Summary of SOL

August 21, 2021

After skipping July, our August School of Leaders met at Assumption and on Zoom to discuss Chapter 16, “Growing in Maturity,” in Frank S. Salmani's book, "Whom Shall I Send?

Fr. Ed Murphy discussed the Scripture reference at the beginning of the chapter: Romans 15:1-6 and Galatians 6:2-10. Jim Duncan discussed the text.

Chapter 1 encouraged us to aim high and not water down Jesus' message when He called us to be holy as He is holy. Chapter 2 told us how to do that – through prayer, which is communion with God. Chapter 3 challenged us to find, in Jesus, the model of humility and service we need to become a true servant leader. Chapter 4 warned us about the temptations of leadership, which he refers to as "demons of ambition." Chapter 5 discussed the differences between gratification and self-gratification – we must be sure we are serving God alone and not whatever makes me feel good. Chapter 6 discussed how we determine where our allegiance lies. Chapter 7 discussed the three conditions for an authentic Cursillo Movement. Chapter 8 discussed covenants and commitments, calling us to not fear failure but to enter into God’s covenant of love and grace, which cannot be broken. Chapter 9 described the characteristics of Spiritual power and contrasted them with political power. Chapter 10 discussed the essential qualities of a leader, or disciple. And Chapter 11 discussed the meaning and implications of the “Great Commission” for leaders in the Cursillo Movement. Chapter 12 discussed different types of leadership in the Cursillo Movement. Chapter 13 discussed how the Cursillo Movement functions as the body of Christ. Chapter 14 discussed how Cursillo leaders can grow in their relationship with Christ and their commitment to Him. Chapter 15 discussed the difference between volunteerism and commitment, pointing out that we cannot think of ourselves as volunteers able to serve on our own terms, setting our own agenda, but must rather follow the agenda of the Cursillo Movement, which follows the mission of the Church, which is the extension of Christ’s mission.

Chapter 16 discusses growing in spiritual maturity, which has generally been referred to in Cursillo literature as “progressive conversion.” By this we mean that we are never to be satisfied with where we are, because then we stop growing. Since all life requires movement, if that happened, we would be essentially spiritually dead, or fixated, to use a term from psychology. All spiritual writers agree that when we become religiously fixated our relationship with God breaks down. The aids offered by Cursillo to keep our conversion progressive are group reunion, Ultreya, School of Leaders, and commitment to the work of evangelization. And to use these, we must always have goals and a vision, and we need to assess our abilities and talents. When these two criteria are applied to the spiritual life, we will discover that the goal of the spiritual life is union with God, and that the skills and resources we need are prayer, study, and the sacraments.

As we continue to pray about where is God calling each of us to serve him, open our hearts to the Lord’s work so we are able to hold firm to the essential elements of the Cursillo Movement, as we ask Him to help us become the leaders He is calling us to be, particularly in the Cursillo. Do not be afraid; trust in God’s grace!

If you would like to join us in studying this book and do not yet have your own copy, please contact a Secretariat member for information as to how you can receive a copy of the book. Then share it with your group reunions. You will all be richly blessed.

Please join us at the next School of Leaders on Saturday, September 18th, on Zoom and at Assumption, and bring a friend!