



STRAIT FROM THE



April/May 2005
Volume 2

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REMINDERS:

- April 3rd--Daylight Savings
- April 9th--COOKING DAY (At St. John Lutheran Church, 1:00pm - 5:00pm)
- April 16 & 17 Purchasing Day for the weekend
- April 21-24--Women's Weekend #31

The Good, The Bad and The Glory

On March 9th, your Secretariat faced the need to decide the future of Week-ends #31. I can assure you that no one took the matter lightly. Much thought, and definitely much prayer was dedicated to each persons vote. Your Secretariat does not take its responsibility to this community, or our God lightly.

The Good: There is a full complement of women waiting to begin their journey to a closer relationship with Christ this spring. We will have for the first time ever, a women's weekend only.

The Bad: Where have all the men gone? We had zero (as in none) applications to



attend the men's weekend. *The men's weekend has been cancelled.*

The Glory: The women's team is a vivacious, excited group of women eager to be the hands and feet of Christ. They have formed a marvelous team (but all teams are marvelous!). I have every expectation that the love of Christ will truly shine through their eyes! But, where do we

go from here? How do we encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ to continue to invite their friends to partake in the gift of God's glory? What do you suggest? Your Secretariat is eager to hear your ideas. Please contact any Secretariat member by phone, email or letter!

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."
John 15:8.

Sandy Moore
Lay Director

HELP!!! HELP!!!! HELP!!!

Assistance with **On-site Physical Arrangements** is needed for Women's Weekend #31!!

1. Able bodied persons needed to help with set-up and teardown for Women's Weekend # 31.
SET UP: April 22 beginning at 5:00 PM
TEAR DOWN: April 24

Beginning at 8:00 AM
2. Also help is needed with purchasing all the provisions. The main purchasing will occur on **Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17.**

3. The sleeping capacity of the retreat center is 38. There are about 22-25 pilgrims coming. So pray

as to how we will handle the overflow. As you plan your schedule to help, please contact me

Richard Buhl
407 895-6768 (home)
407 721-4700 (cell)
e-mail:
buhl_r@bellsouth.net

WANTED: *Van and Luggage Drivers*

We are fortunate that St. John has always let us use their two vans to transport pilgrims. However, there is never enough room in the two vans for all the pilgrims, team, and luggage. We need volunteers who own either a van, large SUV or a closed truck for additional transportation.

We need volunteers for the Women's sendoff

from 6:00-9:00 PM on Thursday, April 21, and the Women's closing from 3:00 to 6:00 on Sunday, April 24. In addition, we need someone to drive either the St. John van or their own van to the Serenade on Sunday April 24 at 5:30 AM (leaving from St. John). Full instructions will be provided if you are able to

volunteer.

We need everyone's help to make the weekends happen!



Please contact
Del Harriman at
407-353-5675
or email
Martha at
mharriman@cfl rr.com if
you are able to help



Examination of Conscience

Have I given my whole heart to God to the degree that I love Him above all things and thus keep his commandments? Do I love Him as a son loves his father, or am I too readily caught up with the love of other things?

HOW CAN I SHOW MY LOVE TO GOD IN WAYS THAT I HAVE NOT CONSIDERED BEFORE? WHAT CAN I SACRIFICE TO SHOW GOD HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM?



Are you Patient?

The May Ultreya will be on **Patience**, the fourth spiritual fruit cited by Paul in Galatians 5:22. Patience is an attribute, which is important to all of us as we continue our fourth day walks. Paul reminds us again in Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in

hope, be *patient* in suffering and faithful in prayer."

This Ultreya will be held at St. John Lutheran on May 14th. A Poduck dinner will be served at 6:00 PM to celebrate Women's 31st weekend. A reunion for the team and pilgrims of Weekend

#31 will be held at 4:45 PM.

Please bring your favorite dish! The rest will be provided. Baby-sitting will be available upon request so please call Bob Blasberg at 407-381-1620 or e-mail him at bblasberg@cfl rr.com if you are



"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering and faithful in prayer."

