



Pescadore Orientation Manual

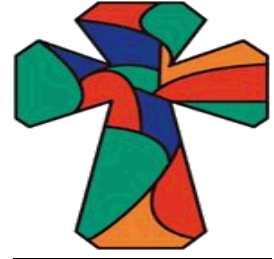


The Tres Dias weekend is an opportunity for Christians to encounter Jesus Christ, to experience how other Christians live life, and to receive a new vision of what it means to be a Christian. The main teaching of Tres Dias is God's unqualified love for each of us through His grace.

*Updated June 2024

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A Welcome from Your Secretariat

The Secretariat is the governing body for North Florida Tres Dias and we welcome you to your 4th day as a pescadore in the North Florida Tres Dias Community. **Pescadore** translated from Spanish literally means fisherman or fisherwoman. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19) Your Tres Dias weekend experience was just for you to better understand the love and grace of our Lord and to equip you as you become fishers of men in your environment.

Here are just a few opportunities and privileges of a pescadore. You may now...

- Serve on a Tres Dias or other 4th Day movement's weekend. (Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Kairos...),
- Sponsor a candidate,
- Have access to the community through the internet for prayer, and receive an electronic newsletter and other announcements through our web site,
- Attend and participate in Sequelas and Pescadore Orientation,
- Make and provide palanca for weekend candidates, □ Serve as a prayer warrior for team and candidates, and □ Have a host of Christian friends who love you!

This handbook has been developed to help you have more information about our history, our weekend processes and essentials, and your important place in our community. Other pertinent information can be found on our website at <http://www.nftd.org> . We trust that you will read and learn about the workings of this wonderful organization you are a part of.

DE COLORES !

The purpose of Tres Dias is...to develop Christian Leaders and help them sustain their commitment to Christ as they pursue Christian Apostolic Action in their environments; foster and guide the growth of the Tres Dias movement; assure continued adherence to the "Essentials".

The Essentials of Tres Dias

In order to ensure consistency and stability within the TRES DIAS Movement, there must be certain essential aspects to which all TRES DIAS organizations conform. It is the policy of local secretariats to comply with these Essentials. Policies of local secretariats which deviate from these Essentials must be reviewed on an individual basis and are subject to the approval of TRES DIAS.

The essentials are divided into several sections: Our Purpose, Statement of Beliefs, Preamble, Essentials of the Movement, and Essentials of the Tres Dias Method (PreWeekend Phase, Weekend Phase, Fourth Day Phase and the essentials of the Local Secretariat Organization.

The essentials that we follow for North Florida Tres Dias can be found in more detail on our website at <http://www.nftd.org>. Look to the menu on the right where you can click to read the essentials of our movement as well as our local NFTD By-Laws, Policies & Procedures and other important information.

History of Tres Dias (Cursillo)

The following is a "short history" plus a chronological order of occurrences by dates. This is really a young renewal movement beginning in 1949 in the Catholic Church in the country of Spain. The movement took the name of Cursillo. What is Cursillo?

The Spanish civil war was hardly over when WWII took its toll on the churches of Spain. The Spanish people were consumed with aimlessness, despair, and diminished dreams. To top things off, the churches were empty, especially of men. In the late 40's a spirit of revival began to stir within the Spanish Roman Catholic Church. Small groups of worshipers began to group for prayer and fellowship. They supported each other and encouraged each other in the faith. Next these same groups were stirred and began to make pilgrimages. Often the men and women would rededicate their lives toward Christian ideals. It was then that Bishop Juan Hervas (whayvas) who was active in the Christian renewal activities on an island off the coast of Spain, Majorca (my yorka), met another Christian brother

named Eudrado Bonin, who was involved in organizing pilgrimages. The Holy Spirit revealed to these brothers that the church could be revived and people's lives changed through study and sharing their lives in Christ. Next we see small groups, we now know them as reunion groups, which periodically retreated where the realities of the Christian life were intensely taught and experienced. These retreats became known as *Cursillo De Christiandad*. You can see why we folks from North Florida and S. Georgia simply call them *Cursillo*. What did this long Spanish phrase mean? It means a short course in Christianity. It seemed that their retreats grew out of reunion groups (a bit backwards from us).

