STUDY
SYNTHESIS OF ITS CONTENT AND CHARACTERISTIC NOTES

THEME

Christianity that is living and intimate, must be based on some precisely known truths, dogmatically valued and sincerely felt. Our progressive integration into the Body of Christ requires a progression, the simple and sincere usage of our intelligence in order to know and assimilate the Gift of God and to project this into all things. In spite of this, the point of Christianity is not to know much, but rather to love much.

The classic Christian "formation" that makes one's Christianity a dictionary of knowledge that is not rooted in conviction nor begun by a decision, has not understood the reality of what it is to simply be a Christian.

NOTE

What the Piety rollo has begun in enthusiasm, the Study rollo must channel by evidence, poking fun at the current prejudices against religion and deposit in the Cursillistas the traces of a secure Christian testimony but at the same time point out the risks of their faith.

WHAT IS STUDY?

Study is necessary for the Christian to explain the reality of humanity and God.

SYNTHESIS OF THE CONTENTS

Study
The application of intelligence in order to learn a science or art, and in our case, in order to know or discover the Gift of God and its projection in all things.

Is Necessary for a Christian
In order that his works are the expression of his convictions and not just a customary ritual; and in order that his piety may become conscious and strong.

To Understand the Reality of Humanity
This is the sum of our being and is the reason we have those moments of pride, cowardice, sinfulness, narrow-mindedness, and childishness which hinder our sanctification.

And of God
Who is a personal, living, omnipotent being, who wants the best for us, and has concrete hopes for each person.

But it is Only a Means
For the progressive integration and conformation of man in Christ, it would be a terrible mistake to turn it into a purpose.
That in Turn Requires the Use of Appropriate Means

Such as books, magazines, or communal acts that bring about the discovery of the possibilities of the normal, living, and triumphant Christianization of our being.

SITUATION

Study is the first rollo of the second day. After this rollo the Rector(a) takes an opportunity to remind the Cursillistas to visit the Blessed Sacrament.

ATMOSPHERE

Normally the Cursillistas are hoping the rest of the rollos continue with the vibrancy of the Piety rollo. The serenity of the Study rollo places them in the authentic track of what the Cursillo® is truly about. In order to capture their interest for what is said during the Cursillo®, it is best to be general and sincere.

OBJECTIVE

One tries to provide a Christian approach and use of their intelligence that places before them a realizable perspective of the Christianization of their person and circumstances. Christianity is able to enter into souls in thousands of ways and if the Piety rollo is able to enter their heart by way of enthusiasm, then the Study rollo is able to enter by way of showing what is evident.

It also serves to destroy some prejudices about the truth of Christianity, which at times can be more than prejudices and possibly honest judgments, which are motivated by the false incarnation and deformed presentation of this Truth on the part of those who proclaim it and portray themselves as good Christians.

It is also necessary to remove the obsession for what has come to be called "formation" – that is, knowledge that illustrates but does not oblige; that can awaken but not illuminate and that can destroy but not convince, obtaining the opposite results of what is intended; that the person comes to regard the Lord with conviction and the joy of discovery.

TECHNIQUE

This rollo is not as vibrant, but also not purely cerebral.

STYLE

The rollo is meant to be a key rollo in the process of conversion. Therefore, this rollo cannot be a dry intellectual presentation on schooling or formal knowledge, but is rather a call to metanoia, a change in our mentality, a challenge for us to face life boldly and live it to its ultimate potential for which God created us.
STUDY

OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION
   Study is the second leg of the tripod. There is no fully human life without an ideal.

2. DEFINITION
   Study is the application of intelligence in order to learn a science or an art.
   A. Study is necessary for anyone, in any field, who wants to master any science or art.
      Science: Doctor. They have illustrated their intelligence with some knowledge.
      Art: Gymnast. Christianity does not diminish nor annul our human potential.
   B. Action is based on a meaningful prayer life of Piety and directed through study.
      • Heart: Piety
      • Mind: Study
      • Will: Action
   C. Study is what aims our action.

