



The Cursillo® Movement

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CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Source: Presented by Omar Baez at the National Cursillo Encounter held at Chapman University in Orange, CA - August 2, 2014.

“Christian leaders, a vocation of service”

To be a Christian leader is a call from God that He makes from baptism. We must be aware that the call is in the first person. The call is for those who are willing to give 100% of their gifts and talents to carry out the entrusted mission. The affirmative response to this call seals a commitment to remain always in pursuit of making all of mankind live according to Christian principles. It is a commitment to be an example of what we preach. In Christian talk, the call to leadership is a call to put oneself at the service of everyone else.

At the civil level, a leader is one who GIVES ORDERS.

I repeat: In Christian talk, a Leader is one who SERVES MORE.

And serves with humility and promptness without expecting a reward, praise, or some type of recognition. In order to be able to discern on this call we must have hope, dedication and charity.

But above all: We must have Tons of HUMILITY.

Every call from God begins with our own conversion. To accept the call is to commit to work hard for the Kingdom. A Christian leader is the one who is always united to the criterion of Christ and strengthens it through prayer and sacrifices.

The humility of the leader attracts people, allows a more natural approach in the Precursillo. Humility invites you to an open and sincere friendship where respect and compassion flourishes.

On the other hand, I find that sometimes we lack humility in the 3-Day Cursillo. This is where we should place greater emphasis on this characteristic.

- I am the leader giving the piety rollo
- I do not sweep floors, I do not clean dorms
- I am the Rector and everyone will do what I say, etc.

We should never be narcissistic or ambitious.

Pope Pius X defined exactly how leaders should be:

“They must be sound Catholics, firm in their faith, well instructed in religious matters, in full agreement with the Church and especially to the Apostolic See and the Vicar of Jesus Christ.

They must be men of genuine piety, virtuous, and a life so flawless so they may be effective in their example to others.”

In a nutshell, the Pope does not ask us for more than what our own baptism calls for, to be priest, prophet and king of our times. We are asked to be a person who lives in Grace and shares his life in Christ with everyone. We are asked to be people who influence everyone around us, directing him or her, guiding him or her to the life of Grace. A leader must be formed, for he is aware that to achieve something, it is necessary to have determination, to be willing to be Christ-like and lead others to Him. A leader cannot sit still, but should always have the need to be formed and informed, for the saying goes:

Not to be formed or be mal-informed is to be deformed.

We need to grow, not in stature but in spirit and be a better Christian every day. Each of us is unique and we must thus remain, but all leaders share certain natural and supernatural qualities that make them effective. These qualities are interwoven in the person in such a way that it is impossible to separate them and even to distinguish them.

The best compliment we usually make of a natural flower is to say that it looks artificial and to the artificial flower that it looks natural, and to the Christian who really is one, we stand before him not knowing what to say; if he is so manly because he is very holy or if he is so holy because he is very manly.

Let us review the natural qualities that a leader must possess.

He should know:

THE IDEAL. An ideal that makes him a true person, what he intends, where he is going and what he wants to achieve.

We all leave the 3-Day Cursillo with an ideal that helps us make the pilgrimage through Christ to the Father under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, with the help of Mary and all Saints in order to bring our brothers and sisters with us.

TO KNOW THE REALITY of the environment in which he moves. Only then will he know how to move, how to act, react and respond to the circumstance of the people who form their environments and therefore, provide them with solutions so that together they bring new life to these environments, guide and evangelize them. These are people he should know; make them his friends in order to make them friends of Christ.

Today’s leaders must have:

DISCIPLINE, that is, to accept the will of God in all its manifestations. The true follower of Christ understands what God wants of him and will set out to do it, using the freedom we have in an effectively manner.

Sometimes this call will bring us the tears and suffering of the cross, but other times it will bring us the joy and happiness of the resurrection.

FRIENDSHIP, a true Christian is joyful and his joy is contagious because he lives in the Grace of God, which is the source of joy. We have to include this friendship in all phases of our life but especially in the Precursillo, 3-Day Cursillo and Postcursillo.

A sad saint is an unhappy saint.

INITIATIVE, that is, to have initiative is to avoid waiting for others to make the decisions. This is like a football game where you have to make decisions on the spot in order to win the game.

It is about reaching out to our brothers and sisters who still do not know that Christ loves them. And this is not the responsibility of the Secretariat, the Clergy, or the Precursillo Chair . . . it is my responsibility!

GENEROSITY, I want to make this very clear, generosity does not mean that we give or not give, a lot or little, but that we give what we have, give ourselves as we really are and that which we can become.

