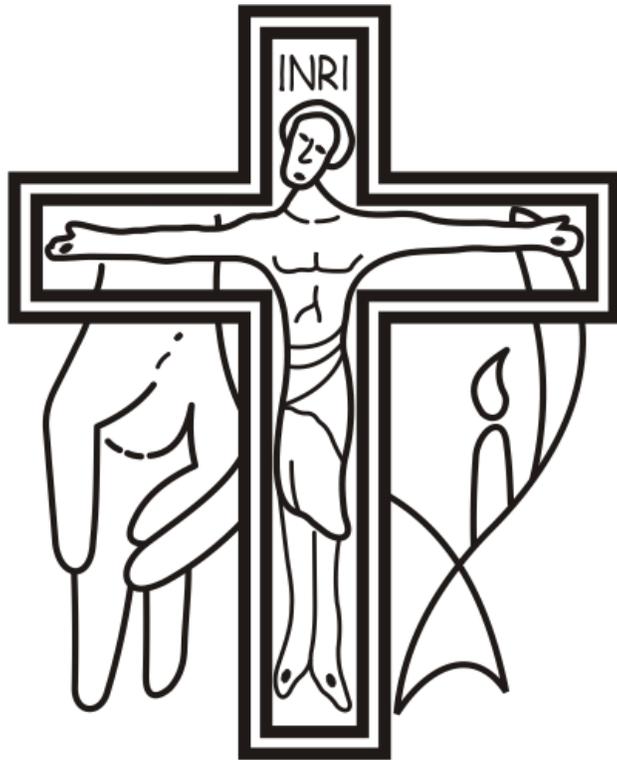


Via de Cristo



“Christ is counting on you”

Name: _____

Study

Rollo # 6
25 Minutes

STUDY

Time: 25 minutes. Content of this rollo is expected to take 20 minutes, allowing for 3-5 minutes of personal examples or testimony.

Orientation: Study is the first talk on Saturday. At this point, the participants are familiar with the atmosphere of the Rollo Room and the flow of talks. They have started to build trust at their tables and understand why they were called to the weekend. There may still be some hesitation with the participants, however most should be more relaxed and receptive to the message.

Study further builds on Friday's concepts of living the Christian Ideal through Piety, Laity, and Grace. It is natural for the participants to want to know what will help them strengthen their relationships with God. The goal of Study is to invite the participants to make a conscious decision to learn about God and seek His will in our lives.

Style: Study is meant to inspire the participants to learn how to live in grace and accept our need to know God. This talk should be delivered as a gentle reminder that to have a relationship with God, we are compelled to know God. It is not meant to be delivered as a lecture or warning that we do not study enough or that there is a "right" way to study. Participants should be reminded that the best way to study is the one that works for them. The talk should provide helpful ideas for successful ways to build study habits, encouragement for those who are new to study, and personal testimony for overcoming obstacles.

Objectives: Study is the second leg of the tripod. The talk should serve as a bridge between the Friday talks and the remaining talks of the weekend. Study leads to Action and Leadership. In our study, we learn more about the Christian Idea and our commitment to God. The objectives for the talk are:

- Christian study is an invitation to know God and further our relationship with Him.
- Christian study is not the same as the study of Christianity.
- There are obstacles to study.
- There are remedies to overcome these obstacles.

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.

Psalm 32:8
Galatians 6:2
I Corinthians 2:13
Romans 10:17
Matthew 25:14-30
I Corinthians 13:11
Luke 2:52-53
John 17:7, 26
John 8:31-32
II Timothy 3:16-17
John 14:23-26
I Peter 5:5
James 1:5
Matthew 5:48
Ephesians 4:24
Matthew 25:14-30

I Corinthians 13:11
John 16:3
John 17:3
John 17:6-8
Hebrews 4:12
Galatians 1:11-24
I John 4:20-21
Romans 2:15-16
Colossians 2:2-3
Isaiah 50:11
Psalm 1:2
Proverbs 11:2
Philippians 2:1-9
1 Corinthians 16:13
Luke 21:33

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

The Christian ideal gives purpose and meaning to life. This ideal includes piety (giving our heart), study (giving our mind), and apostolic action (giving our energy).

