

August 2016

El Tintéro



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

A Message from the Rector

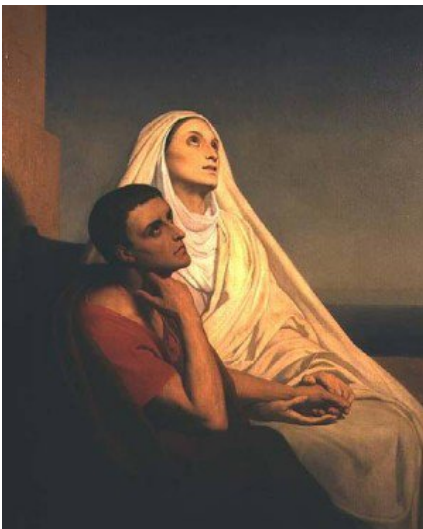
Briarwood Lutheran Retreat Center Hosts Weekend #97

Wayne Shuck

Rector, Weekend #97

Our God is a God of second chances. On March 19, 2008 (8 years ago) I had completed two of the four pre-weekend Staff Meetings as OR when I was stuck down by Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) and had to drop out of weekend #74. People of this community surrounded my bedside and smothered me in love and prayer. After three months God gave me back a voice; not the same voice I had before but after years of steady improvement God (acting through the VDC Secretariat) has given me a second chance. This time as Rector of weekend #97. While the quality of my speech has suffered I can still speak to how our God nurtures and blesses; especially through the loving arms of our Via de Cristo community. Through the miracle and power of prayer God has blessed me beyond belief and has taught me many lessons. The greatest lesson has been that God is in control (not me). Another lesson of significance is that "God is a God of Second Chances".

Our saint for the Weekend will be Saint Augustine. St. Augustine left his faith during his early adult years to pursue a life marked by lust and pride. The saint attributed his conversion back to the faith to factors such as his mother's prayers. Sound familiar?



Saint Augustine & Mother Saint Monica

DO NOT BE AFRAID

Doug Guinn

Lay Director, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have found myself somewhat discouraged and concerned lately about the state of our world and personally about transitions happening in my life that just don't seem to go the way I would like. I don't know about you, but I don't know what I would do if I didn't have a loving God and Savior to turn to when life seems beyond my or anyone's control. In the Bible, how many times do we read "Do Not Be Afraid". When I did a search with these words in my Bible Gateway app, It brought up 81 results. God is saying to us. "Don't worry, I love you and I've got your back". From John 14:27, Jesus says:

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Later, in John 16:33 Jesus says:

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

The Cursillo© method that we learned on our Via de Cristo weekend helps us to remain connected to God and to His children in community with each other. As we join together in our small reunion groups and at Ultreyas and Grand Ultreyas, we build up and encourage each other to persevere in our life's journey in Christ, to make friends, be friends and then introduce our friends to Christ. The world is hungry for a Savior. Let us each in our environment, be that prism that Christ's light shines through to illuminate others lives with the love of Christ.

Thanks be to a God who loves and cares for us so much that he was willing to let His only Son suffer, be crucified, and die for us, a broken and sinful people, whom despite our shortcomings, He chose and adopted as His children, so that just as Christ defeated death, and rose to new life, we too might live eternally with Him.

God loves you, and so do I.

Ultreya!

-Doug Guinn
Lay Director

Welcome, Weekend #97 Participants!

Participant	Church	Sponsor
WESLEY JOHNSON	King of Glory, Dallas	David Miller
SHARON MCMULLEN	First Church of Christ, Scientist	Sybil Shuck
ANN SIZEMORE	Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Dallas	Wayne Shuck
MARILYN POTTER	Good Shepherd, Irving	Elsie Kroussakis
LOUIS C. JENSEN	Faith, Flower Mound	Rose Johnson

Weekend #97 Staff

Name	Role
Wayne Shuck	Rector
Molli Harris	Rector's Cha
Louann Grams	Rector's Cha Cha
Shelly Brennan	Palanca Cha
Heather Johnson	Palanca Cha
Terry Brennan	Food Cha
Rose Johnson	Food Cha
Carey Newton	Music Cha
David Van Buskirk	Observing Rector
David Pederson	Ideal
Lorraine Markwardt	Laity
Sybil Shuck	Piety
Sharon Dobbs	Study
Jim Bingaman	Action
Paul Dobbs	Leaders
Roger Anders	Environments and Tech Cha
Mike Mayo	Christian Community in Action
Helen Mayo	Total Security in the 4th Day
Janet Kraatz	Spiritual Director
Olin Knudsen	Spiritual Director
Melanie Swenson	Table Leader

Please pray for Participants and Staff !



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Make LVDCNT Your Thrivent Choice!

