

# **Teachings**

## BRIEF HISTORY OF VIA DE CRISTO

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY WEEKEND RECTOR(A)

In the early 1940's Cursillo began with a group of Catholic lay men in Spain. It initially began as a group renewal and then it expanded into a 72 hour weekend retreat.

The early gatherers in Spain felt that they needed new leaders within the church, and as they gathered some together they realized the new leaders did not have the history of being together and sharing each others lives. This led to the planning and preparation of the first Cursillo – a short course in bringing some chosen people to a new level of fellowship with God and with each other.

Cursillo gradually developed as this group prayed and worked together. They wanted this to be a renewing experience that would motivate them to influence others for Christ. The movement spread throughout Spain and then to the Spanish speaking world (mostly Central and South America).

- The first U.S. Cursillo was held in Texas in 1957 within the Catholic community.
- Because Cursillo was a movement to unify the body of believers, the Catholics introduced Episcopalians to the weekends. The Episcopalians then brought it to the Lutherans. The first Lutheran weekends were held in Florida and Iowa in 1972.
- Minnesota held their first Cursillo weekend in 1980.
- The National Lutheran Secretariat, which is the governing body of Lutheran Cursillo, was formed in 1981.
- In 1986, the National Lutheran Secretariat adopted the name Via de Cristo for its community. The Catholic and Episcopalian Churches still use the term Cursillo, while the Methodist communities are known as the Walk to Emmaus.
- With the overwhelming help and support of the Lutheran Via de Cristo community, especially from Minnesota, the first Via de Cristo weekends were held in Sandy, Utah at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in October of 1995.

## INTENT AND PURPOSE OF CURSILLO

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY THE WEEKEND RECTOR(A)

The purpose of our Via de Cristo weekends has not changed since those first Catholic Lay Men began the movement over 50 years ago. The Christianization of the world. It is still a crash course in bringing people to a new level of fellowship with God and with each other. The purpose is still to teach, demonstrate and experience Christian living. It is a time to experience being a part of a Christian community.

Doesn't that sound like our great commission – to go make disciples of all nations? God uses Cursillo as a wonderful tool to bring us together in fellowship. Within Cursillo we are challenged by each other to share our faith, to be in God's word, and to be apostles for Jesus Christ in our daily lives. Cursillo brings us into a relationship with Jesus.

Cursillo is a short course in Christian living.

It has a three-part strategy:

1. Seeking out people to come to Cursillo.
2. The weekend retreat.
3. The post Cursillo, when there is an Ultreya, fellowship and the emphasis on renewal groups.

What makes a Cursillo weekend so special?

- We demonstrate God's love for each weekender.
- We demonstrate the assurance that God loves us.
- We demonstrate a real love for each other, for each weekender, and for our team members.
- We teach God's love and grace:
  - Through our actions
  - Through our talks
- We begin our group renewal process.
- We experience Christian living.
  - We create an atmosphere of love and concern for one another that will hopefully continue after the weekend.

Two elements are essential to the weekend:

1. The Holy Spirit. He blows through the weekend and touches the hearts of the weekenders. Without Him all our work would mean nothing.

2. The structure. It is a proven method that works. There is a progression that unfolds naturally. It is biblical and spiritually sound.

You may be asked, or perhaps you have wondered yourself, is Cursillo intended to be a psychologically wearing down weekend. The answer is an emphatic NO. The purpose is to bring people to a closer relationship to God. To remove us from the worldly desires so we are able to concentrate on Christ and our relationship with Him. There is a set schedule and the same material is presented at each weekend. People are free to leave, although we do all we can to encourage them to stay.

Cursillo is primarily a personal experience. Although it is not structured to be a couples experience, it may benefit their relationship. Moreover, because it is so powerful an experience, the Utah Via de Cristo council strongly suggests that couples attend the same pair of weekends.

Cursillo is not a theory on the structure of the church, nor is it a doctrine. It is a method for renewal. For some it is the awakening of faith for the first time. For others it is the deepening of their faith. It is a wonderful tool the church can use to bring renewed life to individual congregations.

Palanca is one of the primary tools of the Cursillo method. When you experience palanca you know it is a pure gift. It is grace. It is something you did not deserve but you received it anyway. The most perfect example of palanca is Jesus. Jesus gave himself. He is pure palanca.

