



Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Secretariat

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Taste of Grace Website: [www.tasteofgrace.com](http://www.tasteofgrace.com)  
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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)

**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:

- Craig Christensen
- Harry Benner
- Michele Thatcher

Heavenly Father, please keep wrapped in the comfort of your loving arms those who mourn the passing of loved ones. Help them to find peace in the knowledge that their loved ones are in Your loving presence.

Most especially, comfort the family and friends of:

- Alan Peterson
- Elizabeth Zloch
- Jerry Rothlisberger

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.

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. Continue to be with and strengthen them.

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:

- Anne Marie Zan
- Don Carlson
- Anne Gronbach
- Mother of Laura Hougas
- Barbara Holder
- Helen Hendricks

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.

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 fall weekends. Some whom we know by name:

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Confirmed</u>  | <u>Potential</u>      |
| Renee Devore      | Sharon                |
| Annemarie Doughty | Charles Featherstone  |
| Mary Lacy         | Jennifer Featherstone |
| Royan Rodney      | Louella Hoffman       |
| Karen Stetins     | Rebecca Lacy          |
| Kiiri Tietjens    | Gil Mendoza           |
| Patrick White     | Rosa Mendoza          |
|                   | Nicole Morin          |
|                   | Chad Stewart          |
|                   | Deb Willhite          |

Be also with Rector Dave VanZant and Rectora Janeen Tietjens and the teams you are forming, that it is able to be Christ's hands, heart and ears to the pilgrims attending.

We give thanks and praise for all the joys you give us.

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.

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

*And all God's Children say Amen*

**2007 CALENDAR**

**Fall Taste of Grace Weekend #10**

**Men's Weekend November 8-11, 2007**

David VanZant will be Rector

- Send off: 7:00pm Thursday November 8, 2007  
**Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off**
- Serenade: 6:00pm Saturday Nov 10, 2007 (babysitting will be available)
- Clausura: 4:00pm Sunday November 11, 2007

**Women's Weekend November 15-18, 2007**

Janeen Tietjens will be Rectora

- Send off: 7:00pm Thursday 15, 2007  
**Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off**
- Serenade: 6:00pm Saturday Nov 17, 2007 (babysitting will be available)
- Clausura: 4:00pm Sunday November 18, 2007

**2008 Taste of Grace Weekends**

Coed Spring Weekend #11 April 24-27, 2008

Men's Fall Weekend #12 November 6-9, 2008

Women's Fall Weekend #12 November 13-16, 2008

**ULTREYAS**

(Ultreya's are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 5:00 pm)

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

Dec. 8, 2007; Shepherd of the Hill, 815-838-0708

925 E 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Lockport IL 60441

5:00 pm Joint Worship Service, Pot Luck to follow

Jan 12, 2008; Immanuel Lutheran Church, 630-553-5368

10104 Immanuel Road

Yorkville, IL 60560

5:00 pm Pot Luck, Worship Service and Annual Meeting to follow

### The Mission Statement of Via de Cristo:

**By grace, with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal calling, assisting them to influence their environments with the Gospel.**

The Purpose of Via de Cristo is, above all, to see the world reconciled to Jesus Christ (*Colossians 1:20*). We believe that Jesus, in the great commission, has challenged every Christian to “go into all the world and make disciples” (*Matthew 28:18-20*). By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Via de Cristo is an effective method through which He reaffirms His original charge to us. It is one of several methods available to the church today to renew and increase a faith that is already a gift to believers. While we would never promote it as superior to other methods, we confidently declare that Christ has used the method for many different individuals, in a host of environments, on several continents.

**ATTITUDE OF SERVANTHOOD.** Via de Cristo’s purpose and focus remains the same as that of the Cursillos of the 1940s in Spain: To bring every pilgrim/candidate into a closer, more meaningful, personal relationship with our brother Jesus Christ and to train lay people to bear witness to Christ in their daily environments. Serving as a Cha provides unique and rewarding opportunities to serve our Lord and is, perhaps, the most unselfish giving involved in making a Via de Cristo weekend a success. We serve on the weekend to display Christian discipleship, love, and acceptance of others as individuals. We submit our hearts and souls to God’s will so that our love will bloom and grow. We serve as examples so that, when the weekend is over, the pilgrims/candidates will be able to say, “I came looking for Christ, and I found Him here.” Servanthood is the mark of a leader. Jesus, “though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a *servant*.” (*Philippians 2:6-7*). We can express that Jesus is Lord of our lives by the way in which we serve others. We can demonstrate our love for God by serving our brothers and sisters with love.