3. NECESSITY
   A. Christianity is a way of life and not an outfit one wears that is made up of liturgical practices, prayers, medals, alms, etc.
      If our religious conviction does not clearly show us the reasons for experiencing the good as well as the bad; it is of no value.
   B. Every person either advances guided by ideas or he/she goes along in the tow of circumstances; and in Christianity this is translated into two ways of life:
      One of which deforms it:
      • Comfortable attitude – satisfied, passive.
      • Religion as a shield – truth preserved and used as a suit of armor.
      One which gives it its true sense:
      • Active/revolutionary – restless, dissatisfied, acting and operating ferment.
      • Religion as ferment – truth assimilated and made a reality.
   C. And these two versions of Christianity exist because there are also two classes of persons that exist.
      (1) Those that are guided by an ideal and know where they are going and they want to go where they are heading.
(2) Those that are being towed by the circumstances that surround them. They follow the pace of their environment.

D. We do not work so that Christians will go to Mass on Sundays, not say bad words, or become good people... we work so that all may become modern day saints in their everyday lives. This concept of Christianity can only be achieved if Christians are moved by ideas, because if they live in the shadow of circumstances, they will always maintain a comfortable attitude:

Some evidence for the necessity of study:

**Pius XI**: *True piety must be conscious and hopeful.*

Our will is much stronger when our understanding has been enlightened. With more light, new things are seen and one has the necessary strength to overcome obstacles.

If a Christian is not driven by ideas but is dragged along by circumstances then his growth is impeded because there is no worse lie than half truths.

E. The Gospel says that Christ in his hidden life grew in age, wisdom and grace before God and before men. We also grow in age and we should grow in grace and wisdom. Looking back at our understanding of God when we made our First Communion, that concept we had of Christ perhaps no longer serves us today and it is now necessary to revise it, to center it and revitalize it.

F. Our heart is not big enough to understand the grandeur of even the smallest things and we need a Christ "fully human", a Christ that is living, normal and close to us.

4. **OBJECT OF OUR STUDY**

The object of our study is centered, condensed, and synthesized in the words of St. Augustine: *Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know You.*

A. **Ourselves**: It is essential to know ourselves. This requires a conversion of mind and heart. This profound change is called Metanoia.

(1) Obstacles – A person always fails due to the following five motives:

   a. Pride
   b. Cowardice
   c. Sinfulness
   d. Intolerance (i.e. Narrow-Mindedness)
   e. Childishness

(2) Remedies:

   a. Humility
   b. Courage
   c. Sincerity
   d. Meditation
B. *God*

Who is currently thought of as being little more than a policeman; an idea of the priests, or like a Foreign Affairs minister; a problem solver... but who, nevertheless, is:

- a personal Being
- living
- hopeful for you
- someone who wants the best for you
- Omnipotent

God reveals Himself to us through:

a. creation
b. Scripture
c. teachings of the Church
d. the signs of the times

5. **STUDY AS A MEANS**

*Purpose of Study:*
To resolve all the problems in our lives in the light of our Christianity.
To give Christians an authentic apostolic formation.

*Formation:*
To give form. It is more than information; it is the exercise and perfection of our Christian virtues. Works are what gives form to our lives.

*Apostolic:*
Projecting into our environment these virtues we have acquired and exercised. The seller must know something about the product and the buyer. In order for our actions to be effective we must know Christ and the people we want to spread his message to. By knowing more about Christ and our brothers/sisters, we are then better able to serve the Lord in spreading his message to them. We can say that an hour of study is an hour of prayer.

6. **MEANS FOR STUDY**

A. Books:
Don't just read good books, read the best.
Suggest some good books, magazines.

B. Acts:
Study groups, get-togethers, etc.
7. STUDY, AN AID TO PIETY

Without study people are generally "standard" and their piety may become overly exaggerated sentimentality or else may become diminished by superficiality. Study gives necessary meaning to our piety.

8. CONCLUSION

A. God will be more pleased by piety without study than by study without piety however, neither of these is ideal.

B. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt. 5:48)

C. The Christian, through study, will find the way to put his mind and heart at the service of the Truth. Christ Jesus! Our Ideal!

