TOTAL SECURITY
TOTAL SECURITY
SYNTHESIS OF ITS CONTENT AND CHARACTERISTIC NOTES

THEME
When we speak of Total Security, we give the candidates a sense of security, an idea that we have found in the method of the 4th Day, a way in which they cannot only perpetuate what they have experienced on the weekend but a means by which the conversion process can grow, deepen and progress for the rest of their lives.

NOTE
Group Reunion and Ultreya should fit into our lives and not overwhelm us, i.e. they should be short and at a time which is most convenient to the participants. The message of the rollo on the weekend should be presented more as an invitation to something that we ourselves do which works, rather than something that they must do because it will make them a Cursillista.

What is shared in this rollo must be what is lived in the Ultreya.

CHRISTIAN "LIVING TOGETHER"
Sole cause of sanctification on account of the jubilant reality of the Mystical Body of Christ.

Is especially made possible by friendship
That is the deepest, most pleasant, and efficacious form of all human "living together."

That is encountered in the Group Reunion
Which is friendship elevated to the level of the transcendent.

A guaranteed channel
That allows for the most efficacy in the minimum amount of time.

To bring Christianity into life
And into the world, to bring it into all those things that happen in the Mystical Body of Christ.

SITUATION
Being the final rollo of the Cursillo, it should be the bridge between the Cursillo and the Postcursillo.

ATMOSPHERE
The people are tired, but they are keenly aware of their surroundings. Many words have been tossed at them, and a certain saturation point has been reached. What is needed is not deep philosophical pronouncements and extensive details (they won't remember them) but a combination of insights and just enough of the mechanics to assure them the method is sound. They won't remember much detail but need to gain the insight that it seems to
be all worked out. All this must be tied together with a strong personal witness of the effectiveness of the method. They must be assured it will work for them, new beginners, as well as for the strong personalities they have met this weekend.

**OBJECTIVE**

One of the prime tasks of this rollo is to assure the participants that this is only the first step of a lifetime of growth. This is reality not a dream, and it truly can shape their lives for eternity if the proper precautions are taken (if they continue in the Postcursillo).

**TECHNIQUE**

The keynote for the rollista is confidence. A sense of insecurity is starting already in the participants and certainly will be felt strongly over the next few days. The rollista must give a firm sense of confidence to them: they are not alone; they can meet the challenge presented to them; all they need is an ongoing relationship with Christ and an ongoing relationship with their brothers and sisters.

**STYLE**

This rollo is usually presented in two sections – the first on Group Reunion and the second on the Ultreya. In many places a sample group reunion will take place within the table groups between the Group Reunion section and the Ultreya section.
TOTAL SECURITY

OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION
   A. If this weekend is only a pleasant memory, it will do little to advance the Kingdom, either in you or in the world.
      The Cursillo⁰ offers a precise method of perseverance which if you want, will ensure you total security for the rest of your life. This method is Group Reunion and Ultreya.
   B. Definition – security is the state of being secure. 
      Security – one who or that which secures or guarantees. 
      Security – to insure; to guarantee.

2. WHAT DO WE WANT TO SECURE?
   The fruits we have received in the Cursillo⁰. The life in grace.
   The life we have come to know in the Cursillo⁰ cannot end in it.

3. NECESSITY
   The Group Reunion – To strongly point out an absolute need:
   A. Life in Grace

GROUP REUNION

4. THE METHOD OF THE GROUP REUNION
   A. What is the Group Reunion?
      We might say that the Group Reunion is the place, the means and the instrument through which the living, practical, triumphal and formidable truth of our Catholic and Apostolic Christianity is shaped and made concrete.
   B. Growth in our endeavor is accelerated and perfected by sharing and planning in small groups.
      • Group – group of friends consisting of 3-6 who meet to grow in friendship and in Grace.
      • Reunion – the act by which the friends come together. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt. 18:20)
      This is what we have done during these three days at our "decurias" (tables).
   C. There are three basic steps in sharing our Christian lives.
      (1) The first is to share our life of Piety. We share how we have nourished our living union with Christ.
(2) Secondly, we share our life of Study. We direct our sharing to how we have come to know Christ better and how that knowledge has helped us to develop a more Christian mentality.

(3) And finally, we share our life of Action – how we have attempted to live out our vocation to be authentic apostles, leaders in our environments.

D. Functioning Technique (hand out the Group Reunion Sheet). See Appendix 5.

I will explain the elements of the Group Reunion and define what each one means and then provide some examples. Remember, the Group Reunion is our support system that everyone here, everyone on the team believes in and follows. (Briefly explain both sides of the sheet.)

(1) First, we begin with the *Prayer to the Holy Spirit.*

(2) Piety – Share our love for God.

   a. **What spiritual aids helped you nurture your vital union with Christ?**

      It is not a rendering of accounts, or mutual control, but a joyful sharing of this facet of our love for God.

      *Example:* Let me give you an example of what I shared recently with my own group under Piety.

      [Rollista should provide a short example of what spiritual acts (aids), helped him/her to grow spiritually in the previous week.]

   b. **What moment did you feel closest to Christ?**

      This moment, explained and commented on, may be our confiding in the Lord at Communion, in the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament, reading a book, etc. These "moments" may come to us at any time, because the love of God is infinite and all things speak to us of Him.

