

Texas Gulf Coast Via de Cristo

Rector's Schedule

Thursday

This schedule is designed to take the Rector of a Lutheran Via de Cristo through the weekend step-by-step. All comments, chapel services, prayers, and practical helps are included where they occur in the schedule. (*Please Review the Schedule.*)

Actual words spoken by the Rector or one of the Assistant Rectors is high-lighted. You will have two (2) Assistants, so select which will be Assistant Rector A or Assistant Rector B.

Each day is a separate section with a divider before each day.

The objective of the weekend is to:

1. Let the participants (Team and New Pilgrims) understand and experience God's actual Grace, as described in the clergy talks; and
2. Give the participants a living demonstration of one way (Via de Cristo) of how to live our Christian faith in small groups, and in the community of Christians, supporting, encouraging and challenging each other to Christianize our environments, as described the lay talks. Therefore, you need to direct everything that is done on the weekend toward achieving these two facets of the objective of the weekend.

This manual is a guide and resource for conducting the weekend and achieving the objective. One thing that can be changed is who reads what. The schedule **MUST** include:

1. The fifteen talks, (Study).
2. The morning chapel meditations and daily worship, (Piety).
3. Building community in small groups, (Apostolic Actions).
4. Ample time for personal meditation, reflection and sleep for both the new Pilgrims and the team!

Arrive: Palanca team does check-in.

Two persons, (Team Cabins/ Registration & Computer/Financial Leader are to collect any outstanding fees). This is done by having a table set up near where everyone arrives. The list shall include room assignments and name tags. A picture of the new Pilgrim shall be taken as they arrive and check in.

The rest of the team helps the new Pilgrims find their beds, stow their gear and bring them back to the dining room area for supper and conversation. **At no time will any new Pilgrim be left alone.**

An Assistant Rector verifies the number in attendance.

An Assistant Rector rings the bell at 7:45 pm if all have arrived. Bring the new Pilgrims into the Rollo room. Seat them according to room/table. (Have room numbers on the table.)

You may paraphrase the text in your own words to better communicate the meaning of the text, where needed.

Please check the schedule first for changes. The time-line below is only an example and matches the unaltered timeline.

The Attached Schedule is The One to Follow!

12:00-1:00 pm - All Team arrive and check in.

1:00 pm – All team members are Palanca team until dinner.

4:00 pm – Team meeting: Worship: Communion and commissioning. Assign Crosses for the new Pilgrims. One of the Assistant Rectors will record the distribution.

5:00 pm – Team supper

6:30 – Greet the new Pilgrims. No hugs or crosses. One table leader from each cabin will welcome new Pilgrims.

7:00 pm – Greet any late arrivals.

7:30 pm – Meet in Rollo room.

7:45 pm - Rollo Room begins Activities.

Even if you are running late because of late arrivals, never shorten the introductions. This is very important.

8:00pm: Assistant Rector A Introduces self:

Good evening. My Name Is _____. (My Spouse's Name is _____.) I/We Live In _____
And I Worship At _____ Church. (We Have # Children) (Give their names). I will be serving as an assistant rector during this Via de Cristo Weekend.

At this time, I would like for you to partner with the person next to you. I would like for each of you to become acquainted with each other. in about 10 minutes, I will then go table by table and have each person stand and introduce the new friend you just met. Please include their church, Hometown, family, occupation, interest, etc.

(This does not include the Rector's table, (St. Elsewhere); they will be introduced later.)

After the introductions, Assistant Rector A introduces the Rector, _____.

Rector's Preliminary Talk:

All of us on the team want to welcome you to the Via de Cristo Weekend. We have all been looking forward to this moment for many months, wanting to meet you and tell you how happy we are that you are here! On Your table is a small book called the Pilgrim's Guide. In that book on page 42 is a prayer entitled "The Prayer of the Holy Spirit." This and other prayers and songs will be used frequently this weekend. Please write your name on the

front of it and carry it with you all weekend. (Pause) Please stand and turn to page 42 and pray The Prayer of the Holy Spirit with me.

Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit, and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit instructs the hearts of the faithful, Grant, that by the same holy spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolations. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

You may be seated. (Pause).

We will use this prayer often during the next three days. Those in the Via de Cristo movement place a great deal of trust in the work of the Holy Spirit and feel strongly his presence in all we do during a Via de Cristo weekend.

We also place a lot of emphasis on Holy Scripture. At this time, I will read from God's word, Mark 1:12-15. (This takes the place of Thursday Bible Enthronement.)

My name is _____. (My Spouse's Name is _____.) I/We live in _____ and attend _____ Church.

I/We have _____ children (give names) and I work at _____.

During this Via de Cristo Weekend, I will be your Rector. That is a very formal sounding title, but it simply means that for the time

we are together, I will try to guide you through the weekend in a comfortable and joyful way. Since we are going to be involved in a variety of interesting activities during the next three days, my task will be to keep an eye on the schedule and make sure nothing is forgotten.

The Assistant Rectors for this weekend are _____ and _____. our Spiritual Leader is Pastor _____ and Assistant Spiritual Leaders is(are) Pastor'(s) _____ & Pastor _____.

The Via de Cristo Team, some of whom will give talks during the weekend, will also assist me in conducting these three days.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome you to Via de Cristo which is a Spanish word for "the way of Christ." We are so honored that you are here! Now throughout the weekend you will hear the word "Cursillo". (CUR SEE YO), And is spelled C-U-R-S-I -L-L-O. This is a short course in Christian Living.

It is a means for studying and focusing our attention on ways which help us in our daily living at home, in the congregation, at work and at play.

Why the Spanish words? Cursillo had its beginnings in Spain in 1944 on the island of Majorca and spread to the United States in the late 1950's. It began in the Lutheran Church when lay people and clergy attended a Catholic Cursillo in 1971. The first Lutheran sponsored weekends were held in Iowa and Florida in 1972.

The first Texas Lutheran Cursillo was held at Camp Lutherhill near La Grange in January of 1986 through the joint efforts of Iowa's Lutheran Cursillo, the Texas Catholic, Episcopal, and other Cursillo Communities, and LORMS. The Lutheran Cursillo changed its name to Via de Cristo in 1986.

You are here to attend weekend # _____.

Each of the weekends has had a theme, based on a particular passage of scripture. The theme for this weekend is _____ and is taken from _____. (Read the scripture verse(s) and point out the theme banner, if there is one.)

These Via de Cristo Weekends are being conducted now in 32 states. Thousands of individuals have attended over the years.

Most of us have had a friend experience a Via de Cristo, Cursillo, Acts, or Walk to Emmaus Weekend. They didn't tell you anything you had not heard before, or they have said, "It is hard to explain; you just have to experience it." Via de Cristo really must be lived to be understood.

