

ULTREYA WITNESS TALK

Most of you are probably familiar with witnessing within your Group Reunions. How you strive to show how you are living a love of God and neighbor. An ultreya witness is quite similar. There are **TWO LEVELS OF THIS WITNESS**:

- Basic in which the **NEW** Cursillistas witness focuses upon the change or conversion in their life, before and after their weekend experience.
- Advanced which is centered not so much upon life prior to the weekend experience and how it helped, but rather their attempt in putting into practice and living the grace they experienced in their weekend...how they are living their Cursillo in their environments.

You have already lived the Cursillo weekend experience and the spiritual high it engendered. Hopefully you have shared this before/after conversion experience in your Group Reunion. If you are being asked to give the basic **NEW** Cursillistas witness then feel free to just share about your journey before and after...how Cursillo impacted you during the weekend and now. Generally this Basic witness should be offered by someone who made their weekend within the past 6 months.

Both types of witness should be **no more than 10-15 minutes** in length. There should be a period of **PREPARATION**:

- Do Palanca and pray. Jesus says, “for you can do nothing without me.” Jn 15:5
- Don’t over prepare...the simpler the better. Prayer remains the best preparation.
- If possible inform the Ultreya Leader of the topic you have chosen a few days in advance to help him/her in approaching potential echo sharers and to pass it on to the Spiritual Advisor(if present).

The remainder of this document primarily addresses the **Advanced witness talk**, although beneficial for both types. The witness is about Jesus Christ...how we live with Him and how we are trying to bring others to know about Him in their daily lives. It is **NOT** a testimonial about what God has done for us, but a witness as to what we have done to introduce people to Christ or to change environments for Christ with God’s help.

A WITNESS TALK THEREFORE INCLUDES:

- Your description of how you live with Christ and how you are attempting to bring others to Him through the ordinary circumstances of your life. Do others see your love of Christ in your actions.
- Sharing a recent living experience (last 6-8 weeks) by making 1-2 points of what you are doing for Christ in the normal circumstances of your life.
- Your talk should be simple, sincere, concrete, and practical...the “who, what, where, when, and why” of your action. Relate what happened as a result - both successes and failures. What did you plan to do? What was the outcome? Success or disappointment.

When preparing your witness consider these questions:

- Does the talk show that Christ is in my life?
- Does Jesus have an important place in the talk?
- Does the talk show how much I want to follow Him?
- Will the experience I share give others the encouragement they need to try to transform their environments for Christ?
- Can other people readily identify with my situation?

A WITNESS TALK IS NOT:

- Sensational...a big, flashy production number
- A testimonial or a conversion story. A “testimonial” is what Jesus has done FOR YOU... a “lay witness” is what you are doing For HIM.
- A life history or spiritual autobiography.
- A bible teaching or sermon.
- Too emotional...sharing deep, raw, personal emotions is better shared within a more personal setting with close friends or a spiritual advisor.

Be not afraid!!! This may sound intimidating, but it is not! This witness is not expected to be spectacular and awe inspiring...it should be a simple, faithful witness in the normal process of your life. You're with friends...brothers and sisters in Christ. When we center our lives on Christ and the Cursillo method of “make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ” then we are **ALL** doing something which can be shared in an ultreya witness talk.

