

Thoughts for Table Leaders

AS A TABLE LEADER YOU ARE:

1. **A Friend:** good listener, friendly, be yourself, open up
2. **A Mom:** tend to personal needs, hugs, love be ok with silence
3. **A Teacher:** be informed on Rollos, weekend structure, facility
4. **A Facilitator:** stimulate and guide, summarize discussions
5. **A Diplomatic:** demonstrate flexibility, reconcile, consistency
6. **A Coach:** keep time, focus discussions, give rewards

AS A TABLE LEADER YOU ARE NOT:

1. **A Counselor:** no psychoanalysis, focus on the spiritual
2. **A Clergy Member:** leave theology to the experts
3. **A Gossip:** what is said at this table stays here, team too
4. **A Troublemaker:** don't make it worse, forget your problems
5. **A Hermit:** you are not alone, use core team, other team
6. **GOD...His will, not yours, BE DONE.**

You are HIS INSTRUMENTS...

Remember, don't SCARE THE FISH!



ROLE OF THE TABLE COORDINATOR

The Cursillo team is a Christian community in action. Each member of the community has an important role to play, but no person is more important to the new Cursillista than his table coordinator.

The table coordinator has daily direct contact with the people at his table. His attitude of loving concern greatly affects the impression they form of the Cursillo.

Like every other team member, the table coordinator is there to serve the new Cursillistas. The welfare of the people at his table must be his concern at all time.

RELATING TO THE PEOPLE IN YOUR CARE

Be friendly and available to all the people at your table. It is only human to find some individual more attractive than others, but it is your duty as a table coordinator to make each person at the table feel that you are there to serve him and that you are sincerely interested in his welfare.

Be yourself! The new Cursillista may be ill at ease, especially the first day, but he will usually relax if he sees that you are natural and genuine.

Remember that the Lord has a unique gift or message for each person who makes the Cursillo. Don't expect everyone to respond the same way you did. Allow each person the freedom to be completely himself. Allow the Lord to work in His own way. Trust him to bring each person to Himself. The new cursillistas that you worry about, is the one who doesn't seem to be responding the right way, may be deeply touched by the Lord's love. So deeply touched that he simply does not show it the same way that others do.

THE WORK AT THE TABLE

Think about some open questions you can use to start discussion. An open question usually begins with what or how. "What do you think the Rollista meant when he said that an ideal is something that makes life worth living? How do you think the concept of an ecclesiastical team applies to your own life? What do you think is the most important aspect of a genuine piety?"

Try to avoid questions that can be answered by a simple yes or no. They just don't lead anywhere. Example "Do you think it is important to have an ideal?" Someone obligingly says, "Yes, it is very important." Everyone nods wisely and then silences.

Have the grasp of the Rollos before the Cursillo begins. Be aware of how they tie together. Take good notes as they tie together. Take good notes as they are given during the Cursillo. This is beneficial in two ways. Your own notes help you to get good discussion started. If they see you take notes, the new Cursillista will follow suit and then they have more to work from during discussion.

Participate in the discussions, but don't dominate them. If the table gets too far off the subject, and if it seems to be dead end, lead them back by asking an open question relating to some major point of the Rollo. If one person seems to be dominating the discussion, try to get others to participate by directing questions at them. *How do the rest of you feel about that? I'd like to hear what some of the others think about that.*

Some people are comfortable being silent. Don't push people unnecessarily. But be alert for the person who would like to talk and can't quite seem to get started. Ask an open question and look directly at him. Pause. Don't turn away. Sometimes that is all the encouragement he needs.

Encourage the new Cursillistas to write the summary. Try to persuade them to write short, concise summaries. One or two good sentences will often be all that is needed. They don't have to rewrite the Rollo.

SERVING THE NEW CURSILLISTAS

When refreshments are brought from the kitchen, get up and serve the people at your table. It's better if only a few people are up and about when people are carrying hot coffee. Also, don't hesitate to let the people at your table know that you are working on a Cursillo because you want to serve them. Please don't brag.

Try to stay at your table at all times. Never leave it unnecessarily. If you are the only table coordinator, and if you must leave, ask the Rector or alternate table coordinator to sit in for you while you are gone.

Watch for special needs. The kitchen can't handle all requests, but if someone forgot medicine or something vital, coordinate with the medical officers. They can usually arrange to have it delivered.

PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE AT YOUR TABLE BEFORE AND DURING THE CURSILLO.

Offer your work for their intention.

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE REST OF THE TEAM

Facilitate access to the Spiritual Directors. Don't try to solve spiritual problems yourself. Make sure the candidates know that the Spiritual Directors are there to serve also.

Direct any unusual requests to the Team Coordinator to the team coordinator only if the Rector is not available.

By the third day, the candidate has a good idea of what the Cursillo community is all about. Don't hesitate to let him/her know that the kitchen is the spiritual dynamo of the Cursillo, and that you depend upon their prayer and Palanca as much as you depend on their food, if not more.

Never, never discuss the table member's problem with others without his/her permission or at the very least, his knowledge that you are going to talk about it. And then only if there is a real reason for it and some purpose can be served by it. For example.

"I know you told me this in confidence, but I really feel I have an obligation to tell the team coordinator that you are intending to leave the Cursillo."

Be ready and willing to help in any task assigned to you by the team coordinator from time to time.

Be prompt in attending all meetings of the team.