

# Strait From The

Heart of Florida  
Via De Cristo  
Mission  
Statement  
*Our mission is to develop and nurture Christian leaders to reach out with Christ's love in faith and acceptance to those in our churches and communities.*

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## Take a Look...Open Your eyes....

***Have you seen Jesus my Lord, He's here in plain view. Take a look, open your eyes, He'll show it to you!***

**T**his is one of my favorite songs. We often sing it on weekends. One of the many lessons I learned as I began my Fourth Day was that God "pops up" in the common and ordinary. He is in the common cup we share at the Eucharist table, He is in the sunset, he is in the "endless thundering motion" of ocean waves, He is the face of Christ we seen in each other. He is in the first burst of spring flowers, He is in the majesty of the



mountains, He is all around us. He is the man hanging in pain

on the cross, with the look of love in His eyes. The cross of Christ is at the heart of the Via de Cristo ministry.

**I**n Colossians 3:16, St. Paul urges us *"Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts."* That sounds like Via de Cristo and it sounds like worship in our own congregations! This message of St.

Paul's is the hope and prayer of each weekend. It is time to prepare to teach, instruct, give thanks and let God use our lives as Palanca to the spiritual lives of others. It is time to talk to your friends about this powerful weekend. Don't just "sign them up", but truly sponsor them in love. Pray for them and let God lead you as you invite them to sing psalms and hymns and learn to find Him in the common and the ordinary places of their lives. To learn the tools for renewal in faith, hope and love. To bring home the tools for the growth of ministries in our individual ministries.

**W**e will have great weekends. In the midst of all the activities stands our Risen Lord and Savior. He promises that we will not labor in vain.

Sandy Moore  
Lay Director



# Easter Breakfast Fundraiser

**S**t. John's Easter Breakfast, sponsored by *Heart of Florida Via de Cristo* will be chaired by Rick and Pam Hoepner this year. The breakfast proceeds, along with matching funds from Orange County Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, fill the gap that weekend fees and other contributions don't cover. This is a great time to make your green Palanca gift to Via de Cristo, as each dollar in profit or donation up to \$1600 will be matched by Thrivent! This means if you give \$5 it becomes \$10 or if you give \$50 it becomes \$100!

**T**he Easter Breakfast Team is beginning to come together. Tammy Bryan has volunteered to be the Head Cook; Diane DeMark will handle decorations, Bob Blasberg will manage the clean-up crew, and Bill Pohlad and Sheila Bender will handle ticket sales. Rick and Pam will also cover advertising at St. John (Open Door, bulletin, announcement slides and flyers) and in Heart of Florida's Strait from the Heart publication. Please join us by advertising the breakfast at your church!

**S**till needed is the Dining Room Host/Hostess team leader plus many, many hands to help with cooking prep on Saturday, April 15 (the time is TBD,) cooking on Easter morning, serving food and coffee, seconds in the dinning room, clean-up, selling tickets, and many other tasks. We all know that many hands make the job lighter – especially clean-up! Easter is late this year but if anyone feels

they may still have fresh oranges or grapefruit in Mid-April, please call the Hoepners at 407-898-4752. This will help keep our food expenses down.

**S**erving will begin immediately after the Sunrise Service (about 7:00 a.m.) and conclude at 11:00 a.m. The menu will consist of some of the community's favorite pastimes: Egg & Cheese Strata, Sausage, Pancakes, Fruit cup, Juice, Tea and Coffee. Bagels and donuts will also be available.



**T**icket sales will begin at the March 18th Ultreya and on Sunday, March 26 at St. John. Adult tickets will sell for \$5.00 and children for 3.00 for children if purchased by Wednesday, April 12. Tickets purchased after that date and at the door will be \$5.50 and \$3.50.

**S**o now, you can't wait to volunteer to help – call Rick or Pam at 407-898-4752, or speak to anyone on the Secretariat and you will get a call!

