

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS TRES DIAS PROFESSOR TEAM BOOK

ABOUT THIS BOOK

1. **This book will be REUSED.**
 - **Please return it to the Head Cha.**
 - **Do not write or mark in it.**
 - **Please do not damage it.**
 - **A donation of \$10 will be requested for lost or damaged books.**
 - **Thank you for your stewardship.**

2. **This book is used by Men and Women. Male pronouns (he, him, his, etc., are a convention of convenience and are understood to mean both male and female.**

3. **This book is intended to HELP.**
 - **Please forgive its failings.**
 - **Please help improve it by enclosing your suggestions on a separate sheet of paper when it is returned.**

**Thank you,
SECRETARIAT
GEORGIA MOUNTAINS TRES DIAS**

PROFESSORS

Please remember that there are no “stars” at a Tres Dias. From the spiritual director to the kitchen to cha-chas to professors to the rector, every job is as important and as vital as another. The Lord has chosen us for our particular job and to do it as well as we can is to bring praise to HIS name. A team member should be:

A mind through which Christ thinks.
A voice through which Christ speaks.
A heart through which Christ loves.
A hand through which Christ helps.

1. Be a candidate. The more experience that you have, the harder this will be. Also be yourself. God wants to use your personality – that’s why He chose you.
2. Be honest. If you are asked, “Are you on the team?”, or “Have you been on a weekend before?” answer truthfully. Do not be deceitful or evasive, yet don’t volunteer more than was asked. If you are asked: “Are you giving a talk?” honestly answer “yes”, but if asked “What is your talk called or what is it about”, ask the person to “wait, don’t anticipate”.
3. Follow the rector’s directions. Be first to sit down, stand up, in the chapel, to sing, to be quiet. Your example will be multiplied. If you are a minute late getting to your seat, 42 others may also be a minute late.
4. Take notes for every talk, including Sunday.
5. Wear a coat and tie (or dress) and cross when you give your rollo.
6. Do not work on your rollo on the weekend. Do not change your rollo on the weekend.
7. Participate fully at your table. Do not try to avoid writing the summary, drawing on the poster, presenting either one. You are a “candidate”.
8. “Silent” professor is a figure of speech, meaning less dominate Just be a normal candidate in your participation.
9. Get to know the candidates quickly. Get to know them by name. Listen to them.
10. Help to build “table identity”, “table spirit” and “community”. Give God the opportunity to work.
11. Never leave your table unless the other professor is there. At least one of you should be present at all times. Keep conversations going during breaks.
12. Each day, but especially Friday and Saturday night, get together with your partner to briefly discuss your table before the team meeting. Advise rector of problems early.
13. If you write palanca to one candidate at your table, write to all candidates at your table. Avoid writing palanca on the weekend.

SILENT PROFESSORS

You are a key ingredient to the success of the weekend. You are not placed with candidates to be silent. You have a very important job. It is easiest if you just tell yourself “I am a candidate”. Take lots of notes, be attentive to everything, and be sensitive to the candidates. Pray for them as you observe their special needs or hang-ups. Also be in prayer for your speaking professor. Be a part of the community at your table. Help with posters and discussion. If you are dominate, you will help to keep things moving, keeping the discussion on the talks. Don’t allow wandering off into deep discussions not related to the talk. The dominate professor will be in charge of the table. Help get discussions started by asking questions that lead to more than a “yes” or “no” answer.

DISCUSSING A ROLLO

Your table group, at the beginning, will consist of up to nine individuals. As with any new group of people, there will be a tendency for everyone to try to “size up” one another. Consequently, don’t expect too much from the early rollo discussions. It will take time for the table to come together. You can risk the desired outcome by trying to rush things or push someone faster than he is ready to go. Give God a chance to work at the table. What usually happens after the Ideal talk has been given is that everyone at the table kind of looks at everyone else to see who is going to start. So, solve the problem and YOU be the one to begin. Open with a question that will require a statement as an answer, such as “What did you get out of that?” or “What do you think?”.

As the talks progress, be sure that everyone at the table is brought into the discussion. Some people won’t need help. Some will talk too much. Others will never respond unless YOU bring them in: “Charles, you seem deep in thought, what do you think?”

As a table leader, you do need to evaluate how things are going with each person, but you do not judge the person. You may have someone at a table that is truly behaving in an obnoxious way. You need to love that person and pray for that person, and yourself, more than anyone else. There is a danger that you may exclude someone at the table who is difficult to like.

