



The ESSENTIALS of Tres Dias

**The Preamble
The Movement
The Method
The 4th Day
The Local Secretariat**

OUR HISTORY --- It began in Majorca, Spain



Eduardo Bonin and a group of young men – with a burden to revitalize the church after the Spanish Civil War– were preparing for a pilgrimage to Camino De Santiago (Way of St. James).

- CURSILLO COMES TO WACO, TEXAS – 1957
- THROUGH A SPANISH AIRMAN FROM MAJORCA
- FIRST ENGLISH-SPEAKING CURSILLO – 1961.
- SPREADS THROUGH THE COUNTRY.....



And then.....



- 1970 --- David McManagal attends a weekend
- The Holy Spirit zaps him.
- He's determined to bring to **protestants**.
- Asks for permission to revise materials.
- **Roadblock ---- !**
- **Finally** --- they relent
- Tres Dias is born!
- *First weekend in 1972 in NY.*

TRES DIAS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (**TDI**)

THE MOTHER SHIP



Mother Ship: *“Spacecraft from which smaller ones are launched.”*

“Central organization that controls other parts and supplies what they need.”

tresdias.org

ESSENTIAL:

The very nature (essence) of a thing.

What is permanent & *changeless* within it.

(Bonin's words)

Basic, indispensable, *necessary*



Tres Dias Essentials are not suggestions.

1.0 PREAMBLE...

The TRES Dias Movement endeavors to bring Christians to a *closer, more personal* walk with their Lord Jesus Christ and encourage them to *Christian leadership* and *Apostolic Action* in their environments.

- ❖ Main teaching: *God's love through grace*
- ❖ Asks each member to grow in personal piety, study and *Apostolic Action*
- ❖ In the *cloistered* environment called "The Weekend"
- ❖ Will be invitation to join a small group for continued support
- ❖ The Tres Dias method has three phases



1.0 PREAMBLE

The TRES Dias Movement endeavors to bring Christians to a *closer, more personal* walk with their Lord Jesus Christ and encourage them to *Christian leadership* and *Apostolic Action* in their environments.



TRES DIAS is based on the principles, the method, and the teachings of the Roman Catholic **Cursillo movement** initially proposed by *Eduardo Bonnín* and his fellow Christians.

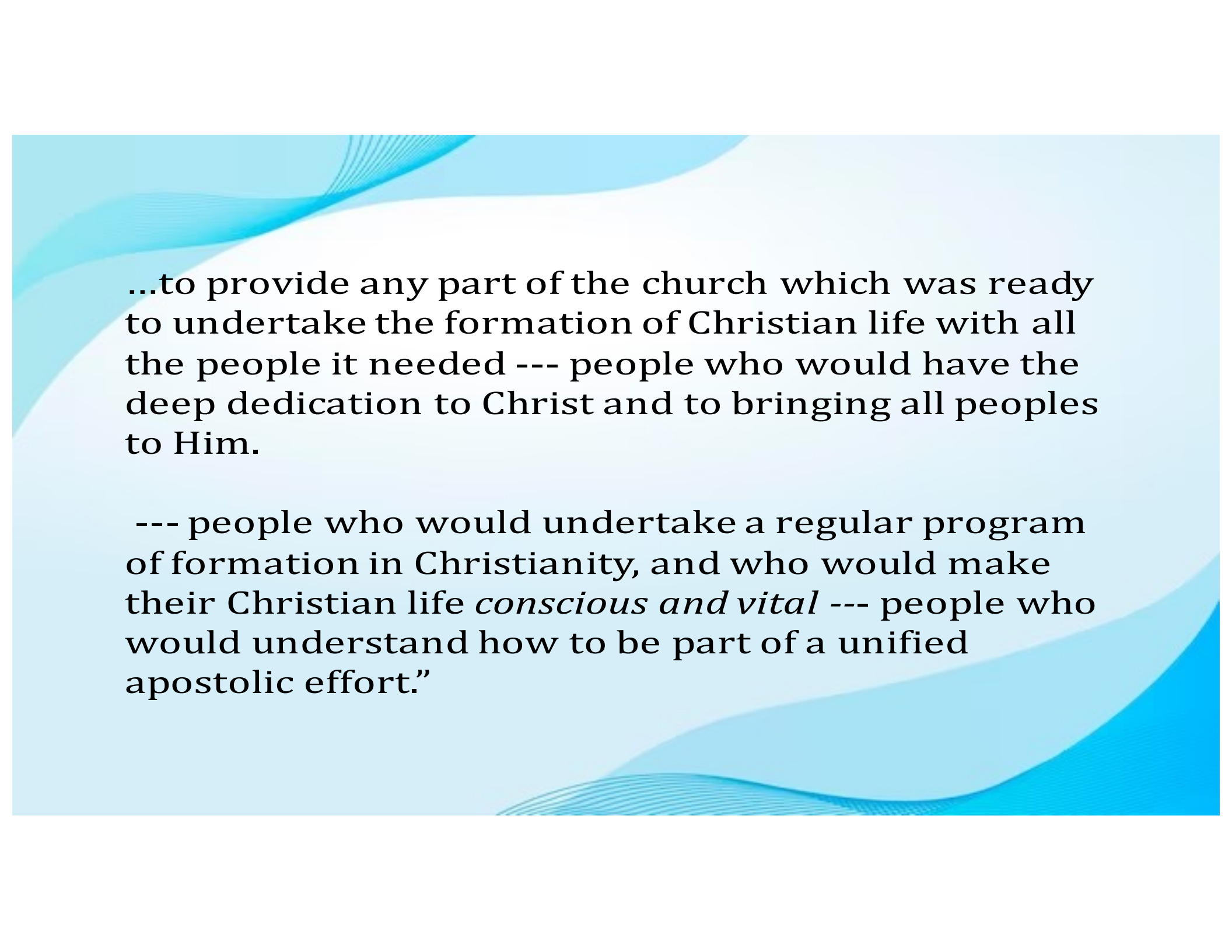
Each candidate goes through **three phases** of the TRES DIAS movement: the pre-weekend; the three-day weekend and the Fourth Day.