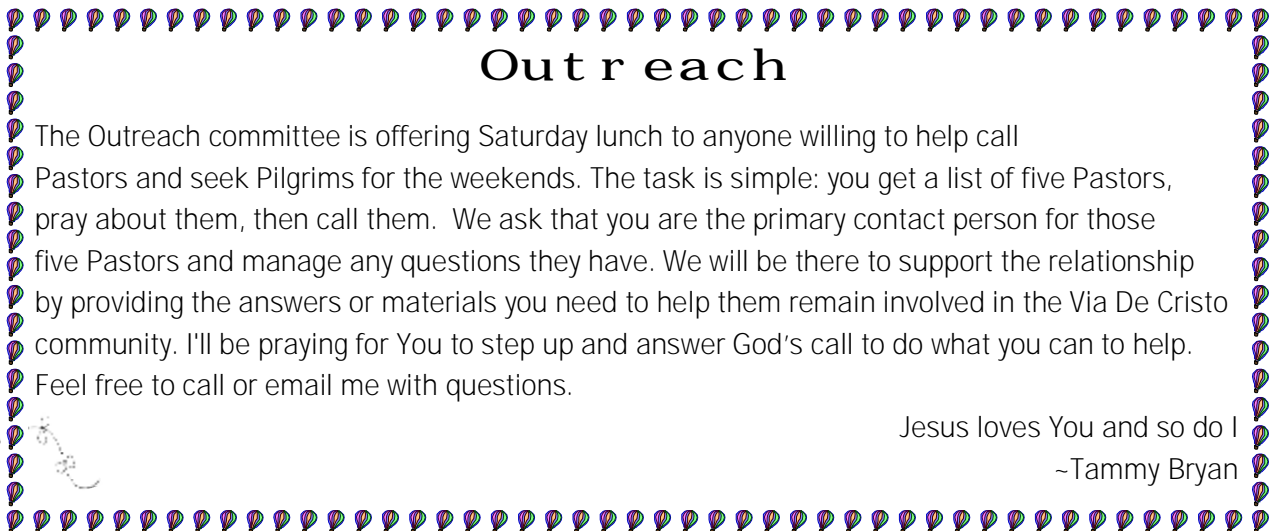
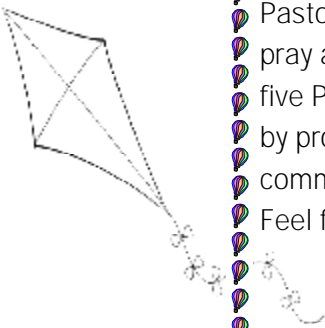
In His Service,  
~Rick and Pam Hoepner  
2006 Easter Breakfast Chairpersons



## Out reach

The Outreach committee is offering Saturday lunch to anyone willing to help call Pastors and seek Pilgrims for the weekends. The task is simple: you get a list of five Pastors, pray about them, then call them. We ask that you are the primary contact person for those five Pastors and manage any questions they have. We will be there to support the relationship by providing the answers or materials you need to help them remain involved in the Via De Cristo community. I'll be praying for You to step up and answer God's call to do what you can to help. Feel free to call or email me with questions.

Jesus loves You and so do I  
~Tammy Bryan



## Help Wanted:

# *Calling all Warriors for the Spring 2006 Weekends!*

### DeColores Everyone!

Can you believe it? The Spring Weekends are just around the corner.

What an exciting time! There are many ways for you to plug into the community and help. It takes many hands and feet to prepare for and hold the weekends. Many more than the teams at the Retreat Center for the weekends. Read on and see how your servant heart may enjoy the fun and fellowship with others in the community:



#### Weekend Food Prep Day

Tentatively scheduled for April 22 from 9am-2pm at Prince of Peace. Watch your emails or check the website for final confirmation and additional information.

Volunteers are needed for preparing and cooking/baking the following:

- Chicken
- Bar-B-Q Beef
- Rainbow cakes
- Apple Pies
- Breakfast breads

We will provide the food, and cooking pans and utensils. You just need your hands, a smile, and maybe your apron!

#### Food Palanca at Home

We need volunteers to prepare food at home too: coleslaw, pasta salad,

cookies, cakes and brownies. We have the recipes available for the salads.

Can't cook? There are plenty of other things you can do...

#### Palanca Anywhere

What is one of the most important jobs for the weekend that you can do anywhere? Prayer!! You can pray at home, in church, in your car or any place you can focus on God. Prayer is the number one Palanca that you can give to the weekends, and it is the strongest and most powerful gift you can offer. It is the "lever that lifts". Don't wait, start now. Pray for the teams, the pilgrims and our community.

#### Gift Palanca

True Palanca requires prayer. So as you prepare your gift Palanca, pray over each item as you create it! Quantities are as follows: Pillow 20; Rollo Room 35; Dining Room 50. Forms are available, just let me know and I will get one to you.

#### Agape Tent

Are you unable to serve on team but would like to be on site and be a part of the weekend? Then the Agape Tent is the place for you! Bring a friend or you Reunion Group. You can pray in the chapel, help serve a meal or clean up after one, and who knows what else they may ask you to do. This is one of the neatest experiences of the weekend. We are currently looking for coordinators for the Agape Tent for both the men's and women's weekend. If you or your Reunion Group is inter-

ested, give me a call!