Cursillo remained strictly a "Spanish" thing. It was late in the 50's that the movement came to the United States. Two Spanish Air Force Christians were in Texas in training when they were inspired to have a retreat, a *Cursillo*. Of course it was all in Spanish and attended by other Catholic Christians. Although others were held across the USA, they were all in Spanish and for Catholics (mainly). In the 60's enough Protestants had become *Pescadores* that they decided, "Why not have one in English and mainly for Protestants". The Catholics saw the need to make this available to the Protestants. This need led to the development of the ecumenical *Tres Dias* movement. The first *Tres Dias* weekend was held in Newburgh, New York on November 2 - 5, 1972. During 79-80 *Tres Dias* was formed as a national organization with the constitution and what we now know as "the Essentials of *Tres Dias*". Local communities such as ours in North Florida are chartered as local Secretariats. *Tres Dias* keeps close ties with the various *Cursillo* communities. *Tres Dias* is unique in that it is an ecumenical Christian experience open to all who desire a deeper relationship with the Lord. *Tres Dias* is not sponsored by any one Christian denomination. *Tres Dias* is growing steadily. We pray that it will continue to be faithful to God's Spirit. We thank you for your willingness to be a Christian leader in our community with the goal and vision to revitalize God's people.

In 1985, *Tres Dias* became international when communities were established in Korea and Germany. Several from our North Florida community have aided in the establishment of the Russian and Ukrainian *Tres Dias* movement.

North Florida *Tres Dias* roots come from the North Georgia Community. John Spain, of Christian Heritage Church, was sponsored by his brother to the North Georgia *Tres Dias* in the 80's. After that several Tallahassee residents (some from South Georgia also) began attending and serving weekends in the Georgia mountains. Through the hard work and long hours of driving to North Georgia, the North Florida community was birthed. Our first weekend was held in Dowling Park, Florida on October 26, 1989.

Chronological Events:

- 1949** January 7-10, the first Cursillo weekend for men was held on the Spanish Island of Majorca, led by Bishop Jan Gervas and layman Eduardo Bonnin.
- 1953** Cursillo spread to Valencia on the Spanish mainland. The first Cursillo for women was held outside of Spain in Colombia, South America.
- 1955** Cursillo spread to Italy, Portugal, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, Spanish Guinea in Africa and other Spanish speaking countries, especially in Central and South America.
- 1957** The first Cursillo weekend in the United States was held in Texas led by Spanishspeaking air cadets who were in training there.
- 1961** The first English-speaking Cursillo was held in San Angelo, Texas.
- 1962** Cursillo spread to Michigan, Ohio, New York, Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico.
- 1969** A joint Catholic-Presbyterian weekend was held in Detroit.
- 1972** The first Tres Dias weekend was held in Newburgh, New York.
- 1974** Tres Dias weekend was held in Pittsburgh, PA.
- 1975** Tres Dias weekends were held in Central Connecticut, Long Island, South Hudson (NY), Maine, and New Hampshire.
- 1980** The formation of the National Tres Dias.
- 1981** Tres Dias communities were established in Altoona-Johnstown, PA; in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Vermont.
- 1983** North Georgia Tres Dias was born. (This is important to North Florida because they are our Tres Dias parents).
- 1989** North Florida Tres Dias was birthed with our first weekend.

We, in North Florida Tres Dias, have been involved in helping to form several new communities. We helped birth the Mid-Tennessee Community and the Tampa Bay Community. We also have had local people begin weekends and to serve in the Ukraine and Russia. At this writing, 2013, Southeast Alabama is gearing up to build their community and begin their first weekend soon.

Pre-Weekend

Pre-weekend, one part of our essentials, has many facets but especially sponsoring candidates.

Pre-weekend begins approximately a year prior to the weekend when the Secretariat selects the rector. The rector then through prayer and diligence begins to put the weekend together as God gives him/her vision of what He wants it to be. The rector begins by selecting a theme, the scripture, a head spiritual director and then the team.

You begin your weekend as a Pescadore by praying for the weekend. Now is the time to begin thinking of the Palanca you and your reunion group want to provide. If you feel that God would have you serve, get that application in to the rector. Next, ask God if He wants you to sponsor a candidate. The secretariat has given much thought and prayer to the subject of sponsorship...please, enter this phase with much prayer as well. **Sponsoring is the most important thing that can be done outside of prayer for the weekend.** Read carefully the following tips that have made Tres Dias the "outstanding instrument" in the arsenal of God before you consider sponsoring a candidate.

WHOM SHOULD YOU SPONSOR?

(Leaders' Manual: Cursillo Movement: p.24, 25, 70, 71)

- † "There are many functions in the body of Christ...find persons who form the axis around which things revolve."
- † "...not a matter of discrimination against some, but of discerning which persons are called by God to which roles in the body of Christ."
- † "Look for persons who are capable of serving as vertebrae."
- † "Genuinely Christian: want more than anything else to live as Christians and to serve Christ wherever they are...if they love God above all things and wish to serve him, they will offer all that they are and have to Him."
- † "...desire that all come to know Christ."
- † "...believe that Christ is the only solution to human problems."
- † "...accept life of grace."