- A. Christians believe God is part of our lives and our ideal.
- B. Study is the search for knowledge.
- C. God's way, truth, and life is the subject of Christian study.
- D. We can only discern the truth through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. DEFINITION

- A. Study is applying our minds to learn.
- B. **Christian study** is the process of learning to know, love and respond to the relationship God desires for us. This enables us to reach our potential as God's children and live our lives reflecting God's will.
- C. There are many forms of study. Jesus is revealed to us in many ways.

3. THE NEED FOR STUDY

- A. A Christian directs his/her whole life to God. Jesus is the living example of the Christian ideal.
- B. Study is not optional. It is necessary if we are to become who we are created to be.
- C. This requires a profound change:
 - To inform our minds.
 - To transform our hearts.
 - To conform our lives to Christ.
- D. Study is necessary to know God.
 - We are called to a relationship with God. A relationship with someone is impossible without knowing the person.
 - The knowledge that promotes friendship is a living knowledge, not just the facts or things we can recite. It comes from spending time with God and listening to God.
 - This type of knowledge is not taught in a book or a course. It evolves from living our life in relationship with God.

4. METHODS OF STUDY

- A. Begin with prayer. There is an intimate relationship between prayer and study. We become closer to God when we devote ourselves to study. It deepens our relationship with God. We discover His power in our study.
- B. Develop a personal study plan.
- Study is a personal process, not a mechanical one. We all study differently. Time in study should be enjoyable, not a chore.
 - Set aside a designated time to study. The amount of time doesn't matter. Building the habit is important. Start with realistic goals.
 - Revelation comes from listening to the Holy Spirit.
Pray and study to deepen your awareness of God's plan for your life. (Outline ways to begin a study program. Share how you study and the format you use, pointing out that this is just one way to study, not the only way.)
 - God calls us to be obedient, not successful. If your study plan doesn't work, it's ok. Try something different.

5. OBSTACLES TO STUDY

- A. Fear: We are afraid of change and failure. We may be afraid we will not be able to understand or successfully complete a study. We may be afraid to face our doubts and not realize that this can mature our faith. We may deny our God-given gifts and fear how God may use them.
- B. Materialism: We spend our time and resources gathering things. We are so busy making money and accumulating possessions that we do not study.
- C. Busy-ness: We choose to spend our time doing other things and not taking the time to study.
- D. Pride: We believe we know enough to guide our lives without study. We want to be in control.
- E. Indifference: "I don't care" attitude and lack of motivation. We do not think we need to study. We are satisfied with the status quo.

6. REMEDIES TO OBSTACLES

We can overcome all obstacles through prayer. We are seeking God's direction and relying on His help.

- A. Courage: Live with faith and trust in God's plan regardless of the consequences. Use God's power and let God guide and strengthen you.

- B. Dedication: Make and live the decision to seek God's will. Break the chains of material wants in favor of the desire to be a child of God.
- C. Prioritize: Free yourself from your worldly passions to give yourself time to study. Pay attention to what is most important -- your relationship with God.
- D. Humility: Recognize you are nothing without God, but God has made you something. When you act in humility, you are open to God's guidance.
- E. Commitment: Form good study habits and allow yourself grace if you fail.

7. RESOURCES

The Holy Bible is the foundation of all Christian study. It is God's relationship with creation. There is no better resource to increase your knowledge and strengthen your relationship with God. Vary translations for a broader understanding.

- A. Study guides offer practical help.
- B. Bible commentaries, handbooks, dictionaries, etc.
- C. Devotional books, planners, journals, Christian radio/video/apps and podcasts assist with keeping us on track.
- D. Have support. Studying in groups, Bible studies, lectures, and classes are a great way to share the joy of learning more.
- E. Everyone learns differently. We can study through art, music, theater, and discussion. The best way to study is the way that engages the mind and works for the individual.
- F. Pastors, Spiritual Directors, church leaders, VdC Sponsors, etc. make great mentors and guides to help with your study plan.

8. CONCLUSION

- A. The aim of study is to strengthen our relationship with God. It is revealed to us in the Scriptures. When we direct our whole life to Christ, (piety), we grow in wisdom.
- B. Out of gratitude for what God has done for us, we want to know God better. That happens through study. The result is:
 - Our minds are informed.
 - Our hearts are transformed.
 - Our lives are conformed to Christ, our ideal.

- C. As we study to know about God, we learn to love God, discern His will for our lives and desire to serve God.
- D. Questions to review (reflect in your notes)
- How will you deepen your relationship with God through study?
 - What is one way you can start your study plan?