

REACHING THE GOAL BY STAYING ON TRACK

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I would like to start by sharing with you my understanding of the title of this talk. Let's divide it in two parts: "**Reaching the goal**" and "**by Staying on Track**".

Reaching the goal

As Father Syd said in his talk, our life should be a perennial Cursillo and a pilgrimage back to the House of the Father. So, for me it is very important to keep always in mind that this is the goal of our Christian life.

In the first page of the Pilgrim Guide it says: "*To be on a Pilgrimage is to journey through Christ to the Father under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with the help of Mary and all of the saints as you bring your brothers and sisters along with you*". So I understand that we are living in temporal circumstances, the everlasting life is our 5th day, in the House of the Father. This place is full of love, like when Paul says in one of his letters when talking about the Faith, Hope and Love. The only one that is going to remain when we get to the Father's House is Love.

Becoming the best we can be,

We have the tools to become the best we can be by understanding and assuming that God gave us talents. As we say in the Leaders Rollo:

Leaders conscious of their mission

The baptized, incorporating a Christian axis within their personality, see clearly the requirements of their baptism and are actively trying to accomplish it by pushing themselves to the limits of their possibilities.

They must be:

Laypersons, saints, apostles, men and women of their times, in line with the magisterium of the Church.

Natural:

They have a truly human personality, centred on a Christian axis.

Supernatural:

Developing the inexhaustible potential of their baptism.

Not the same talents for everyone, but the ones he thought we can develop. In Cursillo we say that not everybody is good to do everything, but we are all good to do something. By sharing our talents in Christianity in Action we are enriching our Movement.

So there is no reason to fight and be in competition with others trying to do the same things. Competitions between Cursillo Movements, Regions etc. Some of us have the talent of organizing the Conference; others are good in liturgy, others by sharing at the tables, and so on, and so on. In our dioceses the Movement has many different types of people, therefore many different talents. Focusing on our goal we can avoid many problems like jealousy between leaders.

We are all Christian leaders and we are called to do something to expand the Kingdom of God. If we understand this, we are assuming our role in society as Laypeople in the Church for the world. We can read this in the Manual of the Rollos:

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The Church

Is not comprised of buildings made of stone, but Christ in history Who desires to continue His Work in those living in Him.

It is Composed of:

Its ministers - who are the official depositories of the revealed truth, with the task of transmitting it

The Laity - "Men constituted in their inviolable integrity as the living images of God; men who are proud of their personal dignity and their healthy freedom."

The Mission of the Laity:

To personify Christ in all circumstances of life.

Characteristics of their Mission

Human: *The Christian must be fully human in order to achieve the miracle of normality, to do the same thing as others, but to do it more fully.*

Supernatural: *The supernatural does not consist in life after death, but living life to the full during our lifetime.*

Apostolic: *Apostolate: Mission for the salvation of those around us*

Hierarchical: *The hierarchy is the backbone of the Mystical Body of Christ*

"The Christian is a joy, a joy to himself, to God and to his fellow men" (John XXIII)

When we finished our Cursillo Weekend, we understood that we have to go back to our own environments and change them, by changing the person, my friends. We can do this by keeping in mind that we have to reach a goal, which is the House of the Father.

By staying on Track

The track that I choose is Cursillo Movement. In the Cursillo Weekend I came to understand that God love's me, and he accepts me as I am, but He wants me to be better.

When I was first married, I was not a good person. I was a drinker and even at my wedding I was drunk. When my wife took the wine at communion, she only took a sip, and I was happy, because it meant she had left more of the wine for me. That was all it meant. I was a soldier in the Guatemalan army. My wife and I had our first child, a little girl. When she was born, the doctors told us she was very sick, she had Spina Bifida. They said they could try to do something to help her, or we could just let her die. I told them, "Let her die". My wife of course would not allow that and for just over a year, the doctors tried to help her but when she was fourteen months old, she died. I was so angry with God that I just said to him. "You see what I will do now, you have done this to me, you watch what I can do to you"

And so I did many things that were really bad, just trying to get back at God, but I don't want to go into them here. It is enough to say that I was so far away from God I never would have believed that He could, or would, forgive me.

When I made my Cursillo, it was the meditation on the Prodigal Son that really hit home. I could not believe, that after all the terrible things I had done, that God could forgive me, and not only that, He loved me. This meditation and the one, "Know Yourself", were all I needed to hear.

I began to understand that God loves me, and now in my life, I not only know it, I feel it.

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As a Movement of the Church for the world we have the same purpose, which is bring the Good News to all the people. But we have our own way to do it.

Do we know what that way is? This should be the question we have to ask ourselves. And a more important question for us as leaders of this movement, we are the ones who are supposed to know the what, the why, what the Cursillo Movement is for.