Seek ones who:

- † Have strength of character and self-control

- † Are able to make own decisions and are internally motivated
- † Are mature, free, and responsible
- † Are leaders, self-starters, movers
- † Are concerned about the social conditions of our times
- † Have the ability and desire to live in and for the community
- † Understand the message and are committed to it
- † Are leaven of the Gospel within their environment
- † Discover their gifts and place them at the service of the community

WHO SHOULD NOT GO?

Those who:

- Are non-Christians and person with no relationship to the church of Jesus Christ
- have psychological or emotional problems
- moral life is disordered in a way which could not be remedied by a Tres Dias experience
- are pregnant
- less than 21 years of age

When a person whom you know well has expressed an interest in attending a weekend, take time to explain the purpose of Tres Dias. If the person is married, the spouse should be included in the discussion. The Tres Dias Brochure provides an excellent explanation of the weekend activities. If your candidate is a pastor, it would be wisdom to have a spiritual director explain the Tres Dias purpose and program to him in depth.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON SPONSORING

1. Sponsoring is a privilege. It should always be taken very seriously and prayerfully. Yes, prayer should precede any sponsorship. Ask God if He wants you to sponsor a candidate. Ask Him to lead you to the right individual or couple that you know personally.
2. Do **NOT** use coercion - God will cause the right response at the right time. Tres Dias is a place for those who desire a closer walk with the Lord, whatever their starting point is.
3. Be sure the person sponsored knows about the weekend fee even if you as the sponsor decide to pay it. You are not required to pay their fee.
4. Sponsorship according to Tres Dias means more than taking your candidate to sendoff with a suitcase. To be a sponsor you should make a six month commitment to the person or couple sponsored. You pick them up at the end of the weekend at

the campground. You should pick them up and take them to the victory breakfasts, victory sequela (bring an extra covered dish so the new pescadore will not have to be concerned) and other Tres Dias functions.

5. The main function after the weekend is to see he/she gets in a reunion group.

Candidates who have strength of character and are leaders and self-starters and who honestly and openly love Jesus Christ are the backbone of Tres Dias. Please choose carefully and sponsor with a servant's heart.

SUBMITTING THE CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Have your candidate complete and sign the application and return it to you, the sponsor. If the candidate is married, please have both husband and wife complete the application information and sign the same form. The husband must attend a weekend prior to his wife. After you complete the required sponsor information, please mail it to the return address on the application.

Your candidate's application will be given priority on the basis of the postmarked date. Should your candidate decline 2 consecutive invitations, your candidate's name will be deleted from the list. The sponsor must then initiate a new application. Exceptions include: pregnant or nursing mothers, health emergencies, death/illness in family, etc...

BEFORE THE WEEKEND

Approximately 6-8 weeks prior to a weekend, you (as the sponsor) will receive a postcard notifying you that your candidate is being invited to the upcoming weekend. Please verify your candidates address and availability to go and call the Pre-weekend Couple with a verbal confirmation or decline **as soon as possible**. (This is a tremendous time saver for the Pre-weekend Couple, as the written invitation to your candidate cannot be mailed until you contact the Pre-weekend Couple.)

Your candidate will receive a written invitation approximately three weeks before the weekend. The invitation includes a confirmation section that should be returned to the Pre-weekend Couple **as soon as possible**. Your candidate will probably have questions concerning preparation for the weekend. Please discuss these and the weekend fee (housing/food). This means both husband and wife need to pay the fee. This fee can be submitted with the confirmation, paid at send-off, or paid by the sponsor/reunion group/church prior to or at send-off. Either way, it is proper to inform the candidate that there is a weekend fee and have a clear understanding as to who is to pay.

LOVE LETTERS:

Explain to the wife privately that it is a tradition for the husband to receive a love letter from her, the children and other special family members, friends, and pastor. You should also write a letter to your candidate. These letters are to be a surprise for the candidate and should not be discussed with him. Assure her that he will be the only one to read the letters. The letters should be in individually sealed envelopes with the following notations made in the upper left-hand corner: wife, son, daughter, sister, brother, friend, pastor, sponsor. The first and last name of the candidate should be centered on the front of the envelope. Collect the letters and deliver them to the Palanca table at Send-Off. **Pray for your candidate and his/her family.**

SELECTION PROCESS

36 candidates with 6 tables

- Rector sets aside slots for clergy
- Slots set aside for singles
- Slots allocated for local community (100 mile radius from Tallahassee)

Priorities are given to spouses of Pescadores when the Pescadore confirms the slot during the selection process (6 weeks before the weekend).

