

Music on the Weekend

A Guide to Planning Music for a Via de Cristo Weekend



Produced by the Publication Committee of the
National Lutheran Secretariat for Via de Cristo©

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Preface

This booklet has been prepared as a resource to assist you in planning the music for your weekend. It offers suggestions to enhance the progression of the weekend. Please feel free to adapt these suggestions as the Lord guides, and according to the traditions and practices determined by your Secretariat.

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Music on the Weekend

Music is dynamic of the Via de Cristo Weekend. It is much more than a time filler or tension reliever. As has been well said by Martin Luther, “Next to the word of God, music is the highest.” Note the strategic placement of music for the weekend:

- ❖ In the chapel of course, but also before rollos
- ❖ Singing before we eat, and the power of the community serenade
- ❖ Awakened for our Third Day by singing
- ❖ Welcomed into the Community at Clausura by singing

All music selected should heighten and enrich the Via de Cristo experience. It should punctuate the progression of each day and sum up the entire weekend. We are gently wooed to Jesus through the progression of the weekend, and the music should match where we are at any particular point. Please remember that Jesus may choose a song to be the moment of first introduction of Himself to the candidate; it often happens that way. Our music must pace itself with the weekend material. Suggested songs for each rollo are included with instructions to Music Cha later.

The primary quality sought in a Music Cha is enthusiasm and relative comfort in leading the singing. Playing an instrument is NOT a requirement. Actually, in group singing, the instrument is to introduce the pitch or first note and to provide the rhythm. If a Music Cha feels comfortable in her ability to hit pitch and set the rhythm, that is all that is necessary. There is certainly no need for professional level talent. With the team also familiar with the songs (because of the team training) the Music Cha will have plenty of help. Although a guitar or banjo is often used, any instrument is acceptable: for example, piano or keyboard.

Before the weekend the Rector and Head Music Cha should decide what songs will be sung during the weekend and a general idea as to when. Since many of the songs will be new to the candidates, they need to be repeated several times throughout the weekend. The better the candidates know a song, the more likely they will be to get into the song and the greater probability that it can speak to them. If there is a serenade, and the songs are already familiar to the candidates, the change in voices can be particularly effective. Before a serenade the Rector should confer with the serenade coordinator.

The character of each day is important in song selection. Thursday Night (if any music is used) we want “getting together” type songs, those most people are familiar with and social in nature. These songs will assist the candidates in relaxing; good secular songs are appropriate. On Friday the theme of the day is the ideal of Christians living a life of grace. It is low key, with songs encouraging community, and which are easy to teach.

The theme of Saturday is the grace filled life made possible by the love and character of Jesus. So, songs about grace, Jesus, and His character, are appropriate. Saturday is the time for-emotionally charged songs, and there is time for teaching songs. Sunday's theme is the candidate's presence in the world and their relationship to others. Songs of this day bring the world back in; they should be positive, and bring the candidates to the great challenge before them. Songs about the Holy Spirit, consecration, perseverance and holiness fit well into the theme.

Always consult with the Spiritual Director who is presiding at worship about songs for worship. Instrumental accompaniment is at a minimum during chapel. At no time should any copyright law be violated by a Via de Cristo associate. The law is very specific, and we will not break the law. If you plan to reproduce any words or music, check with your Secretariat for specific copyright requirements to do so. They have been furnished a copy of the latest reproduction requirements. If a special song occurs to a rector during the weekend, of course feel free to add it. More often than not it is Spirit inspired and God always knows what He is doing.



Music Leader

Music is one of the very essential elements in the Via de Cristo weekend. As evidence of the precious respect for our music, note the critical placement of music within the structure of the weekend. We are serenaded at dinner, not simply fed a delightful and carefully prepared meal. We are gently called to our Third Day of the Weekend by beautiful singing. We are not simply welcomed into the Fourth Day Community by a crowd of loving people and applause ... we are welcomed with song. And we all certainly suffered through the agony of perfecting DeColores. Music is an integral part of our corporate worship. Even our Rollistas are welcomed into the Rollo Room community with a song.

The music should heighten and enrich the Via de Cristo experience. It should punctuate the progression of each day, as well as that of the entire weekend. It is more than a way to fill time or release tension.

We are being very gently wooed to Jesus through the progression of the Weekend. Music is one of the very critical dynamics in the process. The music that we present at any one time during the weekend should be carefully considered within the framework of the progression of the weekend. We must always keep foremost in our mind that a song may be the way Jesus meets any one candidate at any particular time within the weekend. Our music must keep pace with the progression ... with Jesus's gently revealing Himself.

The first task that you, as the Music Leader, have is to acquaint yourself thoroughly with the material written about the progression of the weekend. An understanding of the dynamics of the Weekend will make you sensitive as to where to position music during the weekend and when to introduce a song. You should then acquaint yourself with as much of the music in the songbook as possible. Only then can you, begin the process of sifting out the music you want to use for your weekend and make a choice of when and where to introduce it.

The selection process can best begin with the songs you choose for the team meetings. This is the ideal time to introduce songs that are not frequently sung. This is also a good time for the Music Leader to teach some background about the songs, to work out the kinks in various songs, to present any special styles or approaches of a particular song. This will equip the team to help you in your teaching of the music to the candidates.

The Music Leader begins, during the team meetings, to notice the dynamics involved in music selection. You will understand how to place a song within worship ... what is an appropriate gathering song, a communion song ... what songs simply do not fit the context of the Eucharist at all ... how might a song be sung differently when used as a communion hymn. You may also tie your music in with the liturgical season being celebrated during your team meetings and, thereby, discover another vantage point for looking at the music. The Music Leader should be aware of the lectionary used at each Eucharist and should select music that is compatible with it and which heightens the experience of the spoken word.

All during team training, the Music Leader is learning the selection process. You are also thinking about the team and what music best fits its particular character. Careful attention to song selection for the team meetings will facilitate the selection process for your Weekend music.

When you are ready to begin the process, acquire a complete schedule from your Rector of the weekend so that you know when music is planned each day and about how much time is allotted. Now you must also recognize that you need two types of music: social and Eucharistic. "This Land Is Your Land" is a social song; "Let Us Break Bread Together" is Eucharistic. Then you must divide the songs you want to use among the three days with careful attention to fitting the songs to the theme of the day and enhancing the emotional impact being created by that theme. Also consider references to any songs mentioned in a Rollo.

A word of caution here: All of this planning of music does not mean there is no room for spontaneity. But this careful preparation and thorough knowledge of the Progression makes the spontaneous song much easier to handle with grace. It fine tunes your instinct and allows you much more freedom to respond.

Now, let's look at the specific character of each day. If music is used at all on Thursday night you need "getting together" type songs, songs that may be familiar to many of the candidates when they arrive and are social in nature. These are songs that unite the group and help make the candidates comfortable. They are songs that put people at ease — which do not threaten them.

Themes for Each Day

Friday...	"The Ideal of the Christian Living the Life of Grace"
Saturday...	"The Grace-Filled Life"
Sunday...	"The Candidates' Presence in the World and his/her Relations with Others"

The overall theme of the first day, Friday, can be expressed as "**The Ideal of the Christian Living the Life of Grace.**" This day is low key! The music should not be emotionally intense threatening. It should present the idea of community, since that is what we're in the process of carefully building throughout the day. The music on Friday should center on the ideal of the Christian life. It should speak to the reality of Grace in our lives. It should comfort and unite. It should present the image of a world transformed by the Christian ideal. It should also be, as much as possible, easy to teach.

On Saturday, the theme of the day is "**The Grace Filled Life,**" made active by the love and character of Jesus. The music this day speaks directly to the reality of Jesus Christ here among us, with us, loving us. The songs reveal the character of Jesus the man, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Lover, and the Footwisher. By now the community has been formed, and they are ready to receive Jesus into their midst. They are ready to sing, "Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord," and respond that "He's Here In Plain View." They are ready to greet a Lord who carried a cross to show us how much He loved us. The community is fully centered within itself. The candidates are protected from the intrusion of the outside world because they still have one more day before they must go back to it. If there is a time for very emotionally charged music, this is it! It's safe to cry. It's safe to allow the emotion of a song transport you to a greater depth and perception because the community is there, and because the person of Jesus is there and He loves you. You also have time to teach more demanding songs. The candidates have begun to enjoy the singing and aren't afraid to tackle something new and more difficult. They know you now and trust you to teach them well.