      Let me share with you a close moment.

      [Rollista should provide a short example of how he/she was most aware of Christ’s presence in his/her life and why.]

(3) Study

   **What have you done to better know God’s gift?**

   Once again we share not just what we’re reading or listening to, but rather how what we’ve read about God, helped us to know Him better.

   [Rollista should provide a short example of how his/her study has helped them to be more Christian.]

(4) Action

   The last section of the Group Reunion sheet concerns our efforts as apostles.

   a. **What apostolic success did the Lord want to accomplish in His Church through you this week? In your family, work, environments?**
b. Apostolic failure – *With what failure did the Lord want to test you this week? In your family, work, environments?*

Our love for our neighbor manifested through our apostolic action does not always bring us joy, or give us the sensation of effectiveness.

c. *How was your last week’s plan fulfilled? What are your plans for next week?*

Each week an apostolic plan–or several–is shaped and programmed. It is necessary then to review the present state of the plans already made. We share our plans for the coming week. The plan or plans are never from one individual, but always from the whole group.

[Rollista should provide a short example of what he/she is planning for the coming week.]

d. *Activities of your own group*

As friends, we always find ways to meet, therefore, we may meet at other activities during the week (for a sport, social, visits to the hospital, jail, or just to visit each other together with the family, etc.)

e. *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

[The next section should be a demonstration or example of a Group Reunion.]

(5) Characteristics of the group

Now I’ll explain some of the characteristics necessary for the Group Reunion to be what it was intended to be.

a. Regularity – the group must meet weekly–life needs nourishment on a regular basis.

b. Seriousness – it should have the joyful seriousness that God's things deserve.

c. Confidentiality (Discretion) must be followed. We cannot share honestly and openly if we feel what we are saying is going to be spread to others.

d. Sincerity – Authentic relationships can only be built on a foundation of truth.

(6) The Group and its Reunion are two elements of the same reality:

- The reunion, which is something that happens. It is a temporal and transitory event.
- The group is formed by the persons who belong to it. It is something in and of itself.
- A group of friends who give themselves to each other in trust.
- Friendship exists both when we are with and when we are away from our friends.
- The group lives deeply: "Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ."
- It should be patterned after the naturalness and openness of your table discussion group.
• Finding persons with whom you can build this kind of friendship may take time.

5. ULTREYA – THE REUNION OF THE GROUPS

Introduction

The Ultreya is the weekly reunion which encourages all of us who attend to continue to persevere in our Christian life as apostles for Jesus.

A. The purpose and mission of the Ultreya

(1) Purpose:
• Keep the spirit and friendship of this Cursillo® going.
• The Ultreya is a community which makes itself visible in a weekly gathering.
• The community comes together in an attitude of progressive conversion.
• It is a community united in one faith, one Lord and one baptism.
• It serves as an opportunity to help those who may not have formed a permanent group.

(2) Mission
• To make possible the structuring of Christianity in the world.
• To make "See how they love one another" a reality, visible to those around US.

B. The content of the Ultreya

The Ultreya content is modeled after our evening sharing sessions.

(1) Prayer – the Ultreya begins with the Holy Spirit prayer.

(2) Reunion with people from different groups – The larger community is broken down into smaller groups.

(3) Witness – The witness is a living example of how a person is living out his/her commitment to a life of prayer and metanoia in their daily lives.

(4) Spiritual Direction – The Spiritual Advisor for the Ultreya provides spiritual direction for the group on everything shared.

C. Other Components

• Joy
  • Closest moment to Christ

D. Ultreya ends with the Thanksgiving prayer and if possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

6. CONCLUSION

A. The Ultreya is the place where friendships are built, where each one shares.
• It is a service that the Cursillo offers, not a structure to be imposed.
• Its goal is to facilitate the encounter between people.
• It is a reunion of the Group Reunions.
• A place where the person is what matters the most, not the role that they play in life.
• A place where everyone is welcome and their presence increases our joy.
• The joy of meeting each other.
• A place where we re-initiate each week, our journey.

B. It would be a travesty to bring a person to a Cursillo and at its conclusion, to leave them without the means to live what they heard throughout the weekend.

C. Last Thursday night I (Rector(a)) concluded the introductory rollo with a quote from Chapter 4 of John’s Gospel, it was, “Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard Him for ourselves and we know that He really is the Savior of the World.”

These Samaritans had been brought to Jesus by a woman who had reoriented her life. Through the grace of God, freely given this weekend, hopefully, as individuals and as small Christian communities, may we do the same.

Today, we are ending our Cursillo, but what is essential is our perseverance through Group Reunion and Ultreya which begins tomorrow.

DE COLORES!
TOTAL SECURITY

METHOD OF PREPARING THE ROLLO

NOTES

In the past, the Total Security rollo was renamed Group Reunion and Ultreya. This may not seem to be a big deviation, however, when we in our Movements, understand Cursillo® only from the perspective of and within the context of the weekend, changing the name of a rollo leaves the message of the rollo open to adaptation and therefore the true message is neither understood or delivered by the rollista, nor is it received by the candidate.