You will find that each day unfolds into the next day, all according to a plan.

Basically, we will do the following:

1. We will listen to talks each day.
2. We will discuss them.
3. We will have Holy Communion.

4. We will have group prayer in the chapel.
5. We will summarize each day and we will have fun doing it!

Most of you have worked at putting together a jigsaw puzzle in your family. Remember how you searched, fit and worked on the puzzle until finally the last piece is put in place to complete the picture?

Via de Cristo is kind of like that; many pieces, all different, but each in its own place.

So, please, take each day as it comes, enjoy the people and the things you share and, like the puzzle, everything will fall into place.

Each of you has come as a very special individual, each with different backgrounds and experiences, each with your own special gifts to offer to the weekend. Your reaction to the weekend will be just as unique and individual as you are.

One thing is certain: you will receive from Via de Cristo what God wants you to receive, so relax; accept each day as it comes, and enjoy yourself and this time with fellow Christians.

Since Via de Cristo is made up of the teachings of Christ, to really understand it, we need to be spiritually prepared to receive the full benefits. There will be daily opportunities to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, as well as to make chapel visits, and to visit with our Spiritual Leaders. These things all help us to open our minds and hearts to the message of Jesus!

The effectiveness of Via de Cristo Depends on three things:

The Grace of God

Our organizations, and

Your cooperation.

The first contribution is from God - His Grace. He makes it available to us through our reception of Holy Communion, and by the prayers of ourselves and others all over the country, who are praying right now just for the success of this specific weekend.

The second - organization - is our contribution. The planning and work for this Via de Cristo weekend began over a year ago. The team began meeting together to prepare for this weekend in (name month) _____.

The work has been done willingly and joyfully by all those who are interested in your welfare and comfort during these next three days.

The third, cooperation, is the contribution we ask of you. We ask for your ideals, your spirit of cooperation, and your spirit of Love. (pause)

Idealism means to seek a high spiritual goal. The spirit of cooperation means that you open yourself to the Holy Spirit as it works through Via de Cristo and take each event as it comes, trying to do what you are asked to do at the time, not worrying about what's coming next. We would encourage you to feel at home, unbend, hang loose and take a break.

Listen for the sound of the bell. Whenever anything is about to begin, it will be announced by the bell.

Remember this...nothing will begin until everyone is present or accounted for. The more you put into Via de Cristo, the more you will get out of it. (pause)

We also ask that you bring to Via de Cristo a Spirit of Love. We will be living together as sisters and brothers in a loving family.

There will be many opportunities to make friends. By seeking others out, you will get to know everyone.

If you bring your idealism, your spirit of cooperation and your spirit of love, you are going to live three days of very special grace.

Now we will cover some ground rules for the weekend.

Since we want to get to know each other quickly, please always wear your name tags and in plain sight. In case yours gets lost or broken, or your name is misspelled, please tell one of the assistants, and we will find a new one for you. If you need anything at all, simply let a team member know.

1. To get the full benefit of the Via de Cristo weekend, it is important that you listen and take part in everything that goes on; so please do not leave the group at any time! If you are ill or not feeling well, please let a team member know. We have come here to focus on our relationship with God.

We would like to eliminate all outside distractions if we can. So, with your spirit of cooperation, please place your cell phones,

cameras, iPad, and any other technological wonders in your suitcase and forget them until you get home. We ask you not to use the phone but be assured that if there is an urgent message, you will be notified. If it is necessary to call out, please see me or an Assistant Rector.

2. For these next three days we will be on God's time. Therefore, we ask again for your spirit of cooperation, to remove your watches now and leave them in your suitcases. At home we are forced to run our lives by a clock so while you are here, just relax and let us worry about the time. If you need medicine or food at certain times, please let one of the assistant rectors know, and we will see that you get it, on time.

3. You may smoke in the designated areas only. This camp is a non-smoking facility, but they have arranged a few areas that can be used, please be sure and put all butts in the containers provided. Be a considerate smoker always.

4. A bell will be rung to summon you from one place to another. When you hear the bell, please respond quickly.

5. Restrooms are located _____ and _____ and in the cabins, and dining area. We will try to give you plenty of break time, when possible, for your needs. When we are on the way to chapel, or participating in discussions, it is not a good time to leave the group.

6. There will be a supply basket in the restrooms for your convenience. It should cover nearly every need, but if there is something you need, contact one of the assistant rectors. If you did not bring sleeping gear with you, we have spare sheets, Blankets, pillows and towels.

7. If anyone has special dietary needs, (not already communicated), see either me or one of the Assistant Rectors, and we will arrange with the kitchen for what you need.

8. Our schedule does not provide for frequent trips to your cabin, so it's best to carry items with you that you may need during the day.

9. When we are in chapel, if you prefer sitting, rather than standing or kneeling, go right ahead and sit - be comfortable and don't be embarrassed.

10. After chapel tonight, there will be several people with flashlights to lead you to your cabins. Don't forget to take your flashlight, if you have one with you, and please take your Pilgrim's Guide to chapel.

Does anyone have any questions at this time?

8:40 pm – Restroom break (no one goes to cabins).

We will now enter what we call the Spiritual Retreat portion of the Via de Cristo.

To start our spiritual retreat, let us clear our minds and hearts of those things which are troubling us the most right now. Let's put them away for the 72 hours.

On your table are some small pieces of paper. Please take a piece of paper and write at least one concern or burden you are carrying at this moment. Something which may have been weighing heavily on your mind as you came here tonight. The

one thing you would most like to forget for this weekend. Do not sign these. Then fold the paper and place it in the prayer basket on your table. During this weekend, there is a prayer vigil. These concerns will be taken to the prayer chapel where they will be given over to God in prayer. (pause; allow time for this)

It is time for us to go to the chapel. Please take your belongings with you and please follow the Assistant Rectors and Spiritual Leaders to the chapel.

9:00 pm – To Chapel

- Reflection, "Know yourself" (Spiritual Leader)
- Reading: Luke 15:11-32 (Spiritual Leader)
- Homily, "Prodigal Father (Son)" (Spiritual Leader)

Rector (R): We will now have our night prayers.

Assistant Rector (A): Teach me, my Lord, to be kind and gentle in all the events of life:

Assistant Rector (B): In Disappointments,

(R) In the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted.

(B) In the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied.

(A) Let me put myself aside -

(R) To think of the happiness of others, to hide my little pains and heartaches so that I may be the only one to suffer from them,

(B) Teach me to profit by the suffering:

(A) That comes across my path.

(R) Let me so use it that it may mellow me, not harden or embitter me, that it may make me patient, and not irritable.

(B) That it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow, haughty, and overbearing.

