

El Tintero



August 2006

North Texas Lutheran Secretariat

El Tintero” is Spanish for “the inkwell.” Legend has it that Martin Luther threw an inkwell at Satan who tempted Luther while he was writing.

We are One in the Body, We are One in the Spirit

Beverly Goldman, Rector 69

Scripture Verse: 1 Cor 12:12, 20, 26

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all parts of the body, though many, is one body, so also Christ....there are many parts, yet one body. If (one) part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, if one part is honored, all parts share the joy.

As I prepared to write this article, I did what many “good rectors” do to prepare, I looked at past articles written by my predecessors. Then I prayed and asked God for wisdom, insight, and guidance for the weekend #69 staff and participants. Just like Moses, I have repeatedly asked myself, “Why me Lord?” I am humbled that God chose me to be only one part of the many parts of His body.

From the beginning, my staff has asked for insight into our focus, theme or direction for VDC weekend #69? Direction???? Now, that's a good question? Where are you leading us Lord? Where will You take us, Lord? And, Lord, while you're answering, what will You do with us once you get us there? I can't answer all of these questions at this time. But, I am certain that by the Closing Service on Sunday, we will all have had our eyes opened to new opportunities to grow in our relationship in Christ. We are humbled that God chose our staff and participants to make this weekend #69 journey together. We will be an example of a loving Christian Community.... “many parts, yet one body” in Christ.

As Christians, we need a balance and blend of many Christian families to assist us with our daily walk with Christ (**Piety**). God blesses each one of us with many families to daily give us hope and encouragement. All we must do, is seek (**Study**) and we will find, (**Action**). Therefore, God has revealed that our direction or focus for the weekend #69 will be about families; church, work, community, home, etc. As a Christian community, our staff will share Christ's love by demonstrating love, forgiveness and encouragement to each other and the participants. As the scripture chosen reflects, when one is honored, we all are honored, but when one suffers, we all suffer. We will be a family, knitted together and wonderfully made to love and support each other. We give thanks to God for our Christian families of support that God has given to all of us. We also give thanks that God has blessed this weekend with several new faces from new congregations never before been represented on a VDC weekend.

When asked which saint this weekend would be dedicated to; it will be dedicated to Jesus Christ. He is our example about how to live our lives and how we should treat each other in whatever family we find ourselves. Without Christ, there would be no other saint to dedicate a weekend. Christ will be our example and our leader this weekend.

So, hold on, God will show us the way and instruct our hearts as we love and support each other. We will be Christ's messengers as Christ leads us on an awesome journey in August and throughout our lives as Christians.

Keep all of us in your prayers as we prepare for weekend #69.

Beverly Goldman

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP - NTLS CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember to include our VdC community in your giving plans. Whether \$5, \$50 or \$500, any contribution is always appreciated and used to God's Glory. Contributions can be sent to Jim Bingaman, Treasurer NTLS, 1401 Lakeview Blvd, Denton, TX 76208. Checks should be made out to NTLS.

THE ABC'S OF VIA DE CRISTO - From Vickie Clark

As a member of the Secretariat I am often asked, "What's happening to Via de Cristo? Why are we losing numbers? Why is it so hard to get participants to fill a weekend?" My answer is usually summed up in two words, "small groups"; that is my bias and my passion. As Training Director I have many duties, but the job I love most is attending a Weekend's Reunion and talking to the new participants about sponsoring. In my mind small groups and sponsoring are vitally linked.

Fourth Day, you know that sponsoring is as easy as ABC so you may be tempted to skip this. Please don't. Most of you have the A and B part down very well, but our movement has lost the importance of part C. Allow me to review.

- A) Pre-Weekend
 - a. Pray for your participant
 - b. Gather palanca
 - c. Assist in home/child/pet care details for the weekend so that the participant can began the weekend relatively stress free
- B) Weekend
 - a. Pray for your participant
 - b. Provide Thursday evening meal and get participant to Lake Sharon on time
 - c. Attend Wake-Up
 - d. Attend Clausura
 - e. Take your participant to Homecoming
- C) Post-Weekend
 - a. Pray for your participant
 - b. Take your participant to Reunion
 - c. Take your participant to your small group
 - d. Carpool to Wake Up, Clausura, and Grand Ultreya for the next year

Yes, those last two items are part of sponsoring – part of mentoring your participant. If you read the sponsorship forms carefully, you will find that you are asked if you are active in small group and Ultreya. You are asked because it is important. It is difficult to take someone to small group if you are not involved in one yourself. Small groups are so important that one of Sunday's Rollos focuses on them. Small group is the key to making VdC more than just a pleasant way to spend 3 days. When we small group we grow as Christians and when we grow, we maintain the excitement of the weekend.

