PRELIMINARY ROLLO
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SYNTHESIS OF ITS CONTENT AND CHARACTERISTIC NOTES

THEME
The Cursillo™ is a means to finding a practical solution to all problems. Its effectiveness is linked to Grace, to the technique and, the idealism, self-surrender and spirit of charity with which one lives it.

NOTE
Curiosity and distrust are present in the atmosphere due to the mixed backgrounds of social, economic, educational status and religious experience present in the group.

The Rector(a) must assume the direction of the weekend in a natural way, without imposing his authority.

CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY
- Cursillo: A short course.
- Christianity: or more precisely, authentic Christendom; constitutes elements of our tradition, of our culture and of our life and has done so for two thousand years.
  - Cursillo is a means: (We don't assert that it is the only one).
  - For a practical solution: (purpose of the Cursillo™).
    - Solution: Group of ideas – dogmatic truths.
    - Practice: Proven effectiveness – Grace and technique.
  - Of all the problems: (Universal characteristics).
    - All of man's problems are reduced to the one fundamental problem of his authentic happiness.
    - Of our personality: (Total person).
      - Our being, our life and our circumstances.
      - A Cursillo™ is not for those who don't have personality.

THEIR EFFECTIVENESS
- Demonstrated by experience.
- It is linked to Grace: (Primary essential element).
  - Spiritual preparation.
- To the technique: (Secondary essential element).
  - Organization – everything is foreseen,
• and their idealism, self-surrender and spirit of charity: (Attitude)
  - cooperation that they must contribute to the whole Cursillo
• with which one lives:
  - the Cursillo must be lived; it must serve as a pattern for life; it is necessary to make life a perennial Cursillo.
• Practical indications to live in the first moments.

SITUATION
The development of this topic, or Preliminary rollo, constitutes the official content of the Cursillo.

It begins immediately after the rooms have been assigned on arrival at the facility where the Cursillo will take place. It will usually begin around 8 p.m. and it should not last more than forty minutes. When it is finished each candidate is given a Pilgrim's Guide.

ATMOSPHERE
The most prevalent thing to note in the atmosphere at this time is without a doubt the curiosity or impatience to know what the Cursillo will be. In some this curiosity is combined with certain distrust regarding the effectiveness of the Cursillo or regarding the competence of the leaders to resolve their arguments about Cursillo, which they would like to discuss.

A total bewilderment exists in all regarding what Cursillo is and how it should be lived, or they may have a mistaken perception of Cursillo due to the lack of discernible elements or as a result of false preconceived ideas.

If the candidates are properly selected (the diversity present among them) when individually considered, and from a religious aspect, goes from the honest Catholic to the practical or theoretical atheist, and in other aspects: from the rich to the poor person, from the worker to the middle class, from the academic to the illiterate. The details of all this should be known ahead of time through studying the individual applications.

Already in these first moments of the Cursillo, small groups will probably already exist, either formed during the trip to the weekend location or before, due to a dangerous affinity between those who may have the intention of not integrating and who may seek to take the initiative in all possible ways thereby destroying the progress of the Cursillo.

OBJECTIVES
In the eyes of the candidates, the "Preliminary Rollo" will have as its objective, to provide an answer, (and this is how it should be presented) to their understandable curiosity to know what the Cursillo will be about.

However, this is only a secondary objective, and in practice, this rollo won't do anything but increase this curiosity since this rollo does not explain what Cursillo is.
The rollo has a primary objective, which should stay carefully obscured, and this is only to take hold of the reins of the weekend since to try to do it later would not be possible without forcing the issue.

It also has another essential objective, which is to state and affirm some unquestionable ideas and statements that constitute the basis and starting point for the whole path of the weekend and which will be repeated over and over.

It is also necessary to ridicule dangerous situations along the way, although in a light-hearted manner, in order to avoid deviations and to foresee difficulties.

For good progress to be made, the collaboration of the candidates is requested and must be clearly specified, stimulating in them the desire to lend this collaboration.

It should be stated, that this progress will not be made possible if they are not in Grace, for without it, they will not understand the truths of the Cursillo.

At the end they will be given some practical norms so that they know what is going on and how to live the first hours of the Cursillo.

**TECHNIQUE**

To achieve the previously mentioned objectives, it should have been made very clear that during this rollo, all, both leaders and candidates, must be present and must pay attention to what is being said, making them aware of the seriousness and importance of all the activities of the Cursillo.