(A) May no one be less good for having come within my influence, no one less pure, less true, less kind, and less noble for having been a fellow traveler in our journey toward eternal life.

(R) As I go my rounds from one distraction to another, let me whisper, from time to time, A word of love to you... may my life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good and strong in its purpose of sanctity.

(B) Dear Lord, we ask your blessing this weekend. Please send your Holy Spirit to us as you did to your early apostles and disciples. We need your special help, Lord. We need your help and we promise to open our hearts to you. Help us to know your will for us as we hear and share your words.

(A) It is late, and we are tired, Lord. We are going to bed now and will spend the time from now until after chapel in the morning in a spiritual retreat, and in silence we will meditate on our lives and on your will. in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(PAUSE)

(R) We will now dismiss for bed. We will be in a period of silence until after chapel in the morning.

If you need to ask a question, you may; otherwise, please observe silence. There will be time for conversation tomorrow. Remember, we will wake you in the morning and you will have about 45 minutes to get ready before chapel. A bell will call you to the chapel. Please wait for the bell or an Assistant may come for you.

The Spiritual Leaders will remain here for a few minutes now. Anyone who wishes to see a Spiritual Leader, feel free to remain behind.

There are people outside with flashlights, waiting to help you find your rooms safely. Please walk carefully, as the path may be uneven. We will dismiss by cabins. When I call your cabin, please leave together and follow the paths to your cabin. If you require a golf cart, please wait outside and one will be provided for you upon request.

9:45 pm (Dismiss by cabins)

Texas Gulf Coast Via de Cristo
Rector's Schedule
Friday

6:00 am - Rector is awakened by Palanca Rector.

6:15 am - Rector (or Assistant Rectors) wakens new Pilgrims
(Everyone is still silent)

6:30 am - Team morning prayers and Palanca Team meeting, if
St. Elsewhere wants to join.

6:45 am - Assistant Rector B - rings bell to summon the new
Pilgrims to chapel. Bells may not be heard in some cabins, so it
may be necessary to go to the cabins and bring them to the
chapel.

7:00 am - Chapel. Suggested order:

Rector: "**Good Morning!**"

Let us pray: Father in heaven, I am beginning a new day. Everything I do today, I do for your honor. Many things will come my way today, lord. Some I shall like, others I shall dislike. But I will try to do your will in each situation. Give me patience in trying situations. Do not let the things I like to do keep me from fulfilling my duties. Help me to be responsible.

Assistant Rector B - **I ask you for a cheerful heart. Help me to reflect the joy of you to everyone that I meet, to say the right**

word at the right time, to be silent when I should, not to be easily offended, and not hurt the feelings of others.

Assistant Rector A - Let me not be closed to the needs of others, nor to the wounds which so many of my acquaintances conceal within their hearts. Help me experience your love in the hearts of those I shall meet today. Let my work, Lord, express your concern for all men and women. Help me to radiate your love to each of your children.

Rector - God ... I Turn my thoughts to you for a moment now as I begin this day. I pray today the prayer one of your people, St. Francis of Assisi, wrote years ago. These are my thoughts today. Amen

Please turn to page 5 in your Pilgrim's Guide and join me in prayer.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, Pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Divine Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Meditation by Pastor: "The Three Glances of Christ."

Thanksgiving Prayer (led by Rector or one of the assistants)

Asst. Rector A - Lord God, as this new day begins, I want to turn my attention to you for a moment. I seek your mercy and your help. Help me to find more meaning, more direction, more purpose to my life today. I know that those who walk with you will find happiness and joy, those who serve you find peace and love. So today help me to walk with you and to serve you. Help me to grow, to grow through the joys and difficulties of this day. Help me to learn to love a little more, Lord. Amen.

As we leave the chapel for breakfast, the period of silence has ended.

Rector: Dismisses for breakfast.

Asst. Rector A – Check to see notebooks, paper, etc. are ready in the Rollo room).

7:30 am - Breakfast (Asst. Rector A – Select people to do Bible processional during breakfast.)

(Asst. Rector B – Get Ideal Rollista, _____ ready. Accompany them for the send-off. Make sure the lapel microphone is ready. Always walk with Rollista to the Rollo room. Provide golf cart if necessary.)

GRACE BEFORE (ask a team member prior)

7:45 am - JOKES.

Asst. Rector A:

We have been working in a series of threes. Last night we asked for your spirit of idealism, spirit of cooperation, and spirit of love.

Now we are going to have a little joke session; and we ask three things of you: make them short, make them clean, and make them funny. When you stand up to offer a joke, please give your name and the name of your church. Who wants to start? **(If no one volunteers, be ready with your own joke).**

Grace After (ask a team member prior)

8:15 am – Ten-minute break on the way to Rollo room (leave dining room, team needs to eat)

8:25 am – Asst. Rector A – Opening remarks. Instruct them to sit at the same tables they sat at last night.

Rector: The beauty of the person of Christ is with us today as we begin our Via de Cristo weekend. We will become aware of this as we experience openness, friendship, and concern with and for one another as each day progresses.

Rector explains Bible Enthronement.

We will now have a bible enthronement.

God's word has a very important place in a Via de Cristo weekend. To symbolize this, we have a simple ceremony called a "Bible Enthronement" in which a portion of scripture is read which sets the tones for the day, then the open bible is placed on an altar, or "throne." At the end of each, a similar ceremony, called a "bible recessional", is practiced, in which a portion of scripture is read giving us something to ponder for the night. We will now have our bible enthronement.

Candle bearers will be _____ and _____, the reader is _____. Please stand. (We usually use assistant rectors, spiritual directors or team members for first bible enthronement).

Bible Enthronement (Matt. 8:23-27) (Jesus calms the storm. Challenges us to have faith in Christ.) (Have bible passage marked and ready).

Rector: Please be seated. I hope each of you found the sleeping facilities comfortable enough to get a good night's rest. I've been looking around, and I think all of you remembered your tags, but in case some of you didn't, please hold up your hand and we'll get it for you.

You are probably all a little tired after last night. Today, you will find it a little easier and tomorrow it will be easier still. Even though Via De Cristo is not a continuous picnic, you will have fun if you take advantage of it-- by opening your mind and heart to the holy spirit, and by continuing to surrender yourself and to enjoy each other.

I have a couple more Spanish words for you. We are now in Decuria, another one of those words from our Spanish founders. Decuria means a group of ten, but we are in groups of _____.

Groups, or tables, of _____ each, and we call our groups Families. These families will be permanent for the three days. Each of us knows what it is to be part of a "Family," and we hope that your new family will be filled with the same unity and love.

For identification purposes each family is named after a well-known Saint: Saints _____
_____ [examples Sarah, Paul, Ruth, John, Elizabeth, AND Mary],

(or any other the Rector has selected prior to the weekend) – (for coed tables, names such as Peace, Faith, Hope, Joy or Love can be used).

