The April School of Leaders was held Saturday, April 17 at St. Joseph’s parish to discuss Chapter 13: A “Body” of Leaders in Frank S. Salmani's book, "Whom Shall I Send?

**Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26**

In this chapter, we are reminded of the image St. Paul uses when he calls the Church a body, because like a body, all members of the Church must function properly in order to keep the Church healthy. This is true of the Cursillo Movement too…the leaders are like cells in the body who must perform their proper function in order to keep the Movement healthy. Unlike an organization, whose rules and structure of power and authority are arbitrary, a body’s rules are based on function and necessity, and exist only in order to keep the body healthy. Each person in the Movement has his or her own function, and the structure stays together by the unifying power of Jesus.

Jesus has left us with a great mission to bring the world to Him. If the Church and our Cursillo Movement are going to be forces in the world, we must operate less like an organization and more like a body—Christ’s Body. We must all concern ourselves with service, self-surrender and sacrifice, not status and recognition.

**Doctrinal Talk: Fr. Amar**

Father Amar spoke on the above scripture reading and looked at this scripture in three parts:

1. The way we look at our gifts

If we all had the same gifts, we would be inefficient. Everyone’s gifts are important and necessary so we should not envy other people’s gifts. As Paul compares parts of the body that are similar, like the eye and the ear, we tend to compare ourselves to those who are similar to us and can be envious of gifts that we believe we should be able to possess, but do not. We must be content with our gifts and our role in the Body. At times we may not be essential, but we are unique and important.

As leaders, it is important for us to find a role in the Body where others can participate and use their gifts. The Body came together by God and He places each member where He intends them to be. If you demean your gifts, you are actually questioning God’s wisdom and this will rob us of our joy. Joy comes from being content with what God gives us.

2. The way we look at other’s gifts

How do we evaluate and assess other people’s gifts? We should not criticize or despise what God has given to others. As St Paul states, the parts that seem to be weaker are more necessary. The more presentable parts do not need greater honor; the Church leaders should not look down upon other members. We usually underestimate the strength of what we deem to be weaker. The Lord looks at our hearts and realizes that every gift is indispensable.

Great honor should be bestowed on those who labor humbly: those who offer intercessory prayer and generosity.

3. The way we look at the whole body

Why should we learn to work so hard to unify? We must not divide the Body. All parts must have the same concern for each other. We suffer as one and we are honored as one. Our unique contributions bring joy to all, even if we don’t realize it.

Paul said in Ephesians 4:11-16 “And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ..”

Then, Fr. Amar gave us three ways that we can apply this information:

1. Submitting to God’s purpose for your life.

2. Encourage others to use their gifts

3. Bind up the Body of Christ

**Technique Talk: Carl Ludwig**

Carl talked about implementing the scripture into our Cursillo Movement in the Technique Talk. He first explained the difference between an organization and movement and how organizations are structured on arbitrary power and authority. This usually leads to power struggle and ranks are based on seniority and popularity. Movements are based on function and the rules exist only to keep the Body healthy.

He then related this to the Cursillo weekend, how each part, the Rollo Room, the kitchen, set-up, clergy, and Christian community all work together, based on their function, to make the weekend work. All parts are necessary, from Rector to cleaning toilets, and it is the spirit of service, self-surrender and sacrifice for the Glory of God that allows us to function as the Body of Christ.

As we continue to pray about where God is calling each of us to serve Him, we ask Him to help us to become the leaders He has called us to be, particularly in the Cursillo.

Please join us for the May School of Leaders on May 15 at Kohl’s Hall, Assumption Parish.