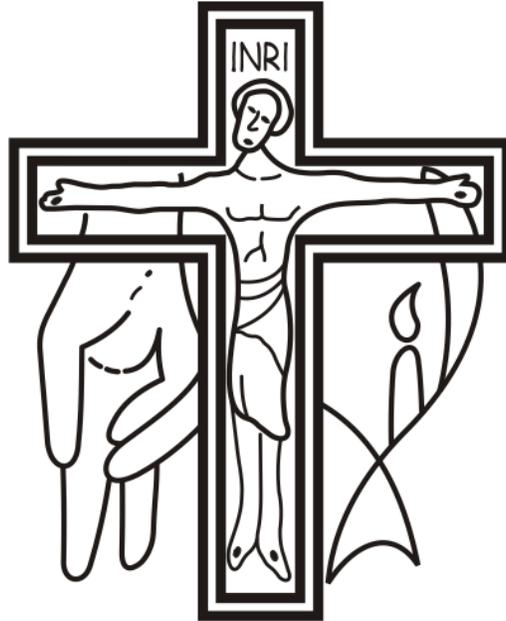


Via de Cristo



“Christ is counting on you”

Name: _____

Leaders

Rollo # 10
30 Minutes

LEADERS

Time: 30 Minutes. Content of this rollo is expected to take 22 – 25 minutes, allowing for 5 – 8 minutes of personal examples or testimony.

Orientation: This is the last talk on Saturday, emphasizing every Christian's role as a leader. It complements the Apostolic Action talk, so it is important to keep in mind the main points of that talk:

- Living in grace is the essence of Christianity.
- Radiating God's love and grace is apostolic action.
- Bringing Christ and His love to all those around us.

The Leader Talk emphasizes the responsibility of each Christian to use their God-given gifts in influencing their environments. This talk emphasizes that every Christian is a leader and Christ empowers us to serve and lead others to Him.

Style: As the last talk on Saturday, Leaders brings all the earlier talks together. The speaker should summarize the day and give examples of successfully living a Christ-centered life. The Leaders talk defines living in grace at a different level. It combines the lessons from Piety, Study, and Apostolic Action. A Christian leader hears Christ's call, throws him/herself decisively into apostolic action and influences others. Via de Cristo weekend encourages each Christian to be a leader affecting their environment. Christian leaders are leaders in their environments, serving as active members of the body of Christ.

The talk should be simple in style, forthright and strong. Through examples, this talk should inspire the participants to visualize themselves as leaders. There are opportunities for telling stories of apostolic successes, stories that show that a Christian leader can influence his/her environments

Objectives: The Leaders talk contains much witnessing and a message: Christian leadership is not a characteristic we possess. It is a gift that can and must be cultivated and learned. Every Christian has leadership gifts and qualities that can be enhanced.

At the conclusion of this talk, participants should be able to understand what being a leader is, visualize themselves on the path to Christian leadership and believe that effective leadership qualities can be learned and/or enhanced in every person. The main objectives of the talk are:

- Each person is a leader in their personal environment.
- Every Christian is charged to transform the world.
- Each person is called to offer all of their talents in service to God.

The group is more than the sum of its individual members when influencing the environment for God.

Preparation: Prepare to write your Rollo with prayerful consideration of the above orientation, style, and objectives. Remember, you are delivering God's message through your words. Studying the following verses will provide context and guidance.

Ephesians 6:16-18
Philemon 4:13
Matthew 17:20
Mark 9:23
Romans 12:12
Hebrews 11:1
Matthew 28:20
I Corinthians 13:1-3
Romans 12:10
John 15:13
Romans 13:8
James 4:10
Philippians 2:5-8
Ephesians 2:10

John 3:16-17
Galatians 6:2
Romans 10:14-15
II Corinthians 3:3
Matthew 25:14-20
Luke 19:12-28
John 15:16
Hebrews 12:2
Galatians 2:20
I John 4:19
Matthew 25:34-40
II Corinthians 2:14-17
Matthew 18:15-20

Do not include all the verses in your talk. Pick two to four verses that speak to you and share them to emphasize your point. The Rector and Spiritual Director may also have verse selections to include.

