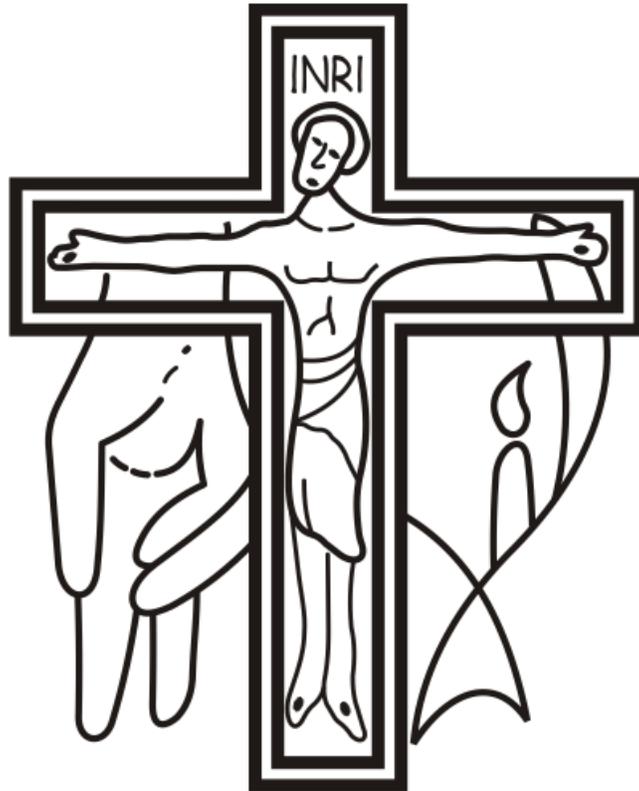


# Via de Cristo



*“Christ is counting on you”*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Apostolic Action

Rollo # 8

25 Minutes

## APOSTOLIC ACTION

**Time:** 25 minutes. Content of this rollo is expected to take 15 – 17 minutes, allowing for 5 – 8 minutes of personal examples or testimony.

**Orientation:** Apostolic Action is the giving of self to another for the purpose of sharing Christ with others. This talk completes the tripod of Piety, Study, and Apostolic Action. Effective Apostolic Action flows naturally from a life of piety and continuous study of the Christian Ideal. The speaker should emphasize that Apostolic Action is not only the natural and logical response to God's love, but it fulfills God's call in our Baptism. Christians have a vertical relationship with God and a horizontal relationship with people. We love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

**Style:** The Apostolic Action talk describes mature Christians in their relationships with others. The speaker should take a personal approach. Participants will begin to see how they can approach friends with Christ-like love to bring them to Christ. It inspires participants to wonder about Christ's plans for them.

Apostolic Action is a transitional talk which sets the stage for the remainder of the weekend. The remaining talks build upon the concept of Christians sharing the redemptive love of Christ with each person in their lives.

**Objectives:** Jesus entrusted his followers to finish his work. Our task is to discover the will of God for our lives and follow His call. Everything we do is a response to God's unconditional love for us. The Christian Ideal is infused into the world through our Apostolic Action.

The main points of the Apostolic Action talk are:

- The third leg of the tripod, Apostolic Action naturally follows Piety and Study.
- The purpose of Apostolic Action is to lead others to a relationship with Christ.
- Friendship is the key to sharing Christ with others.

**Preparation:** Prepare to write your Rollo with prayerful consideration of the above orientation, style, and objectives. Remember, you are delivering God's message through your words. Studying the following verses will provide context and guidance.

Ephesians 4:16  
Matthew 28:18–20  
Luke 10:1  
Genesis 4:9  
1 John 4:10-12, 19  
John 15:16  
Matthew 22:37-39  
John 13:35  
John 14:12  
Galatians 5:1  
Matthew 7:16-20  
Matthew 16:24-25  
1 Corinthians 10:31  
1 John 4:16  
Ephesians 1:7

Genesis 12:2-3  
Matthew 25:31-46  
1 Corinthians 13  
Matthew 5:1-12  
Isaiah 40:11, 18, 49-55  
John 15: 9, 12  
Matthew 22:37-39  
Matthew 28:40  
Matthew 5:43-48  
Galatians 5:22-23  
Matthew 16:24-25  
John 3:30  
1 Timothy 2:4  
Romans 10:13-15  
James 2:14