#### Clean up

The Sunday of the Women's weekend has the greatest need for volunteers. The tear down process is a community event. The more volunteers the better! Let Ken Raue know you are available to help and join the VdC Ghost Corps!

#### Make a joyful noise

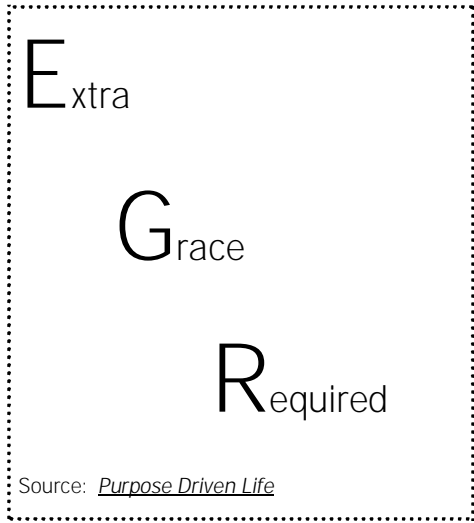
The community co-ed sunrise serenade is on the Sunday morning of each of the weekends. Maps and more details will be available at Send-offs.

#### 24 hour Prayer Vigil

Do you remember how the scroll was unrolled on the floor of the Rollo Room on the Sunday of your weekend? Do you remember how you felt when you were encircled in the love of the community? Prayer begins from the moment the buses drive off on Thursday night until they return on Sunday evening. That is 72 hours of prayer for each weekend. If everyone signed up for just one hour of prayer we would have at least 4 people praying each hour for the full 2 weekends! Sign up sheets will be available at the March Ultreya.

To sign up for anything, please call or email me. Or click on the link on the website ([www.hofvdc.org](http://www.hofvdc.org)).

~Sandy Moore  
Lay Director  
For Local Palanca



## 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.

PRAY that by the efforts of the Via de Cristo and other Christian endeavors, the face of the earth will in fact be changed.

## Potential Pilgrim List for the spring Weekends

### Women:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>
Lisa Cody	St John Lutheran
Carol Heina	St. John Lutheran
Barbara Hill	Prince of Peace
Debbie Leider	St. John Lutheran
Ann Lowe	Zion Lutheran
Shirley Smith	
Freda Banks	Rejoice in Lord Ministries
Rosemary Gebauer	Spirit of Joy

### Men:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>
Robert Fuller	Christ the King
David Hill	Prince of Peace
James Lowe	Zion Lutheran
Mark Stubbs	Lutheran Church of Nassau
Bruce Penn	Extreme Living Church
David Waugh	Spirit of Joy

*\*Please note, these are the applications that have been submitted thus far. A confirmation for some has not been finalized as of the date of this printing. Details below provide further information on how to obtain the latest list.*

## Team Lists, rollo times & pilgrim lists

The Team rosters and rollo times will be posted on the website once the teams begin to meet and the lists are finalized.

The Pilgrim list is a "live" document, subject to change until send-off. Please visit the website at:

<http://www.hofvdc.org>

and click on the *Pre Via De Cristo* link to email Karen Hanson for the latest list.

The list will also be available at send-off.

# A CELEBRATION—Joy is Love Dancing

**D**o you remember the feeling you had when you returned from your weekend? The excitement of knowing that within a few weeks there would be a reunion with your brothers or sisters? The joy that came from being surrounded by the love of Christ within the larger community? Well here's your chance to do the same for the Pilgrims of the upcoming Spring Weekends while basking in the amazing fellowship of this community. The May Ultreya is the welcoming of the new pil-



grims into the Via De Cristo Community. It is the beginning of their 4th Day walk and a celebration of renewed leaderships in their churches.

**P**lease join us Saturday, May 20 at St. John Lutheran Church, 1600 South Orlando Avenue in Winter Park. The reunions for the Spring weekends will begin at 4:15PM with a potluck for the entire community at 6:00PM. The "Joy is Love Dancing" Ultreya will follow at 7:00P.M.

**Y**ou are encouraged to bring friends to this special Ultreya and potluck so that they can hear the witness talks, share Bible verse discussions, communion, and enjoy the uplifting songs of David Ludwig, Jr.



**I**f you haven't attended an Ultreya in a while please come and dance [with joy] with us!

Bob Blasberg,  
Post Via de Cristo



\*For babysitting please call Bob Blasberg at 407-381-1620 or e-mail at [bnblasberg@aol.com](mailto:bnblasberg@aol.com) by May 13, 2006.

