Rectors’ Talk – Thursday Night

\*\* Have transparency of the “Prayer of the Holy Spirit”, blank one, marker and bell \*\*

On behalf of the team, it is a real joy to welcome you to this Cursillo weekend. We’ve been looking forward to this moment for a long time. Those of us on the team place total trust on the Holy Spirit. We feel strongly that the Holy Spirit’s presence is in all we do. On the overhead is the “Prayer of the Holy Spirit” which we will be using throughout this weekend. Will you please stand and pray this prayer with us.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen*  Please be seated.

We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We have been married \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and live in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ children. They are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ works at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ works at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ You will get to know us better as the weekend progresses.

For the next three days we will fill the position of “rectors”. The title sounds formal, but actually, we just try to keep things on schedule and make certain we don’t forget to do something. Our assistants will actually do most of the work along those lines. You will have nothing to worry about this weekend! Our schedule is all set and we will let you know where you have to be and when. We’ll go one step at a time, so just relax and be at ease. We are several dependable assistants. They are the people sitting over at that table. If you have any needs, just let them know and they will take care of things. Again, their names are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They are settings separately so that they will be able to get out and check on things occasionally.

The Spiritual Director this weekend is Pastor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He/she will be assisted by Pastor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Our music leaders(s) will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The main function of the team is to guide us through the weekend. Some will give talks and some will not.

As you already know this is a “Cursillo” weekend. Let us explain a little about that. It is spelled C U R S I L L O. In Spanish, the double “L” together create a “y” sound. The word means “short course”. In this case, it is a short course in Christian living.

The Cursillo movement began in Spain in 1949 following their Civil War. A Catholic bishop and a group of laymen could see the need for renewal. Their goal was to produce Christian leaders who would effectively change the world. They spent 7 years planning before they held the first Cursillo. They developed a spiritual retreat method consisting of a weekend retreat and several forms of follow-up. The success of the first Cursillo weekend was overwhelming. It moved from Spain to Latin America and then to the United States. The first Cursillo weekend held in the States occurred in Texas in 1957. It was directed by a Spanish-speaking priest and two airmen who were in this country for training. Since then the movement has spread to other denominations. The first Lutheran – sponsored Cursillo was in 1972. The Lutherans helped the Reformed Church in America sponsor our first Cursillo in 1980 at a camp near Story City. It has been held here at this camp since 1996. Cursillos are sponsored by one denomination, but one of the guidelines is to remain ecumenical.

From 1949 until today, literally thousands of the people have listened to a rector’s talk similar to this one. As we gathered here, there are a variety of thoughts and feelings going through our minds. Some of you have eagerly anticipated this weekend. Others are very apprehensive and cautious. That’s OK. Many people before you have had the same thoughts you are having.

We sat where you’re sitting in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. As it progressed we learned that this weekend is simply about loving fellowship. Fellowship with the Lord and with each other.

We will fellowship by listening to and discussing five talks each day. We will fellowship by sharing the joy of worship and the Lord’s Supper each day. We will eat together and pray together.

In coming here you have demonstrated confidence in yourselves and in those who Christ used to contact you and encourage you come. We now ask that you continue believing in yourselves. Have confidence in the team members, and most of all, have confidence that for the next three days, we can forget the world and focus solely on God’s Word.

We are asking that you forget anything you have previously heard about Cursillo. Let go of any assumptions you may have made. Please understand that as we move through these three days, your perceptions will continually change. Your impression of this Cursillo weekend will not be complete until the weekend is over.

While the presence and work of the Holy Spirit is vital to every aspect of the Cursillo weekend, the expressed use of the gifts of the Spirit or the active seeking of such gifts during a Cursillo is not our intention. Rather, the purpose of it is to provide a method whereby a participant can become increasingly equipped with the power of God’s grace to be an effective member of the Body of Christ. This is not to discredit expressions of the gifts of the Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, healing and so forth, but such expressions are discouraged during the Cursillo weekend. We focus on what God has done for us through Jesus Christ and what that means for His people. All glory and all praise is given to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The effectiveness of the Cursillo depends primarily on three things:

1. ORGANIZATION AND PREPARATION – The team has been meeting together since early September. Others have been planning the meals, and still others have been securing supplies and arranging for your welfare and comfort.
2. CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY – There are many people throughout the Christian Community who are aware that this Cursillo is beginning tonight. They are upholding us in their thoughts and prayers, so that this weekend may be filled with God’s love and grace and be a meaningful one for all of us.

Those two elements have been provided by others. The 3rd thing upon which the effectiveness of Cursillo depends is your responsibility. We simply ask for your idealism, cooperation, and spirit of love.