**Servanthood is an attitude.** Paul set the example of being a “slave to all” so that he might win more to Christ (*I Corinthians 9:19*). When Paul, under arrest and traveling under Roman guard, was shipwrecked on an island on a very cold day, he went out and gathered firewood. He did his part. He did not wait for others to do it. (Read *Acts 27:14-28:10*). When we have an attitude of servanthood, we display leadership and loving concern – not dominion or glory-seeking. On a Via de Cristo team, no one position is more important than another. Some positions are more visible, but are not more important. All positions work to the glory of God. Why do we serve? For Jesus’ sake! Pick up a bundle of sticks, a plate, or someone’s spirit...for Jesus’ sake. It means being liberal with your time, energy, and ideas...for Jesus’ sake.

**We serve one another...for Jesus’ sake.**

Submitted by Simon Prior, Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Leaders Chair

### Sponsoring a Pilgrim

Sponsoring a pilgrim for Via de Cristo is a serious undertaking, not to be done without prayer and careful consideration. Remember, Via de Cristo is not for “*people who need it*”, but for people who Jesus Christ needs to build His church.

Consider Your Pilgrim . . .

- Is your pilgrim active in his/her church? Has your pilgrim assumed positions of leadership, or shown the potential for leadership in his/her church?
- Is your pilgrim involved in environments where he/she can “leaven the whole” for Christ? What do you know about his/her occupation, volunteer involvements?
- Is your pilgrim spiritually mature, with a strong working faith and a sense of purpose as a Christian? (Via de Cristo is not for people who are shaky in their faith.) Has your pilgrim gone through recent stresses that would make him/her emotionally or physically unsuitable for a weekend?

Consider Your Own Commitment . . .

- Are you in a reunion group? Will you take full responsibility for getting your pilgrim into a group, and helping him/her persevere in that group for a year?
- Are you involved in the movement? Will you take responsibility for bringing your pilgrim to Ultreyas, Send-Offs and closings? Will you involve your pilgrim in working alongside you on future weekends, to experience the Via de Cristo community?
- Will you obtain palanca letters to support your pilgrim? Write one yourself. Involve your reunion group in palanca for the weekend.
- Will you bring your pilgrim to the site on Thursday, come to the closing on Sunday and bring your pilgrim home.
- What will you do during the weekend to support your pilgrim and assist the community? If you can, be visible in service at mealtimes, to show your pilgrim that you are there for him or her. Help behind the scenes, at set-up or tear-down, or in the kitchen, to demonstrate the “invisible hands” of the Christian community.

Submitted by Simon Prior, Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Leaders Chair

## COMMENTS FROM THE RECTOR - TASTE OF GRACE #10

*"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as we see the Day approaching" - - Hebrews 10:21 - 25*

I feel so blessed to have this opportunity to serve as rector for our weekend #10. In building this team I am reminded of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts - it isn't an easy task and there are many trials and snares - but the resulting Christian community, yes - that is what the team becomes, is committed, encouraging and willing to serve with humility. The backbone of the team is prayer - it is built on prayer - comes together with prayer and will serve - praying continually. I ask that the entire community pray with, and for us, as well as for the pilgrims for whom the weekend is carried-out. I would also ask that every one commit to some involvement in support of both the men's and women's weekends - pray - write a palanca note - bring a pilgrim - come to the camp and help with any number of "out-side" efforts, send-off, serenade, clausura, set-up, break-down, etc. There are many ways for us to work around our busy lifestyles.

As you read in the opening Bible verses, we must continue to meet together, encourage each other and work together to build up this body of Christ. This unknown writer was doing just that in his letter to the Hebrews who were, at that time, undergoing great persecution and hardship.

How can we do less for each other?

Remember Christ is counting on you!

GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO I David R. VanZant

## Creation: In the beginning...

- God created the Heavens and the Earth and populated the Earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.
- Then using God's great gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Krispy Creme Donuts. And Satan said, "You want chocolate with that?" And Man said, "Yes!" and Woman said, "and as long as you're at it, add some sprinkles." And they gained 10 pounds. And Satan smiled.
- And God created the healthful yogurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 6 to size 14.
- So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented Thousand-Island Dressing, buttery croutons and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.
- God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof.
- God then created a light, fluffy white cake, named it "Angel Food Cake," and said, "It is good." Satan then created chocolate cake and named it "Devil's Food."
- God then brought forth running shoes so that His children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering blue light and gained pounds.
- Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them. And Man gained pounds.
- God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and its 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then said, "You want fries with that?" And Man replied, "Yes! And super size them!" And Satan said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest.
- God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery.

