

LIVING THE FOURTH DAY

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

This is the last Rollo of the Weekend and the fifth talk of the third day. The Rollo is to be given by the Rector and ends the weekend by giving an exhortation to persevere. Also to be discussed is the value and the means of perseverance, offered within Tres Dias Reunion Groups and Secuelas. It is in large part, the personal witness of one who has lived the message contained in Tres Dias.

The **Living the Fourth Day** rollo encourages the candidates to take what was experienced and learned in the last three days and use that to nurture a growing and maturing Christian life. It reinforces the need to maintain contact with Christ and other Christians, which has been presented in the previous Rollo. It is a Rollo in which the underlying tone is to persevere. This will normally make the talk both sober *and* enthusiastic. Sober in that it considers some real problems and difficulties in an open and honest way. Enthusiastic because it considers all of these problems in the context of a central truth...Christ and I are a majority; He is my greatest ally in life. "When God is for me, who can be against me?"

Living the Fourth Day is a witness talk. It is about how the rollista is living out the Fourth Day. The Rector's witness is vital in every aspect of this rollo. The purpose of the talk isn't to be largely explanatory, but to be inspiring.

Time Objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes.

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OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. Define Fourth Day**
 - B. Your mission and responsibility**

- II. WHAT TO SHARE REGARDING YOUR TRES DIAS WEEKEND**

- III. PERSONAL WITNESS**
 - A. How have you grown in your relationship with Christ?**
 - B. How have you grown in your relationship with others?**

- IV. ENCOURAGEMENT**
 - A. Involvement in your local church**
 - B. Stay connected in the Christian Community**
 - C. Join or form a Reunion Group**

- V. CONCLUSION**
 - **Persevere**

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COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Define Fourth Day.** *The Fourth Day begins now!* The candidates have spent three days together and are now about to enter their Fourth Day, which is not just tomorrow, but is every day from this day forward.
- B. Your Mission and Responsibility.** The candidates should be reminded that they are sent into the world by Christ to bring the world to Him. No matter what their reason was to come on this Tres Dias Weekend, they will need to leave the Weekend knowing that they are to be leaders for Christ in their environments, and are to be examples of His love and forgiveness to others.

A good biblical segue for returning into the world may be the story of the Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-13). The disciples were with Christ and they saw him transfigured on Mt. Tabor along with Moses and Elijah. There was the temptation to stay there enjoying this glorious experience and not leave. But they had to leave so that they could do the work which God had for them to do. In the same way, the candidates have to leave the Weekend and go back into the world to do God's work.

II. WHAT TO SHARE REGARDING YOUR TRES DIAS WEEKEND

When the candidates leave the Weekend and enter their Fourth Day, they will be returning to a world of people who have not experienced Tres Dias. The candidate's initial contact upon returning home may be with family or close friends. The pescador must be sensitive to what has happened to family and friends while he/she has been away on the Tres Dias. The Rector should encourage the candidates to be open to talking about the Tres Dias Weekend in terms of the discussions, worship and Communion, singing and fellowship. This will help avoid a "secretive" impression and more than likely pique interest in Tres Dias from other people. In groups, especially at church, it is unlikely that an over zealous Tres Dias attitude will be welcomed. The Rector's witness, using both positive and negative experiences in sharing the Weekend with others, is important. Humor is often effective.

Sensitivity and humility are guideposts. Believing you are *more* important than you are, or believing you are *less* important than you are - are dangers. God will use each of us in different ways to enrich His kingdom, as the Holy Spirit prepares and leads the way.

Tres Dias is only one of many ways to renew or deepen a relationship with Jesus Christ. While Tres Dias may have been an important experience in itself, it may not be appropriate for everyone.

III. PERSONAL WITNESS

The Tres Dias experience can continue in the Fourth Day through communion with Christ and fellowship with other Christians. It is important for the Rector to convey to the candidates, through personal witness, how he/she has grown and matured in their Christian life through contact with Christ and with other Christians. “Contact” in this Rollo refers to the times when we turn specifically to Christ to renew, strengthen, deepen our union and our dependence upon Him.

A. How have you grown in your relationship with Christ? Christ is the source of divine life in us (John 15:1-11). When we turn to Him and put ourselves into contact with Him, we strengthen the life of God in us. It takes something other than ourselves to maintain the life in grace since a person cannot live it alone. Witness should be used that demonstrates growth in the Rector’s relationship with Christ through continued contact with Him through *Piety, Study, and Action*.