TRES DIAS is a Christian *ecumenical* movement.

The founders of the Cursillo movement saw a world of great need around them. They knew that the answer to the needs of the world had to be Christ and His Grace;



But, they saw Christians who did not live for Christ, and they saw a church that was ineffective and *without life*. They developed the Cursillo to meet part of this problem:



...to provide any part of the church which was ready to undertake the formation of Christian life with all the people it needed --- people who would have the deep dedication to Christ and to bringing all peoples to Him.

--- people who would undertake a regular program of formation in Christianity, and who would make their Christian life *conscious and vital* --- people who would understand how to be part of a unified apostolic effort.”

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.

These Essentials fall into two categories: those which are **quantitative** and those which are **qualitative** in nature.

Quantitative vs. Qualitative *(the specific measurables vs. the quality of their implementation)*

The Numbers

3 days
72 continuous hours
15 Rollos
5 meditations
2 table chapel visits



The Quality

Adherence to the
Essentials

Team meeting prep
Rollo coaching
The Organization

It is the intent of TRES DIAS to use *both of these categories* as criteria for chartering local secretariats.

It should therefore be 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.

Laity and Clergy

Laity

(Lay Lead Ministry)

Team Leadership Positions

Lay Rollos

Secretariat – governing body

Clergy

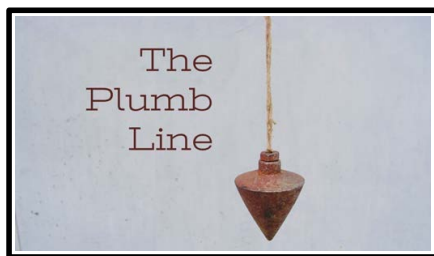
Meditations

Clergy Rollos

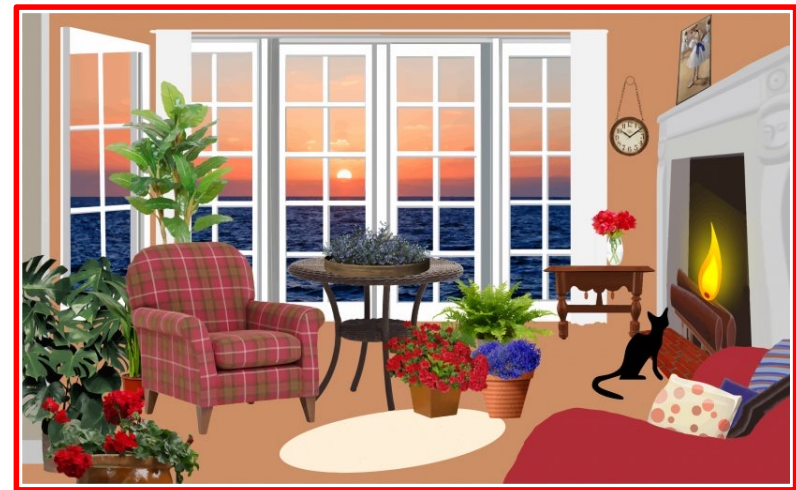
