



www.tasteofgrace.com  
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# The Taste

November, 2006

Newsletter for

*Taste of Grace Via de Cristo*

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## Our prayers....

Ultimate Healer, please be with all those fighting cancer and all those terminally ill. Be with the patient for healing, with the medical profession for wisdom and with loved ones for comfort.

Please comfort: Chuck and Helen as they visit his ill sister  
Jeff and Lori Whalen as they pray for Jeff's father  
Beth Bridges as she continues her battle with Ovarian Cancer  
Vera, Dawn, and Gary as Vera enters hospice

Dear Lord, please be with those of us who are depressed and/or struggling with other emotional issues. 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.

Please be with: Thomas as he struggles  
Don Johnson and his wife as they look at divorce

Gracious Father, be with all whom are recovering and/or undergoing surgeries. Give them strength and wrap them in your healing arms. Comfort their families with your love and compassion. Guide the doctors and give them wisdom and knowledge.

Most Especially: Charisse Jesiolowski's father  
Robert Berdenaro's customer's son  
Darold, as he recovers from a car accident  
Sydnee as she continues surgery on her foot  
Bill Graves who recently had his gall bladder removed

Heavenly Father, be with those of us sick and struggling with medical problems and issues. Help our Doctors in diagnosis, give us patience as we await results, and let us find comfort and peace In your presence.

Especially with: Morgan, Bev Hansen's neice  
John Rosenbalm as he begins treatment for Hepatitis C  
Susan Lacy's sister Rebecca as they found a cyst  
Darlene and Ron as they go forth with additional testing  
On a lump Darlene found



Dear Lord, please guard and guide all of our troops and those commanding them. We pray that those making decisions seek and follow your will. We ask that you keep them wrapped in your protection. We ask that you comfort their friends, family and loved ones.

Most especially we lift up: Mitch Welsh

Heavenly Father we rejoice in the joy of new life.

Especially: Samantha Colette Van Buren 9/12/06

Father 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.

Lord, please be with your children whom you are calling to attend the upcoming weekends. Those confirmed:

Richard Jensen  
Robert Dealey  
Paul Dubois  
John ter Horst  
Sharon Lee Pisano  
Sandra Joyce Verdooren  
Sally Lynn Yeates  
Sheila Kinross  
Kristyn Torres

Be also with the teams you are forming, that they are able to be Christ's hands, heart and ears to the pilgrims attending. And those who are praying about attending, including:

Sandy Bowgren  
Barb Weaver  
Debbie Mathieson  
Vanessa  
Barb Witt  
Peggy Sue  
Penny Libby

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.

We rejoice in the marriage of Rita Regnas and Craig Christensen

Thank you Lord, for your never ending love, grace, and forgiveness in our lives.



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**Comments form the "Taste of Grace" outreach team**

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10: 31 we read - "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"

Both the men's and women's teams, for weekend #8, have been working diligently - preparing to show the love of Christ to the pilgrims that our faithful God is preparing to experience this weekend. Working on 'team' is a great means of personal spiritual renewal and community building - consider working on future teams.

This past month I had the opportunity to speak at both my own church, Shepherd of the Hill, and at St Mark Lutheran Church in Worth, introducing the Via de Cristo movement and our community and witnessing to the spiritual impact of the weekend on my life.

St. Mark's pastor had invited me to speak to his congregation in response to the outreach letters that Ruth and I have been sending to area churches. After speaking I handed out some of our literature and talked with members of the congregation, answering questions as they arose - lot's of interest - no commitments to date. I consider myself truly blessed to have had the opportunity to speak to the growth of God's Church on earth.

While response to these letters (about 80 have been sent to date) has been sparse, the pastors with whom I've spoken have been supportive and they appreciated knowing of the existence of this caring Christian community - most agreeing to promote the retreat experience over time.

We, as members of this "Taste of Grace" community, should be actively seeking to carry the word to all with whom we interact - this is the fulfillment of our Apostolic Action - you remember that rollo, don't you?

It is my prayer that each member of our community would take the opportunity to give a temple talk to his or her congregation, spreading the knowledge of our movement and our community. Remember **"YOU ARE THE CHURCH"**

God loves you and so do we  
Ruth and David VanZant

Please contact us at 815-834-1293 for info, literature or if you would like us to speak at your church or fellowship group.



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## HAPPY FALL TO YOU



**From one pumpkin to another!!!!!!!**

**A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be a Christian?"**

**The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin." God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff.**

**He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."**

**This was passed on to me by another pumpkin. Now it's your turn to pass it to other pumpkins.**

**I liked this enough to send it to all the pumpkins in my patch.**



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### **From your Lay Director**

Every time I attempt to sit down to write one of these articles, I struggle. What could I possibly write that would be worth reading? What opinion or thought could I possibly have that's worth even the proverbial two cents? Well, I still don't have an answer to that question. I'm not even sure anyone even reads my article, but here it goes...

