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The Taste

April 2005

Newsletter for

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Men's Weekend #5 April 21 – April 24, 2005

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Women's Weekend #5 April 28 – May 1, 2005

Please pray for all the pilgrims, those committed and those undecided

Pilgrim's – ToG Men's Weekend #5	Pilgrim's – ToG Women's Weekend #5
Thomas Christianson	Viola Christiansen
Bill Gora	Linda Henize
David Helfert	Nichole Johnson
Joseph Roy Tietjens	Susan Lacy
	Unconfirmed/Undecided–ToG Women's W/end #5
	Kay Bonner
	Sue Ehret
	Karen Oehlwein
	Ondra Williams
	Janet Wisemiller

I will update this table on the website as I receive updates. *Last updated 4/23/05*

Prayers:

- Lord, please be with your children whom you are calling to attend the upcoming spring weekends. Be also with the teams you've formed, that they are able to be Christ's hands, heart and ears to the pilgrims attending.
- Ultimate Healer, please be with all those fighting cancer. Be with the patient for healing, with the medical profession for wisdom and with loved ones for comfort.
- Father God, thank you for those you place in our lives, for our marriage partners, our reunion brothers & sisters and all others that help shape us into who you would like for us to become
- Our prayers continue for the Cursillistas from Taste of Grace #1, #2, #3, and #4 as they continue their 4th day journey. May they remember the mountaintop as they work in the hills and valley.
- Pray for our troops--that God will guard and guide them whether they serve at home, overseas or in the volatile fields of Afghanistan and Iraq. Pray for their protection and for peace of mind for their friends, family and loved ones.
- Dear Lord, please be with those of us who are depressed. Help us to overcome this dark void of sadness and despair. Wrap your loving arms around us and lift us up and give us the strength to overcome.
- Thank you Lord, for your never ending love, grace, and forgiveness in our lives.

Palanca Plea: There are still time slots to be filled on the prayer scroll (see page 5 for details.) Goods of any kind expressing your prayers are also desired. Whether these expressions of prayer are donations of snacks/drinks, trinkets, individual palanca letters, or community palanca letters to be read during the weekend all are welcome and appreciated.



From our Lay Director:

John 21:4 When it was already very early morning, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 21:5 So Jesus said to them, "Children, you don't have any fish, do you?" They replied, "No." 21:6 He told them, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they threw the net, and were not able to pull it in because of the large number of fish.

21:7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" So Simon Peter, when he heard that it was the Lord, tucked in his outer garment (for he had nothing on underneath it), and plunged into the sea. 21:8 Meanwhile the other disciples came with the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from land, only about a hundred yards.

21:9 When they got out on the beach, they saw a charcoal fire ready with a fish placed on it, and bread. 21:10 Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you have just now caught." 21:11 So Simon Peter went aboard and pulled the net to shore. It was full of large fish, one hundred fifty-three, but

although there were so many, the net was not torn. 21:12 "Come, have breakfast," Jesus said. But none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. 21:13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 21:14 This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

I've written about this passage before but in a different context. Here I wanted to point out what Jesus is doing, he's making breakfast for the workers. The Risen Jesus, The Christ, lights up a charcoal fire (we'd call it a barbecue) and prepares and cooks fish and bread for his friends. The only other place we see this fire is in Luke:

Chapter 22: 22:54 Then they arrested Jesus, led him away, and brought him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. 22:55 When they had made a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them.

Here Simon Peter is in the High Priest's courtyard and is about to betray Jesus, not

once but 3 times in a night and he betrays him by a fire. Is this a deliberate echo, Jesus way of showing forgiveness once more? Is there someone you need to forgive? Forgiveness can be very difficult for us all, sometimes the person we most want to forgive refuses to recognize the fact they've wronged us, but we still need to forgive them. Pray to God for the ability to forgive, ask him to lift the burden of resentment or bitterness from your heart to you can start to love that person again. Remember we are commanded as Christians to love everyone.

A Plea. The weekends are approaching fast. We really need soft drinks, bottled water and snacks for the pilgrims. Baked goods are always welcome too. Please bring them Thursday night, or if you have baked goods and would like the pilgrims to get them fresh, please come by on the day you would like them to be delivered. As always please go to the 4th Day Room when you visit.

God loves you all and so do I

Simon



***Taste of Grace #5
Rectora***

Grace be unto you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is hard to believe that the Taste of Grace weekends #5 will soon be upon us! So much to prepare for, and yet it seems like there is never enough time. Even though the team trainings have come to an end, we must continue to persevere more than ever. For it always seems that the closer we get to the weekends, the more the enemy tries to foil our plans and trip us up. But take heart, faithful servants as we are reminded in John 16:33 that He has overcome the world.

As we approach the weekend, it is just as important as ever to remember the palanca. Not just the trinkets, but the tool of leverage, the tool of prayer. Continue to hold Taste of Grace #5 in your daily prayers. Pray that God will continue to send down His holy spirit and bless the endeavors that we are doing for Him and for His glory. Pray that through our works, His kingdom will continue to grow and know

no end. Pray for the pilgrims that they will grow closer to God and walk closer with Christ. And especially pray for those pilgrims that God is still calling to the weekend, that they will hear His voice and his gentle nudging and answer His call.

