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The Taste

October, 2005

Newsletter for

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

Prayer Requests

- ✂ Dear Lord, please continue lifting Annmarie up, strengthening, calming, and comforting her as she continues searching for remedies to help ease her seizures. Continue to guide and grant wisdom to her physicians. Please fill her coworkers and supervisors with compassion and understanding.
- ✂ Please Lord, also be with Kristin, protect and nourish her with your love and presence at this time of upheaval and uncertainty, guide those in charge of her care, giving them wisdom and grace to act in her best interests. Also please Lord help Gary to seek and accept the help and love that is offered to him from and thru you.
- ✂ Lord, please be with your children whom you are calling to attend the upcoming fall weekends. Be also with the teams that are forming, 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 to be with all Cursillistas in 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.
- ✂ Heavenly Father, please continue to strengthen all those affected by hurricanes and earthquakes. Give them comfort and peace, help them to maintain their health and perseverance.
- ✂ Dear Lord, continue to wrap your loving and strengthening arms around the Flores and Prior families as they struggle with Tony's illness and resulting surgery. Be with them and the doctors, guiding them all in decisions to be made regarding long term care.
- ✂ Please join me in prayer for Dan Allred, the husband of our children's nanny. He was involved in a very serious 4-wheeler accident this past weekend in Michigan. Autumn, his wife, is nearly 8 months pregnant with their first child and Dan will likely need several months of physical therapy to recover. I have no other details at this time, but I would like to pray that the doctors who are attending to Dan now are skilled in finding and diagnosing all of the injuries that threaten him. That God provide comfort and strength to Autumn and protect her unborn child. That those who will be involved in the physical therapy process are insightful and successful. That Dan and Autumn are able to rest their burdens in God's hands through the long recovery journey they have not yet begun. And above all, that as their child grows, Dan is able to be a strong, supportive and nurturing father and husband. God grant these things we ask in Jesus name.



Prayer Requests (continued)

- ✎ Dear Lord please keep your loving arms around Denise and her family as they mourn the passing of Scott. Let them feel your presence and draw strength and comfort at this time of sorrow.
- ✎ Lord, please be with Jim Emme and his family at this time. Touch Jim with your healing hands, give wisdom to his doctors, and comfort and strength to his family.
- ✎ Gracious Father, also be with Mildred and Alydia at this time. Give their doctors wisdom, let their surgeries be successful, let them and their families feel your loving presence and be strengthened with it.
- ✎ Heavenly Father continue to strengthen and lift up the family of Emma Kogut as they mourn her passing, and rejoice that she is at peace and with you.

- ✎ Dear Lord, continue to lift up and guide those in Erie IL whom are embarking on the wondrous journey of building a new church. Be with those chosen to lead, give them wisdom and help them to discern your will.
- ✎ Please Lord, let Jim Bailey and his wife Charlene feel your loving, supportive arms around them. Strengthen them as they deal with a cancer that is inoperable.
- ✎ Heavenly Father, also let Vera feel Your loving arms around her at this time of need. Give her doctors wisdom in diagnosing and treating her. Lift Vera up, strengthen and nourish her. Dear Lord, also be with Dawn and her family, giving them strength and comfort.

PRAY FIRST, PRAY LAST, PRAY ALWAYS

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| 1. Make a friend |
| 2. Be a friend |
| 3. Bring a friend to Christ |



Submitted by Vi Christensen ToG #5

• God Bless you!
 I asked the Lord to bless you
 As I prayed for you today
 To guide you and protect you
 As you go along your way....
 His love is always with you
 His promises are true
 No matter what the tribulation
 You know He will see us through
 So, when the road you're traveling on
 Seems difficult at best
 Give your problems to the Lord
 And God will do the rest

Did you ever consider.....

- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- The early worm gets eaten by the bird, so sleep late.
- When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.



Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Lay Director

Simon Prior

The weekends we run are not the *raison d'être* for Taste of Grace. The weekends are merely how we equip people to live better Christ-centered lives; the weekend is the beginning, not the end.

