

# **REUNION GROUPS**

## **PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO**

This is the fourth rollo of the third and last day of the Tres Dias. It follows the **Christian Community in Action** rollo and continues the process of preparing the candidates for faithful living during the Fourth Day. Inasmuch as the **Living the Fourth Day** rollo has not yet been given (it is next), the rollista should avoid the term “Fourth Day”; leave that to the next speaker.

The **Life in Grace** rollo explains some of the ways to develop a personal relationship with Christ through Bible study, prayer, and frequent participation in worship. This rollo offers reunion groups as an additional means of enhancing a personal relationship with Christ.

The rollista should begin the rollo with a brief review of the names of the previous thirteen rollos, and no more than a one or two sentence comment on each.

The rollo explains the purpose and function of reunion groups and shares some personal experiences of small group life. A major thrust of the Tres Dias Weekend is to encourage the participation in small groups. In fact, the core teaching of the “Fourth Day Movement” (started by Cursillo de Cristiandad; translated: short course in Christianity) is involvement in reunion groups.

Although the **Secuela** is introduced and explained in this rollo, the emphasis should be on **Reunion Groups** and the need to belong to one.

It is essential that the **Reunion Groups** rollo be given by someone who is currently in a reunion group. Following the table discussion on the rollo, time should be provided to focus on the question: “When on this Weekend did you experience your closest moment to Christ?”

Time objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes.

# **REUNION GROUPS**

## **OUTLINE**

- I. INTRODUCTION**
  - A. Brief summary of Rollos**
  - B. Definition**
  
- II. THE PURPOSE OF REUNION GROUPS**
  - A. Explore and grow in piety, study, and action**
  - B. Share in one another's joys and burdens**
  - C. Encourage and exhort one another**
  
- III. ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL REUNION GROUP**
  - A. Regular time and place**
  - B. Safe place to share**
  - C. Quality Christian content**
  
- IV. TYPES OF REUNION GROUPS**
  
- V. THE SECUELA**
  
- VI. CONCLUSION**
  - Be in a reunion group!!!**

# REUNION GROUPS

## COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

### I. INTRODUCTION

The rollista might begin this rollo by acknowledging that the Weekend is fast coming to a close. Those on the Weekend have been encouraged, beginning with the morning meditation, to be in contact with Jesus and other Christians. The **Life in Grace** rollo stressed the companionship of Jesus; this rollo should stress companionship with other Christians. Present a brief recap of the Weekend rollos to date.

**A. Brief summary of the rollos.** Day one began with a discussion of humans, the highest form of creation, naturally having **Ideals** in their lives. Next, the spiritual director introduced the free, unmerited and unconditional **Grace** offered to us by God. God's actions of grace were discussed and the rollista encouraged that God's grace invites a personal response. During the **Church** rollo, it was explained that the church is the primary instrument God has chosen through which to freely offer His grace and to continue the works of Jesus. In the **Holy Spirit** rollo, the work and gifts of the Spirit were explained and it was discussed that among other work of the Holy Spirit is that He is the power giver, without which the church could do nothing. Finally, during the last rollo on day one, **Piety**, it was made abundantly clear, that for the Christian, there is but one Ideal - - and that ideal is to turn one's life totally and completely over to God - - - becoming more and more Christ-like.

Day two began with the **Study** rollo, where reasons were given to study as a way to strengthen our **Piety**; it was emphasized that the most important study aid was God's word itself, as given to us in The Holy Bible. Next, the **Sacred Moments of Grace** rollo presented many of the ways God has chosen to come to His people during various times in the life and worship of the individual and the church. During the **Action** rollo, we learned that ministry, service, and evangelism were the goals of Christian action; the concept of "*Make a friend, Be a Friend and Bring that Friend to Christ*" was a key element in achieving that goal. The **Obstacles to Grace** rollo spoke about Satan, sin, the world, and our flesh, and discussed how we can overcome these obstacles using the tools God has provided to us. We were reminded that Jesus has already overcome all obstacles through His death and resurrection. In the **Leaders** rollo, we learned that we are all Christian leaders if we have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; further, that we lead by serving. The qualities of a Christian leader were explained.

Finally, today, the **Environments** rollo explained what our environments are and how to prepare ourselves to transform our environments for Christ. In the **Life in Grace** rollo, we learned that a life in grace continues to grow when a person is diligent in piety, study and action. The importance of prayer was stressed as well. During the **Christian Community in Action** rollo, it was explained that the Christian

community nurtures and equips its members for works and witness to the world. We heard several examples of Christian communities in action.

- B. Definition of a Reunion Group:** A reunion group (sometimes referred to as a small group or sharing group) is a group of brothers and/or sisters in Christ which meets together on a regular basis as a continuing celebration of the Weekend.

Usually two or more people, preferably not more than eight or ten, who meet regularly to explore and grow in their piety, study, and action.

## II. THE PURPOSE OF REUNION GROUPS

- A. Explore and grow in piety, study, and action.** Use the Reunion card to explain that it is a time for members to share what has been happening in their lives since the last meeting, especially as it relates to their:

Piety ---How their spiritual life is nourished through prayer and worship. A question such as, "When did you feel closest to Christ since the last meeting?" could be asked.

Study ---What did they learn from Scripture and other Christian literature and what did they read or experience that taught them something about Christ, others, and themselves?

Action ---In what ways did they try to make Christ more visible in their environments: home, work, neighborhood, and congregation?

- B. Share in one another's joys and burdens.** A component of a Reunion Group is to share in one another's joys and burdens (sorrows). As the people get to know each other better, they will naturally want to share with those they have learned to trust, some of the good things which are happening to them, their families, and other loved ones. Prayers of thanksgiving and celebration are appropriate and encouraged. There will also be times when things are not going well. It is at these times when a person will need to share what his/her concerns are; they may request prayer. There may be opportunities where members of the Reunion Group can assist in meeting other needs.

- C. Encourage and exhort one another.** At various times in a person's life, he/she may be in a period of spiritual dryness or may have wandered off the path of directing their life totally to God. It is during such times that the encouragement and exhortation of other members of the group are necessary (Hebrews 10:24.) On some occasions, there may be a call to accountability. At other times, it is an acknowledgement that the person is loved unconditionally by God and by others in the group. Discernment of the group is necessary to determine what is needed.

## III. ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL REUNION GROUP

- A. Regular time and place.** If a Reunion Group is to be successful, it is important that it have a pre-planned schedule and place to meet. Various locations are appropriate such as home, church, restaurant, etc. A very important aspect of a Reunion Group is agreement on the place and time. When the group grows large, it is best to birth

another group.

- B. Safe place to share.** It is important that the location be a comfortable place to share. Further, there needs to be an understanding and agreement among the members of the Reunion Group that they can trust their sharing is kept confidential. Even within the Reunion Group, it is important that once the meeting time is over, the members do not gossip among themselves about what was shared. The only sharing which might go on outside the Reunion Group would be ways in which the other members of the group might assist someone in need.
- C. Quality Christian content.** Meetings of the Reunion Group must contain quality Christian content. Along with the sharing of piety, study, and action, it may be appropriate that there be some time devoted to prayer and the study of the Bible or other Christian literature.

#### IV. TYPES OF REUNION GROUPS

There are many types of Reunion Groups. Any combination of circumstances is appropriate so long as it is what the participants want (i.e., men, women, men and women, couples, singles, etc.) More than likely, people coming together with quite a few similar interests are more apt to stay together as a group for a longer period of time. Inasmuch as Tres Dias is an interdenominational organization, it would seem appropriate for the Reunion Groups to also include people from the various Christian denominations and/or congregations. However, this is certainly not a requirement.

A Reunion Group may decide to be an open group. If so, it is appropriate that members of the group invite others who have not yet made a Tres Dias Weekend. It is in these Reunion Groups where individuals can be taught, ministered to, and encouraged. This was the original concept of the founders of this movement.

#### V. THE SECUELA

Another important activity in the life of a pescador is called the Secuela. The word Secuela is a Spanish word which means “sequel” in English. It suggests a result, consequence, or subsequent development. The purpose of a Secuela is to gather together as a Christian community to reinforce, support, and encourage the experience of the three days. It also provides an opportunity for the formation of Reunion Groups. Secuelas are usually held monthly. They are open to the entire Tres Dias community. In some communities, persons are invited to attend the Secuelas who have not yet attended a Tres Dias Weekend. They can experience some of the love and caring provided by a Christian community prior to their going on a Weekend. Secuelas frequently are scheduled at various churches in the community. The rollista should indicate the benefits he/she has received from regular attendance at Secuelas. It is a good idea for the rollista to mention where and when the next Secuela will take place.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

- **Be in a reunion group!!!** The most important item for the rollista to stress regarding this rollo is that starting or joining a Reunion Group is highly

recommended for their continued Christian growth and accountability. Finding the right Reunion Group is important. Being in a Reunion Group helps strengthen a personal relationship with Christ. The intimacy of a small group is an essential part of Christian living. Also, encourage them to frequently attend Secuelas to receive and give support and encouragement to one another.

**Note to the rollista:** *There is far more subject matter in this “**Commentary . . .**” than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.*

Time Objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes

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## BIBLE REFERENCES

(These Bible references are included here to help the rollista understand some of the biblical background of the rollo. The list is neither complete nor is it intended to become part of the rollo. Read the references and listen for the Word of God.)

John	13:35	All men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another
Romans	12:3	Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought
	12:5	In Christ we who are many form one body . . . each member belongs to all the others
	12:9-13	Love must be sincere
	13:8, 9	The continuing debt to love one another
I Cor.	12:12-31	Christ is like a single body
Galatians	5:13b	Serve one another in love
	6:2-5	Carry each other's burdens
	6:10	Do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believer's
Eph.	4:2, 3	Be patient, bearing with one another in love
	5:21	Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ
Phil.	2:1-11	Look out for one another's interests; have an attitude the same as Jesus
Col.	3:12-17	Teach and admonish one another
I Thes.	5:8	Let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love
Hebrews	10:24, 25	Let us not give up meeting together
James	5:13-18	Confess your sins to one another and pray for each other
	5:19	If one of you should wonder from the truth and someone should bring him back . . .
I Peter	2:17	Show proper respect to everyone
	3:8	Live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble