

Friday on the Weekend – Step by Step

Come Holy Spirit... My name is Lois Schering and I made English-speaking Cursillo No. 6 on March 19, 1981 in San Antonio, TX, table of St. Mary Madeline. I worship at Our Lady of Fatima parish in Alcoa.

Friday morning begins as every other Friday on a Cursillo--in Silence. Everyone gets up at the bell, gets dressed and goes in the Chapel for morning prayers, a meditation and Mass. Unlike the past, the Rector prays the prayer before and after the meditation. In the past it was the Spiritual Advisor. Since we will be choosing as candidates, the far away Catholics or those who sit in the back of Church there to comply only with their Sunday obligation, the Rector will say before Mass the following from pg 33 of the PG: "The Mass is the memorial of the Passion and death of our Lord and the announcement of His final return. The Mass is the COMMUNION banquet of all those baptized in Christ, seated around the Father's table. The Mass is the "sign of the unity of the Church" that, through the sharing of the one loaf and one cup, the bonds of LOVE are strengthened, celebrating the joy of our faith."

Following Mass there is a prayer of Thanksgiving found in the PG pg 51, which is a Litany of the Hours.

Opening rollo of the day incorporates a new document called "Professor Cook." It is a cooking school where persons learn to cook out of a desire for trendiness with fully equipped kitchens for each student. Professor Cook is famous for his culinary recipes and dishes. Suppose a student puts salt into the recipe instead of sugar – think of the results. The story is relevant to Cursillo. The Rector tell you what to do so that the Cursillo weekend fulfills its purpose—brilliant ideas that will serve to illuminate the paths of your lives. We put in what we

get out. Do not form judgments in advance, two of the comments given by the Rector.

After this reading, the Rector or Asst. Rector begins Introductions. This is where OPTION 2 comes in. **Read OPTION 2**

After the introductions, the Rector says “You may notice some of the team leaving; they will be praying over the Rollista. Spell out –

R-o-l-l-i-s-t-a is Spanish for speaker. There are no team members praying in the Chapel while the rollos are given. During the time the team is in the Chapel, there is free time in the Rollo Room.

In the past we have stood and sung either “He will raise Him Up” (for men) or Spirit of the Living God” for women prior to the Rollista coming to the podium. **Read OPTION 3**

Instead of introducing the Rollista by their full name, the Rector only uses their first name.

You may notice that we are only saying “Rector” that is because going back to the 1st Cursillo is Mallorca, Spain, there were only Spanish men making the weekend. Even when the Cursillo was introduced in the U.S, only men made it. It wasn’t until 1961 when a military wife complained to her Bishop that English women were invited to attend.

At lunchtime the Spiritual Advisor will be happy. Deacon Bill can now share jokes. For instance, while walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, a minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cottonwool, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with dignity intoned his

version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and in the hole he goes.

During the break after the meals, you can go outside and throw frisbees, jump rope, get a breath of fresh air or exercise until the bell rings!

The rollo -- Layperson in the Church has been changed to Layperson in the World.

After the Piety rollo and before leaving for the Chapel, the Rector reads the Intervention after the Piety rollo. In a confident tone the Rector says "By now you are beginning to realize that the Cursillo is a serious thing. We are not here to just past the time---but to make good use of our time. I do hope you don't feel like a Cursillista we had some time ago who, at this point on his weekend, said that he had had a good time here and he was glad to have come but he remembered a trip to Dollywood where he had had a better time!!! That is because he had not understood anything of what had been said. In fact, he had been present at the Cursillo but he hadn't lived it at all. To live the Cursillo it is necessary that you "open up" to it. The head and the heart can only be opened from the inside. It is like a bottle in the ocean, if the cap is tightly on it, no water will get in the bottle. Let's open the bottle! Let's leave it open at least for these three days.

What happens on the Cursillo weekend is that we are showered with a rain of actual Graces and it is possible that someone is walking under this shower of Grace with an open umbrella. If we want to be soaked with Grace—we need to close our umbrella!

A group of skiers went skiing at Snowshoe. They were a ways out from the ski lodge when they heard the sirens, warning them of a blizzard. They returned to the first shelter with difficulty because of the blinding

snowstorm when they noticed that one of their party was missing. They started out again to look for the woman who was missing but it was starting to get dark so they returned to the shelter. The only one that remained looking was the woman's boyfriend. Night falls and by a flash of lightning, he sees a vague shape at the end of a trail. Despite many dangers, he managed to reach the body and indeed it was his girlfriend lying completely unconscious. He grabbed her and put her on his shoulders. He managed to carry her safely back to the shelter and later to the safety of the ski lodge. The people in this story are divided into two groups: the people who gave up on the search including the friends of the boyfriend and the woman who said: "All this for me, he had done all this for me!"

Look! The weekend is now at its highest peak. You will think what is this all about? Because on the one hand you tell us jokes, on the other hand you tell us serious things and then you tell us stories. This is only about the fact that this alive, normal and close Jesus, who we try to live and pass on and who can only be passed on by living, is knocking at our door. You can find and greet Him if you say in the depths of your heart, as the woman said: All this for ME!!!

Following the intervention rollo, the Rector says the Thanksgiving prayer found in the PG on page 130: "We give you thanks Almighty God for all the benefits you have given us. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen." Then, the team and Cursillistas go to the Chapel to visit the Blessed Sacrament and stand around the altar. The Rector begins by saying "Are we all in Grace? This only You know, Lord. Only You know who of us are in Grace." Then the Rector explains the importance of visiting the Blessed Sacrament.

After the Actual Grace Rollo at 2:30 pm, we have always introduced PALANCA. Step by Step suggests moving the introduction of palanca to

Saturday morning after the Study Rollo (roughly 9:50 am). We have introduced the Prayer Vigil on Saturdays. **Read OPTION 5.**

On Friday evening after the summary and discussion of the Piety rollo, the Rector reads a document called Reunion of the Table Groups which explains the drawing of the posters. Every group has all five drawings incorporating the summary ideas on one poster for Ideal, Habitual Grace, Layperson in the World, Actual Grace and Piety.

The Examination of Conscience and night prayers follow led by the Rector in the Chapel found in PG on pages 67-71.

Hail Mary full of Grace.... **Read OPTION 4**