If on the other hand, the rollista, and in fact, all the Leaders, have a deep and thorough understanding of the purpose of the whole Movement, then perhaps the name of the rollo is not so important. The message will come through because the rollista understands its goal. It is unfortunate but true, that in many Movements, the Cursillistas learn about the Movement, only through the preparation of the rollos. This is far from adequate.

When we speak of Total Security, we give the candidates a sense of security, an idea that we have found in the method of the 4th Day, a way in which they cannot only perpetuate what they have experienced on the weekend but a means by which the conversion process can grow, deepen and progress for the rest of their lives. Presenting a rollo, or rollos, (in some places it is now two separate rollos), entitled Group Reunion and Ultreya, presents the 4th Day in such a way that it may appear to be something that they must do, rather than presenting a method that provides the means for them to find Total Security in their everyday lives.

When the rollo "The Cursillista Beyond the Cursillo®" was dropped from the weekend, some of what it presented was combined with the Group Reunion and Ultreya Rollo, again giving the rollo a different focus.

If we look at the 4th Day, in many places we realize sadly that it is failing. This isn't because the method is faulty, it is because we haven't understood it and few are living it.

The rollo needs to be studied and the differences in approach noted. The main thing we need to understand is again, that with the changing of the name the focus of the rollo has changed. Total Security is presented as something that is of benefit, rather than something that will cost something, i.e. added commitment. We can all make time for those things that are important to us.

We need to be aware of the key points that are essential to the message, and of the differences between the rollo outline that we currently use, and that used in Mallorca.

Our own ongoing conversion, supported and nourished by a healthy 4th Day, will do far more to convince others, than anything we can say or do. This is the important message, especially in the Ultreya section of the rollo, we come together so that each may become better; while not being the best, through sharing our Christian lives. By being an Ultreya people, people who encourage and support each other on the journey.

Total Security not only centers on the sharing and friendship among conscious and growing Christians, but it shows by explanation and personal witness how the two methods of the Postcursillo program fulfill the needs of the apostle. A structure can be deadening.
If someone maintains a structure for the sake of the structure, they will find the structure a burden and a source of death. A structure or technique is of value only when people want to do something and are looking for the means to accomplish what they want. Holding a hammer in the hand is a major obstacle to using your hand, unless you actually want to hammer something. The most common reason for the failure of the Group Reunion is that people have tried to use it without wanting to accomplish what it was designed for; failing to use it as a simple means of sharing their lives with their friends in Christ, or failing to link it with the broader community of the Ultreya.

We do not find Total Security by attending Group Reunion and Ultreya, we find Total Security by coming to understand that God loves us, unconditionally. i.e. there is nothing that can separate us from the Love of God found in Christ Jesus etc. and Total Security in this context does not mean that life is now free of worries and problems. It simply means that in finding friendship with Christ, we come to understand how God loves us. It is the Group Reunion and Ultreya that give us support and help us to continue the process of conversion in which we deepen our friendship with Christ, becoming more and more convinced of God's love which is where we find Total Security.

We need tools to live well. The Group Reunion and Ultreya are one of the chief values of the Cursillo®, one of the greatest treasures that the Cursillo® contains. It is worth going to a Cursillo® just to be able to make Group Reunion and live the Ultreya.

"We must bear in mind that Group Reunions are not held so that there may be more people to attend the Cursillos, but the Cursillos are held so that there may be people to make a Group Reunion" (Structured Ideas, p. 80).

The same point has application in giving the rollo. The center of the Christian message in this rollo is on the need for community and friendship in Christ and on the importance of sharing our lives as Christians in a personal way. The rollo is divided into (a) stressing the need for sharing with our friends, and (b) illustrating how the Group Reunion and Ultreya fulfill this basic Christian need for personal sharing. Not only must the structure of both the Group Reunion and the Ultreya be explained, but the personal witness of the rollista in both sharing his/her own reunion with the participants, and giving witness to the strength of life given by the Ultreya is critical.

Following Eduardo Bonnín's thought presented above, this rollo is the pinnacle of the weekend. The purpose of the weekend is to have people ready to make a Group Reunion. Great effort must be placed on the importance of this rollo and its message. Too many make the weekend, and like the wheat sown not on good soil, fail to grow and produce. The principal reason is a failure to follow through in a Christian community. Nothing should be done that would weaken its thrust that a Christian cannot make it alone. They need friends; deep, accepting, and generous friends who act as a source of God's grace in their lives.

The second purpose of this rollo is to clarify and sharpen many of the fine points of the weekend. The reference to other talks, power phrases, examples, stories, etc., is used to pinpoint the essence of "living what is fundamental for being a Christian." Each section of the Group Reunion must not only be shared, but sharpened with a few clear insights about how it applies to "every person."

The Group Reunion thrust of the rollo is aimed at the reunion of friends. Too often the failure of the Group Reunion and the subsequent dropping away is due to beginning a
reunion without a deep friendship, and then feeling the constraint of non-acceptance, finally causing one to leave in pain and disillusionment. This is why the stress on the need to find a friend to share with, one who accepts us right where we are.