**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**.

**God Loves You and So Do We**

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**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.**

| Taste of Grace Via de Cristo Weekend #10 Servant Teams |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | Men's   | Women's   |
| Spiritual Director                                     | Pr Robert Dealey<br>Pr Phil Gronbach  | Pr Kathy Flores<br>Pr Mary Graves                                 |
| Rector/a   | David VanZant   | Janeen Tietjens   |
| Head Cha   | Ken Franz   | Dawn Constantino  |
| Head Inside Cha  | Gary Constantino  | Dawn Constantino  |
| Ideal  | Bob Deverick  | Jane Kerr   |
| Laity  | David Helfert   | Theresa Conklin   |
| Piety  | Frank Marshall  | Linda Henize  |
| Study  | Andrew Kjos   | Karen Peterson  |
| Apostolic Action                                       | Chuck Conklin   | Susan Lacy  |
| Leaders  | Ken Franz   | Ruth VanZant  |
| Environment  | Gregg Bickus  | Debbie Claar  |
| CCIA   | Mike Bryant   | Karen Deverick  |
| Head Music Cha   | Reno Caneva   | Karen Peterson  |
| Music Cha  | Paul DuBois   | Debbie Herrman  |
| Inside/Table Cha                                       | Chuck Conklin   | Joan Brems  |
| Inside/Table Cha                                       |   | Tammy Mack  |
| Head Chapel Cha  | Keith Reed  | Lisa Bickus   |
| Chapel Cha   | Fred Henize   | Sandy Verdooren   |
| Head Outside Cha                                       | Simon Prior   | Lenae Kirchner  |
| Utility Cha  | Joe Claar   | Dodi Callister  |
| Utility Cha  | Dan Kerr  | Kim Kozar   |
| Utility Cha  |   | Nicole Macaluso   |
| Utility Cha Part Time                                  |   | Pat Haaksms   |
| Head 4th Day Cha                                       | Lenny Koniewicz   | Michele Koniewicz   |
| 4th Day Cha  | Jim Forbes  |   |
| 4th Day Speaker  |   | Traci Little  |
| Prayer Warriors  | Al Ashby<br>Hugh Brems<br>Frank Brozek<br>Daryl Caneva<br>Craig Christensen<br>Steve Guy<br>Tom Hernandez<br>Ed Little<br>Gene Sullivan<br>Joe Tietjens | Rita Christensen<br>Tammy Gonigam<br>Anita Kube<br>Carol Marshall |
| Serenade Saturday<br>. Dining Hall Set Up              |   | Peggy Ashby & Twyla Horten  |

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8250 Finnie Road  
Newark IL 60541-9573  
630-553-6233  
fax 630-553-6240  
[www.dixonvalley.com](http://www.dixonvalley.com)

DeColores Cursillistas!

Taste of Grace #10 team formation is well under way. What a glorious privilege to be called to serve Him and His children!

For those of us who are not working on these teams, there is a different call. Please support the pilgrims and teams with palanca. There are several ways to let the pilgrims and team know you're praying for them. The prayer vigil would be the most obvious method since we all are aware of the prayer scroll. Another way is to write the pilgrims and team members and tell them.

One of the changes your Secretariat would like to see take place is having personalized (by name) palanca notes distributed throughout the

weekend. The thought behind this change is that this would be a way to bring home the point that the weekend is supported by prayer and that the general community letters they receive on Sunday tend to lose some of their oomph after they've read letters from family and sponsors. Much like other dynamics it would grow and end with palanca notes from family and sponsors on Sunday.

So, please consider signing up for the prayer vigil (a link can be found at [www.tasteofgrace.com](http://www.tasteofgrace.com)) and writing a personalized note to the pilgrim and team. These notes can also be attached to trinket type table palanca. Below are some ideas.