Eduardo Bonnín says: *"The Cursillo Movement is the best news, that God in Christ love's us. Shared in the best way, which is friendship. Towards the best of everyone, in their person".*

In the book Structure of Ideas it says:

"merely the possession and study of:

THE METHOD *(what is being done) Precursillo, Cursillo and Postcursillo*

THE MENTALITY *(why it is being done)*

THE PURPOSE *(for what reason is it being done?) How they think at the beginning.*

THE SYSTEM *(with what and how it is being done)*

Implied in the Cursillos in Christianity allows us a vertebration of them.

The need for having a clear statement of principles, motives, facts and systems is without doubt more than a sufficient reason to move us to attain it.

At the same time, the lack of it, regretfully, might be the cause of wrong orientations and dissipation of efforts, perhaps not reprehensible but certainly always deplorable."

So it is very important for us to study all these topic in the School of Leaders, because if I want to play soccer I need to know its rules, if I want to play basketball I need to know its rules, etc. So if I choose this way to go back to the House of the Father I have to know what it is all about. There are many ways to make the journey back. We are not saying this is the best way, we are only saying this is one of the ways to **"reach the goal"**. The Cursillo Movement is not the last Coke in the desert.

It happens sometimes that we are not forming Christians but we are forming Cursillistas, and from my point of view this is a big mistake. We replace the means by the goal. We are Christians walking on this track called: the Cursillo Movement.

Also we say that in the Cursillo Weekend we make ourselves conscious of our Baptism, therefore we awaken convictions and not emotions. It depends on how we are as persons and the personality we have to deepen this conviction. For me it is a sin if we let the candidates finish the Cursillo weekend just on a "high". With the Rollos of the Third Day we should help them to go back to their environments. They should go back the same, doing the same things every day but wearing "Christian glasses".

And talking about attitudes of the people we can divide this in 3: using a metaphor of swimmers we can call them: floaters, paddlers and divers.

We can be like "floaters", staying on the water's surface. Watching the time pass by and never doing anything to change or go deeper into our convictions and conversion. They spend their life watching what the others are doing, how they are changing but they never do anything for themselves.

We can be "paddlers", we can stay on the water's surface and can move but only when the others move. These types of persons have the motivation to change but it is not enough to just go forward a little bit. They are not happy the way they are but are unable to do anything to change.

Or we can be "divers", they stay on the water's surface to Study their Environment and

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when they are ready to change something they do it, for the others but most importantly, for themselves. They are never happy the way they are but the difference is, they do something to change. They always want to be better persons and are constantly looking for the way to go forward.

So, you can see these are the type of persons who come to the Cursillo but as leaders we have to know them and the way they are. But the most important thing, to repeat it one more time, is to know ourselves as being better persons.

By doing all this on this "track" we are going to encounter many, many obstacles. Sharing with others is not easy, because we are limited in many ways. Some of us are persons who are very difficult to deal with. And don't forget, each one of us has our own history as persons and this affects our actions and reactions today. The people, the more faraway they were, the more difficult it is for them to make changes. So what they need are friends that welcome them with love in a real Christianity in Action.

CHRISTIANITY

That is the result of the existence of some Christians entirely given to Christ, united by a friendship that is filled with admiration, and who work together in a highly apostolic climate.

WHICH ACTS WITH EFFECTIVENESS

It unites holiness with reality and looks for the biggest yield of people in its activities.

TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHRIST

By the living and imperative witness of the life of the Rollista.

RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH PROGRESSIVELY

That's why it portrays a joyful concept of Christianity that is true and authentic, and that achieves, on behalf of the Lord, "even greater things than these".

The role of the Leader in the weekend and the 4th Day.

What they must be, is emphasized here:

- To Know
- To Guide
- To Enlighten
- To Accompany

First I would like to tell you that in our Cursillo Movements there are different kinds of personalities. They could be placed in four groups: those like **PHILIP**, like **SOLOMON**, like **FREUD** and those like **SINBAD THE SAILOR**,

The attitude of PHILIP:

These are people who would be more successful in life if they were more of a person and less holy, or, who are so heavenly, they are no earthly good.

The attitude of SOLOMON:

They are people that know all that it is necessary to know about prayer, but they don't pray; they know all that it is necessary to know regarding Cursillo, but they don't offer any service to it; they know the Bible by heart, but they are not in the process of being converted by the Word of God; they take a course on Christian Relationships, but they are not speaking to their sister-in-law, or they are fought with their mother-in-law, and they badmouth people.

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The attitude of FREUD:

These are people who are a problem themselves. They are immature people. These people are always looking for the black spot on a white board.

