

Laity and the Church

Overview

The maximum length of this rollo is 30 minutes. It is the third talk of the first day and follows Ideals and Grace Given. It is the second rollo given by a lay person. The speaker is allowed personal examples of a spiritual nature when the rollo calls for examples.

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 purpose of this rollo is to understand our responsibility as Christians and to understand the role of the laity in the church. The listener should understand that the work of the church is accomplished with clergy and laity. Each person has a role to play. God expects us to continue Christ's mission, and God equips us for that mission.

Objectives

- To understand our responsibility as Christians.
- To define church, the function of the church and its mission.
- To understand the role of the laity within the church.

References

The Holy Bible

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. Quick review of previous rollos

1. Ideals (Speaker’s name _____). We understand we are human, we have ideals and we need to evaluate our ideals.
2. Grace Given (Speaker’s name _____). We are the recipient of God’s Grace, Jesus Christ, as the Christian Ideal.

C. Topic

1. Title of this rollo is “**Laity and the Church**”
2. Purpose of this rollo is:
 - a. To understand our responsibility as Christians.
 - b. To define church, the function of the church and its mission.
 - c. To understand the role of the laity within the Church.

II. Understanding our Responsibility as Christians

- A. **We live in a broken world.** *[Note to Speaker: Give a non-controversial example from the latest news such as: laws passed to insure appropriate behavior do not work, more laws are passed; still, the prison system is in chaos. Others such as road rage, increasing divorce rate, disharmony between races, socio-economic divisions.]*
- B. **Jesus Christ is the answer to the problems of the world.** *[Note to Speaker: Here, it is enough to simply make that statement. It is very broad and its impact is not immediately clear. As the weekend builds, guests will come to see how it is a true and meaningful statement.]*
- C. **Our responsibility as Christians is to be Christ-like in thought, word and deed. We are to extend God’s grace to all we meet.**

III. Defining Church and the Mission of the Church

- A. Definition of “church”.

1. The “church” is more than a building, a denomination or a group of denominations.
 2. **The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God.** We are light and salt in every situation. (Matthew 5:13-16)
- B. **The function of the Church is to equip and empower Christians.**
1. Through education (Sunday School).
 2. Through worship.
 3. Through outreach ministries. [*Note to Speaker: use your own illustrations, such as TEAM means “Together Each Accomplishes More”; or geese can fly 72% farther as a group than a single goose can fly on its own.*]
- C. The Mission of the Church is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) – to make disciples of all nations.
1. **Christians are called to continue the mission begun by Christ.** (Luke 4:43)
 2. **The mission is a work of grace.** In every situation we share God’s grace freely given to us, responding by loving and accepting the humanity of others, as God loves and accepts us.
 3. **The mission is apostolic.** We have been specifically called, identified and sent to do a particular work. [*Note to Speaker: Sent forth to bear witness.*]
 4. **The mission is unique to each individual.** We are not all called to be preachers, teachers or missionaries, but to live by Christ-like principles wherever we find ourselves. There is no one else exactly qualified to do our task. (Romans 12:4-8; I Corinthians 12:4-12)
 - a. Our call may be discovered in our life experiences.
 - b. Our call may change at different stages of our life. [*Note to Speaker: Moses was a member of the royal household for 40 years, a herdsman in the wilderness for 40 years, leader of the wandering Israelites for 40 years.*]
- IV. Understanding the Role of the Laity in the Church.
- A. Our obedience to God calls us to extend His grace to the world. **Our Christian ideal is to live a Christ-like life, to reveal Christ to the world.**
 - B. In living the Christian ideal, we find personal fulfillment and fulfill the mission of the church – reconciling the world to God.

V. Conclusion

- A. Living a Christ-like life is intentional, constantly asking, “What would God have me do?” It is living a life of love and self-giving. Our relationship with Christ determines our relationship to each other in the body of Christ and to those people in the world.
- B. “They’ll know we are Christians by our love.” Those who may not see God elsewhere, should easily see God by observing us – by the words we say, how we say them, what we do and how we do it.

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