



Rectora's Report VdC #47

Welcome
to the
Via de Cristo
Semiannual
Community
Newsletter



VdC #48 Coming up!

- President's Corner
- Secretariat Election
- Spiritual Directions
- Annual Meeting

Fall/Winter 2014

President's Corner



De Colores,

Christmas! Oh, Christmas. I love Christmas! I love the decorations. I love the food (sometimes a little too much)! I love going to the same Christmas Tree Lot year after year to get a tree. I love the smell of Christmas trees. I love the wonder in the eyes of children when they see Santa, or when they wake up Christmas morning and see what presents Santa brought. But I think my favorite thing about Christmas is the present God gave us....of course I'm speaking of Christ. Glory to Him in the Highest!

I know for some, Christmas time brings challenges: Whether it be feeling the financial pinch or feeling sad that there will be one less at the table for dinner, due to death, or a member serving our military or even just having to work. I am sure there are more reasons but those are the more prominent reasons I can think of. If you are one of those who struggle during this time of year, remember there is hope. Hope that came in the best package EVER! That package doesn't cost us a thing. And for that we celebrate. As for that empty seat at the table..... here's a suggestion: Still set a place setting for your loved one and place a Bible in their place (just like on a VdC weekend where we place Jesus at the table) as a reminder of the hope He brings and to remind us that Jesus is always present with us.

My prayer for you is that in the challenges that come with the season, that we not lose sight of the reason for the season. And that our Piety, Study and Action are still important parts of our daily life. May you share His Hope, Peace, Love and Joy with those around you!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vickie De Blasio
President



Cristoistas VdC #47

- Mario Argueta**
- Vanessa Bucklin**
- Marlena Chandler**
- Len Engel**
- Pat Engel**
- Alan Gallegos**
- Susan Gallegos**
- Eli Garcia**
- Jane Gibbs**
- Rita Gregg**
- Doug Klinchuch**
- Leslie Klinchuch**
- Terri Robertson**
- Libby Swenson**

VdC #47 Rectora's Report



De Colores!

VdC #47 was an incredible weekend at Sierra Christian Camp. God's team of dedicated, hard working servants cooked and cleaned, sang and worshipped. Most of all, they prayed. God's love and presence were felt throughout the entire weekend. It was an honor and a blessing to be called as the Rectora for VdC #47.

We had a great team of angels who arrived on Saturday—thank you!! And we had a beautiful opportunity to witness Christ's love in action as the team laid hands in healing prayer over our sister Joan Hodgkins following the Agape feast on Saturday evening.

We welcomed 14 new Cristoistas into our VdC family that weekend. It was an indescribable journey to watch God's light and message fill each of them and deepen their relationship with Jesus. It was an experience I will never forget.

Love and blessings to each of you—

Wendy Fragosa

VdC #48 Coming Up!



Dear friends!

I'm sure you feel as I do that each VdC weekend is very special gift from God when we can lavish Jesus' love on our pilgrims, grow as Christian leaders, and serve the creator of the universe!

There are so many ways to serve to choose from: join the team, be an angel, sign-up for the 72-hour prayer vigil, sponsor a pilgrim, donate, and pray, pray, pray!

Perhaps you have not worked a weekend in a while but have been thinking about it. This would be a perfect time to jump back in, catch up with old friends and make some new ones.

Come join us on April 16th – 19th, 2015 at Mountain Pointe Camp for a spirit-filled mountaintop experience when you can get your spiritual batteries charged and let Jesus' light shine through you to the pilgrims.

Please pray about this and ask yourself if God is calling you to serve!

God's peace,

Becky Boardman
Rectora VdC #48

Please email your applications to:
mamaboardman@yahoo.com

Spiritual Directions

Another wonderful weekend was had by all at VdC #47. All of our pilgrims seemed to be blessed by their experience. When I think back to my pilgrim weekend (Lutheran Cursillo #9) one of the things that impressed me most was the overall sense of Christian Community and love that was on display. It was a wonder to watch that team of men (it was an all men's weekend) show such complete charity

and joy and acceptance, not only to us pilgrims, but to one another. I have since had the blessing to work on more weekend teams than I can remember. When you work on a VdC team you have the opportunity to be that same example of Christian love and charity on display for other pilgrims. And here lies the challenge.

Each weekend, on Thursday evening, we say the following to our pilgrims – "Life in common, together, as we will share it for the next few days, is not always easy. We are asked to be considerate of one another... Be thoughtful and be courteous, having a spirit of charity." And all of us on the team need to remember that those words are especially true for us, because working together on a team is also

not easy. Tell me, are there times when

your family members at home get on

your nerves? Of course! And, as

deeply spiritual as we all are, your

Christian brothers and sisters can

also get on your nerves. Some of

us have worked with each other

on many different weekends, and

we're now like family.

As a Spiritual Director on many

weekends, I can tell you that it's

not uncommon for team members

to come to me during a weekend

distraught over how another team member

has hurt their feelings. Maybe someone has rudely barked orders at them ("You need to go sweep that floor again!"), or criticized the way that they have done something ("That's not the way we wanted the carrots cut!") or they overheard someone saying awful things about them ("Can you believe that guy! He is driving me crazy!") Not only would this be a terrible thing to have a pilgrim witness or overhear, but it threatens to poison the Christian spirit of the team. When you receive such treatment, you may not want to work on a team again.

In Colossians 3 we read: "Since you have been chosen by God who has given you this new kind of life, and because of his deep love and concern for you, you should practice tenderhearted mercy and kindness to others. Don't worry about making a good impression on them, but be ready to suffer quietly and patiently. Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave

Continued next page

Spiritual Directions (continued)

you, so you must forgive others. Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony. Let the peace of heart that comes from Christ be always present in your hearts and lives, for this is your responsibility and privilege as members of his body. And always be thankful.” The Apostle Paul knows the struggles that Christian communities can have, because we are still so very human.

At the risk of belaboring the point – we praise God with our mouth, but we should not, with the same mouth, gossip about others, or belittle them, or bark orders at them. Jesus would not be pleased. So my prayer is that each of us would regularly ask God to search our hearts, and show us how we can be better witnesses of Christ’s love – to our pilgrims and to our fellow team members. There! Now I’ll get off my soapbox, and I look forward to the next time we work together.

Blessings,
Pastor Gary

Please use this ballot to cast your votes the Secretariat positions shown using one of these three methods:

- 1) Cast your ballot in person at the Annual Meeting & Ultreya
- 2) Via mail (before Jan 18th please) addressed:

**Via de Cristo of Southern California and the Central Valley
BALLOT**

9530 Hageman Road, B243
Bakersfield, CA 93312-3959

- 3) Via email to: vote@californiavdc.org

Space is provided under the printed candidate name for a write-in candidate.

Only ballots received by the Ultreya date will be counted. Thank you for your participation!

Annual Meeting

January 25th at 3:00 p.m.
St. John’s Lutheran Church
4500 Buena Vista Rd.
Bakersfield, CA 93311-9702
(661) 665-7815



Via de Cristo

9530 Hageman Road, B243
Bakersfield, CA 93312-3959
www.californiavdc.org
into@californiavdc.org

VdC Secretariat Ballot		
Position	Candidate	Vote
Spiritual Director	Pastor Gary Heltsley	
Treasurer	David Jordan	
Registrar	Bri McKinsey	
Historian	David Bookwalter	
Publicity	Nick Acquaviva	
3 Day Supply	Lou Azevedo	