If you haven't already done so I would like you to pray about coming to the sendoffs and dedication of the crosses services for the upcoming weekends. Also pray about signing up for the 72 hour prayer scroll, coming to the serenade and being there at the clausura. Come and show your love and support for the pilgrims as they start on a journey that will last them the rest of their lives.

And how are they and we sustained in this journey? By being in community, by being accountable to our

brothers and sisters in Christ and by holding others accountable. We do this through our group re-unions and Ultreyas, by gathering together with those we like and love (and maybe some we don't like but love anyway) and talking about our triumphs and failures, our hopes fulfilled and our disappointments.

But how can we do this if we don't meet up with the rest of our community? If you don't come to the November and May Ultreyas what impression do you think that makes on our new pilgrims?

You, yes you, reading this; Taste of Grace needs you. This is what I want you to do: Come to the send-offs, the serenades and the clausuras.

Pray for the teams and pilgrims. Bring snacks to the camp site with you. Come to the ultreyas, especially the May November and January ones.

Why January? Because it's our AGM where we vote in new officers to the secretariat and vote on changes to the by-laws.

We need you at all these things. If you won't/can't/don't like to we, the secretariat, would love to know why, would love to know what it would take to get you there. Please talk to us about it, or email, or phone.

If not you, then who? If not now, then when? If not like this, then how?





Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #6 Rector

Life Together in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Day...
Friends in Christ, what does life together
(or in community) look like?

Psalm 133:1, "How good and pleasant it is WHEN brothers live together in unity!" Therefore, how blessed we are to have shared a Taste of (HIS) Grace as friends in Christ!

This past weekend we have had the privilege, honor and blessing to gather to deepen our relationship to God, in Christ, and to deepen our relationships with each other. We've had a timeout from worldly distractions and "time in" with God. Make no mistake... it was God who called us to this weekend and it is God who softens our hearts to respond to His call.

Rom 8:28-29 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son..."

If you are wondering what His purpose is for you, then please consider a spiritual director to assist you. One definition of a spiritual director (from the book *Celebration of Discipline* by Foster) is,

"God's usher- one who leads souls in God's way, and not his own."

Sometimes we have big picture questions like His purpose for my life, other times the questions are more basic such as: what should I do in this specific instance? Dear friends, the answers to these questions can be found as we seek to deepen our personal relationship(s) with:

- 1) God in Christ through our individual Piety, Study and Action and
- 2) each other in our reunion groups.

Living in community allows us to say:

- "I'm struggling here could we pray about this?"
- "Can you pray for me?"
- "Could we search for verses that would apply to this situation?"
- "Would you walk with me during this?"
- "Will you hear my confession about this?"
- "Will you forgive me for...?"

Jesus promises us,

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matt 18:19

God's peace,
Scott Hoecker



From our Post Weekend Coordinator

Following is an article by Charles Swindoll entitled "Attitude" that may help us on our way.

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our ATTITUDES."

How true the words above are. The true "Fruits of the Spirit," "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control," of Galatians 5:22, 23, have seemed to have taken a back seat in our lives. We have

overwhelmed ourselves so much with running the race that we have forgotten our purpose which is to "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"
Matthew 5:16b

Are you ready for a change? I know I am. Let's work at leaving the world with all its chaos outside. Let us experience the "Fruits of the Spirit" while we are together so that we can take them to the world. Please join us at the next Ultreya reunion event.

Nov. 19, 2005
Cross of Glory Church
14719 W 163rd St.
Homer Glen, IL 60491

Share God's Love
Gregg Bickus



From Our Outreach Coordinators

Psalm 143:10 *"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good spirit lead me on level ground"*

Our past request for contact information, in order to develop a data base of community members and associated contacts did not promote an overwhelming response.

If we are to spread God's word, and the love of Jesus Christ, through our "Taste of Grace" community we each must act boldly to spread the word of our presences in the world. We continue to struggle to formulate a positive strategy, making the Via de Cristo movement known.

