the World, Actual Grace and Piety. (no one is forced to come forward).  
[Every table has all five drawings on one poster.]
- It does not need to be the Head or the Secretary who provides the explanation; any member of the Table Group may do it.

At the end, the Rector will make an assessment of the presentations [jokingly] stating that, "it was not bad" but, "surely it will be better tomorrow" ... then he will indicate that we will go and say goodnight to the Lord in the Chapel.



## APPENDIX 11

### VISIT WITH HEADS AND SECRETARIES - FIRST DAY

When all the cursillistas (except the Heads and Secretaries of the Table Groups) are in their rooms, the Team Leaders, Heads and Secretaries will start the visit.

The purpose of this visit must be to form a tight bond between the leaders of the Cursillo and the Heads and Secretaries of the Table Groups.

Pointing out that, having been called to be Heads and Secretaries of the Table Groups they are also leaders of the weekend, and that the Lord has chosen them for it, insisting on the fact that the Lord took notice of them in spite of the fact that there were other people at the weekend who might have taken those positions, perhaps better than them ... but He has noticed them... making clear that humility is needed to hold these positions ... that these positions are not for us to become conceited, but to thank the Lord for it and for making us feel that we are His instruments within the Cursillo weekend.

At this visit, we must speak very naturally and on intimate terms with the Lord so that they realize that this visit is something "special" that the Lord gives to those who, for whatever reason, He has chosen as His "intimate friends" (from among) the other cursillistas.

More or less the visit must deal with the following:

Feelings and Impressions of the day.

How we feel now. - Tired..., we would rather be in bed...

Enthusiasm, dedication ... Spirit of Charity (Love), insisting on ... feeling responsible for, the Table Group; pledging oneself to work harder and better tomorrow ... not to burden the more generous members with the work of the Table Group ... to encourage them...

While emphasizing that they become saturated with these important points so that they penetrate them deeply.

End the visit with an Our Father holding one another's hands.

[The table Heads and Secretaries leave at this point and go to bed. The Team Leaders then begin the team meeting.]

## APPENDIX 12

### THE STORY OF JOHN

It is said that a priest was walking in his church at noon. Passing by the altar he decided to stay around to see who had come to pray. At this moment he saw a man coming down the aisle. The man had not shaved for several days. He was wearing a threadbare shirt and his coat was worn out. The man got down on his knees, bowed his head, got up and left. During the following days, the same man, always at noon, entered the church, knelt down briefly and then went out again.

The priest became a little fearful and began to suspect the man of being a thief, so he stood at the door of the church and when the man was leaving the church, he asked him: "What are you doing here?"

The man said he was working in that neighborhood and only had half an hour for lunch; since the factory was not far from the church, I took advantage of this time to go to the church and pray. I would just kneel down and say "Lord, I just came back to tell you how happy I am. You know, I do not know how to pray very well, but I think of you every day. So Lord, John is here!"

The priest, feeling foolish, told John that it was fine and that he was welcome to come to the church whenever he wanted.

One day the priest noticed that John had not come to the church for a few days, so he began to worry until one day he went to the factory and asked for him. There they told him that John was ill and that the doctors had said they believed he did not have many days of life left.

The week that John was in the hospital he was smiling all the time and his joy was contagious. The head nurse could not understand why John was so happy since he never received any flowers or cards, or visitors.

The priest approached John's bed along with the nurse and she said, as John was listening: "no friends come to visit him; he has no one to turn to..."

With a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face, the old man John said in surprise, "The nurse is wrong because she does not know that every day since I arrived here, at noon a dear friend of mine comes and sits here on my bed. He takes my hand, leans over me and says: "I just came to tell you, John, how happy I am since I found your friendship, I think of you every day. So John, Jesus is here."

With this same attitude, we can approach the Blessed Sacrament, individually or in groups. For some of us, it may be the first time... We do not know what to say to Him, but our heart knows... Like John, we can say: "Lord, I am here, Lord I'm here!"

## APPENDIX 13

### MAÑANITAS

When Cursillo weekends began in Mexico, on the third day of the weekend, the community of Cursillistas would awaken the new Cursillistas with the “Mañanitas” [early morning serenade, usually sung at birthdays]. In this way it becomes apparent, tangible and real that Christianity will progressively be communicated to them during this third day through the Rollos, “Study of the Environment” (still to be heard), “Christianity in Action” and “Total Security”.

[The presence of all at the Mañanitas lets the new cursillistas see the people who form the Ultreya and who they are going to hear about in all the rollos of this day. It makes them more open to hearing the rollo of Group Reunion and Ultreya and demonstrates that there will be people there after the weekend who will support them on the journey.]

