PREPARATION FOR WRITING A ROLLO

NOTE: LAY TALK WORKBOOKS HAVE BEEN REVISED. MAKE SURE TO USE THE REVISED VERSION 2004

We are called to convey a special message and need to use the most practical means available to us as individuals and as a community. The talks are the common effort of the team in writing and in preparation. They are a spiritual mirror of what the team has done in all the weeks of meeting.

Pray, listen, and spend quiet time allowing the whole of your talk to flow in and around you. Answer the following questions:

- What am I all about? Whoever I am, I can cope with it – thru joy, pain, nervousness, fulfillment, etc. I cannot be false.

- What am I about in the Cursillo movement? I have to examine my conscience. Why am I involved in this kind of movement? Why am I involved in this Cursillo weekend? Why did I say “yes” when I could have said “no”?

- What is the Cursillo all about? You must be very open in trying to form yourself in the purpose, the essence and the mentality of the Cursillo movement. You must have a real, clear, and total commitment to it.

- What are the three days all about? What is the role and purpose of the three days. What kind of message do the three days present to the participant? Keep it in mind. It is not to make people intellectuals, but to present a factual, convincing, practical challenge to commit people to a Christian way of living, the life of grace. It helps us understand the role of laity in the church, the relationship between clergy and laity.

The gift of being apostolic is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We are apostolic because we are Christians. We have a commitment to our brothers and sisters in Christ. The proclamation of the Gospel is the apostolic proclamation of salvation through Jesus and is presented on this weekend by the witness of the speaker’s personal life.

Answering the following questions will help you prepare to write your talk by enabling you to see how your talk fits into the whole.

- Why is this Rollo included in the three days?
- Why is the Rollo presented when it is?
- How does the Rollo fit into the progressions of talks?
- What is the attitude of the participants at the time the Rollo is given.
- What are the major points the Rollo should cover.
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- What should the Rollo accomplish
- How much, if any at all, of the speaker’s personal witness should be brought into the Rollo?

- What is the attitude of the speaker in giving the Rollo? (serious, joyful etc)
- How does the Rollo relate to the ones which precede and follow it?
- What “type” of person should or should not give this Rollo?
- If the Rollo is a transition Rollo, how does it aid in the transition.

Giving a talk in the Cursillo weekend takes a special kind of discipline, humility, and technique. If a unified message is to come through, each speaker must cover the part of the job he/she is given to do in the way in which it is meant to be covered. There is a carefully worked out progression in the Cursillo talks. They build up a picture gradually from Friday morning to Sunday afternoon. It is crucial that each one be done right, in its own style, and not say too much. Each talk is meant to do a certain job in a certain way.

Simply stated: the points in the outline should all be made and no others. The progression of points is carefully worked out. If each speaker makes the points in the outline to his/her talk, a much more effective job will be done. If something is left out, a part of the picture will not come through. If more is added, it will usually obscure the purpose of the talk and the flow of the weekend.

It is important for each person giving a Rollo to read the introductory pages in the yellow book before you begin to write your Rollo.