Rector explains Decuria procedures.

Each day we will participate in five separate conferences. That brings us to the next Spanish word, "R-O-L-L-O" pronounced Roy-Yo. Translated, it means, "Conference." The "Talk" portion of each Rollo will be given by a member of the team, either a layperson or a Pastor. A person who gives a Rollo is often referred to as a Rollista.

All except the first Rollo will begin with the prayer of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the talk, the speakers prefer not to be applauded. We also ask that you not interrupt the speakers with questions or comments; save them for your family discussions following each talk.

On the tables are folders containing paper and pens. *(If their names are not already on them, ask them to write their name on it.)* It's yours to keep. As you listen to the Rollos, do take notes. Write down the thoughts you wish to remember.

(Only use this sentence if we are using outlines) A brief outline will be given for each talk to assist you in following along.

You'll use these notes in your discussion after the talk, and they'll help you remember the message of the talk after the weekend is over.

After each Rollo, your family will discuss your impressions of the talk. To moderate our discussions and record our thoughts, each family will select a leader and a recorder before each discussion.

Some people seated at your table have been asked to volunteer to do this for the first talk, and after that we ask each of you to take turns being leader as well as recorder.

We will leave the selection process up to you in each family. The leader is not the "expert," but more of a "facilitator," keeping the discussion going and on track. The recorder, with the help of the other members, will write down the key points of the discussion around your table. This could be a brief summary (a minute or two) of what your table felt about the meaning of the Rollo. We will ask for the summaries later.

Everyone should be allowed to contribute to the discussions.

During the discussion period we will hand out poster paper and felt-tip pens. In addition to the recorder's report, we want you to express in picture form the main ideas of your discussion. We don't expect masterpieces. Quick drawings are fine. If one person really does have a talent for drawing, please don't make him or her do all the work! The poster should be a cooperative effort. Here's an opportunity to let your imaginations go to work. Feel free to depict anyone or anything you want to; no one

will be offended. The posters don't have to be serious. If you are moved to do something comical, go ahead and put it into your picture.

Every family needs unity and team spirit. Get to know each other well. You will want to meet others besides those in your own group, so we will mix at meal times, break times and when we go to chapel.

Please stay seated during the Rollo!

Refreshments will be available, and breaks will be announced, so we would appreciate you not leaving the tables except during those breaks.

Throughout the weekend you might be asked to say grace at meals, to participate in a Bible Enthronement or Recessional, or to read scriptures during a chapel service. If you would prefer not to do this, just tell the person who asks you. We don't want you to feel pressured.

Remember to write your prayer requests on one of the pieces of paper on your table and place them in the prayer basket. These will be taken to the Prayer Chapel during the day for Prayer Vigil.

For us to benefit from each other's discussions, we will have a Decuria Meeting this evening. Some call it "Show and Tell" Time, or a poster party. At that time, you will share with the rest of us the summary of your family's discussion of one of the Rollos given that day.

After the summary, two or more members of your family will display the poster for the same talk and another member of your family will explain it.

There will not be time for discussion or criticism of the summaries. We do it just, so others can hear your ideas as well as their own. Remember to keep the summaries brief, and you might put your family name on each poster and show who the secretary was for that Rollo discussion, so you will know who took notes for that discussion.

As I told you last night, everything will be introduced by the bell. Please listen for it and be prompt in responding to it.

We will get started now, but before we do, I'll give you a minute to fill your coffee mug. Are there any questions?

(Then, after short break:)

8:28 am – Asst. Rector A - Put outlines on tables before the talk.
(if you are using outlines)

Rector: **Again, I would like to stress the importance of taking notes. Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper. The first Rollo will be given by a layperson.**

8:30 am – Rollo #1 – “Ideal” (20 Min.)

8:50 am - Summary and Poster Session–
Asst. Rector A asks everyone to discuss and summarize talk with their families.

Asst. Rector A – Gives introduction to poster session and hand out poster board and markers about ten minutes into the discussion time. (*NOTE: Please stay on schedule. By giving the poster board and markers out too early, the schedule will be off. Allow time for discussion, first.)

Asst. Rector B - Get Grace Rollista ready, Pastor _____

9:20 am - Rollo Room Photo (Asst. Rector B) helps facilitate in organizing this.

9:35 am – Asst. Rector A – Put outline on tables Before the talk. Music prior to Rollo.

9:35 am – Asst. Rector A:

Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 42 in your Pilgrim Guide, Stand. The next Rollo will be given by a Pastor.

9:40 am - Rollo #2: "Grace" (30 Min.)

10:10 am – Asst. Rector A - Summary and Poster Session facilitates this.

[Asst. Rector A should check to make sure General Palanca is ready for "Grace Too" Rollista.

10:45 am – Break – snacks available

11:00 am - To Chapel for Holy Communion. (This is planned and led by Spiritual Leader).

After Worship, The Rector dismisses for lunch.

11:45 pm - Lunch

Grace before-- jokes, if needed. (Here is where time can be added or deleted to stay on schedule.)

12:30 pm- Introduction of "De Colores" (Spiritual Leader and Palanca Team) Spiritual Leader explains and Music Leader teaches the song. (Palanca team does skit).

Grace After

12:45 pm – Asst. Rector A explains "Horizontal Meditation". They can go to their cabins to rest or go for a walk. (As long as they can hear the bell.)

1:30 pm – Asst. Rector B get Laity Rollista, _____ ready.

1:45 pm – Asst. Rector A rings BELL

1:50 pm - Pilgrims to Rollo Room

1:50 pm – Asst. Rector A – Put outline on tables Before Rollo. (If you are using them)
Music prior to Rollo.

Asst. Rector A: **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 42 in your Pilgrim guide, and stand. The next Rollo will be given by a Layperson.**

2:00 pm – Rollo #3: "Laity" (20 Min.)

2:20 pm – Discussion and Poster Session:

Please take a moment or two to meditate on what you have heard.

Assistant Rector B - (Get "Grace Too" Rollista ready, Pastor _____).

3:00 pm - BREAK – Snacks available

3:10 pm – Asst. Rector A – put outline on tables Before Rollo. Music prior to Rollo.

3:12 pm - Asst. Rector A: **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 42 in your pilgrim guide, and stand. The next Rollo will be given by a Pastor.**

3:15 pm - ROLLO #4: "Grace, Too" (30 Min.) ***[This talk introduces Palanca.]***

3:50 pm – Asst. Rector A facilitates Summary and Poster Session.

Asst. Rector B - (Get Piety Rollista, _____ ready)

4:15 pm - Short Break (They need to go to rooms to "FIND" Palanca Bags.