The theme of the third day is "**The Candidates Presence in the World and his Relations with Others.**" He/she has met Jesus and knows and trusts Him. Now he/she needs to look at the world with this transformed vision. The songs this day should bring the world back in. They should carry the candidates back to his/her world. They should tell him/her about opening his window and passing it on. He/she has been to his/her mountaintop. Now he/she has to look out and around and bring a bit of the mountain top back to the world. The music on Sunday should be "up" and joyful and should speak to the marvelous possibilities that are ahead for the renewed candidates. And remember that the candidate is tired and vulnerable, and in need of your joy and your encouragement.

Music is an incredibly beautiful dynamic in the wonderful framework of a Via de Cristo Weekend. Cherish it and let yourself be used as an instrument to enrich this experience for everyone present. Let the love of God permeate the musical offering that you as the Music Leader have to bring to you weekend. A few special things to remember for the musician to remember are:

1. You are the message as much as the song itself. Stress to ALL team members that the most beautiful of songs can fall flat if people's hearts are not in the message. Their body language and "invisible selves" will give them and you away.
 2. You must be comfortable with whatever songs you sing, or whatever actions you do. A "really neat thing" that someone else did with a song may not work for you if you're not comfortable with it. BE YOURSELF AND GOD WILL USE YOU! "Comfortable" can also be achieved by being more familiar with the music. If new songs are introduced, it should be during the team building process, not on the weekend itself.
 3. In music the term "joyful" does not always mean loud and/or fast. Joyful means intense which comes from the hearts and souls of people. This is especially true in serenades. The excitement can be in your voices and the songs can remain a serenade and not become a reveille.
 4. If someone says that they learned a particular song another way (implying the correct way), it's okay. Tell them that one of the beautiful aspects of music is that there are many variations in the tunes. Let them know that you are happy to give them the opportunity to learn another variation. (Even John Denver doesn't sing his songs the same way he wrote them!)
 5. Problems with specific words in songs, i.e., brothers/sisters/neighbors/etc. This usually must be confronted on women's weekends. Please keep in mind that copyrighted songs must always be reprinted with the original words. Face the issue, and change "brothers" to "sisters" if you wish. Treat the subject lightly as possible and let the candidates choose whatever words they care to sing. If you make one or the other mandatory, it may get difficult. Who really cares anyway if some are singing "neighbors," and others are singing "sisters" or "brothers"? If you're not up tight about the issue, no one else will be either (at least not for very long).
 6. Be flexible with your song schedule and be aware of what is going on around you on the weekend. As the weekend progresses into Sunday, you may feel that a particular song for Sunday seems more appropriate than one on your schedule. Feel free to change the schedule. You'll probably find that the Spirit is right — God knows what He is doing.
 7. Your primary duty is Music Leader; however, in slow periods the Head Cha may assign other tasks to you. Perform them as cheerfully and enthusiastically as you perform your favorite song!
- One final note for information only. The word "amateur" comes from the word "love." A good motto is "Whatever I lack in talent, I make up for in enthusiasm." If you have any doubts about your abilities, remember this — your message is your love! The candidates will remember your love longer than they will remember (or care) whether or not you missed an F#.

The Dynamics of Music

Music is an important dynamic used throughout the weekend. It is vital to Via de Cristo, certainly not something “tagged on.”

The dictionary defines “dynamic” as a force producing motion. Singing is a force that causes people to become involved. It’s a good way to build community. It creates an atmosphere and teaches about a message. This begins at the team meetings. It’s important that the team members be enthusiastic in their singing to draw the candidates in. Some of the candidates will hold back at first, but by Sunday morning they may be the most enthusiastic singers there.

The most important thing a music leader can do is “be yourself.” It’s better to be awkward and real than to be polished and phony. A loving attitude is far more important than one’s musical or singing abilities.

1. Music as a way of communicating.

- a. Singing is communicating at the deepest level. It helps people connect with, themselves and then with others.
- b. Singing gets the physical side connected with the thinking side to provide personal wholeness. It is one of the most powerful and fastest “glues” or “tools” for bringing about this connection.
- c. Singing allows people to give expression to their feelings.
- d. It brings people together in a common language. It’s also a terrific “ice breaker” and helps relieve tension.

2. Creating an atmosphere for participation

- a. What do you want to have happen? You don’t make people sing. You set up the atmosphere and allow them to sing. It’s already a part of everybody.
- b. Singing creates an atmosphere for learning. It opens up people to give and take.
- c. Songs should be appropriate for the occasion or subject under discussion.
- d. People need to feel at ease to sing. Create an atmosphere that is safe, non-intimidating and supportive. One of the ways to put the candidates at ease and eliminate the feeling of intimidation is by the use of songbooks or songsheets. Everyone should use a songbook, even if those who know the song from memory. (This includes the Music Leader).
- e. Music is not the problem when people won’t sing. If there is a problem, it is usually the attitude of the Leaders and atmosphere. Leaders allow folks to sing and let go. Good group dynamics are practiced when there is a blend of enthusiasm, a willingness to be lighthearted, and then not trying so hard. An atmosphere will then be created for involvement, and folks will sing naturally.

What follows is a list of appropriate song suggestions for different times. It is intended as a helpful resource and is not all-inclusive. Some songs are more appropriate than others. Keep in mind that some songs affect men and women differently. Team meetings will be helpful in determining the unique character of each weekend.

Remember that the list below is by no means “all inclusive” of music that can be used in connection with these rollos. There are many other songs that are appropriate to the rollos. This list is provided as an indication of types of songs that stay within the flow of the weekend at that particular time.

Songs for Worship

Abba Father*	Alleluia
Bind Us Together*	Every Morning Is Easter Morning*
God Is So Good	I Am the Bread of Life*
Borning Cry*	Jesus My Lord*
Just As I Am*	Let Us Break Bread Together
Lift High the Cross*	Morning Has Broken
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord*	Surely the Presence*
Weave*	Here I Am Lord*
Amazing Grace	They'll Know We Are Christians
This Is My Father's World	Beautiful Savior
Blessed Assurance	Christ the Lord is Risen Today
He's Got the Whole World	How Great Thou Art
I Am the Light of the World	I Am the Resurrection
Jesus Loves Me	Kum Ba Ya
Lord, the Light of Your Love	Open Our Eyes, Lord*
Our God Reigns*	Pass It On
Seek Ye First	Something Beautiful
Spirit of the Living God	The Old Rugged Cross*
Through the Love	What a Friend We Have In Jesus
Let The Son of God Enfold You*	I Love You, Lord

** Not suggested for Friday*

Song Suggestions for Each Talk

Ideal

The Church Within Us
Seek Ye First
Softly and Tenderly

I Have Decided
They'll Know We Are Christians
Morning Has Broken

Grace

Amazing Grace
God Is So Good
Borning Cry
Softly and Tenderly
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Kum Ba Ya

Father, I Adore You
He's Got the Whole World
Jesus Loves Me
This Is My Father's World
They'll Know We Are Christians

Laity

The Church Within Us
Have Thine Own Way
Pass It On
This Little Light of Mine
Here I Am Lord
In Christ There Is No East or West

Give Me Oil in My Lamp
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
Seek Ye First
When the Saints Go Marching In
They'll Know We Are Christians

Grace in Action

Abba Father Send Your Spirit
Pass It On
Softly and Tenderly
Borning Cry

Spirit of the Living God
God Is So Good
Freely, Freely
Jesus Loves Me

Piety

Abba Father	Father, I Adore You
Give Me Oil in My Lamp	Have Thine Own Way Lord
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	Pass It On
Lift High the Cross	Prayer of St. Francis
Seek Ye First	Something Beautiful
Spirit of the Living God	This Little Light of Mine
Here I Am Lord	They'll Know We Are Christians

Study

Abba Father	Abba Father Send Your Spirit
Give Me Oil In My Lamp	Have Thine Own Way Lord
Open Our Eyes Lord	Seek Ye First