Spiritual Counsel

Serve Communion

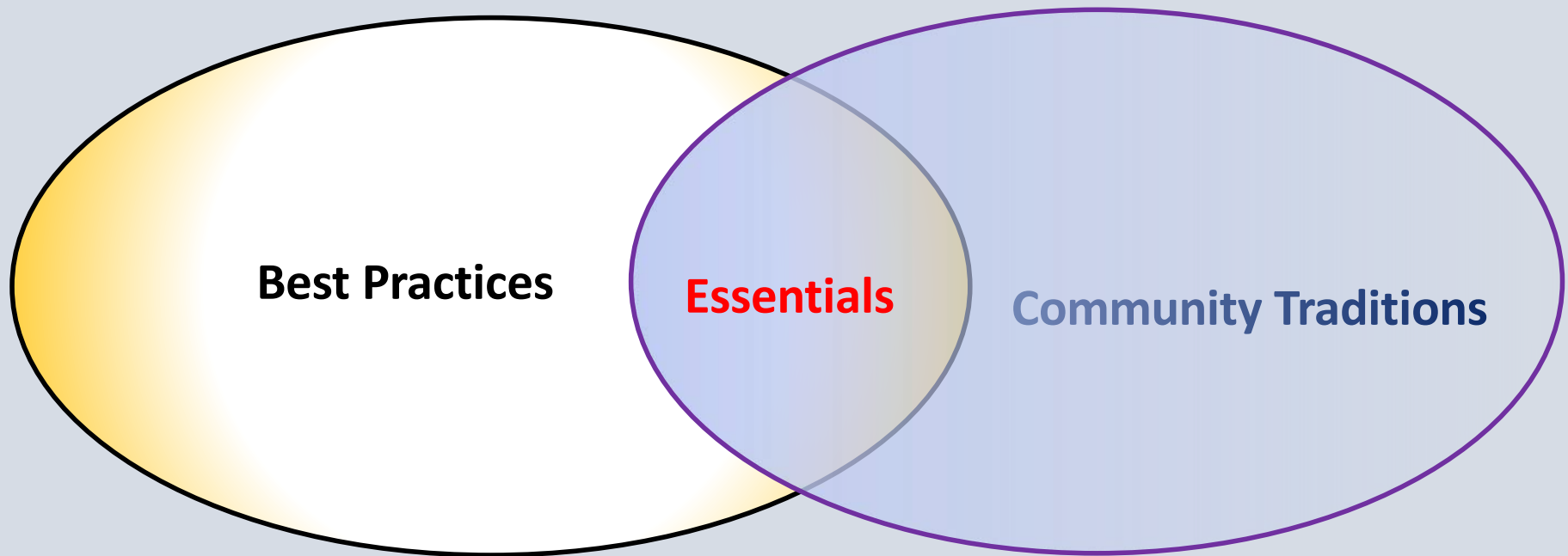
**ESSENTIALS ARE LIKE THE FRAMEWORK &
FOUNDATION OF A HOUSE – *(the plumb line)***



**TRADITIONS ARE LIKE INTERIOR DESIGN –
*FUNCTIONAL, COMFORTABLE SPACES***



ESSENTIALS are the core.



TDI gives communities a lot of freedom beyond the Essentials to decide what is best for their own community.



Why is Tres Dias like one of these?

We are like a “franchise.”



- We sign a contract with & are chartered by TDI
- We are authorized to use all their materials
- We agree to abide by the Essentials
- We bear the name and the *brand* of Tres Dias



We are free to have our varied *traditions*....

Traditions are the menu add-ons....



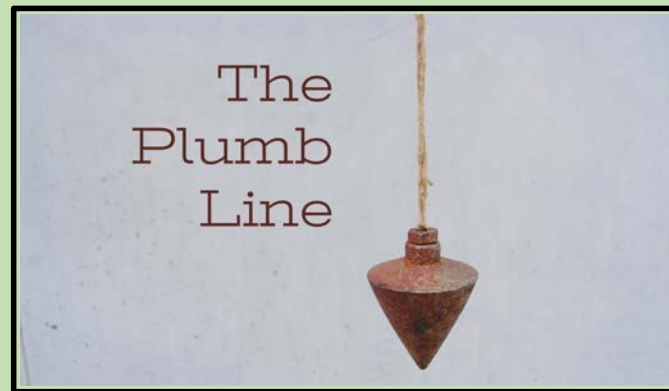
**Bonin used the example of the
*Christmas Tree.***

***Ornaments are the essentials --
everything needed to put on a
weekend.***



Along come traditions
which vary by community

**Traditions make us
unique.**



**Essentials keep us
focused on the
basics, to maintain
balance.**

**Essentials are the
plumb line.**



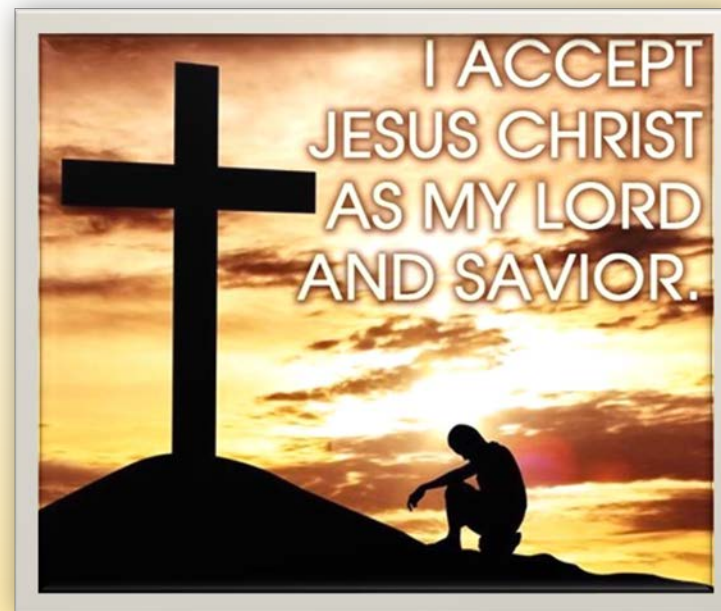
2.0 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE MOVEMENT

1. TRES DIAS is a Christian movement.

The ultimate objective of the TRES DIAS Movement is to *strengthen and extend* the Body of Christ. **No TRES DIAS organization shall change the teachings or practices of the TRES DIAS Movement to accommodate the participation of non-Christians.**

For the purpose of these Essentials, “*Christian*” is intended to refer to those who are *seeking a closer relationship* with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

For those seeking a closer relationship with Christ.