In this Via de Cristo movement we are challenged to love one another, to tell others about God's grace, and to spread the Gospel and the love of Christ to each other. The Cursillo weekend and the renewal groups that follow give us strength for that mission.

## SILENT RETREAT

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The Cursillo begins with what has come to be known as the Silent Retreat.

#### **The Spiritual Director will instruct the Weekenders in the following way:**

It consists of several hours of time – the rest of this night and until breakfast tomorrow morning, in fact – during which we will all observe the rule of silence.

The purpose of this quiet time is to allow each of us an opportunity to reflect on the Word from God which we have heard tonight, and to examine ourselves as carefully and as fearlessly as we can. You should use this time to analyze your own life, and to contemplate your encounter with God, both before you came here, and now, after having heard that God has called you here for a purpose.

In the course of the Spiritual Examination we have just conducted, you might have felt a kind of restlessness, a discontent, either with the examination, or within yourself because of the examination. In either or both cases, use this time tonight to search yourself and to take inventory. Let your restlessness be healthy, sincere and hopeful.

Remember the experience of the Prodigal Son, Jesus' parable tells that after all his restless searching, after his bitter remorse, the young man "came to himself". He turned away from self-preoccupation and he turned toward the mercy and love of his father.

You have been called to this Cursillo, as I said earlier, "to fill your head with ideas and your heart with fire." Now I hope that this Retreat of silence will allow you to conduct a fearless search of yourself, and will lead you, as it led the lost son, to say to yourself, "I will arise and go to the house of my Father."

I wish you God's peace, and rest for the night.

## BIBLE PROCESSIONAL AND READING

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY AN ASSISTANT RECTOR

The Bible Processional takes place at the beginning of the day on Friday.

- 3 people walk into the room carrying the Bible and on each side a candle. They walk to the front of the room or wherever the Bible stand is located. They turn and face the weekenders
- The one with the Bible does the assigned Bible reading.
- All three turn and place the Bible and candles on the table. Bible in the middle, candles on the sides.
- They return to their seats.

The Bible Reading takes place each morning and evening of the weekend.

- 3 people walk to the Bible table, pick up the Bible and candles, turn and face the weekenders.
- Person with the Bible reads the assigned Bible reading.
- They walk out of the room and place the Bible and candles in the prescribed place by the rectors.
- They return to their seats.

The candles on either side of the Bible symbolize that Christ is the light of the world. The number 2 symbolized by the candles speaks of the two natures of our Lord – God and Man. The processional with persons carrying the candles and the Bible is representative of the illuminating march of the Gospel throughout the World.

## DECURIA – POSTER PARTY

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY AN ASSISTANT RECTOR

DeCuria serves as a part of the community building. Thursday night each person was more or less along in the spirit of the silent retreat. Then gradually during the day – Friday, a sense of community begins to grow at the individual tables as the weekenders hear progressively more personal talks and spend time discussing and graphically describing them on posters. Friday evening the Rollo Room begins to experience a sense of community through sharing, clapping, laughing, and having individuals relate to the entire group. Team members are to be open to everyone, charitable and encouraging.

The format is usually for two people from each table to share their poster/discussion, with one person holding the poster and the other summarizing their table discussion. (Option: Either of these two go forward alone or the whole table goes forward with these two sharing the poster). Each person gives their name and church. This provides the opportunity for all participants to become familiar with each other.

Explanation of Friday night posters may be led by team members for the first few, but weekenders should be encouraged to take over as soon as possible. The Kitchen Team is part of the Friday night DeCuria.

The Saturday night DeCuria is fun. Everyone is in a good mood; many more will be sharing posters and summaries. Rollo Team members should lead in applauding other tables in creating joy and sharing love. All teams are welcome to attend.

It is important that each table be allowed to share each one of their posters/discussions. Deleting any one of them, because of scheduling problems, tends to diminish the building of community. DeCuria strengthens and re-enforces the message of the Rollos.

## CHAPEL VISITS

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Table groups will participate in Chapel Visits on Saturday evening after the Agape Dinner. This will last for approximately one half hour. These may take place in the sanctuary and set up by the Palanca Team.

Each table group may stop briefly at the Palanca Chapel to see their candles which have been burning for them since Thursday evening.

Chapel Visits are a time when each table group will be together to express their feelings. These are times of sharing, prayer and love. A deeper understanding of our newly acquired family can become evident at this time. Quality time to relate to God and each other is at a premium, making the Chapel Visits a very special element of communication.

