

## 2008 Winter Newsletter

(Lay Director)

Greeting Brothers and Sisters in Christ

As I sit here trying to think of some thing of value to put on this sheet of paper, I am reminded of all the times that have not been spent in the proper state of thinking. I have let all the obstacles of life including myself and my procrastination get in the way of what the Holy Spirit is trying to do in and through me. With lack of keeping my priorities straight I find myself always trying to dig my way out from the heap. I am not making excuses but the Holy Spirit is exposing my weakness in me. But as I do this I am also reminded of the saving Grace that our Father showers down on us, even with these weakness's God still wants to use me and He also wants to use every one of you for His glory. So with all of this aside I am trying to say that we need the support of each other as it says in Hebrews 10;24-25, (and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward 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 you see the Day approaching.) So I ask for all of the different ways that everyone can encourage each other on. Your prayers, palanca letters, serving on team, sponsoring a guest or working palanca.

So as we prepare for the upcoming weekend I ask for all of the encouragement and support that can be given in the name of our Savior to be passed on to each other. Our family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, the stranger standing in the checkout line. As we do this we will be the encouragement that is needed by all we meet.

In His service

Lonnie Svitak

(Men's Rector)

A Question you hear asked in this season is are you ready for Christmas? Gifts to buy, arrangements to make, cards to send out, Christmas programs to attend. Its a very busy time of the year. The question I'm dealing with this year is am I ready for the Via De Cristo weekend? Teams to put together, mailings to get out, team meeting to organize. One of the many lessons I am learning this year, (as I was anxiously looking forward to get the work behind me) the Lord said there is no whining in Via De Cristo. As we approach this tremendous opportunity to lift up Jesus that as He is received, life's are changed and He is glorified, I needed to do that with a joyful attitude. As we contemplate the preparation for the weekend I'm reminded of the importance of Intercessory Prayer to our faith. I think we get a glimpse of its importance in EZ 22:30 where we read ,God could not accomplish the desire of His heart because He could find no one to stand in the gap for the land. Or again when the disciples returned from the mount of transfiguration only to find they were not able to do the Fathers work because they lacked prayer. So as the weekend draws close let us be covenanted together to have the weekend bathed in prayer and the potential guest cover in intercessory Prayer.

HE IS COUNTING ON YOU

God Bless You

Alex Knepper

(Women'e Rector)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

***I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

It doesn't seem possible that it is time for yet another Via De Cristo. I am honored to be the Rector for the upcoming weekend. I know that God has great things planned for us and I'm excited to be part of it.

I ask for your prayers for the spiritual directors, for the team, for palanca, but most of all for the guests that will be attending. Do you remember your feelings before you attended for the first time?

Stop and take a minute and see if you can recall your feelings. Were you excited, nervous, perhaps scared to death? Please keep the guests in your prayers, that God will open up their hearts to all that He has to offer to them on this weekend.

Our focus for the weekend will be on the cross. I love crosses! There are all kinds. It wasn't until I found the above Bible verse some 10 years ago, that made me focus on the cross. Sometimes it makes me sad when I look at a cross and other times I am overwhelmed with joy because of what happened on that cross. That is why we are here today and is why this weekend is so important to us that work it and keep coming back year after year. I'm proud to be on God's team and I am excited that you are too.

De colores,  
Be Blessed,  
Valerie Curtis