1. IDEALISM – Cursillo is finally here for all of us. Invest these three days in it. Set a high spiritual goal for yourself. Expect great things, receive great things!
2. FULL COOPERATION – When the bell rings, please quiet down and listen for instructions as to what we’ll be doing next. Also please try to fully participate in our activities, so that you may fully experience the weekend.
3. SPIRIT OF LOVE – We have come to establish a community of friends. We want a real spirit of companionship. To build this community, we ask that you make a real effort to get to know new people. For example, you can do this at meals, during breaks, or in the evenings. Please reach out to others and be tolerant of other’s differences.

It is our sincere prayer that each of you will enjoy a beautiful weekend. Life in the real world will go on. The football games will be played and our congregations will worship without us.

For these three days, Christ will be with us. He is with us because we are members of His church, His community, and are gathered in His name. We should be conscious of His presence through His Word, the Bible. For that reason, each day we will enthrone the Bible in this conference room. We will close each day with Bible recessional. We will have all of our study sessions in the presence of God and His open Word.

In this way, we will be conscious of God’s presence in at least three ways: Through the Prayer of the Holy Spirit; Christ’s presence with us; and through His open Word.

This evening, team members will lead us in the enthronement of God’s Holy Word. They are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Please rise.

ENTHRONEMENT – You may be seated.

The assistant Rectors are passing our guide books out. This is yours to keep, so please write your name on the cover. We’ll be using this book often so carry it with you at all times. You will find the Prayer of the Holy Spirit on page 36. Later we will use our books for night prayers, so be sure to take it with you when here. Please wear your name tag so we can become acquainted with one another more easily. If your name is spelled incorrectly or if you have a nickname you prefer to use or if you lose your name tag, please see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to get another one.

This next request may be sheer pleasure to you or it may be very difficult. We ask that you put your watch and all other timepieces in your suitcase and forget about them until you go home Sunday night. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For these three days let us keep the time schedule. We promise you won’t miss meals, someone will awaken you in time to shower and dress. We are such slaves to the clock at home and at work. We hope you will relax and enjoy the freedom of going “timeless”.

If you have any special needs for your diet or medication, please be sure to share that with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and he/she will be certain to get your medication to you on time.

There will be a supply table outside that door near the bathroom. It will have personal items in case you’ve forgotten something. There are ear plugs, toothpaste, aspirin, etc. Please help yourself to anything you need. There will be a shopping list for requests which we can pick up in town for you.

You have probably noticed that the windows are covered. The purpose of this is to close out the outside distractions when we are having our talks and discussions.

We do ask that you not make any phone calls. If you have a call of the utmost importance, please let us know and we will arrange for you to make this call. Rest assured that we will let you know if calls come for case of an emergency.

There is no smoking in the conference room or in the cabin. We for your spirit of love here. Feel free to smoke outside the buildings, but please use the cans of sand to extinguish your cigarettes. This avoids the risk of fire with the dry leaves.

The restrooms for this conference rooms are located \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When we’re having talks, we prefer that you not use the restrooms. There will be plenty of breaks.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

Tonight we would like for you to join us in what we call the Spiritual Silent Retreat. In a little bit we will go to the chapel for our night prayers. From the time they are finished until after morning prayers in the chapel, we ask that you remain silent. Most of our lives are not set up to include much time for personal reflection. This time of silence is included in the Cursillo weekend as a time to meditate on who we are. It’s a time to speak silently to God and to listen as He speaks to us. In his book, Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster strongly encourages us not only to pray and read, but also to listen during our quiet times to allow God to speak to us. Realistically, we realize there will be some need for communication with each other, but we request that you allow those around you to enjoy the peace of this time. We will give you some suggestions for the Silent Retread. Don’t let this time pas with you worrying about what tomorrow will bring. Matthew 6:3 reminds us, “Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.” So we call upon you to relax and in the spirit of love and cooperation, just for tonight until after morning chapel, we will remain silent.

Feel free to shower tonight or in the morning, but we ask that you take a non-singing shower. If you have a problem or need help, please feel free to quietly go to a team member. Don’t worry about getting up on time tomorrow. We will send someone to wake you. After that there will be time to shower and dress. We will ring the big bell outside 10 minutes before we begin chapel. You can walk to the chapel or we will have vans available to drive you. Before we go to the chapel for a celebration of repentance, thanksgiving, and night prayers, Pastor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will explain the details the details to us and also talk to us about the silent retreat.

Rector’s Talk – Friday am

Good Morning! I hope that you slept well last night. If you participated in the silent retreat you can’t say that it was noisy.