*Rejoice with the Beumers!*

**We have a prayer of rejoice and happiness at the marriage of our daughter Cathedra Winston to Rico Simmons! They were married in a small beach ceremony in Freeport, Grand Bahama on December 12, 2005. Cathedra's son Wisdom was in the wedding party. Cathedra made Women's weekend # 18 and is on the Communications Team, and Rico made Men's weekend # 22. Please share messages of prayers, blessings and hope for their future with them through cards or letters addressed to:**



**Cathedra Winston & Rico Simmons  
581 Arapaho Trail  
Maitland, FL 32751  
[cathedrad@yahoo.com](mailto:cathedrad@yahoo.com)**

## OBEDIENCE IS A FORM OF WORSHIP

Pure obedience is not just something that we do because we have to or because we need to. Pure obedience is a form of worship. We offer it to the Lord as a sacrifice. Willfully choosing to walk in obedience, to walk in the light. God desires for us to walk with Him. He desires

for us to obey Him, not out of fear, not out of reward, but out of love. With the myriad of choices this world offers to satisfy our souls, God is pleased when we chose Him above all else. "We choose Him because He first chose us." You must receive God's love in order for it to do you any good. It has been given,

are you willing to receive it? If you have received, John says that your life will exhibit the light of love and obedience toward the Lord Jesus Christ!

~Email devotional:  
Submitted by  
Nancy Cifuentes

# Dear Rooster ...

Dear Rooster:

I can't make the weekend so I can't be on the team for the Spring weekends, but heard that I could participate somehow. Can you tell me how I can contribute to the weekend?



Sincerely,  
-In His Service but how?  
Maitland, FL

Thank you for asking that question! I bet you are not alone in wanting to support the weekend without being able to serve for the entire time. There are many ways you can help, like baking, participating in the Food Prep day, providing gift or green (\$\$) Palanca, set up, tear down, clean up, driving a van, etc.! This issue of Strait from the Heart has several articles riddled with great ideas on how to serve without being on one of the teams. The article on page 3 contains specific areas with ideas, or you can visit <http://www.hofvdc.org/> for additional information.

Martha and Bob, who both happen to be on the 2006 Secretariat as well as Rectora and Rector would love to hear from you! Their email addresses and telephone numbers are found on the bottom of this page.

Thanks for your question and happy serving!

~The Rooster...

Dear Servant Heart:



## Examination of Conscience

*How have I used the time, energy and talents which God has given me? Or have I been lazy and wasted time?*

**WHAT CAN I DO TODAY TO SHOW GOD THAT I APPRECIATE HIS WORKMANSHIP IN ME?**

### 2006 Heart of Florida Via de Cristo Secretariat

Lay Director	Sandy Moore (407-886-0532) email: <a href="mailto:sandymoore@cfl.rr.com">sandymoore@cfl.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Joyce Whitehill (407-382-8832) email: <a href="mailto:joyceEWYR@msn.com">joyceEWYR@msn.com</a>
Treasurer	Bill Pohlad (407-362-1731) email: <a href="mailto:sablebill@cfl.rr.com">sablebill@cfl.rr.com</a>
Leaders	Jim & Diane DeMark (407-897-3669) email: <a href="mailto:jdemark@cfl.rr.com">jdemark@cfl.rr.com</a>
Music	****OPEN****
Local Palanca	Jackie Gorbutt (407-729-1862) email: <a href="mailto:godskid52@aol.com">godskid52@aol.com</a>
Extended Palanca	Jan Fry (407-898-7435) email: <a href="mailto:ffryj@bellsouth.net">ffryj@bellsouth.net</a>
Physical Arrangements (On-Site)	Ken Raue (407-277-6011) email: <a href="mailto:vdc4opa@aol.com">vdc4opa@aol.com</a>
Physical Arrangements (Off-Site)	Del & Martha Harriman (407-876-0121) email: <a href="mailto:mharriman@cfl.rr.com">mharriman@cfl.rr.com</a>
Outreach	Tammy Bryan (407-658-8505) email: <a href="mailto:helenbryan@bellsouth.net">helenbryan@bellsouth.net</a>
Post Via de Cristo	Bob Blasberg (407-381-1620) email: <a href="mailto:bnblasberg@cfl.rr.com">bnblasberg@cfl.rr.com</a>
Pre Via de Cristo	Karen Hanson (407-977-0418) email: <a href="mailto:svenska77kh@aol.com">svenska77kh@aol.com</a>
Communications	Tammy Ortiz (407-340-2868) email: <a href="mailto:vdctammy@earthlink.net">vdctammy@earthlink.net</a>
Spiritual Director	Pastor Dave Ludwig (407-366-5705) email: <a href="mailto:dcludpud@aol.com">dcludpud@aol.com</a>
Spiritual Advisor	Pastor Tom McRee (407-774-6639) email: <a href="mailto:tmcree@cfl.rr.com">tmcree@cfl.rr.com</a>

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Secretariat has been busy planning a funds flow budget for 2006. The 20th Anniversary was partially offset by donations and a draw-down on the Julia Ebert Memorial Fund. As of the end of January, there were \$3,098.57 "spendable" funds remaining with an additional \$165.06 that remains earmarked to dedicated funds. While it sounds like a lot, it's not since each weekend expenses of nearly \$4000 is not offset by

fees and we rely on the Easter Breakfast and other fund raisers to remain solvent. Because donations at Easter are matched up to \$1600 by Thrivent, this is an excellent time to donate to our ministry.

