

Holy Play
A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication

Secretariat Committee Election and Pilgrims

From time-to-time, I will communicate my opinion directly as the editor of Holy Play, and when I do, it will be in this italic format. This is one of those occasions.

Your Secretariat embraces and is constantly working on making a significant “course correction,” a theme you have heard mentioned before. We have discussed openly and with total transparency the idea of those decisions of the past as “unintended consequences” by past Secretariats and the community as a whole. There are many moving parts to this course correcting process, with some parts moving quicker than other parts. However, they are all moving at a healthy speed and direction.

*On Saturday, September 15th three vacancies to the Secretariat Committee will be filled. The new Secretariat Committee will meet Saturday, November 17th. Plans are for an October 20th Ultreya following the weekend. The present Secretariat Committee make-up is: **Area Code (843) (5): Area Code (803) (4): Area Code (864) (0).***

Sharon Crout (803) and Vivian Knight (803) cannot be reelected. I, Gus Martschink, Area Code (843) am filling a one-year remaining term and can be reelected.

Spiritual Director, Pastor Christi Pursey’s (803) term ends 2012. Pastor Jim Glander (803) term ends 2013, and Pastor Patti Sue Burton Pye (803) term ends 2014.

It is time for the Upstate to reclaim the balance required under the constitution. If the Lutheran Via de Cristo is to survive and grow in South Carolina, the entire state must be represented! Pray first, then call or e-mail me and I will see to it that your name is properly submitted for Secretariat. (See Footer) Is there a pastor from the Upstate who would like to serve?

The next article is part one of a three part series written by Mary Marcoux, UEC Clergy Coordinator. Part two and three will appear in the August and September Holy Play. Pastor Marcoux talks about the changes of their weekend by those who wanted to “add a little extra” and how that drifted away from the essentials.

Holy Play
A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication

Kathy Thomas, Rectora and her team will return to the essentials for this upcoming weekend. This effort will become meaningless if there are no pilgrims. That responsibility to seek pilgrims belongs to you, the entire community and clergy included. Remember your Grace-filled weekend and pass on the gift given you...Peace...Gus

Unidos en Cristo — Back to the Basics

Submitted by Mary Marcoux, UEC Clergy Coordinator

It seems to be a given in our society: Make it bigger and better or add a little something extra. I have been involved with UEC in one form or another (Cursillo, then United Cursillo, and now UEC) since 1979 and I have watched it evolve into the movement and form that it is today. I have seen a lot of “little something extras” added so that in a sense we’ve indeed made it bigger, but have we actually made it better?

I recently shared with our UEC Council that I believe we are drifting away from our Cursillo roots. I described what it was like in 1979 compared to what it’s like now. Within any faith organization there is always a tendency to mix current culture and trends with faith and belief. I fear we may be doing this with UEC. I know I am not the only one who has noticed this trend. After discussing this at UEC Council, we decided that it may be helpful to revisit our roots. Therefore, this is the first in a series of columns requested by the UEC Council to re-examine our roots and get back to the basics.

Many things have “snowballed” in UEC through the years not only costing us more money, but—more importantly—the time and energy of team members, and—even more importantly—deviating from the ebb and flow of the spiritual nature of the weekend. “Las Mananitas”, or the Morning Serenade, is a prime example of this. Original Intention: For team members to gently awaken the Weekenders with song. Initially it was solely the team who would awaken the Weekenders with song. They would simply get up shortly before the Weekenders and, while still in their pajamas, would quietly awaken them with song and then invite them for breakfast in “that much” time.

Publication # 4: July 1, 2012

Gus Martschink: Editor

336-202-9047

gusmartschink@hotmail.com

Holy Play
A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication

Gradually musicians were added to the mix, usually a guitar or two...then a small group of the 4th day Community (usually musicians or singers)...then Sponsors. Still, people would simply come and “sing them awake” and then leave--no 4th Day Community contact with the Weekenders whatsoever, not even a wave. Somewhere along the line, Sponsors began bringing a single rose (then later some even brought bouquets and gifts). Rather than a quiet awakening, there was now a din of conversation and laughter—and sometimes disappointment and bewilderment for those whose Sponsors were unable to attend. Team members no longer sang in their pajamas, but gave up sleep to be dressed and ready when the 4th Day Community began arriving. Eventually a glass of orange juice was added to the rose (which eventually was changed to a carnation)...then a carnation, a glass of orange juice and a glass of water...then the glass of water needed a slice of lemon...then a breath mint...so the morning serenade now often includes a carnation, a glass of orange juice, a glass of water with a slice of lemon, and a breath mint--most of which goes untouched and is immediately followed by breakfast.

The simple morning serenade has turned into an early morning party and I have seen Kitchen Team up as early as 4:00 a.m. to slice lemons! Some have also felt obligated to provide coffee and doughnuts for the 4th day Community. It's easy to see how the cost, the work, and Sponsor responsibilities of the morning serenade have increased (while the hours of sleep for team members--and the 4th Day Community--have decreased). Gone is the gentle awakening and the comments such as, “I can't believe all those people got up so early just to sing to us!” It seems to have become more of an interruption in the flow of the weekend.

We live in a materialistic society. We seem to have forgotten how to give of ourselves without including something material or wanting people to know that it came from us. A challenge to consider: To return to the simplicity and spiritual nature of the Morning Serenade; allow team members an adequate night's sleep; and wait until Sunday evening before the Weekenders have any contact with the 4th Day Community, thus

Holy Play

A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication

allowing them the weekend to separate themselves from the outside world, avoid distraction, and focus on God.

Publication # 4: July 1, 2012

Gus Martschink: Editor

336-202-9047

gusmartschink@hotmail.com