The Ultreya is the second half of the perseverance method. Both the Group Reunion and the Ultreya must be lived if maximum growth is to be achieved. Either one by itself will eventually lead to disillusionment and discouragement, or to a stoppage of personal growth.

Further development of both the Group Reunion and Ultreya is a task for the Postcursillo to fill, when time and experience will have shown the participants the truth of the method.

PREPARING THE ROLLO

Total Security is the one rollo for which the entire Cursillo™ has been directed. It is not difficult to achieve an atmosphere wherein a person may encounter Christ. What is difficult is the perseverance one year, five years, twenty years from now. This rollo must carefully build on the entire Cursillo™, using references and insights into the Cursillo™ so that the participants will understand what we are talking about here is the extension of the Cursillo™ into a program for the rest of their lives, and not something new and difficult. This rollo, above all others, must not be skimped or shortened so as to save time.

One of the Cursillo’s greatest gifts to the Church is a method of perseverance; a method not based upon a removal from the world, but a method based upon immersion into the world, based upon friendship. The rollo must be strong, warning that they will have "down" times as well as "up" times. We have found a method of persevering through all the ups and downs, and it is so simple that it has been overlooked—sharing with our friends our love and life with God.

The title and introductory section cannot be adequately translated into English. It is based on the various meanings of the Spanish word “seguro”. Seguro would have to be translated into English in five different ways. The first way would be by the word "secure", meaning free from risk. For instance, someone living on a mountain is secure in a flood. The second way would be by the English word "sure", meaning certain or firm. For instance, a person might be sure that it is night-time or a person might have a sure footing. The third way is by the term "safety catch". A safety catch keeps a gun from going off. The fourth way would be (roughly) by the word "security", as in stocks and bonds. The fifth way is the word insurance as in an insurance policy.

The idea behind the introduction is that we want to maintain what we have received in the Cursillo™. We want to keep it secure. We want to be sure of it. We want to have security for it. We want it insured. Therefore, we need some means of warding off any kind of loss or danger; of doing something to insure what has been found in the Cursillo™.

The focus of Total Security is on the value of a personal contact with other Christian apostles to help each other grow in the apostolic ideal. It is a rare person who can "go it alone." And in this rollo, the rollista through explanation and examples conveys the importance of personal contact (friendship) with other Christians who have the same vision and describes the means by which this personal contact can be maintained. At the same time, this rollo focuses on the value of personal sharing as the heart of this personal contact.
with other Christian apostles. The Christian life is strengthened and deepened by being shared.

The great task for this rollo is to show that natural extension of the Cursillo® into a daily and weekly pattern of living. The Total Security should be approached in joy and anticipation by the participants, since it is taken from this great joyful experience they are now living. At the same time, the purpose of many parts of the Cursillo® is explained, by the emphasis on the power of the community and the strength to be found in a friend.

Total Security also is meant to function in somewhat the same way as the Piety rollo. It gives a glimpse into the life of a person who has dedicated his/her life to the Christian ideal, a person who has learned from the Cursillo® and grown because of what he/she has learned. In the course of the rollo, the participants should get a picture of the kind of things which a person does to live as a dedicated apostle. Seeing the life of the rollista will be especially effective, because he/she has been the Rector(a) of the Cursillo®, and the participants have come to know, like, and respect him/her.

Much of the effect of the rollo will come through the examples given. There should, of course, be a number of examples which show the importance of doing something to maintain perseverance and which show the great value of living in a community of other apostles who share their lives in the Group Reunion and the Ultreya. But the explanation of the group reunion sheet is also a chance for the coordinator to share his/her daily life as an apostle with the participants. As he/she shares examples of moments aware of Christ, apostolic successes and failures, and as he/she tells them about the importance of the Piety commitments, Study, and an apostolic plan, he/she is also sharing with them his/her life. In other words, through the examples in this rollo, the participant should get more of a picture both of the existence of an apostolic community that shares its life in the Group Reunion and Ultreya and also of a person who has benefited from his/her life in this apostolic community.

This rollo is the last time the Rector(a) can clarify any issue for the participants. The sharing of the Group Reunion with the participants is a perfect opportunity to insert added explanations, to bringing the message of the Cursillo® into the concrete atmosphere of one's life. Many potential errors can be prevented, especially with respect to apostolic action. Sometimes, during the Cursillo®, the Rector(a) will notice mistaken ideas forming that need to be challenged. Each area can be focused using the council documents or clarifying examples.

The Total Security is the last rollo of the Cursillo®. It must give the feeling that the Christian life can be lived today. It must impact the fact that we are offering to them a proven method. The participant must be convinced that to try and go it alone is almost tantamount of spiritual suicide (at least they will resume their old life), and the community offered by the Cursillo® will fulfill their needs. One of the ways to show the power of the method is for the rollista not only to share his/her Group Reunion in the course of the rollo, but to share the power and presence the method has made in his/her own life, similar to the Piety rollo. This is the rollo which must convince the participants that they should follow through using the Cursillo® method for a most effective and sure road for their development as a Christian person, fully human.

