Summary of SOL

September 18, 2021

Our September School of Leaders met at Assumption and on Zoom to discuss Chapter 17, “Joy and Happiness,” in Frank S. Salmani's book, "Whom Shall I Send?

Fr. Anthony Hamaty discussed the Scripture reference at the beginning of the chapter: John 16:20-25 and Romans 15:7-13. Brian Kerr 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, the extension of Christ’s mission. Chapter 16 discussed our need for continuing progressive conversion in our spiritual life.

Chapter 17 seems to equate joy and happiness, but Brian discussed the differences between the two. He said that the opposite of happiness is sadness, while the opposite of joy is fear. The book said that nothing and no one can make us happy or give us joy, because joy cannot come from external sources; it must be possessed in the heart or not at all. When we have joy, each day and moment is a grace and gift from God. It is a gift of the Spirit that must be embraced *before* we begin doing God’s work. By having joy, we will radiate joy to others.

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. We ask Him to help us become the joy-filled leaders He is calling us to be, particularly in the Cursillo. Let us not be afraid; but rather 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, October 16th, on Zoom and at Assumption, and bring a friend!