Thrivent Choice, the Thrivent Financial charitable giving program, allows eligible benefit members to participate in choosing where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funds. Eligibility for Choice Dollars is based on a benefit member's involvement in Thrivent Financial, their level of product ownership (life insurance, health insurance, and annuities), and volunteer leadership.

Please make your choice Lutheran Via De Cristo of North Texas! To assign your Choice Dollars, go online and visit www.Thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 and say 'Thrivent Choice.'

As your Choice Dollars recipient, this will help us continue our mission of providing Grace Weekends!

Aren't grace weekends great?!

You know they are! Please consider making a contribution. Your gift of \$160.00 can sponsor a participant! Please see the DONATE page of our website (<http://www.vdcnorthtexas.org>) or contact Tim Talafuse, Treasurer, tstalafuse@verizon.net or (972) 966-0326 for the many ways that you can give to help support the Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas community.

Volunteers Needed!

Are you looking for a way to be an important part of each Via de Cristo? We need you. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. Blessings!

Weekend Altar Guild Team Members

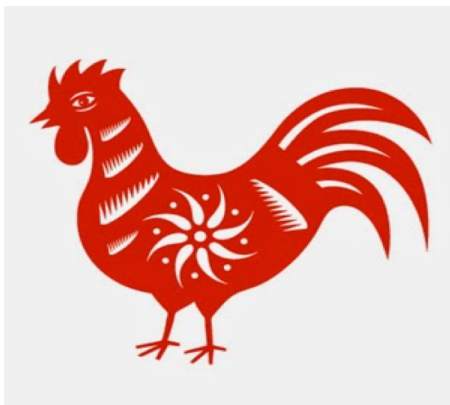
We have a few members of this new team, but need more folks to make the work lighter.

For each Via de Cristo we need:

- 1-2 people to set up the chapel altar in the Quail Run Lodge (Wednesday Evening)
- 1-2 people to move the altar linens and altar ware from Quail Run Lodge and set up the Clausura altar in the Leadership Center (Sunday Afternoon)
- 1-2 people to remove, clean (as necessary) pack, and store altar ware and linens (Sunday after Clausura) then deliver to Briarwood the Wednesday evening before the next VdC. The cost for dry cleaning is reimbursable from the secretariat.
- 1 person to be the Altar Guild leader

Detailed instructions are available.

Contact: Jerry Gray, Weekend Representative,
jerrygray9@aol.com or (972) 539-0429.



Palanca!

Shelly Brennan, Palanca Coordinator

A lever. An essential element. Official palanca definitions. Sounds pretty cut and dried on this level, but how about how it really affects people? Remember your reaction? Or notice the reactions of participants when you staffed?

"Wow! Fun. What is all this stuff?"

"Who are all these people?"

"Amazing! Touching."

"Impressive. Overwhelming!"

"That lifted my spirit! Cool!"

That's what happens on the weekends with the palanca delivery and how your expressions of love and prayers become such an important (essential) part of each participant's experience.

This weekend #97 is right around the corner and presents another opportunity for you to demonstrate God's love in action. Thank you in advance for all the various kinds of palanca that your collective creativity generate and thank God how it graces the participants!

As you are addressing your envelopes, would you please put first names first. The palanca CHAs would be most grateful.

Make a
Joyful noise
Unto The Lord!

GRACE WEEKENDS DON'T END WITH CLAUSURA!

Remember how wonderful your weekend was? Let's make this weekend just as wonderful for all the participants. A couple of things I know we need is help with set up for Clausura and take down after Clausura. Many hands make light work. We have very little time Sunday afternoon to get set up. Take down includes getting all of our belongings back into storage. Many times the storage aspect has fallen on very few people. We cannot expect the storage aspect of take down to be handled by just 4 or 5 people. Please plan to stay after Clausura and help us until everything is put away.



