

T. Lush
Local Church
8/29/72

This morning we want to turn our attention to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXX~~ our attention to the Local Church Project and our work in the Galaxies
across the , this continent as we prepare for the time when there will be
galaxies across the globe. I am to set a context for this day under the
category of Galactic Operations. I want to talk more ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
than simply to lay out the operations but to talk more about what has happened
over these last two years work in the galaxies, what has happened to the
people there in their sense after how life has changed for them as human beings
and as churchmen. I want to say what the Local Church Project has done has
given deep hope to every churchman it has touched. That deep hope has come
in four dimensions it has come and has given everyone whom it has touched
a new vision of the future, a vision of possibility of the future. It has given
deep hope in the future because it has given the churchmen whom it has touched
a disciplined corporateness, and a means of obtaining the vision of the future,
a confidence and possibility of that future realized and its been given deep hope
in the future through the and of the spirit and the tactics
intermeshed in the design of the project. And it gives deep hope in the future
in that the Local Church Project is anchored in RS-1. n the way
that the average step of the way every galaxy goes has to be has to be anchored
and centered upon the calling forth of people to live their lives and
engage themselves in giving themselves up for their neighbor. Those are the
four points for me which capture ~~the~~ what the Local Church Project has done
and is doing in the midst of the world and in the midst of the church. The way
in which the Local Church Project has been given as the vision of the future
and the way in which that comes in the galaxy has something to do with the
journeys in which the galaxy goes on in launching itself. You lay out before
them the fact that what is needed in church and in the world is a way for the
Local Church and the whole church to grasp again its mission to the needs of man
and that Local Church Project anchors that very concretely in the four year

design of moving into the parish and the way in which the years priorities documents hold in being the journey from focusing on the Congregation and Cadre to the end of the year to focusing on the ~~xx~~ parish, gives that kind of journey to the galaxy and holds before it the fact that its task is to care for humanity, to care for mankind and the journey is one that the journey is one that is extremely helpful, but first of all your focus in the first two quarters is now the heaviest downbeat is one enablement of the congregation thus the cadre gets in seeing that it has to bring off, bring the troops, the congregation into consciousness before major actions while ~~xxxxxxx~~ in the parish goes on how to keep all 36 plates turning / The focus on the parish, the heaviest downbeat in the last half of the year calls in your vision that you are not doing this for the sake of the congregation. But you are doing this to meet the needs of the people in the area. I think the way in which you see the deep hope in this, in the Local Church Project as far as the lives of people in the Local Churches they begin to see they ~~begin to see that it is worth risking~~ begin to see that it is worth risking to see that the local church comes and the next stage, the next step is that it not only worth while for them to give time, and energy, and selfhood ~~but~~ to see that that congregation comes off but what it means to be the auxiliary is to become others to go through the painful priorship enabling others in the congregation to invest their lives in that venture in that congregation. That the journey for our galaxy, I think, was the first two or three consults that brought that out particularly .. The part of the consult is to lay out the journey of the galaxy as some of you remember. The first consult after we had been in operation about six months we were on a weird time-design. The story of that first quarter ~~xxx~~ that the galaxy decided to call the first quarter was the official quarter. We had told the galaxy there that they should come for the sodality meeting and weekend councils for 10 weeks and then we would

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talk about whether or not we would want to continue and as they looked back after six months they noted we never did sit back and ask whether or not we should continue. The first consult, they looked at that and said you tricked us, that was official. Now the second galaxy council some three months later something had happened. For during that time people in that galaxy had been about the job of building for the rest of the congregation. They would rather whenever you came to have a luncheon or ~~xxx~~ went out with them for a drink, or talked with them after a galaxy meeting instead of having that no you are not going to talk me into that look but now when you came to talk to them about something they had a wide smile on their face because they understood what it is to be the auxiliary, whether that is to be the auxiliary to the galaxy or the auxiliary in their local congregation it was to becom, intrigue, and demand. And entreat others to invest their lives in that congregation in the renewing of the church and that is the sign that a corner had been turned, that the galaxy has decided that this vision of the future is something that they can give their lives to. One instance where I think we struggled with this the most as one of our congregations had the unique and I think it is a gift and a demon the possibility that there are a hundred and some doctors in the congregation it is a large congregation and there are 6 or 7 doctors in the galaxy in the auxiliary and we found we had to deal with the trap that was ~~built~~ built into our society, that the doctor's time was the most crucial time that he spends is the time he is in the hospital when he is treating people and we found ourselves saying we cannot call on him to come to the sodality meeting or expect him to come to the ~~x~~ every sodality meeting after all he is a doctor and the story, we had to rebuild the story first for ourselves and then for that cadre and then for the whole galaxy that the most important for those men in their lives is when is when they are in their local congregation. ~~That~~ That it is more important for them to be in sodality meetings than in the hospital, because there

they are dealing with healing the whole church for the sake of the world not individual people although their work had to go on. When that story began/^{to}-that victimism of not demanding(switch side of tape) the first 6 or 8 or 10 people to those/^{first}schools in December and March and even though you had to expend all sorts of energy and expend-lean on people for all the favors you could talk them into giving you for just going to the thing, and then having/^{expended}the ~~expended~~ all that energy to get them to participate financially in the/¹⁰¹~~100~~ per, and then ~~having~~ after talking them into becoming RSI pedagogues, and after talking them into recruiting and all the other ways they have to be tied into the movement--do not stop there get them all to Chicago as quickly as possible for this vision of the future is crucial for them to decide to invest their lives in bringing their congregation-bringing it off in the sense it has to be brought off in the project. Then ^{the deep hope}.... comes from disciplined corporateness. I think ~~this~~ this comes ^{the future of} ~~far~~ from a vision of where we are going but disciplined & corporateness is the key to confidence in the fact that that vision can be realized. That of all the things that the church lacks discipline in the sense that when you ask people or you assign people to do tasks that they will be carried out that is just a new world of wonder/^{both} for local church pastors and all the people who have struggled with church committees for years. In seeing/^{the}possibility in disciplined corporateness they began to ~~what~~ catch a vision that something new is coming that something new is breaking out in the church. The disciplined care that happens in terms of demanding of each other to participate ~~with~~--be there every week, be there on time. One way that ~~xxxxxx~~^{was} dramatized for us, one of the cadres in one of the congregations in our galaxy came as a package in that for the three $\frac{1}{2}$ years before they joined the local church project the nucleus of the cadre, now it has grown larger, was a Koinona (sp) and encounter group. The

have to do this for an hour and try something else. They went out and by 4 that afternoon they were finished and they were excited by the quality of good work that was there. That the Church project beckons you to demand more people from your congregation to participate in that corporate power is the way that the project is accomplished and that they corporateness and corporate power of the galaxy gives confidence and hope that they galaxy's task can indeed be done.

This deep hope comes from the warp and woof of spirit and tactics is some thing for me that is the key ~~at~~ to keeping....^a~~the~~ key to that is the tension. That it is not that you balance those two, the spirit and tactics, in each sodality meeting. It is always a tension thee way we found out most obviously present was during the Spring remember when we added in the studies of the RSI papers and we added in the background papers of RSI as ~~the development~~ part of the sodality meeting foremat and that added another hour or so of spirit training. Our galaxy is on the practical pale pretty much although there are some who do~~x~~ not ~~exercise~~ ^{emphasis} that and you could tell immediately for the first 4 or 5 weeks as soon as any of them decided we were going to run over 4 or 5 or 10 minutues because the papers consumed more timex there was immediate anxiety and ~~anx~~ ants-people would get up for coffee they would say ^{er.} can~~x~~ not we move along quick~~x~~. and then you know that the tension between tactics and spirit need to be settled down is going on that there is ~~in~~ a tension there that you can not allow to collapse. There has to be a sense of immediacy and urgency to get the tactics done at the same time you can not start at 6 and go to midnight with only the Geneva office and hope to have the galaxy, both dimensions have to be present in the sodality meeting for the vision to be there. In the tactical thinking its part of the deep hope that ^{the} is there in that ~~you~~ shift from goal oriented thinking to tactical thinking is a shift that ~~x~~ is something extremely releasing. One woman in our visit, the warf of the galaxy, she was in the church that finally decided not to

pastor ~~was~~ went to a PLC in November and then the next RSI in January
18 people showed up and announced that they were here for RSI because their
pastor had told them they were no longer a Koinona group now they are a cadre
what ever that was--they were here for RSI. That group has had a discipline
where
~~that~~ for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years they never missed a Monday night together. The few exceptions
~~that~~ they could count on their hands the number of times people had missed.
The pastor there had done quite a pioneering job of ~~that~~. What broke in on
the people there that now rather than having care and discipline for
for
the sake of themselves and/each other that now their discipline and care was
for the sake the future of the Church and the world and that gave them a
to do
reason/~~for~~ this other than loyalty to that pastor, and that disciplined
is
corporateness ~~was~~ the key to the future. And the power of corporateness is
key also to ~~maintaining~~ the vision of what it is to be about renewing the
Church. The church project in having 144 tactics to do ~~them~~ each quarter and
that those can not be done by any one individual single person ~~is~~ dramatized
the power of corporateness. The first weekend council in the fall last year
we were experimenting with the war boards and the cards for the tertiary tactics
and this is the first weekend of doing any contradictions and strategic
objectives and the first weekend of working with this huge ~~amount~~ amount of
that is there
work/to be done on a weekend and one congregation, the congregation that
brought 19 to the first RSI, also can bring hordes of people to council they
had 18 or 19 around the table there, but they refuse to break-up into small
groups to do the tactics because they said "no one knows what they are doing,
so we have to ~~stick~~ together." So after about two hours of getting through
only about 12 or 14 cards in this groups of 20 around the table, we finally
convinced them that even though in groups of 2 or 3 they might not know as much
as one ~~the~~ or two leaders in the group that they would still get high quality
work done and have the whole what looks to be 3 or 4 weekends of work done
in that day and with disbelief on their faces and "Oh no, we will just

"Why ^{local} spend the 10 weeks with us, she said/you could no more renew our/congregation that fly to the moon." You had to think about the way in which tactics were evolved (?) and the slow ~~stagnant~~ steady work over the years. That indeed ^{the} that is what/people begin to see that in tactics in 12 tertiaries a week that over a long, long period of time that indeed any vision no matter how wide in scope can be accomplished, can be done. That in your continental consult have been ~~gx~~ for our galaxy an extremely significant time for stepping back from the every week 12 tactics, every week 12 tactics and seeing ~~where~~ you have been in a way that amazes ~~everyone~~ in the galaxy in their sense of the power ^{of} ~~in~~ the tactical work that has been going on, the chipping away of the work that has to be done. Then that deep hope that is found in the church in the galaxy that comes from having the galaxies anchored in RSI is perhaps the most crucial aspect of what we are doing. Not only ~~that~~ in the general ~~sense~~ of enabling the individuals in that galaxy to understand themselves and to anchor themselves but also in a very specific sense it crucial that ~~the~~ galaxy ~~all~~ the auxiliaries be engaged in learning to teach and teaching of RSI on the weekends. One place where this was particularly crucial where we had a weekend where things ~~re~~ really broke open for us was in ~~where~~ you remember in the process of doing the local church project in the operation of the project itself you start with wrestling through what the contradictions and objectives in your congregation are in each of the systems and subsystems and the tactics and then down to the tertiary level what are the contradictions and objectives we have before us in our particular situation in regards to these particiualr tactics.