Day In the Life or Means of Grace

Amazing Grace	Beautiful Savior
Be Not Afraid	Blessed Assurance
Bind Us Together	Christ the Lord Is Risen
Today	Every Morning is Easter Morning
Father, I Adore You	God Is So Good
How Great Thou Art	I Am the Bread of Life
Borning Cry	Jesus Loves Me
Jesus My Lord	Just As I Am
Kum Ba Ya	Lift High the Cross
Lord the Light of Your Love	Majesty
Open Our Eyes Lord	Our God Reigns
Sing Hallelujah To The Lord	Softly and Tenderly
Spirit of the Living God	Surely the Presence of the Lord
The Old Rugged Cross	Through the Love
Weave	Were You There
What A Friend We Have in Jesus	Here I Am Lord

Action

Abba Father Send Your Spirit	Bind Us Together
Every Morning Is Easter Morning	Give Me Oil in My Lamp
He's God the Whole World in His Hands	I Am the Light of the World
In Christ There is no East or West	Jesus My Lord
Lift High the Cross	Lord the Light of Your Love
Let the Son of God Enfold You	Pass It On
Prayer of St. Francis	This is My Father's World
This Little Light of Mine	Weave
Here I Am Lord	They'll Know We Are Christians

Obstacles To Grace

Abba Father Send Your Spirit	Be Not Afraid
Bind Us Together	Have Thine Own Way Lord
I Am the Bread of Life	I Am the Light of the World
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	Jesus Loves Me
Just As I Am	Lord the Light of Your Love
Let the Son of God Enfold You	Pass It On
Prayer of St. Francis	Seek Ye First
Something Beautiful	Weave
Through the Love	

Leaders

Abba Father Send Your Spirit	The Church Within Us
Give Me Oil In My Lamp	Have Thine Own Way Lord
I Am the Light of the World	Jesus My Lord
Lift High the Cross	Lord The Light of Your Love
Pass It On	Prayer of St. Francis
This Little Light of Mine	Weave
O Let the Son of God Enfold You	Here I Am Lord

Environments

Abba Father	Abba Father Send Your Spirit
The Church Within Us	Give Me Oil In My Lamp
I Am the Light of the World	Jesus My Lord
Lift High the Cross	Lord the Light of Your Love
Pass It On	Prayer of St. Francis
O Let the Son of God Enfold You	Surely the Presence
This Is My Father's World	This Little Light of Mine
Weave	Here I Am Lord
They'll Know We Are Christian	

Life In Grace

Amazing Grace	Be Not Afraid
Blessed Assurance	Bind Us Together
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today	Every Morning Is Easter Morning
Father I Adore You	God Is So Good
How Great Thou Art	I Am the Bread of Life
I Am the Light of the World	I Am the Resurrection
Borning Cry	Jesus Loves Me
Jesus My Lord	Just As I Am
Kum Ba Ya	Lift High the Cross
Lord the Light of Your Love	Majesty
Open Our Eyes, Lord	Our God Reigns
Sing Hallelujah to the Lord	Softly and Tenderly
Spirit of the Living God	Surely the Presence
Through the Love	Weave
Were You There	What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Here I Am Lord	O Let the Son of God Enfold You

Christian Community in Action

Bind Us Together	The Church Within Us
Every Morning Is Easter Morning	Freely, Freely
Give Me Oil in My Lamp	Here I am, Lord
I Am the Light of the World	Lift High the Cross
In Christ there Is No East or West	Pass It On
Prayer of St. Francis	Spirit of the Living God
Surely the Presence	They'll Know We Are Christians
Weave	

Total Security and/or Fourth Day

Be Not Afraid	Bind Us Together
Surely the Presence	Jesus My Lord
Weave	They'll Know We Are Christians

Please note: Not all of the songs listed above are included on the Church Copyright License List (CCLI). Before using any song, be sure to determine legality of its method of reproduction.

Appendix

Proper Licensing of Music Used on the Weekend

(Some notes from the 1996 Annual Meeting of the NLS)

It is essential that music reproduction and the limitations imposed by copyright licensing laws, regulations, restriction, and available resources be undertaken within copyright law. The National Lutheran Secretariat is unable to provide a “blanket” copyright licensing for all of our member Secretariats. Proper duplication, dissemination, and control of music resources is a responsibility that rightly rests with the individual Secretariats. CCLI, LicenSing or any other licensing service should be used.

Improper and illegal copying of music is a poor reflection of the Christian message central to Via de Cristo. Therefore, the place of the National Lutheran Secretariat, in its capacity as an advisory body to the member Secretariats, is provide basic guidance as to what is legal and what is illegal in the dissemination of music, both for weekend and 4th Day use.

The best method of preventing illegal dissemination of music is through the purchase of pre-published songbooks and collections of music. The negative aspects of this method are a) cost; b) lack to total inclusivity of desired songs; c) lack of ability to add selections as new songs are introduced.

The production of individual music resources by the Secretariats, with copyright compliance assured through purchase of a “blanket license” such as is offered by Church Copyright Licensing, Inc. is strongly encouraged. The negative aspects of this method, besides the investment of time and effort, include the fact that not all songs desired are currently covered under CCLI. In this case, each individual publisher of uncovered songs must be contacted and the individual copyright paid on an annual basis. The diversity of size, scope, and preference of each individual Secretariat represented by the Committee’s members precluded any consensus appropriate to all on this issue. It was felt that the National Lutheran Secretariat could only stand in an information-dissemination position, and an encourager of legal process on the licensing issue.

Among the resources investigated was a brochure entitled “Copyright Law and the Local Church.” In simple question and answer form, it covers all but the most exotic issues in legal dissemination of published music. If not included in this book, it is available from .

WHAT IS PALANCA?

There are many questions about palanca, and because it is such an important part of a Cursillo weekend, this information is offered with the hope of answering some of them.

What does the word mean? Palanca is used to illustrate the Spanish word “intendencia”. Palanca means the prayer and sacrifice which is offered to God to obtain something. The Spanish word means “lever”. It came to be used to describe “intendencia” (prayer and sacrifice) because a lever allows a person to move things which are beyond his strength, just as prayer and sacrifice allows an apostle to accomplish more than we would otherwise be capable of accomplishing. Because of the Spanish heritage of Cursillo and because there is no literal interpretation in English of the word palanca, other than of “lever”, the word palanca remains.

What is good palanca? It comes in the visible and the invisible. Needless to say, the visible is a sight to behold – like the loaves and fishes multiplying. Food is a great part of palanca, but there is much more. Banners, letters from faraway places, flowers, etc., are seen by the Weekenders in their “physical” form. Included also are the efforts of all the teams to make the Weekend a success. Then there is the invisible – the spiritual palanca. It makes its greatest impression through a sacrifice of time, effort of prayers and offerings of love. It might be a letter saying, “I am praying for you at a certain time each day”, or “We are celebrating Eucharist for you this weekend”.

While palanca may be from an individual, a particular church, or a renewal group, it is always intended for all the Cursillistas. For, palanca to one particular person strays from the concept that “all are loved”. Individual palanca is saved and presented to that person on Sunday afternoon.

How else can you help with palanca? Palanca is providing transportation and being a sponsor, washing dishes for a specific meal, baking bread for a meal, making desserts for a meal, helping break down the dorms on Sunday morning, running a vacuum cleaner after the Clausura, ad infinitum. There is so much to do and when everyone pitches in, the load is lightened for the teams.

Following are ideas of specific palanca, sometimes known as Angel Crew tasks.

Thursday set up and Sunday breakdown. These are big jobs and the 4th Day Rector needs help.

Kitchen help – doing dishes after a meal, making a dish for a meal, or clean up after the Agape Dinner. After Sunday lunch is a great time to help as this allows the kitchen team to attend the 4th Day Eucharist.

Palanca letters to the weekenders or little gifts with bible verses etc. to be placed in palanca bags given out at the end of the Clausura.

Banners, posters, notes. Little gifts which will defray Weekend costs – folders for the Rollo Room, markers, canned food or fresh food items for a meal.

A check to the “Utah Via de Cristo” community in the name of the Weekend

Gifts of time, talents and sacrifice.

Prayer as Palanca is so powerful that it must be in a category by itself. Time and talent don't substitute for a chance to talk with God. You do not have to be on your knees, in the church. You can be mowing a lawn, driving on the highway, or cooking a meal. There are endless opportunities to simply say “Dear Lord, please be in the hearts and minds of the Cursillistas this weekend. Let them see love as I did. Amen”

THE ROLE OF THE ROLLO ROOM TEAM

Our real purpose as a team is to:

1. Give the Weekenders an experience in community living
2. Let the Weekenders know through us what it means to be loved by God.