The attitude of SINBAD THE SAILOR:

They don't make waves. Everything should always be calm, let's make sure there are no problems. Maintain the status quo. Suddenly a person who is different to us appears, perhaps who has more enthusiasm, more devotion more love. Then these people are called fanatics. They don't want to change anything, because they are afraid of what it will cost to do things better.

To KNOW. - do you Know Philip? Freud? The wise Solomon? Sinbad the Sailor? Do you know their name? Christ always calls us by our name. Do you know who they are? Or, more important still why they are the way they are? Or more important still, why it is the way it is and does the person know how God wants them to be? Shouldn't they resemble Christ, or do they simply resemble you more every day? Or perhaps you do not even know them, do you not even know their name, or perhaps they do not know yours; do you not even know that you should know it, because of the generosity they have after the Cursillo weekend?

To know everything about them, their name, their needs and problems.

This is why the application form is important and also the Hobby Sheet.¹

To PLACE. - have you tried sincerely and honestly to simply be like the usherette in the cinemas? The usherette doesn't take the person to their seat, she shines a flashlight to assist the customer as he finds his own place. This is how we should approach the new Cursillista, to help them find their place by themselves, the place that the Lord has chosen for them in the world? Have they found a place in the Cursillo Movement, or are all the places already occupied from long ago? Have you proposed to them that they should get involved in something, or have you committed them to something that is better for yourself, and are they doing it only because they feel they must do it because of the generosity they have after the Cursillo.

To always maintain enthusiasm, devotion and a spirit of love.

To ENLIGHTEN. - have you known how to enlighten them, or have you simply dazzled them? Have you enlightened them by your life, or dazzled them with your words? Have they remained looking at you, or to Christ Who is the light of the world? Through knowing you, can they now see more clearly? Thanks to you, will they one day become a light for others?

To ACCOMPANY. - do you walk by their side, or have they had to go on pilgrimage alone? Have you accompanied them by holding their hand or have you been with them, so that they can learn to walk by themselves? Or because of you, are they still immature like someone who has not learned how to walk and for that reason you have to carry them, and that's why so many have to be carried by so few?

The role of the leaders is to know, to place, to enlighten and to accompany. Besides these four things we should include gently correcting our brothers and sisters in their purely human shortcomings, all those that continually interfere with the progress of the Cursillo Movement.

¹ The Hobby Sheet may be new to some of us. It is given out at the end of the Ideal Rollo and the candidates are asked to complete it. On it are places for the candidates to mark what their hobbies and interests are. Its purpose is to provide the Leaders on the weekend with some personal information about the candidates which will help them to get to know them better and will assist the Leaders in breaking the ice and engaging the candidates in conversation.

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My dear Leader: Philip needs us; he is a real saint, and God loves him a lot, but he needs our common sense, our serenity, our discipline, our perseverance, our seriousness, our confidence so he doesn't make big mistakes. If we help to form him as a person everything will go better.

The wise Solomon needs us. He needs our witness in the Rollos; he needs our witness in the Group Reunion, he needs us to show him our new lifestyle. Don't allow the wise Solomon to become a master, at least until he decides, to live honestly and purely, to live what he says or until he knows that to not live it will hurt him.

Our little Freud continues to come to us to ask us to solve his problems. Tell him the truth once and for all for: "You don't have problems; you are the problem, and so there are many things you must change, you have to change; I am willing to accompany you, but, from now on, you have to be the one who solves your own problems."

Sinbad will continue crying: "don't make waves"; but don't pay attention to him. Let's make such a wave that the boat is really shaken. But, wait! Not a wave of words, nor arguments or complaints, nor recriminations or reproaches; but a wave of new life, a new style of Christian life that is a challenge for others; that inconveniences, that disturbs, and be like a thorn in the flesh, a thorn that, although painful, wakes them up.

CONCLUSION

Do you remember in the Acts of the Apostles: the Conversion of Saul? We are the Ananias' of this century. Don't forget that the sponsors are the men and women who journeyed with the candidates. When the Rector call us to be part of the team we have to be ready to go like Ananias: "*go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before the Gentiles and kings before the people of Israel*", and we could also say Canada.

In the Cursillo weekend they were without sight for three days until the moment, when we as members of the team, in the same way as Ananias did for Paul, entered into their houses during the "corridor work"²; and by giving our witness we tell them, "*friend Saul, the Lord Jesus, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit*".

² Corridor work applies to the times when the candidates and team talk one on one, during the breaks, at lunch, or dinner. This 'corridor work' is as important as what is said in the Rollos or in the discussions at the table. It is the 'one on one' that the Leaders must attempt to enter into with each candidate at some point in time over the course of the weekend.