LEADERS
LEADERS
SYNTHESIS OF ITS CONTENT AND CHARACTERISTIC NOTES

THEME
Lay leaders are those who have heard the call of the Lord, launching themselves into an apostolic action that is the expression of a convinced and dynamic disposition so that they reflect Christ in all they say and do.

Leaders are a truly diverse group. They are not asked to abdicate their freedom or personality as children of God, but to project them to the infinite. Leaders also possess a spontaneous combination of human and supernatural qualities that they work to progressively strengthen.

NOTE
The rollista must be spontaneously lively, normal and realistic in their description of these qualities.

LEADERS CONSCIOUS OF THEIR MISSION
The baptized, incorporating a Christian axis within their personality, see clearly the requirements of their baptism and are actively trying to accomplish it by pushing themselves to the limits of their possibilities.

_They must be:_
Laypersons, saints, apostles, men of their times, in line with the Magisterium of the Church.

_Natural Qualities:_
They have a truly human personality, centered on a Christian axis.

_Supernatural Qualities:_
Developing the inexhaustible potential of their baptism.

SITUATION
The last rollo of the second day. By this time most of the Cursillistas are now living in Grace.

ATMOSPHERE
At this point in time the atmosphere is becoming decidedly channeled in such a way that it weighs heavily on those who are unwilling or undecided, causing them to have an intense internal feeling of discontent if they are not yet fully participating in the Cursillo®. Generally, though, this time is characterized by a growing interest on the part of all the candidates.
OBJECTIVE

We must try to win over their hearts and minds. Try and ensure that everyone who wishes to has an opportunity to speak to a priest. By this time almost everyone should have had an encounter with Christ and they are starting to discern what Christ is calling them to do for Him. To give depth and permanency to their joy.

TECHNIQUE

Use personal testimony to illustrate what is being explained. The rollo should be given in a cordial manner that shows the certainty and conviction of the person giving it.

STYLE

The exposition needs to be natural, sincere, convincing and convinced.
LEADERS

OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION

We are not talking about those who are in high places, such as presidents of corporations, or those who have a talent for organization. We are not talking about those who have great wealth or who are prominent in the world. We are talking about those who have more weight, more influence who help bring about the Christian transformation of society.

2. DEFINITION

In the physical world, in the constellations, the planets revolve around the stars by virtue of the fact that the stars have more weight. The same is true in the world of people, they too revolve around those who have more weight, more influence, in this case, those of:

A. More personality (the quality of being a person), formed by:
   - More and better values (criterion).
   - More determination.
   - More perseverance.
   - And therefore, more humanity.

B. Leaders are those who have influence in their environment because:
   - They make decisions without waiting for them to be made by others.
   - Their opinions are listened to.
   - They attract people, people follow where they lead.
   - The leader knows what he/she wants, why he/she wants it, what he/she wants it for, and how he/she wants to achieve it.

C. Not everyone is good for everything but everyone is good for something:

   In the world of people, each one, however insignificant they may seem has somebody who depends on him/her, somebody to love and somebody who loves him/her. The Christian has an advantage: we believe and therefore we experience by living that God loves us.

3. WHAT THE LEADER SHOULD BE LIKE

"They must be mature Catholics, convinced of their faith, solidly versed in the ways of religion, sincerely devoted to the Church, and in particular to this Supreme Apostolic See and Vicar of Christ on earth, persons of genuine piety, of manly virtues, of clean habits, of a life so blameless that the qualities they may serve as an effective example to all." (Pius X, The Firm Proposal).
The one who is aware of his uniqueness.
The one who has control over his whole life, his interior life (attitude) and consequently his actions.

4. THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN FORMATION IS THE WILL TO BE FORMED.
Not to be formed is to be deformed.

5. THE SPECIFIC QUALITIES OF THE LEADER

Natural qualities.
They must know:
A. The ideal: what is proposed; where it leads; what it wants to achieve.
B. The reality: the environment in which one moves; the problems of the men who surround one; dealing with each one according to his character and temperament; adjusting; adapting.

They must have:
A. Discipline: accepting God's Will in all His manifestations.
B. Warmth: mutual understanding, joy; the Grace of God which is the source of authentic joy.
C. Initiative: Don't wait for orders; act decisively in a firm and constant manner.
D. Generosity: God wills it; giving oneself freely and enthusiastically for Christ, not measuring the effort, always more and better.
E. Summary: One must have a human personality, centered about a Christian "axis".

Supernatural qualities:
A. A living faith; a bold faith, trusting in the Grace of God; knowing that we are instruments of God and expecting everything from Him when we have given our own utmost effort.
B. Humility: true awareness and a sense of our condition as the Lord's instruments and of the talents that He has granted us so that we may put them to use for Him.
C. Hope: virtue that increases when all human hope ends. God is concerned with people, not with "works".
D. Love: for a Christian, this life is nothing more than a series of opportunities to win sanctity, and love is a definite subject on which we will be judged. Love seeks out the details and looks out for the good of others.
E. Summary: To develop totally the potential of Baptism.