Our obligation as team members then is to learn to know the Weekenders and to show them that we love them – exactly as they are – and the work begins when the first Weekender arrives on Thursday night and continues throughout the Weekend; not just at the tables during the talks and discussions but at meal times, in the dorm rooms, in the hallways during the breaks – constantly.

The Cursillo is for the Weekenders – not the team members. The team is the core in forming Christian community during the three days.

Your work begins immediately on Thursday night. The role of the team member is to talk to the Weekenders create a welcoming atmosphere and draw them into the group. Make them feel like this is a good place to be. This starts in small ways helping them find their beds, getting their coffee, and so forth – in any small way without making it obvious that you are running anything. Let the Weekenders know that you are excited about being there and that you are glad they are there. If they express fear or apprehension, let them know that you understand because you probably experienced similar feelings on the Thursday night of your Cursillo. Assure them that it will be a pleasant weekend, that this is a nice group of people and just to relax. During the social, make sure there are not three or four team members talking to two Weekenders. If you find yourself in such a group, tactfully excuse yourself and seek out some other Weekenders.

During the introductions and always during the three days, don't sit with other team members – spread yourselves out.

During the three days the team members are always the leaders – take the lead in answering the bell promptly, singing etc. Especially on Thursday night set an example during the silent retreat do not be talking amongst yourselves. During Rollo's set an example by taking notes.

During the dialogue homilies on Saturday and Sunday give the Weekenders a chance to respond first. If there is no response, a team member might say something and then again allow the Weekenders a chance to speak. The point is that if all of the team members are jumping in quickly, this allows little opportunity for the Weekenders to participate.

For the first Rollo on Friday, one of the team members will lead the discussion, and one will be the secretary, after that choose a secretary and a leader from the Weekenders. The secret of leading the table discussion is just that – to lead not to dominate. Your chief duty is to involve all of the members of the group in the discussion. You are not expected to be a teacher or an expert. You must respect each individual in the group even if you privately disagree with their views. You should refrain from forcing anyone to change their views. Ask for their opinions and respect their opinions. It isn't necessary for the group to reach complete agreement on all questions; the purpose of the discussions is to make the Weekenders think. The team members should tactfully keep the discussion on track avoiding tangents.

Team members should get to know the members of their tables first and then branch out and get to know others. As mentioned before, this goes on continually during the three days, wherever you find yourself. One of the most important times we can get to know the Weekenders is in the Snack Room after hours. It is important for the clergy to participate too because it gives the Weekenders a chance to see them in a more relaxed atmosphere and to see them as being very human. It is a time when we all really can relax and have a good time; also there is more time to talk to the Weekenders then, than at any other time during the three days. Remember the 4th Day teams have to clean up in the Rollo Room and deliver palanca etc so keep out of their way and do not stay up too late.

If you are asked if you are a team member be honest and tell them yes. Be sincere and honest in all of your contacts with the Weekenders. Be friendly and open and don't be afraid to be human. Let them see your weaknesses and your

strengths, share yourselves with them. Most people cannot relate to a saint but they can relate to someone who is striving to become one and trying to live a Christian life.

Never leave a Weekender standing or sitting alone. Seek out the shy person. Listen intently when a Weekender is talking to you; don't be looking across the room so that they get the feeling you would rather be with someone else. Don't try to counsel a Weekender, be a good listener. Don't be little or minimize their problems; it may not seem like a problem to you but let him know by your response that you are understanding and sympathetic. If there is a problem which require advice or counseling you might suggest they visit with a clergy and set up a meeting, but never force. Perhaps you might suggest going to the chapel to pray together.

If you are talking with a Weekender when the bell rings – perhaps they are pouring their heart out to you – respond to the bell but not without making plans to continue the conversation at a specific time later that day. Be sure to keep the plans you make to see them.

Team members should never discuss Weekenders among themselves. If someone tells you about a problem you may want to tell your table partner so that you both will be more aware and sensitive of them. In some cases, you should make the Rector(a) or the clergy aware of the problem.

If a Weekender asks what time it is or what is going to happen next, just say that the Rector is the timekeeper and that he/she has a schedule. For this weekend we can just forget about time and relax.

Never say something like 'just wait until you hear the next talk' or cause them to anticipate. This can cause disappointment and prevent the Weekender from getting the point of the talk or whatever is going to happen next. Be on guard about mentioning anything to a Weekender about the serenade or the closing.

During Chapel Visits, we never want the Weekenders to feel like they are being forced to pray. It is the responsibility of the team member to immediately set the tone of the visit and put the Weekenders at ease. Perhaps the team member who begins the prayers might say something like "Lord, we come to talk to you, each in our own way; sometime we find it difficult to say what is in our hearts but we know that that is not important because You already know".

Do not worry or fret about how people are going to react to you and about how you are feeling, but relax, be open and natural; concentrate on being sensitive to, and aware of the Weekenders and their needs. Probably the most important thing to be said is that team members should relax and be themselves, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

HISTORY OF CURSILLO

Cursillo in Christianity began on the Spanish Island of Majorca in the early 1940s. The Diocesan Council of Catholic Action Youth devised a Cursillo or “short course” for the spiritual preparation of those making the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela – The Advanced Pilgrims – and this was followed by the Cursillo of Pilgrimage Leaders. The results of these Cursillo were astounding. Even those living on the edge of Christianity were inflamed and filled with Christ. This zeal was apparent not only during the pilgrimage but also after their return. An apostolate was created.

A Leader’s School of the Diocesan Council went into operation to collect data on these early Cursillo, to analyze results and make detailed experiments with this method. From these studies, the forerunner of the present Cursillo was devised. The first Cursillo was given on January 7, 1948 and by March of 1951 was followed by 32 more. During this period the problem of perseverance was defined, reunion groups were formed, and later the Ultreya was organized. It was also during this period that new ideas were introduced and others eliminated: a period of sharpening or focusing.

Cursillo #34 was the expansion of the movement by including priests and laymen from beyond Majorca. At this time, the name Cursillo in Christianity was first used. In 1954 Cursillo were begun for men who were recruited parish by parish. Cursillo for women were started during the early 1960’s.

The Cursillo movement was born in the Roman Catholic Church. Transplanting the movement to the Episcopal Church was a logical and natural step. In April of 1972, a small group of Minnesota Episcopalians made their Cursillo in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In May, an Iowa team put on the first Minnesota Cursillo for Men followed two weeks later by the first Women’s Cursillo. The Palanca and Kitchen teams for these two Cursillo were staffed largely by Minnesota Roman Catholic Cursillistas – an example of sharing in Christian work.

In January of 1980, the first set of Lutheran-sponsored Cursillo weekends was held at Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina, MN. The Episcopal Cursillo Community supported and helped establish Cursillo in the Lutheran Community in Minnesota.

In July of 1985, the Lutheran Cursillo community of Minnesota accepted the challenge of presenting the first two Lutheran sponsored Cursillo weekends in Papua New Guinea. In November 1995, the Minnesota Community sponsored the first two Lutheran Cursillo weekends in Utah. And the rest they say is history.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Cursillo is to create a living community of Christians which can renew the whole life of the church. The church needs to know that God is at work in the world through the Holy Spirit.

The most important thing for a human being is to know and accept Christ personally, and work daily to spread Christ's message.

The Cursillo Method does not involve changes in the doctrines of the church.

DEFINITIONS

Abrazo - A hug, embrace or a grasping of shoulders introduced in Cursillo in the "Passing of the Peace," and which spills over into the everyday life of the 4th Day community.

Bible Processional - A ceremony performed each of the 3 mornings symbolizing in the Lordship of Jesus Christ as the Word of God. The 2 candles indicate that the Word of God is the light of the world.

Clausura - A closing ceremony at the end of the three day Cursillo.

De Colores - Literally "of the colors". A greeting like "hello" signifying that life is more colorful with Christ. A group of Spanish laymen returning home from a Cursillo weekend stopped by the roadside while repairs were being made to their bus. Seeing a rooster, hen, and chicks nearby, they passed time singing the familiar folk song, "De Colores". They noted the many iridescent colors in the rooster's tail and neck feathers and recognized this as a sign of the many ways God loves us. A tradition was begun, and an old folk song became Cursillo's theme song of God's colorful grace.

