

Ideals

Overview

The Ideals rollo is the first rollo of the Pilgrimage. The backdrop for the Ideals rollo is the spiritual retreat (Thursday evening's Way of the Cross and the Glances of Christ and period of silence). During the first evening and first morning, the Pilgrims have been asked to consider their own lives. They have been told that they should know themselves and they have been given a picture of the personality of Christ, especially of his love. In the morning's meditation, they experience grace given in the Parable of The Prodigal Son. Christ is looking at them, inviting them. The whole first day unfolds in the context of the meditation. The Pilgrim is before Christ and each Pilgrim must consider his or her own life.

The maximum length of this rollo is 30 minutes. Because of its preparatory nature, this rollo is secular in its content. It does not mention God, Christ, the church, sin, grace, salvation, redemption or any of the words which relate directly to religion. However, it is an important rollo because it lays the foundation for the rest of the weekend – Christ is our ideal. There are no scriptural references made. The rollo appeals primarily to the mind. The only urging the rollo does toward living the Christian life is to arouse an interest in what might be a better ideal, the possibility of becoming fully human. The rollo should, in other words, not be a soul-stirring call to have an ideal, but an interest rollo that raises some important points.

On Friday morning the atmosphere in the Rollo Room may be one of nervousness, eagerness or anticipation. The group “order” has not yet been established. To ease the sense of nervousness, the rollo should be “matter of fact” or low-key, not dazzling. It should be presented simply and clearly. There should be an attitude of conviction, but not zeal. The examples used should be illustrative stories. They should not be stirring examples of great things that have been done. This rollo is not an opportunity for “witnessing.”

Immediately following the rollo, the Rector should allow the Pilgrims a short time for personal reflection before introducing the discussion time. This time of reflection is to allow the Holy Spirit to inform their thoughts.

Purpose of this Rollo

The Ideals rollo presents the Pilgrims with a way of thinking about their lives. It gives them a framework for examining themselves in relation to their faith in Christ.

Objectives

- To understand what it is to be human.
- To understand what an ideal is.
- To understand that all humans have ideals.
- To share ways to identify ideals.

References

None

Visual Aids

None required.

Opening Prayer

Please turn to page ___ in your Pilgrim's Guide and pray with me.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructs the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

I. Introduction

A. Self

1. Name
2. Church name
3. Pilgrimage/Via de Cristo/Emmaus/Cursillo
 - a. Date
 - b. Table Name
 - c. Today's Table Recognition
4. Family
5. Church Involvement – name a few activities
6. Occupation/Vocation
7. Hobbies/Interest

- B. Topic
1. Title of this Rollo is "**Ideals**"
 2. Purpose of this Rollo is:
 - a. To understand what it is to be human.
 - b. To understand what an ideal is.
 - c. To understand that all humans have ideals.
 - d. To share ways to identify ideals.

II. On Being Human – **Human "being" is both art and science.**

- A. The science of being human: Our distinction
1. **Humans are different from plants and animals because we have intellect, will and freedom.** Humans have the ability to move in a world of thoughts and ideas.
 - a. Intellect – ability to think, rationalize, seek truth.
 - b. Freedom – to choose, give preference.
 - c. Will – act, assume responsibility.
- B. The art of being human: A Work in Progress.
1. **Humans have beautiful innate capacities.**
 - a. **For dreaming**, setting goals, pursuing ideas.
 - b. **For developing identity**, character; for using talent.
 - c. **For happiness**, self-fulfillment.
 - d. **For responsibility**.
 - e. **For changing**, progressing.
 - f. **For selflessness**, for expanding and going beyond self.
 2. **Humans also have limitations.** Sometimes we find ourselves:
 - a. Scheming.
 - b. Losing identity or balance.
 - c. Feeling sad and unfulfilled.
 - d. Shirking responsibility.
 - e. Keeping the status quo or regressing.
 - f. Acting selfishly – **Self-centeredness is our greatest limitation.**
 3. Human Development: Our Fullest Measure. **Becoming fully human involves complete self-giving within the context of goals and ideals.**
 - a. Complete self-giving:
 - 1) Is the highest personal and creative act of a person.
 - 2) Involves use of time, wisdom, talents and resources.

- 3) May have an inward or outward expression:
 - a) Inward – self-renewal.
 - b) Outward – others, objects, charities, programs.
 - c) Caution: focus can either limit or extend meaningful life.
- b. Goals: Some universal truths:
 - 1) A goal is an aim or end that one strives for.
 - 2) Everyone has goals; goals become a way of life.
 - 3) Best goals:
 - a) Are realistic/ definable/ measurable.
 - b) Have objectives, definite criteria of action.
 - c) Fill us with conviction.
 - 4) Goals are different from "Ideals".

III. Ideals – A Closer Look

A. Definition: **Something in its most excellent form; a perfect model; the center of our goals.** *[Note to Speaker: As a visual example, you might use the hub of a wheel being the ideal and the spokes are the goals – for family, career, health, etc.]*

B. Characteristics of Ideals

1. Non-fulfilling ideals are:
 - a. Non-vital.
 - 1) Lack real significance or meaning; allow life to be dissipated into trivial pursuits.
 - 2) Leave us wondering why we ever became involved.
 - b. Incomplete.
 - 1) Lack wholeness or maturity.
 - 2) Leave us feeling empty, dissatisfied, restless, stunted.
 - c. Oppressive.
 - 1) We do because we feel we should or have to.
 - 2) Leave us feeling frustrated, drained, disheartened.

[Note to Speaker: Use your own example, such as Alexander the Great who conquered the known world, then cried because there was nothing left to conquer.]

2. **Fulfilling ideals are:**

- a. **Vital** – gives purpose, meaning and direction to life..
- b. **Complete**
 - 1) Leads us to maturity.
 - 2) Forms persons who are hopeful, realistic, unselfish, joyful.
- c. **Inspirational** – we are:
 - 1) Energized.
 - 2) Motivated to overcome obstacles.
 - 3) Attuned to others' needs and enabled to rise above ourselves.

[Note to Speaker: Give your own example, such as Albert Schweitzer who was a theologian, musician, and doctor who chose to establish a mission hospital in Africa.]

IV. Discovering Your Ideal

A. **All humans have ideals.**

1. Ideals change through life.
2. There is no such thing as a human life without ideals, only human life with ideals which are unidentified and upon which no reflection has occurred.

B. Invitation for reflection:

1. **How do you spend your time?**
2. **How do you spend your money?**
3. **On what or whom do you focus your thoughts?**
4. **What brings you joy?**

[Note to Speaker: Please end with "God loves you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and so do I."]