And when you maintain the excitement of the weekend, you want to attend Wake Up and Clausura – even if you have not sponsored anyone this weekend.

Bless all that you can,

Vickie Clark
Training Director

Via de Cristo #69

Thursday, August 10 to Sunday, August 13
 Lake Sharon Christian Center, Corinth, Texas

Participants

Aileen Cromeens
 Jim Crumpler
 Paul Fielding
 Tom Gary
 Lucy Gary
 Michelle Hild
 Gary Keith
 Charlene Knight
 Doug Linze
 Ash Mekala (M)
 Judy Richards
 Doris Schuetze
 Robert Schuetze
 Jean Stewart
 Karen Young

Congregation

First Presbyterian, Mesquite
 Ridgeview Presbyterian, Farmer's Branch
 King of Glory Lutheran, Dallas
 St. Olaf Lutheran, Cranfills Gap
 St. Olaf Lutheran, Cranfills Gap
 King of Glory Lutheran, Dallas
 St. Paul Lutheran, Denton
 Irving Church
 St. Paul Lutheran, Denton
 Lord of Life Lutheran, Glenn Heights
 Our Savior's Lutheran, Clifton
 First Lutheran, Waco
 First Lutheran, Waco
 Lord of Life Lutheran, Glenn Heights
 Prestonwood Baptist

Sponsor

Billie Harris
 Wayne Shuck
 Tim Johnson
 Ed Bell
 Ed Bell
 Dori W. and Laura H.
 Brenda Linze
 Nancy Rodriguez
 Brenda Linze
 Dailey Taylor
 Brenda Henry
 Karen Mullens
 Karen Mullens
 Diane Ferguson
 Brenda Linze

Staff

Rector
 Observing Rector
 Spiritual Director
 Spiritual Director
 Spiritual Director
 Rector's Cha
 Food Cha
 Food Cha
 Music Cha
 Music Cha
 Palanca Cha
 Palanca Cha

Beverly Goldman
 Cid Smith
 Ken Moerbe
 Vicki Taylor
 Janet Constantine
 Paula Moerbe
 Dorene Swenson
 Peggy Tooker
 Ricki Grubbs
 Christi Gibson
 Karen Mullens
 Karen Wiese

Ideal
 Laity
 Piety
 Study
 Action
 Leaders
 Evangelism
 CCIA
 Fourth Day
 Table Leader
 Tech Cha
 Love Team

Katherine Recabo
 Dailey Taylor
 Mark Fox
 Laura Huddleston
 Sally Englebrect
 Greg Hefner
 Ed Bell
 Brenda Henry
 Pat Hefner
 Carol Welch
 Joshua Grubbs
 Steve Gilbertson

Via de Cristo #69 - Weekend Calendar

August

9	Wed 6:30 pm	Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon Food and Palanca Drop Off
10	Thu 6:45 pm	Via de Cristo #69 Begins
13	Sun 6:00 am	Arrive For Wakeup
13	Sun 6:30 am	Wakeup Begins
13	Sun 2:30 pm	Clausura Setup
13	Sun 3:30 pm	Clausura Begins
13	Sun 5:30 pm	Takedown & Cleanup
13	Sun Evening	Homecoming, Various Locations

PALANCA NOTES! - From Lilly Gholston

It's time to get your palanca ready. You know, the daily prayers for the participants, by name, especially on their weekend. Also hand written love notes to them. Remember the notes and letters speaking of God's love and blessings? These letters don't have to be long, but every one is special. Now it's your turn to spread the joy to these new brothers and sisters in Via de Cristo.

Gracemats are another form of palanca. It's a way of giving a message to the weekend without actually being there. Gracemats can speak of God and His caring; they can reinforce the rollos to those who may need another reminder. Send them to the retreat on Thursday if you can't get them to me before then.

Another good form of palanca would be greeting them at the Sunday morning wake-up with singing and smiles. Or welcoming them into the fourth day with great rejoicing at the Clausura.