1. INTRODUCTION

- A. This weekend we are not asking the participants to undertake any special task, carry everyone's burdens or leave their world to join Via de Cristo.
- B. Tomorrow we will return to our places in the world – our families, workplaces and congregations:
- With a new awareness of our part in God's plan
 - With a desire to contribute all our talents to sharing the light and power of the gospel with our world.
 - The love of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, empowers us, a nucleus of Christians, to commit ourselves completely to the service of others.
- C. Commit ourselves completely to the service of others. Act in Christ, through Christ and with Christ. When this happens, our part in God's mission to save the world, Christian transformation of society, will have begun. On that day we will be leaders.

2. LEADERS

- A. Definition:
- Leaders are people who influence the thinking and action of others because of who they are and what they do.
- B. We are not talking about those who are in positions of authority or those who have a talent for organizing others.
- Every situation or environment has people in it who influence what happens. They may or may not be in an official leadership position, but they orient, guide and direct what happens.
- C. Leaders' decisions, opinions, attitudes, and actions influence the decisions, opinions, attitudes, and actions of those around them.

3. NATURAL QUALITIES OF LEADERS

Each of us is unique and must remain so, but all leaders share certain natural qualities that make them effective. In this section share examples of natural qualities of leaders.

- A. Spirit of Initiative - Ability to reach our own decisions and the courage to act on those decisions.
- B. Cooperation with others – lay and clergy.
- C. Willingness to Risk
- D. Observe the situation, consider what seems right.
 - Wait and pray before acting if we believe this is what the Holy Spirit wants us to do, then act.
 - Don't fail to act for fear of being wrong.
- E. Sense of Responsibility - A leader feels responsible for a mission.
- F. Personal Authenticity - Be who you were created to be
- G. Generosity - Give of yourselves, give what you have, what you are, and what you can be.

These natural qualities must be continually developed and perfected through a deepening relationship with God and the development of the following supernatural qualities.

4. SUPERNATURAL QUALITIES OF LEADERS

Supernatural qualities are gifts from God. These are things given to us by God, at the right time to do what we need to do. God does not call the equipped but equips the called.

- A. Living Faith
 - Is reflected in the witness of our normal daily life.
 - Is a total “yes” to letting God work in, with, and through you, that will continue to deepen a personal, mature and dynamic commitment with Christ and the world.
- B. Hope
 - Apostolic hope comes from knowing the work is God's and increases when all human hope is gone.
 - Hope believes with God all things are possible.
 - God calls us to be faithful, not successful, the only failure is not to try.

- Hope is based upon the knowledge that eternity begins here and now with our actions to build the kingdom of God.
- God frees us from our slavery, whether imposed by others or self-imposed. “I will be with you always until the end of time.”

C. Love

- The Christian’s calling is to be the love of Christ.
- We love because God first loved us. This love flows from God through us to care and serve those in need.

D. Imitates Christ by:

- Feeding the hungry
- Raising the dead
- Healing the sick
- Welcoming the stranger
- Proclaiming the message
- Bearing the scourges
- Evangelizing
- Forgiving others
- Giving Himself so we could live.

E. Brings life and hope to a troubled world, gives us a fresh start each day, putting the pain of yesterday behind us.

F. Humility - Allows us to give God credit for all we do. Allows us to acknowledge that God has given gifts and talents to every person and allows us to accept responsibility to use our God given gifts.

G. Knowing every person is as worthy and special in God’s eyes as we are.

5. ME, A CHRISTIAN LEADER

A. You are here at this weekend because you are a leader in your family, your work or other environments.

B. You were placed in this world to influence others.

- Often, we are leaders without realizing it.

C. Continue to be a leader because of Christ and his loving sacrifice for you.

- Be a Christian where you are.

- Bloom where you are planted.
- D. Be Saturated by Christ to Saturate your environments with Christ.
- E. Strive to use all your God-given resources.
- Pray knowing everything depends on God,
 - Work as if everything depends on you!
 - Remember no one can do everything, but each person can do something.

6. CONCLUSION

- A. The world will receive the good news through leaders like us, as we influence others for Christ.
- B. By calling the community to prayer, challenging it to grow and to become a light to the world, and example of faith in action.
- C. We influence the world through those individuals whose lives radiate the joy and peace of the love of Christ.
- D. Live out the call from God given to us at the time of our baptism.
- E. Where we lack talent, the Lord makes up for our deficiencies if we live in grace and give ourselves totally to Him.

Reminding yourself that **“Christ and I are an overwhelming majority.”**