

We have been learning of some of the changes we will be experiencing during the implementation of the new Step-by-Step Rector guide from the translated works of Eduardo Bonnín. My topic for today is “Saturday” changes. The meditations and Rollos of the second day of the weekend allow us to meet and encounter Christ in new and real ways. The Cursillista meet the Spirit of God in order to realize that God loves them as they are. This was difficult for me to accept when I lived my Cursillo weekend. I knew it in my brain.... But it had obstacles on its way to my heart. This reality must reach our hearts and our souls for us to live what is fundamental to being a Christian and helps us to realize that Christ is the solution to all of our problems. So today we meet and have an encounter with God. No matter where we are in our life, God is always there for us. So let’s begin at sunrise and see this encounter with Christ come to life.

As we all know, it will be another long day. We will begin in the Chapel with Morning Prayers, Meditation on “The

Figure of Christ” which is presented by the Spiritual Advisor and Mass prior to breakfast. The Rector/Rectora will lead the prayer before and after the Meditation and the Thanksgiving after Mass. This is new to our Cursillo weekends. Previously on Saturday we had Mass between the two parts of the Sacraments Rollo. Eduardo wanted the Mass to seem to be at a routine time like in the local parishes. If we look at our own parishes, we will see that the daily Mass on Saturday is usually around 8 am. Eduardo understood that it is important to start our day being fed both spiritually and physically by attending the Mass and then eating breakfast before getting to work on our mission to understand the Cursillo weekend.

We can continue to get to know the new Cursillistas as we gather for a quick breakfast followed by the Group Photo right after breakfast.

After the photo is completed, the new Cursillistas will be directed to the Rollo Room. As Lois mentioned last month in the Friday changes prior to each Rollo, the entire team will gather in the Chapel to pray over the Rollista prior to the Study Rollo. In the Study Rollo we

learn that the Gospel can be lived out in our everyday lives and we can prepare to change our heart and mentality so that we can live the truth – a metanoia. The schedule gives each Rollo a block of time which will include the Rollo, table discussions, time to work on ideas for the poster and breaks for the Cursillistas. Hopefully this will give everyone the time needed to rest occasionally during the day.

Added to the morning task with the Step by Step following this Rollo is the reading by the Rector/Rectora of the Story of John which is new to us. Many of you will recognize this story.

It is said that a priest was walking in his church at noon. Passing by the altar he decided to stay around to see who had come to pray.

At this moment he saw a man coming down the aisle. The man had not shaved for several days. He was wearing a threadbare shirt and his coat was worn out.

The man got down on his knees, bowed his head, got up and left. During the following days, the same man, always at noon, entered the church, knelt down briefly, and then went out again.

The priest became a little fearful and began to suspect the man of being a thief, so he stood at the door of the church and when the man was leaving the church, he asked him:

“What are you doing here?”

The man said he was working in that neighborhood and only had half an hour for lunch. He added, “Since the factory was not far from the church, I took advantage of this time to go to the church and pray. I would just kneel down and say ‘Lord, I just came back to tell you how happy I am. You know, I do not know how to pray very well, but I think of you every day. So Lord, John is here!’”

The priest, feeling foolish, told John that it was fine and that he was welcome to come to the church whenever he wanted.

One day the priest noticed that John had not come to the church for a few days, so he began to worry until one day he went to the factory and asked for him. There they told him that John was ill, and that the doctors had said they believed he did not have many days of life left.

The week that John was in the hospital, he was smiling all the time and his joy was contagious. The head nurse could not understand why John was so happy, since he never received any flowers or cards, or visitors.

The priest approached John's bed along with the nurse and she said, as John was listening: "no friends come to visit him; he has no one to turn to..."

With a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face, the old man John said in surprise,

"The nurse is wrong, because she does not know that every day since I arrived here, at noon a dear friend of mine comes and sits here on my bed.

"He takes my hand, leans over me and says: "I just came to tell you John, how happy I am since I found your

friendship, I think of you every day. So John, Jesus is here.’’

With this same attitude we can approach the Blessed Sacrament, individually or in groups.

For some of us it may be the first time... We do not know what to say to Him, but our heart knows...

Like John, we can say: “Lord, I am here, Lord I’m here!”

John is a normal person who has a friendship with Jesus. On his lunch time from work he would come to the church to talk from his heart to Jesus. This lets us know that anyone can speak with Jesus and as we know, they can speak to Jesus any time of the day. Many of us are aware of someone in our lives who will take time out of their day to stop by the church to pray, maybe not at lunchtime. But, we want to spend time with our Lord and Savior by praying and giving thanks. When we need Jesus he is always available to us. In this story of John when he is ill and is in the hospital he is greeted each day by Jesus. With knowing Jesus, when we are in need Jesus is there for us. We hope that we can instill this in the lives of the new Cursillistas after the weekend is over!