Yours in Christ,  
Bill Pohlad  
Treasurer

### REFLECTION: R U 4-given?

A woman in the Philippines often claimed that God spoke to her as she prayed. One day a missionary decided to test this woman. "Next time you pray," he said, "ask God to tell you what terrible sin I committed when in seminary." The sin about which he spoke was one for which he was deeply sorry, but for which he had never really felt God's forgiveness. Despite his confession and repentance the memory of it haunted him.

When the woman returned, the missionary asked her if Christ had spoken to her. "Yes, He did," she replied. "Did you ask Him what sin I

committed?" "Yes." Holding his breath, the missionary asked, "What did He say?" Quietly, she answered, "He said, 'I don't remember!'"

In Isaiah 43:45 God says, "*I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.*" God has given us His gift of forgiveness through His Son, so that we can now experience a life of freedom from sin and shame. But have we forgiven others just as Christ has forgiven us? Are we hold-



ing on to resentment and unforgiveness in our lives? Don't let resentment start a chain reaction in your life. Instead, this Lenten season seek out the forgiveness of those whom we have hurt and forgiving those who have hurt us. This Easter, let Christ be our example and let us give the gift of forgiveness.

-Daily Email Devotional  
(Slightly modified text)

MY SOUL PRAISES THE LORD AND MY SPIRIT  
REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR

~LUKE 1:46- 47



# Showing Up

Have you ever planned a party, sent invitations, and had RSVP's of, "Yes! I'll be there!", only to have no one show up? When I asked this question at our last Ultreya, I was surprised at how many Cur-sillistas had experienced that! One planned a complete Thanksgiving dinner for her children, who all said they'd come. The cooks among you know how much work went into this meal. Most likely, it included all the traditional foods a family loves when it comes to holiday cooking. But no one came.

A few years ago, I invited a leadership group to my home at the end of a training series. We all agreed we'd like to celebrate our "graduation" with a special meal. We set the date, everyone said they'd be there, and I made a delicious meal for them. Only one person showed up. He couldn't believe no one else came when he saw what had been prepared for them. (Sounds like heaven!) One person decided she wasn't going to come after all and called the others to tell them. So they didn't come either. She canceled the celebration dinner without letting me or the one who showed up know. For a moment, I considered going out to the highways and compelling others to come to the party, as Jesus instructed his disciples. Instead, I prayed that God would fill my heart with love and enable me to re-

ceive them all with grace.

Via de Cristo is in spring party-planning mode. Not just menus, though. We have about fifty men and women on team praying, meeting together for training, sorting through storage, writing rollos, and more. Each one giving careful attention to the way they've been invited to serve and present Christ, all to bless the pilgrims we hope will RSVP with their applications. We get to join the team by extending the invitations. How great is that! So, talk to God about your friends and the leaders you know, then talk to them about coming to the party (aka the weekend).

Set a great example of leadership by making plans now on your calendar to be at send-off and closing. Come and encourage all the pilgrims at their pre-weekend and after-weekend celebrations! Men's send-off and closing dates are April 27th and 30th. Women's send-off and closing dates are May 4th and 7th. Don't be the one who didn't show up. You may be surprised at what's waiting for you!

'See you there!

*Karen Hanson  
Pre-Via de Cristo*



## Storage

**We have moved our storage from Fairbanks near 17-92 to Maguire and Highway 50 at a much reduced price and storage volume (5X5). If you need to get in, please give me a call, or talk to Ken Raue, On-Site Physical Arrangements.**

**Yours in Christ,  
Bill Pohlad**

## SAVE THE DATE!!

Tentatively set Saturday, June 17 for a spiritual, relaxed time at a Plaza Theatre show. Details or changes will be announced in the near future once the shows are posted at their website.

# Opportunities to Serve—Men's and Women's Weekends

### Van Drivers Needed

We are in need of van drivers for both the upcoming weekends. We need 2 people for each sendoff and 2 people for each closing to drive the St. John vans. In addition, we need someone to take the luggage in a closed van for each sendoff and closing. We also need peo-

ple with vans or large SUV's to transport pilgrims for each sendoff and each closing, if we have a lot of pilgrims (which we plan on having!) Men's sendoff is April 27 and closing is April 30. Women's sendoff is May 4 and closing is May 7.

