

May  
2015

# Long Island Sound for Jesus

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*The Newsletter for Long Island Tres Dias | [www.litd.org](http://www.litd.org)*

## Welcome New Pescadores!

Please welcome and pray for our new Pescadores from our spring weekends held in April / May.

### **Men's Weekend #80**

Rector: Vinny Decaprio

- Manuel (Manny) Armendariz
- Charles Chu
- Tony DellaRocca
- Lawrence Doheny
- Paul Donaldson
- Robert Echevarria
- Randy Johansen
- Eddy Law
- Steve Suppes

### **Woman's Weekend #83**

Rectrix: Arlene Truumees

- Lisa Ammendola
- Susan Bliss
- Arlene Boracci
- Laura Callan
- Kathleen Casanova
- Denise Cianciotti
- Monique DeLuise
- Andrea DeVecchis
- Sherrie DiLapi
- Fran Fasulo
- Karen Isaksen
- Sirinee Law
- Rose LoCascio
- Mary Ann Newland
- Kristine Ostermann
- Sandy Palma
- Cecilia Silano
- Jean Sweezy Tatum
- Hannah Yoon

*It is not too early to start thinking about candidates for the upcoming Fall weekends in September / October!*

*Please also pray about working the weekends if you are asked! You can also let the next rector / rectrix know if you are interested in working.*

*If you can't work, pray that you can come and help with palanca or attend the opening and closing.*

## Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia

As we are in the EASTER CELEBRATION OF OUR RISEN LORD, we soon turn to spring. The flowers are growing, the grass is turning green, and it is a start to a new season.

The spring Tres Dias weekends are upon us. We see the Lords brothers and sisters celebrating together, and welcoming in our new Pescadores.

To me, Tres Dias is like spring. We see all the new growth within us. The colors of the flowers are like different churches, denominations, and backgrounds that make up Long Island Tres Dias.

Please come to the May secuela and meet and greet the new pescadores as they continue to bloom in the word of our RISEN LORD. The secuela is

May 9th @ New Life Community Church, 380 Lakeland Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782.

Decolores

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President

**President**

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## My reflections of the life, death and resurrection of my Lord and Savior.

Last year Bob & I invited a few friends over to share a meal and watch the Passion movie. This all took place about a week before Easter Sunday. A great way to prepare our hearts for Easter week.

We shared a meal and had some time of fellowship, then we sat and watched The Passion. Those two hours were intense for all of us. After the movie ended we shared our thoughts on the movie and this Holy season. It went so well we did it again this year.

As the week went on and I went about my daily routine I found myself with thoughts of what Jesus did for me and how undeserving I am of His love. No matter how hard I would try to be worthy of His love I would fail. No matter

how hard I worked at it I could never be perfect or sinless. Time and time again throughout my life I find myself failing and falling short and asking Jesus to forgive me.

Then I remembered how when Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed Jesus forgave Peter and asked Peter, "Do you love me?" No matter what Peter did or said Jesus replied, "Do you love me? So it made me realize, I am just like Peter. No matter what, Jesus forgives us when we go to him and He loves us unconditionally.

I would think about how Jesus walked the earth sinless. How an innocent man was convicted, beaten, laughed at, spit at,

tortured and then willingly went to the cross and asked God to forgive us.

That seems so crazy, and crazy it was! Jesus was crazy in love with us to the point of death! To think that God loves me that much is overwhelming. To know that no matter what I could ever possibly do, He will always love me and forgive me. How could I not want to serve a risen Savior that could love me that much?!

***But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name***

*John 1:12 NKJ*

DeColores,  
Vicki Goodwin  
1st Vice President

## From Our Newest Spiritual Advisor

Hi! My name is Vicki Elfers and I am the newest Spiritual Advisor in LITD.

The best weekend of my life was Women's Weekend #76 in the fall of 2010.

During that special weekend God broke in. God broke into my heart like He has never done before. I can see that there have been times in the past when God tried to reach in but I was the one who turned and walked away. So now I celebrate that wonderful weekend that changed my life forever; a weekend that has opened a whole new season of my life.