It is not about generosity, such as small favors for friends or neighbors, or to give money to someone who asks for alms on the streets.

Generosity is to freely and fully give oneself to Christ without measures.

One must take seriously into account this conversion table:

The Lord gives one hundred fold to whoever surrenders completely.

He does not give fifty percent to someone who only surrenders halfway.

In summary: In order to succeed in the apostolic field, it is essential for man to put his personality and qualities at the service of the Lord.

Now let's review the supernatural qualities that a leader should have:

LIVING FAITH – this does not mean simply to believe blindly. Living faith is part of our daily, normal, everyday life. It is what results from incorporating the divine power of the Lord in our circumstance so that we feel Him present by our side at every moment, in whatever we are doing and it is to know that Christ and I are overwhelming majority!

Jesus Himself tells us that we must have Faith, the size of a mustard seed, and that we will make the mountains move.

Living the faith in this way is doing everything in our part to be useful instruments in the hands of the Lord to bring about change in our environments.

Doing what we can.

Rely on God for what we cannot do, so that God will make it possible.

Let's not try to move mountains; it is much more serious to change a person.

The world is not to be used for your advantage and profit. The world is not there to serve you.

The Christian leader needs to have HUMILITY, a firm basis of all other virtues. We can be all the good things that we want, but if we don't have humility, everything is useless. We must not confuse humility with weakness or our laziness in not doing something important, when in fact the cause is a lack of holy audacity.

The humble person recognizes that everything comes from God and accepts the responsibility to use the gifts the Lord gives us. Humility allows us to recognize each one of our talents and their value, and allows us to place them at the service of God and our brothers and sisters.

Humility is not self-humiliation, let me explain, it is not to publicly degrade oneself, sometimes we tell ourselves that we are inferior to others and we have a very low opinion about our abilities. On the contrary, the humble person recognizes that each one has a special talent, a style that is exclusively his.

The leader must have HOPE, which is the virtue that begins when all human hope ends. Hope is to believe in the impossible and to live as if it were a reality. Having hope we make things possible and overcome discouragement. It is not about sitting down and waiting for the miracle to happen, but to wait for it by making a path for the miracle. We must work as if everything depended on us, and pray as if everything depended on God.

Throughout my life the Lord has always given me wakeup calls, because I've been a little reluctant. He always puts me where He considers that I should be, no matter the place, time or situation.

In the beginning I really rebelled before these situations because I did not understand them. However, as time went by, the Lord has always shown me that all those changes, those moves have been for my good and for the good of those around me. Once, already tired of so much change, when I was more desperate because I could not see the other side, I told him, OK. Lord I surrender, do with me as You wish, I will only keep my disposition and my hope in You. That is why today I am here (national encounter) among you.

The leader needs LOVE. Many believe that love is giving material goods or hugs to each other. Love is to give oneself entirely to others through selfless service. It is the only true dimension of what is apostolic, as the best and largest demonstration of love towards others is to ensure they live in Grace.

We can find the love that we are looking for in our Friendship Groups, the Ultreya, School of Leaders, Mass, the Apostolic Hour, etc. Living in community, helping each other in our walk, our fourth day. We cannot do it alone; we need Christ and the support of our brothers to be able to persevere in our daily living.

All the supernatural qualities should be directed to develop all the potential of our baptism and therefore to have the joy and the good taste of wanting to be holy. All these qualities have to be applied harmoniously in order to produce good fruit.

The Church needs lay people who in each particular circumstance know how to act for the benefit of the person. When Christianity can count on a group of people who are centered, united and active, the possibilities are immense for the Lord to act on them. We will not tire of repeating: We have been called to live our baptism, if we do it with His Grace, who can be against us, Christ and I are an overwhelming majority!

We cannot do everything, but all of us can do something.

An English politician once said these wise words: "Everything that is necessary for evil to succeed is that good people do nothing".

The world will receive the message of the great love of Christ not through sad, discouraged, impatient, angry, restless people, but through those whose lives project joy, peace and the love of Christ. The message will come through those whose lives are dedicated and consecrated to HIM.

The day that Christ can count on an enthusiastic group of leaders who put into action their love of God and put their natural and supernatural qualities at the service of their brothers, offering everything they are and have, that day the prophecy will be fulfilled "Then you will see greater things than these."

The Cursillo Movement has always cared about having good Christian leaders.

The work for Christ requires a supernatural charity, working in unity and harmony and with one goal in common: The Kingdom of God.

Being a leader is not easy, but the true leader knows that he can count on God's Grace to carry out his mission.

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