As much as you can, compliment each person who contributes something to the discussion. By doing this, you will be telling each person that their ideas are OK, they’re on tract, you approve. The approval will help all of them to get bolder and offer even more thoughts. Everybody has thoughts and opinions on everything – the goal is to get them to express them. Remember that in order to give an opinion, the person giving it is running the risk of being rejected and maybe even embarrassed by the group. Many people have never encountered anything but criticism from family and friends whenever they have tried to express what they think or feel, and so have adopted an attitude of “no more”. If you find it difficult to see the value in what was offered, remember what you are really approving and reinforcing is the willingness to try, to risk.

Don't let silence at the table scare you. There is nothing wrong with some time to reflect before speaking. Also, silence can be a tool that you can use. Instead of leading off as usual with a question, just sit back and stare into your notebook and wait. People don't like silence. It's very uncomfortable. Somebody will break the silence which is what you want – to get the others talking. Use your table partner. Ask your partner leading questions as a way to get others into the conversation. You may want to say something that you know people will disagree with just to get different points of view or to get folks talking. Above all, be yourself. You will be a key in creating an atmosphere of love, joy and His Peace. Enjoy this position.

BEHAVIOR PATTERNS IN GROUP DISCUSSIONS

HECKLER	Aggressive, argumentative personality. Basically insecure, unsure.	Don't let person upset you. Try to find merit in one of his points. Express your agreement and move on
OVERLY TALKTATIVE	You'll find this person is usually one of 4 types: 1. an eager beaver. 2. a showoff 3. exceptionally well informed and anxious to show it. 4. just plain talkative	Wait till he takes a breath, then thank him and refocus attention on the subject. Slow him down with a difficult questions or "that's interesting, now let's see what the group thinks."
WON'T TALK	May be bored, timid, superior, indifferent, insecure	Bored/indifferent: ask opinion to arouse interest. Superior: give respect for experience, ask him to share with us. Timid/insecure: compliment him.
WRONG	Misinformed, doesn't understand topic, and can't make himself understood.	If confused, say "now let me see if I have what you mean" and tactfully restate clearly. If misinformed, thank him and then ask for another comment on the same subject. This permits a member of the group to correct him.
PERSONALITY CLASH	Rub each other the wrong way. Too much emotion on a particular topic.	Compliment both on their contributions and enthusiasm. Emphasize the points of disagreement. May want to question reason for strong feelings. Redirect attention to topic at hand. Involve others in discussion.

SIDE CONVERSATIONS	May have trouble getting into main discussion. May be rude, bored, superior, and indifferent.	Direct a question at him by name to redirect attention. Direct a question at another person to whom he is speaking to break up the “party”. Ask him by name to share his comments with “I am sure they would be of value and benefit”. Remind others to hear what he has to say.
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DISCUSSION POINTS

IDEAL

What qualities are our greatest assets as humans? When are we operating at our highest level of activity? Are we happy with the choices we have made so far? What is my/your goal or ideal in life?

LAYMEN

Institutional visible church is a mystical body. The church was founded by help men live their lives according to God's plan. Today what things govern the way men live their lives? How can the church regain or reestablish its influence over men's lives? What is the place of an individual in the church? What can and should the individual do?

PIETY

What is true piety? How does one go about acquiring it? Note: In discussion "false piety", avoid personalities and judgments of people: Hate sin, love the sinner.

STUDY

Why is study important? What is the purpose of study? What factors may be obstacles to us studying? What things should be studied?

ACTION

What is a disciple? What is a disciple's action? How does it differ from "good works"? Why do we need to act? What kinds of action are there? What kinds of preliminary plans are suggested to try to assure effective discipleship in action?

LEADERS

Who or what is a leader? Is everyone a leader? What special attributes does a Christian leader possess or need to develop?

ENVIRONMENT

Where, what, or who is our environment? How do we, how should we work in it?

CHRISIAN COMMUNITY

Importance of being part of a team of disciples. Need for linkages and support with/from other disciples. How to avoid being a lone ranger. How do you see yourself in the visible church? How do you see yourself in the invisible church?

FOURTH DAY

What means are suggested to help persevere. What problems should we be looking for in our 4th day? How do we keep in touch with Christ? How do we keep in touch with one another?

PLUS – ADD YOUR OWN TO FIT THE PERSONALITY OF YOUR TABLE.

The sample below is a copy of the discipleship guide which is to be distributed to the candidates and professors by the table chas near the end of the Life in Grace rolo. The spiritual director must give the table chas the directive to distribute these guides at the appropriate time in his rolo. In the rolo, the spiritual director is to elaborate on all the items listed in the “Piety” column.