Working and serving on weekends, attending Secuelas and Reunion

Groups have provided all the encouragement I have needed to step out in faith and follow a new path.

Since my weekend 4 ½ years ago I have taken classes and have entered into an 18 month internship program to become a Rostered Deacon in my denomination. I have also been trained to be a Stephen Minister Leader and am currently serving with other Leaders in my congregation to teach 16 dedicated members of my church to be Stephen Ministers. The highlight of these past 4 ½ years has been my acceptance as a Spiritual Advisor for this amazing community of

believers. It will be both an honor and a privilege to serve our God in this capacity.

I have personally seen what God can do when we open our hearts to God. God can take us out of our ruts and out of our repeated sinfulness and when we open ourselves up to Him our lives can be forever transformed. For me there is no turning back and I pray that we all open our hearts completely so that we can all be free from the bonds of this world to live in the truth and the freedom of God's Kingdom.

DeColores!

## Update from the Outreach Committee

In the last newsletter I introduced the outreach committee which at the time I think only consisted of 3 people. I also laid out the plans for our committee as having a two-fold goal:

1. Bring back those who have for various reasons left Tres Dias
2. Reach out to new churches, especially their pastors, to get more of God's people and churches involved.

Since that time we have conducted a survey to find out what we can do to accomplish our goals. We received some responses but I will say the response wasn't overwhelming. It did however give us some insight into why some of you are no longer involved and more importantly what we can do to fix it. Between now and our next weekends in the fall we are committed to focusing on that list to do just that and I have some plans that are very exciting that even the committee has not heard about yet.

In addition to the survey, we created a new brochure under the direction of Joe Ambrose that we hope will help in our goals. It seems to have been well received.

Ron Giorgione also started the process of how we are going to reach out to other churches by creating a multi-page in depth handout that

explains Tres Dias in depth. The wording was primarily taken from the International Tres Dias website to make sure we are within guidelines. This document will be very helpful when talking with pastors of other churches who are not yet involved and I would like to thank Ron for taking that project on himself.

If you would like to be a part of this committee or you just want to let us know how you feel and what we can do to help spread God's word through this amazing community, please contact me via email at the newsletter address [LISound4Jesus@gmail.com](mailto:LISound4Jesus@gmail.com)

We would love to hear from you or have you on our team.

If you filled out a survey and have not heard from us, I am sorry! Please know that we did receive them and have and will continue to work on them. They did not go unnoticed and we thank you for taking the time to respond. It is important that we hear from you. If you would like to fill in the short survey to help us understand what you like and dislike as well as ways you think Tres Dias can improve, please do so. Here is the link.

<http://goo.gl/forms/yQqc4cEwpl>

We will be shutting it down soon.

DeColores,  
John Vercelletto  
Outreach Committee

### Broken Pieces

by Mike LaMagna

Living in a world full of broken pieces  
Pieces of glass, metal, clay and wood  
In the course of this life each piece breaks away  
These bring us pain, anger, humiliation, and grief  
These also have their share of regret and reprisal  
Each in its own measure

There is Hope

These broken pieces come large and small  
Pieces of broken spirits and broken hearts  
Of broken feelings and broken promises  
Of broken wills and broken dreams  
In a world draped by a blanket of indifference  
Some pieces on occasion hide in the shadows  
Some pieces at times sparkle in the light  
Pieces of our family, our friends, our souls,  
Each piece is a piece of us

There is Hope

There's a choice to be made  
To lose the pieces of ourselves forever  
And so lose our souls  
Or To put the pieces in the Masters care  
Pieces we leave behind by choice or by wrote  
These Pieces are part of the Masters' plan  
If we put these pieces in the masters hands  
Pieces once lost are now found

There is hope

There is a glory that comes from those shards  
Those chips, those chunks, those specks  
From hers, from his, from mine, from yours  
He takes each piece and makes it his own  
Each piece goes in its appointed place  
In a pattern so complex  
It might be too much to understand  
Yet if we step back and drink it all in  
They coalesce and shine bright  
Those broken pieces come together  
To show a magnificent portrait  
The world's broken pieces  
Become vibrant and distinct  
They become the beauty of Christ

**Christ is our Hope**

## Who's Driving this Rollercoaster?—A Healthy Adventure Awaits

When my son was born he received all the healthy foods I knew about at the time. If I had it to do over again, I would have blended some fresh organic fruits and vegetables instead of relying on popular jar brands with added chemicals and preservatives.

I didn't consider myself a very good mother, but I had an overwhelming drive to figure out what was best for this kid. So I gave him less of the foods I was exposed to. In retrospect, I attempted to reverse some of the negative behaviors passed on to me by my unaware parents.

Even though 'I' loved sugar, I didn't want to deny my son what I consider the 'logic of truth'. My objective was to give this boy a strong foundation with Christ-centered teachings and more of God-made food. I thought, if at some point in his life he strayed to 'unhealthy foods' as an independent older teen, he'd at least still have a healthier body than I had the chance of starting out with. I didn't want him to get cancer like I did.

He's almost sixteen now and amazingly 'water' is his drink-of-choice along with organic orange juice, organic milk, and the occasional canned ice tea or grape soda. That's

what I have in the house. I purposely challenged him years earlier to request water at restaurants. I was well aware that I had to be an example, so I ordered it too. The benefit of challenging your mentee to make better choices is, that God intends it to benefit you as well. I drink water more often now than ever in the past.

I notice there are plenty of times when emotions take the wheel of our life-car. As passengers in what feels more like a rollercoaster ride, we quickly stray from a healing path in order to quench those primitive human food cravings. Grown-up-baby needs a pacifier. Get the sugar.

I've helped make my son aware that a history of poor choices has been with me longer. Hoping he'll understand that certain things may take me longer to abolish. God has his work cut out for Him.

In the meantime my son has ringside seats. He's aware of the challenges and struggles that walk side-by-side with change.

He gets to witness my husband and I struggle to make it across a tightwire to the other side of daily cravings that were birthed in our own youth. My husband is a much better tightrope walker than I.

... Continued next page

## Reconstruction

I recently read a passage from Beth Moore's book, "Breaking Free".

***"God's expertise is reconstruction. After all, Christ was a carpenter by trade. Nothing has ever been allowed to crumble in a Christian's life or heritage that God can't reconstruct and use."***

I was so happy some sisters and brothers I have not seen in a while were involved over the past Weekend. God's presence is so awesome and so alive on these weekends and in this body of believers, as evidenced by each Pescadore who spoke at the closing or hugged us at the end. Loving, moving, beautiful. My prayer is that each one who has ever made a weekend remembers their "best weekend ever" and recommits to this amazing community. We miss you! – DeColores, Carol Arnold, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

### A Note About Reunion Groups

Being a part of a reunion group in your fourth day is absolutely essential. So much so that it is specifically mentioned in the Tres Dias International Bylaws. We know that reaching out to a group may be a tough decision, but we hope to make that process even easier. If you need help, contact Doug Magnifico.

What is a reunion group? A reunion group is a small group of friends who meet regularly to encourage one another to continue their Christian growth by sharing their experiences of Piety, Study, and Action.

If you have sponsored a candidate, one of your responsibilities is to connect your candidate to a reunion group. Why not invite them to join yours? If the time doesn't work for them, help them find one that does. Or better yet, why not start one yourself and encourage those who are not yet in a group to join you.

## Who's Driving this Rollercoaster? (Continued...)

If there weren't so many downsides to gluttony, I'd go back to stuffing my face with Yankee Doodles, Devil Dogs, donuts, candy, ice cream—or any sugary-unalive-food I grew up on.

So now I must take note of 'any' progress I make to encourage myself in this process when I do reach a victory-moment that particular day.

Lately I've noticed that when I fall backward, it's not always as far or for as long as it used to be.

Being a pioneer in the family isn't easy. I need rest too. But the progress that's been made from 'applying' ourselves to grow and learn in new areas of understanding is undeniable. I keep drawing new lines in the sand; new lines that mark the improvements that can be made by anyone. If I can do it why can't everyone? It's all in the baby steps, no matter how old we are.

I wish I could say that when our little family is faced with opportunities to change, we step right up to the plate, already prepared to swing' but I can't. Our immediate response to 'the new' is "NO!" But each of us has our very own time-out period (our defense system) which allows us to consider or reconsider what we've initially rejected. That's how our family seems to work.

Given that time (whether it's a few seconds, hours or days) most often we willingly step forward to the battle line. There have been many uncomfortably-victorious battles and some extremely rough moments. As a visionary with ideas, hope and the drive to move this thing, I needed some support and gas for this vehicle. New destinations were on the horizon and when my little family was on board, we were quite a team.

Ahhh, those few moments

on a mountain top.

Our little team continues to grow in the area of being intentional (hopefully Christ-centered) role models. I know there are even greater rewards than we've already received from our Lord.

Our son has known the challenge of making healthier choices in his life.

Now, his father and I have ringside seats as he's taken sacrifice and discipline to new levels—especially for a teen. At youth groups and parties, he often passes on the processed snacks and soda. I don't think he realizes the impact he can make on his peers and us older folks, just by being a good example and exercising the fruit of self-control.

One day, here and in eternity, I hope to find out how my son has helped change the world from his little corner of it.

DeColores, LAM

### GOD HEALS

God heals in many ways. He created a body that would miraculously heal itself.

But we often sabotage our army of cells by partaking in the fruit of this 'world,' leaving our army without a fresh supply of nutrients.

We fall for the lure, the lie, the scheme, the advertisement, the big-name company. Our enemy, that salesman at the forbidden tree, wants us to treat our bodies like human garbage cans. What if we paid more attention to how we feel and see if we can't move one step farther away from the things that may be causing some of those health issues?

So what is your body telling you? Mine keeps telling me...well, really it's the Holy Spirit that tells me to walk a little closer to the Garden of Eden. It get's a little lonely on that road. I often wonder what the body of Christ look like if more of us supported each other on this Rollercoaster I call a health-adventure. One ticket please.

## Bible Meditation

The purpose of this new column is to put a few bible verses out there for your meditation and study. It is not a devotional so no commenting will be done by me. Each newsletter I will choose another "topic" and will post bible verses that I am led to. What you do with it is up to you. If you feel strongly about what you meditated on, you can write a letter to

the editor to be included in the next issue. I hope you enjoy it.

John Vercelletto  
Editor

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Ephesians 4:32**

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

**Matthew 6:14**

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever

says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

**Matthew 5:22-24**

## Long Island Tres Dias

We're on the Web!

**www.litd.org**

Some pages on the site are password protected. Email Joe Ambrose for access code.

**It's not too early to start inviting candidates for the spring weekends!**

**Please start prayerfully considering working the spring weekends!**

**If your Church is hosting an event that you'd like published on our event calendar (www.litd.org/events) and emails, please send all the information for that event to [litdprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:litdprayerlist@gmail.com).**

## Upcoming Events

### Secuela's 7:30 PM

Secuelas gather at 7:30pm

Music starts at 8:00pm;

Bring a snack food to share and musical instruments;

Let's fellowship and celebrate the goodness and Grace of our Lord!

Secretariat meetings are held at 5:30 pm on the day of the secuela. Secretariat meetings are open meetings, all are welcome to attend.

**Would you like to hold a secuela at your church?**

**Contact Renee McCardle**

### Upcoming Secualas

**Saturday May 9, 2015**

Come meet and greet the new Pescadores!!!!

### New Life Community Church

380 Lakeland Ave  
Sayville, NY

**Saturday, June TBA, 2015**

TBD

**September Secuela TBA**

### Other Events

**Men's Fall Weekend**

**September 16 - 19 2015**

**Women's Fall Weekend**

**October 8 - 11 2015**

**Ducks Game - TBD**

**Please visit the outreach questionnaire**

<http://goo.gl/forms/yQqc4cEwpl>

### Prayer List

The prayer list is ever-changing. So we do not post a prayer list in the newsletter as it may not be up to date by the time it goes out. Please check the website and make sure we have your email as prayer requests are sent out as we receive them. Please contact Joe Ambrose if you wish to have something added to the prayer list. His email is [litdprayerlist@gmail.com](mailto:litdprayerlist@gmail.com).

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