Example: The stone and the sponge:
If we soak a stone and a sponge in water, both will get wet. While the stone will only get wet on the outside, the sponge gets soaked on the inside as well. The same happens with our study, it should not only soak us externally but internally as well. Like sponges we are able to pour out the waters of our Christianity to soak all those surrounding us with the living water, Jesus Christ.
STUDY

METHOD OF PREPARING THE ROLLO

The opening meditation of the second day is particularly important for the progression of rollos during this day. It presents the person of Christ, but as a person living here and now. He is a man who can be imitated, because He is a human being. In this regard, His role as a leader is drawn out. Christ is a leader of people (as the participant will realize by the end of the day that he/she too must be a leader of people). He is a leader worthy to follow.

The participant at this point realizes that he/she must live in grace, but he/she does not have a complete understanding of what this means. The question is fundamental: How do they find the paths to God to reach the God they now desire and some can feel? The study rollo is meant to answer the questions the participants have, that he/she has to use his/her head to learn how to live in grace, and that learning what to do as a Christian is, in fact, a never-ending task.

The Study rollo is meant to provide these answers. Christianity is not mere external practices, doing things that people can see us do, but life itself. The study rollo needs to show the path not only to be followed now, but the path that must be followed for their entire life, if they are to answer this call from the Father.

The rollo is meant to be a key rollo in the process of conversion. Therefore, this rollo cannot be a dry intellectual presentation on schooling or formal knowledge, but is rather a call to metanoia, a change in our mentality, a challenge for us to face life boldly and live it to its ultimate potential for which God created us.

The basic purpose of the rollo is to show the path leading to a lifetime of growth and learning, learning about the essential meanings of life, becoming friends of God daily, and reaching toward our created potential given us by our Father. Thus the focus of the presentation is our life and its meaning, reaching a peak in Section 4 on the object of our study, emphasizing upon our life and its meaning and be able to have a better knowledge of the person of Christ.

The purpose of the rollo is not to show one how to read books. While books and formal knowledge are important in the study process, it is equally important that the proper attitude is established on the purpose for Study. Thus, any booklists should be short, including only vital books, such as the Scriptures, the documents of Vatican II, some encyclicals, including Pope John Paul II, Christifidelis Laici, and a few inspirational books to be used as a focus for life meditation, such as His Way by David Knight (St. Anthony Messenger Press).

If the rollo is presented properly, the third day rollo on the Study of Environments will be better understood as a further application of our basic study proposal presented here.

PREPARING THE ROLLO

The opening session (Section 1 – Introduction) picks up the theme from the Ideal rollo and the Piety rollo that the creation of the human being was the apex of creation with each person meant to fulfill the promise that they were made in the image and likeness of God.
Coming back to the basic definition of piety, or directing one's whole life toward God, the three elements of this life are pointed out to be the practices of Piety, Study, and Action.

Section 2 defines Study as a means to know and understand the Christian Ideal better. Man is called to live a life of grace, share it with others, and spread it in his environment.

Section 3 continues the arguments that the search for the essentials of life is a never-ending task, demanded not only by our human action, but by the role God placed upon us to live the life in grace, or friendship with God. If a person is to act as a Christian, he/she must know what a Christian should be and how a Christian should act.

Section 4 centers in the words of St. Augustine: "Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know You." We need to center our knowing and our studying in ourselves and in God. By knowing myself, I can discover the obstacles which prevent me to live the life of Grace; the call to sanctity. I also need to discover and find the ways to know God and discern His will in my life. This section is a call to metanoia to the participants and is a key section of the rollo.

Section 5 deals with the purpose of our Study as being only a means to give Christians an authentic apostolic formation.

Section 6 recommends some books and other acts as means for Study and Section 7 refers to Study as giving meaning to piety.

The Conclusion (Section 8) is a summary of the main theme, challenging the participants to change, to move forward, and to begin their process of progressive conversion.

Duration: Not more than 35 minutes.
1. INTRODUCTION

In yesterday's Ideal rollo, we were told there is no fully human life without an ideal, and that a person who desires the authentic ideal with his/her heart will accept it with his/her intellect and move to act upon it with his/her will. But we may ask ourselves—how do I get to know God better, to know Christ so that my choices can be made through awareness and knowledge? One of the ways to do this is through study.

Study is the second leg of the tripod which we heard about in the Piety rollo. Study is more than seeking knowledge through books or attending school. Study must include the experience of life itself and be applied to life.

