

## **AGAPE ROOM LEADER**

1. Count all agape gifts – some will only have enough for the candidates, some for both candidates and the inside team.
2. Gather agape gifts and personal palanca from the team each night at the sleeping quarters. Make sure they comply with policy.
  - a. No sealed envelopes
  - b. No layered items. No pasted together or laminated items.
  - c. Must be single layer items only.
  - d. Make sure there are no addresses, phone numbers of personal info on the agape.
3. Sort palanca letters by geographic location. (check with inside team to see if they have someone assigned to do this.)
4. Letters need to be ready to go to speaker “You Are Not Alone” speaker before his talk on Friday. He may want to review ahead of time so check with him. A stack of 20-30 is ideal with nearest locations on top.
5. Save some out so you can give out 2 or 3 more times during the weekend to the Rector to read from the front.
6. The first agape gifts go on the tables during the chapel service that occurs after the “You Are Not Alone” talk.
7. Speak with inside team agape room workers to agree on some ground rules to keep order during the weekend. Encourage those not assigned who loiter to go to prayer chapel to help pray.
8. At Chippewa the Agape and Food Room are one room, so it can get pretty congested in there is a lot of loitering.
9. Prepare bags with personal palanca, and agape gifts on Sunday. Make sure all agape is distributed before close of weekend.
10. Have inside team distribute bags before closing service. At Chippewa they line the bags up behind the chairs at closing in preparation for the reception line.
11. At Kinross the Agape Room assist duties include keeping the door open for the bathroom at break times.
12. Remember that the Agape Room cannot be left without a volunteer present.

## **TABLE WORKER DUTIES**

*EACH TABLE WORKER WILL BE ASSIGNED THE CANDIDATES ON EACH SIDE OF THEM TO SPONSOR.*

### **TABLE LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Take charge of the table; establish leadership role. Explain to all participants what to expect, especially Friday morning when the Rector gives you time to do so.
2. Make sure all candidates are included in activities and discussions – be sensitive to any that might not be able to read or write.
3. Discourage any one individual from dominating conversations or suggesting they “have the right answer”. Do not force someone to talk.
4. Make sure no Bibles or religious materials from other faiths are present at the table.
5. Encourage a feeling of warmth and friendship.
6. Watch for time when table family is ready to make a chapel visit to pray as a family. Do not force or rush this. Explain to family what takes place in chapel visit.
7. Encourage table members to sit together as a “family” in chapel sessions beginning Saturday morning.
8. Set an example for all by taking notes on each talk.

9. Select a secretary for each talk prior to the discussion – share with that individual what is expected, and why...
10. During the serenade it is important to attend to the candidates if they are having a hard time. Also DO NOT sing along, it will encourage the others to do the same.
11. Requests for clergy visits should go through the table leader or Co-Rector.
12. It will benefit your table discussions (and your chapel visit) if you start each discussion time with a short prayer. You may wish to each take turns doing this. Make it voluntary, never force the candidates to pray.

### **ASSISTANT TABLE LEADER AND TABLE ASSISTANT**

1. Become the “right arm” of the table leader...help in all duties as outlined above.
2. Be ready to serve as leader during any time the table leader may be absent.
3. Help guide discussions – encourage “quiet” candidates to share.
4. Help watch for potential trouble spots; share suggestions with table leader when needed.

### **CO-RECTOR**

1. Gather all talks
2. Gather all notebooks/schedules/pens/miscellaneous supplies. MUST HAVE A VERY ACCURATE INVENTORY OF WHAT IS TAKEN IN.
3. Coordinate all supplies with Purchasing/Supplies
4. Coordinate banners with inside team
5. Make sure all crosses (chapel & palm) are on site
6. Make sure Prayer Books are on site
7. Check Volunteer log book daily – see below
8. Inspect all tubs BEFORE leaving sleeping quarters each day to make sure nothing unauthorized is inside

### ***ONCE THE WEEKEND BEGINS***

*After all volunteers sign the Volunteer log book, count the number of signatures to see if it matches the number of volunteers present. If not, quiet all volunteers and read the names out of the book to the team, and those whose name was not read must now sign the book. This must be done daily before volunteers are shaken down.*