There is also a last minute list that opens up three weeks before each weekend. If you have a candidate who absolutely can go at the last minute (2 weeks to 10 minutes notice), you can call the Pre-weekend Couple and place their name on this list at this time.

The Pre-weekend Couple may need to contact as many as 100 candidates to fill all 36 slots. To allow them to be as effective as possible in this high pressure atmosphere of the final weeks before a weekend, it is necessary for the last minute list to be current. Therefore, the last minute list will be purged after each weekend. You must resubmit last minute names to the Pre-weekend Couple each time they are available to be last minute considerations.

Keep in mind that God knows your candidate better than you do. **When it is the right time, your candidate will go.** Stay in prayer for them.

WHAT IS PALANCA?

The Spanish word actually means, "lever". It is introduced in the Divine Aid rollo to illustrate how the Holy Spirit moves in our lives to show us God's love, often through using levers to open the doors of our hearts.

In Tres Dias these levers come in the form of prayers and gifts of love which the Holy Spirit has prompted people in the community to give to the candidates and team members. It greatly enhances the flavor of the weekend and richly blesses those involved in providing it.

WHEN TO MAKE PALANCA

Usually people tend to put off things until the last minute. From past experience, this has proved to be an unwise decision, considering all the other preparation that occurs right before a Tres Dias weekend. So please begin to prepare physical forms of Palanca at least a month or two beforehand. Some reunion groups work year-round on their palanca so it is ready for the weekend at any time. All these ideas will allow more time for you as the weekend draws near—more time for prayer, preparation, and peace.

WHERE TO TAKE PALANCA

It may be taken to the Palanca area at Send-off, or someone working on the team may deliver it for you to the Palanca Room on the campground. Please be sure to label it correctly (i.e. Table, Bed, or Kitchen). Include the time on the weekend you desire it to be delivered (we will attempt to accommodate). **Please Note: Package breakable Palanca very carefully. Send several items in case of breakage.**

WHOM TO CALL

If you have any questions regarding Palanca, you can call the Palanca Couple for the North Florida Tres Dias Secretariat.

Below are Palanca Numbers for North Florida Tres Dias Weekends.

The guidelines listed below include best estimate (~) and suggested numbers (#) in case of breakage and are the same for both men and ladies' weekends.

Bed · Candidates	~36 (40) variable based on candidate size
Kitchen · Everyone	~ (140 -150) variable based on team size
Team	~ (100 -110) variable based on team size
Tables · Bulk	8 (9 -10) 6 Tables + SD + Rector
Tables · Individual	~48 (50+) Candidates & Professors
Rollo Room	~52 (55+) Tables + SD + Rector

PRAYER PALANCA

Every hour of the weekend someone in the community is praying for the candidates and team. You can call to reserve one of these prayer hour time periods. Your name will then be listed on a PRAYER BANNER. This is shown to the candidates during one of the chapel services. Of course, you can pray more than an hour if you desire. (What a blessing it is for the candidates to see your name on this banner.)

TABLE PALANCA

This comes in many different forms, such as crafts, candy, books, bookmarks, baked goodies, etc. There should be enough provided for all the candidates and professors. If the item is served in bulk (such as a jar of candy), 6 jars will be needed. Don't forget the hard working (serving) team. ☺ FYI...jars will be available at closing at the back of the gym if you label them with your name and desire to have them returned.

BED PALANCA

This is similar to table Palanca, but it is placed on the candidates' beds before they retire for the night. NO special gifts can be given to a specific candidate. All candidates must be treated equally. Please specify the night you would like it delivered (any night except Thursday night).

Please note: **Letters** cannot be given to team members specifically as bed palanca. However, letters may be given to team members and placed in their palanca bags which they receive at the end of the weekend. The only exception to this procedure applies to

Professors and Spiritual Directors. They may be given letters or cards prior to their Rollos. These should be labeled

Professor's Name
Please Deliver Before Piety Rollo

KITCHEN PALANCA

These Palanca items are usually small grafts, gifts, or place mats, which are placed beside table settings in the dining room before mealtimes. The total number of candidates and team equals about **125** for the weekend. Please refrain from sending large items for this type of Palanca since space on the dining room tables is limited.

SACRIFICIAL PALANCA

This type of Palanca is the best of all. It involves giving up entertainment, food, sleep or even comfort as a means to spend more time in prayer for the candidates of a Tres Dias weekend. By doing such things as sleeping on the floor or placing a small pebble in our shoe, we're reminded, by our discomfort, to pray for our brothers and sisters.

Another type of sacrificial Palanca is to give up something that you would like to do to bless another. An example would be to baby-sit for a Pescadore to enable him to attend his wife's closing. (What a blessing that would be!)