- ✓ Friday  
The concept of palanca isn't introduced until Actual Grace on Friday afternoon, so the first opportunity to receive personalized palanca is at dinner on Friday. Limit your personalized note to:
  - Simple statement sharing the fact that you're praying for them;
  - Friday's rollos are: ideal, habitual grace, laity, actual grace and piety, so you might want to include how you're praying for their relationship with Christ to deepen through the sharing they heard on these topics or other things they've experienced thus far, e.g., the silent retreat;
  - If you know the pilgrim, personalize the note even more, while being careful not to make presumptions about what they're feeling or to indicate experiences beyond Friday.
  - For team, the position they hold may mold the content of the personalized palanca note, e.g., a table leader may need prayers about how to guide a discussion while a Utility Cha may need prayers that their sore feet find relief.
- ✓ Saturday  
There maybe times when the pilgrims go back to their bunks to get things, jackets, restroom visits, etc. So pillow palanca is an option throughout the day. Rollo room palanca that is specific to a rollo would be appropriate as would food palanca.
  - Saturday morning if we follow the dynamics, the worship service should be a little more colorful than on Friday. They will not have heard any rollos yet, so in addition to the Friday topics, they have heard the meditation on the 'Figure of Christ';
  - By Saturday lunch they have now heard the study rollo and half of the sacraments rollo;
  - Generally Saturday evening is sans palanca. The living palanca offered in the serenade and possibly food (homemade cheesecake) can be overwhelming enough. As with all palanca not limited to a written note, please contact the Head 4<sup>th</sup> Cha on the team to let them know what you plan to bring and ensure we don't get 4 different cheesecakes for Saturday's dinner or a slew of bookmarks, etc.
- ✓ Sunday  
  - Breakfast: again following dynamics, worship should be even more colorful and they just heard the meditation on "Christ's Message to the Pilgrims". Saturday's rollos were study, sacraments, apostolic action, obstacles to grace and leaders. They've also now experienced living palanca.

Fall colors, burning leaves, turkey, wrapping paper...these are some of the ways we mark time. The passing of the seasons from fall into winter is my favorite time of the year. It reminds me of fireplaces and great warm sweaters, and eggnog on the way. But for some people, winter's trappings are just reminders of loss. While many are celebrating the holidays with family and friends, these close times just remind others of their loneliness, their brokenness. There is a higher incidence of suicide during the winter, because of the loss of light, and because of the memories attached to these celebrations.

November 1 is All Saints Day in the church. It is a day when we remember the saints who have gone to join the church triumphant. But it is also a day when we can be reminded that we are ALL saints – the communion of saints – here and now. As we gather to welcome new cursillista's this winter, and as we gather to celebrate the festival of

Thanksgiving, the season of Advent, and the birth of Christ, let us remember too those who have lost loved ones. Perhaps you know of someone who will be alone this season. Invite them for supper. Or perhaps there are people you know are lonely in hospitals or nursing facilities. List them in the prayers of your congregation, and take a bulletin to them when you visit. We all have been blessed with so much. How can we not be an agent of grace for someone who needs a smile, a hug, or just to know that someone cares?

May God shower you with blessings, in the celebrations, the memories, and the deep peace that Christ has given us to share. May this time of joy and love be everything you could hope for, and may God continue to use you as an agent of grace throughout the coming year.

GLYASDI  
Pr Anne Strickert

"Then Jesus told them this parable: Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." Luke 15:3-7

God Love You And So Do I - Mike Bryant

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Did you ever wonder "What does it take, from a financial viewpoint, to make the Taste of Grace Via de Cristo happen?" I have to carry out the financial burdens of Taste of Grace because I'm our treasurer. What I'm going to share with you is what it takes to go through a typical year at Taste of Grace. This isn't always an easy subject to talk about so I'll try to be brief and to the point.

To start, at least 12 - 18 months in advance, Taste of Grace has to secure the camp with a deposit of \$300 per weekend. In between weekends there is approximately \$50 - \$200 of stuff that needs to be purchased to replace perishables like our candles, Via de Cristo crosses, pilgrim guides, broken bins that store stuff, posters, etc...

After a team gets formed there are costs specifically geared towards team formation meetings like postage, communion supplies (bread & wine), copy making and miscellaneous discretionary things that a Rector/a may want for their specific team. During the weekend there's a \$200 float for incidentals and any special concerns of that particular weekend. Not

to mention the small amount of stock (books & stuff) for our study table that we carry. We also have storage & National Lutheran Secretariat (main body for Via de Cristo - a great resource) fees that we pay each year.

Our weekends are set-up to pay for themselves through the camp fees. Our camp cost last year was \$115 per person (team or pilgrim) and this year it's \$127. We'll be at \$127 per person through 2008. What we charge everyone is \$125 per person. This will change in 2009 and go up a little bit. The extra money we received from the fees in 2006 will balance out over 2007 & 2008 and cover the camp fees. We have to guarantee the camp a minimum number of people (team and pilgrim). If we don't hit that number the difference comes out of our Taste of Grace savings. This hasn't happened yet but is a very possible reality for any set of weekends if the team size is small and a small number of pilgrims attend.

When all is said and done, figuring that the weekends pay for themselves, Taste of Grace's approximate

annual cost is \$1,500. Many, many people donate items to help offset the cost of materials and Taste of Grace has been blessed over the years with some generous gifts to cover our other extra costs. More monetary donations are always appreciated and help your Taste of Grace community plan for the future and cover any unexpected issues such as the computer dying on us in 2006.