1. As soon as candidates are in the Community Room Thursday, assign sponsors – inside team may do this for you – check in advance. Must be done **quickly**. This is done during "Dumb and Dumber" and introductions. The sponsor should be assigned the candidate on each side of him at the table. If there are extra guys at the table assign to clergy or table fill ins.
2. Name tags need to be ready first thing Thursday evening to be given out when sponsors first meet the candidates; – confirm candidate name tags with inside team.
3. Make sure Food Room begins preparation of food/beverages for sponsors/candidates as soon as the candidates enter the Community Room Thursday night.
4. Make sure Prayer Books are ready to hand out before first chapel visit Thursday night.
5. Hand out Speaker Chapel Request forms at Thursday team meeting

### ***FRIDAY***

1. Complete seating chart of where everyone is sitting inside the Community Room once table assignments are made, make sure Community Room Leader (CRL) has one also.

2. Make sure CRL knows of everyone he has to notify as the day goes on (speakers, table agape, Scripture readers, escorts, meditations, etc.)
3. Coordinate continental breakfast with Community Room Leader (CRL) (KCF/URF only).
4. (URF Only) Before each break, have Timekeeper check with the officer to see which way the outside breaks can go outside (east or west door)
5. See that CRL has poster paper ready to go with the cha-cho's.
6. Coordinate lunch with Food Room Leader.
7. Lunch may have to be worked around count.
8. Find out what time supper will be served from Chaplain.
9. Late afternoon, have CRL make sure they've got all the posters sorted and ready for the Decuria (poster party at end of day).
10. At Friday team meeting (outside), hand out and collect speaker request forms for Saturday

### *SATURDAY*

1. Have extra Prayer Books ready to go in case anyone doesn't have theirs.
2. See that CRL knows to coordinate spiritual counseling through you.
3. CRL will have to coordinate table chapel visits with you.
4. See that table leaders have recommended Scripture readers for the talks, and that CRL has lined up speaker escorts and prayer partners for each talk.
5. The break between 4:00 - 4:30pm is going to have to be coordinated around the serenaders being brought in. Once they are in, CRL needs to keep them quiet (at URF-E/KTF-W). Remind musicians at URF-W that singing leading up to the Serenade should be up-tempo to allow coverage for Serenaders to enter.
6. Find out when the inside team wants to present their banner to the candidates.
7. Make sure matches are available for the Scapegoat service, and a metal container is available for the burning.

### *SUNDAY*

1. Same routine as above
2. Schedule is very tight.
3. Make sure grouping cards are in and ready for Rector's talk and given to CRL for distribution to table leaders prior to the talk.
4. Timekeeper will have to coordinate outside volunteers' entrance with breaks.
5. Gather all material to be taken out

## **COMMUNITY ROOM LEADER**

1. Oversee and maintain the upkeep of the Community Room.
  - a. Coordinate with inside team leader and Cha-Chaos to clean during breaks.
  - b. Tables need to be straightened up and garbage removed.
  - c. Have water at lectern for speakers.
  - d. Have Bible on lectern open to proper scripture before each talk.
2. Keep updated on the schedule by communication with the Co-Rector and Timekeeper.
3. Direct the inside team leader and the Cha-Chaos as to when to serve the food, drinks, snacks, and agape gifts. **No food, drinks, snacks served prior to or during discussion after a talk.** They should be served during the poster time. *THIS SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH THE FOOD AND AGAPE ROOM LEADERS.*
4. Instruct Cha-Chaos not to participate in the discussion or posters.
5. Have Cha-Chaos ready to distribute notebooks and pens early Friday morning, maybe during a break after breakfast.

6. Have Cha-Chaos ready to distribute poster paper and pens after each discussion and pick up when completed.
7. Have the Cha-Chaos ready to introduce their tables:
  - a. On Friday night for the poster party
  - b. On Saturday after to serenade for the open microphone time
  - c. On Sunday at the closing
8. Monitor traffic in and out of Community Room. Once the speaker has entered the room there should be no unnecessary movement in or out of Community Room.
9. Notify each speaker and prayer partner when they are to go to the Prayer Chapel.
10. Have speaker ready outside of Community Room before the talk.
11. Assign table fill in for seats vacated by a speaker. Use tables fill in people first, then clergy, then food or agape room assistances if needed.
12. You are responsible for keeping the Food and Agape Rooms updated as to when you need their services.
13. At URF-E, you are not to talk to the kitchen staff or their MDOC staff person – the Food Room Leader is the only volunteer who should be communicating with them.

### **FOOD ROOM LEADER & ASSISTANT**

#### *TRAINING SESSIONS*

1. Assist in gathering the food and drink for the luncheon. Make sure all dishes are set out and serving spoons are available.
2. Clean up the area after lunch and make sure kitchen area is cleaned and set up as you found it.

#### *AT SLEEPING QUARTERS*

1. Distribute cookies, starting Thursday night if possible, to all facilities in the Kinross area.
2. Get the coffee started each morning at the sleeping quarters.
3. You are responsible for maintaining the outside Food Room at the sleeping quarters. It needs to be cleaned before we leave each morning. Begin putting food away at 5:00am for the KCF weekend, 6:00am for the URF-E weekend, and 5:30am for the URF-W weekend. This will give you and your assistant (if no assistant, then the Agape Room leader will assist) time to do the cleanup before leaving for the prison.

#### *AT THE FACILITIES*

1. At KCF never leave the Food Room unlocked and unattended. If you need to leave the room unattended, have the Chaplain lock it.
2. As soon as you enter each morning, go to the Food Room and begin brewing coffee. Do not let anyone have coffee until it is served to the candidates at breakfast.
3. No food or drinks will be served during any discussion after a talk. They will be served during the poster time.
4. Snacks should be served starting with the break immediately after breakfast on Friday.
5. Don't be too worried about making the snacks last all weekend – better to use it up than try and overload people on Sunday.
6. There will probably be enough sandwiches for candidates to have seconds each day for lunch.
7. Keep order in the Food Room – it's your job to keep the staff there focused on the matter at hand. People who are not assigned to the Food Room should not be hanging out there – those are the people who tend to eat the food and drink the coffee when it should be going to the candidates.

## MUSIC LEADER & SERVANTS

### *The role of Music:*

Music is one of the essential elements of a Keryx weekend. Music should heighten and enrich the Keryx experience.... It should punctuate the progression of each day, as well as that of the entire weekend. It is far more than a way to fill time or release tension. We are being very gently led to the Way of Christ on the weekend. Music is one of the critical dynamics in this process.

### *The Progression of Music:*

1. The music we present during the weekend needs to be considered carefully within the framework of the Keryx progression. We should keep in mind that a song may be the key that unlocks the door of a resident's heart during the weekend. Our music should keep pace and be consistent with the progression of the talks and other parts of the weekend.
2. On Thursday evening we need songs which unite the group and make the residents comfortable. Sing songs that are well known, unthreatening and easy to sing.
3. The theme of the first day, Friday, is grace. The music should speak to the reality of grace in our lives. The music should center on the ideal of the Christian life. It should continue the process of uniting and comforting the residents.
4. On Saturday the theme is "The Person of Jesus Christ". The music this day speaks directly to the reality of Jesus Christ among us, with us, loving us. The songs should reveal the character of Jesus Christ the man, the savior, the redeemer, the lover, the foot washer. Saturday is the time to bring in the songs that stir people's emotions that have them on their feet clapping their hands and celebrating the life of Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit.
5. The theme of the third day is "The residents presence in their environment, and in their relations with others". The songs on Sunday should bring their world back into the residents mind and lead them back to the world that they left on Thursday. The music should be up-beat and motivating. It should challenge the residents to "Pass It On", to let their world know that they are Christians that are "One In The Spirit."

