



CURSILLO SCHOOL GROUP

Curriculum Week #2

MAKING AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

1. Advance Preparation:

- a. Read the Lesson Plan 2 and be ready to discuss the questions at your second meeting.
- b. Work through the "Environmental Plan Worksheets" as best you can. Note that you may want to make copies of Parts B through D before filling them out. **You will need additional copies of these sheets.**

Preparing your Environmental Plan can take a lot of time. To maximize the benefit of the School Group Meeting you may want to scan the "Environmental Plan Worksheets". Then take the simplest environment you participate in - maybe your family - and try to fill out the worksheets **before** you attend the second meeting.

The Environmental Plan Worksheets are designed to help you focus on your environments and enable you to create a plan to Christianize them. In most cases, it will take a good deal of prayer, time and discernment to work out the implementation of your plan. As circumstances change, your plan will change and evolve.

2. Group Meeting:

- a. Discuss what each member has learned from the readings.
- b. Review in detail the "Environmental Plan Worksheets" that each member has filled out. Discuss items of confusion.
- c. Each Cursillista will be a participant in several environments (family, work, parish, etc.). Each member of your Cursillo School Group should set a time frame as to when they will have completed the environmental plan for each of their environments. These plans will change as time goes by. However, the initial preparation of the handout should be completed within a reasonable amount of time.
- d. Discuss common themes and/or people in your environments. Are there ways members of your Cursillo School Group can link together to work on a common environment or leader?



CURSILLO SCHOOL GROUPS

Lesson Plan # 2

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

MAKING AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN

Last week we discussed "The Purpose of the Movement" which is **to create a nuclei of Christians who will engage in leavening their environments with the Gospel.**

"The primary target of the Cursillo Movement is not simply the renewal of the Church, but the broader renewal of all of society from its foundations. The approach of living a life in grace as the basis for renewal of society can be described as providing a backbone for Christian life. This means that Christians must be in the world, penetrating and transforming it with the spirit of the Gospel. This does not mean that the institutional church will renew society, but rather that Christians (members of the Church) working together in society, will penetrate it with a Christian life." (Cursillo Leaders Manual pp 207 - 208)

Questions:

- 1) Did I realize what the purpose of the Cursillo Movement is?
- 2) What environments do I belong to?

If our task is to change our environments - do I start with my spouse, children, coworkers? *"...more is needed than the conversion of individuals. Any attempt to build Christian life must take into account the effect of the environment as a whole on the people who make it up. Environmental transformation refers primarily to people and only secondarily to forces, customs, and trends, because it is people who bear the other aspects of the environment. The ideas, attitudes and opinions of those around us condition us and exert a conforming pressure on our ways of thinking and behaving. When we speak of the Cursillo method being used to Christianize the world, we are concerned mainly about a transformation of the way people interact and form one another's values, attitudes and behavior." (Ibid pp 208).*

Questions:

- 1) Are my environments Christ centered?
- 2) In my environments, do I exert an influence over them, some of them, none of them, or am I influence by them?
- 3) Since making my Cursillo, have I worked in the environments I was already in, or have I become part of new environments? If so, what are they, and why did I join them?

"The main goal envisioned by the Cursillo is the transformation of the environment in which each person finds himself. In other words, the target at which the Cursillo aims is the situation which the cursillista is already in. It asks the cursillista to transform that situation, not to take on something new.

It is not suggesting that people "get more involved" but that they change the quality of involvement they already have."(Ibid P 209)

"The cursillista is being asked to take a particular situation he/she is in and change it so it becomes more Christian. He should begin by himself becoming more apostolically disposed and at the same time working on one or two other people in the environment, becoming their friends, explaining to them what Christianity is and finally encouraging them to follow Christ. At the same time, he will work in the environment as a whole trying to change the tone and direction of it."(Ibid P 209)

Questions:

- 1) Have I ever written out a plan to change my environments? If not why not?
- 2) If I am going to work in my environments, should I make a plan?
- 3) My time is precious. If I am going to make a plan, where should I focus? What is the best use of my time? How can I use my particular talents to bear the most fruit in Our Lords vineyard?

Most of us are creatures of habit and action. Let's **do** something. Few of us have the time of inclination to sit down and develop a plan. But the old adage is true "Failing to plan is planning to Fail". The most precious gift Jesus has given us is our life. We have very little time on this earth. How often do we complain about having to attend another meeting, ultreya, group reunion, etc?

If we take our role as apostles seriously in Florida in 1991 how can we make the most of the time we have? By making a plan! It doesn't have to be perfect - but we have to think about how we can best use our time and talents. When you go on a long trip in the car, you don't just jump in and start driving - stopping every couple of miles to ask "Which way is it to Denver?" You get a map and follow it.

Now it is time to work on your apostolic road map. The enclosed "Environmental Plan Worksheets" will help you to draw your road map. It will take some time - but in the long run you will make more progress and avoid a lot of detours. Hopefully, the worksheets will help you to focus and walk you through the basic information you need to develop your plan.

If the purpose of the movement is to change our environments, how are we going to make a difference by ourselves? We can't alone - Jesus is with each of us. Pray for discernment. As we work in our environments, we will be in contact with other cursillistas who will be working in their environments. By linking together, we can form a "net" to change the foundations of our society.

In the Diocese of Venice, our long term goal is to penetrate the Education environment. After we develop our individual plans, we will get together and find the common threads of our environments. For those whose plans include people in the Education environment, we will develop an overall plan to coordinate our efforts in leading the education systems in our diocese to a Christian ideal.



ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN WORKSHEETS

The purpose of the Cursillo Movement is the conversion of each environment we participate in - to a Christ centered environment.

Each of us is faced with the difficulty of developing a plan to penetrate our environments. The following forms should help you to develop your plan. This simple step by step approach will help you to study your environments and develop a plan to penetrate them.

Before you start, take time to pray and ask for discernment from the Holy Spirit. "Pray first, last and always."

Part A:

List the environments you are part of:	*Rating
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____

* For most Cursillista's their environments may include family, work, parish, social organizations, etc. After listing your environments, rate them. In the column to the right, place the number 1 next to the environment in which you spend most of your time. Then place the number 2 next to the environment in which you spend the second largest amount of your time. Continue until you have rated all of your environments.



Part B:

For each environment listed in "Part A" fill out a separate sheet.

1. List the names of the individual's in each environment.
2. Include their titles if applicable.

_____ ENVIRONMENT

NAME:	TITLE/POSITION:	L/F/I

3. Indicate in the right hand column if the person is a **Leader**, **Follower** or **Impulsive** (L,F or I). This will take some time to study and discern. The people in an environment, who have the title, may not necessarily be the leader. A definition of each type follows:
 - a. **Leaders** - use their abilities to achieve what they believe is worthwhile. They lead the way, are agents of change.
 - b. **Followers** - are satisfied to imitate others' actions, they lack strong convictions.
 - c. **Impulsive** - fluctuate according to the rhythm of their emotions; their conviction is not constant.



Part C:

Relist the members of the environments prepared in "Part B", but list the **L**eaders first and the **F**ollowers second. The **I**mpulsive can be omitted from this list. Use a separate sheet for each environment.

ENVIRONMENT

L/F	NAME:	TITLE/POSITION:



Part D:

Fill out a separate form for each leader listed in "Part C".
Fill in as much of the information as possible:

_____ **ENVIRONMENT**

Personal Information:	
Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Fax Phone:	
Marital Status:	
Name of Spouse:	
Name(s) of Children	
Religion of Leader:	
Religion of Spouse:	
Attends which church?	
Which Cursillistas know the leader?	
What other Christians know the leader?	
Which Cursillistas know the spouse?	

Work Information:	
Title/Position	
Work Address:	
Work City:	
Work State:	
Work Zip:	
Social Information:	
What organizations does the Leader belong to?	
What organizations does the spouse belong to?	
Other Information:	



Part E:

Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.

Now that you have the basic information together, you will need to make a plan. Each situation is different and you will have to use your own judgement as to what will work best. You may want to consult with your friendship group, or members of your ultreya community as to how to bring the leader closer to Christ.

List the steps you are going to take to bring your friend closer to Christ:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Pray for discernment from the Holy Spirit. Pray for perseverance.

Some of the issues you will have to resolve if the leader is not Catholic are:

- Do I lead the leader back to their own faith?
- Do I lead them from a non-Christian faith to the Catholic faith?
- It is appropriate for the leader to make a weekend type experience?
- Is it appropriate for the leader to make a Cursillo weekend in the Catholic, Episcopal or Lutheran Movements?
- Is it appropriate for the leader to make a inter-denominational weekend experience.
- How do I get the spouse involved?

It is important to keep in mind that the ideal is to have the leaders develop a Christ centered life. Quite often we need help to redirect the leader. This means that often times we will make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ who is not a leader but a follower. Many followers have become tremendous leaders when they have been touched by the Holy Spirit. We should strive for the leader but bring along followers as long as they are part of our overall plan to bring that environment to Christ.

For further information, you may want to read the outline for "The Study and Evangelization of Environments" talk given on the Cursillo weekend. The outline is included in the **Leaders Manual**. In addition, there is good information on the purpose of the movement in **The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement**. The book **Lower Your Nets** also deals with the subject of Environmental Penetration in great depth. All these books are available at Leaders School.