Ultimate objective: To strengthen and extend the Body of Christ

(Equipping people to go back to churches as servant leaders)

Tres Dias is a *Movement*

- 2.0.1 Tres Dias is a Christian “**movement.**”
- **Definition:** a group of people **working together** to advance their shared philosophy/ideas.
- TD movement: Equip people to be *Christian leaders in their home churches.*
- Teams are *Christ's hands in action* to help bring this about.



2.0 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE MOVEMENT

TRES DIAS is a Christian ecumenical movement.

All TRES DIAS organizations shall **actively seek** the participation of persons from *all the Christian denominations in their environment.*

All TRES DIAS organizations shall **stress those things** which the Christian denominations *have in common* and **respect those things which are different.**

All TRES DIAS organizations have the duty and the authority to **protect the TRES DIAS ecumenical structure.**



- **Ecumenical ministry**
- **Participation from all Christian denominations**
 - **(Bible based)**
- **Stress what we have in common – deity of Christ**
- **Communities have the duty to protect the ecumenical structure**



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- Ecumenical ministry
- Participation from all Christian denominations
 - *(Bible based)*
- Stress what we have in common – deity of Christ
- It's our duty to protect the ecumenical structure

2.0 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE MOVEMENT

3. TRES DIAS is a *lay led movement*.

TRES DIAS is a lay led movement; however, the *active participation* of the clergy is both essential and to be encouraged

4. TRES DIAS is a *non-profit movement*.

TRES DIAS organizations should pursue prudent fiscal policies. They shall avoid accumulating assets *beyond* what is required to carry out their part in the TRES DIAS Movement.

Lay Led

Lay-led: Teams, Professors
Secretariat leadership, all lay people



Clergy – Clergy Rollos, spiritual counsel, serve communion, all SDs are considered "clergy."

Non-Profit

Savings (war chest) is invested back into the ministry.



Essentials 2.5

5. The TRES DIAS movement *shall not assume the role of a denomination.*

TRES DIAS is not a church-substitute; rather it encourages Christians to worship and serve in their home congregations, as leaders.



6. TRES DIAS is not a service organization.

The Tres Dias movement *encourages* worthy projects. Tres Dias organizations shall limit their activities to those related to carrying out the Tres Dias method.