### *Prior to Team Meetings:*

1. Become familiar with the songs in the Keryx song book. If you do not have a book with the cords, ask the rector or experienced Music Cha Cha/Cho for help in obtaining the music with guitar cords.
2. Get together with the other music Cha Cha/Cho. Discuss the role of music on the Keryx weekend, play through some of the songs & become familiar with the Keryx song book. Decide how you want to present music in the team meetings.
3. Meet with the Rector and discuss the roll of music on the Keryx weekend. See if the Rector has any special requests. Be sure that the Rector understands the dynamics of music on the Keryx weekend.

### *During Team Meetings:*

1. Arrive early for team meetings so that you can check the tuning of your instrument, set up music stands and be ready to begin the team meeting with music. (*Playing and singing a song or two before the meeting begins with whoever is present helps to bring people together and gets the meeting off to a good start.*)
2. Ask the Rector for a few minutes in an early team meeting to explain to the team the role of music on a Keryx weekend.
3. Don't be discouraged if you have a problem getting the team to "stay with you" on some songs. Try it again, a little slower maybe, and try to keep a steady, distinct rhythm with your strum pattern. Bear in mind that teams are people, some sing better than others.

4. Music is also a dynamic during team formation. It unites and bonds the team together. Select songs that tend to unite. After an Altar visit, songs such as “Bind Us Together” or “Surely the Presence” can be a unifying experience.
5. Prior to the Keryx weekend, get a schedule of the weekend and plan the music. You may have to modify the plan as the weekend progresses, but modifying a plan is better than “winging it”.

## **PRAYER CHAPEL LEADER & ASSISTANT**

### *GENERAL ISSUES*

1. It is your job to make sure the chapel is always clean and ready for the next thing on the schedule.
2. You are responsible for keeping track of the Speaker Prayer Chapel Request sheets, and in carrying out the requests made by each speaker. Have these filled out the night before.
3. You will need to be aware of how much time you have to pray with each speaker before and after each talk – in some instances there will be no time at all after the talk (see below for details). You may need to cut off the prayer if it is running long. It may help to designate one person in particular to close each prayer session.
4. There are many inside team members assigned to the chapel at KCF. Your responsibility is to keep them focused on the matter at hand. You need to have a meeting early in the weekend with everyone assigned to the chapel and set ground rules. No food or drink in the chapel. No goofing around. They are to participate in the prayer during the talks or at least maintain an attitude of silence.

### *THURSDAY*

After the sponsorship time in the hallway is finished, prepare the chapel for the chapel service at 8:00pm. Make sure chapel is clean. Have the green prayer books ready to be handed out as everyone enters the chapel. Make sure the Bible is opened to the proper Scripture passage. We will need to have all set in the first several rows at Kinross as we are in the auditorium.

### *FRIDAY*

1. Make sure the chapel is set for the morning service, which begins right away. Make sure the speaker has all his needs met.
2. Between each chapel visit, hang a couple more banners along the walls.
3. 2:00 pm Chapel – Bible open to Isaiah 49:8-23, and Numbers 6:24-26. There is no time to pray with the speaker after the You Are Not Alone talk – this chapel occurs immediately after the talk.
4. 5:15 pm Chapel - Same as above – no time to pray with speaker after Spirituality talk. The crucifix should be placed at the front of the Chapel before this visit.
5. 8:00 pm Chapel – Clean up prior.

### *SATURDAY*

1. Morning Chapel – Bible open to Hebrews 4:1-13, and John 2:13-15.
2. 9:20 Chapel – No time for prayer with Christ Among Us speaker after the talk.
3. 11:00 Chapel – May not be time for prayer after Action.
4. 7:30 Chapel – Ask Scapegoat service speaker for needs prior. Try to have a few extra pens available for candidates to add to their list. Make sure metal trash can is in chapel.

### *SUNDAY*

1. Morning Chapel – make sure bread is on the altar, baskets are available for distribution, and gloves.
2. Noon – prepare chapel for closing service. Inside team will prepare the stage.
3. Be FLEXIBLE. The needs of the weekend will require you to be ready to move the chapel and/or your servants at any time.

