

Transformation of the Environment

Overview

This is the first talk of the third day. The maximum length is 30 minutes. There are specific places for personal testimony. If you feel moved to include brief illustrations at other places, feel free to do so.

We are not called to escape or withdraw from the world. Our commission is to be agents of change to reconcile the world to God. This weekend the pebble has been dropped into the pond. We begin with ourselves and the ever-increasing circle begins to encompass those closest to us, then others with whom we come in contact, finally the world.

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

The purpose of this rollo is to demonstrate that each of us is part of several different environments and to offer methods for influencing those environments.

Objectives

- To define the environments in which we live.
- To acknowledge our responsibility to transform the environment.
- To develop a method for understanding the environment.
- To provide a method by which any environment can be transformed.

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.

Please 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 them 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/Interests

B. Quick review of previous rollos.

1. Leaders (Speaker's name _____). We are all Christian leaders, called to bear witness to Christ in our spheres of influence.

C. Topic

1. The title of this rollo is **Transformation of the Environment**.
2. Purpose of this rollo is:
 - a. To define the environments in which we live.
 - b. To acknowledge our responsibility to transform the environment.
 - c. To develop a method for understanding the environment.
 - d. To provide a method by which any environment can be transformed.

II. What is the environment?

- A. A common definition: All the conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding and affecting an individual or group.
- B. Our definition: **Places, institutions and people we can influence for Christ**. [*Note to Speaker: For purposes of this rollo our environments include home, church, work, school, civic clubs, etc.*]

- III. What makes up the environment? All environments include:
- A. Persons who:
 - 1. Tend to conform to the spirit being generated.
 - 2. Structure, change and influence the environment.
 - B. Certain ideas and attitudes that are accepted and encouraged; various ideals are present.
 - C. A certain spirit. (The dominant tendency or characteristic of anything – an inspiring or animating principle which pervades and tempers thoughts and feelings.)
- IV. Acknowledging our responsibility to transform our environments.
- A. **We are called to love our neighbors as we have been loved by God.** Simply stated, we love because God first loved us. [*Note to Speaker: 1 John 4:19*]
 - B. **The missing element in most of our environments is loving relationships.**
- V. **How do we transform the environments?** To change our environments, it is essential to formulate a plan. In doing this, let us consider these aspects: [*Note to Speaker: Remember the different environments mentioned in IIB.*]
- A. **We transform ourselves:**
 - 1. The most effective factor in the transformation of the environment is the conscious and progressive renewal of our own lives.
 - a. Piety – Giving our hearts to God.
 - b. Christian Study – Giving our minds to God.
 - c. Christian Action – Giving our hands to God.
 - 2. God gives us the power of the Holy Spirit and enables us to do His will. [*Note to Speaker: Philippians 4:13*]
[*Note to Speaker: “Work as if everything depends on you, pray as if everything depends on God.”*]
 - B. **We understand the environment.** A leader must know the people, circumstances and nature of the surroundings in order to influence them.
 - 1. **Study the persons.** Appreciate the persons with regard to their place in the environment. [*Note to Speaker: All groups have different people; all people have different gifts.*]
 - 2. **Study the conditions, circumstances and motivations of the group.** [*Note to Speaker: Was it formed to complete a task? Achieve a certain goal?*]

3. **Study the spirit within the group.** [*Note to Speaker: Is it a spirit of cooperation or competition? A spirit of affirmation or condemnation?*]
- C. **We follow God's leading.**
 1. Pray for the situation.
 2. Decide on action.
 - a. Become actively engaged in the activity.
 - b. Decide to separate yourself from the activity.
- D. **We apply the qualities of Christian leaders and implement Christian virtues in everything we do.** [*Note to Speaker: Those qualities need only be mentioned, not elaborated upon..*]
 1. Initiative.
 2. Risk.
 3. Responsibility.
 4. Authenticity.
 5. Generosity.
 6. Faith.
 7. Hope.
 8. Love.
 9. Humility
- E. **We apply principles of interaction.** The application of these principles can be summarized in the statement: **Make a friend, be a friend, share Christ with a friend.** [*Note to Speaker: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 and Mark 2:1-5.*]
 1. In a group – [*Note to speaker: Take time to know and understand what the group is about, bring the spirit of Christ to that group.*]
 2. One-on-one -- [*Note to Speaker: Determine who God has laid on your heart, take time to get to know that person and let that person see Christ in everything you do.*]

VII. Conclusion – [*Note to Speaker: This is your opportunity to illustrate your experience in transforming environments. In your illustration, make certain that the following points are clearly identifiable. Romans 12:1-2.*]

- A. Transforming yourself.
- B. Studying the environment.
- C. Following God's leading.
- D. Applying the qualities of Christian leadership.
- E. Applying the principles of interaction.

[*Note to Speaker: Remind the listeners that environments are not changed suddenly or by magic. Christians do not always find their way without obstacles; however, there is strength and support in community. Tomorrow*

*we will find the world as we left it on Thursday. The world has not changed,
but we have changed. We are the salt and light which changes the world.]*

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