

## Talk Overviews

### IDEAL

The IDEAL is the opening talk of the Tres Dias. It presents the Pescadores with a way of thinking about their lives. They are invited to consider what a man/woman is and what it is to become a man/woman. A man/woman is presented in the talk as a being who has an ideal.

The first aim of the talk is that it "seeks to convince the pescadore of the need for an ideal - the main mast of their whole life - and to persuade them that the one who has none, whoever they may be, is not a man/woman. The second aim of the talk builds on the first. It ought to awaken in the Pescadore the desire to know their ideal, inviting them to think. In this way it prepares them to listen and to follow the remaining talks attentively. By the end of the talk the Pescadores should see the need for having an ideal for their life and understand why they need an ideal. At the end of Ideal, the Pescadores should be ready to proceed with the rest of the weekend.

### GRACE

The GRACE rollo is the second rollo of the first day. It follows the Ideal rollo which brings the candidates out of the work-a-day world into Christian community. It is followed by Laymen in the Church rollo which reveals the dynamics of mission and ministry of that community under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Its purpose is to reveal grace as the revelation of Gods divine love for the world and the human family. Its purpose is to elicit that response which grace brings forth in the lives of all who accept in faith what he so freely and unconditionally offers. The rollo is classic theology. It may be presented as an evangelical witness.

Grace conveys two essential realities of the Christian faith: (a) the fullness, breadth and depth of Gods unmerited love especially as it is revealed in Jesus Christ; and (b) the transformation of our lives, restoring us to complete wholeness and enabling us to grow in grace.

### LAYMEN IN THE CHURCH

Laymen in the Church is the 3rd talk of the Tres Dias. This talk grows our understanding of the first two talks (Ideal and Grace) because it considers how this Ideal which has been presented can be made effective in the world.

Laymen presents to the Pescadore the mission of the Church to the world and his part in that mission. It provides the framework for the rest of the lay talks.

Laymen in the Church should be a talk that gives witness to the importance of Christianity and discipleship to life. The approach of this outline is careful not to tell him how to live as a Christian and a disciple. The talk should only sketch the attractiveness and the greatness of the Christian ideal.

### DIVINE AID AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### I. Introduction

This is the fourth rollo of the first day and the second rollo given by a spiritual director. Its central purpose is to assure the candidates that Gods enabling presence is with them always.

Grace with the powers and gifts that accompany it constitutes our spiritual life. The motor has all its parts. Now we must start it. We must act and work spiritually. We are going' to study how to start this organism and how to put spiritual life into practice. This we shall achieve through the influence of Divine Aid through the Holy Spirit

### PIETY

The PIETY rollo is one of the keystones of the techniques of Tres Dias. Piety is the talk which states in the clearest way what is fundamental to being a Christian and which gives the strongest call to actually make God the basis of it all. It is the talk that confronts the Pescadores most strikingly, with the call of God to live the life of grace. It is the talk that provides the turning point both from the point of view of the development of ideas and from the point of view of psychological response to the weekend.

The talk on Piety stands as the conclusion of the day (Friday) and brings the day to a resolution. Piety explains the first step - making his/her dedication to God the foundation of everything else. But it is more than just the first step. It is the summary of everything else. Everything else is a way of being pious. Tres Dias ends with a summary of the Piety talk: "A Christian life, deeply felt, lived and spread."

### **STUDY**

The STUDY rollo is the first talk on Saturday and tells the candidate that one must use ones own mind to learn how to live in grace, and that it is necessary to study to learn how to live as a Christian. This is an intellectual talk, and as such, it emphasizes the need that the Pescadores have for formation if he is going to be an effective Christian leader. In Study, he is taught the first of the tools of formation - regular study.

In the study rollo there is not too much witness. But more than Ideals. It is the first talk that emphasizes hard work and discipline.

### **DAYS IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN**

The purpose of this rollo is to explain, simply and practically, how the Sacraments are signs of Gods grace and love; and how the Sacraments disclose, enact and communicate this grace and love to and among Christians.

The Sacraments or Days in the life rollo is a subject about which the laity is usually minimally informed. They invariably respond with enthusiasm to teaching (a) that instructs and informs them, and, (b) that illustrates and accents the similarities among the traditions. For the most part, language should be used which can be readily understood by the layperson.

Because Tres Dias is an ecumenical weekend, (a) how the rollo is presented, and (b) how the liturgies are done will demonstrate to the candidates, perhaps for the first time, how Christian unity can be expressed and experienced.

### **ACTION**

The Action talk is the third talk on Saturday of the Tres Dias. This Rollo explains an important part of the formation of a Christian leader. If he is to be a true Christian disciple, a regular part of his life will be the need for him to make friends with others and to make them friends of Christ. All of his discipleship work should aim at bringing others to Christ. To present this need is the goal of the Action rollo.

This is a transition Rollo - makes the transition from considering the life of grace to the third day-. It begins to start the Pescadore thinking about what he has to do in the world. This Rollo is not intended to be a ringing call to action. Rather it should explain the place of action in the Christian life and explain an approach to action.