GENERAL PALANCA LETTERS

Do you remember all the letters posted on the walls of the Rollo room and around the campground? These are known as *General Palanca* letters because they are not written to specific individuals but to the entire group of candidates on a Tres Dias weekend. People from the community write these letters to express their love, prayers, and sacrifices for all the candidates. How about you doing a general Palanca letter?

SERENADE (If you haven't given this type Palanca, you are missing a blessing)!

The serenade provides another opportunity to sacrifice the comfort of home or your Saturday night fun with a chance to dress up, (women, be cautious in wearing "revealing" items), travel an hour to bless others, many of whom you may not even know. This is the only time the weekend is not sequestered, however, as soon as you are done with the

serenade, please leave the campground as soon as possible without conversation with the serving team members. (Please remember that teens who have experienced a Vida Nueva (VN) or other similar weekends for teens do **not** serenade for Tres Dias. At age 21 they will be eligible to attend Tres Dias as adults and should not participate in Tres Dias serenades until after they have attended a weekend.)

The Weekend

The Weekend is thought of as "being Tres Dias" but since you have become a pescadore, you know that much takes place prior to the weekend. The weekend is a "gleam" in the eye of a rector who will direct the weekend's activities. The following is a brief layout of the weekend and those who serve the candidates of a TD weekend.

RECTOR (Layman who directs the Weekend)

The Rectors for each weekend are selected by the Secretariat. Qualifications include:

- † Living a life consistent with Biblical teachings
- † Meeting criteria for holding an office on the Secretariat
- † Be a lay member of the local Tres Dias community and supporting its functions †
Serving at ten weekends, including service as:
 - Head or Assistant Head
 - Head or Assistant Head Kitchen
 - Served as Head in 2 different positions
 - Professor given 2 different rollos
 - Chapel cha
 - 3 Different cha positions (prayer, palanca, dorm, supply, gopher, rover, table,ie)

TEAM SELECTION

Team selection begins months prior to the weekend. In order for the weekend to flow properly, all team members must understand the flow of responsibility and authority. All team members serve at the request of the Rector and are responsible to him/her through his/her chain of command.

Composition of Team

- 1/3 experienced, 1/3 inexperienced, 1/3 new Pescadores. (This is a suggested mix) □
- Varied church backgrounds with no one predominant church

Spiritual Directors

- † The Head Spiritual Director - must have served on at least four other weekend and be selected by the rector in consultation with the Spiritual Director of the Secretariat and is in submission to the Rector on the weekend.
- † Experienced - served as a Spiritual Director for at least one previous weekend and is submitted to the Head Spiritual Director on the weekend.
- † Rookie Spiritual Director - inexperienced as a weekend Spiritual Director and is submitted to the Head Spiritual Director on the weekend.

Head Cha and Assistant Head Cha

Must have served on at least four weekends in a variety of positions, including two in the Rollo room, one in the Kitchen, and one in another area.

Head Kitchen

Must have served on at least three weekends, including one in the Rollo Room, one in the Kitchen, and one in another area.

Section Heads

Must have served on at least two weekends with one in the area over which he/she will be "Head".

Professors

There are twelve Professors (six experienced as a speaking or silent Professor and six inexperienced as a Professor). Eight of the twelve Professors give rollos; four are silent.

Cha Chas

Team member may or may not be told their position at the time of invitation to serve. Once assigned, the names will be submitted to Section Heads

Set Up/Take Down Crew (What a fabulous service these folks perform!)

This incredible group does the heavy work of setting up each area of the campground. The men return on Sunday to take down equipment and load the trucks. They serve on the men's and women's weekends. These folks may get a "bigger reward" because most people don't even know that they have served.

TEAM MEETINGS

Team meeting begin approximately two months before the weekend.

Objective/Purpose

The purpose of the team meeting is to build a relationship of unity out of which the team ministers to the candidates. The team becomes the mirror for the candidates to see a "serving Jesus". The Team meetings provide instruction and fellowship to build community. This is where those serving on the weekend learn the functions they will perform on the weekend as well as the workings of a temporary reunion group.

Commitment

There are four to eight meeting over the course of nine to twelve weeks requiring a minimum of twenty hours. (Rector usually requires more to accomplish his/her agenda).

The team makes a heavy commitment of time when they agree to serve.

Attendance

Attendance at all team meetings is an expected part of the commitment. Building a unified team is impossible if anyone is missing. If you have to be absent, someone else has to pull your load. Also, you miss part of the instructions for your job and the opportunity to bond with your section members and the rest of the team. Meaning? Be there or let your head know the reason for your not being present.