All these qualities must be played together like the keys of a piano to produce a symphony of life.
6. CONCLUSION

   A. The world will receive the Good News of Christ through those whose lives radiate
      the joy, peace and love of Christ; those whose lives are dedicated and consecrated
      to Him.

   B. Through a nucleus of Christians who put into action their love of God and their
      talents.

7. THE PRISON STORY can be told here as an example of a leader. (See Appendix
   2.)
LEADERS

METHOD OF PREPARING THE ROLLO

While Leaders is the most exciting and stimulating rollo of the second day and contains much witnessing, it also contains a message that must be clearly transmitted to the participants. It must be emphasized that each person's ability to be a leader must be cultivated and strengthened.

PREPARING THE ROLLO

Section 1 – The Introduction reinforces what was said in the Action rollo, that Apostolic Action is both an expression and a consequence of our love for God. It also explains what the leader is not.

At the same time, there are many who will still be struggling with their relationship with God. The Introduction of the rollo and Section 2 speaks to them also, by reassuring them that the Christian is a real person in every sense, struggling and growing to be human and holy, a mixture of faith and doubt. These people will see through the presentation of the qualities of a Christian leader that it is a very desirable thing to be, exemplifying the finest qualities of humanity, fully human and fully alive.

These two sections, especially Section 2-C, clarify that all, each at their own capacity, is a leader. The only thing that is needed, is to totally surrender to Christ.

Section 3 deals with what a Leader should be, centering in on the "Firm Proposal" by Pope Pius X; what Baptism calls for.

Section 4 deals with the will of a Leader to be formed. Being an apostle involves hard work and self-formation.

Section 5 is the most important part of the rollo, and the bulk of the time should be spent there. It should inspire the leader with the idea of what might be attained by a group of men and women who put all their natural and supernatural abilities in the service of the noble ideal of the Christian. Examples and witness should illustrate each quality. The witness should be set to clarify the point. The purpose of the witness or example is to show how important the quality is in the Leader, not how great the rollista is.

A second purpose of the rollo is to show how Piety, Study, and Action are all a daily part of the Leader's life. This point is not made directly, but is scattered throughout the qualities, and should be a general part of the examples and/or witnessing. The leader's reliance on God must be clear, but also how the leader spent a considerable human effort of their own should be interwoven throughout. To illustrate either too much dependence on God (while neglecting the personal effort and planning that should be involved in all Christian action of any duration) or too much dependence on self (while neglecting God's role in action) are both wrong. The rollo should present a picture of a leader as one who "prays as though everything depends on God (which it does) and acts as though everything depends on them (which it does)."

The Leaders rollo presents a picture to the participants of who and what a leader is. The participants should be able to see through the descriptions and examples of the rollista who
and what a leader is, and how to become one; especially how they can become one. Therefore, the examples should not all be of a grand and glorious nature, but should be of a simple enough nature that most can relate to and see a pathway to grow in. This rollo is part of the last phase of the Cursillo®, and continues to outline to the participants the way the Christian should approach the world as a whole. Leaders' is the natural bridge between the tripod of Piety, Study, and Action and the remainder of the rollos, and illustrates the life of the effective Christian in the world. The remainder of the rollos deal specifically with how it can be done; but Leaders should point out that it can be done.

The rollista should be one that exemplifies Christian leadership. He/She should be the one who has developed his/her natural and supernatural qualities to the point that he/she is a leader in his/her environments. Examples of others help, but the most effective presentation includes witness of the rollista's own life. This is not an opportunity, no matter how tempting, to present a personal witness of our conversion to a Christian way of life. The witness begins subsequent to that point and to where the rollista is now. At the same time, the humanness of the rollista should be made evident; all examples and/or witness should not be instant successes, but how even through failure a person can continue to grow.

The rollo should be simple in style, forthright, and strong. The participants should be able to visualize themselves as leaders, and be able to set a goal within themselves to transform their lives to be even more effective. To have a rollista who dazzles all with their abilities and stories could prevent the simple message from being transmitted—that leadership is a capability that all people possess. Thus the witness must fit the level of the participants in the Cursillo® so that each can see his/her place in the plan of God.

Duration: Not more than 35 minutes.
LEADERS

SAMPLE ROLLO

(35 MINUTES)

1. INTRODUCTION

It is possible that some of you, by hearing this title may think this is not for you. As we have just heard in the rollo Action, Apostolic Action is both an expression and a consequence of our love for God. We are not being asked to undertake any special task, carry another's burdens, or leave your day to day things to do something special.