The Table Leader may need to initiate sharing and prayer, to get things going in their group. Table Leaders should not be afraid to share from their own lives. Don't get nervous if someone does not speak – let the quiet come.



## SERENADES AT CURSILLO WEEKENDS

THESE TEACHINGS ARE GIVEN BY THE RECTOR IN COORDINATION WITH THE MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE ROLLO ROOM

Three serenades are a part of every weekend. Each one is very important and all need to be done with careful planning and full attention to details. Like so many other things that happen during the weekend, the serenades also build up to the closing on Sunday evening. Each of the three is assigned to one of the support teams. All musical selections are coordinated with the Rollo Room Music Director.

The Weekend Rector (coordinating with the Kitchen Rector) is responsible for the first serenade at the Agape Dinner on Saturday evening. The setting is one of beauty. This serenade is given to the weekenders by the support teams. Each 4<sup>th</sup> Day and Palanca team member may invite one person to serenade, but they must leave immediately after the serenade. The kitchen team invites members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community to be escorts. These escorts seat the weekenders and serve the food. They are invited guests to the 2<sup>nd</sup> seating of the dinner. One or two musicians may be invited to accompany the serenaders and to continue and play during the dinner. The songs to be sung are pre-arranged. The serenaders leave after the weekenders have been seated. The instrumental accompaniment continues through the dinner.

The Palanca Team is responsible for the second serenade which is the wake-up call on Sunday morning. The team members and the sponsors, or designated substitutes give this serenade. This serenade gradually returns the weekenders to the outside environment. The serenaders should gather quietly for prayer and meditation while waiting for the serenade to begin. Once the serenaders are all gathered quietly outside of the weekenders sleeping rooms the singing will be started by the music leader.

The Fourth Day Team is responsible for the third serenade, which is at lunch on Sunday afternoon. The entire Fourth Day Community is invited to participate. This serenade introduces the weekenders back to their community as they see the large number of Cursillistas who circle the room and sing enthusiastically. The first song is "De Colores" followed by "Shine Jesus Shine" and the final song is "When the Saints"

Music is an important part of our Christian heritage and traditions. Because of this importance, the serenades must be done properly to serve the weekenders with love.

## MUSIC PROGRESSION

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Thursday** - the music this evening is to assist in the group bonding and “getting to know each other” activities. The group sings bible camp type Christian songs such as “If I Had a Hammer”; “Blowing in the Wind” “This Land in Your Land” “Don’t Worry Be Happy”

**Friday** – the focus is more on Jesus, beginning in the morning chapel with “Seek Ye First” and by evening has centered on Jesus with “Make Me a Channel of His Peace”. “Have You Seen Jesus My Lord”; “Jesus is The Rock”

**Saturday** – as the weekenders experience God’s love, the music progresses toward making us more aware of his love and of the community as the body of Christ. Songs such as” Awesome God”;” Create in Me a Clean Heart” “Have You Seen Jesus My Lord” lead to the Agape Dinner.

**Sunday** – music focuses back to their communities with such songs as “Pass It On”, “Freely, Freely”

## ROLLISTAS SEND-OFF AND THANKSGIVING

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY THE PALANCA RECTOR

Send-off and thanksgiving refer to times set aside before and after a Rollo respectively. This is handled by the Palanca Team, which provides care and support for the Rollistas.

Each Palanca team member is paired with a Rollista to offer individual support and to identify any specific needs. This is the Rollista's Palanca Angel.

At team meetings, the send off focuses on preparing the Rollista by introducing him to the rest of the Palanca Team, encouraging him to relax, discussing how he feels about his talk, singing songs he requests. Prayers are offered for the Rollista, team, weekenders and any other concerns.

The Palanca Team supports the Rollistas when they give the practice talk. They take notes, but do not participate in the critique. After the practice talk, the entire Palanca Team and Rollista gather away from the rest of the team for a time of thanksgiving, offering prayers and giving the Rollista an opportunity to discuss the experience of giving his rollo and how he feels it went (always supportive affirmations). Then the Rollista returns to the rest of the team for a period of critique.