Decuria - The Spanish word, Decuria, literally translated means an assembly of 10. For Cursillo purposes it is a table of eight persons who take notes from the Rollo's, discuss them among themselves, and then put the main points of each Rollo into a picture poster. In the evening, each table has the opportunity to reverse the process and put their posters' ideas into words for the benefit, enlightenment, and fun of the Rollo Room and invited teams. Most often Decuria refers to this poster party.

Palanca - The Spanish word, palanca, means "lever". As a lever, it is used to describe prayer and sacrifice because a lever allows a person to move things which are beyond his strength, just as prayer and sacrifice allows an apostle to accomplish more than he would otherwise be capable of accomplishing.

Renewal Group - Christian friends who gather regularly to continue their renewal in Christ through Piety, Study, and Action.

Ultreya - This is a gathering of the larger 4th Day Community - usually held once a month and the host church is different each month. The post weekend Ultreya are held at the Weekend host church.

DENOTING PROGRESSION

Agape Dinner – One of the special events on Saturday evening is the Agape Dinner. Agape is defined in Jude verse 12 as a “love feast” referring to the common meals which bore the name Agape because they cultivated God’s love among Christians. The dining hall is lit with candles and the tables are decorated and the scene is one of peace and beauty. The tables are arranged in the shape of a cross with the flower cross at the cross – and Jesus at the head of the table as the host for the evening.

Banners – Only a few banners are displayed at the beginning of the weekend, but more and more appear as the tempo increases. These messages are a creative way of sharing thoughts, insights, ideas, scripture, joy, and love.

Chapel Visits – Following the Agape Dinner table members are scheduled to be together in a quiet place to share their feelings. This is a time of sharing, prayer and love. A deeper understanding of the newly acquired family can become evident at this time.

Flower Pot – The centerpiece of each Rollo table is an empty flower pot. Then a package of seeds appears inside the container, indicating new life. As the Rollo’s are presented – stirring the soil with emotions and laughter, watering the seeds with tears, and warming the plants with love and friendship – the flowers begin to grow. Soon leaves and buds appear and by Sunday, the flowers are in full bloom.

Music – The music on Thursday evening is limited to get-acquainted type Christian songs, such as “Here We Are”, “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”, and other familiar Christian songs. Friday’s music focuses on the ideal of Christian Living with “They’ll Know We are Christians By Our Love”. Saturday’s music reveals the character of Jesus Christ as man, savior, redeemer, lover and servant. Songs like “Have You Seen Jesus” “Look Out Your Window” and “Apple of My Eye” all lead up to the Agape dinner. The music for Sunday shifts back to the world with such songs as “Pass It On”, “Freely, Freely”, and “Tell the People.”

Placemats – Placemats the first morning are undecorated as befits the simple breakfast. This is symbolic of the Weekender who is emerging from the silent retreat of introspection. As the weekend progresses, so do the placemats in adornment and color.

Rosebud – On the first morning of the Cursillo weekend, a single rosebud is placed on the Eucharist Altar in the Weekender’s Chapel. Each day thereafter, the rose unfolds its petals until it is open and in full bloom on Sunday evening. This particular form of God’s creation is used to symbolize the color, openness, and beauty that is revealed as God’s love surrounds us.

Serenades – Three serenades are a part of every weekend, and there is a progression that builds to the final on Sunday afternoon.

Agape Dinner Serenade – The first serenade is at the Agape Dinner. This serenade is given by the team and angels from the 4th Day community.

Morning Serenade – The second serenade is the wake-up call on Sunday morning. The serenaders are the team and sponsors. This is the start of the Weekender’s return to the outside environment.

Evening Serenade – The third serenade is at lunch Sunday afternoon. This serenade returns the weekenders to their communities. As they see the large number of Cursillistas circling the room and singing with such joy and love. This serenade is open to all 4th Dayers.

Stations of the Cross - Friday evening, Stations of the Cross is an event depicting incidents of Christ’s passion and death. The Stations are placed along a route or done in “freeze frame” in the sanctuary. The “route” of the stations, whether moving or stationary, is symbolizing Christ’s path from Gethsemane to Calvary. This is a time for meditation, along with the devotional exercises appointed to be used at each station.

WHAT IS PALANCA?

There are many questions about palanca, and because it is such an important part of a Cursillo weekend, this information is offered with the hope of answering some of them.

What does the word mean? Palanca is used to illustrate the Spanish word “intendencia”. Palanca means the prayer and sacrifice which is offered to God to obtain something. The Spanish word means “lever”. It came to be used to describe “intendencia” (prayer and sacrifice) because a lever allows a person to move things which are beyond his strength, just as prayer and sacrifice allows an apostle to accomplish more than we would otherwise be capable of accomplishing. Because of the Spanish heritage of Cursillo and because there is no literal interpretation in English of the word palanca, other than of “lever”, the word palanca remains.

What is good palanca? It comes in the visible and the invisible. Needless to say, the visible is a sight to behold – like the loaves and fishes multiplying. Food is a great part of palanca, but there is much more. Banners, letters from faraway places, flowers, etc., are seen by the Weekenders in their “physical” form. Included also are the efforts of all the teams to make the Weekend a success. Then there is the invisible – the spiritual palanca. It makes its greatest impression through a sacrifice of time, effort of prayers and offerings of love. It might be a letter saying, “I am praying for you at a certain time each day”, or “We are celebrating Eucharist for you this weekend”.

While palanca may be from an individual, a particular church, or a renewal group, it is always intended for all the Cursillistas. For, palanca to one particular person strays from the concept that “all are loved”. Individual palanca is saved and presented to that person on Sunday afternoon.

How else can you help with palanca? Palanca is providing transportation and being a sponsor, washing dishes for a specific meal, baking bread for a meal, making desserts for a meal, helping break down the dorms on Sunday morning, running a vacuum cleaner after the Clausura, ad infinitum. There is so much to do and when everyone pitches in, the load is lightened for the teams.

Following are ideas of specific palanca, sometimes known as Angel Crew tasks.

Thursday set up and Sunday breakdown. These are big jobs and the 4th Day Rector needs help.

Kitchen help – doing dishes after a meal, making a dish for a meal, or clean up after the Agape Dinner. After Sunday lunch is a great time to help as this allows the kitchen team to attend the 4th Day Eucharist.

Palanca letters to the weekenders or little gifts with bible verses etc. to be placed in palanca bags given out at the end of the Clausura.

Banners, posters, notes. Little gifts which will defray Weekend costs – folders for the Rollo Room, markers, canned food or fresh food items for a meal.

A check to the “Utah Via de Cristo” community in the name of the Weekend

Gifts of time, talents and sacrifice.

Prayer as Palanca is so powerful that it must be in a category by itself. Time and talent don’t substitute for a chance to talk with God. You do not have to be on your knees, in the church. You can be mowing a lawn, driving on the highway, or cooking a meal. There are endless opportunities to simply say “Dear Lord, please be in the hearts and minds of the Cursillistas this weekend. Let them see love as I did. Amen”

TEAM FORMATION

Being a member of a Cursillo team includes many opportunities to share God's love with others. In fact, the major task for every member of a Cursillo team is to bring others lovingly to Christ so they may come to know and experience Him more fully. A Cursillo team aims to be a close community of committed, caring loving, active Christians. For this reason, each Cursillo team meets 6 – 10 times over a period of 2 – 3 months prior to each set of weekends.

During team meetings, we will pray for each other and for those who will be entrusted to our care. We will break bread together, sing together, hear and affirm rollos, learn more about Cursillo, and make plans for best meeting the needs of those who will be coming to the Weekend. When the Cursillo team has allowed the forming of a Christian community, the body of Christ, they will be prepared to have the Weekenders join in our Christ-centered pilgrimage. A Cursillo Weekend is gently leading and challenging, allowing freedom to accept or reject and allowing the Holy Spirit to center and to move freely and powerfully throughout those three days.

The Secretariat determines when and where Weekends are to be held, and chooses the leadership for each weekend (a Rector(a) and a Spiritual Director). The Rector(a) selects the Rollo room Assistant Rector(a)s, the Palanca, Kitchen and 4th Day Rector(a)s, and they then choose the team members. The SD selects the Assistant SD and Palanca SD and also clergy to present the grace rollos.