In the physical world, in the constellations, the planets revolve around the stars by virtue of the fact that the stars have more weight. The same is true in the world of people, they too revolve around those who have more weight, more influence.

We are not talking about those who are in high places, such as presidents of corporations, or those who have a talent for organization such as a President of the Parent-Teachers Associations, supervisors in an office, or the neighborhood social event person. We are not talking about those who have great wealth or who are prominent in the world.

We are talking about those who have more weight, more influence. Every one of us here has the potential to become this type of leader by using our God-given talents to orient, guide, and direct those around us to help bring about the Christian transformation of society.

2. DEFINITION

The leaders are those who lead and rule; one who influence others. Those with more personality (the quality of being a person), formed by: More and better values (criterion); more determination; more perseverance; and therefore, more humanity.

A. Lay Leaders are those who, having heard the call of the Lord, throw themselves decisively into Apostolic Action, with open and balanced spirit and supernatural criterion of efficacy.

They are the ones who personify Christ in the world in a clear, live, convincing and truthful manner. The ones who open the path toward God.

B. Leaders are those who with their person and conduct influence the thoughts and actions of others in their environment. They guide, orient and direct. (repeat) Their decisions influence the decisions of others. Their opinions help form the opinions of others and their attitudes stir up similar attitudes among other people. People who influence what happens in a group or situation are its leaders.

A leader is one who influences those around him/her; a child, spouse, co-worker, friend, family member, or business associate. This is a well-accepted definition in society.

Those who study organizational structures and dynamics label such a leader as an "agent of change"; one who, "regardless of status, rank or position, recognizes the need for change and by his/her words and actions, influences the attitudes and opinions of others around
him/her to achieve the desired change." Every environment has these "agents of change"; they lead by what they are.

The leader knows what he wants, why he wants it, what he wants it for, and how he wants to achieve it.

C. Not everyone is good for everything but everyone is good for something:

Yes, this applies to each one of us. We all have capabilities and possibilities within our reach; therefore, we are good for something. When we talk about leaders, we are actually referring to those who live in Grace and use their capabilities and possibilities to influence others in whatever circumstance they find themselves.

In the world of people, each one, however insignificant they may seem has somebody who depends on him/her, somebody to love and somebody who loves him/her. The Christian has an advantage: we believe and therefore we experience by living that God loves us.

3. WHAT THE LEADER SHOULD BE LIKE

"They must be mature Catholics, convinced of their faith, solidly versed in the ways of religion, sincerely devoted to the Church, and in particular to this Supreme Apostolic See and Vicar of Christ on earth, persons of genuine piety, of manly virtues, of clean habits, of a life so blameless that the qualities they may serve as an effective example to all." (Pius X, The Firm Proposal).

In synthesis, the Pope does not ask of the Leader more than what Baptism demands. And the baptism demands everything from everyone.

The leader is one who is aware of his/her uniqueness.

The one who has control over his/her whole life, his/her interior life (attitude) and consequently his/her actions.

He/She will live in Grace and share his/her life in Christ with others.

He/She will influence those around him/her, leading them to the life of Grace.

4. THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN FORMATION IS THE WILL TO BE FORMED.

To accomplish something, one must have a determination. To have the will to be like Christ and lead others to Christ.

Not to be formed is to be deformed—a leader needs to take responsibility of forming themselves and others. They need to grow in piety, study and action to become better Christians.

5. THE SPECIFIC QUALITIES OF THE LEADER

Each of us is unique and we must remain so, but all leaders share certain natural and supernatural qualities which make them effective.

Natural qualities:

They must know:
A. The ideal; an ideal that makes them truly a person. What is proposed; where it leads; what it wants to achieve and the best way of achieving it.

The ideal we want and believe is synthesized in the word "pilgrimage". To be on a Pilgrimage is to journey through Christ to the Father under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with the help of Mary and all of the saints as you bring your brothers and sisters along with you.

B. The reality: the environment in which one moves; the problems of the persons who surround us; dealing with each one according to his/her character and temperament. These are the people he/she needs to know, to make friends with, become friends of, adjusting himself/herself and adapting himself/herself, giving himself/herself for their sake. Tomorrow we will be talking in more detail about the reality surrounding us.

They must have:

A. Discipline: accepting God's Will in all His manifestations. A leader joyfully accepts the discipline of his/her unique vocation as a Christian.

B. Warmth: Mutual understanding, joy. The Grace of God which is the source of authentic joy. A Christian is always joyful. As we heard in the Piety rollo, living in grace produces a joy that conquers all.

C. Initiative: A Christian doesn't just wait for orders to exercise his Christianity, they take the initiative; act decisively in a firm and constant manner. The leader is the first to recognize the need for change and to take the steps necessary for the change to become a reality.

D. Generosity: God wills it; giving oneself freely and enthusiastically for Christ, not measuring the effort, always more and better. Generosity requires that we give of ourselves totally. A leader will always give of his/her time, energy and treasure, if necessary.

E. Summary: All of these natural qualities must be directed towards the achievement of a profound human personality, centered about a Christian "axis".

 Supernatural qualities:

A. A living faith: Living faith does not simply mean belief or accepting Christian doctrine. It is to be conscious that with Christ we are an overwhelming majority. A bold faith, trusting in the Grace of God; knowing that we are instruments of God and expecting everything from Him when we have given our own utmost effort. The leader with faith says: "God can do anything and it's exciting for me to be his instrument to get it done.

Living faith is that which is reflected in the totality of normal daily life. It introduces the all-powerfulness of God in any situation of life, realizing that He is by one's side, as someone inseparable.

Jesus tells us in Matt. 17:20, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to the mountain, move from here to there and it will move. Nothing is impossible for you." It is living faith such as this that we must have in our everyday lives, not to move mountains but to lead and influence the persons we encounter to bring them closer to Christ.

B. Humility: Humility nourishes all the other virtues and facilitates grace. Let us not confuse humility with timidity when the real cause is the lack of holy audacity. It is true
awareness and a sense of our condition as the Lord's instruments and of the talents that He has granted us so that we may put them to use for Him.

The humble person recognizes God as the source and accepts the responsibility to use God's gifts well (properly or judiciously). Humility does not consist of self-humiliation, in other words, to put yourself down in public. We sometimes tend to believe that we are less than the other person and therefore have a low opinion of our abilities. Humility is also recognizing that each person, regardless of what they may appear to be, has a special talent that is exclusively theirs.

C. Hope: virtue that increases when all human hope ends. Hope is to believe in the impossible and live as if it were a reality. By having hope, we make things possible and overcome discouragement. It is to pray even more from the silence of the desperation.

To have hope is not about waiting for a miracle to happen, but to prepare the path, to do everything in our power for a miracle to occur.

God is concerned with people, not with "works". Our hope is secure in the knowledge of Christ's promise; Jesus himself tells us, "I will be with you always, even to the end of time." (Mt. 28:20)

D. Love: for a Christian, this life is nothing more than a series of opportunities to win sanctity, and love is a definite subject on which we will be judged. Love seeks out the details and looks out for the good of others. Love is the only true dimension of that which is apostolic; the best and greatest demonstration of love helping others live the life of Grace.

Love is the manifestation which determines all the other virtues. It is not just another virtue, but the one which gives feeling, vigor and effectiveness to all the other virtues. It is interesting to see that the last and definite exam the Lord made to Peter is to ask him three times: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" (Jn. 21:15-17), and after succeeding on the answer is when the Lord granted the authority of the papacy He has promised him...; "Take care of my sheep" said Jesus to him. It is also the same Christ who describes the final judgment as an exam of love. He will not ask us: have you gone to church? Have you frequented the Sacraments?... the question Christ is going to ask us is: Have you loved?

Love does not consist just in giving, but on giving oneself. Giving it is just a way, a practice of love; but it is not the perfect love. One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving.

E. Summary:

All these qualities must be played together like the keys of a piano to produce a symphony of life. Christian leaders are those who combine their natural and supernatural qualities with Christian virtue by knowing how to live their response to God's call by accepting and responding to their vocations in life. They all sum up to a constant aspiration to holiness.

[Rollista should provide appropriate witness/example as to how he/she combined their natural and supernatural qualities as a leader, and used them to bring Christ into their area of the world. A personal conversion witness is not appropriate in this rollo.]

Not everyone can do everything, but each one of us can do something. The alternative to our doing something is best expressed by these few but profound words of the English
Statesman Edmund Burke, and I quote, “*All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing.*” (repeat)

6. CONCLUSION

A. The world will receive the Good News of Christ, not through Christians who are sad, discouraged, impatient, angry or anxious, but through those whose lives radiate the joy, peace and love of Christ; those whose lives are dedicated and consecrated to Him.

We are called to make use of our talents, live out our responsibilities, and engage in service to others. In other words, we are called to develop totally the potential of baptism. Even where we lack talent, the Lord, if we live in grace and give ourselves totally to Him, makes up for our limitations—"For Christ and I are an overwhelming majority! With Him we can accomplish anything."

B. The day when Christ can count on a group, a nucleus of Christians who put into action their love of God and their talents, offering not only what they have, but all that they have, guided by the Holy Spirit, bearing witness to the Word and moved by Christian love to serve the truth, on that day the prophecy will be fulfilled: "Even greater things you will see." (Jn. 1:50)

7. THE PRISON STORY can be told here as an example of a leader. (See Appendix 2.)