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

<u>YOUR PIETY</u>	<u>YOUR STUDY</u>	<u>YOUR ACTION</u>
<p>“Without Me you can do nothing.”</p> <p>Morning Offering Personal Prayer Period Worship Communion Helping Another Altar Visits Examination of Conscience Spiritual Direction</p>	<p>“If you only understood the gift of God.”</p> <p>Bible Reading... Reading books of formation following the advice of your Pastor. Don’t be satisfied with reading good books. Read the best – the Bible.</p>	<p>“I will make you fishers of men.”</p> <p>What have you done during the week to extend the kingdom of God..... In your family In your profession In your environment In your church In your group In your secuela.</p>

Always consult with your Heavenly Father about your piety, your study and your action.

The Discipleship Guide is to assist you in planning for continued growth through practices of devotion – study of the Christian ideal and a life of love and piety. All times should be obtainable and realistic and private.

YOUR PIETY

- A. Morning Offering.**
Turn your day over to the Lord, first thing. (We need to do this daily.)
- B. Personal Prayer Period.**
Set an appointment with God. (Share when your special time is.)
- C. Worship.**
A time to honor God, to praise Him, to have conversation with Him, to listen to Him. This is not the time for our petitions). Listen to some praise music.
- D. Communion. (The Lord's Supper)**
We should receive and partake – examine yourself – awareness of our sin should not keep us away, but should drive us to participate.
- E. Helping others.**
When you see needs and hurts in others, you can supply answers and comfort once the Lord has shown you.
- F. Altar visits.**
Aside from the obvious visits to the altar in our church, we need that personal and private place to go.
- G. Examination of Conscience.**
Don't end your day or go to bed with unfinished business with Jesus. Just say, "I messed up – please forgive me."
- H. Spiritual Direction.**
Seek Godly counsel, ask "What Jesus would say or do?" (God, Pastor, Christian friend.)

YOUR STUDY

Don't just read good books, read the best, "God's Word". "Know the truth, and the truth will set you free." And don't just read the Word, study and meditate upon it. The Word will come alive for you.

YOUR ACTION

We are called to be "fishers of men", to go out and help others through the power of the Holy Spirit. What have you done to extend the Kingdom of God – in your family, in your profession, in your environment, in your church, in your group, and in your secuela.

On the back of the card: REUNION GROUP. This is a good guideline to use when you start a new Reunion Group. Begin with prayer, share your adventures and experiences of the week in piety, study and action.

OVERVIEW OF ROLLOS

FRIDAY

Ideal.

What it is to be a man – the need for an ideal.

Grace.

Christian life is life in God's grace. It describes how we must have a personal relationship with God, the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Laymen in the Church.

Church is the connection between life in grace and the real world.

Divine Aid.

God is ready at all times to help those in need. What it is to be a Christian. Palanca is introduced during this rollo.

Piety.

The key talk of the first day, it sums up the preceding talks and presents the response to being a Christian which involves directing one's whole life to God.

SATURDAY

Study.

A good convicting talk to most of us as to where we need to be in our study. It should help to see the need to study.

Day in the Life of a Christian.

This talk places meaning of the sacraments in everyday living. The reality of Christ's love in the crucifixion is emphasized here.

Action.

Without action, piety cannot stay alive. It is a means of bringing men to Christ, helping them to live the life of grace.

Obstacles to Grace.

Presents obstacles that will draw Christians away from their ideal, and shows us how to avoid them.

Leaders.

A person who now knows Christ well and is following Him! His life centers on Christ and will be able to influence those around Him.

SUNDAY

Environment.

This talk shows the candidates how to work effectively in their environment and to bring others to Christ.

Life in Grace.

The means of tackling the environment as a Christian. This talk shares about the discipleship guide. Listen carefully, the discussion is important. It helps the candidates to have some structure in developing their relationship with Christ.

Christian Community in Action.

This talk brings together all talks giving a clear picture of how to bring others to Christ. Challenge them to be a living, not passive member of the body of Christ.

Security in the Fourth Day.

How to maintain what they have found in Tres Dias. Explain group reunions, secuelas, etc. This talk presents a picture of what a person is like who uses the methods and visions presented on the Tres Dias weekend.

KEY WORDS FOR EACH DAY:

Thursday:	Low key! Non-threatening.
Friday:	Don't push. Forget your own expectations.
Saturday:	"Community Building Day" "Coming Alive"
Sunday:	"Encourage" and "Challenge"

All talks on Sunday should challenge them to go back into their world – pointing others to Christ and serving Him with a new joy and excitement and being a good leader in their own church.