Some churches die because congregation members, although initially welcoming, don't really want 'people' interfering with what they perceive to be 'theirs'. Or sometimes it's because they don't reach out into the community where they find themselves – maybe they just don't know how. Maybe they die because they don't have leaders to follow, don't have enough faith to focus beyond the daily and monthly operational struggles of survival. I'd guess that there are many reasons why churches die and close. But one of the gifts *cursillo* and/or *via de cristo* has given me is a better understanding of the fact that Christ's church doesn't die. It doesn't close. It doesn't cease to exist, because we, you and I, are the church.

I know, you're thinking, well isn't that in one of the talks. Well... yeah, sure it is. But recently it's become more real for me. I've been mourning over the loss of the church I've called home since my family and I moved away from the church that introduced me to Christ. It was my church family. They were those I confided in, cried with, study and argued with, laughed with and grew along side of. Notice I didn't mention an address or structure. Abundant Life closed and I have to admit, I was (and sometimes still am) a little angry about it.

When Abundant Life made the decision to close, Lenny and I went church shopping. We went to a few places, but stopped when we landed at Immanuel Lutheran in Yorkville. (It's where we've held a couple of team formation meetings.) The people are very welcoming and friendly. We went to the church's annual picnic, have attended Bible study a couple of times and were invited to join in other activities too. It's comfortable. Our fellow worshipers are not yet close family members, but I expect in time for relationships to build and that we'll get to know people and develop friendships.

Lenny and I are looking forward to becoming active with our new church family. We hope to be intellectually challenged, to grow spiritually and to share the gifts God has given us. Unfortunately, getting involved has been temporarily placed on hold since I haven't attended my new church in few weeks. In those weeks, Lenny and I have traveled to other churches to visit the pastors and their congregations. Even though I feel the void of an active church life and church ministries, it's been nice to visit other places and feel a common bond. Our 'church' is much larger than Abundant Life or Immanuel; it's the entire body of Christ.

Thank you for being my brothers and sisters in Christ and welcoming us if and when we visited your church. It's comforting to know that in Christ, my family is too large to be counted.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Michele Koniewicz  
Lay Director



## **Have you moved?**

Do you have a new address?  
New phone number?  
New email address?

Please let me know so that I can update our information.

Has someone in your reunion group mentioned they don't get emails, postcards, or phone calls from us. Have them contact us with their information.

Thanks so much!  
815-436-1676 Debbie or Joe  
[tasteofgracevdc@comcast.net](mailto:tasteofgracevdc@comcast.net)





## Something New for the New Year!!

**Ultreya**s are an important part of the fourth day commitment of your Via De Cristo Journey. Remember that the Ultreya is simply a big reunion group. To give everyone a chance to participate more often the Secretariat has voted to have them every month for the year 2007. This gives everyone twice as many opportunities to create and maintain the spirit of friendship in the Taste of Grace Community. Let's face it we all need to have our batteries recharged from time to time and this is a good way to start. We are also going to plan some fun activities for some of these, so watch for those special contests and themes.

With that in mind, we are giving you the dates now so that you can put them on your calendar. We will try to have them in different locations so that the same people are not always having the hour plus drives. We hope that this will encourage more of you to attend. The Churches have not been confirmed as of yet but the dates are as follows:

January 13, 2007- this will be a souper supper. More details later.

February 10<sup>th</sup>

March 10<sup>th</sup>

April 14<sup>th</sup>

May 12<sup>th</sup>

June 9<sup>th</sup>

July 14<sup>th</sup>

August 11<sup>th</sup>

September 8<sup>th</sup>

October 13<sup>th</sup>

**November will not have an Ultreya because of the Men's and Women's Weekends.**

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

Linda and Fred Henize

[fchenize@aol.com](mailto:fchenize@aol.com)

(815) 467-2705



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## *We all need a tree*

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

"Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children... So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

God Bless, Have A Blessed Day!!!



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### *Taste of Grace Weekend #8 Rector*

Blessings and Peace to all of you! There have been a few things in the past 2 months that have jumped out and spoke to me. One was a book called "The Quilt". It was a great short book with a fantastic reminder as its premise... being thankful. So often we go about our business of life and forget to say thanks! I know I do. We go around and have many exchanges each day with all kinds of people and forget to say thanks. Thanks for the change back when you purchase that coffee on the way to work. Or thanks for the extra 15 minutes of sleep that just made your day. We don't only forget to thank each other, we forget God! How sad is that! What do you have to be thankful for???

