

## CURSILLO SCHOOL GROUPS

### Lesson Plan # 7

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

#### LEADERS' SCHOOL

If there was ever a term that strikes terror into the heart of Cursillista's, it is Leaders' School. "It seems elitist - not for me, after all, I am not a leader". During the Cursillo School Group meetings we have been attending the past six weeks, we have been talking about the fact that you are a leader, I am a leader. Not in the sense that our society thinks of it, but as a leader for Christ. If we are changing our environments, we can only do it by leading. How else will they follow? If we are not His hands, feet, smile, understanding, compassion ... who is going to be?

In the Venice Cursillo Movement, we have never really held a leaders' school in the sense that the founders of the movement intended. Our experience has been attending instructional sessions, talks and viewing and listening to slide presentations from the National Cursillo Movement. The founders of the Movement envisioned a much more lively and dynamic school. It was not a place simply to learn, but a place where Cursillista's could get together and plan for upcoming weekends, prepare and critique weekend talks, coordinate the emphasis on palanca, discuss how our environments were being changed - where we were having difficulty and how we could coordinate our efforts in affecting the change. In other words it is supposed to be a Grand Central Station. Always busy, dynamic, growing ...

"So, no matter what we call it - a school of respondents, a leaders' school, a school of leaders, a service group, a leaders' community, or whatever - a local movement cannot be considered fully Cursillo unless it has one. When a Diocese has a core of Cursillo leaders (those who have chosen to work inside the movement as their vocation) committed to being a community of service to the movement, especially to the post cursillo needs of the cursillistas, there you have the beginning of a Cursillo Movement. No movement is complete without this core group." (How to Program a School of Leaders, p 14) The main purpose of

the school is to form a core group of leaders who help coordinate the various aspects of the movement and keep it on track. The school then is not only a school, but more importantly, a Christian Community - a group of loving caring motivated friends who share a common vision of what we can do if we work together.

Question:

Have you ever been part of a Cursillo Movement that had an effective Leaders' School? If so, share with the other members of your group how it worked and what it accomplished.

Think of what could be. For example, if the Cursillista's in our movement worked together in penetrating the Educational Environment, the Leaders' School could be a hub of activity. Some Cursillista's would be working on studying and defining the structures of the Educational systems in our diocese. How is the School Board formed? How many members are there? Are they elected or appointed? Other cursillistas might be finding out who the School Board members are, who the principals, teachers, coaches, support staff are. Still others would be identifying which of these members of the education environment are Catholic, Christian, unchurched. Another group may be coordinating palanca from their friendship groups, ultreya communities, etc for the success of our evangelization efforts. Individual Cursillista's would be making friends, being friends and bring those friends to Christ. Another group might be forming Catholic Teacher Associations throughout the diocese. In other words, this hub of activity would be focused, working and making a real difference it penetrating some portion of the environment.

In this vision of the Cursillo Movement, each cursillista can play a part no matter what their individual talents are. We become "a **MOVEMENT**", we stop being "a **COMPLACENT**" or "a **STAGNANT**". Our focus may be in the education area, but each of our individual environments can be changed by coordinating and linking up with each other.

Question:

If our movement had an effective Leaders' School, what impact would it have on your ultreya, friendship group, environmental group?

The ideal Leaders' School would operate weekly using the following format:

- a) Prayer
- b) Leaders' Group Reunion

- c) Doctrinal Talk - Helps leaders develop the mind of Christ.
- d) Technique Talk - Study of Cursillo Literature
- e) Sections -
  - Pre Cursillo - Sponsorship
  - The 3 Days - Team formation, critique of talks, etc
  - Post Cursillo - Group Reunion, Ultreya, Spiritual Direction, Environmental Penetration.
- f) Announcements
- g) Visit to the Blessed Sacrament

The prayer and leaders' group reunion build community. The talks are the educational part of the school. The sections coordinate the evangelization as well as the community building of the cursillo movement.

How do we bring an effective Leaders' School to our movement? The vision of dynamism we described earlier, does not just happen. It begins somewhere - maybe with Cursillo School Groups. It grows beyond that scope by bringing the other Cursillo School Group members together periodically to coordinate efforts. As the members of the school become informed and study the movement, they begin to act. As this evangelization grows, there are weekends held. New cursillista's need to go to some place to learn as well. Maybe a weekly gathering evolves - a school. Some of the members of this school are coordinating efforts already under way. Other members may be instructing the new Cursillista's about the movement and getting them involved. The final evolution is a weekly Leaders' School which coordinates and involves those responsible for sponsorship, team formation, rollos critiques, the three days, ultreya's, group reunions, environmental plans, study of the movement and our church. This evolution will not take place overnight, but over several years. First we must have the vision - then plan for change.

Can you imagine what we could accomplish with Our Lord if we had an effective Leaders' School? Without one we are hampered. We are like a wheel without a HUB. Each spoke exists, but we aren't going anywhere. There is nothing to bring all the pieces together and form the tool - the wheel - the movement.

From now on when you hear the term Leaders' School, forget your impressions and experience of the past - think of the future - think of being part of the most exciting effective tool the Holy Spirit has given our Church in centuries.

Questions:

- 1) What talents could you bring to a Leaders' School?

- 2) Speculate as to how a Leaders' School could be established in our Diocese.
- 3) If we had a Leaders' School, what would you like to see it do and achieve?