It is not necessary to dwell on every point in the Group Reunion. The sharing of the rollista's reunion is a key to helping others understand the Group Reunion.
Using the example of a Group Reunion is an option of the local movement; it may be replaced by a deeper explanation of the reunion.

The form that is used for sharing is the basic Group Reunion form "I am counting on you". While no great effort should be made to insist on this form, it does set a starting place for the new participants. The true stress is placed on sharing our Tripod. Those sharing in the example of a Group Reunion (if used) should use the same form.

**EXAMPLE OF A GROUP REUNION – Recommended**

During the rollo, the example of a Group Reunion may be held. Two or three members of the team (other than the Rector(a)), preferable if they are from the same permanent group, should share their lives.

The example of a Group Reunion, like the Total Security rollo, serves two purposes. It shows in a concrete way what the Group Reunion is like, so that the participants have a clear idea of it, and it gives the rollistas (or team) a chance to share with the participants the life that they have lived during the week. It provides another picture of the Christianity in action formed by the Cursillo Movement, and it also shows in a more concrete way than the talks have done what the life of the rollistas has been like that week.

Those who take part in the example of a Group Reunion should have been chosen during team preparation and should be well formed in what the Group Reunion is. They should also prepare well for this Group Reunion. They should have fulfilled all of their commitments and have something to share for all the questions about action. The example of a Group Reunion is one of the main chances in the Cursillo for personal testimony. It not only gives the participants a chance to see what the Group Reunion is like, but also a chance to see what the life of a Christian is like. The members of the example Group Reunion should show the participants that what is proposed in the Cursillo can be done and can be done successfully. The Cursillo on the last day should present convincing testimony that the Cursillo ideal can be lived. It is not a good idea to make use of people who do not take their commitments seriously or who have not made the effort to fulfill their apostolic ideal. Those making the Cursillo do not need to be shown that Christians can fall. They know that they will fall. What they need to know is that it can be done.

The example of a Group Reunion should be as natural and relaxed as it can be under the circumstances. It should not be too long.

**Important Note:**

Once the rollo has concluded, a group reunion may be done by all the participants. The Rector(a) works on the formation of the groups, those who live in close proximity, and/or those who have shown that they have developed particular friendships in the Cursillo. The Cursillo leaders are segregated accordingly, but procuring at least one leader at each group. The groups should be small enough so it can be done during the time frame. This would be mostly on the "how to" reunion now that the "why" has been presented. The form of the group reunion questions may vary from the Service Sheet because the participants have not had an opportunity to fulfill any commitments they have made on the Service Sheet. The reunion can address the following questions:

1. What spiritual acts were most nourishing for you?
2. When were you most aware of Christ's presence during this weekend?

3. What program of Study do you intend to begin?

4. What apostolic plan do you have for after the Cursillo®?

Duration: Not more than 40 minutes.
TOTAL SECURITY
SAMPLE ROLLO
(40 MINUTES)

1. INTRODUCTION

A. Well, our Cursillo® experience is almost over, but before we go back to the life that we left on Thursday, I'd like to reassure you that the Cursillo® experience is really not ending today... but rather just beginning. If this Cursillo® is only a pleasant memory, it will do little to advance the Kingdom, either in you or in the world.

You may be thinking to yourself, I like what I've found this weekend, but how long will it last? Is there any way I can keep from losing it? Many of us have experienced a retreat or other religious experience in the past, which brought us to a new high for a few days, weeks, or even months, but then the effect wears off, leaving us pretty much where we were before we started.

The Cursillo® isn't like that, it is not an end in itself, and it will not leave us hanging in mid-air with nothing to support us. The Cursillo® was not meant to be just a happy memory. The Cursillo® offers a precise method of perseverance which if you want, will ensure you total security for the rest of our lives. This method is Group Reunion and Ultreya, a Total Security.

B. Definition

The dictionary tells us among other definition that security is: the state of being secure; one who or that which secures or guarantees. Secure, among others things means, insure; guarantee.

What is insured? Whatever one does not want to lose.

2. WHAT DO WE WANT TO SECURE?

The fruit of the Cursillo®. We have experienced what it means to live the life of grace and share it with our brothers/sisters. We have become friends with our Brother Jesus Christ and shared with our brothers/sisters for three days. It has been a living experience in Christian living which many people wish would continue forever.

This is what we want to make secure. This is the treasure we want to insure.

Now, you might be asking yourself, how do I obtain this security? The Cursillo® method for persevering in our 4th Day, is the method of: Group Reunion and Ultreya.

[The following is a witness]

At this point in my weekend, years ago, I knew that to continue and remain faithful to what I had committed myself to on Sunday would require strength and courage beyond my own capacity. I did not want to lose what I had found—a new life. For me to persevere I would need additional help. I was presented with a method of perseverance that has sustained me to this day and it will continue to do so as long as I allow it to do so.
3. NECESSITY

A. Necessity of the Group Reunion.

The Group Reunion is the second moment in the Cursillos in Christianity. In it the Cursillo® becomes lasting and Christianity becomes constant. Everything that is lived as a Christian should be lived together. The Group Reunion is only a means for living together the Christianity that each one lives or seeks to live.

