

Long Island Sound For Jesus

November / December 2016

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas

WWW.LITD.ORG

Noteworthy

- We're on the web at WWW.LITD.ORG
If you need the password, please contact Joe Ambrose.
- Please visit the website for more detailed information for events and other questions you may have.
- To keep updated, please subscribe to our email list. Contact Joe Ambrose to be added or to change your email.
- Did you know you can now donate to LITD via the website in memory / honor of someone special? Consider making a donation today. Contact Joe Ambrose for help!
- Please prayerfully consider serving on the upcoming spring weekends. Don't forget, it is never too early to start inviting candidates!

Welcome New Pescadores and The Next Rector and Rectrix!

Please welcome and pray for our new Pescadores from our men's fall weekend held in October. Don't forget to come say hello and welcome them at the next secuela!

Men's Weekend #82
Rector—Mike LaMagna

- Thom Collins
- Franklin Noe
- Joe McKenna
- Joey Veitch

It is not too early to start

thinking about candidates for the upcoming Spring weekends in March.

Please also pray about serving on the weekends if you are asked! You can also let the next rector / rectrix know if you are interested

in serving.

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

Rectrix and Rector

We are happy to announce the next Rectrix and Rector of the upcoming spring weekends in March. Please pray for them!

Women's # 86—Rectrix, **Christine Walsh**

Men's # 83—Rector, **John Vercelletto**

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Changes by Vicki Goodwin

To the Tres Dias community. Fall is here and with fall comes change. The change of weather and the change of scenery. As we look around we notice the leaves changing colors and dropping from the trees. Fall reminds me of how God clothes the land in such beauty. God loves us so much He continually blesses us with so many things in our lives. Change of seasons is one of them. We are blessed to live in an area that has 4 seasons and with those 4 seasons comes continual

change. Fall has the change of the colors of the leaves, winter have the white snow that covers everything, Spring has the new growth of trees and flowers, and summer has the beauty of all the plants, flowers, bushes and trees in full bloom.

This got me thinking about changes we have seen in our community. Sometimes change is needed and sometimes it might only be for a season. Change can be good.

Let's look at change with thoughts of seasons and look for the beauty in the change. Let's look at change

as a time to renew, refresh, to move on with thoughts of new adventures awaiting us. We read in Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path." So let's look at change trusting God to guide and direct us in a way He would have us go. Let's look for the beauty and the blessings in changes. Let's look to God and thank Him for all things, even change!

DeColores,
Vicki Goodwin
1st Vice President

Thoughts from John Vercelletto

Over the years serving within the Tres Dias community on weekends (of which I have never said no when asked) I would think of the day I would become rector and what my verse and theme song would be and how I wanted that weekend to be and truly the “Best Weekend Ever”. Obviously in preparing for that day I also thought heavily about who I would want to serve on the weekend. I always wanted a mix of people, of course revolving around friends I knew previously but also friends I made and met in tres dias. Even just the acquaintances I have met that made an impact in my life, no matter how small. Even men that were just friendly and said hello and had a nice conversation.

Alas, now after years of thinking, I find the task of finding chiefs, assistants, and team a daunting one for a couple of reasons.

As part of the outreach committee, I want to not only reach out to those that have not been involved in a while, but just as important, to make sure the new pescadores get involved. So I need to balance “friends” with people I may not know very well. With a limited team, that is a tough task, but a decision all rectors need to make.

More important however are that many of my friends that I’ve known for years, no longer wish to serve on Tres Dias weekends. This saddens me as I can not see doing the weekend without them by my side. They all have their reasons and I in no way would say their reasons aren’t valid. Only they can decide that.

But I would like to give my thoughts on some of these reasons that I have been hearing for a few years now.

Personal Differences - I do not want to rehash or get into the differences. There are many.

I have one friend who absolutely LOVED Tres Dias. Didn’t stop talking about it for months, maybe even a year. But because of a comment made by someone within Tres Dias, has refused to serve on a weekend. Well the person he was mad at is no longer part of TD at this point, so why won’t he return? How can I have a weekend without one of my best friends being a part of it?

Then of course come the people who are mad at decisions made by secretariat so they no longer serve or come to the functions. Many of my friends are caught up in this civil war. I’ve even heard about those wanting Tres Dias to fail! I get the anger, I even get the wanting to leave. I don’t get the need to see the destruction of an organization that for years was a huge part of their lives that they once loved. I equate it to say wishing for a president to fail because he isn’t in your party, but in the process knowing that will destroy the country you are a part of.

I will ask my friends and I hope they find it in their hearts to put friendship and God’s weekend before their differences. And if not, I will understand, I will pray for them, and I will still be their friend.

CREDO

I have found that many of the LITD communities most steadfast workers are no longer accepting positions on LITD teams because they serve on CREDO weekends. Some for legitimate reasons like they just don’t have the time or money to commit to both and they feel CREDO is a worthwhile organization that they want to support. CREDO is an absolutely wonderful ministry. I have heard many great things and have met many great men who have come through their ministry. As a matter of fact, many of our current candidates for LITD have been sent here from CREDO after making

their CREDO weekend.

That last sentence alone is why I think if you are asked to serve on a TD weekend, and can do it, you should if you can swing it. You shouldn’t “leave Tres Dias” but rather support and be a part of both ministries. Why? Because the men you are sending to us need you to be a part of TD. They need men who they can relate to, who have similar hardships and needs. Who know what they are going through.

There is absolutely no reason why you can’t be a part of and involved with both communities except for the reasons already stated above. When you are asked to serve on a weekend, and they coincide, you can make a decision which one to serve on. BUT that doesn’t mean you need to make a decision about which community to support. Because both can work together and should.

Family and Commitment

Tres Dias is a commitment that needs to be taken seriously. We all want to serve God, but sometimes we are asked to split our time and spread ourselves thin. I get that. My wife has complained numerous times about my busy schedule amongst my many groups and things I am involved with at church. Sometimes we have to sacrifice our time but we should never truly sacrifice our family. So if time really is an issue for you, then please turn down serving on the weekend. When you sign up to work a team it involves at least 8 weekly meetings plus the weekend as well as perhaps other time to plan and prepare. If your other commitments will inhibit you making most of the weekly meetings or in the end may not be able to serve on the weekend, then you shouldn’t say yes. If you can’t really make the commitment, it isn’t fair to the rector, the team, or the candidates. Only you can re-

Thoughts... (continued)

ally answer that question. If you are concerned, talk with the rector about your concerns. You can both then pray about it.

Also please remember, if you are not serving on a weekend, you can and should still support the weekend and serve in whatever means you can, like serving meals, setting up the Agape room, the candlelight chapel, mananita, and most important to be there at the closing.

So what am I saying really?

What I am trying to say is if you are asked to serve on a weekend, or contemplating leaving Tres Dias, ask yourself why you are making the decision you are making? Is the decision what God wants? We always say "pray about it" but are you really doing that? Are you asking for an answer and more importantly, are you staying quiet enough to listen to what that answer might be?

Think, Pray, Listen.

If you are interested in serving on men's weekend number 83 with me,

I would love to have you. Contact me and I will try to find a place on the team. If you are called, know that God has put it on my heart to call, and if that is the case, then take the time to listen for the answer.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Remember, we are called to advance God's kingdom and make disciples of all nations.

May God's blessings be with you now and always,

DeColores,

John Vercelletto

Prayer by Vicki Elfers

The parable of the Persistent Widow as found in Luke 18:1-8, Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' 4 For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God grant jus-

tice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

This widow who had no one to speak for her, in fact women were not even allowed in the courtrooms of Jesus' day. So chances are she would bother this judge as he walked to or from the courthouse each day. I can picture her camped out outside the building waiting for him each day. She had nowhere else to turn and she needed the judge to act on her behalf so that she would have a voice in whatever wrong was

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 27th from 2 to 5 PM

Ken and Theresa Hessel Tres Dias Open House

Saturday, December 3rd from 5 to 10 PM

Live Nativity and Activities
Church of the Intercessor, Malverne

Friday, December 9th at 7 PM

Cup of Blessings Coffee House
Ascension Lutheran Church, Franklin Square

Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 PM

December Secuela
Hicksville United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 11th at 6 PM and 7:15 PM

A Living Nativity
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Amityville

Sunday, December 20th at 7:30 PM

Winter Solstice Concert
St. John's Lutheran Church by the Sea, Long Beach

Saturday, January 14th at 7:30 PM

January Secuela
Hicksville United Methodist Church

For more information: <http://www.litd.org/events>

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.

Prayer (from pg 3)

committed against her. The judge became her last straw and she was persistent in bringing her case to his ear every day. She had no power in society and she saw the judge as her only answer to her situation. How many times do we see God as our only answer to a problem?

In the parable Jesus tells us how persistence pays off; how the judge finally gave in and granted the widow her plea. Jesus also tells us that God is a God that grants justice and that God grants more justice than a human judge. When we persist in our prayers God does hear us. Jesus tells us in this parable that we should never stop bringing our requests before God because God will always grant justice to his chosen ones. Now this widow I am sure changed her plea over time just as we change our prayers over time. We grow from "please God give me

this or that" to pray more for "God open my eyes to see what I must do to bring about a resolution to my problems". In our persistent prayers we must grow because that is what God is calling us to do. God wants us to grow in our trust of his answers to prayer and God want us to grow into people who take part and acknowledge our own weaknesses and to honestly see where we need to work on ourselves. So I urge us all to persist in our prayers to God and I also encourage each one of us to grow through that time of prayer and conversation with God, because it can be so easy to get stuck in expecting God to do it all, rather than to see the changes that need to be made in ourselves. Part of God's justice is helping us to see where we need to grow. Let's be persistent in our prayers and persistent in our desire to grow in God' love and justice.

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.