The Step-by-Step (SBS) manual given us by the National Cursillo indicates that Palanca is introduced after the Study Rollo by the Rector/Rectora. As we discussed last month, (Option 5) the SBS committee wants to allow the Spiritual Advisor to continue introducing the Palanca with the Actual Grace Rollo on Friday. We also want to have the local community 24-7 Palanca Vigil introduced to the new Cursillista on Saturday as we have currently been doing.

- In reading the SBS manual, here is some additional information concerning the introduction of Palanca. We encounter ourselves, Jesus and others on the three day weekend. So on Friday we begin to encounter ourselves. This is when we now introduce the Palanca here in our diocese. If we decide to continue to introduce Palanca by the Spiritual Advisor we should emphasize the grace we receive from the palanca. And allow this to grow naturally. On Saturday we will encounter Jesus in the Study, Sacraments, Action and Obstacles to Grace Rollos.

If we introduce the Palanca on Saturday it is suggested that we would see it introduced by the Rector/Rectora after “Story of John” is read. This would also lead us into the introduction of the Blessed Sacrament visits.

As the committee feels it is okay to introduce palanca by the priest or deacon on Friday, we should not draw much to it except the grace received by the palanca. We would put more emphasis into this on Saturday when we introduce more palanca and as we introduce the 24-7 Palanca Vigil. The SBS introduces the Palanca, than places it on a table for the Cursillistas to look at and read during the course of the remainder of the weekend.

The Cursillistas are reminded that the priests are available for spiritual direction and confessions and that the deacons are available for spiritual direction any time during the weekend.

- Another task being added with the Step by Step is the signing of the Pilgrim's Guide. How many of you remember all the candidates and team members on your weekend. It is not about putting your name in someone's Pilgrim's Guide. This is an added attempt for the team and new Cursillistas to get to know one another and to bond during the Cursillo weekend with friendships that will lead into the new Cursillistas 4th day. On Saturday we will attempt to get the new Cursillistas to sign the Pilgrim's Guide.

The team is now encouraged to begin the "corridor work" if they were not able to do this before. This is talking one-on-one with everyone at your table and throughout the Rollo room as you can.

Next we have the Sacraments Rollo. Previously we had two parts of the Sacraments Rollo and then we would go to Mass where the Eucharist is included in the homily. With the SBS the emphasis of the Sacraments Rollo is more on the graces received than a catechesis on the Sacraments. With the Sacraments we can experience and live the saving action of Christ through the Church,

which will help us to build our growing relationship with Christ.

Following the Sacraments Rollo we all will gather quickly in the Chapel for a Blessed Sacrament Visit led by the Spiritual Advisor. Then we will proceed to Lunch.

In the afternoon, we will have the Action, Obstacles to the Life of Grace and the Leaders Rollo followed by Dinner. Using the 3rd leg of the tripod we continue to express to the candidates.... How we can know, love and serve God as we learned in the Baltimore Catechism when we were growing up. And how we can make a friend, be a friend and bring our friend to Christ. We learn in Obstacles, that with Grace, we can be saved from our sinful ways that keep us from our Christian Ideal with Confession, prayer, Spiritual Direction and Christian friendship. In the Leaders Rollo we all will hear that we are Christian Leaders in our world. We can lead others to Christ if we work with Christ we are a majority and we can help to transform the lives of our friends by our Piety, Study and Action and the witness of our Christian lives.

During the free time in between the Rollos the Rector/Rectora will remind the Cursillistas of table visits to the Blessed Sacrament and other tasks such as the discussing of the Rollo, poster ideas and of course comfort breaks. We will continue getting to know people better and signing of the Pilgrim's Guide.

Following Dinner there will be free time to rest, complete the discussion on the Leaders Rollo, a visit to the Blessed Sacrament as a table group and working on posters. When the bell rings all will gather in the Chapel for the Rosary and after, the participants are asked to gather around the Blessed Sacrament as the Rector/Rectora thanks the Lord for all that we have received today. Then we return to the Rollo Room for a fiesta or perhaps in our culture fellowship and sharing. This could be considered similar to the time of fellowship prior to an Ultreya. This is a relaxing time for the members on the weekend consisting of jokes approved by SA, games, songs, humorous stories, goodies and relaxation. Some of the games suggested in the SBS Manual include cards, charades, Apples to Apples, musical chairs to name a

few. I'll forgo the telling of jokes to someone else as I am not very good at that. Perhaps Deacon Jacobs will step up in that area.

Cursillistas will all go back to their tables for the presentations of the summary and poster for the day. Following this we gather in the Chapel for the Examination of Conscience and Night Prayers. Cursillistas are dismissed for the evening however, they are allowed to go to Reconciliation or Spiritual Direction.

The Team will meet in the Rollo room to prepare for the Sunday activities. As with the Thursday and Friday schedule, the SBS committee has worked with the Saturday schedule. We have tried to keep the schedule as close to what we have done here in our diocese. This is to keep everyone from being up until midnight so that we also can get our much needed rest.

DeColores!