#8 Action
(Preferably 15 to 20 minutes maximum)
PURPOSE:
☐ This talk is intended to encourage the candidates to reach out to others in the name of Christ that they might draw others to Jesus Christ. Also, this talk emphasizes, as stated in *The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement*, “If action is a natural element of being human, then Christian action is a natural element of being Christian.”(p. 152) Our action naturally flows out of our deep love for Jesus Christ. The speaker is encouraged to use examples from personal experience and that of others throughout the talk.

CORE IDEAS:
☐ Piety is active and alive. A living piety translates into action.
☐ Bringing others to Christ is central to the mission of the Church. (Mt. 28:19-20, AKA “The Great Commission”)
☐ The persons we are most likely to influence are those with whom we share common interests.
☐ Christian action is natural, “Make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ.”
☐ Christian action is a part of our baptismal covenant. (Book of Common Prayer, p.305)

INTRODUCTION:
1. The Christian life can be characterized by a tripod or three-legged stool. The three legs are Piety, Study and Action. All three aspects of the Christian life are equally important to successful living as a follower of Jesus Christ.
2. The sacraments, regular worship (forms of piety) and our study are intended to feed and nourish us in preparation for Christian action.
3. Christian life is friendship with Christ; we want to share this friend with others.
4. Action is our opportunity to share and spread the life of grace to others. (James 2:14-17)
5. The word “apostle” means “one who is sent.” Apostolic action implies that we are sent by God to perform Christian action in the world.

THE NEED FOR APOSTOLIC ACTION
1. We need apostolic action.
   a. Without action our Christian life is incomplete.
   b. Action promotes Christian growth.
   c. Practicing and speaking our faith helps us develop as Christians.
2. The world needs apostolic action.
   a. Christians are called to be leaven, yeast, bringing life to the world.
   b. Evil in the world can be transformed by Christian action.
3. The Church’s mission depends on our action as members of the Body of Christ
   a. We are sent into the world to “represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever [we] may be; and…to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world.” (BCP, p. 855)
   b. We are called by the gospel to “make disciples of all nations” (Mt. 28:19) that the Church might be found everywhere.
THE OBLIGATION OF ACTION:
Our call to action is a direct result of the following:
1. Our baptism. (“Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?” BCP, p.305)
2. Our confirmation. (“Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them…” BCP, p. 418)
3. Our membership in the Body of Christ. (I Cor. 1:26-31; 12:12-13)

THE GOALS OF APOSTOLIC ACTION:
1. To tell people about Jesus Christ.
2. To help people grow in their relationship with God.
3. To transform society and its structures.

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ACTION:
1. It is motivated by a love of God. It comes from the heart. (I Cor. 13:1-8, 13)
2. It is well thought out, carefully planned, based on the use of our intellect. It is directed by our heads.
3. It is persevering. It is an act of the will.
4. It is balanced:
   a. We understand that God needs us to do our part.
   b. We understand that we cannot do everything on our own.
5. It relies on prayer and sacrifice. Our knees are levers (palanca) of apostolic action. (Col. 4:2; Acts 2:42; Heb. 13:16)

HOW CAN APOSTOLIC ACTION BE EXERCISED?
1. Individually, through word and witness
2. In groups, linked together by friendship and common interest.
3. In various organizations.

WHERE CAN IT BE DONE?
1. In church communities: parishes, dioceses, diocesan organizations and national and international Christian organizations.
2. In the world: families, youth organizations, social circles, vocational and recreational groups.

WAYS: HOW DO WE CARRY OUT APOSTOLIC ACTION?
1. Faithful living is more than living a good Christian life. (James 2:14-26) A true apostle also speaks of his love of Christ either to
   a. Non-believers, to lead them to faith (Lk. 24:46-47; Col. 4:5-6; Heb 12:14)
   b. Or, believers, to strengthen them and motivate them toward a more fervent life. (Rom. 15:2; Heb. 10:23-25)
2. Personal contact is the basis of apostolic action.
   “Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.”
   (A personal example would be appropriate here.)
   a. **Make friends:** approach them, don’t wait for them to approach you.
   b. Talk to God about your friend before you talk to your friend about God.
   c. **Be a friend:** let friendship grow. Be interested, joyful, understanding, accepting, loving, sincere and optimistic.
d. **Bring your friend to Christ.**
   1. Introduce the other person to Christ.
   2. The desire for your relationship is for you to become an avenue in the development of a friendship between Christ and the other person.
   3. Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.
   4. We act
      a. For Christ: our goal is not necessarily to get others to love us, but to love Christ.
      b. With Christ: Jesus helps us with the endeavor.
      c. Like Christ: Jesus worked constantly to bring others to Himself, and through Himself to His Father.
      d. In Christ: as a part of His Body. (As mentioned above: We are sent into the world to “represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever [we] may be; and…to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world.” [BCP, p. 855])

**UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION**
1. Sometimes God surprises us with opportunities for action
2. Although these opportunities are unplanned, we can be prepared to respond through prayer and openness. (A personal example would be appropriate here.)
3. We can expect the unexpected by being attuned to what God might be doing in our lives and the lives of those around us. (Mt. 4:19-20; Lk. 5:4-7)

**CONCLUSION**
We act in the community of God’s people, the Church, not on our own. We are apostles (“sent”) because we are members of God’s Church. “Christian action flows from the very nature of Christian being: it is the fulfillment of the requirements of Baptism and of Confirmation.” (Fundamental Ideas, p.152)

**COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE:**
This talk marks the halfway point of the talks on the weekend. In some ways it is central to the Cursillo message. It emphasizes the role and importance of Christian action in the life of the believer. It explains the place of action in the Christian life.
This talk is most effective if it includes stories of how God has been working in the speaker’s life and how others have been brought to Christ. However, extravagant examples may tend to cause despair rather than inspiration (“I could never do that.”) Thus, it is best to keep examples simple and straightforward. The ringing call to action will come on Sunday. This talk is intended to show the importance of action and to suggest methods to carry it out.