

## **PIETY**

*Source: National Cursillo Center Mailing – September 2005*

In the last two mailings we have shared about the Ideal and Laity rollos. Following the sequence of the rollos (laity rollos), in this mailing we would like to share about one of the strong pillars which helps us to sustain our Christianity: Piety

The atmosphere, at the time of this rollo, the candidates may be very confused, because although they have been impacted by the ideas of the previous rollos, they don't see how they can manage to achieve this in a practical and specific way in their own lives.

Situation - It is the last rollo of the first day which completes the second phase of the Cursillo (Proclamation of the message) and prepares for the third phase – the conversion phase or development of the “Christian Life”. The Piety rollo, if it is handled well, is one of the most effective rollo of the Cursillo. It should be presented in such a way that the candidates may see in the leader the incarnation of the truths revealed in the “Habitual Grace” (currently called “Grace”) and “Actual Grace” rollo (currently called “Faith”) through the witness of his/her conviction and joy.

Piety is the rollo in which the participant's values are most often realigned. Piety is the orientation of our life towards God. The candidates begin to make the transition to putting God first in his/her life. The effect comes partly from the skillful handling of the false conceptions of Piety, however the rollista should not spend too much time on this subject (ten minutes maximum should be sufficient). This rollo must counteract the prejudices and false concepts regarding piety by pointing out its more ridiculous postures in a very graphic manner. The first false idea should be treated humorously; the second can have humor, but should be treated with sympathy. The third should be treated with strength. The false concepts single out images of what religion has been influencing the candidates, often subconsciously. Once these ideas are brought to consciousness, they can easily be disposed of. It is vital to firmly establish the true concept of piety and highlight the characteristic notes of true piety.

But the principal impact of the rollo comes from the personal witness of the rollista. In the rollista, the candidates see in a concrete way what it is to live a life of true piety. They see how successful and how attractive it can be. What before was meaningless or distasteful to them now becomes something they have seen not only as valuable and attractive, but possible.

The witness of the rollista's conversion and his/her progressive growth is given throughout the rollo. It is important to let the candidates hear that the rollista is an ordinary person, who lives a life much like their own. The rollista must keep in mind that the concept is not to shock; but to show how any person, even the candidates themselves, can turn to God and become "a new person".

The rollista is trying to convey to the candidates what it means to live totally for God. The rollista does not necessarily have to talk about a dramatic change, or a big conversion. Directing one's whole life to God is usually a process, and even if it involves

a dramatic change at one point, there are usually a number of other points where the rollista made significant improvements in their life.

The rollo is meant to be delivered with strength. The message should be kept simple, direct and to the point – the only adequate response to the gift of grace of God is to totally surrender to Him.

### **The Piety Rollo**

The re-Christianization of the world should be based upon: Piety, Study and Action.

Piety is: **The Orientation of our whole life Towards God; Authentic Ideal**

- **Orientation** - Precise understanding of what we place in the first plane
- **Of our whole life** - All our realities and possibilities
- **Towards God** - Transcendent understanding of our mission
- **Authentic Ideal** - Our life determined by God's conquest and our conquest of the world to God.

**The main points to be made on the rollo are:**

- Authentic Piety is a life of Grace that is conscious.
  - Conscious of the awareness that by Grace I am part of the Mystical Body of Christ
  - Conscious of God's love, and of the continued presence of Christ among us in the Eucharist.
  - Conscious that the hour has come to ask ourselves this question: Am I a living member of the Mystical Body of Christ, or a dead member? Am I a blockage (like a blood clot) not allowing it to reach to others?
- Authentic Piety is also a life of Grace that is growing.
  - Our relationship with God, our life of Grace, must be constantly growing.
  - Our life of Grace is growing for when we direct our lives to God, each act in our life increases our Grace, "Everything you do or say, then should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father" (Col. 3:17).
- Piety is life of Grace that is shared
  - Because we are Church, we allow ourselves to be truly present to others, to be God's channel of Grace.
  - Sharing our Christianity; sharing our Grace, being open to people and expressing to them the reason for our joy and happiness: **THAT GOD LOVES US!**
- Piety is life, and life is Knowing, Wanting and Doing.
  1. Knowing - What is done and the reason it's done, excluding routine, mechanical, unconscious, and irrational practices.
  2. Wanting – we want to live in conscious, growing grace, because we want to be saints now, this very moment.
  3. Doing – we serve our Lord doing what He asks of us, what He expect of us.

- Piety is the love for the Kingdom of God and service in the Kingdom of God.
  - That which is translated into the orientation of our whole life towards God.
- Piety is an Authentic Ideal. If the ideal is the sum of ideas, plans or goals that drive us to achieve an objective, our piety constitutes a true and complete ideal, since it is nothing less than the whole of our life dedicated to God. Piety then is the means to achieve our goal... Holiness.
- Piety must be lived:
  - a) Natural: We want our Christianity founded on our humanity; the confidence of a child in its Father.
  - b) Courageous: We know that the world belongs to God and that God “lends” it to the brave.
  - c) Strong: We are willing to acknowledge the faith that we profess, without blushing or caring what anyone thinks.
  - d) Joyful: We make the well-known phrase a reality: “A sad saint is a meaningless saint”.
- Our Piety life must be nourished
  - Just as all life is nourished by some kind of food, and one trains by doing, we practice our piety by means of some spiritual acts, the exercising of the Sacraments and offering everything we do to God. (Although this will be discussed in more detail on the rollo “Life in Grace”, the rollista should witness on how they have nourished their Spiritual life).
- The perfection of our piety will be the Apostolate, bringing alive this life in others.
  - We are generous and we want the best for others, so that Christ may live in them too; and their lives are directed totally towards God, living a life of Grace conscious and growing, living Christianity to its fullness.