Please email at [mharriman@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mharriman@cfl.rr.com) or call at 407-876-0121 if you can serve in any capacity noted above. Even if you can help only one way for one weekend, it will help a lot!

Blessings,  
*Del and Martha Harriman  
Offsite Physical Arrangements*



# HOW DO I PREPARE PALANCA FOR THE WEEKEND?

The numbers provided for total Palanca needed is based on a full weekend: 20 Pilgrims, 28 Team members and 2 Spiritual Directors = Total 50.

If you are planning on sending Palanca to the Rollo room, remember to make enough for the whole table, pilgrims and professor. Rollo room for a full weekend: 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  
Rollo Room Palanca = 34 total  
Dining Room Palanca = 50 total*

Please bag/box and label all Palanca as "Pillow Palanca", "Rollo Room", or "Dining Room" (specify the meal time) and write the number of items on the bag. This is very important for counting and for routing purposes. We have new forms for Palanca, pick one up at any of the Ultreyas, VdC Mailbox at St John or send-offs.

As you bag and label letter 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 (except professor) Palanca at St John the night of send off, 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 Rollista before her or 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 Saturday night. There will be a box labeled for team Palanca. Place any special team pillow Palanca into the box for delivery. Make sure it is labeled. Remember though, the weekends are about the pilgrims.

Another word about "special" Palanca: while you may want to give a cherished pilgrim-friend 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 label special letters for all pilgrims you are sponsoring. These letters are almost as important as spouse letters.

The outside of a Palanca letter should look like this (below) in order for the mail room servant to get all special letters on top of the bag for the pilgrim/team member to get first:

Spouse	Sponsor
Pilgrim Name	Pilgrim Name
Family	Friend
Pilgrim Name	Pilgrim Name

All other generic pilgrim / team letter Palanca can just be labeled with the person's name.

If you have any further questions about Palanca, please contact Jackie (local Palanca) or any of the other Secretariat members.

Thank you for your contributions to the success of the Spring 2006 Weekends!



# PRAYER VIGIL

Because praying for an hour for many may seem like a monumental task, these are suggestions for making this time of prayer more meaningful for you and for those on the weekend. Remember, these are just suggestion. These suggestions are based on guidelines from a Colorado and INKY Via de Cristo prayer vigil.

Team information (weekend verse, team rosters and list of pilgrims)

IMPORTANT:

- Select a time that you can truly devote to the Lord.
- Choose a place where you can be quiet. Kneel or sit before the Lord.
- Materials you may want to have on hand included the Candidate/Pilgrims list, Team list, your Bible, pilgrim's guide, song book, and a notebook or prayer journal if you have one. You might want to light a candle

PRAY:

- For the Lord's presence to quiet your heart, mind, body, and spirit.
- For the Lord to take the cares and stress of the day from you.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- Psalms 46
- Isaiah 43:1
- The weekend verse from the team.

PRAY:

- For the Via de Cristo Weekends.
- For all those who have worked to make this weekend possible, including the Via de Cristo Secretariat, Camp host, sponsors, and the entire Via de Cristo Community.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- I Corinthians 4:1
- I Timothy 2:1

PRAY:

- For each Candidate name
- The Lord would bless him/her.
- That the Lord would speak to him/her in a special individual way.
- That the Lord would take away any cares or interference which would block him/her from hearing the messages.
- For physical strength during the weekend.
- For any health needs which exist.
- For his/her family, that they would deal with his/her absence.
- That all his/her needs would be met.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- James 2:16
- Philippians 4:19
- Matthew 6:8

PRAY:

- For each kitchen, Palanca, and 4<sup>th</sup> day team member by

name.

- That he/she would have a servant's heart and spirit,
- For physical strength and that he/she would sleep well and wake up refreshed each morning.
- That the Lord's blessing be on him/her.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- I Corinthians 9:19
- Philippians 4:13
- Lamentations 3:22-23

PRAY:

- For each Rollista and table leader by name,
- That he/she would show God's love to the Candidates.
- That he/she would be sensitive to the feelings and needs of his/she tablemates.
- That each Rollista would speak God's message clearly and confidently.
- That the Lord's blessing be on him/her.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- Romans 15:13
- Ephesians 6:10

PRAY:

- For the Rector/a, Servants and Musicians by name.
- That he/she would be directly guided by You and be blessed by You in accordance with the extra responsibility he/she has been given
- May he/she be sensitive to the needs of every person on the weekend and act accordingly.
- For physical strength and wisdom.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- Matthew 25:40

PRAY:

- For each Via de Cristo member who participates in Serenades, Closure and the prayer and sacrifice that motivates the weekend.
- That all would travel safety to and from the weekend.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- Hebrews 10:24-25
- I John 1:7
- Philippians 1:3-6

PRAY:

- For each member of the Via de Cristo community, that they would take seriously the commitments of the Fourth Day, participate in reunion groups and Ultreyas, and encourage each Pilgrim to do the same.