The deepest form of living together is friendship. Therefore the Group Reunion is friendship raised to the sphere of the Transcendental: friendship converted into permanent actual Grace.

"We must bear in mind that Group Reunions are not held so that there may be people to attend the Cursillos, but the Cursillos are held so that there may be people to make a Group Reunion. And that the Cursillo® is only the best means that we know of for putting the soul at the necessary level to begin to make a Group Reunion." (Eduardo Bonnin)

The Group Reunion is not a simple means to perseverance, since it is also necessary for the one who would persevere without attending it. His innermost heart is within the Christian essence, in the dogma of the Communion of Saints.

4. THE METHOD OF THE GROUP REUNION

A. What is the Group Reunion?

We might say that the Group Reunion is the place, the means and the instrument through which the living, practical, triumphal and formidable truth of our Catholic and Apostolic Christianity is shaped and made concrete.

B. Growth in our endeavor is accelerated and perfected by sharing and planning in small groups. Therefore, in order to grow and progress in our lives as Christians we share, review, and plan how to incorporate into our daily lives what is fundamental to be a Christian.

• Group – group of friends who want to be better friends and Christians who want to be better Christians consisting of 3-6 who meet to grow in friendship and in Grace.

• Reunion – the act by which the friends come together. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt. 18:20)

This is what we have done during these three days at our "decurias" (tables).

C. There are three basic steps in sharing our Christian lives.

(1) The first is to share our life of Piety. We share how we have nourished our living union with Christ.

(2) Secondly, we share our life of Study. We direct our sharing to how we have come to know Christ better and how that knowledge has helped us to develop a more Christian mentality.

(3) And finally, we share our life of Action – how we have attempted to live out our vocation to be authentic apostles, leaders in our environments.

D. Functioning Technique (hand out the Group Reunion Sheet – See Appendix 5.)
I will explain the elements of the Group Reunion and define what each one means and then provide some examples. Remember, the Group Reunion is our support system that everyone here, everyone on the team believes in and follows. (Briefly explain both sides of the sheet.)

(1) First, we begin with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

It is the Spirit who brings a life of grace to us, and makes possible everything that we do as Christians. This also includes our Group Reunion. The Holy Spirit brings our sharing and friendship from a natural to a supernatural level.

(2) Piety – Share our love for God.

The first item we mention is our Piety. You recall that we are called to maintain a relationship with God, and sharing our Piety every week helps us to do that. Each member of the group will then share his/her life of Piety for the past week, addressing the question (read from Group Reunion sheet)

a. What spiritual aids helped you nurture your vital union with Christ?

It is not then a rendering of accounts, or mutual control, but a joyful sharing of this facet of our love for God. Thus, each one explains to the others how he/she has fulfilled his/her promises. In each section of Piety in the "Service Sheet" that Fr./Sr./Deacon/Br. talked about, each person tells what he/she has accomplished and how he/she accomplished it. This living together makes one realize the failures and the possibilities for improving; it makes one see that there are some who do not fail and stimulates all to value, live and practice these mainstays of our life in Grace with greater idealism.

Example: Let me give you an example of what I shared recently with my own group under Piety.

[Rollista should provide a short example of what spiritual acts (aids), helped him/her to grow spiritually in the previous week.]

b. What moment did you feel closest to Christ?

The love that one has for God is not exhausted through acts of piety, but in any normal act of life one can feel more intense love for God, than that shown in acts of piety. And the love for God, not in acts, but subjectively, is what should be shared in second place in the Reunion. This subjective love of God which we sometimes feel very keenly in a normal and "worldly" act and at other times in an act of piety, because it has no limitations in time, place or circumstance, but which can be as broad as life itself.

We ask ourselves "When was I most aware of Christ's presence and why?" One sees and shares the level which each one has reached in his intimate relations with God. And by sharing the best of all these living experiences all the rest are naturally included and encompassed. Thus, one shares "the moment during the week he has felt closest to Christ." This moment, explained and commented on, may be our confiding in the Lord at Communion, in the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament, reading a book, etc. These "moments" may come to us at any time, because the love of God is infinite and all things speak to us of Him.

Let me share with you a close moment.
[Rollista should provide a short example of how he/she was most aware of Christ's presence in his/her life and why.]

(3) The next section on the Group Reunion sheet concerns Study. The question on the sheet reads: (read from sheet).

*What have you done to better know God's gift?*

Once again we share not just what we're reading or listening to, but rather how what we've read about God, helped us to know Him better. Perhaps what we've read taught us something about ourselves in relationship to God. We want to share how our Study aided us in putting on the mind of Christ and how we changed or acted as a result.

What we share in Study might be a passage of scripture which relates to our Christian life, or it might be some information from tapes, a bible class, or sermon. Often it will come from some form of study we have committed ourselves to do on the service sheet.

We do not just share the name of the book we're reading and say we enjoyed it but rather, how did this bring us closer to God and do we have a better understanding of Him and what He wants of us.

[Rollista should provide a short example of how his/her study has helped them to be more Christian.]

(4) Action

The last section of the Group Reunion sheet concerns our efforts as apostles. As we heard in many of the talks this weekend, apostolic action is a natural overflow of our Piety and Study. It is only natural for us to want to share the good news and to bring Christ into our environments.

