

# THE WITNESS TALK AT ULTREYA & REUNION MASSES

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The purpose of the witness talk is encouragement. We are called to encourage our brothers and sisters to continue in their efforts to become better apostles for Christ and His church. The church that we find ourselves in is what we call our environment. This may be our family, neighborhood, work place or social arena. The witness should, therefore, be centered on your efforts at evangelization in those areas, how the Lord is working through you to build up His Kingdom on earth. The specific role you will be filling is to witness to current evangelizing efforts.

## WHAT THE WITNESS TALK SHOULD NOT BE:

- It should not be sensational. We are not in competition with each other. What we ask is that it be real.
- It should not be a sermon or an instruction in Cursillo or Catholicism. That area is covered in the Doctrinal talk given after the witness.
- The length of the witness talk should be no more than 10 minutes. Please time the talk by reading it out loud, as if you are giving it, while timing yourself.
- It need not be overly emotional. Your honest delivery will convey the message.

## WHAT THE WITNESS TALK SHOULD BE:

- It should be your life lived out as a Catholic and a Cursillista and how the Lord is working through you in your environment.
- It should be concrete and practical, carried out in the normal flow of your life.
- It should be centered on and be about Christ and how you were His instrument.
- It should be centered in the present, usually within the past 6 months.
- It should be descriptive, explaining only enough of the Who, What, Where, When and How necessary to make your witness clear.
- It should concentrate only on 1 or 2 points rather than a whole series of examples.
- This is not a formal talk. You are sharing your witness with friends.
- A brief passage from the Scriptures may be read that will tie into your witness. This is not a Bible Study. Too many scripture passages only serve to complicate your witness. The Doctrinal speaker may wish to use some too!

## HELPFUL HINTS:

We are a people of prayer and palanca. As you prepare your talk both should be offered by you and your permanent group. If you don't have a permanent group,

talk with your ultreya coordinator or the Spiritual Advisor. Begin your talk with a prayer. Be sure to supply the Doctrinal speaker with a copy of your talk at least one week prior to giving it. The Doctrinal is done by a priest, deacon, or a religious at the reunion Mass. At Ultreya, if a Doctrinal is not possible, then a Spiritual Reflection may be given by a layperson that is recognized in the Cursillo community as a person of prayer and insight. Remember the ABC's of witness talks. They are to be Audible, Brief, and Christ centered. May God bless you as you seek to give example and strength to our community

## **The Cursillo Doctrinal or Spiritual Reflection**

### **What it should be:**

The Doctrinal at a Cursillo Reunion Mass, or Ultreya, is meant to instruct, inspire, encourage, exhort and guide those who hear it to promote a closer walk with Christ and each other. It must be given by a priest, deacon or professed religious. It is the responsibility of the witness speaker to arrange this. At Ultreya, if a Doctrinal is not possible, a qualified layperson may do a Spiritual Reflection in its place. It must be referenced as such; as it is not a Doctrinal. The layperson should be one who is respected in the community of Cursillo, knowledgeable in the Cursillo method, the scriptures and church doctrine related to the topic.

The Doctrinal, or Spiritual Reflection, must be based on the material given in the witness – imparting only Catholic doctrine as it applies to the witness. It is important that the witness be based on an aspect of Cursillo such as: Piety, Study, Action / Evangelization, Environments, Obstacles, Prayer, Faith, and the successes and failures of the individual in living the Cursillo method in the relationships we encounter. The Doctrinal will focus on these themes or topics and the related outcomes.

Sources for this teaching are: Cursillo literature (such as: Leaders Guide, The Fundamentals, Three Day Weekend, Pilgrim's Guide), sacred scripture, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Documents of Vatican II, and selected supportive literature and materials. Only Catholic Church teachings can be referenced.

The Doctrinal, or Spiritual Reflection, should be concise and relatively brief, approximately ten minutes in length. It is important that the Doctrinal speaker receive a written or typed copy of the Witness at least one week before it is to be given. This will have to be worked out between the speakers and confirmed by the Ultreya coordinator. The Doctrinal speaker should also work to ensure the quality of the witness as to content, length and message intent.

## **What it is not:**

The Doctrinal, or Spiritual Reflection, is not:

- to reference non Doctrinal teaching from private revelation.
- a Bible Study
- a reflection on the Scriptures or the Daily Readings
- a rambling dissertation
- a time to chastise anyone
- a forum for private opinion
- a time to recruit people for projects

an opportunity for the Doctrinal speaker to witness