The Rector(a) gives this rollo since he/she is responsible for the progress of the Cursillo and he/she should have the reins of the Cursillo in his/her hands.

It would be a serious error in technique to seek to impose authority with unfortunate statements and interventions. Authority is not imposed, it is granted to those who deserve it. The recognition of the Rector(a)’s leadership and competence must come from the manner in which he/she conducts himself/herself. He/She must demonstrate a quiet self-confidence in front of the candidates. To appear to have an inferiority complex may lead them to believe that the Cursillo will be easy. To demonstrate his/her command of the situation, he/she must remain calm.

Poking light-hearted fun at certain postures ahead of time–towards those who may be difficult–helps to avoid difficult situations.

Without mentioning the word confession, it should be made clear, that in order for them to understand the Cursillo, it is necessary to be in Grace. The use of an analogy of dirty windows in your house preventing you from seeing the world outside clearly helps to make this point. The aim is to lead them to this conclusion themselves so that they will take the necessary steps to be in Grace.

The candidates must not be attacked openly nor should the opinions some of them hold be ridiculed. Also, to tell them that the weekend will be what it must be whether they agree or not, serves no purpose and creates very critical situations. They are more willing to lend their cooperation than to allow any type of imposition.
STYLE

This rollo must develop with supreme naturalness, without any type of arrogance; if this is done the arguments will be made without any need of oratory.

This naturalness should be accompanied by a firm confidence in the ideas and in the way they are expressed, without hesitation or inaccuracies that lead to confusion.

It should not be forgotten that, being the first of the rollos, the impression that is given is of supreme importance since the rest of the weekend will be gauged by it.

While remaining peaceful, the best way, however, is to give the rollo in an amenable manner using some phrases that, when combined with the Grace present in the candidates, facilitates the acceptance of the truths that are presented.
PRELIMINARY ROLLO

OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION
   A. Welcome/Invocation to the Holy Spirit.
   B. Brief History of the Beginning of the Movement.

2. WHAT IS A CURSILLO®?
   A. It is an experience – A Cursillo® is lived and, as such it cannot be defined.
      To know what a Cursillo® is, it is necessary to live one. You will say the same thing
      yourselves at the end of the three days.
   B. It is a short, intense course.
      Cursillo®: A short course of three full days.
      An intense course taking advantage of each one of the days.
      Objective: Total solution of all the problems of our life that will be reduced to the
      fundamental problem of our happiness. You will find your authentic happiness.

3. PURPOSE OF CURSILLO®
   A. It is not theories but realities.
      Solution: a framework of ideas which are able to provide a solution.
      Practical: effectiveness; possibilities and means to bring them to completion.
   B. We have come to fill:
      Our heads with ideas.
      Our hearts with fire to carry out the ideas.
   C. To be filled we must open:
      Our minds and hearts are either opened or closed from inside.
      Waiting too long can be equal to arriving late.

4. CHARACTERISTICS
   • Humility – God solely reveals Himself to the humble person.
   • Sincerity – The Truth will set you free and it is only revealed to those who are
     sincere.
   • Don't judge in advance – Like the disappointment when opening the first boxes of
     a machine which is received in several pieces.
   • Forget your prejudices. They don't change anything.
5. FOR WHOM IS THE CURSILLO® INTENDED?
   A. The Cursillo® is not for those who are:
      • without personality.
      • immature.
      • angry.
      • coward.
      • non-Catholics.
   B. The Cursillo® is intended for:
      • those with personality.
      • the mature person.
      • the courageous.
      • all who are restless for a better life.
      • each one of you.

6. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURSILLO® DEPENDS
   On our Openness to Grace, Organization, and Cooperation.
   A. On the Grace of God: sacraments, prayers and sacrifices that others have offered and which they will continue to offer for you during the Cursillo®.
   B. On organization: everything is foreseen and orderly to have the most effectiveness.
   C. On cooperation, we ask for your:
      • Idealism – Necessary to undertake any thing.
      • Self-surrender – Attention to the moment that one is living; there is time for everything; to listen although they may be truths you already know. We will ring the bell when it is time for you to come.
      • Spirit of Charity – We have come from different places to make better friends with each other.