~Romans 12:12

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Devil's Serrano</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Cooking Day</i>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 <i>7:30pm - Book of Revelation</i>	22 <i>Women's Weekend #31</i>	23
24 <i>Bus - Serrano</i>	25	26	27	28	29	30



*I know how to be abased,
and I know how to be
abound. Everywhere and
in all things I have learned
both to be full and to be
hungry, both to abound
and to suffer need. I can
do all things through
Christ who strengthens me.*

—Philippians 4:12-13

May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Nat'l Day of Prayer</i>	7
8 <i>Mom's Day</i>	9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Ultras Open</i>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Memorial Day</i>	31				

**2005 Heart of Florida Via de Cristo Secretariat**

Lay Director	Sandy Moore (407-886-0533) email: sandymoore@cflr.com
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Treasurer	Patricia Hoepner (407-898-1752) email: pansyflf@aol.com
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Local Palanca	Sheila Bender (407-657-2683)
Extended Palanca	Jim Pfy (407-898-7433) email: jpyj@earthlink.net
Physical Arrangements (On-Site)	Rich Huhli (407-895-6768) email: huhli_r@bellsouth.net
Physical Arrangements (Off-Site)	Del & Mintha Harrison (407-876-0121) email: ulurrianu@cflr.com
Outreach	Open <i>(please contact Sandy Moore if you are interested in this position)</i>
Post Via de Cristo	Bob Blasberg (407-381-1620) email: bnblasberg@cflr.com
Pre Via de Cristo	Artie Grindle (407-696-2789) email: artie363@aol.com
Communications	Timothy Ortiz (407-340-2868) email: vcdctimmy@earthlink.net
Spiritual Director	Pastor Dave Ludwig (407-366-5705) email: dclndpud@aol.com
Spiritual Advisor	Pastor Tom McRee email: tmcree@cflr.com

HOW DO I PREPARE PALANCA FOR THE WEEKEND?

If you are planning on sending Palanca to the Rollo room, remember to make enough for the whole table, pilgrims and professor.

Rollo room: 20 pilgrims and 14-team members/professors/Spiritual Directors = **Total 34.**

Dinning Room (Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner) would be the whole team plus pilgrims. **Total = 50.**

Pillow Palanca = 20 pilgrims

Please bag/box and label all Palanca as Pillow Palanca, Rollo Room, or Dinning Room (specify the meal time) and write the number of letters on the bag. This is very important for counting and for sorting purposes. We have new forms for this year, pick one up at any of the Otreya, VdC Mailbox at St John, or send one.

As you bag and label your Palanca for the weekend, please separate the pilgrims from the team and place all letters in alphabetical order. This really speeds up the sorting process.

Drop off all *special* letters (personal letters) at St John on the night of send off (Thursday April 21st) there

will be a box at the back entrance, or the VdC mail box during the three days. The last pick up is 5:00 a.m. Sunday morning. The mailbox is located at St John, back parking lot near the stairs at the back entrance. We will make sure to get the Palanca to the right area.

About professor Palanca: it is wonderful to write a short note of encouragement to any or all of the professors or spiritual directors. The mailroom servant will distribute all those notes to each professor/S.D. before his/his Rollo. So please get all those notes to the mailroom servant on Thursday or before the weekend begins.

People often like to send special Palanca to team members that they would like delivered on Thursday, Friday, or Sunday night. These will be a box labeled for team Pilgrims. Place any special team pillow Palanca into the box for delivery. Make sure it is labeled. Remember though, the week ends are about the pilgrims.

Another word about "special" Palanca: while you may want to give a cherished pilgrim (often a personal

piece of Palanca (a book, picture, t-shirt, etc), we cannot give one person something that no one else at another table or in her dorm room is getting. If you would like to give something special to a pilgrim, please do so after the weekend.

If you are sponsoring a pilgrim or know someone who is, please remember that the most important piece of palanca in their bag comes from their husband, wife, or significant other. We absolutely must have those letters by Saturday night!

Remember that you need to write and have a special letter for *each* pilgrim you are sponsoring. These letters are almost as important as spouse letters.