## TIMEKEEPER

The timekeeper is responsible for making sure schedule is adhered to as best as possible. Make adjustments in schedule based upon prison requirements. Timekeeper coordinates all breaks and meals with Co-Rector and Community Room Leader. Physically goes and ends breaks, rounds up candidates and team to Community Room. Gives time signals to speakers in Community Room – at minimum, gives a five-minute signal. The written schedule you have is a guideline. It tells you what needs to happen, and suggested times, but actual events may be much different. Flexibility is the key on your part. You will have time for all things to occur, but you may have to rearrange their order some.

### *GENERAL ISSUES*

1. Inmates must be on their way back to the housing units by these times:
  - A. Kinross: 8:15pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 3:15pm on Sunday.
  - B. URF-E: 8:30pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 3:30pm on Sunday.
  - C. URF-W: 8:30pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 4:00pm on Sunday
2. The annex at Kinross closes at 8:30pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 3:30pm on Sunday so all (prisoners and volunteers) must be out of the building before that time.
3. Do not cut off any speaker in the chapel unless it is at the end of the day and we need to leave the prison.
4. You may have to tell a speaker in advance that he has to cut his talk by five or ten minutes.
5. Emphasize to the musicians that they need to be ready go when you tell them to – any time they spend tuning their instruments or figuring out which songs to play cuts into their time.
6. At KCF there are some special issues:
  - A. Breaks seem to take on a life of their own so be on top of things to limit the length of breaks.
  - B. The inside team usually are not available at lunch time because of having to return to their units for count. You will need the outside team to help serve lunch.

### *DAILY SCHEDULES*

#### *THURSDAY:*

Very tight schedule – everybody needs to be back in the Community Room after the fellowship time by 7:40, and we need to be in the chapel by 8:00 (15 minutes earlier than this at Kinross). You may have to cut a meditation short or delay it altogether until Friday morning otherwise, and you may have to cut the Evening Prayer.

#### *FRIDAY*

1. The time shown for the Table Assignments/Rectors Talk is 50 minutes. It hardly ever takes that long, so you should gain at least 10-15 minutes there.
2. Once you get lunch scheduled the next thing is to plan for supper. Supper time may change several times during the day. Don't try to run too close – allow some extra time – it can be made up after supper if need be.

#### *SATURDAY*

1. Major issues are lunch, afternoon chow, and the Serenade. The last talk (Your World) needs to be finished before going to the chow hall. Once that meal is complete, you need to try to fit in a break before the Serenaders come in. This is all dependent upon the grace of the officer who grants breaks.

It will have to be an inside break because it will be taking place during count. The Serenaders come into the prison at about 4:30 at KCF, and around 5:00 at URF-E and URF-W.

2. The Scapegoat Service needs to begin by 7:30pm at Kinross due to the earlier departure time, which means you may have to cut Open Mike – hold the candidates to the 2 minute limit.

### *SUNDAY*

The Agape Service almost always runs long – do not cut it off. You will have to make it up later, but do not rush things. The schedule has notes on how to handle the late-morning/early afternoon events.

## **GUIDELINES FOR TEAM MEMBERS ON KERYX WEEKEND**

1. Be first in the chapel each morning.
2. You are a leader. . . please be one while in the chapel praying and while singing.
3. Please be punctual for everything.
4. Be with the candidates at all times, except before and after your talk.
5. Let the candidates tell the jokes unless there is a long pause, then you have one ready. (jokes begin after lunch Friday.)
6. Try to keep the subject matter on the talks during the walks and at the meals.
7. Take as many notes as you can, to set an example.
8. It is customary to make a chapel visit before and after your talk.
9. Practice being a good listener.
10. Table workers should not leave the table at the same time. (don't let your table get away from you.)
11. Do not congregate with other team members in the meeting room, on walks, in the chapel, or at meals. . . spread out.
12. If a candidate has a problem see the co-rector, who will get the candidate to priest/minister/spiritual director.
13. Do not study your talk at Keryx. Your full time there is needed for the men/women.
14. Don't be secretive. If you want to speak to the rector or the spiritual director, don't give the impression that you're plotting against the candidates.
15. Don't return to your table until the discussion is concluded on your talk.
16. Cha-cho's/Servant's sit at the dinner table with the candidates and go on walks, unless assigned a job.
17. Start with "God bless you" right away.
18. When there is a question in your mind. . . use common sense.
19. No movement in meeting room during discussion (only serving coffee, etc.)
20. No movement in meeting room during the talk's.
21. Table leader handles chapel visit and explaining prayer support group.
22. As soon as you arrive at the meeting room for the beginning of the Keryx. . . mingle with the candidates.
23. Table workers shouldn't speak at poster party, but can hold the posters.
24. A little competition is good Friday. . . better Saturday, but don't overdo it.
25. Table workers don't worry about cha-cho/servant's. . . and. . . vice versa!
26. Abrazo (the hug) introduced during Saturday morning chapel.
27. Commitment sheets will be filled out after the hang in there discussion is over on Sunday.
28. Don't wear your watch to Keryx.