4:35 pm – Asst. Rector A – Put outline on tables before the Rollo. (If you are using them)

4:45 pm - Music prior to Rollo and Spiritual Leader introduces "Arise."

Asst. Rector A - **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 42 in your Pilgrim Guide, and stand. The next Rollo will be given by a Layperson.**

4:50 pm - Rollo #5: "Piety" (20 Min.)

5:10 pm – Asst. Rector A - Discussion and Poster Session

5:50 pm - Dinner

Grace before

Jokes, if needed

Grace after

6:30 pm – Asst. Rector A announces move to Rollo room for Break before Decuria. (Music if needed.)

6:40 pm - Decuria

Rector: We are now going to have our Decuria, or group sharing. First, the members of each family will come up here to the lectern together, when your family is called. Family members will be selected to give approximately a two - minute summary of the discussion held by your family on one of the Rollos given today. Then you will explain the posters. One person will hold the poster while another will try to explain it.

We ask the poster holder to move so that all have a good view of each poster. Remember, this will all be done as a family. You do not need notes for this. Please don't be concerned about doing a good job. Speak from your heart, summarizing what your family felt about the Rollo as you heard it and during your discussions. Put your faith in the Holy Spirit, and you will do just fine. Please note carefully: this is not the time to offer criticism, or commentary, on any part of the Via de Cristo weekend. We want at this time to share the main points of the Rollo we heard today. Please stay on the point of the Rollo.

You may now have this much time (ten minutes) during which each family will select one member of your family to speak on the chosen rollo and explain your poster, and another to hold the poster. Okay, you may begin.

(After 10 minutes)

We will now begin our Decuria. When I call your family name, the whole group is to come up to the lectern. Let's pay close attention to the one who is speaking and be hearty with your applause. When you come up to speak, first give your name, then the name of your church, and finally, give the name of your family.

7:15 pm - Summary of the day by the Rector.

We now have reached a turning point in our weekend. Last night we took a long quiet look at ourselves and our relationship with God. Today, the focus has been on Christ looking at us. In the Ideal Rollo _____ asked what we will see when he looks at us--What is our top priority, our Ideal? Then

Pastor _____ told us of the constant showering of Grace that comes to us even when we are not looking for it.

_____ issued a challenge of how a layperson can and must be effective in God's church. We need to know what we are doing and why we are doing it. And then Pastor _____ gave us that Christmas feeling, as (s)he told us of others' concern for us, and their love for us; people are grace to us, too, one of God's many gifts to us. And then in the Piety Rollo, _____ has shared his/her struggles in responding to God--in looking around in love and knowing the job of directing his/her whole life to God.

If you have any prayer requests that you wish to have the members of our prayer vigil pray for you, simply jot them down on a piece of paper and drop them in the basket on the altar.

7:20 pm – Asst. Rector A - Bible recessional; Read Romans 5:1-11. (*Celebration of peace and joy because we know we have been justified through faith – A gift of God's grace.*)

Candle Bearers are _____ and _____.

Reader is _____.

7:25 pm – Brief Break

7:35 pm - Stations of the Cross, Forgiveness Ceremony or Inspiration Music.

Rector: We are going to _____ (state where) now to share another gift. The way of the cross is a gift from the Roman Catholic tradition and Piety. It gives us a way of looking at our lives in the light of the story of Christ's suffering and Crucifixion. Come, let us pray together in courage and joy.

Follow me to the chapel.

Palanca Spiritual Leader leads Station of the Cross.

After Stations of the Cross, or whatever is used;

Rector: Let us pray. Dear Lord, our heads are full of the things you have said to us today. Send your Spirit to enlighten our minds so that we may understand the truths we have heard. Help each of us to look at our self and our Ideal. Help us to be aware of your constant grace.

Help us as laypersons to step out in courage and act out our faith - a faith that will allow you to support us when we fall. Help us when we fall. Help us to be self-giving and not self-centered. Thank you for the people that surround us daily in your grace.

Help us to grow and to practice genuine Piety, so that all who see and know us will know what it means to live in your love and grace. Amen.

8:20 pm – Rector dismisses for bed:

Remember, smoking at this camp is in designated smoking areas only. Please be sure and use the trash receptacle. Try to get to bed early, but if you do stay up, please exercise love by being

very quiet when you return to your room, so you don't disturb those who went to be early. If you would like to speak to a Spiritual Leader, one will be available for you in the chapel. You are dismissed.

8:30 S'mores and Music by Campfire.

Texas Gulf Coast Via de Cristo
Rector's Schedule
Saturday

6:00 am – Rector awakened.

6:15 am – Asst. Rector B wakens new Pilgrims.

6:30 - Team Morning Prayers if St. Elsewhere would like to join.

6:45 am – Asst. Rector A rings bell.

7:00 am - Chapel

(Morning Prayers from Pilgrim's Guide, pages 6 & 7, may be used, or the following can be read by the Rector and Assistants:)

Rector: It's morning, Jesus. I've got to get moving, get into the bathroom, freshen up, have some breakfast and start hustling. I just don't feel like it, Lord. What I really want to do is to get back into bed, pull up the covers, and sleep. All I seem to want today is to sleep, and instead I've got to start another busy day.

Asst. Rector B - **Where do I start? What do you ask of me? You know these things I can't understand. It's not that I need to have you tell me. What counts most is just that somebody knows, and it's you. That helps a lot. So, I'll follow along okay? But lead, Lord. Now I've got to go. Are you going with me, Jesus?**

Asst. Rector A - **O.K. I'm scared. I admit it. Scared of the lust and deceit and jealousy biding their time in me, waiting for a**

weak moment; scared of the possibility that I don't have the stuff to succeed in the terms I've set for myself; scared that I might fail, I might be failing now, with my children, in my marriage, with my friends... scared that I may have missed the boat already... and not be aware of it. I'm scared because I've forgotten who I am. I am your child, Lord, heir to all that you would give me. I'm scared because I've forgotten who you are. You are my Father, Lord; your Spirit is moving me with power. I will not be afraid for you are with me.

Meditation by Pastor: "The Figure of Christ."

Rector: Lord, this morning helps me again to think about you. Help me to realize that you are not a distant God; You are my Father. So, I join myself with you and with all your children here, and pray:

Our Father, who art in Heaven..... Amen.
Dismiss for Breakfast.

7:30 am - "De Colores" is sung before breakfast. [Asst. Rector B should select people to do Bible processional during Breakfast if not done so prior.]

Grace Before:

Joke session, if needed and facilitated by Asst. Rector B.

Grace After:

8:15 am – Asst Rector B - Announces short Break on the way to the Rollo room.

Asst. Rector A - get Study Rollista, _____ ready. (Confirm Book Table is ready.)