At this time, the assigned Palanca partner carries out the wishes of the Rollista as listed on the Rollista Request Sheet. Each Rollista has an opportunity to specify what special Bible passages or favorite songs he has, who he would like to have join him in the chapel for a send-off and thanksgiving (only family and a limited number of close friends on the weekend) and what he would like the Palanca Team to do while he is actually giving his Rollo (pray, sing, listen to a taped version of the Rollo, etc.) The assigned Palanca partner make sure these wishes are carried out. Other support team members are encouraged to attend.

On the weekend the Rollista, Palanca Team and guests (including members from other part of the team who are free) gather 20 to 30 minutes before the Rollo in the Palanca Chapel. Again a time for singing, sharing, and praying. Then the group escorts the Rollista toward the Rollo Room. After the talk, the group regathers to greet and celebrate with a thanksgiving of prayer and song. The Rollista rejoins the Rollo room later on – they should not be present for the discussion in the Rollo Room.

This time of send-off and thanksgiving is a special time for the Rollista and a primary responsibility of the Palanca Team within the time schedule of the Rollo Room.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY THE PALANCA SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

From earliest time, many Christians have desired to walk in prayer and devotion the route Jesus followed on the way to the cross. For most people, it is not possible to go to Jerusalem to do so, and even for those who make the journey, one can no longer know where the authentic “Way of the Cross” is.

Beginning in the Middle Ages, the Church has provided a devotional practice called “The Stations of the Cross”. Within the church, stations (from Latin for “gathering at a place”) or markers are set-up, each station representing a significant event on Jesus’ journey from the court of judgement to crucifixion and the tomb. As the stations move each person is reminded through readings and prayers that following the way of Christ is the way of self-surrender, the way of sacrificial love. “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.” (Mark 8:34).

“O God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ”. The cross sums up the love story of God and man. Therefore, it can never be something over and done with. Rather, it is the meaning of each Christian’s life in the world. By thinking about the cross we can begin to see how St. Paul could say that it is the power of God for us, and how he could tell us to proclaim Christ nailed to the cross and the empty tomb cannot be separated; death itself was slain by Christ’s dying, and life came back in His resurrection.

While private devotion and corporate worship which is focused on the events of Jesus’ passion and death have a profound impact on the believer, there is something particularly meaningful about experiencing the different Stations in the dark as a group. The Stations make it abundantly clear that “we are bought with a price”, and that the darkness of suffering, crucifixion, and death are truly the way to light and life.

Long ago St Augustine assured us that “there is nothing more advantageous, nothing better adapted to ensure our salvation than daily meditation on the suffering of Jesus Christ.” St. Bonaventure registered concurrence with this view when he wrote, “The true disciple of Christ, who desires to conform himself to the Savior who was crucified for our sake, must strive above all to carry about in his soul and body at all times the cross of Jesus Christ until he experiences within himself the truth of the apostle’s words, “With Jesus I am nailed to the cross.”

## Utah Via De Cristo – Stations of the Cross

- Station One: Jesus is Condemned to Death
- Station Two: Jesus Receives the Cross
- Station Three: The Cross is Laid on Simon of Cyrene
- Station Four: The Women Mourn for Jesus
- Station Five: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments.
- Station Six: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross
- Station Seven: Jesus Dies Upon the Cross
- Station Eight: Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross
- Station Nine: Jesus is Lain in the Sepulcher
- Station Ten: The Resurrection

## PLACEMATS

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY THE KITCHEN RECTOR

- Placemats are the responsibility of the Kitchen Team.
- Placemats have a progression:
  - ❖ Friday breakfast – paper towel
  - ❖ Friday lunch – blank paper placemats.
  - ❖ Palanca is introduced Friday afternoon and the Spirit begins to build – Friday dinner simple colorful borders on the placemats.
  - ❖ Saturday breakfast – a little more design on the placemats.
  - ❖ Saturday lunch – more design and including messages on the placemats.
  - ❖ Agape Dinner – linen tablecloths
  - ❖ Sunday lunch – ornate placemats with drawings of Jesus.
- 700-800 placemats are required for each set of weekends – each team member is asked to decorate 12-15 placemats. Even if you do not consider yourself to be artistic you can participate in creating placemats – the Lord uses even our smallest talents.

## DECOLORES

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY THE KITCHEN RECTOR

The term “DeColores” comes from a Spanish folk song which has no religious significance. It has remained popular in Spain for many years in the same tradition as many of our folk songs.

