

ENVIRONMENTS

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

ENVIRONMENTS is the first rollo of the third and last day of the Weekend. It begins the third phase of the Weekend, the re-entry into the world.

The first day presents the Christian Ideal, the priority of living a life totally dedicated to God. The second day is a day to learn how this life of grace is nurtured and developed through Piety, Study, and Action while taking one's place as a Christian Leader – influencing others for Christ. The rollos of this day are based on the candidates' normal environments, their daily Christian walk, their communities of Christian action, and their small group participation.

Today the candidate is to learn how he/she can live in the world and influence every situation to see many come to Jesus. The vision of the candidate is turned, through Christ, from themselves (inward) to bringing the life of grace to the world (outward); fully realizing *Whose* they are and filled with the confidence of Christ who has overcome the world. Today the candidates will discover the task ahead in their environments. Hopefully they will realize they are empowered by the Holy Spirit with the support of the Christian community.

The Environments rollo should challenge the candidates to discover, assess and then influence their environments. The candidates should see the state of the world today and the urgency to win over their environments for Christ. This rollo is intended to fill the candidates with optimism over the many opportunities to reflect Jesus, knowing Jesus has already secured the victory.

The points in the outline are best clarified with short, to the point witnessing.

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

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OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. What are my environments?**
 - B. Understanding our environments**
- II. PREPARATION FOR CHANGING OUR ENVIRONMENTS**
 - A. Preparing ourselves**
 - B. Seeking God's will through:**
 - **Prayer**
 - **Bible Study**
 - **Christian Fellowship – holding one another accountable**
 - C. Preparing a plan of action**
- III. TRANSFORMING OUR ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHRIST**
 - A. By example**
 - B. Meeting others where they are**
 - C. Accepting leadership**
 - D. Through patience, prayer, and perseverance**
- IV. CONCLUSION**
 - A. Our environments are comprised of groups/individuals in our lives**
 - B. Making Christ known in our environments**

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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

There is an urgency to bring Christ into every part of the world. To do so, each of us must do our part... we must bloom where we are planted. We must not forget that a plant does not choose its place. It uses the soil in which it finds itself to grow and bear fruit. So must each of us. Environment is the combination of the circumstances which come together in a given time and place. Wherever you are at any given time, whoever you are with, whatever you are doing... that is your environment.

A. What are my environments? Most think of environments as the natural surrounding: lakes, forests, seas, and skies. As a Christian leader, we need to broaden our understanding of our environments to include the people we find in every situation; such as at home, on the job, in recreation, when shopping, at church and socially.

B. Understanding our environments. Each environment is different and is made up of different people. It is not so much about each person; but the atmosphere or attitude that is created by the mix of people and the event. These environments consist of ourselves, others, and the group as a whole. Christ is already present and active in all environments. As a part of each of these environments, we have influence over them to some extent. We are called to influence people in our environments for Christ, through our natural involvement and interaction. As Christians, we can effect changes for God's purposes...we must be God's instrument for change.

II. PREPARATION FOR CHANGING OUR ENVIRONMENTS

Because we have an influence on each environment, we should have a plan to bring the positive influence of Christ to each of these. In order to make any change, we need to know ourselves and Whose we are, as well as our task at hand; understanding that Christ is our strength, and knowing the only successful changes we can make in our environments are the ones that are in accordance with God's will.

A. Preparing ourselves. We are a part of our environments. We must be willing to be used by God to accomplish something and have a willingness to make choices in harmony with Christ. We cannot wait until we think we are fully mature in the Lord to make an impact. We become ready for our Christian challenge through submission to God and His will for us. Through prayer and study, we draw closer to Christ and are better able to discern His will in every situation. Love is the motivation of what happens between a believer and Christ and then between a believer and others. We can love others to Christ because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19) It is easier to gain a friend for Christ by loving them where they are than it is by condemning their actions.