8:25 am – Asst. Rector B - Rollo room: Announce Bible Enthronement and participants. (Romans 15 :1 -6). (God gives the gifts of encouragement and endurance so that we can develop a spirit of unity in glorifying God the Father.)

8:30 am - Music Prior to the Rollo (Asst Rector B - Hand out Rollo outline Before Rollo.)

Rector reminds the new Pilgrims to take notes; compliment them on yesterday's work. It will be easier today. Be attentive. Mention palanca letters, where they are on display. Remind them of prayer requests for the prayer basket.

Asst. Rector B - **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 43 in your Pilgrim's guide, please stand and sing. "Arise" Our next Rollo will be given by a layperson.**

8:30 am - Rollo #6: "Study" (20 Min.)

8:50 am - **(Rector's script below before "Study Rollo" Discussion.)**

Rector: I'm sure you've, noticed that the Rollista, before and after their talk, leaves the room for a while. Of course, it's obvious that they are changing clothes during these times, but each speaker also spends time before and after their talk

in the chapel. The reason for this is that we can never forget that here in Via de Cristo, we are merely instruments for the Lord.

The speakers pray that the message of Christ will come through their words. Few of us are "professional speakers".

So, we go to the chapel and ask God to use us and to put the right words in our mouths; and after the Rollo we go to give him thanks for having used us.

As Pastor _____ told you yesterday in the "Grace, Too", Rollo, for as long as the Rollista is speaking, a prayer partner on the palanca team is in prayer, asking for God's grace for the Rollista and for us, that we will have open minds and hearts to receive his wonderful message.

They also mentioned that people on the palanca team maintain a prayer vigil in the chapel from the time you wake each morning until after you've gone to bed each night. In that prayer vigil, they lift any prayer requests that we may have placed in the basket.

Also, people in our home congregations and in the Via de Cristo, community worldwide are praying for us throughout the weekend, so our whole weekend is virtually bathed in prayer.

A Book Table has been set up. (state where)

Please feel free to browse during breaks.

(Rector provide method to purchase books).

Okay, Let's start our discussion of the "Study" Rollo.

8:50 am – Asst Rector B facilitates discussion and poster session. (Remember; don't hand out poster and markers too soon. Stay on schedule throughout the day.)

Asst. Rector A – Get "Means of Grace" Rollista ready,
Pastor _____.

Asst. Rector A - while Pastor _____ is getting ready please make sure you have copies of Family Grouping #1 sheets for after lunch. (Under forms on our website, make copies ahead of the weekend and have them ready.)

9:30 am – Asst. Rector B announces break. Snacks available.

9:40 am - Music prior to Rollo (Asst. Rector B hands out talk outline Before Rollo.)

9:45 am – Asst. Rector B: **Please open your notebooks to a clean page. Open your Pilgrim Guides to page 43, stand and sing "Arise". Our next Rollo will be given by a Pastor.**

Rollo #7: "The Means of Grace" (45 Min.)

10:25 am – Asst. Rector B facilitates discussion and poster session.

10:50 am – Asst. Rector B announces break and directions to go to chapel.

11:00 am – To Chapel – The Abrazo introduction is made by the Spiritual Director.

11:10 am – Chapel - Holy Communion and Affirmation of Baptism Service planned and led by Spiritual Director.

12:00 am – Asst. Rector B announces short restroom break before going to lunch.

Asst Rector A should check to make sure places have been readied for family grouping.

12:20 am – Lunch, sing “De Colores”.

Grace Before:

Jokes, if needed Asst. Rector B facilitates this.

Grace after:

1:05 pm – Asst. Rector B explains family grouping and locations. Announce that when the bell rings, family grouping will end, and horizontal meditation will begin.

(Hand out Family Grouping #1 sheets to table leaders.)

1:10 pm - Family grouping follows, all at once, indoors or outdoors.

1:40 pm – Asst. Rector B rings bell to end family grouping. Start horizontal meditation. (Make sure all tables hear the bell to end the Family Grouping time.)

2:20 pm – Asst. Rector B, ring bell – Horizontal meditation ends. Make sure all have been awakened.

Asst. Rector A – Get Action Rollista, _____ ready.

2:30 pm - Music prior to the Rollo (Asst. Rector B hand out talk outline before Rollo.)

2:40 pm – Asst. Rector B: **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 43 in your Pilgrim Guide, please stand and sing "Arise". Our next Rollo will be given by a Layperson.**

Rollo #8: "Action" (20 Min.)

3:10 pm – Asst. Rector B announces discussion and poster session.

Asst. Rector A gets "Obstacles to Grace" Rollista ready, Pastor _____.

3:40 pm – Asst. Rector B announces Break.

3:45 pm - Music prior to Rollo (Asst. Rector B, hand out talk outlines before Rollo).

3:50 pm – Asst. Rector B: **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 43 in your Pilgrim Guide. Please stand and sing "Arise". Our next Rollo will be given by a Pastor.**

Rollo #9: "Obstacles" (30 Min.)

4:20 pm – Asst. Rector B announces discussion and poster session.

Asst. Rector A - Get Leaders Rollista, _____ ready.

4:50 pm – Asst. Rector B announce a Break if needed and hand out talk outline before Rollo. (Try to stay on time. Extend or shorten as necessary).

5:00 pm – Asst. Rector B: **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 43 in your Pilgrim Guide. Please stand and sing "Arise". Our next Rollo will be given by a Layperson.**

Rollo #10: "Leaders" (20 Min.)

5:20 pm – Asst. Rector B announces discussion and poster session.

5:50 pm – Asst. Rector B announces BREAK. Select people for Bible recessional.

6:00 pm – Rector announces Decuria. (Pick a poster, discuss and skit, etc.)

6:45 pm – Asst. Rector B announces time for Bible Recessional and participants (Romans 8:31- 39) (If God is for us, who can be

against us? Nothing can separate us from the love of God.)

7:00 pm - Agape Dinner (Rector may announce time for dinner.)

8:15 pm - Rector dismisses for bed. **Instruct new Pilgrims to pack up as much as possible tonight. In the morning, finish packing before chapel. Place things up on your bed, so the rooms can be cleaned.**

The Rector will give directions for handling luggage on Sunday.

Texas Gulf Coast Via de Cristo
Rector's Schedule
SUNDAY

5:45 am – Rector awakened.

6:00 am – Asst. Rector A awakens new Pilgrims. (Optional: Palanca team sings Las Mananitas to awaken them and may deliver juice to the room.)

6:45 am – Asst. Rector B Rings bell.

7:00 am - Chapel—Prayer of St. Francis, page 5 in Pilgrim's guide, may be used in unison or responsively, or the Rector may use the following:

Rector: God, I turn my thoughts to you for a moment now as I begin this day. I pray to you today, Lord, to make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, Hope; Where there is darkness, Light; where there is sadness, Joy. Divine Master let me not so much seek to be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are raised to eternal life. Amen.

