

## Condensed Outlines for each Sp. Dir. Rollo & Meditation

### I. Meditation Outlines (Generally read out of Sp. Dir. book - see Meditations section for full text)

#### "Know Yourself"

What is a meditation?  
Matthew 6:26-34 - How do you think the disciples reacted to this?  
We each need times for reflection.  
Luke 10: 41-42 - the Martha syndrome  
We can challenge and change by asking fundamental questions.  
Socrates, "Know yourself."  
Augustine, "That I may know you, O Lord, and that I may know myself.  
The Via de Cristo - Fill our heads with ideas and our hearts with fire!

#### "Waiting Father"

Christ pictures God in the parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-24  
Every man's story.  
The cruel insult.  
Father's release "He can never be mine by force."  
The mad search for satisfaction in things and fun.  
The difficulty and decision to return.  
The incredible joyful welcome.

#### "Three Glances"

Introduction - eyes as instruments of communication  
Rich young ruler - Mark 10: 17-22  
Why can't we trust Jesus instead of ourselves?  
Judas - John 6:66-71  
What keeps us from seeing Jesus' glance of love?  
Peter - Mark 14:27-31 - trust in himself  
Luke 22:54-62, but he repented and we have John 21:15-17  
What does Jesus see in our hearts? Our minds? What do we see?

#### "The Figure of Christ"

John 1: 1-26  
How can we truly know Jesus?  
Jesus is truly God. Jesus is truly man.  
Jesus subject to all the things of humanity. Jesus the one mediator. Philippians 2:8-11  
Jesus our brother

#### "Christ's Message to the Participant"

Who brought you here? God!  
Mountaintops are lived and then shared.  
Go -- bear fruit.  
The strength is Christ in us.  
Be in community and receive by giving.  
Continue this work.  
Go renew your community!

## II. Spiritual Director Rollos

**a. Overall:** Please note that what you see here is meant to help you see how your talk(s) fit into the entire weekend. The idea is to help us all avoid “overlapping” into areas where others will speak during the weekend. It is not a rigid outline that you must follow in any sense. Your talk is your talk.

### b. Habitual Grace

**1. Intent:** In the Ideal talk, no attempt was made to point out any concrete ideal. In this talk we are presented with God's supreme ideal: that all of His children might live in His grace and love. This is an intensely important talk, because it constitutes the doctrinal nucleus of all the others. The other pastors' talks build upon the central truth of God's habit of gracing us, while the lay talks show in detail how this life in grace is to be lived. The doctrine of this talk can be summed up in the notion that our heavenly Father, through His Son and His Spirit, has given us a share in His own divine life. Thus we are members of the family of our Father, living as brothers and sisters, with Christ as our brother. This was done not based on any merit we have, but solely on his divine nature.

#### 2. Outline:

- Introduction
- The Nature of grace
- The Story of grace in Genesis (Adam and Eve)
- What is grace?
- The three R's of God's grace
- Revelation of God's grace
- Rudiments of God's grace
- Results of God's grace
- Conclusion

### c. Actual Grace

**1. Intent:** The call to action in the Laity talk can make the listeners feel inadequate to the task, so we are reminded that we have not been left alone in our efforts to live a dynamic Christian life. Through faith, the same grace that showers blessings on us indiscriminately is channeled in special ways to us by God's Spirit in our midst. The Holy Spirit lives and works in us, enlightening our minds and inspiring our will. The Holy Spirit works in various ways through various means, such as the reading of scripture, preaching, the sacraments, fellowship, etc., to call, gather, enlighten and make us holy, enabling us to be active ministers, a part of the priesthood of all believers. As the body of Christ we are all in this together, encouraging, up-building, nurturing, and exhorting each other through prayer and fellowship. Palanca is the spiritual "lever" of prayer and sacrifice on the weekend and in our ministry. When "Palanca" is introduced, it is a wonderful surprise for many of the participants and can be very moving to them. Until this time, for many participants, the weekend has been uninspiring. For many, this active God is a new experience, and for some, may cause strong emotions. We ought not to interfere; let the Spirit work as the Spirit wills in the participants.