Please pray about helping Taste of Grace, ***your Taste of Grace Via de Cristo community***. You can help by taking a spot on the next prayer scroll, sponsoring a pilgrim, attending our Ultreyas, singing in a serenade, working on a team or even providing financial support. We are the hands and feet of Christ helping others to experience His grace through His weekends. At the end of the day you have the choice to help your Taste of Grace community. Please choose yes to support your Taste of Grace Via de Cristo community in any way that you feel called.

Because of Christ,

Lenny Koniewicz

- o For lunch, you could add what 'decolores' means to you, e.g., we are all different colors, who alone aren't ugly, but together we make something even more beautiful. Or the morning's rollos: environment, life in grace and Christian community in action. I would avoid the prayer scroll because on some weekends, due to time constraints, it isn't presented until lunch and you don't want them to read a note mentioning it before it's explained.
- o If you choose to write a note for the palanca bag, consider mentioning your prayers for these topics: total security in the 4<sup>th</sup> day, the importance of reunion groups and ultreyas.

Please bring these prayer love notes to the camp at send-off or in time for the desired delivery time and make sure to notate when they should be delivered, e.g. Sun Noon, after study, etc.

Here are a few examples:

- ✓ Suzie Q:  
I'm so please you answered God's call to this pilgrimage! My prayer for you has been and continues to be that your pilgrimage will strengthen your relationship with Christ and that you know how much He truly loves you.  
DeColores!  
Your sister in Christ,
- ✓ John:  
Knowing how unworthy we can sometimes feel, I pray that all the barriers that prevent you from experiencing God's grace anew are removed. May you receive the message that God has especially packaged and sent your way on this pilgrimage weekend.  
DeColores!  
God loves you and so do I,
- ✓ Chris:  
Study can be one of the hardest things to create into a habit. I pray that after hearing the study rollo you gain a new understanding of how study can enhance your relationship with Christ. May He continue to bless you as you take steps to know Him better.  
God loves you and so do I,

Thank you for answering God's call!

DeColores!  
God loves you and so do I,  
Michele Koniewicz,  
Lay Director

PS: Supporting the pilgrims and team can also be done by attending send-off, the serenade (you can also stay to help clean up) and especially the clausura where we welcome the pilgrims into our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community (help during tear down would be appreciated too and many hands make light work).

Remember the overwhelming love you felt when the prayer scroll was unrolled to encircle you on your pilgrimage? Please prayerfully consider signing up for the prayer vigil and lift up the pilgrims and team during the weekend. You can sign up for the prayer scroll the following ways:

- Go to [www.3dayof.org/Vigil](http://www.3dayof.org/Vigil)
- Go to [www.tasteofgrace.com](http://www.tasteofgrace.com) and access through the links page
- Phone or email Amy Prior at 815-230-2779 or [AmyPrior1@aol.com](mailto:AmyPrior1@aol.com)

IT WAS ONLY A QUARTER

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas.

Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter."

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really good example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test!

Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words.  
Watch your words; they become actions.  
Watch your actions; they become habits.  
Watch your habits; they become character.  
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

God bless you; I hope you are having a wonderful day!

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not PROTECT you...

Stay FAITHFUL and Be GRATEFUL

Comments from the "OUTREACH" chair  
Peace and blessings to all.

There is not a great deal to write about this quarter, our efforts to plant the 'seed' in new congregations have not met with a great success - but we will preserve and God will provide. We will be trying to develop new strategies in the coming months. We have also spent a great deal of time preparing for our fall weekend - see Rector's notes.

One of the topics from our last secretariat meeting was a discussion as to how we can do a

better job of organizing our efforts to grow "Taste of Grace" through efforts within congregations that are currently represented in the community. How can we work smarter, not harder? It was suggested that we should ask one person to volunteer as the focal point for his or her home congregation and to promote and coordinate all "Taste of Grace" efforts and functions within that congregation. This may be a way to more successfully grow our community.

That 'point' person would be asked to:

- Make sure that the Via de Cristo movement is known in your congregation by making our literature available.
- Giving and or arranging "temple talks" that explain our community, and invite other members to join us, during your regular services.
- Publicize our monthly Ultreyas and the spring and fall weekend retreats, encouraging community members to stay active by attending and serving at these events.
- Talk with your Pastor to get his or her support and understanding as the purposes, goals and methods of Via de Cristo and how they can help your church ministry.

Please contact Ruth or David VanZant at 815-834-1293 ([davevanzant@comcast.net](mailto:davevanzant@comcast.net)) if you are interested or willing to take on this ministry of growth for our community.

Remember "YOU ARE THE CHURCH"

"GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO WE" - Ruth and David VanZant