

STUDY

Source: National Cursillo Center Mailing – December 2005

In this article I would like to share with you about the “Study” rollo, the second pillar where all Christian life should be sustained. The rollo in its essence is simple, however, it has been complicated and therefore, deviated – without any wrong intended of course – into two different ways: “*formation*” and “to know much”.

It Is Not To Know Much, But Rather To Love Much

When we speak about study in Cursillo, we are not referring to a “knowing” or “to know much”. Christianity that is living and intimate, must be based on some precisely known truths, dogmatically valued and sincerely felt. Our progressive integration into the Body of Christ requires a progression, the simple and sincere usage of our intelligence in order to know and assimilate the Gift of God and to project this into all things. In spite of this, the point of Christianity is not to know much, but rather to love much.

We Are Not Referring To A “Formation”

It is also necessary to remove the obsession for what has come to be called ‘formation’ - that is knowledge that illustrates but does not oblige; that can, awaken but not illuminate and that can destroy but not convince. What is intended with Cursillo is that the person that one intends to evangelize comes to regard the Lord freely, with conviction and the joy of discovery.

When the title of this rollo was changed from study to formation, little by little its context was also changed and therefore its original purpose pretended. Study is only a means to obtain a goal; the progressive integration and conformation of man in Christ. It would be a terrible error to turn it into a purpose. A means that bring about the discovery of the possibilities of the normal, living, and triumphant Christianization of our being; the reality of what it is to simply “*being Christian*”.

What Type Of Study Are We Then Referring? We are referring to the study which is necessary for the Christian to explain the reality of humanity and God.

Study. In our case, the application of intelligence is to know or discover the Gift of God and its projection in all things.

It Is Necessary for a Christian. In order that his works are the expression of his convictions and not just a customary ritual; and in order that his piety may become conscious and strong.

To Understand the Reality of Humanity – Person. This is the sum of our being and is the reason we have those doses of pride, cowardice, sinfulness, narrow-mindedness, and childishness which hinder our sanctification.

And of God: Who is a personal, living, omnipotent being, who wants the best for us, and has concrete hopes for each person.

But it is Only a Means: For the progressive integration and conformation of man in Christ, it would be a terrible error to turn it into a purpose.

That in Turn Requires the Use of Appropriate Means: Like books, magazines, other helpful artifacts, and some communal acts such as the group reunion and the Ultreya. The use of these means will help us produce the discovery of the possibilities of the normal, living, and triumphant Christianization of our being.

Some Aspects About The Rollo

It is the first rollo of the second day following a brief break after breakfast. Study is the second leg of the tripod where all Christian life is sustained. This rollo is not as vibrant as the Piety rollo, but also not purely cerebral. After this rollo the Rector takes an opportunity to remind the Cursillistas to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Atmosphere At The Time Of The Study Rollo

The atmosphere is one of enthusiasm. Normally the Cursillistas are hoping that the rest of the rollos continue with the vibrancy of the Piety rollo. The first two phases of Cursillo, the preparation and proclamation phases, are intended to put the Cursillistas face to face with themselves, now they may be ready for that encounter with the Christ shared in the morning meditation. Study plays a big part in facilitating the way for that Encounter. The serenity of the Study rollo places them on the authentic track of what the Cursillo is truly about.

The Message Of The Second Day

The Meditation “The Figure of Christ” starts the 3rd phase of the Cursillo: Conversion (or development of the Christian life), which sets the ground for the second encounter that Cursillo pretends, the “Personal Encounter with Christ”. The message of the rollos of the day and more important, the witnesses of the rollistas, should portray their personal relationship with Christ – Lord and Man. A Christ who is real, living, personal, present in the Eucharist and a friend who is close to us at every moment of our life. This is the Christ who is in the Tabernacle; once we get to know Him we must incarnate Him.

What we intend with the Study rollo is to instill in the Cursillistas the idea of a deeper Grace, but in a more conscious and enlightened manner, thus to be a “living testimony of our faith”. One tries to provide a Christian approach and use of their intelligence that places before them a realizable perspective of the Christianization of their person and circumstances.

The Central Message Of The Rollo

The central message and essence of the rollo is found in the section “object of the study”. The object of our study is centered, condensed, and synthesized in the words of St. Augustine: “*Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know You*”.

To know ourselves. Understanding the reality of humanity is the sum of our being and is

the reason we have those moments of pride, cowardice, sinfulness, narrow-mindedness, and childishness which hinder our sanctification. These are openings through which these things enter and keep us from being the saints that God wants us to be.

To know God. God is not a problem solver, a prayer answerer... but nevertheless, is: a personal Being; alive; an optimist for us; someone who wants the best for us; Omnipotent.

Purpose of Study:

It is clear that it is necessary to Study, but we should not give it more importance of what it is. No one should just study for the sake of studying. Study is only a means and should not be made as an end. Like a doctor who studies a series of things, not to know them, but to cure illnesses, to save lives and make a living. We want to study to resolve all the problems in our lives in the light of our Christianity. The purpose of our study is to provide an authentic apostolic formation for the Christian.

Formation: Formation is to give form. It is more than information; it is the exercise and perfection of our Christian virtues. Works are what give form to our lives.

Apostolic: Study is the aim of action. The Church needs militant Catholics who base their action on piety (knees) and direct it through study (intelligence). We are called to project into our environment these virtues we have acquired and exercised. The seller must know something about the product and the buyer. In order for our actions to be effective, we must know Christ and the people we want to spread His message to. By knowing more about Christ and our brothers, we are then better able to serve the Lord in spreading His message to them. We can say that an hour of study is an hour of prayer.

Christianity Is Not Just A Way Of Life, But Life Itself

Christianity is not an outfit made up of liturgical practices, prayers, medals, and alms that one wears. We do not work so that Christians will go to Mass on Sundays, not say bad words, or become good people... we work so that all may become modern day saints in their everyday lives.