#### 2. Outline:

- Introduction
- How does God help us live the life of grace?
- Why do we need God's help?
- When does God help us?
- How does God help us?
- How much help does God give?
- Responsibility
- Role of prayer in asking for God's help
- Palanca (“Lever”): Definition and actual examples
- Conclusion

#### **d. A Day in the Life (Sacraments Talk)**

**1. Intent:** In this talk we speak of word and sacraments as God himself intervening in our human history and in our human lives in three different stages of time:

- 1) the wonderful works of God among the people of the Old Testament;
- 2) the work of Christ in redeeming humanity, in particular His death and resurrection; and
- 3) the work of Christ in His continuing redemption, making himself present to us through His Church, and in particular ("for you") through the sacraments.

Following the theme of the day, this talk is centered on Christ. The means of grace are how Christ personally touches us, making God's forgiveness ours. The listeners also see themselves as having a sacrament-like quality in that they bear God's grace to others.

#### **2. Outline: (Note: there is a break in the middle of this 2 hour rollo between the parts)**

1) Part one:

Introduction: means of grace  
Jesus is the means of grace  
Word and sacrament as means of grace  
Word of God

2) Part two:

Holy Baptism  
Holy Communion  
Sacramental character of the Christian life  
Conclusion: the mark of the cross

#### **e. Obstacles to Grace**

**1. Intent:** The purpose of this talk is to remind us of the real difficulties that we will meet in living the life of grace. The talk is to be totally positive and constructive. The life of the believer is presented as a joyful and triumphant living in grace in spite of the obstacles we face. The commandments, like the laws of nature, are not meant to be a burden, but a positive guide. Having been obeyed perfectly by Christ; the commandments are obeyed by us as a way of responding to God's grace. Sin is failure to love as we should. Obstacles are seen as tests of our love and are really meanders to love God more through our neighbor. Obstacles are: the devil, the world, and our own flesh, but the greatest obstacles are found in ourselves as attitudes of our mind and heart that frustrate our life and growth in grace (for example, indifference, misunderstanding of real life, not knowing ourselves). The talk is not a tirade against sin, nor does it go into any particular moral problems.

#### **2. Outline:**

Introduction  
Definition  
God's plan  
Man's sin and obstacles to grace: "The Devil, The World and the Flesh"  
God's remedy for our obstacles  
Conclusion

#### **f. Life in Grace**

**1. Intent:** At this point in the weekend we are beginning to wonder how we are ever going to maintain, in our daily lives, the awareness of Christ that we are experiencing during these three days. This talk tells us the answer is found in the practices of our own piety. The practices themselves are only the means of maintaining a conscious and growing awareness of Christ in our lives. The purpose of the talk is to explain each one of the practices of piety, study and action, and to show us how to make them a part of our daily spiritual life. We are invited to set up our own plan for our spiritual life and to promise Christ that we will follow it to insure our perseverance after the weekend. We are reminded that this is just the beginning. We will grow and deepen our spiritual lives. We will get new insights into living the life of Christ. So our practices of piety will also change and take on new forms, to keep pace with our spiritual growth.

**2. Outline:**

Introduction: how can we keep this faith alive?

What is this life in grace?

A plan to deepen this grace life:

- Piety
- Study
- Action

Conclusion

**III. Summary points for preparing a talk (from National VdC booklet for all who give rollos)**

1. It is presumed that you are living what you teach.
2. What is not studied is not known. What is not known cannot be communicated.
3. What is not lived is not experienced. What is not experienced cannot be shared.
4. The text of a rollo is built on prayer, study, knowledge, and experience.
5. Consider the 14/15 talks of the Via de Cristo as one talk, of which you have a part, therefore cover only your part.
6. A rollo should be attuned to all - keep it clear, bright, and within the grasp of everyone.
7. Each rollo to be effective depends on its:
  - a. objective (the main points of the outline)
  - b. style (the manner in which it is given)
  - c. situation (how it relates to the other talks)
  - d. environment (the general feeling of the participants at the time of the rollo)
  - e. technique (how the material is presented)
8. Each rollo does two things:
  - a. explains part of a picture.
  - b. inspires the participants to do what is presented.
9. Examples should be used with care. Use only examples that explain the point, and that are relevant.
10. The rollo is not given to simply say something good, but to say what must be said.
11. Each rollo progresses from low key on the first day to high on the third day. Keep the rollo on the proper key.
12. Don't make the rollo confusing, with too many details and examples - the main points must stand out.
13. The most efficient speaker is the one who knows where the rollo is leading. Give the participants a road to follow without sidetracking.
14. Read again the outline for the rollo. Determine the main points. Study them. Write down the main points. Fill in with details and examples. Their use will depend on the rollo's objective, style, situation, environment, and technique.
15. If the outlines are followed, the points will be made, provided they are understood by the speaker.