***Remember. . . work as if everything depended on you. . . and pray as if everything depended upon Him. .***

***And. . . God bless you***



## GUIDELINES FOR SPEAKERS

1. Make 2 copies of your talk. One to speak from, and one for backup so that the back table can follow where you are in your talk while you are giving it. Your copy should be clearly marked and highlight important sections that must be covered. You may wish to note where you should make special emphasis while giving the talk. Talks should be typewritten and make sure you cover all of the topics listed in the outline.
2. Give your back-up copy to the co-rector when you arrive on Thursday. Take time to fill out the prayer request form that will be used by the prayer room while you are giving your talk. Make sure you *give your copy of the talk to the co-rector in the morning before we enter the prison on the day of your presentation.*
3. As you write your talk, it would be great to use a computer word processing program so you can revise it and make changes as you compose the talk. Most people start writing the talk by utilizing the outline. (Outlines are available as computer files ... ask if you need one.) As you follow the outline, fill in the missing parts. Feel free to put things in your own wording. There is no need to follow the outline suggestions word for word. However, make sure you cover each and every point. After the basic talk is written, look for places where you can add parts of your own testimony or illustrations from your own experiences.
4. Practice your talk several times before you give the preview in the training session. The Keryx trainer will publish a list of when you should have your talk ready for preview. Please be ready at that time. When you practice, time yourself and mark places in your manuscript where things don't sound quite right. Practice in front of the mirror. If you really want to be brutal on yourself, videotape your talk ... you will see all of your mistakes in the "raw footage." Generally, people deliver their talks too rapidly. Most people benefit from slowing down the pace of speaking. Vary your pace along with your voice tone. Try NOT to make it sound like you are reading aloud ... talk like you are sharing a good story with your friends. Think of ways to make it sound interesting to the audience ... sort of like when you read a story to a little child.
5. Make sure you present your final talk just as it was previewed during the training sessions. Pray, pray, and pray some more, that God will show you just what to include in your talk as you write it and before you preview it in the training sessions. Try to avoid "going off script" while giving the talk in prison. This often causes you to lose track of time and it is vital that you keep your talk within the time limit.
6. Make an effort to include your personal testimony as it relates to the subject of your talk. These personal comments make the talk come alive for both you and the candidates. Try to control your emotions as much as possible but be aware that the Holy Spirit may use your "brokenness" to reach the heart of the candidates. Your sincerity during the presentation is vital. Sometimes the "slick" talks do not make an impact on the candidates as much the talks that are given in a simple, but sincere, presentation.
7. Understand that your talk is **one** of 14 during the weekend. They really all join together to become ONE big presentation. The talks are designed to build on each other. You cannot say it ALL in your talk. Do not go beyond the outline or give information that is presented in another talk. Some concepts are present in several different talks as a helpful reminder due to the importance of the concept. That is part of the design of the whole weekend. We tell them what we plan to say; we say it; we discuss the talk; we draw a poster and write a summary that reviews the talk; we have a poster party to review what we learned today. Repetition is an excellent tool to help people remember important concepts. Keryx does utilize some very solid, educational, teaching techniques.
8. Should you include a handout? If your talks include many scripture references you may wish to have these available for the candidates during the talk. Some have a very difficult time talking

notes (many have learning disabilities with reading and writing). Don't go overboard with the handouts. One full page on front and back should be the maximum given. Fill-in-the-blank style handouts may look too much like "school."