The second thing is Christian Rock music. I listen to many things during the day but one lyric out there hit me hard. Be My Escape by Relient K is a great song. It says, "The beauty

of Grace is that it makes life not fair". It hit me hard because I was on one of my feel good about myself moments. You know, when life just goes so well and you think it's because you actually had something to do with it. Ha, God sent me a reminder by the way of music. How my selfishness takes hold of me and I get caught up with myself. *But the beauty of Grace is that life is not fair.* How true. I'm such a sinner sometimes and God still forgives me! Praise the Lord! That's overwhelming and is indeed something to be thankful for.

So thanks for reading this and take some time to thank God for His Grace that straightens out our lives when we get out of control and take it into our hands. Peace and always remember that...

God Loves You and So Do I,  
Lenny Koniewicz

**But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31**



## 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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## Help! Ultreya Hosts Needed

Would you like to sponsor an Ultreya at your home church? Fred and Linda Henize are looking for members of our Via de Cristo Community who would like to serve as hosts for an Ultreya. Ultreyas in 2007 will be held every month on the second Saturday of the month. We like to meet in a variety of locations so that the same people don't always have the long drive. The hosts would make arrangements with us for a date for use

of the church. We would need the use of the social hall/kitchen and the Sanctuary. The Secretariat meets at 4 pm on those Saturdays so you would need to be there around 3:30 to be sure the building is open. There are no costs to the churches involved as we provide everything that we need to use including toilet paper if necessary. We will carry out all of the garbage too, if asked.

To be a host you would need to:

1. Contact the Henizes about a needed date for a Saturday evening Ultreya
2. Make arrangements with the church for the time needed through whatever means the church requires.
3. Have the facility available for use from 3:30 to around 9:00 on that date.
4. Provide simple signs with arrows to direct people to the proper meeting place in the church.
5. Provide a bag of ice for the dinner.

This is a wonderful way to introduce your church members to the Via de Cristo movement and perhaps get more interest going on the part of your congregation. We are willing to participate in your church's Sat. evening service, along with a potluck. Also, if your church has no Saturday evening service, your church members are invited to attend our potluck and service as well. We are somewhat newcomers ourselves and would really appreciate some volunteers in this endeavor. We need even more places now that we

are doing Ultreya's eleven times in the 2007 year. Please help us out. We would beg but we don't even know who to beg to yet in some cases. We are hoping that all of you will prayerfully consider this fun and easy activity for Taste of Grace. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,

Linda and Fred Henize  
[fchenize@aol.com](mailto:fchenize@aol.com)  
(815) 467-2705



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## December 2<sup>nd</sup> Ultreya information

Come to the Ultreya! What a great way to usher in the season of Christ's birth! This is also a very important opportunity to welcome the new cursillistas since we will have just finished the November weekends. Please try to attend. We will also be sharing a service and potluck with the members of the Shepherd of the Hills Congregation.

Please note:

**The service will be before the potluck . If you need a snack before hand do so.**

Bring a dish to pass and try to remember to bring your own table service.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006,  
5:00 pm.  
Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church  
925 East 9th Street, Lockport IL 60441  
phone (815) 838-0708.



Looking forward to seeing you there!!!  
Henize

Linda and Fred

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Please remember to visit  
<http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetComm.phtml> and offer up your prayer time for the pilgrims who will be attending upcoming weekends. Remember what a powerful impact it made on you on your weekend when you saw all the people who were praying just for you around the clock? Let's pay it forward and fill the prayer vigil's vacant spots in record time! Christ is counting on you!

In His Peace,  
Amy Prior  
4<sup>th</sup> Day Chair





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## *Taste of Grace Weekend #8 Rectora*

Can you believe it? Weekend #8 for Taste of Grace Via de Cristo is here. I have really struggled with finding the time to write this article, but as I was assembling *The Taste*, I couldn't put it off any longer.

Have you looked at a calendar lately? The men's weekend is here. The women's weekend is next weekend. Thanksgiving is the weekend after that. Christmas is just around the corner. And we are selling our home. It went up for sale Tuesday, Nov 7, 2006.

The past couple of months and the next few months are packed full with things to do and be done.

So this task has been monumental and the questions that we have asked ourselves are:

- Is this God's will?
- Are we discerning what God wants us to do correctly?
- Is it Satan trying to interfere in the upcoming weekends?
- Do we have the stamina to do everything that needs to be done?

Well, we figure, if it is God's Will our house will sell, if not it won't. So that would take care of questions 1, 2, and 3. Although with question #3, we know Satan won't stop trying to interfere and we know that our Lord will be there with us. He will guide us and show us the way. As for question #4, I trust that our Lord will continue to give us the strength, energy, and encouragement we need.