2. DEFINITION

Study is the application of intelligence in order to learn a science or an art.

A. Explanation of the definition:

Study is necessary for anyone, in any field, who wants to master any science or art. Scholars, artists, professional men of any kind improve their specialty through applying their intellect.

B. Christianity does not diminish nor annul our human potential. Being Christian does not make us lesser of a person. In following Jesus, our whole personality and our intelligence needs to come into play. Piety moves us into Action, but one needs to think and study the means so our Action can be effective.

The person who is guided by the Christian Ideal will find study is a means to know and understand the Christian Ideal better. The person is called to live a life of grace, share it with others, and spread it in their environment. In order to do this well, the person who wants to live his/her Christianity to the full needs to:

Base his/her action on a meaningful prayer life of Piety and direct it through study of the Ideal he/she lives by.

- Heart: Piety
- Mind: Study
- Will: Action

C. Study is what aims our action. This makes us apply our potential in an adequate manner so we can hit what we are aiming at. Piety moves us to act, yet cannot be done at random. Therefore, it is essential to study so that our action becomes effective.
3. NECESSITY OF THE STUDY

A. Study is necessary to all Christians. It is motivated on the basis that Christianity is life and not an outfit one wears. Christianity is not mere external practices, doing things that people can see us do. It includes even more than the very important elements of the liturgy. It is certainly more than wearing a Scapular, medal or an organization membership pin. It is even more than giving alms to the needy. It explains and gives a reason for human living.

Study, for purposes of this rollo and as the second leg of the tripod, is that process through which we come to know God better and to discover what He wants of us. If our religious conviction does not clearly show us the reasons for experiencing the good as well as the bad; it is of no value.

In order to be of full value to us it must, by its very nature, include the experience of life itself and the application of what we learn in life situations.

We accept that God is part of life. Therefore, if we claim God is our ideal, then His way, His truth, and His life must be the subject of our study.

B. There seems to be two versions of Christianity: one original, authentic and in color; and a copy—black and white.

Every person either advances guided by ideas or he/she goes along in the tow of circumstances. In Christianity this is translated into two ways of life:

One of which deforms it:
- Comfortable attitude:
  - Satisfied – Tell them to go, they go. Tell them to leave, they leave.
  - Passive – Incapable of moving to do God's will.
- Religion as a shield: They use religion to protect them from danger, injustice, etc.

One which gives it its true sense:
- **Active/revolutionary**: Restless – dissatisfied, living and active ferment.
- Religion as ferment: Truth assimilated and made a reality.

C. And these two versions of Christianity exist because there are also two classes of persons that exist.

(1) Those that are guided by an ideal and know where they are going and they want to go where they are heading.

(2) Those that are being towed by the circumstances that surround them. They follow the pace of their environment.

D. We do not work so that Christians will go to Mass on Sundays, not say bad words, or become good people... we work so that all may become modern day saints in their everyday lives. This concept of Christianity can only be achieved if Christians are moved by ideas, because if they live in the shadow of circumstances, they will always maintain a comfortable attitude.

Our will is much stronger when our understanding has been enlightened. With more light new things are seen and one has the necessary strength to overcome obstacles.
If a Christian is not driven by ideas but is towed along by circumstances then his/her growth is impeded because there is no worse lie than half truths. The person who studies can become more and more informed of the influence of Christianity in all of his/her life.

E. The Gospel says that Christ in his hidden life grew in age, wisdom and grace, before God and before men. We also grow in age and we should grow in grace and wisdom. Looking back at our understanding of God when we made our First Communion, that concept we had of Christ perhaps no longer serves us today and it is now necessary to revise it, to center it, and revitalize it. Our First Communion clothing does not fit us any more, as we have grown physically; we need to grow in knowledge and spirituality as well. "When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things." (1 Cor. 13:11)

F. It is time we realized that we can count on a Christ that is "fully human", a Christ that is living, normal and close to us, one who helps us find solutions of today's problems, the ideal of our illusions. The only way to know Christ more intimately is through our study of who He is.

