

MAKING JESUS REAL

This Rollo was given to us by the National Cursillo Center in 2012. It was titled Actualizing Christ, but it has been slightly altered to follow up with the ending of this mornings meditation.

We left this morning with the need to come down from the mountain and make Jesus Real to those we meet. So let us begin.

We are called to be new: to learn to love as Christ, to think like Christ, smile like Christ and above all, pray like Christ, because in that prayer is our connection with the heavenly Father, just like Christ is one with the Father.

In the Gospel of Matthew 25:35-36, Jesus says, “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.”

How many times have we heard this Gospel and the multitude of homilies explaining it?.....How many times have we heard it at retreats?.....How many times have we studied it at School of Leaders?

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus constantly invites to a personal reflection to analyze our own experience and Christian coexistence of his will to live and share what is fundamental to being Christian.

But, what is fundamental to being Christian? Without getting too much into theology, we can say what St Paul tells us: “Love of God, love of neighbor and love of ourselves.” That simple! And that is because all God’s things are very simple. We men and women when looking for something more between the lines we lose it, we confuse it, or we complicate it and if we don’t abandon it, we change it for something that we do understand.

We need to be aware that God trusts us to make this a better world. In other words, God does not keep us from being a part of his creation, demonstrating at the same time that we have the ability to help others. When we see injustice, do not mention “poor person” or “Why does God allow this?” But, ACT instead, because our faith is shown by our actions. We need to demonstrate to others that God, through us, does remember them when they are hungry, when they are thirsty, when they need to be welcomed, when they need some clothes to cover their body, when they are sick or in prison.

We cannot tell our neighbor to come back another day, when we have what they need at that time. We need to make Christ real through all our words and actions, during the 24 hours of each day. In this way, through our witness of our life, we motivate all those that surround us in any environment, where we move, so that they be open to the love and friendship of Jesus Christ as much as they are open to the air they need to breathe.

Pope Benedict XVI, spoke of the Transfiguration of Christ on the Mountain “...that is why He carried three of them to the mountain-he added- and reveals his divine glory, the splendor of truth and love”. Jesus wants that this light may illuminate their hearts when they pass thru the thick darkness of his passion and death, when the scandal of the cross will be unbearable for them. God is light, and Jesus wants to give to his most intimate friends the experience of this light, which is found in God. Therefore, after this event, he will be in them, this interior light, able to protect them from the attacks of the darkness. “ Even in the blackest night, Jesus is the light that never shuts down.”

Just as Elijah’s, Moses’ and Jesus Christ’s clothes sparkled during the Transfiguration on the mountain “his clothing became sparkling white” (Mark 9:2-13), our bodies can also shine the same way, by living and sharing

together the way that Jesus tells us through his Gospel. And it is a fundamental Christ at any time and place in which we operate.

For anyone who has had an encounter with himself, Christ and others through a Cursillo of Christianity weekend, this concept is already familiar. All the methodology of the Charism of Cursillo is Kerygmatic, experiential and the message of love and friendship of God in Jesus Christ, is transmitted through the best vehicle which is FRIENDSHIP, through the three phases of methodology-- Precursillo, Cursillo, Cursillo Weekend and Post Cursiool.

This kerygmatic methodology motivates us to allow Jesus to penetrate our lives as we listen to his words and therefore, allow ourselves to be transformed by his truth and follow his way of life. And the vehicle of friendship that is utilized by Cursillos to convey the love and the friendship of God in Christ launches us to live and share what is fundamental to be Christian. This Christ-like LIFESTYLE, when lived 24 hours of every day, converts us into authentic Christians who constantly Live like Christ in every word and action that comes from our being. It is essential that our testimony of life projects a LIVING, NORMAL and a NEAR CHRIST.

A living Christ so that everyone in our environment, knows that HE has resurrected as is told in the four Gospels and is present through our words and actions as well as through every human being, nature and things that surround us.

A normal Christ, so that all those within our environment can see that He is our friend and brother and we can talk with him, as we do with any other person, in a normal and natural way.

And a nearby Christ, that is near so that all environments know and are convinced that HE is still waiting and available to anyone who wants to accept the truth, the love and the friendship that HE constantly offers at NO COST.

Jesus Christ shows us this closeness in the Gospel of John 4: 13-14, when he speaks with the Samaritan Woman.....Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life”

We need to be aware that actualizing a Christ that is Living, Normal and Nearby, A Christ who we find in the naturalness and normality of the reality in which we live the 24 hours of each day, is to allow this water to spring forth from the supplier that is with our own inner self and soak all the people around us. This way, the message of truth, the love and friendship of God in Jesus Christ, will evolve in our own testimony of life, will be up to date and responding to the signs of the times.

We, You and Me give life to the presence of Jesus Christ in the World, each day. I ask you to pause on this as we go into discussion groups and evaluate how people see you do this in your environments. And what makes it hard or easy for you to be Christ to Others.