

LIFE IN GRACE

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

This is the last rollo given by a spiritual director on this Weekend. The rollo, in part, summarizes the Weekend and begins the process of maintaining a life in grace following the Weekend. The rollos that follow, **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION, REUNION GROUPS** and **FOURTH DAY**, build on this rollo.

The Weekend itself provides a dynamic model for both the disciplines of a spiritual life and the fruits of those disciplines. The events of the Weekend are immediate to everyone's experience and can therefore be used very creatively by the spiritual director in providing a model or models of the disciplines of the spiritual life. The events also permit the spiritual director's personal sharing of the Weekend. The spiritual director will need to be sensitive to what can be shared openly and what was shared in confidence.

The primary purpose of this rollo is:

- to clearly state that the life in grace requires that we maintain and work on our part of the relationship with God and,
- to provide a model or models of how to strengthen this relationship. The necessity and joy of this approach becomes compelling when the spiritual director shares his own personal experiences both of the Weekend and of his own spiritual life.

The rollo can be broken into three parts:

- 1) Making it clear that our life in grace (our lives in relationship to God) will grow and thrive only to the extent that we are willing to work on that relationship,
- 2) Providing a model for doing the work of the relationship and,
- 3) Witnessing by the spiritual director to the spiritual life and discipline. This witness can be scattered through the rollo or reserved for the last part.

Time Objective: Should not to exceed **25** minutes

LIFE IN GRACE

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. Define the Life in Grace**
 - B. Beyond the weekend**

- II. HOW DO WE LIVE IT?**
 - A. Begin where we are**
 - B. Our natural communities**
 - C. Our local church**
 - D. Integration of study and experience**
 - E. Prayer and meditation**

- III. HOW IS LIFE IN GRACE MAINTAINED?**
 - A. Finding Peace in Christ**
 - B. Finding Purpose in Christ**
 - C. Finding Power in Christ**

- IV. CONCLUSION**

(The Spiritual Director's own reflection of the weekend and also his personal witness may be done here or interspersed throughout the talk.)

(The Reunion Group/Growth Card and Pilgrim's Guide may be used as visual aids in this talk.)

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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

A. Define the Life in Grace

The life in grace is a life maintained when the Christian is regular in his piety, study, and action.

B. Beyond the Weekend

The groundwork for maintaining a relationship with God has been laid. Now it is time for us to begin thinking about the future. Our experiences on this weekend are significant and will have a positive, lasting effect on our lives—if we allow them to. Each of us will continue to improve our relationship with God as we grow in the knowledge and love of Him.

The more effort we put into knowing and loving God, the better will become our relationship with Him. That is what this rollo is about: growth in love, growth in knowledge, and an onward and upward journey with God. We are not the first to take this journey. Many have gone before us, have set examples, and shown us the way to follow. We do not journey alone, for many are walking with us; yet, each of us has to establish, develop, and maintain his/her own relationship with God. No one can do that for us. How can our experiences on this Weekend help us improve our relationship with God?

II. HOW DO WE LIVE IT?

As several of the rollos have shown, a relationship with God is a journey, a process, a matter of learning, growing, and maturing. Examples from earlier rollos can be given briefly.

This process of learning and growing does not occur automatically; rather, it is the result of a basic discipline of piety, study, and action. Now we are going to talk about a model for spiritual discipline to help us improve our relationship with God.

A. Begin where we are.

Our spiritual life begins in the world where we live and where God works in history. Life in grace does not take us out of this world; rather, it puts us deeply in touch with our world and with God who is at work in it.

B. Our natural communities

We relate to our world through communities of all kinds: family, social, work, service, church, political, etc. This is where the ACTION is. God calls us in the

communities where we live, and we respond from those communities. Our spiritual life can be encouraged by our communities.

C. Our local church

The church is the basic community for the Christian. Use examples from the **SACRED MOMENTS OF GRACE** rollo and give personal examples of how the church is necessary for life and growth. (A place to study, learn, and live the Christian life).

D. Integration of study and experience

The Christian matures through knowledge and understanding, which results in action (John 16:12, 13). Living in relationship with God requires much study. Draw ideas and examples from the **STUDY** rollo and expand if necessary.

Study is not enough. The truth and insights that we learn need to be understood in our spirit to impart truth and insight. We need to be deeply aware of this to be able to discover the best means to integrate our learning and experiences. Some examples for integration of study and experience are: keeping a journal, working with a pastor, participating in a church study group, etc. (Examples are particularly helpful here.)

E. Prayer and meditation

A good relationship with God and with one another is built on prayer and meditation. Before we can have a productive prayer time, we need to be alone to think; this is called meditation. The purpose of meditation is to think about Scripture, literature, experience, and other matters of significance. Meditation is preparation for prayer.

Meditation requires stillness; a silence from which our prayers arise. (Romans 8:26). A scriptural guide for prayer is:

- A - adoration
- C - confession
- T - thanksgiving
- S - supplication and intercession

(Personal examples for both meditation and prayer can be very important)

During prayer, through communion with the Holy Spirit, we meet Jesus: the One who listens, guides, convicts, brings peace, purpose and power, and unites us as His people.

Finally, prayers from the heart become our way of life in the community and in the world.

III. HOW IS A LIFE IN GRACE MAINTAINED?

A. Life in Grace continues to grow when I find PEACE in Christ

I walk in the assurance that the war with God is over—Rom. 5:1

I walk in the assurance that there is no “condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus.” Rom. 8:1 (KJV)

B. Life in Grace continues to grow when I find PURPOSE in Christ

My purpose is to seek Him and His kingdom—Matt. 6:33

My purpose is to bring glory to God—Col. 1:16, 27

My purpose is to bring people to Christ—Luke 19:10; John 20:21

C. Life in Grace continues to grow when I find POWER in Christ

I have power over temptation—1 Cor. 10:13

I have power over sin—Rom. 6:7, 8; 11-14

I have power for living—Gal. 2:20; Eph. 5:18

IV. CONCLUSION

Life in Grace rests on the piety, study, action dynamic.

(If you have not already done so, a fitting closing to the rollo is the personal witness of the spiritual director. If possible, use an experience from this or a previous Weekend. If the spiritual director is transparent while sharing his/her journey, it will be a compelling witness.)

Ephesians 3:17-19 makes an excellent closing.

(The Reunion Group/Growth Card and Pilgrim’s Guide may be used as visual aids in this talk.)

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 to exceed **25** 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.)

Matthew	6:33	Concern yourself with the kingdom of God
	28:19-20	The Great Commission
John	14:6	Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life
	14:27	The peace Jesus leaves with us
	15:5	The vine and the branches
	16:12-13	The Spirit will reveal the truth
Romans	8	There is no condemnation
1 Cor.	12	Gifts of the Spirit
Ephesians	3:14-19	Jesus will make His home in our hearts
Phil.	3:7-16	For His sake we have thrown everything away
1 John	1:5-10	God is light and there is no darkness in Him