In Majorca, where the Cursillo was founded, the weekenders made their Cursillo at a monastery in the countryside and were usually conveyed to and from the location by bus. One day on the way back from the Cursillo weekend, the bus broke down in the fields and while waiting for it to be repaired the Cursillistas passed the time by singing. Someone spontaneously broke into “DeColores” and pointed to the colors of the field, flowers, and roosters surrounding them, symbolically comparing all the colors to a soul living in sanctifying grace.

From then on it became one of the songs sung while traveling back from the Cursillo and, in time, became associated with the Cursillo movement in that way, even though it is not the official song of the Cursillo movement.

A warm, friendly person from the kitchen team is sent to the Rollo Room Friday afternoon to assist and encourage the learning of “DeColores” which the kitchen team introduces as a group. The kitchen representative (rep) may take on a characterization with some theatrical display as a chicken.

An attitude of favoritism toward the song is encouraged and should result in it becoming a special memory of the weekend. The song is to be sung by the weekenders once or twice before each meal with the kitchen team “living it” more each time. The weekenders and rollo room are to be praised for their efforts in learning the song. It is important that the rollo room team support the effort to learn the song to the best of their ability!

The “chicken” may help in the coordination of time schedules between the kitchen and the rollo room. The chicken should take a minimum amount of precious rollo room time beyond the singing of the song. This person is not heard from again following the Agape Dinner, but the singing of De Colores should be continued in grateful praise to God.

## AGAPE DINNER

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY THE KITCHEN RECTOR

One of the Weekend special activities is the Saturday night Agape (Love) Dinner. This meal follows the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Rollo, Leaders. The Weekenders expect to have to sing “DeColores” quite well before they can eat – then at the last minute they are invited into a banquet in their honor. The room has undergone major transformation from Saturday lunch; from individual table arrangements to a large banquet table; from pretty paper placemats to table cloths and napkins; from simple center pieces to fancy ones, perhaps with candles and fresh flowers; and in the center of the table is a large cross. The message is that God loves the weekenders withholding nothing and giving His best.

The Palanca Team and Fourth Day Team serenade at the beginning of the meal. Rector may invite one or two extra musicians (other than team) to accompany the serenaders. The setting is one of beauty. Music for this serenade is described in the teaching on serenade progressions. Keep in mind that the focus of the evening is on the Weekenders and God’s love for them.

The Weekenders are escorted and served by specially invited guests (escorts). The selection of these escorts is the responsibility of the Kitchen Team. Spouses of Weekenders will not be eligible to serve in this capacity.

Following the Agape meal the Kitchen Team and their guests, the Palanca and 4<sup>th</sup> Day Teams will eat at a “second seating”.



## ROLES OF THE KITCHEN, PALANCA & FOURTH DAY TEAMS

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY A SUPPORT TEAM RECTOR

Via de Cristo mealtimes 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. The kitchen team coordinates the Agape Dinner musician together with the Weekend Rector.

The Palanca team's primary function is Prayer. This team works in and from the Palanca Chapel. The Rollistas are supported in Prayer in the Palanca Chapel before and after presenting their talks. The Palanca team is also the weekend's Altar Guild and is responsible for cleaning bathrooms. The Palanca Team coordinates the progression of banners in the Rollo Room and in the dining room. The Palanc Team organizes the Sunday morning serenade.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Day Team acts as the hosts of the Via de Cristo weekend and coordinators of all 4<sup>th</sup> 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. The 4<sup>th</sup> Day Team organizes the Sunday lunchtime community serenade.

## PROGRESSION AND DYNAMICS OF THE WEEKEND

THIS TALK IS GIVEN BY AN ASSISTANT RECTOR(A)

*Begin by telling a story about progression, maybe about a child first rolling over, pulling themselves up, crawling and then walking. It may be asking the team to recall their own Thursday night and how the progression went for them. Briefly tell about your own experience. The point here is to understand that Cursillo has a progression and that there is a reason for it.*

We are on the Mountain top when each of the weekends start. We have to remember the weekenders are not. They are flat on their backs and first have to rollover. Thursday night is a withdrawal from the outside world for them. We need to be helpful and considerate. Avoid hugging, but still express a feeling of welcome. The music is fun and light. We sing songs that may be familiar to the weekenders. This is a time for the weekenders to look at themselves. That is why the night ends with the Silent Retreat. We need to set the example of silence. Not just the Rollo Room team but all teams. If complete silence is not possible try to keep it to a whisper.