Fees

- Can be paid in installments (begin saving as soon as you accept the invitation to serve)
- Weekend fee = \$180.00

Send-off

- 6:00 Pm (community is there early and Sponsor this means you...☺)
- We all wait until the last candidate is present
- Sponsor is responsible to get the candidate "to the church on time"
- Sponsor sees that palanca letters and "goodies" have been turned in
- Pre-weekend couple announce candidates
- Sing De Colores to candidates
- Community has communion and prayer for weekend
- Community is encouraged to be present and pray for candidates

(Team members not sponsoring a candidate will be at Camp Suwannee getting prepared)

Reception

The reception is the candidate's first exposure to the team for the weekend. The team should mix with the candidates...(remember how you felt with all those folks clapping and looking at you with that silly grin?)...to make them at ease in the strange environment.

Retreat

- Remember, this is a **cloistered** weekend... this is to isolate them from daily cares. This is offered as a time to reflect...let God make fallow their hearts.
- This weekend offers a time to make some lasting friendships.

The Weekend Dynamics

A study of the following will show how the weekend is not many talks, but one talk broken into a number of different parts with different speakers.

Rollos (talks)

- There are 5 meditations that provide the setting for the talks that follow that make up the weekend.
 - Know Yourself (Thursday night) ○ The Prodigal son (Thursday night) ○ The Three Glances of Christ (Friday morning) ○ The Figure of Christ (Saturday morning)
 - Christ's message to the Pescadores (Sunday morning)
- There are 5 talks by clergy ○ *Grace*, the first clergy talk, defines the Christian ideal to the Life of Grace. It goes further to define a Life in Grace as a personal relationship with the Living Lord Jesus.
 - The remaining clergy talks explore ways of maintaining and strengthening that relationship.
 - The clergy talks can be grouped into talks concerned with living in grace and talks concerned with overcoming difficulties and barriers to a fuller life in grace.
- There are 9 Talks by laymen ○ The first talk of each day appeals to the mind or intellect, the second talk to the will, and the third talk of the day appeals to the heart. (First to understanding, second to commitment, and the third talk of the day appeals to the heart/love). ○ The weekend must come to each of us in all three areas of our life.

Focus of each day→	Inward↓	Upward↓	Outward↓	
Stresses↓	First Day	Second Day	Third Day	Witness↓
Mind (Thinking)	Ideals	Study	Environments	Little
Will (Committing)	The Church	Action	Christian Community	More
Heart (Loving)	Piety	Leaders	Living the Fourth Day	Most
Stresses→	Individual	Others	Community	Fourth Day

Table Dynamics

The rector has the responsibility of placing the candidates at their table assignments. Candidates are purposefully separated from their friends and if possible from acquaintances. Candidates are encouraged to mix and meet new people on the weekend.

Table Posters and Discussions

Tres Dias uses the posters as a tool to get people to open up to others and to their ideas. The decuria provides the further opportunity to open up the candidate one to another.

SERVICE AREAS

No role is greater than any other on the weekend. Some might have more responsibility or planning involved, but all are necessary for the weekend to work smoothly. The team is called to serve unconditionally. You are not called to be in a "position", you are called to be a "servant" and a team member. Each person reaps from a weekend according to what he/she puts into it. At this point, it is important to stress the chain of command. It would be inappropriate and very stressful if everyone that had a problem tried to tell it to the rector. Check with your "head" before you "correct" anything or anyone. If the leadership needs to know of a problem, your "head" will contact the assistant head cha who is the "problem solver" of the weekend.

Kitchen

Kitchen Chas make and serve food for the nourishment of the physical body and also serve up a good helping of "Jesus" for the nourishment of the spirit—to the candidates and to the team. The Kitchen is called to be a prayerful group, giving strong prayer support for what is happening throughout the camp.

Dorm

Dorm Chas provide a loving, safe haven for weary, tired "pilgrims." They also serve "Jesus" to the candidates and are another prayer-based group.

Chapel

Chapel Chas provide a secure, inviting place where all can deal with spiritual needs, meet Jesus at the foot of the cross; leave "baggage"; worship, praise, receive Communion; and celebrate Jesus.

Palanca

Palanca Chas deliver the levers - encouraging words, prayers, "goodies", and sacrifices - these open hearts.

Table

Table Chas serve the candidates at the tables in the Rollo Room. Along with the table's Professors, they help introduce the Reunion Group concept to the candidates. They provide an opportunity for the candidates to see a "serving Jesus".

Gopher

Gopher Chas make sure those giving Rollos and the Spiritual Directors are at the right place at the right time. These folks are "on the go". They also notify those who provide prayer cover for the Rollos.

