



CURSILLO SCHOOL GROUPS

Lesson Plan # 4

Directions: Have a member of the School Group read this and all members discuss as you go along. Stay on track.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP REUNION

After we leave the Cursillo weekend, the Cursillo Movement provides us with several ways to keep the fire burning in our souls. Probably the most effective way to persevere is through our involvement and commitment to a Friendship Group. This small group of Christians who get together to share their faith is the heart of the Cursillo Movement. At first, it is a place where we can form ourselves spiritually. As our study takes place, we are prepared to go out with our faith and share it in thought, word and deed.

Some questions:

- 1) Are you a member of a friendship group? If not, why not? If so, how often do you meet?
- 2) If you are a member of a friendship group, how has it helped you grow spiritually? Give some examples.

"The focus of Group Reunion ... is on the value of a personal contact with other Christian apostles to help each other to grow in the apostolic ideal. It is rare that a person can go it alone". (Leaders Manual p. 233)

Some more questions:

- 1) What is the focus of your friendship group?
- 2) In your friendship group, is each member encouraged to grow in the apostolic ideal ... to change their environments? If not, why not? If so, How?

INDIVIDUAL CONVERSION:

"The purpose of the group is the individual conversion of each member." (Leaders Manual p. 238) So the real question is, does your friendship group help you grow spiritually? Do you help the other members of your friendship group to grow as well? If not, what can you do to correct the groups focus? Some group reunions get off track and the

sharing is at surface level.

Do you have a plan to improve your spirituality through piety and study? Does your group know what your plan is? Do you know what your other group members plans are?. Evaluate your friendship group and if it is out of focus, bring it back into focus.

If the members of your friendship group don't want to focus and help each member to grow, maybe it is time to move on to a group that will.

We could spend a lot of time going over the individual attributes of the friendship group reunion in detail, but at the beginning of this course we told you that we were going to focus on the purpose of the movement and then see how each piece of the movement supports the purpose.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONVERSION:

"We must bear in mind that group reunions are not held so that there may be more people to attend Cursillos, but that Cursillos are held so that there may be people to make a group reunion." (Structure of Ideas p. 80)

The purpose of the Cursillo movement is to penetrate our environments. The heart of the friendship group is to support each other in our progressive conversions of ourselves and our environments. The friendship group was designed by the Cursillo founders as a place for individual growth ... piety and study, and as a place to link up with other Christians for help in penetrating their environments through action - evangelization.

What better place to seek guidance and help than from a group of your closest friends. By sharing your environmental plan with your group, they can help you to improve it, change it, as well as provide you with links to be more effective. A good analogy is that of a fishing net. Each individual string is ineffective in making a catch. But when the strings are linked and knotted together, they form a net which provides a much more effective way of fishing. So too with being "fishers of men". The Cursillo book "Lower Your Nets" addresses this perspective at length.

Presented below is the Order of Reunion sheet. Have a member of your Cursillo School Group read out loud items 4 through 7 under the caption Action:

Some questions:

- 1) During your friendship group reunion, do you discuss your apostolic successes and failures? If so, how frequently? If not, how do you think sharing your successes and failures would change your friendship group reunion?
- 2) Do you discuss how you fulfilled last week's plan; what you are planning for next week? If so how often? If not, when will you start?
- 3) Do you discuss group activities? If so give some examples. If not discuss some ideas of what your group might do as an activity.

SUMMARY:

As you can see, once a person joins a group and starts improving their spirituality through piety and study, they are inevitably led to evangelization. The evangelization that is stressed in the Cursillo Movement is that of changing your environments - family, work, neighbors, etc. Therefore, the Friendship Group Reunion is a fundamental key for encouraging and helping each Cursillista to form and work through their individual environmental plans - to be apostles from Christ.