

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.

# EL TINTERO

North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo  
www.ntnl.org



August 2014  
Weekend #91

## Greetings from your Rector

By Weekend #91 Rector, Bob Johnson

De Colores dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Weekend #91 is only a few more days away! I have to admit I am nervous, I'm excited but mostly I'm humbled to be serving as rector for the weekend. The staff has been called, the Rollos have been written and God has planned a wondrous weekend filled with His power and love.

In the spirit of love and caring our saint for this weekend is St. Stephen. The Apostles appointed Stephen as a deacon in order to care for the needs of the faithful. This is why the care-based Stephen's Ministry is named after him. However most will recognize St. Stephen as the first martyr of Christianity. Acts 7:55-60 *But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they*

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*were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Our Bible verse is John 13:35: *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

I want to thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue praying daily for the participants and staff. Along with your prayers I also encourage you to participate on the weekend by writing palanca and attending Serenade, Wake-up and Clausura. Let's demonstrate to the participants how much we care about and love them by our presence at these events. ULTREYA!

Bob Johnson  
Rector Weekend #91

## Hands, Feet, Eyes, Ears and Voice of Christ

By Doug Guinn

Greetings my fellow fourth day sisters and brothers! I'm hoping that you have had a great summer, taking time to refresh by spending a little more quality time with family and friends. The weather, while hot, has been a little less so this summer as I heard last night on the weather report that officially we had only one 100 degree day. Actually kind of refreshing for a North Texas summer!

It is also a time of refreshment for our Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas community! First, in less than two weeks we will be once again celebrating another Via de Cristo weekend, #91 (August 14-17, 2014) and welcoming yet another family of three-day pilgrims to our fourth day community. It is important to

remember that the weekend is but a special introduction into how to live out the rest of our lives (fourth day) focused on being the hands, feet, eyes, ears and voice of Christ in whatever environment God places us in. It is so important that we remember to "make a friend, be a friend and then pray about our friend, as we introduce them to our best friend, Christ". Please take the opportunity to put this into practice with these new cursillistas as they experience their weekend. There are many ways you can do this, both in person and from wherever you are.

- 1) Most importantly, pray for each one of the participants before, during and after their weekend.
- 2) Write each participant notes of encouragement for

Please see *Hands* page 4

## God's Work, Our Hands

By Doug Guinn

I'm very excited about the possibilities God has in store for our community in the coming months. Your Secretariat also has continuing needs for which we request your prayers, and support. We continue to look for members of our community to step forward to fill the following open appointed Secretariat positions:

- 1) Database Manager and
- 2) Historian,

as well as to relieve long standing members in the positions of:

- 3) Web Servant and
- 4) Logistics

If God has given you talents for any of these,



*Palanca comes in many forms.*

please pray about whether he may be calling you to share them in one of these ways. Feel free to contact me directly at [doug.guinn@gmail.com](mailto:doug.guinn@gmail.com) or 817.807.3181 so that I can share more details about what the position requires.

Blessings to you all in your fourth day, the rest of your life.

Ultreya!

## Refresh, Rediscover & Recommit–National Gathering News

By Doug Guinn

Last week (July 24-27) I attended my first National Lutheran Via de Cristo Gathering in Catonsville (near Baltimore), Maryland, on the beautiful University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus, along with Pastor Janet Kraatz and Alice Allison of our community. The theme verse for this Gathering was Exodus 33:14, "God said, 'My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end.'" The word for the weekend was "Encouragement", and that is what I received at every turn. What a great experience to be with hundreds of other brothers and sisters in Christ who have such a passionate love for our Lord! I really felt the common bond of the love of Christ in everyone I met and talked with. While we came from all parts of the country, and each of our communities do things a little differently,

we are all focused on one thing, and that is "how to keep the main thing the main thing", which is to introduce participants to a method or discipline over a three day period that will serve as a guide for living a life in Christ, for those who apply it, for the rest of their life. John 13: 34-35 says it well, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

While there were a few business meetings, the Gathering primarily consisted of the same type of faith-building activities we experience on our Via de Cristo weekends. Lay and Clergy talks, reunion small groups, inspiring worship and of course

*We are looking for feedback and fresh ideas from each of you as to how we can better keep "the main thing the main thing"*

Please see *Refresh* on page 5



*"My presence will go with you. I'll see the journey to the end."*

## Weekend #91 Participants!

By Author

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Church</i>
Aaron Colwick	Kimbal Markwardt	Grace Lutheran – Carrollton
Alix Gebhardt	Deb Louden-McCann	Good Shepherd – Irving
Chris Gebhardt	Carol Van Buskirk	Grace Lutheran – Carrollton
Heather Johnson	Rose Johnson	Faith Lutheran – Flower Mound
Nicole Martin	Janet Kraatz	Trinity Lutheran – Ft. Worth
Nancy Matthews	Debbie Thomas	Calvary Lutheran – Richland Hills
Todd McCann	Carol Van Buskirk	Advent Lutheran – Arlington
LaNelle McCown	Joyce Ness	Calvary Lutheran – Richland Hills
Aaron Murphy	Bob Johnson	Faith Lutheran – Flower Mound
Cynthia Murphy	Bob Johnson	Faith Lutheran – Flower Mound



*Please pray for each participant!*

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Church</i>
Craig Ryason	Eslyn Chapman	Advent Lutheran – Arlington
Ron Stuart	Roger Anders	King of Glory – Dallas
Carol Swing	Jane Winge	Rejoice Lutheran – Frisco
Steve Swing	Jane Winge	Rejoice Lutheran – Frisco
Sarah Woodworth	Jenny Hubler	Faith Lutheran – Ft. Worth