Rollo Room Team

There are 14 rollos given during a Weekend. Five are given by Clergy, and nine are given by lay people. All rollos follow prescribed outlines which are presented in a careful progression of ideas. Each Rollista is encouraged to allow his/her personality and unique background to shine through as a living, loving, Christian witness. Some members of the Rollo Room Team will not give rollos, but will have as their major responsibility building table community and aiding the group through discussion periods when necessary. These are Assistant Table Leaders.

Kitchen Team

Via de Cristo meal times are joyous, relaxed, warm, fun, beautiful, and a tasty time together. The kitchen creates a very necessary and important changing environment for the Weekenders. With their loving hearts and hands they prepare the meals. Many varied and lovely occasions arise for showing Christ's love in the kitchen and in the dining room. One member of the kitchen team will take on the persona of a chicken and act as liaison for bringing up the Weekenders for meals as well as providing "light relief" to the Rollo Room in the teaching and singing of 'De Colores'.

Palanca Team

The Palanca team's primary function is prayer. This team works in and from the Palanca Chapel. The Rollista's are supported in prayer in the Palanca Chapel before and after presenting their talks. The Palanca team is also the Weekend's Altar Guild, also looks after the spiritual needs of the upstairs team with Morning Prayer and Eucharist each day. The Palanca Team is also responsible for cleaning bathrooms.

4th Day Team

This team acts as the Via de Cristo hosts and coordinators of all 4th Day involvement during a weekend. They assist in decorating for the Agape Dinner and managing the delivery, set-up and clean up of the Weekend.

Musicians

Musicians are an important part of the Rollo Room and Palanca teams. Musicians are also required for the Agape Dinner serenade which is organized by the kitchen team, the Morning Serenade on Sunday Morning organized by the Palanca Team and for the Lunchtime Serenade on Sunday organized by the 4th Day Team.

THE STRUCTURES AND DYNAMICS OF CURSILLO

The First Phase: The Pre-Cursillo – Team Formation

The first phase presupposes a structure formed to oversee the work of cursillo within a given area; city or state. This is a cursillo Secretariat which operates with the approval of the 4th Day community. The Secretariat determines when and where cursillo Weekends are to be held and recruits the first two leaders for each Weekend: a Rector and a Spiritual Director. They in turn call upon others to perform leadership duties in the 4th Day, Kitchen and Palanca areas. The Rectors of the individual teams-within-a-team have called upon other people to help with the many and varied tasks performed during a cursillo Weekend - and so we have a cursillo team.

Being members of the cursillo team will give us many, many opportunities to share God's love with others – both team and new cursillistas, alike. In fact, the major task of each of us to bring others lovingly to Christ so they may come to know and experience Him more fully during our Weekend together. Each team member shares that responsibility in the spirit of community – within this portion of the Body of Christ. A cursillo team must be a close community of committed, caring, loving, active Christians – an enlarged renewal group, if you will.

The team meetings have three purposes:

1. To prepare us spiritually for apostolic work.
2. To prepare us technically for the tasks we will perform.
3. To form us into a community wherein exists a great spirit of loving and sharing of a common experience.

We will pray for each other and for those who will be entrusted to our care. We will break bread together, sing, hear and critique rollos, learn more about Cursillo, and we will make plans for meeting the needs of those who will be coming to their Cursillo Weekend. When our Cursillo team has built a Christian community, our part of the body of Christ, we will then be privileged to have a new group of people join us in our Christ-centered pilgrimage together.

The Second Phase: The Cursillo Weekend – Information Only

A Cursillo Weekend is to be a meeting ground for Christ and His people. A Cursillo Weekend is a Christ-centered Weekend. It is to be Christ-Like, unfolding normally, naturally, and gradually, gently leading and challenging, allowing freedom to accept or reject. There is a progression and structure to a Cursillo Weekend, but it is a gently unfolding progression and structure where we allow the Holy Spirit to enter freely and to move freely and powerfully throughout the 3 days.

Thursday – late afternoon

Team arrives, stashes luggage, and helps complete preparations.
Team shares Eucharist and dinner.

Thursday Night – Friday Morning

FOCUS: Preparation of the Weekend withdrawal from the outside world, introspection and silence.

1. Weekend and sponsors arrive – team guides, assists, and socializes.
2. Photograph (may be done at this time)
3. Rollo Room – welcome, introductions, singing, preliminary talks.
4. Chapel – Communal Spiritual Examination and Celebration of Forgiveness (meditations: “Know Yourself” & “The Prodigal Son”), the Litany
5. Silent Retreat
(Team Meeting in Dining Hall)
6. Friday morning chapel – Morning Prayer (meditation: “The Three Glances of Christ”)
7. Breakfast – Kitchen Team is introduced.

The team begins immediately to envelope the Weekenders into the community. As soon as the first Weekenders arrive the action spreads as we help them unload and feel wanted. If not yet comfortable. We drink coffee together and share our past and present lives while we wait for everyone to be registered. It is important at this time that no Weekender or group of Weekenders is left alone.

Next we pair off and then introduce our partners (New Best Friend) This is still another way of showing our love as we share our lives openly with the entire group. Be specific when you introduce your partners; really say something! When trying to blend in with the Weekenders, team members should never be deceptive or dishonest. If asked, “are you on the team?” or “are you going to give a rollo?” answer honestly. Laughter draws the team and Weekenders closer together and further builds our community. Occasionally, this introduction period will be the only time an individual gets in front of the group, so the community is built in this way also.

The singing session which comes next continues this feeling of involvement and togetherness. Again, don’t be upset if the team leads – the team is the moving force and should lead in the singing, praying, answering the bell, the meditations in worship and the other activities throughout the first day or two. Don’t all jump but use good common sense and don’t expect the Rector to go first.

The Rector(a) gives a short talk which briefly defines a Cursillo and urges the Weekenders to be thoughtful, active and charitable participants throughout the weekend. After our opening session, we go to the chapel for the examination of Conscience and Celebration of Forgiveness. It is important that a good explanation of this celebration be given by the Spiritual Director. Many of the Weekenders are not familiar with repentance or are concerned about it and a good explanation helps them to understand and feel more comfortable with it.

The Spiritual Director should also explain the value of the Silent Retreat on Thursday night. It is important to keep the silence during this time and team leaders should be leaders in remembering it. The Weekenders have come, have made pleasant chatter and smiled, and now it is easier for many of them to not have to worry about things to say or being sure to greet whomever they consider the “right” people. It is also important that the dormitory be as dark as possible this evening: darkness is security for some. Some Weekenders will complain about the silence and not being able to find their bedclothes.

After the chapel there is a short team meeting to answer any questions and for prayer. The team community still grows during this time and it is important that all team members feel comfortable about what is going on and what will happen tomorrow. It is also important to thank God for what He is already doing for the Weekend. Keep the meeting brief so that the team members who are in the dormitories with the Weekenders do not leave them alone for too long.

Should a Weekender really feel the need for talk this evening, it is wise for a team member to lead him/her to the chapel or some nook so no one else will be disturbed. If there is a major problem that you are not comfortable with, do not try to counsel the person, but suggest that they talk to one of the Spiritual Directors. Remember this throughout the Weekend. Remember also, that although we need our sleep, Weekenders need to talk.

Friday morning you are still in silence. The chapel this morning should be short and still quietly undertaken. After this the silence is ended and you go to breakfast. The important dynamic during the meals and free time is that you get to know the others. You get to meet them eyeball-to-eyeball; so it is a good idea to sit with different people each time, listen closely, and be sincere. Also be careful that one table does not end up overloaded with team members or Weekenders.

Friday

FOCUS: Proclamation of the message.

THEME: The Ideal of the Christian Living the Life of Grace.