4. OBJECT OF OUR STUDY

The object of our study is centered, condensed, and synthesized in the words of St. Augustine: "Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know You." We need to center our knowing and our studying in ourselves and in God. Let us take a look at both in more detail.

A. Ourselves: It is essential to know ourselves. This requires a conversion of mind and heart. This profound change is called Metanoia.

(1) Obstacles - A person always fails due to five motives: Pride, Cowardice, Sinfulness, Intolerance and Childishness. We need to determine how much of each of the five motives is in ourselves in order to bring them back in line. Through studying of ourselves, we will find out how we really are and how to become the saints that God wants us to be.

a. Pride: I may think that I am more and better than everyone else; that I know everything there is to know about being a saint and apostle and have no more to learn.

b. Cowardice: A coward is the one who does not face life; the one who before the problem and even before the Cursillo*, does not want to make a decision.

c. Sinfulness: To confuse happiness which is peace and joy with pleasure which only makes us unhappy.

d. Intolerance (i.e. Narrow-Mindedness): The one who never gets to comprehend the truth of Truth and does not allow to be guided to it.

e. Childishness: The one who takes life as a hobby; a person who lacks personality and lacks maturity. I may simply not recognize that learning how to live as a Christian is a never-ending task. I may be childish enough to think I learned it all as a child.

(2) Remedies - The obstacles are real, yet so are the remedies to overcome those obstacles. These remedies will help to ensure our progressive conversion and help us to live the Christian ideal.
a. The first remedy is humility.

Humility allows us to recognize that we are nothing apart from God, but also to recognize that God made us something by creating us in His likeness and image. Humility is—like St. Therese said—the truth: the plain truth. The truth of accepting ourselves as we are so that we can move on toward perfection. The truth to be able to see our possibilities and also our limitations, recognizing that God is all powerful.

b. The second remedy is courage.

We must have the courage to do what is right despite the ways of the world that more and more contradict the ways of God. We must have the courage to break the chains which link us to sin; to say "NO" to the constant pressure and allure to accept the world's call to materialism. We must be courageous in our rejection of our personal failings like pride, fear of doubts, and misguided goals of study.

c. The third remedy is meditation.

It takes discipline to form a good study habit. To allow ourselves to be confronted with the Word of God in order to change our lives. By being present to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in that quiet time in which we ponder our role in God's plan for the salvation of the world. A time set aside to hear and feel God's presence wherein Jesus' life becomes our own.

[Rollista should provide a short example as to how he/she made use of one of the above remedies to avoid and overcome excuses and obstacles in his/her quest for the truth.]

B. God

Besides knowing ourselves, we also need to center our knowing and our study of God.

God is currently thought of as being little more than a policeman, Foreign Affairs minister, but who, nevertheless, is: a personal Being, living, hopeful for you, someone who wants the best for you; Omnipotent.

There are many ways in which we can know God.

(1)God reveals Himself to us through creation, the Scriptures, teachings of the Church, and many other means. Let's look at each one individually:

a. First, through creation—Pope John Paul II, in Veritas Splendor or the "Splendor of Truth", writes:

"The Splendor of Truth shines forth in all the works of the Creator, and in a special way in man, created in the image and likeness of God. Truth enlightens man's intelligence and shapes his freedom, leading him to know and love the Lord."

[Rollista should provide a short personal example as to how he/she has experienced God in His creation (nature, other human beings, etc.)]

b. God also reveals Himself through the Scriptures:

Scripture must be a large part of our Christian study, our search and discernment of the truth. The New Testament, for example, provides us with knowledge of Jesus; how He acted, what He said. We are able to know Jesus as a person and meet Him face-to-face.
Rollista should provide a short personal example as to how he/she has learned more about God the Father, Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit through reading and studying Scripture. Rollista may also use Old Testament as well.

c. God also reveals Himself to us through the teachings of the Church, especially Papal Encyclicals and letters, Council Documents, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. These sources of Christian study help us to understand what God asks of us. They provide us with materials that are the result of the prayer and discernment of Church leaders from the past to the present.

[Rollista may provide a brief personal example of something learned or better understood from reading or studying the Teachings of the Church, etc.]

d. God reveals Himself to us through spiritual exercises, group reunions (sharing with others), and daily examination of our conscience.

e. We can also discern God's will in the signs of the times as reflected in nature, the media, arts, and the events of every day life in this world.