Some things that you can do,

- Print this news letter and/or other Via de Cristo literature and post it in your congregations' information center and/or publish it in your congregations' news letter
- Talk with your pastor about Via de Cristo and enlist his encouragement to advance the program within your congregations' leaders, and potential leaders
- Invite one of the current "Taste of Grace" secretariat members to give a brief temple talk to your congregation or to one of the men's or women's groups within your congregation.
- Prayerfully reach out to a friend or another member of your congregation – "Make a friend" – "Be a friend" – "Bring a friend"

Remember our purpose is to live a fully Christian life and to positively affect our environment with the Gospel.

"And as for you brothers, never tire of doing what is right" 2 Thessalonians 3:13

"God loves you and so do we"

Your sister and brother in Christ, Ruth and David VanZant



From the Spiritual Director

In his book, *When God Whispers Your Name*, Max Lucado tells of a little boy who fell out of his bed. When his Mom asked him what happened, he answered, "I don't know. I guess I stayed too close to where I got in."

The same thing is easy to do with our faith. It's tempting just to stay where we got in and never move.

Pick a time in the not-too-distant past – a year or two ago. Now ask yourself a few questions. How does your prayer life today compare with then? How about your giving – both the amount and the joy? And Bible study – are you learning to learn? What about sharing the good news of Jesus Christ – can you tell you've grown?

One of the true blessings of Via de Cristo lies in the community it creates, a community committed to our personal growth as we meet with other "4th Day-ers!" And it is there that our discipleship accountability, especially in the areas of piety, study, and action, is honestly shared.

May God's love and grace guide us in all that we do. Then, we find the strength to avoid staying too close to where we got in. It's risky business staying on the edge. Come on!

God loves you and so do I! + Pr. Craig Sagebiel

Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #6 Rectora

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11a:

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time heal, a time to tear down and time to build,
a time to weep and time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time."

Continued on next page



Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #6 Rectora (continued)

At the time of this writing there are two confirmed male pilgrims with an additional application on its way for a total of three male pilgrims. Some people may look at this as though the Taste of Grace community has failed to respond to the via de cristo method of evangelization; that we've neglected to help others deepen their relationship with Christ by experiencing a weekend because we've neglected to invite them. I don't know that I agree.

I guess I view it slightly differently. God calls and forms these teams. No two are alike. Even if they have the same exact people serving in the same exact roles, the weekends are still very different. Time and experiences change each of us. Who we are today is different than who we may be tomorrow or who we were yesterday. Hence, the weekend would be different because we would be different.

Just as God calls His servants to serve, He calls His children as pilgrims. There may be 20 pilgrims or there may be one pilgrim. Either way, He has called us to serve because we have something to offer the children or child that He sends. If the mix were different the result would be different. If God has only called three men to experience Taste of Grace men's

weekend #6, I trust He has good reason. For those of you who find yourselves frustrated because you've invited a pilgrim that for whatever reason has declined, don't worry. God makes all things beautiful in His time. When the team, the individuals who make up that team and the fellow pilgrims are just right; just the way God wants them to be, then that person will come and taste God's grace.

In the early stages of forming Taste of Grace, a wise man shared with us about a time when attendance at of men's weekend was very low. All of those men or a very high percentage (4 of 5) are now members of clergy. The experience of these few men would have been very different if the number of pilgrims had been higher. Maybe then they would not have been able to hear God's call to ordained ministry.

It is still a time to invite others to join in the feast, a time to plant seeds of faith and water those planted by those before us, but it's also time to place our trust in God and know that He knows what He's doing.

Embraced by Grace,
Michele Koniewicz, #6 Rectora



Request for Needed Items

Would you be willing to donate any of the following items (or do you know someone that might be willing)?

- Reams of White 8-1/2" by 11" paper
- Wooden storage case (with wheels) to store a computer, keyboard, printer and monitor. Approximate size required = 24" wide (fit through doorways) x 48" long x 24" tall.
- White Poster Board minimum 22"x28"
- 2 Staplers (standard for stapling paper)
- 1 tape dispenser (desk type)
- steno (stenographer) note books 6"x9" (new)
- New books dealing with Christian living for the book table
- 3 cases of individual bottles of drinking water
- 1 small bottle of communion wine (new)



If you have any of these items please call me at (815) 463-0332 or e-mail me at hoecker@comcast.net. Sincerely, Scott Hoecker

Pilgrim's and team members are always in need of Fuel such as:

Soda, Water, Iced Tea, etc.
Chips, Pretzels, Cookies, etc.
Candy, Nuts, Mints, etc.
Fruits, Vegetables, etc.
CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE



Please continue to keep the pilgrims and team members of Taste of Grace Via de Cristo #6 lifted up in prayer as the weekends are here.



The Taste
 Newsletter for
Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

October, 2005

	Men's Team	Women's Team
Spiritual Director's	Rev. Craig Sagebiel	Rev. Kathy Flores Rev. Mary Graves
Asst. Spiritual Director	Linda Draeving-Hammack	
Prayer Warrior's	Joe Claar Joe Tietjens	Carolyn Doughty Erika Gordon Nancy Johnson Cheryl Lovell Melinda Mattas Sue Scruggs
Rector/Rectora	Scott Hoecker	Michele Koniewicz
Head Cha	Lenny Koniewicz	Traci Little
Music Head >	Reno Caneva	Janeen Tietjens Karen Peterson
Inside Head >	Bob Deverick Dave Little	Lisa Bickus Theresa Conklin Linda Henize
Ideal	Ken Franz	Carolyn Clark
Laity	Jim Forbes	Amy Prior
Piety	Fred Henize	Denise Jones
Study	Frank Marshall	Tammy Gonigam
Action	Mike Bryant	Debbie Claar
Leaders	Chuck Conklin	Karen Deverick
Environment	Gene Vincent	Pat Dever
CCIA	Simon Prior	Pam Sagebiel
Silent	Al Ashby	Kelly Scruggs
Head Outside	Ed Walter	Dawn Constantino
Chapel Head >	Dave VanZant Colin Kirchner	Lenae Kirchner Maxine Brandt Vi Christensen
4 th Day Head >	Andrew Kjos Craig Christensen	Carol Marshall Kathy Bryant Susan Lacy
Kitchen		Ruth VanZant
Utility Head >	Gary Constantino Dave Helfert Keith Reed	Jacey Hoecker Peggy Ashby Linda Park



Prayer Times Available for Fall 2005 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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815-436-1676
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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.





Calendar of Events

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

Scott Hoecker will be Rector

- Thursday Oct 27 7:00 pm Sendoff
 Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
- Saturday Oct 29 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
- Sunday Oct 30 4:00 pm Clausura



Nov 03-06, 2005 Living Waters Mixed Weekend at Camp Abe Lincoln

Jim and Lynn Shaw will be Rector and Rectora

- Thursday Nov 3 7:00 pm Sendoff as Camp Abe Lincoln
- Saturday Nov 5 6:00 pm Serenade (both men and women will be serenading)
- Sunday Nov 6 5:00 pm Clausura

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

Michele Koniewicz will be Rectora

- Thursday Nov 10 7:00 pm Sendoff
 Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
- Saturday Nov 12 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
- Sunday Nov 13 4:00 pm Clausura



Apr 20-23, 2006 Spring Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #7

Apr 27-30, 2006 Spring Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #7

Ultreya's

November 19, 2005

Cross of Glory Church

14719 W 163rd St.

Homer Glen, IL 60491

5:00 pm Pot Luck

Worship immediately following

January 14, 2005

Trinity Lutheran Church

2901 Western Avenue

Park Forest IL 60466

5:00 pm Pot Luck

Worship immediately following

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

General directions starting at I-57 & I-80

Head south on I-57 until you reach the Rt. 30
 (Lincoln Hwy) exit.

Go east on Rt. 30 until you reach Western Ave
 (about 3 miles)

Turn right (south) on Western Avenue and drive
 for another 3 miles or so You'll go through
 3 stoplights, the church is on the left hand side
 about a block past the third stop light.



The Taste
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Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

October, 2005

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Secretariat

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Come share your Master's happiness Matthew 25:21

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