

THE REUNION GROUP

- I. Prayer to the Holy Spirit - Beginning the reunion group with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit:
 - 1) fills our hearts with the Holy Spirit and the fire of God's love.
 - 2) creates us as a people for renewal. I Peter 2:9-10 says "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy."
 - 3) gives us instruction, understanding and wisdom about the way we are to live as disciples of Jesus.
 - 4) transforms and empowers us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- II. Worship - Share ways you have worshiped the Lord in the past week through prayer life, morning devotion, worship attendance, Communion and spiritual retreat.

- III. Closest to Christ -
 - 1) The moment at which you have felt closest to Christ is not necessarily an emotional experience, although it can be. It occurs whenever you have had an experience which reminds you of Christ, or makes you feel that He is at work in the world, or gives you some insight into Christ or Christian life.
 - 2) The moment may not necessarily be some religious occasion - in fact it usually will not be.
 - 3) Each person should explain in detail why he is aware of Christ in what he related, so that others can understand why.

- IV. Study -
 - 1) There are many sources for this information by which the life of grace can be strengthened and fortified, become more conscious and growing.
 - 2) The first book of the Christian is the Bible, the book of God's word, a well that never runs dry, a source of refreshment for all who draw from it.
 - 3) There are countless pamphlets, newspapers, magazines and books that will keep a person well - informed on what Christianity is and implies.
 - 4) Perhaps there are study groups or adult education classes available in your area. By all means, take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about Christ and His Church. The more we study about Christ, the more we will love Him.

- V. Call to Discipleship - This section is meant to deal with bringing other people closer to Christ. It should concern some specific attempt to bring another person to Christ or to make him more aware of Christianity. We can make definite attempts to achieve certain goals and we report on our successes here.

- VI. Action - How were you Christ's hands and feet in your environment during the past week?

- VII. Discipleship Denied - Share with the group any missed or failed opportunities you had to share Christ with others.

VIII. Plan —

- 1) One must plan to help others to know and love Christ.
- 2) Every person should make some attempt each week, no matter how small, to help build up the Body of Christ.
- 3) It is not necessary to have a different plan every week.
- 4) This section should concern an attempt different from ordinary duties. It is not meant to deal with living our daily life, but with our effectiveness in bringing people to Christ.
- 5) This section should also concern efforts different from the regular work we do. It should concern our efforts to make various situations more fully Christian.

IX. Prayers for Special Needs — Share your needs with the group. Then pray for those who may not have attended and for any other special needs that are mentioned. Everyone should have the opportunity to pray aloud. Also add these special needs to your personal prayers during the week.

X. Lord's Prayer - Closing prayer - In Matthew 6:9 Jesus says, "Pray then like this:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen."

REMINDERS FOR AN EFFECTIVE REUNION GROUP:

- 1) Be regular. The group must take place weekly and everyone should be there - otherwise, it will not develop and may soon fail.
- 2) Prepare ahead of time what you will say. Bring something to share.
- 3) The leader of the group should rotate through the members from week to week.
- 4) Take each section of the card and have everyone contribute his share to that section; then move on to the next section.
- 5) Be aware that Christ is working in the world through YOU. Take the reunion group seriously -be serious, be honest, be careful to keep secrets. Be concerned for others.
- 6) The group should get together for something other than the reunion; otherwise, it is difficult to develop a deep friendship in the group. The Group activity can be a meal, a party, as well as visits to a hospital or work on some project. Occasionally as a group activity, review the success of your reunion group. How can it be improved?

We were called to the Great Banquet/Emmaus/Cursillo to make reunion groups. As Eduardo Bonin, one of the founders of the Cursillo movement said, "We must bear in mind that reunion groups are not held so that there may be people to attend Banquet/Emmaus/Cursillo, but the Banquet/Emmaus/Cursillo is held so that there may be people to make a reunion group. The Banquet/Emmaus/Cursillo is the best means we know for putting the soul at the necessary level to begin to make a reunion group." The reunion group is the main aid the Banquet/Emmaus/Cursillo gives us to keep our Christian lives, our life in Christ, conscious and growing and more effective.

If reunion groups get mechanical and formal, and if we are not getting out of them what we should, it is a sure sign that we are not putting anything into them. Reunion Groups take the

same idealism, dedication and spirit of charity called for in the Banquet/Emmaus/Cursillo. If the reunion groups get tiresome and seem of little worth, it is a sure sign that we should believe in them more, work at them more intensely and love our brothers more.

Christ said, "Where two or three are gathered in My name - there am I ...". The reunion groups are something done for His sake, that He takes seriously. He is present at them, and they should be done prayerfully with a dedication to Him that we may know, love and serve Him better.

The Reunion Group 3/11/03