In Mallorca, before waking the Cursillistas up, the community of Cursillistas get together at a very short distance from where the weekend is held and pray “The Apostolic Hour”. After that, the participants move to a place where the cursillistas can hear the singing of “Mañanitas”. The participants will sing “Las Mañanitas” and “De Colores” until the new Cursillistas start joining the group, usually recognizing in the group of singers the very people who invited them to go to the weekend, their family and friends. It is advisable not to prolong the visit, spending about five or ten minutes for the encounter. To carry on with it for too long might hinder the smooth running of the Cursillo weekend.

In the hubbub that builds up during the warm greetings, the Team Leaders should watch out for any new cursillista who might feel alone because he does not know anyone in the group of visitors.

Then the community of cursillistas go together to have breakfast at the same café, which facilitates mutual understanding and communication. Meanwhile, the Cursillo weekend continues, and the third day begins.

**APPENDIX 14**  
**SERVICE SHEET**

After having invoked the Holy Spirit, the Rector will explain the purpose of the "Service Sheet".

In his explanation he will remind the cursillistas of the tripod: Piety, Study and Action.

He will explain that it is not a matter of complying with norms or rules, rather it is a way to polish our disposition through some things that we can do. The most important thing is our attitude.

An athlete has to take care of his diet (proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, etc...). The food [sustenance] of the spirit is achieved through acts of piety.

[The commitment can be compared to the way in which we nourish our bodies with the right amount of food to maintain our health; if we eat too little, we will lose weight and become unhealthy. If we eat too much, we run the risk of becoming obese and also, therefore, unhealthy. Using this as a parallel in terms of our spiritual health, the commitments we make on our Service Sheet must be what we need to keep us spiritually healthy. Too little and the life of Christ within us will wither, we will lose our spiritual well-being. If the commitment is "over the top", we can also become spiritually unhealthy by becoming overly pious, out of balance, as the ironic saying goes, "so heavenly bound that we are no earthly good".]

The Service Sheet is our commitment or pledge of honor to the Lord and it is only in this sense that we are bound to it.

[By being specific in identifying what we plan to do we are encouraged and stimulated. We realize where we are in reality, compared to where we want to be.]

[It's like looking at a thermometer. On the weekend you grade yourself as to what you can do. The Service Sheet shows you whether or not you are at the level that you wanted to be at when you filled in the Service Sheet.]

The commitment is personal and tailored to the individual, and it must be realistic for the circumstances of the individual.

[Like a tailor-made suit of clothes, it fits you.]

**HAND OUT THE SERVICE SHEETS**

The Rector reads the following:

## **The Last Will and Testament of an Elderly Man**

One day an elderly man, who had two sons, was feeling he was going to die soon, so he called his two sons together and solemnly said to them, "My life is coming to an end, I deeply regret not leaving a great fortune to you, but since I can't do it, I want to leave two sayings as a legacy to you; two pieces of advice, two recommendations that will be very valuable for you, and this will be my will:

1st advice of the elderly man:

Whenever you give your word of honor, you have to honor it at all costs no matter the cost. Your word of honor must be sacred for you, at all costs, I repeat, keep that in mind, do not forget it.

2nd advice of the elderly man:

Never, under any circumstance, give your word of honor to anybody.

And the elderly man died.

Relating this story to you was just to have a bit of fun pointing out the absurdity of the advice of the old man. So ...his advice is that it's best not to make a commitment. Well, what kind of world would it be if people did not make commitments or what kind of person would I be if I did not commit to anything. So...we are asking you to consider making a commitment...to yourself. The wheels will not fall off if you do not keep it, but it gives you something to strive for ...it gives you a goal. As mentioned above, the commitments we make on our Service Sheet must be what we need to keep us spiritually healthy.

The Rector explains after the Rollo "Life in Grace" that each one can fill in his Service Sheet and deliver it later (before lunch) to the Spiritual Advisor. Assure them that what they write on the Service Sheet will not be controlled or seen by anyone. By completing this Service Sheet, it does not mean they have enrolled or signed up for any organization and in the last act of the Cursillo weekend they will all be given back their Service Sheet.

If something remains unclear or is not completely understood, speak to one of the Team Leaders or Spiritual Advisors.

## APPENDIX 15

### **THE CLAUSURA (CLOSING)**

The purpose of the Clausura is to get the new Cursillistas to live and experience that what they have been told in the Rollos of "Christianity in Action", "Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo" and "Total Security" is a living reality.

The presence and the words of the "distinguished visitors" in the closing ceremony bears witness to the fact that it is possible to live every day, throughout our entire lifetime and in the normalcy of each person, the living, normal and close Christ that they have discovered in the Cursillo.

#### **Preparation of the room.**

Reserve places for the new Cursillistas, the Team Leaders and the Spiritual Advisors.

#### **Schedule**

1. Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

2. Opening Talk by the Rector:

Greeting words from the Rector to the "distinguished visitors", followed by a brief explanation of the schedule of what will take place.

Some advice addressed to those people among the visitors who have never been to a Cursillo weekend and are attending a Clausura for the first time:

"Do not make judgments about Cursillo based on what you might hear at the closing ceremony."

"There are truths that are difficult to understand if you have not lived them."

Invite them to attend an upcoming weekend.

3. A member of each Table Group will speak on behalf of his Table Group.

[They share what the weekend experience has meant to the Table Group as a whole. It is important that they only speak about the experience of the Group, they will have the opportunity to share their personal experience at the appropriate time.]

4. Now it is the turn for the new Cursillistas who wish to speak, "jumping in with both feet." [This includes those who have shared previously the experience of the Group.] If there is a new cursillista, who is from a distant country [diocese], applause is requested for him and for that country [diocese]. If there are many who are in this circumstance, let common sense advise what will be done.

5. After that, we invite the "distinguished visitors" to speak, starting with some sponsors of the new Cursillistas.

Before starting the Clausura, we ask the visitors to confirm their willingness to speak. We also ask them to please be brief and to try not to give any advice to the new Cursillistas.

We will also invite someone to speak who we know can encourage the new Cursillistas.

Once everybody has spoken, we'll give a second chance to the new Cursillistas in case anyone who was too shy to speak previously, wants to speak.

6. Now the Team Leaders have an opportunity to speak, then the Spiritual Advisors and finally the Rector. [If someone is present such as a Lay Director who has been invited to welcome the new Cursillistas, they speak after all the new cursillistas and before the Rector speaks for the final time.]
7. Hand back the Service Sheets to the new Cursillistas in the Chapel. [The Rector calls out the names of the cursillistas in turn and then gives their Service Sheet to the Spiritual Advisor who then hands it to the new Cursillista with the words, "Christ is Counting on You" and the cursillista responds, if he wishes to do so, "And I on Him".]
8. We end the Clausura with the Lord's Prayer which we offer for three intentions:
  1. To give thanks for the spiritual and apostolic success of the weekend.
  2. For those who have prayed and made sacrifices for the success of the weekend.
  3. For the success of the next weekend.
9. Applause to the Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament.
10. We sing "De Colores".

## APPENDIX 16

### THIS IS THE WAY

#### **In the words of our founder Eduardo Bonnin:**

This is the way to conduct the Cursillo weekend today. This is the way through which, by the grace of God and the prayers of the brothers and sisters, it has been possible to achieve that a great many people over the years have had an encounter with Christ and decided to follow him.

I do not know how the Cursillo weekend will be conducted in the future. We started in a place where there was no electricity, and today we hand out the list of those attending the Cursillo printed by computer.

All I know is that if Cursillo is to remain faithful to the purpose for which it was intended and for which it was prayed and for which we have been grateful, it should not lower its target, and they should serve to give those who attend a “living”, simple, clear and true experience of the Christ of the Gospel as best as possible. He, who through his resurrection and by his Grace, is alive, normal and close in each person.

This requires and calls for a personal encounter between Christ and each person. Obviously, the evil of the world is the evil of the human person, and what the person needs most is to encounter himself and then to be able to grasp with joy, and even perplexity, the invitation that Christ gives to him, so that by being connected to Him by Grace, and through that same Grace, he will understand the joy that comes from spreading it to others.

By its very nature, Cursillo has to go deep down into the depths of the person, into his innermost and intimate self, not merely into the specific circumstances surrounding him: whether married or single, practicing or indifferent etc. There has to be nothing that might turn him away from the target at which he aims. The encounter has to be between Christ and the person, face-to-face, one-on-one, and everything at the Cursillo weekend has to be focused on that one-on-one encounter. The unavoidable reality of magnetism or attraction between the sexes, or the determining presence of a familiar person – such as professional, marital, or family bonds, makes this one-on-one encounter impossible. The reaction must be personal, radical and authentic.

There should be nothing that prevents or hinders that radicalism, perplexity and enthusiasm, which occurs in the person when he truly and earnestly BELIEVES that Christ loves him. Since at the Cursillo weekend a new dimension of faith is discovered, much deeper than the normal one, things are different when the person is being observed by someone who is watching, awaiting his reaction. For this reason, a Cursillo weekend should not be mixed; nor is it in any way appropriate that father and son, mother and daughter, two brothers or sisters, employers and employees, or a



married couple go to the same Cursillo weekend together. If men and women go together to a weekend, no one will behave as they would if they went separately. Christ is looking for the person, not for what surrounds him.

Cursillo makes no assumptions.

The person, who really wants to be a Christian, realizes the distance they have to go to actually become a true Christian. They become aware of the fact that they have to try and lessen that distance at every moment of their life. The conscious Christian life led by the person who has awakened to the possibility of longing to become a true Christian, impels them to thank God for every good thing that happens in their life. Knowing that Christ has us in mind and cares for us, we also learn to offer Him our bitter moments which we sometimes make even more bitter because we ignore that what Christ wants is to temper us through them ... and make us better Christians.

Provided everything at the Cursillo weekend is done as it should have been, everyone is truthful in the end.

Eduardo Bonnín