

Tres Dias of St. Louis

Volume 5, Issue 4

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A Message from our Chairman

Greetings in God's Grace,

We've just completed the first set of weekends since God placed me in this unique leadership role. I am happy to report that God continues to touch lives in incredible ways. We founded this ministry on the scripture "He must increase, but I must decrease" – John 3:30 (NASB). I am convinced that this ministry remains strong because we have submitted ourselves to God. Each time we serve him, we must humbly decrease so that He can increase above all. He can work around us but it's awesome when He works in and through us! It's hard to believe that I've been Chairman for almost six months now. God has done some incredible things in your lives during that time. Just as importantly, he's presenting us with significant opportunities to grow closer to him and expand this ministry. In the coming months, we will be working to improve the following within our ministry:

Sponsorship - Our top priority is to increase Sponsorship and Sponsorship awareness to share God's grace with as many candidates as we have spots per weekend.

Reunion Groups - We will be working on better tools to help people form and join reunion groups.

Sequelas – Improve the ability for people to attend Sequelas

Serving on Teams – Please contact Paula Kersten or Mike Liston if you would like to serve on a future weekend.

Communications - Please check your e-mail and the website at www.tresdias-stl.org since we have reduced our dependence on U.S. Mail for both speed of delivery and cost.

Team Training - We will be updating our materials to better train our teams and to position us to start new Tres Dias Communities.

Tres Dias School – February 5th – Location TBD – This is a great way to learn more about the ministry, why it works as well as it does and how to get involved more involved.

New Communities – Please let me know if you are interested in serving in new communities. I receive opportunities for us to assist new start ups. Additionally, our community will begin birthing new communities over the next few years.

New Prayer Ministry – We will roll out a new prayer ministry allowing the Community to pray for Rectors, Sponsorship and needs in our Community and our members.

Various other items – expect to hear about opportunities to help us improve the ministry in the coming months.

I am excited to see what God is doing in our Community. He created each of you in His image. You are very special to Him and to me. He has extraordinary plans for you. Talk to others about attending a weekend. Let's embrace the direction He is leading us and share this ministry with others.

Surrendered to Christ,
Bob Sander, Chairman

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A Message from our Spiritual Director

The Big Squeeze

“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold...” (Romans 12:2, Phillips Translation).
Don’t let yourself get moldy.

Be different!

You are a *“chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9, KJV)*. As Christians, because we won’t fit the world’s mold, we are a peculiar people—some more so than others...and that’s O.K.

Be different!

We should stand out and *“become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe...” (Philippians 2:15, NIV)*. We don’t have to blend in; it’s time to shine.

Be different!

Did you know that many of the world’s greatest difference makers would be considered “different,” “peculiar,” “odd,” or “eccentric” according to the so-called “norms” of society? No offense if your name happens to be Norm, but societal “norms” are often boring and usually just serve as excuses to avoid making any kind of move that might put the status quo at risk.

Well I say, “Status quo-schmatus quo!” Hail the peculiar—those who are willing to *really* live outside the world’s box to exemplify the unique qualities of God’s creative brilliance.

Pythagoras was what you might call an “odd duck.” I’m not condoning that you start your own religion, but he did. Apparently, he believed in two main tenets: 1) souls are reincarnated, and 2) beans are evil. Cue the cuckoo clock.

But wait! Pythagoras was also the math whiz who came up with the theorem that we learned in school...“the square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the square of the other two sides.” His concepts set the stage for the study of Physics and served as a major inspiration for Plato’s ideas of Democracy. Mathematics, Physics, Democracy...I guess this odd bean-hater made some pretty significant contributions to life as we know it.

Nikola Tesla, an engineer, had some “interesting” ideas as well. He was a severe germophobe that wouldn’t touch anything with the slightest hint of dirt. Apparently, he was also a severe “spherophobe” (Yeah, I just made this word up...I think.) who refused to touch anything round. What an oddball!

But wait! Tesla was credited by one historian as “the man who invented the 20th century.” He played a major role in the discovery of radio, alternating current electricity, computers, robotics, radar, ballistics, and nuclear physics. Now that’s a well-rounded list of accomplishments.

I could cite more examples. Howard Hughes, just a *bit* OCD, was so obsessed with the size of peas that he used a special fork to sort them by size before he ate. Albert Einstein, a beautiful mind if there ever was one, was forbidden by his doctor to buy pipe tobacco so instead he would pick up discarded cigarette butts off the street. Sir Isaac Newton, a renowned yet reluctant genius, cut two holes in his front door—one for his cat and one for his cat’s kitten. Did an apple or a bowling ball hit him on the head?