Prayer is the foundation of the Via de Cristo weekends. If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up for a time slot (or two or three!) on the 72-hour prayer vigil. Please help us to achieve the goal of surrounding the pilgrims of Taste of Grace #5 with the almost never-ending unrolling of the prayer scroll. Remember how touched you were with the knowledge that someone was praying for ***you, just for you***, during your entire weekend? Please help us to pay it forward and to help us reach through to the pilgrims about God's unending love and grace.

Let me end by expressing how much of a growing experience serving as Rectora for Taste of Grace #5 has been. God has continued to stretch me and help me grow in ways that I didn't know possible. These past few months have been a time of total trust as I found

myself unsure of how to lead a team of women and prepare them to be the hands and feet of Jesus for pilgrims of Taste of Grace #5. "God doesn't called the equipped, He equips the called" has become my daily mantra! I will continue to step out in faith as I gear up for the purpose of all of this preparation and serve the pilgrims by acting as their Rectora.

And now I will end by taking this time to thank the women who make up the Taste of Grace #5 team. I thank you for the faith and trust that you have placed in me by agreeing to work by my side. I hope that the past few months have been a time of your own personal growth as well as renewal of old friendships and the creation of new ones. But just remember, the best is yet to come when we come together one final time to serve the pilgrims on Taste of Grace #5!

Until then, remember that God loves you and so do I!
De Colores!

Your Sister in Christ,

Amy Prior



From Lenny Koniewicz

Look at where the Lord leads us when we don't go out to lunch at work

A drive to work

As I drive many miles I pray for God's guidance
I look for His signs and hope I don't miss them
He's all around me and all I hear is silence
But in actuality I am drowning Him

Drowning Him in silence and praying for help
Am I really listening or blocking Him out
I hope I'm strong enough to truly seek His will
Even though I frustrate myself and want to cry

When all is said and done I feel His presence
And thank Him for His patience with me
His Blessings are surrounding me I sense
Thank you God for allowing me to see

Feel His Glory feel His power
I yell out in a rage of emotion
Praise the Lord louder and louder
Happy I am now at my destination

One last prayer as I move forward
Lord God help me not be sour
Give me strength not to be a coward
To proclaim your presence like a blooming flower

Recommended Reading by Lisa Bickus

Does this sound like you? You have nothing to give to GOD but your problems? You offer him all your hurts. You want to accept his gift of grace, but you feel unworthy of his sacrifice.

Maybe that has kept you from coming to GOD. Oh, you've taken a step or two in his direction. But then you see the other people who follow him. They seem so clean, so neat, so trim and fit in their faith. So you hesitate.

(Want to read more...pick up the book...The Best of Max Lucado... A Classic Collection....)

Camp Parking

With the weekends at hand, please remember that there really aren't many parking places at Dickson Valley Camp near the buildings we use. The camp is used by other visitors while we are there, so we should try not to park on the grass when possible. In some cases, car pooling is the best answer. After you unload your car, if you could try to find a spot at the end of the circle between the dining hall and the pilgrims sleeping quarters, the camp would appreciate it.

Car pooling is the best way to go when it comes to the serenade. Remember to check with everyone in your party to see if they are available to help clean up after the serenade. The camp doesn't provide personnel after hours for this and any extra hand are welcomed and appreciated.

We are still looking forward to the new dining space. We were all hopeful that it would be available for this set of weekends, but it doesn't look like that will happen. It should be available before the fall weekends. Unless of course, it isn't. Please remember to pray for the teams, and pilgrims. And sign up for the prayer scroll!

Live always in God's unending peace,
Ed Walter
Weekend Coordinator



Prayer Times Available for Spring '05 Weekends

72-Hour Prayer Vigil

Prayer (palanca) is the strength of the Via de Cristo weekends.
God's grace is granted to prayer and God's grace is essential to bringing the world to Jesus.

Don't delay, sign up today!

Three ways to sign up:

- Visit <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetComm.phtml>
- Call Amy Prior (4th Day Chair) at 815.230.2779
- Email Amy at AmyPrior1@aol.com

Your input is valued. Do you have anything you would like to share with the community via The Taste newsletter? Stories, devotionals, bible passages that touched your heart that you would like to share with all of us? Would you like to share with us what your weekend has meant to you? Do you have a short, clean, funny joke? What about an important event in your life, or one come up? Let me know – send me an email or call me, and I will be happy to include it in the next edition of *The Taste*.

GLYASDI
Debbie Claar ToG #1
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Is your church available for Ultreya's? If so, please contact either Gregg or Lisa Bickus at (815)-588-3209. Taste of Grace Via de Cristo holds their Ultreya's on the second Saturday of every odd month. We are in need of locations, and we bring our own supplies, and clean up when we are done. Please join us in fellowship and worship.



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Please keep the team members of Taste of Grace Weekend's #5 lifted up in prayer.