(1) Communication Means – newspaper, radio, TV, internet, etc. Many times we can discover God's will in what we see, hear, and experience through them.

(2) Art – media, theater, literature. They not only bring the message of the author, but also reflect the mentality of our times.

(3) Life's Events, Nature, etc. – we can learn God's message through nature and ordinary events if we only open our hearts and our minds to them.

It is vital that we know and use the tools of study available to us to achieve our goal of an ongoing change of mind and heart, a progressive conversion—a vital, vibrant, and continuing metanoia.

[It is important for the rollista to provide a short personal example as to how he/she has been able to discern God's will through one of the various methods described above. The participants need to know that the rollista is living out what he/she is proclaiming.]

5. STUDY AS A MEANS

Purpose of Study:
It is clear that it is necessary to Study, but we should not give it more importance than what it is. No one should study for the sake of studying. Study is only a means and should not be made an end. We want to study to resolve all the problems in our lives in the light of our Christianity.

The purpose of our study is to give Christians an authentic apostolic formation.

Formation:
Formation is to give form. It is more than information. It is the exercise and perfection of our Christian virtues. Works are what give form to our lives.

Apostolic:
Projecting into our environment these virtues we have acquired and exercised. The seller must know something about the product and the buyer. In order for our actions to be
effective we must know Christ and the people we want to spread his message to. By knowing more about Christ and our brothers and sisters, we are then better able to serve the Lord in spreading his message to them.

Once our apostolic action is thought out, we have to launch ourselves without fear, knowing that the Lord's promises do not fail and that the Holy Spirit will put words of efficacy in the mouth of His apostles.

6. MEANS FOR STUDY

We have said that study is a means for our apostolic formation. It is only logical that if by studying we become better instruments of God, then it is true that the phrase "an hour of study is an hour of prayer." But to study we will need certain means. There are several means that help us know God's gift and his plan in all things.

A. Books:

Books are the primary source for study. There is a vast amount of printed material on the market and in the libraries. The biggest task is selecting books that will help my goal of a Christ-centered mind for a Christ-centered life.

Don't just read good books, read only the best. The first book of the Christian is the Book of the Word of God, a well that never runs dry and a source of refreshment for all who draw from it. Another great book is the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a complete summary of what Catholics throughout the world believe in common (II Vatican Council Documents, Church tradition and teachings, and the lives of the saints).

(Suggest some other good books, audio CD's, videos, magazines)

B. Acts:

Study groups, get-togethers, etc. – whether at home, a coffee shop, a restaurant, etc. Workshops, and seminars are sources of study.

Sample of a Witness

[The rollista may provide an example of sharing about Christ with others over a cup of coffee, meal, meeting, etc., can also serve as a means of study.]

7. STUDY, AN AID TO PIETY

Without study people are generally "standard" and their piety may become overly exaggerated sentimentality or else may become diminished by superficiality. Study gives necessary meaning to our piety. We need therefore, to truly study but to always know that it is not precisely to be a theologian but to be saints. To be saints is precisely the only thing that can truly interest us because it is the one thing that God is calling us to.

8. CONCLUSION

A. God will be more pleased by piety without study than by study without piety however, neither of these is ideal.
B. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt. 5:48)

C. Let's not waste time reading just good books or listening to good audio CD’s or tapes, etc.; let's read, listen and use only the best materials available to us. The Christian, through study, will find the way to put his mind and heart at the service of the Truth. Christ Jesus! Our Ideal!

Christian study gives direction and growth to our progressive conversion by helping us to discern the will of God in our lives and by helping us to reform our mentality.

We are called to perfection but we can never reach perfection unless we apply every aspect of our humanity. We must continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus each and every day. A life that includes study as an essential element will ensure growth individually and as a member of the larger community.

Example: The stone and the sponge:
If we soak a stone and a sponge in water, both will get wet. While the stone will only get wet on the outside, the sponge gets soaked on the inside as well. The same happens with our study, it should not only soak us externally but internally as well. Like sponges we are able to pour out the waters of our Christianity to soak all those surrounding us with the living water, Jesus Christ.