- We are not a church substitute

- *WE DON'T DO BAPTISMS*

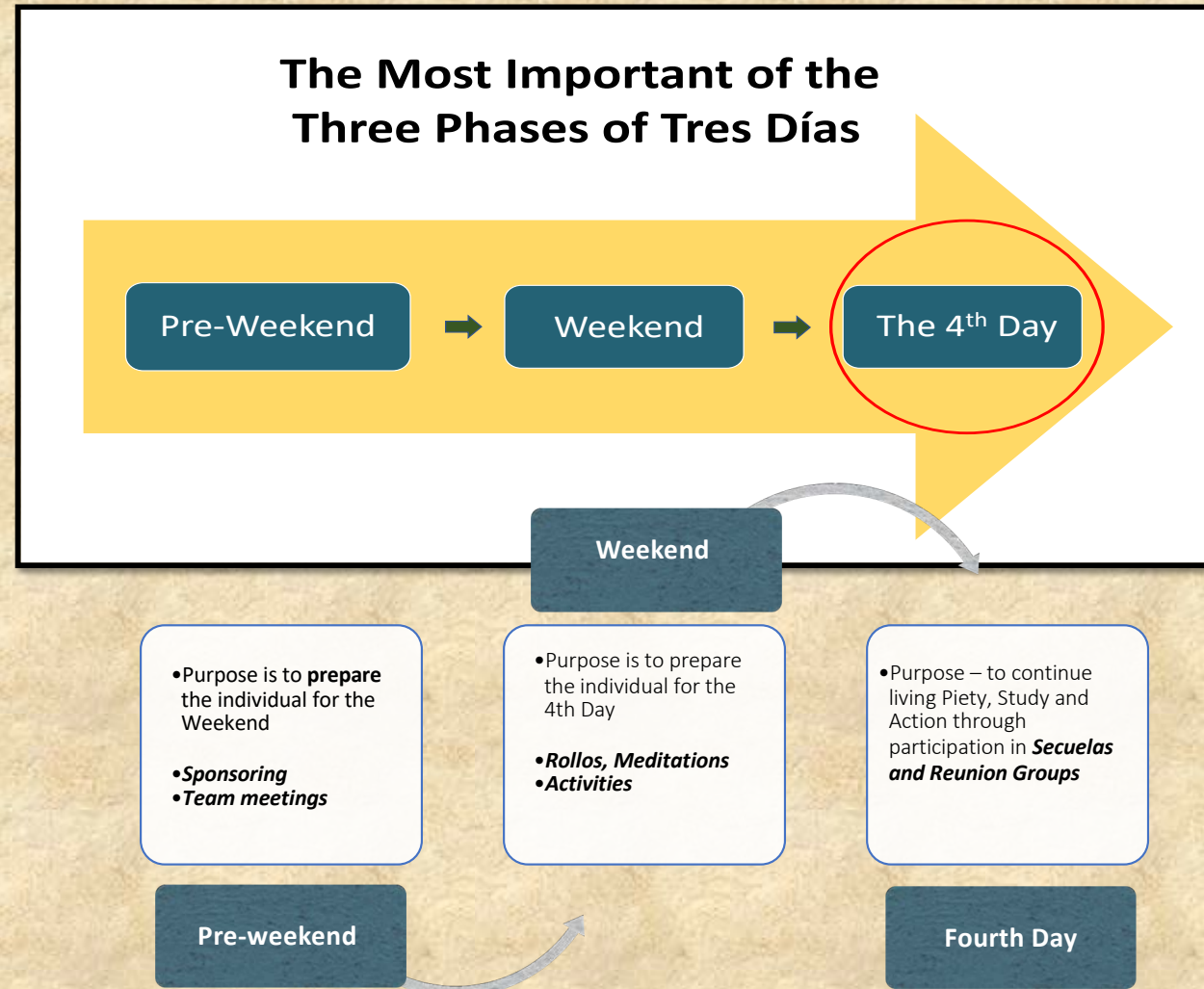
- We aren't a service organization

- *WE DON'T DONATE TO OTHER MINISTRIES*



3.0 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE TRES DIAS METHOD (cont)

1. The three sequential phases of an individual's involvement shall be: *The Pre-Weekend phase, the Weekend phase and the Fourth Day phase.*
2. The objective of the Pre-Weekend phase is to prepare individuals for participation in the Weekend.
3. The purpose of the Weekend, in terms of the method, is *to prepare* individuals for effective participation in the Fourth Day.



3.1 THE PRE-WEEKEND PHASE

1. That the candidate be sponsored for participation in all phases of the TRES DIAS Movement, rather than just the Weekend.
 2. That candidates be sponsored by a member of the chartered TRES DIAS community or a similar community approved by TRES DIAS.
 3. That candidates have a desire for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- ✓ Candidates sponsored for all three phases.
 - ✓ By a member of a chartered TD community.
 - ✓ Candidates desire a closer relationship with Christ.



3.1 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE PRE-WEEKEND PHASE

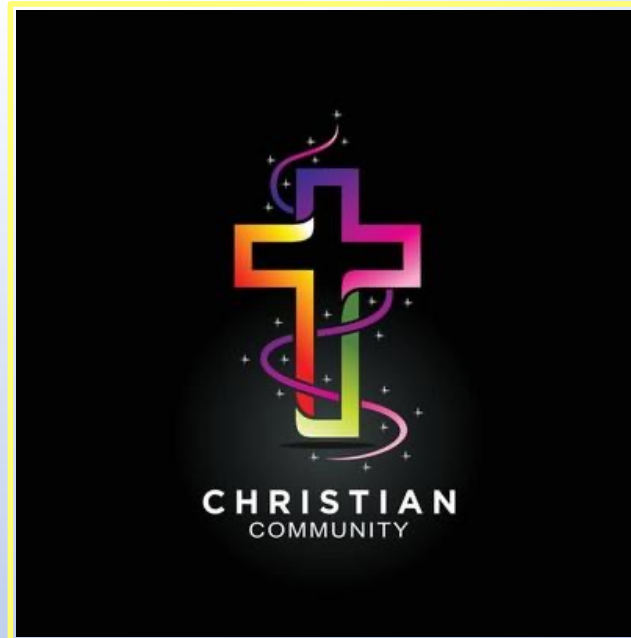
4. That candidates be accepted from *all Christian denominations*.
5. That candidates *be at least 21 years of age*. However, if a local secretariat, using its best judgement, finds a sound and compelling reason, (*such as spouse of a Pescador, or military personnel*) it OCCASIONALLY, on a case by case basis, may accept a candidate who at least 18 years of age.
6. That candidates have not previously made a TRES DIAS weekend or similar experience recognized as equivalent by TRES DIAS.



3.2 Essentials of the Weekend Phase

1. That the weekend have the following characteristics:

- It is a weekend of *living in Christian community* involving a combination of *carefully developed activities* and teachings which are meant to lead to a *fuller personal commitment to Christ*.
- It embodies personal witness, but it is not a revival meeting.
- It employs group dynamics, but it is neither sensitivity training nor group therapy.



- **We live in Christian community for three days.**
- **Activities and teachings are *carefully developed*.**
- **The Rollos are personal witness – not a *revival meeting*.**
- **Not there for sensitivity training or group therapy.**

D. It employs theological instruction that encourages the candidate to study his/her own Christian beliefs, but it is *not a course in doctrine*.

E. It includes a period of silent introspection, but it is *not a retreat*.

F. It is *a renewal experience* for Christians and is not necessarily a conversion experience.



- **Not a course in doctrine**
- **Not a normal “retreat.”**
- **Spiritual *renewal* experience**
- **Occasionally a conversion, but not the goal.**

3.2 THE WEEKEND PHASE

G. It asks for basic faith, openness and a *seeking attitude* on the part of the candidate, but involves a great amount of dedication, prayer and *careful planning* on the part of the team.