9. Thank you and God bless you in your efforts on behalf of the candidates, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **HISTORY OF CURSILLO'S BEGINNING**

A group of young men from the Spanish Catholic Action Movement were attempting to renew the church in Palma, Majorca, Spain in 1949. They had worked long and hard to get people more involved and to counter the non-Christian world they were living in with its rise of secular values, but all their efforts floundered.

Each attempt seemed worse than the one before. They were at the point of giving up. Then one evening, one of the men who had been working to develop the program received an unexpected call from the chaplain of the local prison asking for a couple of volunteers to come to the prison and help with a difficult problem. Two young men were to be executed the next day, but they would have nothing to do with the chaplain. The chaplain thought perhaps a layman could reach them.

The man who received the call was frightened at the prospect of entering a prison, but after considerable prayer, he called a friend to join him in responding to the chaplain's call. Neither man had ever been in prison, but they agreed to come. As the two men entered the cell, they encountered the condemned par playing cards and gambling with the guards. Prison rules declared that two guards must stay in the cell with the condemned men on the last night before execution. Their cell was littered with pornographic magazines and pin-ups. The condemned men seemed bent only on swapping dirty stories and gambling the night away.

One of the two men the chaplain had called was Eduardo Bonnin. He asked for permission to let them take the place of the guards. When this had been granted, they began talking to the prisoners, and listening to their stories. Gradually, they won the prisoners' confidence and eventually, Eduardo said to them; "We came here to ask a favor of you."

At this point, the men laughed loud and long. "A favor? Don't you realize that later this morning we ..." and he made a gesture of being executed. "But there is something you can do," said Bonnin. "We only wanted you to recommend something to the Lord for us. You are the only people we have met who know when they will meet the Lord face to face. Neither the Pope, nor rich, nor poor know when they will meet God, yet you do. We want you to say something to Him. We feel it is so urgent. We have this wonderful project from which we expect great fruits, but so far we have failed miserably to get it going. We want you to ask the Lord to help us." And Bonnin proceeded to explain their hopes and anxieties concerning the program.

As the night wore on, they spoke of Christ and His love and mercy. They talked about forgiveness. In the early hours of the morning, the chaplain heard the confessions of the inmates and held a private mass. The two inmates, Bonnin and his friend, all received the Eucharist.

One of those men wrote to his family that night and this is a translation from the Spanish:

*Dearest family, so close to my heart.*

*These lines I am writing are the last you will receive from your son and brother. I am writing them more with my heart than my pen. I am in the condemned cell and have only a few hours remaining before I leave this life.*

*After my life of ill luck, God has granted me the extraordinary grace of enabling me to recognize my past faults and making peace with Him. He has given me this opportunity for sincere confession, which has opened, little by little, the gates of heaven.*

*It only remains for me to ask your pardon for all the heartaches I gave you during my life, with my straying, to recommend to my brothers whom I love with all my heart never to stray from the path of duty that you, my parents, taught us to follow. I never remembered you with such affection as at this moment. The end of my career has arrived. Praise be to God, who gave me these moments to ransom my life and to die as do those men who have faith.*

*My last thoughts on Earth are with you. Adios, until eternity.*

When invited to have breakfast with the condemned men, Bonnin could not eat. He was too nervous. A short time later, they were led to the execution. One of them cried out for Eduardo Bonnin, and Eduardo told of how that man died, holding Eduardo's crucifix in one hand as Eduardo knelt beside him, praying for him. The executioners placed the hood over the man's head and affixed the chain that would break his neck with a sudden jerk.

These two inmates were executed in January, 1949. The project the Eduardo Bonnin and his companions had in hand, and that they were unsuccessful in launching, despite all their trials and efforts, was referred to as "Cursillos de Cristiandad."

Surely we can conclude that Jesus said to them as He said to the thief who was crucified with Him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Bonnin still wears the cross the young condemned man held at his execution.