

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION TALK

(15-20 minutes maximum. Discussion. Summary sharing. This talk is given by the Spiritual Director.)

Please limit your talk to the time allowed for this talk. In order to successfully complete the program every effort must be made to be on schedule. Time is of the essence and your cooperation is extremely important. If you are witnessing, please do it within the theme and within the outline of this talk.

Open with a short prayer.

Purpose: To continue developing the theme of dying and changing. This talk is the most important talk of Day One. The talk reaffirms the theme of the day based in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Comparing our lives to the Paschal Mystery (the death and resurrection of Jesus) the speaker should give the hope of resurrection just like Jesus did in Easter (Pasch, Passover). The Paschal Mystery is also the theme for the whole REC weekend.

Spiritual Director gives the Paschal Mystery. Brief explanation of mystery as a secret of God being revealed. Very brief background to Passover with dimensions of remembering, celebrating and hoping. See this in the Last Supper. Begin to make a connection with the theme of the 1st day - the grain of wheat first has to die. Jesus is God's Word and God's deed. Are we willing to let go, to set a new direction, to take a new step; it includes changing, dying, making a connection, becoming one's real self, freedom from what has crippled and chained and enslaved to freedom for a new life. Ashes beginning Lent mark a beginning. Turn from your sins and believe in the Good News of the Gospel, the Savior, Jesus. This is our paschal mystery being lived out. Acts 2:26ff.

Look at Jesus and see His life changing, growing: grew in wisdom, age and grace; cried at the death of Lazarus, was led to heal, prayed for safety, felt abandoned, entrusted Himself to the Father, rose to new life.

There was change in Him, what about in us. We like changes, more money, status, power; but it's all exterior, showy, comparative with others. For Jesus the change was in Him, going the other direction; though God he began to serve, suffered, even death, death on a cross. He let go, he gave, he was present especially to the weakest.

Tell your story, priest or deacon, person, limitations, conversion, fear, self-acceptance, accepting love of the Lord; the struggle goes on.

This weekend is an opportunity and a choice, to enter into the paschal mystery: Will we accept His love for us, will we accept His life for us, let go of the past, give our hurts to the Lord, begin a new life, share self with Jesus.

Growth means change, struggle. Grow with Jesus, die to self and the past, acknowledge pain and give it to Him, rise to new life with Jesus, share self with Jesus and with others. Take a risk and meet your new Friend.

Points to cover in your talk:

- A. Death and resurrection of Jesus and our own participation in this mystery.
1. Suffering brings about growth and new life.
 2. Include your own personal witness; your "dying to self" and your struggles and hopes.
- B. Growth means a change in attitudes. We become either:
- More loving or more indifferent
 - More concerned or more apathetic
 - More open-minded or more closed
 - More other-centered or more self-centered
the choice is ours!
- C. Growth means struggle.
1. We fall often but we can always rise again with God's help.
 2. We hurt others but we can forgive.
 3. We hurt ourselves but God can heal us.
- D. Residents Encounter Christ (REC)
- This weekend gives us the opportunity to:
- Grow with Christ
 - Die to ourselves and our past
 - Embrace our pain one more time and then turn it over to God forever
 - Rise into a new life with Jesus
 - Go forth and share ourselves and Jesus with others.
- E. How do we grow with Jesus this weekend?
1. Relax
 2. Forget yesterday, last week, last year and tomorrow and just live with Jesus in this moment.
 3. Let yourself be open and available to new possibilities.
 4. Take a risk - meet CHRIST!

Lead the men into the table discussion of your talk, You can ask them to respond to a question and to write down that question. You can challenge them and offer them a theme related to your talk for discussion. You can provoke and stimulate the discussion in the best way you can.

NOTE:

Up to this point the outside team has been able to share and develop the theme of the day about dying and changing. Starting with the next talk The Prodigal Son the torch is passed to the inside team. The next five events leading to the closing of day one can be seen as a single unit:

1. The Prodigal Son: Our repentance and the acceptance by a loving Father. We begin to die to ourselves.
2. Metanoia: Our change. A 180° turn around in our lives. We die to ourselves.
3. Forgiveness: The essence of our healing process. If we attain forgiveness our change is completed.
4. Reconciliation: We make peace with our God. Our healing is complete now.
5. Palanca: The community supports our change. There is joy for the lost sheep that came back.

At the team formation meetings the Lay Director will explain the connection of these 5 events so that they can be seen as a unit. This will help to develop a continuity among the first 3 talks and to explain the process of dying and changing to the residents. Each step should lead to the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation and the symbolism of the Service of Ashes. The new man will be born when the ashes are wiped from their foreheads and they receive the stoles. After this symbolic baptism the new man renews his baptismal promises. The mood changes. We have made peace with ourselves, with others and with God. It's a time for joy and day one must end on a happy note. Palanca letters are distributed before the men return to their dorms. You can be sure that they will read all the letters before going to sleep.