1. Table assignments given.
2. Bible Processional Introduced.

3. 1st Rollo – Ideal – layperson (discussion and poster to follow each rollo)
4. 2nd Rollo – Habitual Grace – SD
5. Eucharist #1
6. Lunch
7. Kitchen Team introduces “De Colores”.
8. 3rd Rollo – Laity in the Church – layperson.
9. 4th Rollo – Actual Grace –SD – Palanca concept is introduced
10. Dinner
11. “Arise” is introduced.
12. 5th Rollo – Piety – layperson
13. De Curia – kitchen team invited.
14. Summary of the Day – SD
15. Bible Recessional
16. Rector Talk – Palanca Rector(a) and Palanca SD are introduced
17. Stations of the Cross
18. Chapel – Evening Prayer
19. Retire (team meeting in Dining Hall)

At the first session in the morning the Weekenders are assigned to the tables in the Rollo room. The team members should concentrate first of all on building community at the table to which they are assigned. Later on in the Cursillo a feeling of community among the entire group will begin to grow. The Weekenders are grouped at tables according to diverse ages, occupations, churches and any other factors that may help them to learn from one another in their discussions. This is done by the Rector prior to the Cursillo or on Thursday evening together with the Assistant Rector(a)s.

The Bible Processional should be introduced now by the SD and executed by team members. This is an important dynamic that allows us to share, and the open Bible and burning candles are a good reminder of Christ’s ever-presence with us. The Assistant Rector has charge of finding someone to do the Processional and Readings as well as the Grace and Thanksgiving at meals. It is important that each Weekender be asked to do something during the Weekend. Those who do not feel comfortable reading or praying aloud can hold a candle during the Bible Processional or Recessional.

The dynamic involved is participation and involvement.

The lay talks will usually be approximately 30 minutes in length. The laity and pastors are witnessing their love for the Weekenders and for Christ, so the talks should be well-prepared. Use of power-points or hand-outs can be used to make note-taking easier for the Weekenders so that they have complete notes to review in the weeks following their Weekend.

It is important for team members to set an example and take notes during the talks. After the talks is discussion, and it is during the discussion that the feeling of real community forms. The table leader is there to help guide the discussion.

The aim of the discussion is to get the main idea that the rollista was talking about and to have each person at the table personalize it for themselves. The table leader may need to start or keep the discussion flowing by asking questions or through short witnessing. Everyone should be included in the discussion and encouraged through gentle questioning. After the discussion is summarized, the main idea is put down on a poster. The dynamic is most effective when everyone is involved. Shared participation and enjoyment is more important than artistic quality.

Eucharist on Friday is subdued and low key. The “peace” is usually just exchanged verbally, the songs easy and fairly quiet, the elements are given as the Cursillistas pass in front of the altar. Eucharist builds with our community throughout the Weekend. On Saturday the songs are a little livelier and the abrazo will be demonstrated and used. On Sunday the Weekenders pass the elements themselves and the songs are louder and more spiritual.

Change places at all the meals and talk about the things that have happened during the day. Do not reveal what is coming up. The Weekenders need to go at their own rate and too often team members “forget” and begin talking about what happened on “their” Weekends.

Friday afternoon the Palanca talk is given and the Weekenders begin to realize that the Holy Spirit is alive and that He is working through other people. The letters from Cursillo communities all over the USA and the world really have an effect on the Weekenders and team when they realize the extent of the prayers for them during the Weekend.

Throughout the Cursillo we try to build community slowly. If we try to build it too fast, we could lose some of the Weekenders. We don’t want anyone behind on Sunday afternoon. If someone is a little bit slow in reacting to the Cursillo, they may feel isolated and outside of the community. The more love, joy and peace they see around them, the more they are liable to turn inward and resist becoming a part of the group. The Cursillo “process” should be geared to the slowest Weekender if this is at all possible.

The Piety talk is the most personal rollo of Friday and leads into the “De Curia” (poster party) where the whole group begins to experience a community feeling through the sharing, the clapping, the laughing and relating to the entire group. Up to this point we were more concerned about creating community at the tables; now we begin to shape the whole community with all the Weekenders involved, not just at their tables, but within the entire group. Your role is to be open to everyone that evening, to be charitable and encouraging, especially to those who are a little reluctant to get up and give the summary or talk about the poster. Do not try to force anyone to contribute. If someone does not want to do either you might say something like, “Some people just don’t like to get up in front of a group” and let it go at that. Maybe by Saturday night things have changed. It is wise to remind the table to keep the summaries fairly short, but do not demand that they do. Each member should give their name and home church before presenting each poster.

Following the De Curia and Bible Processional the Rector(a) introduces the Palanca SD and Palanca Rector. The Palanca Rector speaks a little about the prayer ministry during the Weekend and shows the Weekenders the prayer request forms and where they will be positioned. (Usually in a basket just outside the Rollo Room door). The Palanca SD then explains the Stations of the Cross and the music team assists with learning “Whatsoever you do to the least of my children...”

The Weekenders are taken up to the sanctuary one table at a time and members of the Palanca Team seat them. Once all of the group are seated then the Stations of the Cross are presented. Some Weekenders will find the Stations of the Cross very moving and meaningful, while others may be confused by the experience. After the evening chapel there will be a team meeting. Any team members who are speaking with Weekenders at this time may be excused from the team meeting.

Spiritual Directors should be available for counseling and it is a good idea if they speak directly to the Rollo Room group and give an idea of the best time to meet with them.

Saturday

FOCUS: Conversion
THEME: The Person of Christ

1. Chapel – Morning Prayer (meditation: “The Figure of Christ”)
2. Breakfast
3. Bible Processional
4. 6th Rollo – Study – layperson
5. Bibles are given out in the Rollo Room.
6. 7th Rollo – Sacraments – SD “Abrazo” introduced.
7. Eucharist #2
8. Lunch
9. 8th Rollo – Action – layperson
10. Long break

11. 9th Rollo – Obstacles to Grace – SD
12. 10th Rollo – Leaders – layperson
13. Agape Dinner and Serenade
14. Chapel visits – table groups meet in sanctuary for prayer and sharing.
15. De Curia – whole team invited.
16. Summary of the Day – SD
17. Bible Recessional.
18. Chapel – Examination of Conscience. Evening Prayer and “The Healing of Memories”
19. Retire – team meeting in dining hall.

Saturday is a continuation of Friday’s progress, but with the emphasis not so much on one’s self but what one can do using study and action. The Abrazo may be introduced following the Sacraments Rollo by the SD and exchanged at the Eucharist. In the evening on Saturday, each table is asked to make a Chapel visit. The important element in this dynamic is freedom. Let the Weekenders be free to express themselves as they feel. Silence in the chapel visit is very beautiful, but there is a lot of pressure in silence, and we don’t want anyone to feel pressured into praying out loud if they don’t want to. So if you’re in there for a few minutes and nobody has said anything then the team member in the group should start with a simple prayer.

The Leaders talk which is before dinner can be very effective. Some of the most dynamic rollos can be given by very quiet persons and the Weekenders then come away with the impression. “If they are so quiet and can talk to us about Leadership then there really is something I can do too!”

One of the high points Saturday evening is the Agape Meal. The dining hall is lit with candles, the tables are decorated, and the scene is one of extreme peace and beauty. Two things that add much are having the tables arranged in a cross and having the Kitchen and Palanca Teams, plus outside help, sing two or three mood setting songs to the Weekenders as they enter the room.

The De Curia (poster party) Saturday night should be great fun. Everyone is in a great mood, and people you never suspected may be giving summaries or showing posters. Team members should again be leaders in applauding other tables and in creating joy and love during the De Curia. Help your table organize for each summary and poster.

Following the poster party is evening chapel. Here the “Examination of Conscience” is read and may put many in a reflective mood. They may feel the need to talk so be prepared to stay up late and SDs should prepare to be busy.

Sunday

FOCUS: Our presence in the world and our relations with others.

THEME: How does Christ want us to live in the world.

1. Sunday Morning Serenade – “Las Maninitas” & “Morning Has Broken”.
2. Chapel – Morning Prayer (meditation: “Christ’s Message to the Cursillistas”)
3. Breakfast – served in the Rollo Room
4. Bible Processional
5. 11th Rollo – Environment – layperson
6. 12th Rollo – Life in Grace – SD
7. 13th Rollo – Christian Community in Action – layperson
8. 14th Rollo – Total Security in 4th Day
9. Eucharist #3
10. Lunch – (4th Day Serenade)
11. Apostolic Hour/4th Day Eucharist
12. Clausura
13. Departure of Weekenders – Team Clean Up and brief team meeting.