*If I don't bring Christ into my home, my neighborhood, and work, and my other environments, who will?* None of our environments will be truly affected by a hit or miss approach.

In order to give a complete and global view of our apostolic activity we divide it into (a) successes, and (b) failures.

Success will be the apostolic activity which came out as desired, or which through the Grace of the Lord surpassed all possible calculations. Success is then, simply, that apostolic activity which brings us joy, and makes us aware of the realization of the promises of the Lord: "Ask and it shall be given unto you," "The Holy Spirit will put effective words in the mouth of His Apostles,""Christ and I are an overwhelming majority." Thus, the terms success and failure are not theological but merely psychological—only God knows what favors or impedes the economy of salvation.

a. *What apostolic success did the Lord want to accomplish in His Church through you this week? In your family, work, environments?*

I'd like to clarify that what we say each week in sharing our attempts at action is not necessarily a final result of bringing someone to Christ, but rather a small successful step in following our apostolic plans.

It may be just a contact that is made. Most often it is a step in the make a friend, be a friend, and then bringing your friend to Christ.
Our Apostolic action efforts are not centered on bringing someone to a Cursillo® weekend, although, some of the time they may be. Our apostolic action is usually bringing someone closer to Christ in some way, either by sharing a Christian book, a tape, or just talking with someone about Jesus. Usually before we can do this, we have to go through the make a friend, be a friend stage with that person before we can bring them to Christ.

Now, remember, what we share in group every week is only very small steps. For instance, one week I would share that we were still at the make a friend stage and that we had talked several times that week. Another week, I might share that we went to lunch that week and were still at the “be a friend” stage, and so on.

b. Apostolic failure – With what failure did the Lord want to test you this week? In your family, work, environments?

Apostolic failure. Our love for our neighbor manifested through our apostolic action does not always bring us joy, or give us the sensation of effectiveness, but even at times its fruits tend to increase our worry and restlessness. It is something that does not come out as we had desired, when the seed seems to fall on rocky or thorny soil. Many times human failures through no fault of ours are only the prologue to greater divine successes. One sows, another irrigates and another harvests... The important thing is then not having many successes or many failures, but having a supernatural love for one's brother/sister without obstacles or limiting conditions. The important thing is to work. The Lord fixes the salary of the apostle.

We also need to discern if the failure was the cause of our laziness, etc., in this case it is not the failure of an Apostolic Plan, but the failure of an apostle.

c. How was your last week's plan fulfilled? What are your plans for next week?

Each week an apostolic plan—or several—is shaped and programmed. It is necessary then to review the present state of the plans already made. See whether they have been carried out, whether they can be perfected. See whether the hope, the intention and the prayer of all accompanied the total action of those who were to carry out the plan. What was begun in the name of the Lord must not be left undone, and therefore it is necessary to review the present state of previous plans. Thereby the spiritual living together and the union of ideals that occurred during the week among all the members of the group becomes evident in the reunion.

We share our plans for the coming week. The plan or plans are never from one individual, but always from the whole group. When one acts, the rest form a praying rearguard. In this way the responsibility and the idealism are common. The plan or plans must be concrete. The lack of plans to stimulate and support our pilgrimage always brings about a spiritual letdown, greater risk to routine and a temptation to group narcissism.

[Rollista should provide a short example of what he/she is planning for the coming week.]

d. Activities of your own group

As friends, we always find ways to meet, therefore, we may meet at other activities during the week (for a sport, social, visits to the hospital, jail, or just to visit each other together with the family, etc.)
e. Prayer of Thanksgiving.

[The next section should be a demonstration or example of a Group Reunion.]

Now, I am going to ask the following persons to demonstrate the mechanics of the Group Reunion. This should give you a better idea of how it is done. Just try to keep in mind, that the presence of other people will change the grouping a little. Also, I have given them a time limit.

DEMONSTRATION (10-15 Minutes)

Again, I stress the importance of belonging to a group. Perhaps racing through your minds this very minute are your everyday busy schedules, in all their variety. You may be wondering how you can squeeze in just one more thing, let alone the things I am talking about now. I believe that once you've made this commitment to Christ, all the things will fall into place.

I personally have seen many people lose what they found on a Cursillo because they never got started in Group Reunion, or they did not persevere in grouping.

[The rollista should provide short witness as to the value of a Group Reunion in his/her life.]

St. Paul tells us in Hebrews Chapter 10: "Do not stay away from the meeting of the community as some do."

(5) Characteristics of the Group

Now I'll explain some of the characteristics necessary for the Group Reunion to be what it was intended to be.

a. Regularity - The group must meet weekly, because our spiritual life, just as any other form of life, needs nourishment on a regular basis. If we did not nourish ourselves weekly, our Christian growth would be hindered. I know if I miss group for one week, everything starts to break down, my study falls apart, etc.

b. Seriousness – Another characteristic includes being serious. Group Reunion is not a social hour, it is a sharing experience.

c. Confidentiality (Discretion) – must be followed. We cannot share honestly and openly if we feel what we are saying is going to be spread to others.

d. Sincerity – Authentic relationships can only be built on a foundation of truth. At times, you will have dry spells and will have nothing to share. Just tell your group this and pass on that section. However, do not allow this to become the norm. They will understand and encourage you.