Friday is the time to proclaim the message – the ideal of a Christian living the life of grace.

Saturday is the transition from existing as a Christian to acting as a Christian. We learn to sing what we call the Cursillo songs such as “Have You Seen Jesus My Lord”.

Sunday the emphasis is on our presence in the world and our relations with others. How does Christ want us to live in the world? We shift back to the world, moving the weekenders back into their environment.

Crsillo is a structured and proven method. It is intended that each weekend be as much like those early weekends as possible. We want to maintain that structure and method. We want the actual weekend to progress – but not from one weekend to another.

Meals go from cold cereal to the Agape Dinner.

Place mats are plain white in the beginning, then borders are added, then messages, ideas and love are added. They get fancier and fancier.

Banners go from none on Thursday and increase in number as the weekend progresses.

The flowerpot in the middle of the table grows as the weekenders are growing. It transforms from an empty pot into a flower in full bloom.

The rose bud in the Weekender's Chapel goes from a tight little bud to a fully opened flower.

Rollos go from Ideals, where God is not mentioned, to Total Security and living our life with God.

Even the three serenades progress. The Agape Dinner Serenade is the beginning of moving our weekenders out into the world. This first serenade includes team members and their friends or spouses. The Sunday morning serenade is a wake up call and includes team members and the weekenders' sponsors. The Sunday lunch time serenade includes the whole 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community.

At first the weekend is like a tight cocoon. The team and weekenders learn to speak about their faith to a small group – their table. They then learn to speak to a little larger group – the Rollo room. Finally they take the last step and speak to the entire 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community. We all grow through the weekend to accept God's loving grace through palanca, talks, kindness, meditations and worship.

We are here to experience grace, Christian living, and Christian community, so all of us – team members and weekenders – may leave the weekend free to trust, to care and to reach out to others as they have been reached out to.

Our worship together, our sharing the Eucharist together, is a part of our relationship with our Lord. Through this love, this relationship, we are able to reach out to others. We have joy, peace and love. We build the Christian Community.

Prayer is essential throughout this whole process. During this time of training and during the weekends please end all sessions in prayer. Remember God's progression is automatic if we yield to the Spirit.

## APOSTOLIC HOUR

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY WEEKEND RECTOR(A)

The Apostolic Hour is held in the Weekender's Chapel following the lunch time serenade.

The Spiritual Director and Weekend Rector lead the Apostolic Hour.

The Spritual Director leads weekenders in an open discussion of the weekend and their relationship to Jesus Christ.

Each weekender is encouraged to witness – this is a loving, non-threatening environment which allows them to voice their inner feelings and reflect on the past 3 days and to share what they have experienced.

The Spiritual Director speaks about the weekenders being Apostles for Christ, saying “This is the Apostolic Hour. Apostle means ‘sent one’. You are sent from this place by Christ to work for him.

Each weekender is called by name and presented a cross to wear to remind them of Christ's call and of his love.

ON MEN'S WEEKEND – Rectora speaks to the weekenders about the upcoming week and the women's weekend. This is particularly geared to husbands whose wives will be attending the weekend following. They are encouraged to share in general but not give specifics.

Then it is explained to the weekender that they are going to go to the sanctuary to meet with the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community and if they wish they may share experiences with them. They are asked not to thank the team or their sponsors but to give the glory for the weekend to God.

## STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE OF VdC

### THIS TEACHING IS GIVEN BY A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The Cursillos in Christianity are a spiritual method for a renewal of Christian life. They are directed toward having the truth and grace of Jesus Christ proclaimed to each of the participants in the Cursillo. This is effected through the power and work of the Holy Spirit, for we believe that we cannot by our own reason or understanding believe in Jesus Christ our Lord or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, and sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith (see Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed). All activity during a Cursillo in Christianity, whether it be that of the team members (including talks and liturgies), or the tasks performed by the volunteer workers, is done with the express intention of being a channel through which the Holy Spirit can work more effectively in the lives of the participants. The presence and work of the Holy Spirit is vital to every dimension of a Cursillo in Christianity.

However, Cursillos in Christianity are not to be identified with the Charismatic Movement. The expressed use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit or the active seeking of such gifts during a Cursillo in Christianity is not the intention of a Cursillo. Rather, the purpose and intent of a Cursillo in Christianity is to provide a method whereby a participant can become increasingly equipped with the power of God's grace to be an effective member of the Body of Christ.