Rover

Rover Chas remain at the "beck and call" of the Assistant Head Cha. (example) They inform the chapel and the kitchen of the candidates' whereabouts to help with timing. They troubleshoot, and take care of emergencies.

Prayer

Prayer Chas are praying for the weekend around the clock. They are available for team and the candidates and take prayer requests to lift up to God. The weekend cannot function without our prayers.

Rollo Room/Computer

These Chas can be one or separate. The Rollo room cha is responsible for the environment of the Rollo room. They also monitor the sound system and other duties that may come up. The computer cha is responsible for keeping up with the team book and its information to give to the 4th day couple for publishing. They do other duties as needed.

Supply

Supply Chas prepare the refreshments (and non-prescription medications) for the candidates in the Rollo Room which are then served to candidates by the Table Chas.

Night Watchmen

These Chas (usually only on the men's teams) are round-the-clock prayer warriors interceding for all. What a privilege to serve in this area.

Set Up and Take Down Crew

The unsung heroes of Tres Dias, they are servants in the true sense. They load the truck, drive to the campground, unload, and set up each area. The labor is hard; workers are few; and only the Father is aware of their service. The weekend would not happen without their commitment and sacrifice.

TEAM COMMITMENT

- † Praying and supporting team and candidates from the start
 - † Attending Team Meetings (notify Head if you have an emergency)
 - † Paying fees promptly
 - † Arriving at campground as soon as possible on Wednesday evening (or early Thursday morning) to clean and set up
 - † Following the chain of command...work with the "head of your section"
 - † Giving our best to the Father
 - † Being available for the candidates after the weekend †
- Continue to pray for the new Pescadores in their 4th day.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

The Commissioning Service is the time for candidates to receive their crosses and to be "sent out" to harvest the white fields and to be leaders in their environments. This should be a reverent time of quiet reflection and commitment for the candidates.

CLOSING

The closing is the summation of the weekend for the candidates. This is the final surprise blessing. The Tres Dias community is urged to support the candidates and sacrifice Sunday evening by attending this service. Attendance affirms the candidates' experiences and demonstrates the love of Christ through the community. As the new

Pescadore publicly testify of the work done by the Holy Spirit in their lives, the work is sealed. To protect the confidentiality of the testimonies and sequestered nature of the weekend, no video cameras, cameras, or audiocassettes are permitted. **Children may not attend.** No individual Palanca is given at the closing. Any final palanca may be stored in the vehicle and given after the closing on the drive home.

POST-WEEKEND/FOURTH DAY

DEFINITION

What is the fourth day? Since the weekend you experienced was three days in length, the fourth day is really what you do with the experience and knowledge gained there for the rest of your life.

The Fourth Day is the most important of the three elements of the Tres Dias experience. (The first element is the Pre-weekend; the second is the Weekend itself.) The purpose of your fourth day is to realize the ideal of the Christian life as leaders in our individual environments - living out piety, study, and action in real, everyday circumstances. Now you see why it is the most important part of your Tres Dias experience.

During the Weekend we studied the concepts of piety, study, and action. Each of the concepts is built into the design and conduct of the Weekend. The Fourth Day is a systematic way of carrying those essential elements of Tres Dias into the larger community. "The Team of the Weekend was not so much a team of speakers as it was a team of witnesses to what Group Reunion means in their own lives." (Cursillos in Christianity, page 278.)

ACTIVITIES WHICH SUPPORT THE FOURTH DAY

- † Group Reunion
- † Sequela
- † Pescadore Orientation
- † Serving on a Weekend
- † Sponsoring Candidates
- † Palanca
- † Prayer and lots of it!
- † Faithfulness to your house of worship

LEADERSHIP

The Weekend was "done" for you. The Fourth Day is for you to do for yourself and others with the support of the Community and Fourth Day activities. To be effective, each of us

must be a leader in our family, church, workplace. That is, we should act to transform our environment with the emphasis on Christ rather than to conform to the world. The "worst case" scenario for Pescadores is to experience the Weekend, then continue their lives just as they did before the Weekend. Pescadore, as you apply yourself, the weekend will have created a broader range of contacts and experiences, a better focus on the Living Christ, and a renewed sense of purpose. Yes, our prayer is that your Fourth Day will have new meaning.

Sequela

The friends that were made on the weekend are wonderful...yet, anything that is alive and growing needs to be cultivated. How do we cultivate our friendships? The Sequela is a scheduled monthly "reunion" experience with the total Tres Dias community. All sequelas are "closed" gatherings meaning that those who attend must have attended a Three Day Weekend. There are two "open" sequelas each year at which you are encouraged to bring your family and friends. They are normally held in June and September.