Sunday, the third day, is directed to dealing with others and persistence. On Friday we dealt primarily with the self, on Saturday the focus was on what one can do to change his/her environment, and now it is “go out and get busy “. Just as the team met and formed a community, then the Weekenders entered into this community – the outside world – and try to form their own environments into a living joyous Christian family. The morning serenade can be beautiful and one of the emotional highlights of the Weekend for many Weekenders. The appropriate dynamic is a peaceful, beautiful awakening for sleepy Weekenders. The Palanca Team are responsible for the serenade and need to make sure each Weekender receives a flower and glass of juice.

The Eucharist on Sunday is full of cheer and goodwill. The elements are passed from person to person in real Christian giving and the songs may be exuberant.

If by Sunday a Weekender has not opened up to the group wait for the serenade and the closing. Let the Holy Spirit work in the person’s life beyond the Weekend. We can never force a religious response from anyone. God always respects a person’s freedom to love Him or not. We too, must respect the person’s freedom to respond to the Spirit, to become part of the community or not to. The most important thing in loving is loving people as they are, with no conditions or expectations attached.

During the remaining talks on Sunday and in the afternoon the Weekenders may seem sleepy or inattentive so you as a team member need to continue to be an example of taking notes. After the “Total Security in Your 4th Day” Rollo – given by the Weekend Rector(a) it is appropriate to talk about renewal groups and if appropriate suggest a table renewal group. Cursillo exists primarily to create renewal groups – so encouragement and help with those logistics is very important.

At the lunch serenade the Weekenders begin to realize that they are a part of a larger Christian community and that people really care. They see that living the Fourth Day is possible because these people who come to the closing are living it. The team and Weekenders are taken to the Weekender Chapel from the serenade for the Apostolic Hour. Here the Weekenders are given their crosses and are given an opportunity to give their impressions of the Weekend. At the close of the Apostolic Hour the Clausura is explained. It is wise for the Rector(a) to caution the Weekenders not to thank the team or sponsors.

At the Clausura the emphasis is on the testimony of the weekenders. The people who come to the closing come for the Weekenders and the team plays a very minor role. In providing an opportunity for the Weekenders to speak of their experience and its meaning for their lives, the Rector(a) should carefully avoid pressuring anyone who chooses not to speak.

There is a progression and a structure within a Cursillo Weekend just as there is a progression and structure within a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Christ calls to Himself during the Eucharist....So too, He calls us to Himself during a Cursillo Weekend. He does this within the framework of the Weekend.

Christ would have us go the second mile. We should continue the pilgrimage started on Thursday evening. We should continue to reach out to the new 4th Day community members and do all in our power to make sure they become as involved as they would like to be with renewal groups, attendance at Ultreya and being a team member on future Weekends. Each team member should use their own unique gifts to assist with this.

- Continue to pray for the Weekenders
- Monday or Tuesday call any person you particularly got to know.
- Follow up calls as you feel would be appropriate.
- Palanca – a note or a small gift.
- Renewal group – invite people to join your group, start a new group – find out other groups.
- Outreach – church, family, community, etc.
- Encourage sponsorship for future Weekenders.

DYNAMICS AND PROGRESSION OF THE WEEKEND

A Cursillo Weekend is a Christ-centered weekend and is a meeting ground for Christ and His people. It is to be Christ-like, unfolding normally, naturally, and gradually, gently leading and challenging, allowing freedom to accept or question. It is a quietly developing progression where we allow the Holy Spirit to enter and to move freely and powerfully throughout the three days.

Thursday Night

- Focus: Preparation of the Weekender's withdrawal from the outside world.
Theme: To look into one's self for the examination of conscience and celebration of forgiveness.
Meditation: Know yourself. Introspection, examination, confession. We ponder God's love and compassion for us and the condition of our soul.
Silent Retreat: The silent retreat provides a setting for the talks, an introduction. It stresses the need for self-examination and response; self-surrender or dedication, the willingness to be concerned for God and for other men. From this point on, the Weekender is face to face with Christ. Christ is looking at him/her and waiting for him/her to respond.

Friday

- Focus: Proclamation of the message
Theme: The Ideal of the Christian living the Life of Grace
Meditation: Three glances of Christ – help us make our response to God. This day brings us face to face with ourselves. We are presented with a new set of values. Every Rollo is geared to this.

There are a number of ways of bringing out the progression of the talks of the Weekend. The clergy talks present the Theology of living the life of grace, and the lay talks teach how to live the life of grace as a layman. Each day of the Weekend has a specific theme and builds into the Weekend. The first day tells the Weekender what he should be, the second tells him/her what he/she should do, and the third tells him/her what he/she should accomplish. The five talks of the first day are intended to present the ideal of the Christian living the life of grace.

Objectives:

- Rollo #1 -Lay - Ideal: to convince the Weekender of the need of having an ideal. To leave him/her with a clear understanding of the elements of an ideal, and lay the groundwork for further rollos, in which they will learn that Christianity is the perfect ideal.
- Rollo #2 – SD - Habitual Grace: Life in grace is the Christian ideal, and a life of grace is God's gift. This talk should describe both in Scripture and in experience the way God approaches us in a "Grace Style". God is a God of Grace.
- Rollo #3 – Lay- Laity: To present the church as a visible society founded by Christ to perpetuate His mission, the mission of the layman as a living and operating member of the body. This Rollo lays the groundwork for the idea of lay action in the church.
- Rollo #4 – SD – Actual Grace: to describe the realization when the Grace of God becomes personalized in the life of a believer – when habitual grace becomes experiential grace. The Palanca concept is introduced in this Rollo.
- Rollo #5 – Lay – Piety: "Arise" introduces the Rollista. The key talk of the day presents most clearly what is fundamental to being a Christian and makes the strongest call to make God the center of all. Piety states the basis of the Christian life is a living relationship with the Father, or life in union with God.

Saturday

Focus: Transition from existing as a Christian to acting as a Christian.

Theme: The Person of Christ

Meditation: Figure of Christ – shows humanism of Christ: We are invited to an intimate friendship with Him – to learn to know and love Christ.

Objectives:

Rollo #6 – Lay Study: This Rollo makes one feel the need for giving depth and solidity to the Christian life. Instilling the desire to know well the Biblical truths that uphold Christianity. Thus changing our mentality, our way of thinking. Study can help us ‘put on the mind of Christ.’

Rollo #7 – SD Sacraments: This Rollo underlines the incarnational approach (“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself”) and the unique position the Bible puts upon Baptism and Eucharist. Also to see sacramental-type grace as present in thousands of other events in the life of a Christian.

Rollo #8 – Lay Apostolic Action: This Rollo serves as a transition from “being” to “doing”. It describes the importance of apostolic action and its place in the life of a Christian. The talk centers on personal contact, and drawing people to Christ.

Rollo #9 – SD Obstacles of Grace: This Rollo should explain the stumbling blocks interfering with accepting a life in Grace. We can be assured that “All things work together for good to those who love God”.

Rollo #10 – Lay Leaders: This Rollo inspires the Weekenders with what can be achieved by a Christian who brings all their natural and supernatural abilities into action, for the service of Christ, in order to influence all those around him/her to live the Christian ideal.

Sunday

Focus: Our presence in the world and our relations with others.

Theme: How does Christ want us to live in the world?

Meditation: “I have chosen you and have appointed you that you should go and bear fruit”.

Objective:

Rollo #11 – Lay Environment: This Rollo challenges the Weekender to analyze his environment and commit it to Christian transformation. We need to recognize the fields of harvest God assigns each of us and work to extend the kingdom of God. The Weekender will see him/herself more and more as Christ’s person in every situation of his/her life.

Rollo #12 – SD Life in Grace: This Rollo tells us to continue to apply the principles of piety, study, and action, achieving a deeper understanding of grace. The emphasis is on God who will continue to shower this grace on us as we return to the world that we have left.

Rollo #13 – Lay Christian Community in Action: This Rollo shows us the need for Christian community. Our mission which is the Christian renewal of society is not ours alone, but ours as a member of a community. This talk must describe a Christian community as a living organism, with a mission in “the world”.

Rollo #14 – Lay Total Security in Your 4th Day: This Rollo is to convince the Weekender of the need for perseverance for extending and applying what you have learned into their life style for the rest of their lives (4th Day). The Weekenders know they have been called to the mission of bringing Christ into their environment.

Overall Whereby individuals through small groups may grow and work together to set goals to create a Christ centered environment. Strong emphasis should be placed on the importance of renewal groups and Ultreya which focuses you towards changing the world you live in.