**Do not include all the verses in your talk.** Pick two to four that speak to you and share them to emphasize your point. The Rector and Spiritual Director may also have verse selections to include.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Apostolic Action provides clarity on how we incorporate our Christian Ideal into our daily lives with others.
- B. Christian Maturity is a combination of living in God's grace through Apostolic Action, Piety, and Study. Apostolic Action completes the Via de Cristo tripod. It is the giving of self to others for the purpose of sharing Christ.
- C. Each person is called to share a relationship with God that produces a fundamental change in the direction of their life. This relationship affects every aspect of our lives.
- D. Christianity is the whole of life. Accepting God's love radically changes a person's life and effects every community in which we belong.

## **2. WHAT IS APOSTOLIC ACTION?**

Apostolic Action is:

- A. Loving others as Christ loves us.
- B. Reaching out to others to share the gifts of God's love and grace. We cannot be satisfied with living in grace for its own sake.
- C. Motivated by the desire to share Christ with others in order that they desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. It reflects Christ living in us.

## **3. FALSE CONCEPTS OF APOSTOLIC ACTION**

Apostolic Action is not just:

- A. Participation in church or civic organizations.
- B. Normal civilized good behavior.
- C. Practiced only when moved by the Holy Spirit.
- D. A desire to be in the spotlight.
- E. Apostolic action is not an option nor a chance to be in the spotlight.

## **4. AUTHENTIC APOSTOLIC ACTION**

An apostolic Christian is empowered by God's love. His/her action is rooted in love of God and love of neighbor.

- A. What is Love? – Love is caring for others as much as or more than you care for yourself. We are called by God to live with those around us as Christ, loves us. God’s love is the motivating power and strength for our love.
- B. Love is treating others as Jesus treats me:
- Jesus treats me as a person, a unique individual.
  - Jesus loves me right where I am.
  - Jesus gives Himself to me despite my limitations.
  - Jesus gives Himself to me, as I know myself to be, all that I am.
  - Jesus gives Himself faithfully, passionately, constantly, and completely. The total giving of oneself to another as a response to God’s love is an indication of a person’s human and spiritual development
- C. Apostolic Action is the act of Christians sharing the redemptive love of Christ with each person in their life.
- Living in grace is the essence of Christianity. Through our actions, we can reflect Christ living in us. We can center our environments on Christ.
  - Apostolic action is not limited to church organizations, kind behavior, or good deeds. It is bringing God’s love to the world, making God’s love real in the lives of those we touch.
- D. Proclaiming the Gospel, sharing God's love, true love fulfills the call of the cross.

## **5. MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND, BRING YOUR FRIEND TO CHRIST.**

(Method of Apostolic Action)

*Speaker note:* Please be clear that the “Bring a Friend to Christ” is about the conscious effort to bring to your friends to a closer relationship with Christ. It is not the intent of this rollo that the “Bring a Friend to Christ” equals inviting someone to a VdC weekend. Remember the purpose and mission of Vdc is to equip Christians to become more effective and stronger leaders.

- A. Pray first, last, and always. Ask for guidance in seeking out those who need us. Pray about the people we meet, asking for God's will. Be available.
- B. Make a Friend. Seek out your friends. Don't wait for them to come to you. Approach them. Pray for your friends; "Speak to God about your friend before speaking to your friend about God!"
- C. Be a Friend
- Live the truth we proclaim. Be authentic.
  - Take an interest in others.
  - Be happy and optimistic; be joyful! Joy is one of the most irresistible forces in the world.
  - Listen! Be tolerant and understanding.

- Love "supernaturally," loving even the unlovable, through the Holy Spirit's capacity to love.

D. Bring a friend to Christ.

- Introduce your friend to Christ, making a conscious effort to help them grow in relationship with Christ.
- Share with them what Christ means to you, what He has done in your life. (Once friends have Christ in common, they have a bond that makes them true friends.)
- We strive to share Christ with our friends not for ourselves. We want them to love him, not us.

## 6. CONCLUSION

In our relationships with God, our lives are transformed. We are called to act on our faith. Apostolic Action is the act of sharing God's love with others.

Invite weekenders/pilgrims to reflect in their notes their thoughts around these 3 questions. Regarding my action...

- How am I sharing my faith with others?
- Do my actions show Christ in me?
- Am I introducing Jesus to others?