

# *Canadian Anglican Cursillo*

## *Lay Witness Talk*



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### **Introduction**

*So, you have been asked to give a Lay Witness Talk ...*

The purpose of this guideline is to help you become more familiar with what a Lay Witness Talk is, and isn't, and to help you feel comfortable in giving a Lay Witness Talk both within the Cursillo community and within your own everyday situations. In this guideline you will find helpful information as you pray about and prepare to give a Lay Witness Talk.

**Witnessing In Group Reunion** - You may already be familiar with witnessing to others through participating in a Group Reunion, when you share with your group your planned Apostolic Action. This is where we take responsibility for our actions, individually and collectively, to share Christ with others and report back on our progress of how we consciously tried to communicate Christ in our daily surroundings.

**Witness Talk at an Ultreya** - The Ultreya includes a Witness Talk to the larger Cursillo community. We are all capable and should be honored to be called at any time to give witness of Christ in our lives. Speakers at an Ultreya are meant to encourage their brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a demonstration of the true meaning of the word Ultreya "onward" "upward" - a cry of encouragement to all.

### **Preparing your Lay Witness Talk**

A Lay Witness Talk should be no longer than 10 minutes and prepared based on one of the following points:

- Describe how you live your life with Christ and how you are trying to bring others to know Him in the ordinary circumstances of your life; **or**
- Share a recent (within the last six weeks) living experience of what you are doing for Christ. Make just 1-2 points. This is your opportunity to share with the community an example of your apostolic actions.

## ***Witness Talk***

When preparing your Lay Witness Talk, consider why you are sharing this information.

- Will this sharing inspire others to think of apostolic actions they can do to transform their environments for Christ?
- What are the environments in which you can begin to witness to others in order to help them to know Christ?
- What is a recent (within 6 weeks) Apostolic Action you planned (or which was unplanned) to bring Christ into one of these environments?
- What did you do?
- How did your Apostolic Action help bring Christ into that environment?
- What was the outcome? Was it a success or a failure?

### ***A Witness Talk is NOT:***

- Sensational
- A testimonial or a conversion story
- A life history
- A Bible teaching or sermon
- Too emotional; sharing deep, raw, personal emotions is better shared within a more personal setting with close friends in Group Reunion or with your Spiritual Advisor.

Giving a witness talk may sound intimidating but it should not be – it is your opportunity to show others how you are being a faithful witness in the normal, ongoing process of life. When we centre our lives on Christ, believe in and use the Cursillo method of personal, one-to-one contact (Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring Your Friend to Christ) then we are all doing something which can be used in a Lay Witness Talk.

One final piece of advice, pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and to be with you as you prepare and deliver your Lay Witness Talk.

Sources:

*ECM – Ultreya, Revised May 2000*