I’ve been looking around and I think that all of you remembered your nametags, but in case you didn’t, please hold up your hand and we’ll get you another one.

Last night, I said we would be listening to talks and discussing them. To facilitate the discussion we will divide up into \_\_\_\_\_ families or tables. These groups which I will name in a minute will be permanent for the 3 days. For identification purposes each family group will be assigned to a table and each has a family name of a male Bible character. If those at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ table now will step to the bock of the room, I’ll read the names of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family. As your name is called please come sit at that table. By the way, if I pronounce your name, please correct me. Please stay at your table until after your picture then we will take a short break for bathrooms and something to drink.

Pictures will be taken of each table family

**After break**

**Decuria Explanation**

I’ve got a couple of more Spanish words for you. We could get along with them but they have been used in so many previous Cursillos, we stick with them.

When we divided into our table groups we formed a DECURIA – a group of ten working together.

Each day we will be listening to five separate talks. The talks are humorously called “rollos (roy-ohs) a term used by Spanish students to refer to long and boring university lectures. The Rollos are given by laity and pastors. Sometimes you’ll hear us refer to the speakers as Rollista. Each Rollo will being with a prayer. At the conclusion of the talk, you may applaud. The applause is not for the rollista, but for God, who has sent this message through him/her to us. To God be the glory and praise! We also ask you not to interrupt the speakers with questions or comments. Save them for your group discussions which follow each talk.

There is a notebook for each of you on the table and a pen. Please write your name on the notebook. As you listen to the talks, put down the points you want to remember and use in your group discussion. You will choose a leader and a secretary – a different set after each Rollo. The leader’s job is to keep the discussion on track and moving, discussion of what the Rollista said. The secretary, with the help of other members, will write down the key points of the discussion of your table. During the discussion period we will pass out poster paper. In addition to the secretary’s report, we want you to express in a picture the main idea of your discussion. We don’t expect masterpieces; quick ideas are all we are after. If you can’t draw people, stick people will be fine. The posters don’t have to be serious. If you are moved to do something humorous, go ahead and put it in your picture. Don’t make one person do all the work on every poster. It should be the work of the whole family. The goal is unity and team spirit. You contribution will help make your team the best of the bunch. Get to know each other well, a good idea is to change places at your own table for each table so you sit next to someone else each time.

Of course, you will want to get to know others beside your own family, so we ask that you mix at meal times and when we go to the Chapel. Tonight and tomorrow night after Night Prayers you will be able to talk, get acquainted and generally socialize.

In order that we can all benefit from each other’s discussion we will have a Decuria meeting this evening. The small decurias will make one big decuria tonight. At that time the secretary for your group will share the summary of your group’s discussion with the rest of us. At the same time 2 or more members will display the poster for the same talk and try to explain it. There will not be time for discussions or criticism of the summaries. We it just so others can hear your ideas as well as their own.

Throughout the weekend, you might be asked to say grace or give thanks at meals, participate in the Bible enthronement or read Scripture at Liturgy. If you would prefer not to do this, please feel free to say so.

We will get started soon, but before we do, I’ll give you a minute to fill your coffee cup or get what you want. Please remain seated during the Rollos. There will be breaks.

Rector Talk – after Study rollo

I wonder if you any of you realize how nervous and excited these speakers are when they come in here to speak to you. None of us are professional speakers, giving a Rollo at Cursillo is the first time many of us have ever spoken before a group.

I’m sure that you have noticed that each Rollista leaves the room before and after their talk. It is obvious to you all that they change clothes. But each speaker also spends time before and after his or her talk in the Palanca Chapel. We in Cursillo realize that we are instruments for the Lord. Palanca is praying with each of us that our message be one of Christ. We pray together for strength, for the ability to be used by God, sharing His love, for being with us as we knew He would be. As Pastor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ told you yesterday in the Actual Grace Rollo the Palanca team is in the Palanca Chapel for the entire time the Rollista is here with us. They are a very vital force during these three days. The Palanca team also has a 24-hour prayer vigil during which time they lift up any prayer request that we might have. If you have a prayer request, you may put it in the basket on the Bible Enthronement table.

I know that you have noticed that each rollista brings a cross and flower with them into the conference room from the Palanca chapel. The cross is again a reminder that Christ is present here with us. The flower is a symbol of love and as the bouquet grows we note the passage of time.

Yesterday during “Way of the Cross” we were introduced to a Christ of many dimensions. We were in close communication with Christ. It is important that we visit Him as friends. Later today, we will have family chapel visits. Each family will also be taken to the Palanca chapel during the weekend.