H. It is an encounter with the Holy Spirit. However, TRES DIAS is not a “*charismatic*” movement.

I. The weekend is a *tool of God*, not an end in itself. The weekend will not produce a permanent effect without Fourth Day activity.



- **Asks for basic faith, openness & seeking attitude from the candidates.**
- **Dedication, prayer, careful planning by the team**
- **An encounter with Holy Spirit – not “charismatic”**
- **Weekend is a TOOL OF GOD!**



3.2 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE WEEKEND PHASE

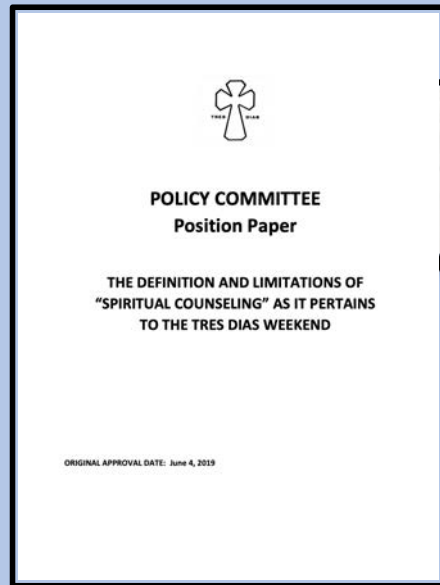
That the Spiritual Directors be **qualified to teach and counsel in spiritual matters** by his/her church or denomination.

That at least one of Spiritual Directors on the Weekend be ordained, licensed or credentialed and authorized to **regularly celebrate Holy Communion by his/her church or denomination**.

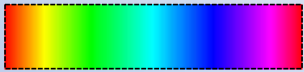
For the purpose of these Essentials “clergy” is intended to refer to those persons qualified to serve as Spiritual Directors.

Tresdias.org
“Resources”

Spiritual Directors be qualified to teach and counsel in Spiritual matters...



3.2 THE WEEKEND PHASE

4. That men and women attend separate weekends. The Spiritual Directors are exempted.
5. That team members represent a *spectrum of Christian denominations. (ecumenical)* 
4. That team members have previously made either a TRES DIAS Weekend or a *similar experience recognized by TRES DIAS.*
7. That the Rector be a lay person and be responsible for all aspects of the weekend, *under the authority of the local sponsoring secretariat.*

Rector is a lay person

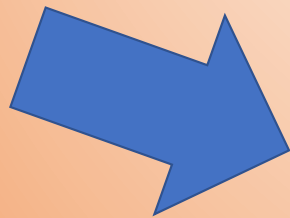


- **The rector: Leads, guides, trains the team**
- **Works closely with the Secretariat – *under their authority***
- **Rectors meet community qualifications**
- **Are chosen for spiritual maturity and teachable spirits**



8. That the team meet prior to the weekend to:

- Promote community
- Receive instruction
- Critique *all Rollos*



9. That the TRES DIAS weekend be an *intensive three-day program* lasting approximately 72 hours.



Essentials 3.2

10. The team and candidates live in a **cloistered environment** for the entire weekend.

From Latin, *claustrum*, “enclosed space.”
Part of the monastery the general public could not enter. For prayer, study and contemplation.

Cloister means: “*Secluded, sequestered, protected*”

As far as facilities permit, weekends are held in a cloistered space where team and candidates are insulated from the pressures and distractions of the outside world...

Before you agree to serve, you are asked if you can commit to being on the campground/facility for the entire weekend.



It is so important that TDI created a position paper for more clarification....

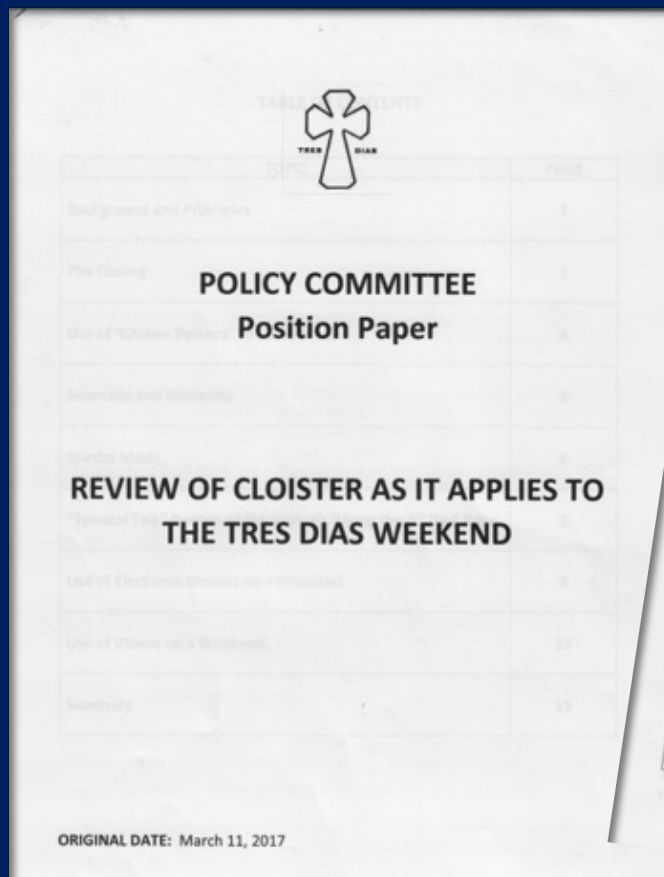
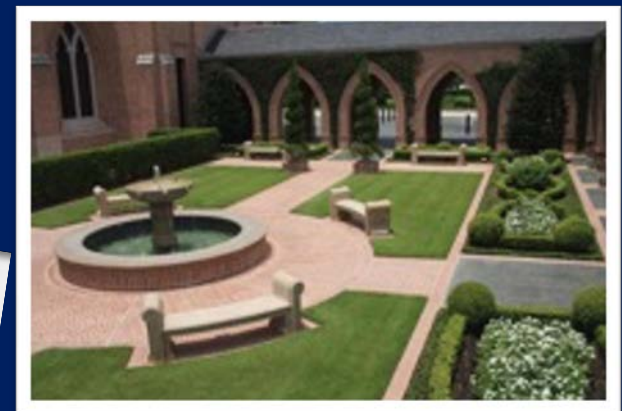