Of course, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the most influential non-conforming difference-maker of all. Jesus turned the world upside-down with His radical teachings. He definitely upended status-quo’s apple cart. When the world tried to squeeze Him, He pushed back...and in the process, His work in life and on the cross made the biggest difference of all for everyone.

So I challenge you to be a difference maker. Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold of egocentric expectation and selfish ambition. Enjoy the “peculiar” status of Christ like service and discipleship. Exemplify an “odd” life of piety, study, and action. Embrace an “eccentric” grace that goes beyond what we deserve. Follow Jesus...and make a difference by being different.

Reverend Paul Ridenour
St Louis Tres Dias #4

Rector Notes From Tres Dias #18

Women’s Weekend

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, “the Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.”

Lamentations 3:22-24

God indeed showed His faithfulness to 20 new Pescadores and the team of 58 as well! He changed hearts and lives as women opened their hearts to Him. The ladies on Tres Dias #18 sensed a calming peace of the Spirit move throughout the weekend, gently breathing His healing touch on each woman. One woman felt beautiful for the first time in years; one woman who was running from God, ran back into His arms; another woman who had been crying for days, smiled and laughed and was filled with joy. Hearing what God has done and how He has been their “portion” reminds all of us why we serve in this ministry. I want to encourage each of one us to pray about who God would want us to sponsor for the upcoming Spring weekends. Now is the time to pray and ask. Lives **are** changed in three days! Our God is faithful!

Decolores,
Lori Cannon, Rector, St. Louis Tres Dias #18

Rector Notes From Tres Dias #18

Men's Weekend

What a great weekend we had. I believe God worked a great work in the lives of the candidates. Our scripture for the weekend .Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

God doesn't create anything without value. He is the ultimate craftsman. And he designed us specifically to fulfill a unique role in his ultimate plan to establish his kingdom on earth. Even though each of us has made mistakes that make it more difficult for him to perfect his work, we still are a special work of the Creator's hands.

God showed the men of #18 just how special they were to him, and how much He loved them. It was such an honor for me to have been rector for the weekend. Thank you to all who worked on the team and for all who prayed for us.

A.W. Earls
Rector, Men's Tres Dias # 18

SECUELA INFORMATION

Next Secuela

February 5, 2011
Location-TBD
12:00 PM-2:00 PM

Join us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship. Listen to a 4th day talk from new Pescadores, worship and catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Please bring a covered dish to share, such as chicken, beef, casseroles, salads or vegetables. A 2-liter bottle of soda to share also.

Hope to see you there!

ESSENTIALS TRAINING

Tres Dias essentials training will be held after the Secuela on February 5th from 2:00 to 5:00PM. All that have attended a weekend are invited to attend.

Upcoming Tres Dias Weekends

Ever wanted to serve on a weekend in another community? The opportunities are out there. A number of new and emerging communities have issued standing invitations for Pescadores from other communities to support their weekends in the Spring of 2011. For specific dates and contact information, see the WEEK-ENDS link at TresDias.org.

Some of the opportunities and locations:

Heart of Texas TD

Orange County TD

Peru Tres Dias

Northern California Tres Dias

Southern New Jersey

Of course if you are inclined to stay at home:

March 31 - April 3, 2011 - Men's Weekend #19

April 7 - April 10, 2011 - Women's Weekend #19

October 13 - October 16, 2011 - Men's Weekend #20

October 20 - October 23, 2011 - Women's Weekend #20

Let the Men's and Women's' Leaders, Mike Liston and Paula Kersten, know that you are interested in working an upcoming Weekend.

Sponsorship

Have you sponsored a candidate for the upcoming weekends? Remember when you were asked to go on a weekend and what a blessing it was? Don't you want to bless someone else? Remember that a weekend does not happen without candidates and the only way to have candidates is to sponsor them. The cutoff date for sponsoring is two weeks prior to the weekend.

IN MEMORIAM

On November 11, 2010 Jack Benninghofen went home to be with our Lord. Jack leaves behind his wife Mary and 2 children, Emily and Todd. He also leaves behind a legacy of a true man of God.

St. Louis Tres Dias Secretariat

Chairman	Bob Sander
Spiritual Director	Rev. Paul Ridenour
Treasurer	Mark Hainsworth
Secretary	Angie Kell
Leaders (Men)	John Lanham/Mike Liston
Leaders (Women)	Paula Kersten
Pre-Weekend Couple	Mike & Michele Young
Weekend Couple	Rick & Pam Martin
4th Day Couple	Dennis & Susie Powers
Palanca Couple	Joe & Lynn Mcclurg
Food Person	Murphy Ownbey
Database Person	Keith Griffith
Newsletter Person	Bill Meier