READ AND MEDITATE ON:

- Acts 2:42-47

## Group Reunions

Since attending Heart of Florida Via de Cristo Weekend # 11, I have been part of three or four different reunion groups. During that time, many new pilgrims joined our group and for whatever reason soon after joined another reunion group, or stopped grouping. At times I did not (or maybe chose not to) understand why it happened. Eventually it also happened to me. Then I decided it really wasn't my job to understand – someone else was in charge of group dynamics.

My original reunion group was engineered by my sponsor who went as far as choosing those not grouping and put them together, as if grouping would be a good role model for me. Next thing I knew, I had a weekly scheduled time to meet and two other men to group with. Over time, one of the men accepted a job outside of Florida and the other man became part of another reunion group. He found another group whose time and location for grouping was more compatible with his schedule. We left as friends and

remain good friends until this day. After getting to know more men and women in the ministry finding another group was much easier. In fact I was in two groups for awhile and found it hard to decide which one to attend. Currently, I group with three or four and on some days even five men. We are of different ages, interests, income, political interests, and churches. While our grouping schedule is difficult to maintain because of travel, family, and sometimes just life and its circumstances, when we do get together it is usually about Christ and the huge sacrifice He made for us. These men, as well as the men in my previous groups have taught me and continue to teach me how to connect to our Lord and God even when I am lazy and unmotivated. I have learned to pray aloud, to petition for those I love and those I barely know, and to know that whatever success I can claim comes—not from me but from him and through HIM. These men have all been generous in spirit, honest in

their work, involved in their communities and churches, and active in what they do because Jesus Christ and His Father are at the very core of their beings. They would never ever tell you about any of this but their work speaks volumes about their commitment to Christ. I consider myself blessed to be able to share my life and my love with them.

If you are not currently in a group, or were in a group but dropped out please consider starting again. Although Christ is always with us, oftentimes grouping makes it easier for us to hear Him clearly. If you are looking for an existing group call Bob Blasberg, or even better find some pilgrims and start your own! God loves you and so do I.

~Jim DeMark  
Leaders

## Ladies, We Men Need your Help

Often, we neglect our responsibilities (including myself) to you ladies, to our Lord, and to our Creator. We need to follow Jesus and become "Fishers of Men." As of this writing, we very few confirmed Men and Women for the upcoming Spring weekends. We need you ladies not only to urge us to attend church functions, but to urge us to become better leaders in our families and homes. It is suggested:

Those ladies who husbands have not yet gone on a weekend, please pray and ask God for a closer relationship with your spouse, and ask your husband to fill out the enclosed

application form, even if it is without a pastor signature or a sponsor recommendation (he can write at the top that he only wants to be called for a "yes or no answer" from the Pre-Via de Cristo coordinator if privacy or use of personal information is a concern. We realize weekends are not for everyone, but praying is essential for closer relationships, especially with God.

Those ladies who husbands have gone on a weekend, please pray and ask God for an even closer relationship with your spouse. Those ladies who are single and

have gone on a weekend - Please pray and ask God for a closer relationship with your friends.

Be a Friend, Make a Friend, and Bring a Friend to Christ.

Lets us all live closer in Jesus' Love of yesterday, today and in his call to eternity. We have an Awesome Trinity God.

~Bob Blasberg,  
Rector of Men's weekend #32

In February, your Secretariat collected items and put together a few goodies like coffee, popcorn, chocolate, peanuts, cookies, tea, cheese, etc. to thank the churches who help us achieve the communication to our Via De Cristo community. We would like to take a moment to thank them again for their contributions to our success:



Prince of Peace Lutheran  
St. John Lutheran

There are a lot of names that can be mentioned but rather than risk forgetting one individual, we'll just say

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU!!!!

for your encouragement, belief in the ministry, and your unconditional Christ-like love and support. We could not do this without you.

God loves you, and so do we!

The Heart of Florida  
Via De Cristo  
Community



## Are you growing to be like Christ?

*Spend a few minutes pondering these questions. We've included some lines so you can jot some notes down, or use a journal to begin recording your thoughts...*

- A. When do you spend time studying the Bible and in prayer?
- B. Who do you talk to about what God is teaching you or ask questions about spiritual growth?
- C. What are a couple of things you can do to increase consistency in this area?