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TRESDIAS.ORG
 "Community Resources"
 "Position Papers & Best
 Practices"

3.2 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE WEEKEND PHASE

11. That lay-talks be given only by *laity*, and Spiritual Director talks *be given* only by clergy.



CLERGY



LAY
PEOPLE



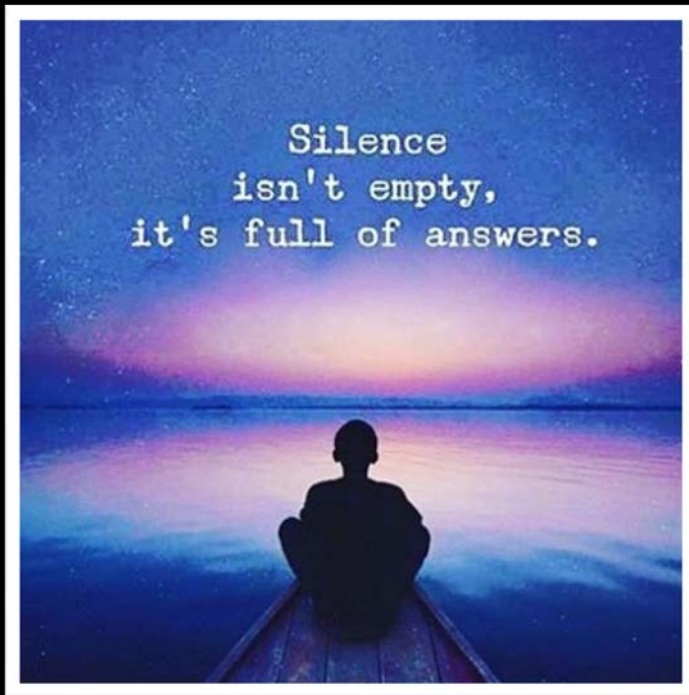
3.2 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE WEEKEND PHASE

12. That the weekend begin in the evening with the following agenda:

- **Introduction** given by the Rector
- ***Start silent retreat***, to end *after chapel* the next morning
- **KNOW YOURSELF** meditation, given by clergy
- **PRODIGAL SON** meditation (*or alternatively, on a women's weekend, the Hosea-Gomer account as recorded in Hosea 1-3, or the account of the woman caught in adultery, as recorded in John 8:1-11*)
 - ***Given by clergy.***



Weekend must begin with night of silence to end after chapel, next morning.



- ❖ Can seem foreign and uncomfortable
- ❖ Silence takes the candidate out of the world.
- ❖ A Time to self examine & hear from the Lord
- ❖ Silence prepares the candidate for Friday.

13. That the first day of the weekend have the following agenda:

- The **THREE GLANCES OF CHRIST** meditation, given by *clergy*
- The **IDEALS** Rollo, given by a *lay person*
- The **GRACE** Rollo, given by *clergy*
- THE **CHURCH** Rollo, given by a *lay person*
- THE **HOLY SPIRIT** Rollo, given by *clergy*
- The **PIETY** Rollo, given by a *lay person*

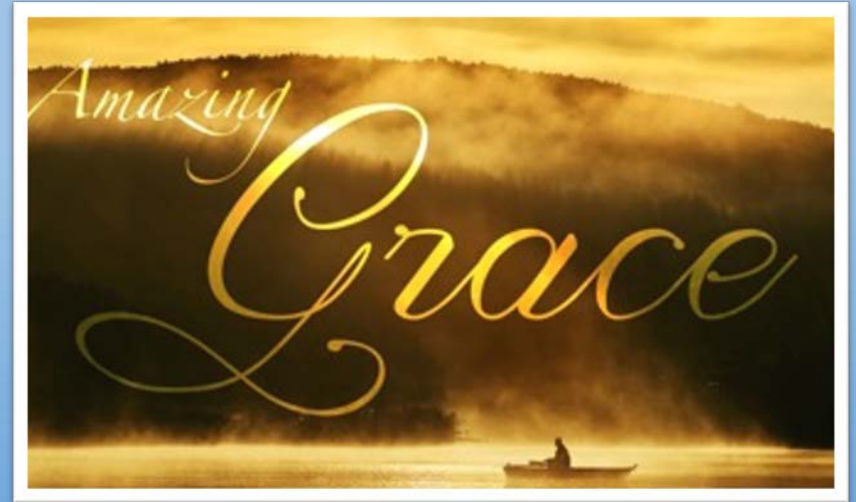
- *Ideals is the only talk that cannot mention God or church.*
- *Suggested to be given by a seasoned team member.*