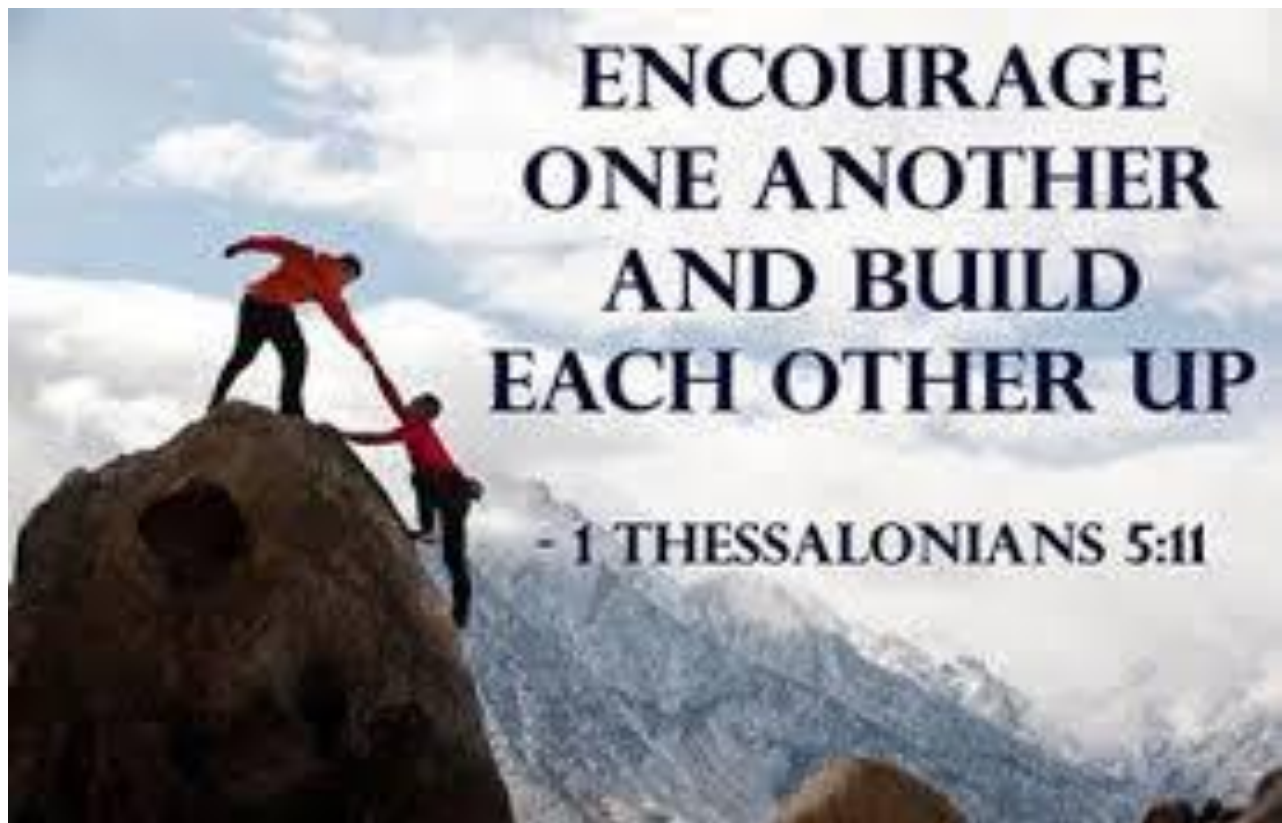
Via de Cristo Weekend #97 Needs You, Too!

Activity	Arrival Time	Location
<u>Wednesday Evening Setup</u> and <u>Food Palanca Dropoff</u>	Wed., August 10 th at 6:30PM	Streng Leadership Center and Oak Grove 4th Day Room
Thursday Evening Palanca/ <u>Food Palanca Dropoff</u>	Thurs., August 11 th at 6:30PM	Oak Grove 4th Day Room
Serenade	Sat. August 13 th at 12:40PM	Oak Grove Lodge
Wakeup	Sun., August 14 th at 6:00AM	Streng Leadership Center
<u>Clausura Setup</u>	Sun., August 14 th at 2:30PM	Streng Leadership Center
Clausura	Sun., August 14 th at 3:15PM	Streng Leadership Center
<u>Weekend Takedown</u>	Sun., August 14 th at 5:00PM	Streng Leadership Center
Homecomings	Sun., August 14 th 6:00PM	Various Locations

Loving Levers

By Helen Mayo, Secretary

As secretary to the Secretariat, it's my job to take notes and then turn them into minutes. When I think of notes, I often think of written Palanca. Remember the notes of support that you received on your weekend? The upcoming August weekend brings yet another wonderful opportunity to gift others with your Palanca. But Palanca isn't limited to written notes – you can check on the Via de Cristo of North Texas website if you want to sign up to bring food. You can also gift the participants with your presence at the Saturday afternoon Serenade, Sunday morning's wake-up and the Sunday afternoon Clausura. Remember how great it was to see so many people welcoming you into the 4th day community? And there is always the Palanca of prayer – lifting up the weekend participants and staff alike. Remember – Palanca stands for lever – and that's what we are called to do – to lift others up. **Ultreya!**



Ultreya!

Carol Otterstad, Post-Weekend Representative

If you are the leader of an ultreya in your congregation or a small group of congregations please send me your name and email address, and/or phone number and best times to call to: carol.otterstad@gmail.com. You can call or text me also at (469) 671-8077. I am trying to find ways to better connect the community and our local Ultreyas.

There will be a Grand Ultreya in October. While there is no confirmed date or location as of yet, plans are in the works. Watch for an email announcement coming to you soon!

ULTREYA!