The Rollo would have the tone of embarking upon an adventure and should have many examples of action. These examples should be fitted into the talk to clarify the points. There are few rollos where the temptation is greater to want to say too much. Action does not present a complete picture of discipleship and should not.

### **OBSTACLES TO THE LIFE IN GRACE**

The objectives of the OBSTACLES rollo are to present a vision of Grace from the point of view of sin but making it really a vision of Grace. It is necessary to fix in the mind of the Pescadore, at the same time avoiding all pessimism, the real difficulties they may encounter so that they may know them and be given the practical means to overcome them. These difficulties are actually tantamount to sin.

Specific problems illustrating sin should be avoided but rather principles should be presented. The talk should not be a course in Christian ethics but the speaker should enable the Pescadore to see the magnitude of Grace through the magnitude of the void that sin leaves. This Rollo must be totally positive and constructive. Let this not be a diatribe against sin but a presentation of the truth, making the Pescadore see where falsehood is.

### **LEADERS**

The fifth and last rollo on Saturday is LEADERS. It is the key rollo of the day and ties together all of the preceding rollos. It

defines a leader as one who knows Christ and follows Him. The rollo reassures and inspires the candidates to be leaders

Throughout the 2nd day, the Pescadore has been told about how to grow. He's told about the importance of a personal union with Christ, the importance of study to form his mind, the importance of a sacramental life as a means of union with Christ, the importance of regular discipleship action to grow as a Christian, and the importance of various means to overcome obstacles on his path.

Leaders helps the Pescadore to think about himself and how he will have to change himself, not about what he will have to do in his environment. The environment is not completely neglected. The Pescadore is encouraged to develop leader qualities so he can be effective at forming Christian life in his environment.

Leaders is the inspiration talk of the day - the examples used should primarily be examples of a Leader changing his environment. He should be careful to give examples of smaller, more ordinary successes, as well as less "spectacular ones. In Piety, the emphasis was on taking Christianity as an ideal. Leaders, on the other hand, stresses the need to develop a mature Christian character.

Saturday is the Christ day of the Tres Dias. It begins with the meditation on Christ, leader of men. It ends with a talk on Christians, leader of men. Christ should be the model.

### **ENVIRONMENTS**

The Environment rollo explains how Tres Dias can penetrate the world through the action of the Pescadore. It is the talk that explains to the Pescadore how he can direct himself so that his life based upon a union with Christ can work toward transforming each situation in his everyday environment.

The talk centers on what is common to each Pescadore, what is common for every Christian in all the situations of life. It centers on the relationship of those situations to Christ and the life He offers to mankind.

The Environment talk should come across with one clear message It should give the Pescadore, an approach to handling whatever situation he is in. At the end of the talk, the Pescadores should understand more clearly what they are up against, and that they need help. They should understand that contact with their sisters and brothers will help them achieve these changes in their environments.

### **LIFE IN GRACE**

This is the last rollo given by the spiritual director. The rollo, in part, summarizes the weekend and begins the process of maintaining a life in grace following the weekend. Our lives in relationship to God will thrive and grow only to the extent that we are willing to work on that relationship. The rollos that follow, Reunion Groups and Fourth Day, build on this rollo.

The primary purpose of this rollo is (a) to clearly state that the life in grace requires that we maintain and work on our part of the relationship with God and (b) to provide a model or models of how to strengthen this relationship.

### **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION**

Christian Community in Action is the talk that comes closest to stating the purpose of the Tres Dias. The Tres Dias is meant to provide leaders (men formed in the fundamentals of Christianity through a program of piety, study and action) for communities of disciples.

Christian Community in Action presents the concept of teamwork in the Christian community but it is only concerned with a certain kind of teamwork. It is concerned with teamwork in the sense of a group of people who have a common vision, spirit, and approach, and who share their lives together, working together to build something

Christian Community in Action should exude deep confidence. It should exemplify the triumphal concept of Christ, the Church, and the life in grace. An important part of the technique in giving this talk is the use of examples. The examples do two things: show how effective a disciple's action can be and give a glimpse into a Christian community in action.

### **REUNION GROUPS**

The fourth rollo on Sunday is REUNION GROUPS. This is the Tres Dias method for maintaining the pescadore in his life in grace. It describes the groups as being based upon the small groups existing in Christianity for 2000 years. It describes a small group of friends where we can talk about needs that we consider very intimate and most of us will not talk about in large

groups. It is the small group of friends who having built up the trust necessary for this kind of opening of ones self, makes this type of sharing possible.

It puts into words what the weekend has introduced. The most obvious is the table arrangement of small groups and the trust that has built up here. And second, the two small chapel groupings where each table prayed for the needs of the other people at the table.

#### **FOURTH DAY**

The last rollo of the weekend is the FOURTH DAY rollo by the rector. It is the "wrap-up" talk. It stresses the need for perseverance and gives an exhortation to value the means of perseverance offered in the Tres Dias group reunion and monthly secuelas. It is the personal testimony of one who has lived the message contained in the Tres Dias.

The rollo deals with what lies ahead for the candidate in the world to which he is returning. It stresses the vital need summarized in the phrases "contact with Christ" and "contact with your brother in Christ"