Asst. Rector A: Lord, why did you tell me to love all people, my brothers and sisters? I have tried, but I come back to you frightened...

Asst Rector B: Lord I was so peaceful at home; I was so comfortably settled, it was well furnished, and I felt cozy. I was alone; I was at peace, sheltered from the wind and the rain, kept clean.

(A): I would have stayed unsullied in my ivory tower. But, Lord, you have discovered a breach in my defenses. You have forced me to open my door. Like a squall of rain in the face, the cry of people has awakened me. Rashly enough, I left my door ajar. Now, Lord, I am lost! Outside, people were lying in wait for me, I did not know they were so near; in their house, on this street, in this office; my neighbor, my colleague, my friend. As soon as I started to open the door I saw them, with outstretched hands, anxious eyes, longing hearts, like beggars on church steps.

(B)The first came in, Lord. There was after all, a bit of space in my heart. I welcomed them. I would have cared for them. I would have cared for them, my very own lambs, my little flock. You would have been pleased, Lord; I would have served and honored you in a proper, respectable way. Until then, it was sensible...

(A) But the next ones, Lord, the other people--I had not seen them; they were hidden behind the first ones. There were more of them. They were wretched; they overpowered me without warning. We had to crowd in. I had to find room for them.

(B) Now they have come from all over in successive waves, pushing one another, jostling one another. They have come from all over town, from all parts of the country, of the world--numberless, inexhaustible.

(A) They don't come alone any longer, but in groups, bound - one to another. They come bending under heavy loads; of injustice, of resentment and hate, of suffering and sin....

(B) They drag the world behind them, with everything rusted, twisted, badly adjusted. Lord, they hurt me! They are in the way, they are all over. They are consuming me!

(A) I can't do anything anymore; as they come in they push the door, and the door opens wider...

(B) Ah, Lord, the door is wide open!!! I can't stand it anymore! It's Too much! It's no kind of a life!

(A) What about my job? My family? My peace? My liberty? and me?

(B) Ah Lord! I have lost everything; I don't belong to myself any longer; There's no more room for me at home.

(A) Don't worry, God says, you have gained all. While people come in to you, I, your Father, I, Your God, slipped in among them.

Meditation "Christ's message to the Pilgrims"—Spiritual Director

Prayer (Rector):

(R) Teach me, My Lord, to be kind and gentle in all the events of life - In disappointments, in the thoughtlessness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted.

(B) In the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied. Let me put myself aside—

To think of the happiness of others, to hide my little pains and heartaches, so that I may be the only one to suffer from them.

(R) Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path. Let me so use it that it may mellow me, not harden nor embitter me--that it may make me patient, not irritable, that it may make me broad in my forgiveness, not narrow, haughty and overbearing.

(A) May no one be less good for having come within my influence. No one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble for having been a fellow traveler in our journey toward eternal life. As I go my rounds from one distraction to another, let me whisper from time to time a word of love to you.

(R) May my life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good, and strong in its purpose of sanctity. Amen

Rector dismisses for Breakfast.

Sing “De Colores or Las Mananitas” (Page 44)

7:30 am – Breakfast (All team and Rollo room eat together)

Asst. Rector B get Environment Rollista, _____ ready.

Asst. Rector A should select people for Bible processional if not already done.

Grace Before:

Jokes, if needed.

Grace After:

8:15 am Break and to the Rollo Room

8:20 am - Rollo Room Asst. Rector A announces Bible Enthronement and participants. (Acts 1:6-8) (Christ promises the Gift of the Holy Spirit to give us power to be His witnesses.)

Music prior to the Rollo (Asst. Rector A hand out talk outline before Rollo)

Asst. Rector A announces that notes are to be taken as usual, but no posters will be made.

Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 43 in your Pilgrim Guide. Please stand and sing "Arise". The next Rollo will be given by a layperson.

8:25 am - Rollo #11: "Environment" (20 Min.)

Asst. Rector B get "Life in Grace Rollista ready – Pastor_____).

8:45 am – Asst. Rector A facilitates discussion

9:00 am – Asst. Rector A announces Break, then Family grouping – hand out Family Grouping #2 sheets.

9:20 am – Family Grouping ends. Short BREAK.

9:25 am - Music prior to Rollo (Asst. Rector A - hand out talk outline before Rollo.)

9:30 am – Asst. Rector A: **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 43 in your Pilgrim Guide. Please stand and sing "Arise". Our next Rollo will be given by a Pastor.**

Asst. Rector B gets CCA Rollista, _____ ready.

10:00 am – Asst. Rector A announces Rollo discussion.

10:10 am – Asst. Rector A announces short Break.

10:15 am - Music prior to Rollo (Asst. Rector A hand out talk outline before Rollo.)

10:20 am – Asst. Rector A: **Please open your notebooks to a clean sheet of paper, turn to page 43 in your Pilgrim Guide. Please stand and sing "Arise". Our next Rollo will be given by a layperson.**

Rollo #13: "Christian Community in Action" (20 Min.)

10:15 am – Asst. Rector B get TOTAL SECURITY - (Rector) ready

10:40 am – Asst. Rector A announces Rollo discussion.

11:00 am – J.O.G. talk (10 min) (Music Team - PASS IT ON)

Asst. Rector A: I'd like to now Introduce our Palanca Leader _____ who would like to speak to you.

11:10 am - Break & Music prior to Rectors Rollo (Asst. Rector A should hand out the talk outline before the Rollo.)
Have GREEN grouping cards in hand or place on table at the Rectors signal.

11:20 am – Asst. Rector A: **The next Rollo will be given by a layperson, please stand; turn to page 43 and sing "Arise".**

Rollo #14: "Total Security in the 4th day". (35 Min.)

12:05 pm – Asst. Rector A dismisses for Lunch (everyone eats together)

Grace before:

Grace After:

12:40 pm - To Rollo Room.

(At this time it may be prearranged with the Palanca team to leave the Rollo room for another location to conduct the rest of the activities up to the Clausura. Different facilities will make this procedure unique to it's location.)

12:50 pm - Group Reunions. Asst. Rector A should give additional explanation of groups and help get the groups started. (Green card – page 36 & 37.)

1:30 pm – Short Break

Asst. Rector B checks to make sure those wearing New Pilgrims crosses are present for Apostolic Hour at 2:10 pm.

1:35 pm – Rector and both Assistant Rectors A & B distribute Fourth Day Packets.

Rector – Go over the contents. Make any needed corrections to roster. Mention the Ultreya and any other pertinent information.