Please see *Everyone* on page 4

## Growing With Our Weekend #91 Staff

By Author Name

<b><i>Rector</i></b>	Bob Johnson
<b><i>Spiritual Director</i></b>	Janet Kraatz
<b><i>Rector's CHA</i></b>	Laura Talafuse
<b><i>Food CHA</i></b>	Shelly Brennan
<b><i>Palanca CHA</i></b>	Debi Gebhardt
<b><i>Tech CHA</i></b>	Terry Brennan
<b><i>Ideal Rollo</i></b>	Terri Hefner
<b><i>Piety Rollo</i></b>	Laura Huddleston
<b><i>Action Rollo</i></b>	Kathleen Bower-Gray
<b><i>Environment Rollo</i></b>	Mary Amighi
<b><i>Fourth Day Rollo</i></b>	Lisa Harrington

<b><i>Observing Rector</i></b>	Greg Hefner
<b><i>Spiritual Director</i></b>	Rusty Sullivan
<b><i>Music CHA</i></b>	Keegan McConnell
<b><i>Food CHA</i></b>	Debra Apls
<b><i>Palanca CHA</i></b>	Carey Newton
<b><i>Table Leader</i></b>	Doug Guinn
<b><i>Laity Rollo</i></b>	Bob Thomas
<b><i>Study Rollo</i></b>	Rick Nyman
<b><i>Leaders Rollo</i></b>	Michael Weir
<b><i>CCIA Rollo</i></b>	Daily Taylor

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*Hands from page 1*

each of the three days of their weekend journey. And then for their fourth day as well. These are tangible reminders to them of our prayers for them.

- 3) Contact our community's Weekend Representative Curt Thompson, [thomkmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomkmc@sbcglobal.net) or [817-235-1897](tel:817-235-1897), to see how you can help with setting up for the weekend on the Wednesday evening (August 13) before. Remember, more hands make for lighter (and quicker work), with the added benefit of spending time with some pretty fun people to hang out with ☺
- 4) Arrive at Briarwood 12:40PM Saturday to participate in the behind the scenes serenade to the new cursillistas in the Love Team Chapel (Oak Grove Lodge).

*Staff from page 3*

**The participants of Weekend #91 are in for such a blessing! The staff of Weekend #91 has the best of the best talent anyone can hope for. Of course, we always ask you to**

- 5) Arrive by 6AM Sunday morning to wake up the cursillistas with joyous song.
- 6) Arrive by 2:30PM Sunday afternoon to help set up for Clausura (Closing Worship) in the Shalom Center (Dining Hall)...and then stay for worship...Or just come by 3:00PM to celebrate worship with our new pilgrims!
- 7) Also, contact Curt Thompson to see how you can help with take down after the Clausura is over. This weekend we will be inviting the new participants to get introduced into our community right away by asking them to stay and fellowship with the rest of us, as we all help put away "our community's weekend setup items" so that all members of the community can leave Briarwood at a reasonable time to enjoy a homecoming. As I said in Item 3), more hands make for lighter (and quicker work)...and ditto for another opportunity to hang out with some fun folks. ☺

**pray for our staff, to keep them strong in the Lord. But, we also know you can't really get too much of a good thing on grace-filled weekends like these! Ultreya!!**

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." -- John 13:35:*

*Everyone from page 3*

Each participant is precious to the Via de Cristo movement. Please keep each and every one of them in your prayers, remember them in your gifts of palanca, and as your paths continue to cross during Small Groups, Ultreya meetings, and potentially as you serve together on staff, keeping our theme to "make a friend, be a friend and then pray about our friend, as we introduce them to our best friend, Christ"

*Refresh from page 2*

sharing meals together! We also participated in dialogues on several available topics (I attended one for Lay Directors and on Discipleship). Then there were Regional Meetings. The conversations from these meetings is what has me the most excited. First, I found out that we are in Region 3, which consists of Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. Within this Region there are 4 Secretariats: A-OK, Heart of America, Texas Lutheran VdC (South Texas) and us, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas, (LVDCNT). Three of these were represented at this Gathering, A-OK, South Texas and LVDCNT. We each learned about how the other Secretariats function and about the unique things about each other's weekends. Each of us took away ideas from the others that will help improve how we do things. I will be keeping in touch with these other Lay Directors to bounce ideas off of and hope they will do the same.

One of the National Secretariat's initiatives that began a year or so ago is called "Rediscover & Recommit" (R&R). This program is basically to help Secretariats and communities such as ours to learn

what it means to rediscover and recommit ourselves to God's greater purpose. It is an interactive workshop facilitated by Regional Coordinators designed to **Rediscover** the power and purpose of the Via de Cristo method + **Recommit** to the established essentials. It is a dialogue opportunity for identifying both blessings and barriers, and to rekindle the entire LVDCNT community. All are invited and encouraged to attend. We are looking for feedback and fresh ideas from each of you as to how we can better keep "the main thing the main thing", How can the North Texas Via de Cristo community better support you in bringing Christ's influence to your environments, and support your church's ministries as you both grow in Christ. Please pencil in on your calendar to attend Sunday afternoon, January 11, 2015 (exact starting time to be announced later this month) for some true "R&R"!



*How can the North Texas Via de Cristo community better support you?*

# ULTREYA