Think of the warm wonderful feeling you got on your weekend. You can pass it on to the new set of brothers and sisters. I know I always get that warm joyous feeling at wakeup and closings. I am always so happy to see my wonderful Via de Cristo brothers and sisters. I think you will enjoy the special feeling again, too.

If you live out of the DDFWW area (that's Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Waco area) and need to mail your palanca, it should be sent in time to get to me by Friday, August 11. Send it to Lilly Gholston, 401 Campbell, Denton TX, 76209

ULTREYA ASSIGNMENTS

Ultreyas: Please provide the following support for VdC #69. Remember that home-baked cookies and brownies work best and veggies should be properly cut up and prepared. The "event assignments" listed below need your active participation. The more help we have, the sooner we can get to our homecoming parties. Please do what you can. We have never had too many helpers. Thank You!

<u>Who</u>	<u>When, What, How Many</u>
Calvary	4 people for Sunday evening Takedown; 2 batches of veggies and 2 batches of fruit
Central	2 people for Sunday afternoon Clausura Setup; 2 dozen cookies & 2 dozen brownies
KOG FW	3 people for Sunday evening Takedown; 2 dozen cookies & 2 dozen brownies
CT/Faith/Rejoice	2 people for Wednesday night Setup; 2 batches of veggies & 2 batches of fruit
Good Shepherd	3 people for Sunday afternoon Clausura Setup; 1 batch of veggies
KOG Dallas	3 people for Wednesday night setup and 3 people for Sunday evening takedown 2 batches of veggies & 2 batches of fruit
St. Luke's	2 people for Sunday afternoon Clausura Setup; 2 dozen cookies & 2 dozen brownies
POP, Arlington	Wednesday night chapel setup; 1 batch of veggies.

A MESSAGE FROM THE 4th DAY/POST WEEKEND REPRESENTATIVE - From Cid Smith

Apostolic Action - Apostolic action is motivated by the desire to share Christ with the person in order that s/he desires a relationship with Jesus Christ. It reflects Christ living in us.

So, looking for an opportunity to carry out some Apostolic Action? Well have I got a deal for you! Via de Cristo 69 is just around the corner soooo -

NOTE THE DATES: August 12th and August 13th!! Why should you note the dates you ask????? Well, I'll tell you. August 12th is Serenade at the Lake Sharon Retreat Center for Via de Cristo 69. Please be at the Love Team Chapel by 1:00 and come in through the 4th Day entrance. But wait, there are more special opportunities for you. Sunday morning we will have Wake UP! Please be there by 6:00 AM - we'll have the coffee ready for you! Why not get a car load together and go to breakfast after and share in some fellowship. After Serenade and Wake Up you can top off your weekend by attending Clausura which will start at 3:30. We can always use extra bodies to help set up around 2:45!!

I would ask you to take a moment and reflect on the impact all three of these events had on you when you were a participant. Let the participants of Weekend 69 experience that same feeling! Let's remember to give back to these participants what others gave to us during our weekends - their love, their time and their participation. Remember, Apostolic action is bringing God's love to the world.

On another note. A big THANK YOU to all of you who showed up at our last Grand Ultreya! We had a terrific crowd and I believe fun was had by all. We received a lot of very good feed back regarding Ultreyas, the challenges being faced, and some ideas to foster greater participation. We will continue to introduce new ideas and create more 4th Day fellowship and involvement. Our next Grand Ultreya will be in October - the specific date and location is still to be determined. Who can turn down all that delicious food anyway??

If you want to get involved in an Ultreya or Reunion Group and need some help, please contact me at either Cidcs@msn.com or 214-676-0680.

God's Peace, Cid Smith

INTERESTED IN SERVING? - PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Date of Birth _____ M _____ F _____

Home Phone (required) _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ Phone: _____

Please check all weekends you could serve: August _____ November _____ April _____

Your Weekend Information: Community _____ Number _____ Date _____

Will you serve on a music team? Sing? _____ Play an instrument? _____

Cut out and send completed form to:

**Vickie Clark, Via de Cristo Training Director
2100 Oak Hill Road, Fort Worth, TX 76112
training@ntls.org**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

VIA DE CRISTO #69 IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

The Via de Cristo of North Texas currently sponsors three weekends each year. The two remaining weekends this year are::

Via de Cristo #69: Aug. 10, 2006 through Aug. 13, 2006

Via de Cristo #70: November 09, 2006 through November 12, 2006

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North Texas Lutheran Secretariat
7633 Castillo Road
Fort Worth, TX 76112

To: