



The Taste

Newsletter for
Taste of Grace Via de Cristo

March 2009

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him and he will help you.
Psalm 37:5

What an awesome God we have! When “*we*” think “*we*” don’t have enough team members, God provides what we need! Thank you TOG Mens Team #13 for your dedication to serving God. Please welcome Eric Rasmussen to the community and continue to lift up in prayer the womens TOG #13 team as they prepare for their weekend March 26th – March 29th.

Loving God,

We thank you for all that you have done for us, the opportunities to serve you, the opportunities to bring others closer to you. Lord we ask for continued healing, strength and comfort for those who are recovering or are currently dealing with illness and/or surgeries. Let them be comforted by knowing you are with them. We ask that you also wrap your loving arms around the family members who are having to help with their loved ones illness and provide them with the strength to get through whatever their situation is. Lord be with those who have lost their jobs. Let them know that you will provide them with what they need, not what they think they need. We pray for continued protection of our military troops. Continue to watch over all Cursillistas in their 4th day journey. Help them to remember the mountaintop as they work in the hills and valley. Please be with your children whom you are calling to attend the upcoming fall weekend. How awesome it is to see someone walk closer with you! Your love never ends and it is a comfort knowing that all we need to do is trust in you and whatever it is we need, you will provide.

And all God's Children say Amen

TOG Women's Weekend #13 is nearly upon us and the team is looking forward to it with great anticipation! God has assembled a truly wonderful group of women who have been a blessing to work with. I would like to encourage anyone in the community who has been talking to God about their friend to sponsor them for the weekend. One can never have too many pilgrims. If you would like to be involved in the weekend, please consider attending Send-Off, the Serenade or, even more importantly, the Clausura. Show our new Cursillistas your support by welcoming them into our community. Don't forget palanca! Your prayers are needed! Many, many slots remain open on the women's prayer vigil site. Please go to the link you have received through e-mail or at the Taste of Grace website and sign up. Join in and share the blessings. God loves you and so do I!

Susan Lacy
Rectora TOG Women's Weekend #13

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Women's Weekend #13

Pilgrims

Edlynn LeFevour
Barb Gutierrez
Kathy Weishaar
Cheryl Nabors
Lora Landrum

Prayer Warriors

Peggy Ashby
Annemarie Doughty
Marie Etter
Nicole Isaacson
Sandy Verdooren

Spiritual Directors

Pastor Anne Strickert
Pastor Patti Heath
Pastor Mary Graves

Chapel Chas

*Debbie Claar
Karen Williams

4th Day Chas

*Connie Enger
Kay Bonneur

Utility Chas

*Traci Little
Michele Koniewicz
Priscilla Huffman

4th Day Speakers

Lenae Kirchner

Rectora

Susan Lacy

Head Cha

Tammy Mack

Table Cha

Linda Heinze
Mary Lacy

Music Chas

Nancy Claude
Deb Meyer

Rollistas

Ideal	Karen Ghighi
Laity	Nicole Morin
Piety	Karen Peterson
Study	Deb Meyer
Action	Pam Destri
Leaders	Nancy Claude
Environment	Karen Thoren-Day
CCIA	Elaine Hullinger

Womens TOG Spring Weekend #13 March 26-29 2009

Rectora is Susan Lacy

- Send off: 7:00pm Thursday March 26, 2009

Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off

- Serenade: 6:00pm Saturday March 28th, 2009
- Clausura: 4:00pm Sunday March 29th, 2009

<p>Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Weekends are held at the: Dickson Valley Camp and Retreat Center 8250 Finnie Road Newark IL 60541-9573 630-553-6233 fax 630-553-6240 www.dixonvalley.com</p>
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God's Mysterious Plan Revealed – Ephesians 3

Those who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. All are part of the same body and all enjoy the promise of blessings because we all belong to Christ Jesus. By God's grace and mighty power, you have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this good news!

Though you are the least deserving, he graciously gave you the privilege of sharing the endless treasures available in Christ.

God's purpose in all of this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Because of Christ and your faith in him, you can come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

Pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your heart as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within you, to accomplish infinitely more than you might ask for or think.

Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!

Amen

Question #1

According to Ephesians 5:18, what are we supposed to do instead of getting drunk?

- A: Go to church
- B: Meet with Christian friends for mutual encouragement
- C: Let the Holy Spirit control us
- D: Drink root beer

Question #2

Some of the costumes for the local theater production are very revealing and the script contains some foul language. You have auditioned, and expect to be chosen. Will you reconsider your participation? Why or Why not?

Question #3

What are some of the lessons God is teaching you through his word and through life experiences?

Okay, so not all of the questions have a definite 'right' answer, but they do all have something in common – God. His word directs us, His Holy Spirit guides our conscience and He interacts with us – on a daily basis if we let Him.

Let me ask another question. Why do we hold Taste of Grace via de cristo weekends? Let's see. Some of you probably said:

- A: to share the love & grace of Christ
- B: to allow others to meet & know Christ
- C: because when I work them I feel closer to God
- D: because it makes me feel good

Some of these answers are more on target than others, but let me share what the stated purpose of via de cristo is per the National Lutheran Secretariat:

VIA de CRISTO is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on VIA de CRISTO itself, but on the local church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities.

How does Taste of Grace inspire, challenge and equip Christians for action in their homes, churches and communities? Does the weekend itself accomplish this or is it the participation in a reunion group and at 4th Day Community functions, e.g., ultreyas?

The reunion card given out by the Ecumenical Cursillo Community Of Illinois (where I made my weekend) is a little different than the via de cristo green card/service sheet. And after using the card for so long, my reunion group no longer reads it. We ask the

following questions to maintain accountability as we continually strive to be Christ's disciples.

- How have you been reminded in the last week that without Christ you are nothing?
- What was your closest moment to Christ?
- In what ways have you studied Christ and your fellow man to know them better?
- What have you done to allow others to see and know Christ better?

For a wide variety of reasons, some people are very opposed to attending a weekend. That doesn't mean that the tools the weekend introduces won't be useful to them or should be unavailable to them. Non-Cursillistas can be members of your reunion group. As long as they are someone you feel comfortable with and are searching for a way to keep Christ as center focus, invite them to join you.

Another tool offered during the weekend is the ultreya. "Ultreya!" is a cry of encouragement. It means "Keep on going!" or "Onward!" The role of the Ultreya is to link Christians together. An ultreya is:

- where all the permanent group reunions gather and are revitalized by sharing with others
- where new Cursillistas are welcomed into the 4th Day Community
- where we can find support through the sharing of one another's experience of living with Jesus Christ
- where additional spiritual guidance is available
- where we are inspired by the witness talks to be courageous in transforming our environments for Christ
- where we worship & share a meal with the 4th Day Community

One of the dynamics on the weekend is circles. It starts with personal space then to the table family. From the table family to the rollo room. From the rollo room, to the entire group on the weekend. From the weekend group, to the 4th Day Community. From the 4th Day Community to the world. Our participation in 4th Day Community activities is important. Come to the send off, participate in the Dedication of the Crosses service, sing at the serenade, welcome the new cursillistas to their 4th Day at the clausura and attend ultreyas to encourage other members of our Christian community.

The reason we hold these weekends is to do what scripture tells us to do – to encourage one another as we walk on our faith journey. Use the tools: reunion groups & ultreyas. Encourage others: send off, Dedication of the Crosses, serenade & clausura.

Thank you for being my Christian Community and for encouraging me to grow spiritually.

Because of Christ,
Michele Koniewicz
Lay Director

From the Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Secretariat

Thank you Dave and Ruth VanZant, Debbie and Joe Claar and Hugh and Joan Brems for your dedication and time spent as a member of the Secretariat. God's many blessings to all of you!

Please welcome Denise Jones – Pre-Weekend, Susan Lacy-Out Reach and Karen Peterson – Communications. Thank you for your willingness to serve on TOG Secretariat.

*If you are Interested In workIng on future teams please contact:
Lenny KonIewIcz @ 815 725-4928; shellen1@comcast.net
Leaders ChaIr*

*Articles of interest for the TOG newsletter (sent out quarterly – March, June, September and December), and praise and prayer requests please contact
Karen Peterson togprayers@comcast.net*

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Secretariat

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Taste of Grace Website: www.tasteofgrace.com

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