Taste of Grace #5	Men's Team	Women's Team
Rector/a	Gregg Bickus	Amy Prior
Spiritual Director	Pr Dan Stalker Pr Randy Willers	Pr Kathy Flores Pr Craig Sagebiel
Head Cha	Scott Hoecker	Jeni Thomas
Music Cha	Rob Bordenaro	Debbie Herrman
Ideal	Dave Van Zant	Lenae Kirchner
Laity	Woody Woods	Janeen Tietjens
Piety	Steve Strakis	Dani Gonigam
Study	Steve Peterson	Traci Little
Action	Andy Kjos	Jacey Hoecker
Leaders	Ken Franz	Debbie Claar
Environment	Ed Walter	Michele Koniewicz
CCIA	Dick Volker	Lisa Bickus
Silent Professor	Gene Sullivan Chuck Stiles	Janelle Tague Connie Dubenec
Head Rollo Room Cha Table Cha	Ed Walter Mike Bryant Daryl Caneva	Debbie Claar Jan Gora Carol Marshall
Head Outside Cha Utility/Kitchen Cha	Frank Marshall Gary Constantino Craig Christensen Harvey Bolton Keith Reed	Pam Sagebiel Ruth Van Zant Karen Franz Pat Dever Carolyn Clark
Head Palanca Chapel Cha	Joe Claar Reno Caneva Bob Peters Frank Brozek	Janet Nackovic Tammy Gonigam Peggy Ashby Denise Jones
Head 4 th Day Cha	Lenny Koniewicz Fred Henize	Karen Peterson Dawn Constantino Cathy Hawkins
Prayer Warrior	Robert Borger Chuck Conklin	Laurie Anderson Anita Kube



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Can you believe it? The Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Weekend #5 is here. I just attended Weekend #1 not too very long ago. Please join us in the weekend events, stop by the camp and lend a helping hand, stay and offer prayer in the palanca chapel, come and join the community in the following:

Sendoff – Please join us in the send off of the pilgrims for the men (Apr 21) and the women (Apr 28) at 7:00 pm and stay for the dedication of the crosses immediately following.

Serenade – Practice begins at 6:00 pm with serenade at 7:00 pm for the men (Apr 23) and the women (Apr 30) come and selflessly share of yourself, the serenade is open to the entire 4th day community on both the men’s and women’s weekends.

Clausura – Clausura is at 4:00 pm for the men (Apr 24) and the women (May 1), come and share in the joy of these cursillista’s as they begin their 4th day.

The location of the weekend is:
Dickson Valley Camp and Retreat Center
8250 Finnie Road
Newark IL 60541-9573
630-553-6233
630-553-6240 fax
www.dixonvalley.com

Don’t forget to sign up for the prayer scroll. We are a community based on prayer, please pray for us and with us. Pray first, pray last, pray always.

God Loves You And So Do I

Debbie Claar

Taste of Grace #5 Rector

With our weekend coming up very quickly I have sat back and thought about the Taste of Grace community and I have tried to put in words what I think our community means to me. We believe that our community is rooted in the Triune God, prayer, worship and positive leadership. We believe that we are here for a reason, and we mean right here, in the Chicagoland area. We believe that ministry is not just for the ordained, but is truly for the whole Body of Christ. We

believe that being the church is a very serious vocation, but can also be a boatload of fun too. We believe that our eye should be fixed on God’s future, and that the "glory days" are yet to come. We believe that outreach to our community, country and world is essential to our identity. We believe that when it comes to ministry, realism is a gift, and cynicism is a curse. We believe that each member of Taste of Grace should be embraced for the gifts they bring, and should have an important place in the community’s life. We believe that it’s cool to

be Lutheran, and that our Theological legacy is a gift that we have been blessed with, and have a responsibility to share. We believe we are intentional about welcoming new faces, but people and practices come and go. What is constant is the grace of Jesus Christ, and the need for healthy Christians in our community. Your involvement makes a difference! I’m confident that God will continue to do awesome work through our community.

Where’s the Love,
Gregg Bickus - Rector



Calendar of Events

Apr 21—24, 2005S Spring Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #5

- Thursday Apr 21 7:00 pm Sendoff
Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
Babysitting will be available
- Saturday Apr 23 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
- Sunday Apr 24 4:00 pm Clausura
Babysitting will be available

Apr 28-May 1, 2005 Spring Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #5

- Thursday Apr 28 7:00 pm Sendoff
Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
Babysitting will be available
- Saturday Apr 30 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
Babysitting will be available
- Sunday May 01 4:00 pm Clausura
Babysitting will be available

Ultreya May 14, 2005

Shepherd on the Hill Lutheran Church
925 East 9th Street
Lockport, IL 60441
815-838-0708
5:00 pm Pot Luck
Worship immediately following

Oct 27-30, 2005 Fall Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #6

Nov 10-13, 2005 Fall Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #6



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Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Secretariat

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Treasurer

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4th Day

Amy Prior
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Weekend

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815-254-0198

Spiritual Director

Pastor Craig Sagebiel
pjsagebiel@aol.com
815-936-0173

Leaders

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815-936-0173

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Taste of Grace Website: www.tasteofgrace.com
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In the same way let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16