7. WHAT IS DONE DURING THE THREE DAYS?
   A. Pray – In order to facilitate the process of prayer, you will be provided with a prayer book called the Pilgrim's Guide.
   B. Study – The truth can be known through study
   C. Act – Your work (action) will consist of participating in group dialogue.
8. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS
   A. Put all your concerns aside.
   B. Do not expect more than what Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} offers at each moment.
   C. The Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} pretends that a life well lived is worthwhile.
   D. Spiritual Retreat introduction.
1. INTRODUCTION

A. Welcome to Cursillo®. Let us start this Cursillo® with the invocation to the Holy Spirit. Every act during this weekend will always be preceded by this prayer. "Come Holy Spirit...”

You may be feeling nervous and anxious to get started. Whatever you are feeling now is normal.

We are all here for various reasons. Perhaps you were prompted by your spouse, a friend, a family member or because you are searching for something in your life or feel a need to grow.

Regardless of what reason you think you are here, you are here because God wants you here.

Try to relax and put aside all of the responsibilities you left behind. They are in good hands, His Hands.

B. Brief History of the Beginning of the Movement.

Born out of a spirit of renewal in the Church that preceded the Second Vatican Council, the Cursillo® Movement originated in Spain in the early 1940's and therefore, many terms we use are of Spanish origin.

Bishop Juan Hervas of Mallorca and a dedicated young layperson, Eduardo Bonnin, were the two primary leaders of the first Cursillo® in Christianity. The first Cursillo® was held in August 1944 and has spread throughout the world. Cursillo® was first introduced in the United States in 1957 at Waco, Texas. The first Cursillo® in the ______________ Diocese was held in ________

2. WHAT IS A CURSILLO®?

A. It is an experience.

Because the Cursillo® is an experience and as such cannot be fully described, it must be lived and experienced firsthand to appreciate its fullness.

B. It is a short and intense course.

The word Cursillo®, pronounced Kur-See-Yo, in English means a short course. The official name is Cursillo® in Christianity—a short but intense course in Christianity. It consists of three full days of sharing and living what is fundamental for being a Christian.

Objective: Total solution of all the problems of our life that will be reduced to the fundamental problem of our happiness. You will find your authentic happiness.
3. PURPOSE OF CURSILLO™

A. It is a method – a way of accomplishing something.

Practical – The Cursillo™ will provide you with a method to help you find practical solutions to the problems we face on a daily basis. The application of this method will prove that true and lasting peace is attainable.

Solution – It is a framework of ideas, the absorption of which demands openness.

B. In order for all of us to be able to accept the ideas that will be presented, it is essential that we have open hearts and minds. Without openness, the walls that we build, or allow remaining standing, may prevent us from actually hearing and absorbing what is being said.

We cannot open your heart and mind. Only you have access to the key that opens your heart and your mind. You must do that from within.

We have come to the Cursillo™ to fill our heads with ideas and our hearts with fire in order to accomplish these ideals.

4. CHARACTERISTICS

Humility – God solely reveals Himself to the humble person. The prideful and the satisfied are not able to experience this revelation because they feel no desire to know because they know it all. True, we may not teach you anything new, but in this Cursillo™ you will gain much depending on the degree of humility of each person.

• Sincerity – The Truth is the only one that sets you free and it is only revealed to those who are sincere; those who truly open their hearts and minds.

• Don't make judgments in advance--today is the most difficult day. Like in the first stages of any important project, we need to wait until it is completed. The Cursillo® is a perfect machine in which each part, however insignificant it may seem, has its importance. (Example: "The Story of the Threshing Machine", Appendix 1.)

• Forget your prejudices. The Cursillo™ makes the best in us bloom and the not so good in us disappear. We must not only be in the Cursillo™, but live it, also.

5. FOR WHOM IS THE CURSILLO™ INTENDED?

A. Let us first mention for whom it is not intended.

• It is not suitable for persons without personality – those who allow themselves to be dragged by the current. For them, even if they get something out of the Cursillo™, it will not last.

• It is not suitable for immature persons. The Cursillo™ require serious decisions which the immature cannot make.

• It is not suitable for the pessimist – those if invited to a picnic, will say it will rain; if we ask them to do something, they will say it won't come out good. For them nothing has remedy, and the Cursillo™ is founded on "everything is possible."
• It is not suitable for the coward. The coward avoids confronting the truth, his own, the truth of others and God's Truth. The Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} requires confrontation with the truth, that as we previously mentioned will be the only thing that will free us.