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## COME CLOSER



LENT serves as our annual invitation to come closer to God. It provides a time to look at our lives and ourselves, not so we may criticize ourselves more harshly but so we can identify the obstructions that keep us from God. What keeps us from feeling the presence of the divine in our every day? How do we hide from God, and why? Lent gives

us a chance to look at such obstructions and to move them gently away so that we can come closer to the Love that gives us life, the Love whose triumph we will celebrate on Easter morning.

This has to be my favorite phrase these days. I'm not sure when I started saying it to myself regularly, probably some time after my weekend or after one of the weekends I served as a Rollista. It has become a constant reminder that I am here to serve God, not myself. But that realization didn't happen overnight...

When I started school in 1998 to pursue my Bachelors degree, my company relocated me to Maryland...*My Life Is Not My Own*. When I started school again in 1999 and 2 weeks later my sister died making me a single mom, *My Life Is Not My Own*. When I said I would *never* live in Florida again and a job offer IN Florida found me...*My Life Is Not My Own*. When I scheduled time to make copies of the newsletter and arrived only to find that there was a conflict in the copy machine schedule, *My Life Is Not My Own*. When I entered 2006 with plans of reorganizing my life and fulfilling MY priorities, but instead was met with my grandmother's stroke in January and my mother's hospitalization with pneumonia in February, *My Life Is Not My Own*.

Yes, I say it a lot. It keeps me focused, it keeps me sane and as I said, it reminds me that I was made for God's purpose, not mine. In reading the Purpose Driven Life (again), I realize that I have come far, but that I have a long way to go. Pastor Rick Warren says to ask yourself "*What on earth am I here for?*" I reflect on this question and am reminded through life's circumstances and experiences that it's not my agenda but God's. Rather than trying to understand "WHY" something happens or

doesn't happen, I choose to reflect on Romans 12:2 which says "*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. THEN you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.*"

I am not always successful in "transforming my thoughts" but when I do, I enjoy life more. It is during those days that I think to myself "*how special am I [to God] that he has chosen me to do His work?*" Little ole' me...I AM God's favored daughter! And when I am not successful, God sends me reminders. Church signs, a friend's word of encouragement, an email message, the Pastor's sermon, my daughter's smile or sudden embrace followed by an "I Love You"...a message that only I can decipher as coming from God—just for me.

This Lenten season will be a life changing experience for me because I am more accepting of His will. I am already working towards "organization", only I have accepted that my list is not the one we're using. And when I remember that "*My Life is Not My Own*", I can honestly say that I am excited to see what God will do with me!

God Loves especially YOU... and so do I!

Tammy Ortiz  
Communications

## Something to think about... ~submitted by Sheila Bender

From a strictly mathematical viewpoint:

What Equals 100%? What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been in situations where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about achieving 101%? What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21  
22 23 24 25 26

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R- K

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = \underline{98\%}$$

and

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = \underline{96\%}$$

But...

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

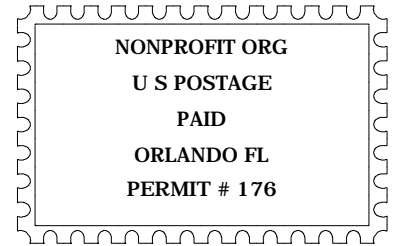
$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = \underline{100\%}$$

AND, look how far the love of God will take you

L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D

$$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = \underline{101\%}$$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that while Hard work and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there, it's the Love of God that will put you over the top!



*Via De Cristo*

c/o St. John Lutheran Church  
1600 South Orlando Avenue  
Winter Park, Florida 32789



**Bulk mail is not forwarded, so PLEASE email Sandy at [sandymoore@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sandymoore@cfl.rr.com) or visit the website with updates to your address. .**



## Funny corner

*George W. Bush, President of the United States, was in an airport lobby, noticed a man in a long flowing white robe with a long flowing white beard and flowing white hair. The man had a staff in one hand and some stone tablets under the other arm.*

*Excited, George W. approached the man and inquired, "Aren't you Moses?"*

*The man ignored George W. and stared at the ceiling.*

*George W. positioned himself more directly in the man's view and asked again, "Aren't you Moses?"*

*The man continued to peruse the ceiling.*

*George W. tugged at the man's sleeve and asked once again, "Aren't you Moses?"*

*The man finally responded in an irritated voice, "Yes I am."*

*George W. asked him why he was so uppity and the man replied, "The last time I spoke to a Bush I had to spend forty years in the desert!"*