The outside of a Palanca letter should look like this in order for the mailroom servant to get a special letter on top of the bag for the pilgrim/team member to get first:



Spouse
Pilgrim Name

Sponsor
Pilgrim Name

Family
Pilgrim Name

Friend
Pilgrim Name



PALANCA PRAYER GUIDE

- PRAY** for pilgrims by name, ask that their hearts be made pure and that their minds be opened to the message of the Via de Cristo weekend.
- PRAY** that the Via de Cristo team may be truly inspired by the Holy Spirit, that their egos and pride may be suppressed, and that they show themselves as living members of the Body of Christ.
- THANK** God for the sacrifices that each Pilgrim and each team member has made to attend this weekend, and pray for the welfare of the families who are without them on the weekend.
- THANK** God for the prayers and sacrifices of all the people supporting the Via de Cristo weekend.
- PRAY** that the Via de Cristo weekend may be filled with the love of Jesus and that this love will be evident in the lives of the Pilgrims after they leave the Via de Cristo weekend.
- PRAY** that after the weekend, the Pilgrims and team begin and/or continue strong apostolic action programs and that Jesus will be known to those in the environments where they live, work and play.
- PRAY** that after the weekend, the Pilgrims and team will provide strong apostolic support to each other by regular attendance at their group reunions.

Celebration of Life

We would like to celebrate the life and death of the following individuals who were part of the Via De Cristo community:

- **Hilda Wilkinson,** (Linda Becker's Mother and Grandmother to Russell Decker), went home to the Lord on February 24th. Her funeral and a wake will be held at 14511 SW 17th St., Apt. 2, Miami, WA 98038.
- **John Fazzolino** went home to the Lord on February 18th.

Please include their families in your prayers.

The Rock and the Rabbi Musical



The topic for the June Ulteya is **KINDNESS**. It will be held on Saturday, June 18th at 8:00PM at The Plaza Theatre www.therockandtherabbi.com

As of March, 32 group rate tickets have been sold in the prime middle section for a cost of \$32.50 each (savings of \$7.00!) Tickets are limited and the show is approaching the final performance in Or-

lando before it goes on a nationwide tour.

If you are interest in attending, please call Bob Blasberg at 407-381-1620, or e-mail at bnblasberg@cfl.rr.com to reserve/purchase tickets. Reservations can be made but money must be received within one week. Checks should be made to HOF Via de Cristo and forwarded to Bob at 3586 Ventura Club Circle, Orlando, FL 32822.

The cutoff date for reserving tickets will depend on the availability of seating so call/email now to get your tickets! Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!



**Make a Friend,
Be a Friend,
Bring your Friend to Christ**

The Heart of Florida Via de Cristo has just experienced another first in its history. Do you know what that is? Can you guess? Is it good? Is it not so good? What can the community do about it? All good, and even great questions to ask ourselves. Here are a few possible responses. Some are true, some are my perspective, and always, some are Christ's.

For the first time in the short history of HOF we will be holding a women's weekend, and not a men's weekend. Though in the past we have had to cancel or reschedule both the men's and women's weekends, this weekend (HOF # 31) is unique. Although not our desired way of being the hands and feet of our Lord, we as a community have brought a number of pilgrims to the weekend. At last count twenty-four women have applications in for this weekend. That is an amazing testament to the efforts of some in our community. They have truly made a friend, been a friend, and most importantly, brought that friend to Christ through Via de Cristo. Now, if our past experience is any indicator, not all of these women will be able to fulfill their commitment this weekend. But guess what? They will eventually because you asked them to. We have something to build on.

While the Rector for HOF Men's Via de Cristo worked diligently to call a team to serve this weekend, we as a community did not ask enough male friends to come to Christ. I asked one person and he was "too busy right now", so instead of asking another I stopped asking. If Christ, or Paul, or any of the early disciples had given up so easily, there may have been no Via de Cristo, or there may have been no Christianity. Perhaps now is the time for us to begin rethinking our role in bringing others to Christ through this ministry. It has been a tremendous influence on my family and me. Right now is not too soon to be asking your friend for next weekend, or the weekend after that. Christ died for our sins a long time ago, but he still needs us to keep working for Him. He wants and expects no less.

God loves you and so do I.

Jim DeMark, Leaders

*Psssst.....
Stay Tuned for
Heart of
Florida's 20th
Anniversary!!
Coming
Sooooooooon!!*