This does not discredit expressions of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, healing, etc., but such expressions are discouraged during a Cursillo in Christianity. Great care must be taken so as to keep the focus on what God has done for us through Jesus Christ and what that means for His people. In every instance, all glory and praise should be given to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the same way, Cursillos in Christianity are intended primarily for baptized individuals who already know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is true that the faith of many people who have participated in a Cursillo has been vitally renewed or awakened. But it is not the intention of a Cursillo in Christianity to seek to convert the participants. Rather, through the use of this method, a participant is encouraged to persevere in faith and become an effective channel of God's grace to others. It is assumed that there already is a desire on the part of the participants to grow in faith and to become more intimately involved in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

## JOG TALK

THIS TALK IS GIVEN BY THE RECTOR(A)

JOG - this refers to the Joy of Giving.

As members of the team for Weekend #'s \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ you have been called to give of your time, talents and money.

The weekend would not be possible without your JOG in all three of these areas. We ask for a full commitment from you that you will attend the training sessions, join in fully with your team activities and contribute to the financial costs of the weekend.

We ask that team members pay a money contribution the same as we ask of weekenders – which currently is \$75. This allows us to cover the weekends fully. This is a suggested amount – please consider your circumstances and the leading of the Holy Spirit. You may give your checks to the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Treasurer who is \_\_\_\_\_ for the men's team and \_\_\_\_\_ for the women's team.

## **TEACHING ON THE KITCHEN REP – AKA “THE CHICKEN”**

The kitchen team introduces the song “De Colores” to the Weekenders – following lunch on Friday.

During that time they introduce this as a song that they particularly like and they would like the Weekenders to learn the song and sing it to them before meal times.

One of the team stays behind in the Rollo Room after the rest of the kitchen team has left and works on teaching them De Colores emphasizing how important it is that they keep the kitchen team happy by singing this song.

Not every Cursillo group has a “chicken” but every group does have a Kitchen Rep who likes to play the fool and sing this crazy song. They come to the Rollo Room before meals and act as a transition from the previous activity to going to the next meal. This assists with the timing of meals.

Minnesota Via de Cristo does have a chicken and so they brought this tradition to Utah when they came to assist in setting up the Via de Cristo movement in Utah.

The four meals that the chicken escorts the Rollo Room to their meals are dinner on Friday, breakfast on Saturday, lunch on Saturday and finally the Agape Dinner. Each time the kitchen rep adds more “chicken costume” just red tights and yellow shorts for dinner on Friday – full costume before the Agape Dinner.

The idea is that the Weekenders should be able to sing De Colores without words by the Agape Dinner. The chicken leads them to the door of the Dining Room – dancing and singing – usually table by table. This should be a joyful time and every effort should be taken to keep this humorous and nobody should be worried what will happen if they do not learn the words!! The chicken disappears following the Agape Dinner.

Some Weekenders may make the association that they eat chicken at the Agape Dinner. The Lamb has been Sacrificed.

## **Brief Description of Thursday Evening**

### Thursday – late afternoon

Team arrives, stashes luggage, and helps complete preparations.

Team shares Eucharist and dinner.

### Thursday Night

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

1. Weekenders 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)



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

## Brief Description of Saturday

### Saturday

FOCUS: Conversion

THEME: The Person of Christ

1. Chapel – Morning Prayer (meditation: “The Figure of Christ”)
2. Breakfast
3. Bible Processional
4. 6<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Study – layperson
5. Bibles are given out in the Rollo Room.
6. 7<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Sacraments – SD “Abrazo” introduced.
7. Eucharist #2
8. Lunch
9. 8<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Action – layperson
10. Long break
11. 9<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Obstacles to Grace – SD
12. 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Brief Description of Sunday

### 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 Manitas” & “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. 11<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Environment – layperson
6. 12<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Life in Grace – SD
7. 13<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Christian Community in Action – layperson
8. 14<sup>th</sup> Rollo – Total Security in 4<sup>th</sup> Day
9. Eucharist #3
10. Lunch – (4<sup>th</sup> Day Serenade)
11. Apostolic Hour/4<sup>th</sup> Day Eucharist
12. Clausura
13. Departure of Weekenders – Team Clean Up and brief team meeting.