(6) The Group and Its Reunion are two elements of the same reality:

- A group of friends who give themselves to each other in trust.
- The group exists at all times. Friendship exists both when we are with and when we are away from our friends.
- The group practices and lives deeply, "Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ."
A group should be patterned after the naturalness and openness of your table discussion group.

Finding persons with whom you can build this kind of friendship may take time.

5. ULTREYA – THE REUNION OF THE GROUPS

Introduction
If you recall the second element is called Ultreya. The Spanish term means "onward". It developed when the founders were going on the first pilgrimage to St. James the Apostle and while climbing the steep hills of Mallorca, they used to shout Ultreya to encourage each other to continue onward. And so we use that term to mean that which encourages all of us who attend the Ultreya to continue, to persevere in our Christian life as apostles for Jesus Christ.

The Ultreya fulfills the words of Pope Paul VI, when he stated: "Those who sincerely accept the Good News, through the power of their acceptance and shared faith therefore gather together in Jesus’ name in order to seek together the Kingdom, build it up and live it. They make up a community which is in its term evangelizing." (Pope Paul VI, 1975, Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization In The Modern World.)

A. The purpose and mission of the Ultreya

(1) Purpose:
• To keep the spirit and friendship of this Cursillo® ongoing in order that it may be a motivating force for all of us to live the ideal and to evangelize the world.
• The Ultreya is a community which makes itself visible in a weekly gathering. The community comes together in an attitude of progressive conversion.
• It is a community united in one faith, one Lord and one baptism. This community gathers to facilitate the living and sharing of what is fundamental to being Christian.
• The Ultreya also serves as an opportunity to help those who may not have formed a permanent group to come in contact with this larger Christian community and find one or more people he/she may wish to join in group reunion.

(2) Mission
• To make possible the structuring of Christianity in the world.
• To make "See how they love one another" a reality, visible to those around us.

B. The content of the Ultreya

The Ultreya content is modeled after our evening sharing sessions.

(1) Prayer – the Ultreya begins with a prayer. It may be a simple spontaneous prayer, or as we did here, begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

(2) Reunion with people from different groups – The larger community is broken down into smaller groups (3-4), and share our Piety, Study, and Action. This sharing is the center and heart of all Ultreyas. It enables us to develop broader vision and helps us in our search for those with whom we would want to form a (friendship) Group Reunion in the future.
(3) Witness – The witness is a living example of how a person is living out his/her commitment to a life of prayer and metanoia in their daily lives.

(4) Spiritual Direction – The Spiritual Advisor for the Ultreya provides spiritual direction for the group on everything shared, and for individuals who desire personal spiritual direction.

C. Other Components
- Joy – singing, sharing, etc.
- Closest moment to Christ

D. Ultreya ends with the Thanksgiving prayer and if possible in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

6. CONCLUSION

A. The Ultreya is the place where friendships are built, where each one shares what the other has lived so that each can be better, though not the best. Ultreya is not a place where mass is celebrated or where teachings are given or liturgical services take place, it is simply a place where people may come to feel welcomed and accepted.

- It is a service that the Cursillo® offers, not a structure to be imposed.
- The Ultreya is the people who gather together.

- Its goal is to facilitate the encounter between people, who have discovered that in accepting oneself one learns that one can be better and where they discover their desire, together with others, to become more of a person.
  - It is a reunion of the Group Reunions.
  - At the Ultreya, each one should find what they need.
  - To make communication between Christians on a regular basis, a natural occurrence.
  - A place where the person is what matters the most, not the role that they play in life.
  - A place where everyone is welcome and their presence increases our joy.
  - The joy of meeting each other.
  - A place where we re-initiate each week, our journey. None of us has arrived, but all of us are on the way and at the Ultreya we share the joy of being on the way together, or find the will to get back on track, a place where each week, everyone re-discovers why we want to be on the journey and why it is worth it.

B. It would be a travesty to bring a person to a Cursillo® and at its conclusion, to leave him/her without the means to live and what they heard throughout the weekend. Eduardo Bonnin, a founder of the Cursillo® Movement, stated it this way:

"Presenting the loftiness of an infinite ideal without offering at the same time the concrete means to make it a reality in life will always mean sowing utopias in order subsequently to harvest inevitable disappointments. Every fulfillment that is worth living requires, together with the loftiness of the ideal, the concrete means to make its dimension attainable" (Eduardo Bonnin, Structure of Ideas, p. 69).
C. Last Thursday night I concluded the introductory rollo with a quote from Chapter 4 of John's Gospel, it was, "Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard Him for ourselves and we know that He really is the Savior of the World."

These Samaritans had been introduced to Jesus by a woman who had reoriented her life. Through the grace of God, freely given this weekend, hopefully, as individuals and as small Christian communities, may we do the same.

Today, we are ending our Cursillo®, but what is essential is our perseverance through Group Reunion and Ultreya which begins tomorrow.

DE COLORES!