Our electronic newsletter, to which your attendance to your weekend gives you a subscription, is a valuable resource to keep you informed of the large Tres Dias community's activities. You will enjoy the food and fellowship of the Sequelas. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish, dessert or side to the sequelas.

The fourth day couple "sets up" this fellowship experience in different parts of our North Florida (South Georgia) area. We seem to fellowship better around the "breaking of bread" therefore food is a vital part of this experience. A Sequela has singing, a devotional or a testimony of a fourth day victory experience and an opportunity for fellowship with brothers and sisters who have experienced a weekend like yours. The spiritual director will usually have comments and communion will be served. Most Sequelas provide childcare with advanced reservations. This information will be in your newsletter or flyer that comes via email.

A secondary purpose of Sequela is to provide an avenue for the formation of Reunion Groups. Sequelas develop commitment to the Tres Dias community and strengthen the community.

Reunion Groups

Do you remember at the beginning of the weekend being uncomfortable...individuals feeling awkward and isolated? But by the end of the third day, we felt a part of something larger. We had union with the body of believers. How did this happen? All of us became a part of a "table family". The transformation didn't happen by accident but by a combination of leadership and service. Time, purpose, and prayer produce a commitment to

the table community. The table became a group of friends by eating, sleeping, working, praying and worshipping together.

In the Fourth Day we must provide our own leadership and service, enjoying the same kind of Christian fellowship we experienced on the Weekend, to complete the Tres Dias purpose of developing Christian community.

Tres Dias has discovered that to keep the fire that was kindled on the weekend, we must have Christian fellowship. Imagine being on the weekend without a Table Family. Having a Fourth Day without a Group Reunion would be like being on a Weekend sitting by yourself.

How do you become part of a reunion group? This is where your leadership comes to play. Others are thinking the same question right now. Ask and you shall receive. Get with someone that you respect and can be candid with, someone that can pray with you and start a reunion group. It can be one person or many. It can be singles, couples or a combination. Someone is waiting for you to approach him or her. Will you take that step?

Essential Elements of a Reunion Group

What happens at a reunion group meeting? They are as different as people are different; however, they do share some common things. Remember the Action Rollo? Its keys are to: (1) Make a Friend, (2) Be a Friend, and (3) Bring a Friend to Christ. Such are the actions of a group. "Bringing a Friend to Christ" can be interpreted as bring each group member closer to Christ or bringing another person to Christ through group action.

At each meeting the group should share piety, study, and action. We are to share close moments with Christ, our Lord. We are to share (confess our failures). We, above all else, are to pray for one another. These elements form the structure for a Christian reunion group.

Structure can be deadening. A structure (or technique) is only valuable when people want to do something and are looking for a way to do it. It then can be a tool—just as a hammer can be a tool for a task, but a real impediment in your hand if you don't want to hammer something. The most common reason for the failure of Reunion Groups is that the members have tried to use the structure but without having a clear purpose in mind. The principle purposes for Group Reunion are:

- † Getting to know each other better
- † Sharing friendship together
- † Adding to the joy of grace Suggested

Group Reunion Format

During your group meeting ask:

- † "With what trials have I been tested in my family, your work, or environment?" †
What successes have I been blessed with? What failures have I had?
- † Did I meet my goal for this week? Why? Why not?
- † Tell about an encounter you had with God this week!
- † Set spiritual growth goals and help each other to attain those goals.
- † Pray, encourage, pray, encourage, pray, and encourage!
- † Develop commitment to the group by sharing person piety, study, action, and the moment you were most aware of Jesus during the interim between group gatherings.
- † Identify Christian leaders. Discuss what they do or represent that makes them tick.
- † Plan and do an apostolic activity as a group such as working with Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots event, or a locally thought of project that you and the others can do.
- † Have fellowship and fun as a group. Go out to dinner; visit one another's churches; go on a canoe trip; picnic with your families.
- † Design, develop, and participate in a special spiritual development weekend with your group. Have a mini-weekend with them and grow by acting out your knowledge.
- † Sponsor a candidate as a group.
- † Make some sacrificial Palanca for the next weekend as a reunion group.
- † Work together on a project of roofing a widow's house! How about sponsoring a candidate for the next weekend as a reunion group... (Pay his weekend expenses too). Wouldn't he be blessed if the reunion group mowed his lawn for him while he was away on the weekend or watched the children during some point of the weekend? Make sure your group signs the prayer banner as a group and then pray together for the weekend.

Be Blessed as you "reunion" and grow in Christ!

To continue to learn about Tres Dias, please visit our website at
<http://www.nftd.org> .