1:40 pm - Rector: **In a little while, we will have a closing worship service with the Palanca Team. Right now, I would like for you to get together and meet for just a few minutes with our family groups. I would like for each family to choose two members who will share at our closing worship your overall impression of what this Via de Cristo Weekend has meant to your group. This will not be a time to thank anyone. All our thanksgiving for this weekend goes to God alone. What we would like is for you to give your overall impressions, or perhaps something that has been particularly meaningful to you during the weekend.**

Now let's get together with your families and decide who the "two" will be and what you want them to say.

No Bible Recessional

2:00 pm – Asst. Rector A announces short break. Move to Apostolic Hour area with a **Quick Restroom Break.** (Where they use the restroom, should be considered for each camp and the place of Apostolic Hour)

2:10 pm – Pre-Apostolic Hour

Rector: **Do you remember the apprehensions, mixed feelings, and curiosity that you had Thursday Evening when you came to the Via de Cristo weekend? Some of your friends and acquaintances who have not attended a Via de Cristo weekend no doubt has the same feelings that you had. You are going to be asked a lot of questions. "What is Via de Cristo"?"What is it like?" "What do you do?"... These are the same questions that you probably asked before Thursday Night.**

Now you know why those whom you asked had such difficulty in answering your questions. It is truly something that must be experienced, must be lived, and cannot be explained easily in words.

Of course, we can discuss the concepts of Via de Cristo and the structure of the weekend, and we should. You can tell them you heard 15 talks, had Holy Communion every day, sang a lot and laughed. It would be wrong if we said nothing at all. But ... Just as we wouldn't tell the plot of a book to someone who is reading it, we want to be careful, so we don't spoil the Via de Cristo Weekend experience by discussing every detail with those who may someday attend. When

asked about it, tell what you heard--lots of talks by men and women such as yourselves, you sang songs, laughed a lot, met wonderful people, and ate delicious food.

It is important that, in our enthusiasm, we guard against pushing anyone into attending a Via de Cristo Weekend. By our actions, our love, and our charity, others should want to attend a Via de Cristo Weekend. Remember, bring a friend to Christ, then to Via de Cristo.

We should be careful that we don't give others the feeling that Via de Cristo is a church within a church, and, by no means give others the feeling that we are "in" and they are "Out". That is not being Christ in the world.

The important thing is that we share Christ with others, not just the Via de Cristo experience.

Now that you have been through a Via de Cristo weekend, you know that it is not the living end...but rather, it is the living beginning.

I ask too that you remember the confidentiality that a Pastor gives to those who confess to him or counsel with him. This has been an emotional weekend, and many things have been shared by both team and your fellow new Pilgrims. We ask that you respect their trust in you and not discuss confidences with anyone. We want to set the example of keeping the confidences for this weekend by what we do with the prayer requests that have been made this weekend.

(Destroy prayer requests by burning or in water if used dis-solvable paper or tell what you are going to do with them.) If using dis-solvable paper, put prayer requests in water and stir to dissolve. (Don't put too many in the water at one time)

Discuss this with the Spiritual Leader before the weekend. You can elect to have the Spiritual Leader say the following:

Because of the blood of Christ we can Trust that our prayers are heard. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that who so ever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Apostolic Hour:

Rector: We have now come to a very important part of the Via de Cristo Weekend, it is called the Apostolic Hour.

When I call your name, please come forward. You will be presented a cross from a team member who has worn your cross all weekend while keeping you in their prayers. As they place the cross around your neck, they will say "Christ is counting on you," and you may respond, "and I am counting on Him".

2:30 PM - Rector: It is time to go to the hall/Chapel to have closing worship with the Palanca Team. Please make sure you have all your belongings with you. We will sing, "De Colores" as we go into the Hall /Chapel.

(The group should line up by families. The musicians and Assistant Rectors should lead the group, and the Rector and Spiritual Directors should be at the end of the line. A Palanca person should go on ahead to tell the fourth day waiting in the Dining Hall or Chapel that you are on the way. The Assistant Rectors should help each family find its designated row of chairs after you have entered the Clausura.

2:40 pm - Clausura

CLAUSURA

Rector: Thank you for coming, and welcome to the closing celebration for Texas Gulf Coast Via de Cristo. Weekend # _____.

I am _____ . I worship at _____ Church.

I attended Via de Cristo Weekend # _____ in _____, where I sat at the table of Saint _____.

I have had the privilege of serving as Rector for this weekend, and I am happy to report that it was another great weekend to the glory of God.

(Then summarize the events of the weekend, with some brief anecdotes.)

If there is anyone here who has not been on a Via de Cristo Weekend, I would ask that you not judge Via de Cristo just by

this afternoon. This is just one part of the Via de Cristo Weekend, and it is impossible to give a fair appraisal unless you have been through a whole weekend.

As you all know, we have learned a lot of new words this weekend. I would like to introduce to the new Pilgrims one more new Spanish word --- "Clausura" -- spelled "C-L-A-U-S-U-R-A". That is our name for the closing worship service of a Via de Cristo weekend. The people who greeted you when you entered the room and who are now seated in the audience are members of our Fourth Day Community who have come to join with us in this Clausura.

Our Spiritual Leader for the weekend, Pastor _____, will now lead us in prayer.

Next, I will call on _____ the Lay director for the Texas Gulf Coast Via de Cristo, for some announcements.

(Lay Director introduces Secretariat and makes announcements of upcoming events. Introduces any Clergy in the audience and ask representatives from other movements to stand and be recognized.)

Rector: Would the Team for Weekend # _____

Please stand... This is a truly dedicated group of people.

I would also like to introduce several other brothers and sisters whom God selected to share our weekend... Our Spiritual Leaders in the Rollo Room : Pastor

**_____ and Pastor
_____.and our Palanca Spiritual Leaders:
Pastor _____ and
Pastor _____**

Rector: Now, I would like for you to meet our newest Pilgrims and the team members who were members of their families this weekend. I will call the families to the front, one at a time. After all members of the family have introduced themselves, giving their names, the name of the family, their hometown, and the name of the church at which they worship, representatives of the family will share with us some of their impressions of the weekend. Each family had some time a little while ago to discuss what the weekend has meant to them and to choose representatives to express those feelings to the Palanca Team. Of course, they didn't know then that there would be a few extra people at the Clausura to hear these comments! After the representatives for each family have spoken, we encourage any of the other members of the family to speak, if they would like to. But please keep your comments brief. We will never leave here if you all give Rollos (pause) Remember that this is not the time for thanking the team or your sponsors. the thanks of all of us goes to God alone.

(Rector Then calls the families to the front, one at a time, and makes the microphone available to each family member as they speak. Make sure that each family member, including team, introduces themselves.)

After the introductions, Rector will introduce the Spiritual Director, who presides over Holy Communion.

After Holy Communion: Have a Safe Journey Home!