I also know that as much as I have tried in the past to start a

So the selling of our home has not been an easy task as we have many unfinished projects that needed to be completed. When are we ever at home on the weekend? We seem to always be on the go and if I am home, do I really want to spend my time cleaning – it just gets messy again! I would much rather be cuddling with Joe and Lydia, reading a book, doing a jigsaw puzzle, sewing, watching a good movie, or talking with a friend. Let me tell you, I can spend a whole day on the phone if it keeps me from cleaning.

weekend well rested it has never happened and yet I am energized throughout; strengthened and at peace in the comfort of our Lord's comforting arms and presence in my life at all times.

Please continue to lift up the pilgrims, servant teams, and their families in your prayers.

God Loves You and So Do I

Debbie Claar  
Rectora ToG #8

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and I light unto my path. Psalm 119:10*



**Servant Team for Taste of Grace Weekend #8**

		<b>Men's Team</b>	<b>Women's Team</b>
	Spiritual Directors	Rev. Dick Hanson Rev. Dan Stalker	Rev. Mary Graves Rev. Anne Strickert
	Prayer Warriors	Joe Tietjens Harry Benner Pat Kruschel Tim Kocourek Al Trueblood	Lisa Blood Jan Gora Sandra MacAdams Donna Weaver
Lay Leaders	Rector/a Head Cha	Lenny Koniewicz Dave VanZant	Debbie Claar Janeen Tietjens
Muaic	Head Music Music	Reno Caneva	Michele Koniewicz Amy Prior
Inside	Head Inside Table Cha Table Cha/Action Rollo Table Cha/Leaders Rollo	Gary Constantino Frank Brozek	Dawn Constantino  Lisa Bickus Karen Peterson
Professors	Ideal Laity Piety Study Action Leaders Environment CCIA	Dave Helfert Joe Claar Woody Woods Mike Bryant Dave VanZant Jim Forbes Fred Henize Ed Kutay	Susan Lacy Ruth VanZant Tammy Gonigam Denise Jones Lisa Bickus Karen Peterson Lenae Kirchner Traci Little
Outside	Head Outside Head 4th Day 4th Day Outside Outside Outside Outside Outside Outside Outside Servant Cha	Simon Prior Dave Little Ken Franz Dan Peterson John Sleezer Gregg Bickus Daryl Caneva Harvey Bolton Tim Mulder	Carol Marshall LaDonna Strakis Bev Hansen Joan Brems Pat Dever Ondra Williams  Kathy Bryant
Chapel	Head Chapel Chapel Chapel	Larry Herrman Jim Forbes Hugh Brems	Deborah Herrman Linda Henize Joan Yonkus
	4 <sup>th</sup> Day Speaker		Mike and Kathy Bryant



## *Calendar of Events*



### **Nov 09-12, 2006 Fall Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #8**

#### **Lenny Koniewicz will be Rector**

- Thursday Nov 09, 2006 - 7:00 pm Sendoff  
Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
- Saturday Nov 11, 2006 - 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
- Sunday Nov 12, 2006 - 4:00 pm Clausura

### **Nov 16-19, 2006 Fall Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #8**

#### **Debbie Claar will be Rectora**

- Thursday Nov 16, 2006 - 7:00 pm Sendoff  
Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
- Saturday Nov 18, 2006 - 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
- Sunday Nov 19, 2006 - 4:00 pm Clausura

### **Apr 26-29, 2007 Taste of Grace Co-Ed Weekend #9**

### **Nov 08-11, 2007 Fall Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #10**

### **Nov 15-18, 2007 Fall Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #10**

## *Ultreyas*

### **5:00 PM Pot Luck with Worship to Follow – Unless noted otherwise (bring a dish or two to pass)**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, 5:00 pm **WORSHIP WITH POT LUCK TO FOLLOW**

Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church 925 East 9th St, Lockport IL 60441 (815) 838-0708.

January 13, 2007- this will be a souper supper. More details later.

February 10<sup>th</sup>

March 10<sup>th</sup>

April 14<sup>th</sup>

May 12<sup>th</sup>

June 9<sup>th</sup>

July 14<sup>th</sup>

August 11<sup>th</sup>

September 8<sup>th</sup>

October 13<sup>th</sup>

**November will not have an Ultreya because of the Men's and Women's Weekends.**

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>



*The Taste*  
Newsletter for  
*Taste of Grace Via de Cristo*

November, 2006

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**Weekend**

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**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  
630-553-6240 fax [www.dixonvalley.com](http://www.dixonvalley.com)

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and I light unto my path. Psalm 119:105