B. Seeking God's will through:

- **Prayer.** It is through time with Christ in prayer that we submit ourselves to Him and are strengthened by Him. Scripture says we can do nothing without Christ. (John 15:5) By abiding with Christ we can develop the spiritual gifts for the task ahead. Through prayer we learn to hear and obey God's Word. Prayer transforms our relationships.
- **Study.** In His Word, we find purpose for our lives. We learn of Christ's nature and His unfailing love for all. The Bible gives us strong examples of how to encounter situations in our environments. Study also means analyzing our environments. Study helps us to ask them, 'Where are you coming from? Where are you going? Do you see Christ keeping company with you on the road?'
- **Christian Fellowship.** We need to hold one another accountable. As we seek to be a Christian influence in our environments, we need fellowship with other believers; this is to offer each other our enthusiasm and encouragement through prayer and support. Through Christian friends, we hold each other accountable, help each other stay focused on Christ and become better equipped to reach out within our environments. As we witness together, we offer each other the enthusiasm and encouragements of *palanca*: works of mercy, sacrificial deeds, signs of the Holy Spirit's presence, and evidence of solidarity in community. Because of this Christian fellowship, we are never alone in our quest to bring Christ to the world.

C. Preparing a plan of action. We must develop a plan and establish priorities for bringing Christ to our environments, preparing our mind, will, and heart for the task. We prepare for a plan of action by seeking God's will, preparing ourselves through prayer and study and receiving the support of our fellow Christians.

II. TRANSFORMING OUR ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHRIST

- A. By example.** The light of Christ shining through us is what draws others to Christ. We can show them that a life in grace brings hope and joy, and is attractive and possible.
- B. Meeting others where they are.** As we heard in the **Action** rollo: 'Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ'. The candidate needs to be willing to invest his/her life in making friends with those who don't know Christ. In our environments, we might meet people who love and support us; people who have needs and make demands upon us; people who are hostile and antagonistic; people whose lifestyles, values, and cultures, as well as faith, differ from ours. We need to try and understand them. What are their stories? The dreams they dream? Goals they pursue? We need to know who are the believers, the doubters, the seekers, and the

skeptics. It is most important to find common ground with those you wish to influence.

- C. Accepting leadership.** God calls us to understand and interpret the world in which we live; to see what is happening in a particular time and place. One of the most important things a believer can give to others is themselves. Leadership goes beyond simply giving of our time. It should also include all aspects of ourselves, just as Christ did for us. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, we are often called to step up and accept our leadership responsibilities. Because we have become prepared through piety and study, we can accept this leadership call to action.
- D. Through patience, prayer, and perseverance.** We will meet many different people in our environments. Some will be easy to befriend and lead to Christ. Others might not know God; some don't want to know God and some might feel they don't need to know God. There are many hurting and needy people in our environments. Changes in ourselves and others take time, patience, prayer, and perseverance. We seek unity with Christ and each other, not uniformity in doctrine or behavior. We must put on the mind of Christ and be patient (as Christ has been with us), be in prayer for them (go to the One who has all the answers), and persevere (knowing Christ and I are an overwhelming majority). (Phil.4:13; Phil. 2:5)

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Our environments are comprised of individuals and groups in our lives.** We are each placed in many environments, with many different people. A Christian sees Christ everywhere in his/her environments.
- B. Making Christ known in our environments – our goal.** It is only as we dwell in the light and joy of Christ's presence that we can see the world as a meaningful field for our Christian action. Through prayer, study, and Christian fellowship, we are enabled to leaven our environments...and we win the victory over the world by means of faith. "Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (1 John 5:4-5 NIV)

(The Rollista is encouraged to end the rollo with words to the effect of 'May the Lord of the Church bless you as you transform your environments for Christ'.)

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: Not to 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.)

Genesis	12:1	God send Adam from his country
Psalms	37	Trusting in God
Matthew	5:13-17	You are like salt of the earth, light of the world
	6:1	False piety
	7:7-8	Ask, seek, find
	10:8	The mission of the 12
	22:37	The great commandment
	28:19	The great commission
Luke	10	Mission of the 70
John	8:12	Follow Christ the light of the world
	13:34	A new commandment
	14:2-17	Ask in His name
	15	Abide in God
	21:15-19	Feed my sheep
Acts	2:47	The increase of the community
	10:44-45	The Holy Spirit falls upon the Gentiles
Romans	8:25	Hope is always possible
	15:1-6	Help the weak
Galatians	5:6	Faith expressing itself through love
Ephesians	4:1	Lead a life worthy of your calling
	6:10-18	The armor of God
Phil	2:15	Shine like bright stars
Col	3	Holy Living
	4:2	Devote yourself to prayer
2 Tim	2:2	Hand on
	4:7	Fighting the good fight
Philemon	6	Prayer
Hebrews	12:14-15	Take a Christian attitude
1 Peter	4	A living hope
1 John	4:19	We love because he first loved us
	5:4-5	Victory
	5:14-15	Confidence in God