

El Tintero

March 2013

A message from the rector of Weekend #87

I would like to begin by saying: "WOW!"

You know that part Thursday night when the rector reads, "It will surprise you, I think...particularly tomorrow...to see how much effort has gone into preparing for *your* Via de Cristo Weekend..." Remember hearing that part of the rector's opening comments? Let me tell you, I had no idea! When Gerald called me to serve as rector of WE 87, I *thought* I knew the inner workings of the weekend pretty well. I had only begun to see what goes on. And this weekend isn't even here! I'm sure I am still in for more major eye opening...both logistically and of course, spiritually! Please pray for me, our Staff and our Participants as God continues to mold us and prepare us for this task!

I would like to thank all faithful 4thDayers who have done so much through the years to keep our movement *moving*. I thank you in advance for all you will do for these Participants whom God has called to be on this weekend. They are going to be loved, graced, ministered to, served, loved some more and graced some more as we go through WE 87. Thank you for all your prayers, logistics, palanca, both written and the living palanca of your presence! Driving through the metroplex in the pre-dawn hours, navigating the construction just for that Glorious Wake-Up Moment! And again later that day just for that slice of Heaven we call Clausura which we will be giving the Participants and ourselves, thank you. I can't wait to see you March 14th through the 17th! Please remember to give as the Lord leads you at the closing worship or through other giving to our movement so we can continue to have "grace" weekends.

I would also like to thank Sponsors who have heard God's call to "Evangelize their Environments." May God Bless You as you have blessed this weekend with the gift of your Participant's presence. We will take good care of them and the Lord will give them back you refreshed and better than ever!

A note to those of you dropping off your Participants Thursday night, March 14: there will now be reflective Via de Cristo signs at the entrance to Camp Briarwood from Copper Canyon Rd. There will also be reflective signs directing you back to Quail Run where we will be waiting. We also plan to post staffers to help direct you at both those spots. For Sunday morning Wake Up the reflective sign will again be at the entrance to the camp as well as at the fork in the road directing you back to the Shalom Center (Dining Hall) by the swimming pool. 4th Day will enter from the parking lot side, staff and Participants will be coming in the back through our Chapel area opposite the 4th Day entrance. Clausura, same as Wake-up, but it will be daylight!

I am incredibly blessed, honored and humbled to work with the staff of Via de Cristo #87, the *greatest* team of prayer warriors , loving and *giving* staff one of our weekends ever had! Ok, Ok, I know I am just a bit amped and just a bit prejudiced, so I hope you will forgive me...but the staff *God* has assembled here for Weekend #87 has just jumped right in and embraced their tasks, ministered to each other and me, opened their hearts to one another and shared their faith in a way I find totally astounding! It is a unique team uniquely crafted by the Master's Hand to minister to our unique group of Participants...*"For such a time as this!"*

One of the greatest gifts to our staff has been the gift of two first-time Spiritual Directors: Pastor Nick Billardello of Abiding Grace in Southlake and Reverend Ella Luna of Casa Emmanu-El in Dallas, a United Methodist Church. They are just so brave, faithful, spirit-led and full of fresh ideas. I can't wait till you meet them too.

I am completely certain that words are inadequate to describe this experience of serving as rector. I have been simultaneously elated and humbled; felt overwhelmed and yet buoyed up by God's Spirit and Grace. Only through admitting my inadequacy for this task and yielding totally to God has His peace come. As Weekend #87 draws near, as final preparations are made, I only ask your continued prayers for God's guidance as we do our best to give back to Him for all we have been given!

Thank You for ALL you do! May God continue to richly Bless and keep you!

In Christ's Love,

De Colores! and Ultreya!

Carol

Funding

Did you know that we receive donations to Via de Cristo from church budgets? Check with your finance team and see if your church can be included. Did you know you can mail checks to John Harris each month to help with our grace weekends? Did you know the offering at Clausura helps pay for grace weekends? Please consider all of this and do what you can so we can continue to have grace weekends here in North Texas.

Help Needed

Please don't forget we need help setting up on Wednesday night, and setting up and cleaning up after Clausura. Many hands make for a light task. We will have a new storage unit at Briarwood which will make this process simpler in the future.

Don't forget coming to serenade and wake-up also. Remember how you were impacted by this on your weekend.

Participants

Participant	Church	Sponsor
Ethan Beiler	Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills	Don Holmes
Michelle Billardello	Abiding Grace Lutheran, Southlake	Linda Neal
Pat Dargavel	Rejoice Lutheran, Frisco	Maureen Dana
Karen Hurtado	Abiding Grace Lutheran, Southlake	Alice Allison
Berta McLemore	Home Church, Arlington	Robin Mains
Peter O'Neill	Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound	Jerry Gray
Linda Rachui	Trinity Lutheran, Clifton	Linda Grams
Max Raulins	Grace Lutheran, Carrollton	Toni Gomez
Esther Rentoria	Casa Emanu-El UMC, Dallas	Ella Luna
Dee Rose	Abiding Grace Lutheran, Southlake	Linda Gaffney
Virginia Stern	Plymouth Park UMC, Irving	Ella Luna
Eric Swenson	Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills	Bob & Debbie Thomas
Donna Talafuse	Faith Community Lutheran, Longmont, Colorado	Laura Talafuse
Paul Talafuse	Faith Community Lutheran Longmont, Colorado	Kathleen Talafuse

Please pray for these participants. That is what palanca truly is about. Letters of encouragement are very welcome but prayer must go with it. Please bring those to the 4th day area on Oak Grove.

Grand Ultreya

Save the Date—grand ultreya will be held at Faith in Flower Mound on May 18. We will begin setting up at 5pm and will eat at 5:30pm. This will be followed by a service. Please come and welcome our new 4thdayers to this event.