

Piety: Giving Our Hearts to God

Overview

The Piety Rollo is the last talk of the first day. It is the first talk of the weekend in which the second portion of the “Come, Holy Spirit” prayer is used. It offers the first basic step toward what God intends – a life of liberation in Christ. It is oriented toward the nature of ‘being Christian,’ rather than doing Christian things. The rollo must emphasize that piety is a noun, not a verb – an experience, not an action. The speaker should bear in mind that many may have a negative image of the word ‘piety,’ therefore the personal testimony of the presenter should be carefully chosen to express piety as giving our hearts, our whole life to God.

The maximum length of this talk is to be no more than 30 minutes.

Immediately following the end of 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 move the listener to think of and see himself or herself as Christian. Being Christian is very much a matter of heart and mind. When you are a Christian, you will live as a Christian.

Objectives

- To introduce the three-legged stool concept of a Christian life – piety, study and action; piety is the first leg.
- To define piety as giving our hearts, our whole life to God.
- To share some personal experiences of piety.

References

The Holy Bible

Visual Aids

The three-legged stool.

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.

Please remain standing and continue to pray with me:

We believe, Lord, that you are here present. Although our eyes do not see You, our faith senses You. Take any stray thoughts from our minds. Help us understand the truths You wish to teach us in this meditation. Let us make up our minds to put these truths into practice. Your servants are listening; speak Lord, to our souls. 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 [*Note to Speaker: The following points may be put into your own words. Keep this review brief.*]

1. Ideals (Speaker's name _____). We need to evaluate our ideals.
2. Grace Given (Speaker's name _____). To accept God's grace, Jesus Christ, our Christian ideal.
3. Laity and the Church (Speaker's name _____). We are to be the Church where we live and have our being, to live a Christ-like life, revealing Christ to the world.
4. Grace Received (Speaker's name _____). God initiates the life of grace and we respond. Our "yes" is the beginning of the abundant life.

C. Topic

1. Title of this Rollo is “**Piety: Giving our Hearts to God**”
2. Purpose of this rollo [*Note to Speaker: The following are the main points to be covered in this rollo.*]
 - a. Define Piety.
 - b. Introduce the three-legged stool concept of a Christian life – piety, study and action; piety being the first leg.
 - c. Share some personal experiences of piety.

II. Understanding Piety

A. The negative connotation of “piety”. Use of the word “pious” often brings up negative images or thoughts – “He/she just acts so pious!”

B. **Piety is giving our hearts, our whole life, to God.**

1. Piety describes our life, firmly in the grip of a relationship with God.
2. Piety is an ongoing, ever-changing experience with God.
3. Piety is living the abundant life in the fullest sense.
 - a. We are aware of God.
 - b. We are aware of others
 - c. We are aware of ourselves, others and our relationship with God.
 - d. We conduct ourselves according to our ideal.
 - 1) Where do we spend our time, money and thoughts?
 - 2) When our ideal is Christ-centered, we will conduct our lives in a Christian manner.
 - 3) Piety becomes our way of life by choice -- natural [*Note to Speaker: This may be an opportunity to insert some personal examples of the above aspects of piety in your own life.*]

III. Other elements of Christian living. [*Note to Speaker: This is where you should introduce the three-legged stool, demonstrating the need to have legs of equal length in order to balance. One cannot fully live a Christian life with one or two of the elements of Christian living missing or not in proportion.*]

A. **Living a Christian life requires the three elements of Christian living.**

1. **Piety**
2. **Study**
3. **Action**

- B. Piety is the first leg of this three-legged stool.
- C. We will learn more about study and action during the next two days.

IV. Piety and Practices of Piety

A. **Characteristics of Piety**

1. **Natural**: We live our lives consistent with our ideals and faith. *[Note to Speaker: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old one has gone, the new has come.]*
2. **Energetic**: Piety is charged with the strength that comes from our freedom to fully become who God intends us to be. *[Note to Speaker: Acts 4:20 – “For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”]*
3. **Consciously aware**:
 - a. Awareness that we are God’s children, called by name, adopted and cared for by God.
 - b. Awareness that we are temples of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Awareness that as human beings, we are all bound together as brothers and sisters. *[Romans 12:5 – “So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”]*
4. **Courageous**
 - a. We may have to speak out boldly *[Note to Speaker: Acts 18:9 – “Do not be afraid, keep on speaking, do not be silent.”]*
 - b. We may have to confront the “standards” of the world around us.
 - c. We may have to risk to help others reach their greater potential.
 - c.

B. **Practices of piety that nourish our relationship with God**

1. **Prayer.**
2. **Meditation.**
3. **Worship.**
4. **Praise.**
5. **Service.**

- V. Personal Testimony: A demonstration or illustration of piety drawn from your life. *[Note to Speaker: Incorporate some of the practices of piety described above in your personal testimony. This portion is not a lecture on*

piety. Piety is our human experience of God. Piety is our relationship with God. Piety is vital faith, vivid and conscious, ongoing and ever-changing.]

VI. Summary

- A. Piety is one of the three main elements of Christian living.
- B. Piety is directing our hearts, our whole lives, to God.
- C. Piety is vital faith.

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