• The Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} is not intended for non-Catholics, since the Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} itself is centered on the Eucharist.

B. Now, for whom is the Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} intended?

• For those with personality. The Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} is especially intended for those persons, who by their strength of character and personality have the ability to affect others. They are people who can and do influence members of their families, co-workers, friends and other people in general and in their environment.

• For the mature ones. Capable of making their own decisions.

• For the courageous. Men and women of truth, who think, plan and are sure of themselves.

• Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} was designed for all who want to grow, and for all who are restless for a better life. It is for each and every person who is determined to live life and experience it.

The Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} is for each one of you, since you possess these qualities.

We are all here because this is the place that God wants us to be at this very moment. Perhaps, by the end of this weekend, the reason He called you here might become clearer to you.

6. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CURSILLO\textsuperscript{m} DEPENDS

On our Openness to Grace, Organization, and Cooperation.

A. Grace – The primary source of success comes from the Grace of God. This Grace comes to us freely from God and through the Sacraments, prayer and sacrifice of other people, many of whom you do not know.

B. Organization – Everything is foreseen and orderly; everything has been organized and prepared to allow the Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} to flow smoothly.

C. Cooperation – The effectiveness of the Cursillo\textsuperscript{m} also depends on your cooperation, but what we ask of you is real simple. We ask you to contribute three things: Idealism, Self-surrender, and Spirit of Charity.

• Idealism – necessary to undertake anything. Giving your whole-hearted attention to what is going on at that time just as you would to any worthwhile task.

• Self-surrender – living each moment with the intention of doing your very best; there is time for everything. Being open and giving of yourselves and surrendering yourself to the prepared schedule for the weekend. We will be on a fairly tight schedule, and I ask for your cooperation. We will ring the bell when it is time for the next activity.

• Spirit of Charity – A loving attitude of friendship, we have come from different places to make better friends with each other and not to form cliques. Sharing your love and concern for others needs, respecting each others feelings, uniqueness, and individuality. This will be impossible if we isolate ourselves or relate only to our friends and acquaintances.
7. WHAT IS DONE DURING THE THREE DAYS?

There will be time for many things in the Cursillo; laughter, singing, eating, sharing, resting, etc. There will be time for all the ordinary things of daily life. And speaking of daily life, there will also be time for prayer, study and action (work):

A. Prayer: There may be many things we need to "let go" during the next three days that the time allotted for the Cursillo will seem too short. In order to facilitate the process of prayer, you will be provided with a prayer book called the Pilgrim's Guide.

B. Study: The truth can be known through study. The truth will be proclaimed by Priests and Laypersons through talks known as "rollos".

C. Action: Your work (action) will consist of participating in group dialogue in order to gain the most from the Cursillo and its message.

8. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Put all your concerns aside for the next three days along with any prejudgments which you may have about Cursillo. We are all adults and since we've made an effort to come, let's take advantage of the Cursillo experience.

B. Try not to expect more than what the Cursillo can offer at each given moment. The Cursillo is composed of many distinct elements. With God's grace, you will see and experience its awesomeness once all the elements come together.

C. Keep in mind that the Cursillo does not impose on anyone nor does it attempt to brainwash anyone. It simply demonstrates that a life well lived is worth living. Those who wish to accept it will and those who do not won't. However, those who accept the Cursillo message will thoroughly enjoy it and come Sunday will say what was said to the Samaritan Woman: "Now we believe what you said at the beginning not because you told us, but because we have experienced it for ourselves." (Jn. 4:42)

D. Finally, this night will seem the most difficult. Beginning tonight, you are asked to maintain silence until tomorrow morning after Mass. We will begin our silence as we begin the Spiritual Retreat.

(1) It is good to have some silence in the Cursillo to facilitate reflection.

(2) The Spiritual Retreat will be based on two meditations, Way of the Cross and night prayer for tonight. Tomorrow we will continue with morning prayer, a third meditation and Mass in the morning. This will conclude the Retreat and silence.

(3) For your convenience, this facility is equipped with dormitories, bathrooms, Chapel, etc.

The Pilgrim's Guide will be handed out at this time. Please carry it with you at all times. We will now move to the Chapel. Remember to maintain silence as we begin the Retreat.