As we continually reorder our lives in relationship to Jesus Christ, we grow and mature in *Piety*. A relationship with Jesus Christ is maintained through prayer as we seek and receive His presence. Contact with Christ is also maintained through *Study*, as God’s Word and will are revealed.

A relationship with Christ is also maintained through *Action*. As the Gospel is shared, Christ is known more deeply and we learn from those with whom we share it.

B. How have you grown in your relationships with others? It is important to use witness that demonstrates growth in relationships where Christ’s love for all people has taken precedence over one’s own preconceived ideas and judgments of others. Our relationships with others should grow because we “*love our neighbors as ourselves*.” Praying with and for others, shouldering burdens that they bear, rejoicing with them in times of joy, and crying in times of sorrow are all ways in which we draw closer to others with Christ; it is the glue that binds us together. Simple and random acts of kindness are a great way to touch lives and grow closer to people.

IV. ENCOURAGEMENT

In the candidates’ Fourth Day, it is inevitable that they will encounter trials and tribulations along with times of joy. It is important for them to know that Christ has not promised that life will be without trials, tribulations, and temptations now that they are new creations in Him. In fact, He tells us that these times will come. These are actually important times in life that, if endured with Christ leading the way, will help grow the faith and perseverance of the candidates. “*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything*”. James 1: 2-4 (NIV)

Trials must be conveyed to the candidates in a positive way. When the Rector witnesses in this area, it is important to show either a positive outcome to a situation or that God is currently leading them through it. In either case, the theme that “*With God, all things are possible*” should be understood by the candidates.

- A. Involvement in your church.** Encouragement in the candidates Fourth Day can be gained through involvement in their local church. It is vital to note that Tres Dias is **NOT** a substitute for a local church, but is meant to encourage increased participation in the life of a local congregation. **Worship and service in the local church are priorities of the Fourth Day!** Candidates should be encouraged by the fact that they, in one way or another, have a part to play in their local congregation. By being involved in their church, they will become an active part of the body of Jesus Christ.
- B. Stay connected in the Christian community.** Encouragement in the candidates' Fourth Day can be gained by staying connected in the Christian community. As was discussed in the Christian Community in Action Rollo, there are many different Christian communities that can help and encourage candidates. It is important that the Rector share what their experiences have been in one of these types of communities and how that community has helped keep them in God's plan and encouraged them in their Fourth Day.
- C. Join or form a Reunion Group.** Encouragement in the candidates' Fourth Day can also be gained through active participation in a reunion group. The candidates have already heard the **Reunion Group** rollo, and have an understanding of what one is and how it functions. The goal of the Rector's witness here should be *the importance of being in one*. Through this witness, the candidates should see how a reunion group has helped and encouraged the Rector in his/her growth and maturity in Christ throughout his/her Fourth Day. A reunion group is valuable in all times of life. The Rector should encourage the candidates, with the help of their sponsor, to seek out or form a reunion group.

V. CONCLUSION

As the candidates move from this Weekend into their Fourth Day, the experiences of these three days will help them grow and mature as they persevere in maintaining contact with Christ and with other Christians. The Rector needs to inspire the candidates to move into the Fourth Day with joy and expectation, and with the hope for an exciting life beginning now!

- **Persevere**

This is the underlying and most important theme for this talk. In all times, in all places, in all things, and in every aspect of life, we must persevere for the glory of God! He is victorious and has saved us from certain death. In Him we have eternal life! Persevere because, as He tells us: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*. Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Because of this, in times of trials as well as in times of joy, we can proudly and loudly proclaim: *"You are my God, and I will give you thanks! You are my God, and I will exalt you! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."* Psalm 118:28-29 (NIV)

Note to the rollista: *There is far more subject matter in this “**Commentary . . .**” than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.*

Time Objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes

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BIBLE REFERENCES

(These Bible references are included here to help the rollista understand some of the biblical background of the rollo. The list is neither complete nor is it intended to become part of the rollo. Read the references and listen for the Word of God.)

Deut	6:4-9	Love the Lord your God
Lam	3:22-24	The Lord's love and mercy continues
Psalm	63:1-8	Longing for God
	118:28-29	Give thanks to God always
Jeremiah	19:11	God's loving plan for us
Matthew	5:13-16	You are like salt
	6:1-18	Perform religious duties in private
Mark	9:2-13	There He was transfigured before them
John	5:1-17	Christ is the vine
Romans	12	Living Sacrifices
	15:1-6	Help the weak
Eph	4:17-5:20	Your hearts and minds must be new
Phil	3:12-21	Striving to win
1 Tim	4:6-16	Instructions to the brothers
Hebrews	10:19-25	Show love and do good
	13:1-7	Welcome strangers