3.2 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE WEEKEND PHASE

14. That the second day of the weekend have the following agenda:

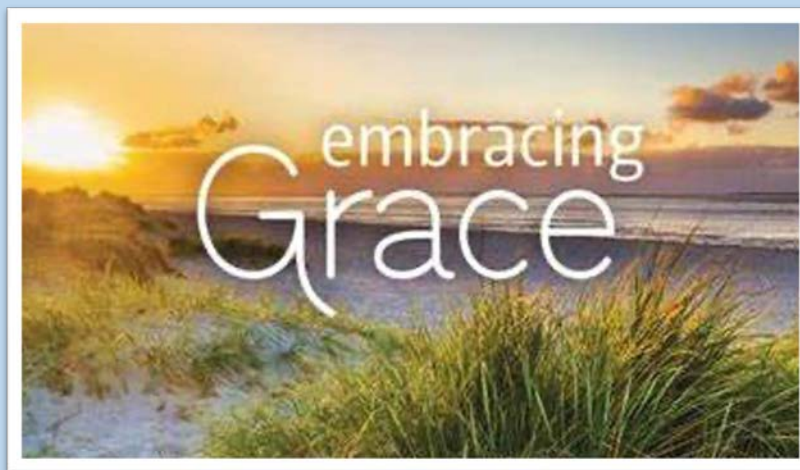
- The **FIGURE OF CHRIST** meditation ---clergy
- The **STUDY** Rollo -- lay person
- The **SACRED MOMENTS** of GRACE Rollo --- clergy
 - *Followed by Holy Communion ****
- The **ACTION** Rollo --- lay person
- The **OBSTACLES to GRACE** Rollo --- clergy
- The **LEADERS** Rollo --- lay person



- *Chapel visits by each table occur the afternoon of the second day.*
- *When candidates pray with each other outside the Rollo room. Some communities call this the “We Prayer.”*

16. That the third day of the weekend have the following agenda:

- CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO THE PESCADORE meditation --- clergy
- The ENVIRONMENTS Rollo --- lay person
- The LIFE IN GRACE Rollo --- clergy
- The CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION Rollo -- lay person
- The REUNION GROUPS Rollo --- lay person
- The LIVING THE FOURTH DAY Rollo -- lay person – most often the Rector
(SPOUSAL TALK***)
- The Apostolic Hour
- The Closing





- One continuous talk in 15 parts
- Not random; there's a logical progression
- All build on each other
- Each day is an *entity*, emphasizing different things

- CLERGY TALKS:** present the **teaching of living a life in grace.**

- Grace, Holy Spirit, Sacred Moments, Obstacles to Grace, Life in Grace

- LAY TALKS** (Rolloos) illustrate, *through the Rollista's experience*, how it is possible to live the life in Grace.

- Friday** – What the candidate **should be** in the life of grace.

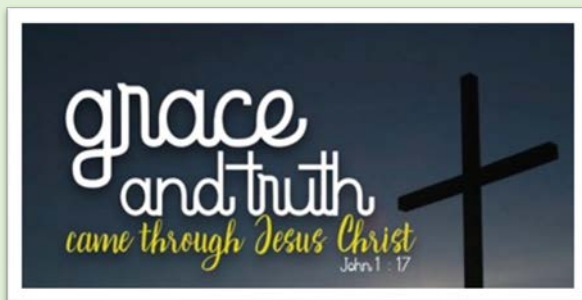
- (Person with ideals, who's involved in church, who's fully devoted to Christ)

- Saturday** – What the candidate **must do** in the life of grace

- (study, take action, lead/influence)

- Sunday** – **How to maintain** the life of grace

- (Influence your environment, serve in community, belong to a sharing (reunion) group, & persevere in the Fourth Day... (Usually the RECTOR TALK)



Best Practice:

**KEY POINTS AND TAKEAWAYS
OF ROLLOS**

On the TDI website under
"Resources."

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TALKS

ONE TALK IN 15 PARTS



	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	PERSONAL WITNESS
MIND	Ideals	Study	Environments	<div>A little</div> <div>A lot</div>
<i>Clergy</i>	Grace	Sacred Moments of Grace	Life in Grace	
WILL	Church	Action	Christian Community In Action CCIA	
<i>Clergy</i>	Holy Spirit	Obstacles to Grace		
HEART	Piety	Leaders	Reunion Groups Living the Fourth Day	
	FOCUS - INDIVIDUAL	FOCUS - ACTION	FOCUS - COMMUNITY	

First talks, low key & safe, appeal to the **MIND**, understanding.

Second to the **WILL**, what actions do we need to take?

Third to the **HEART**, dedicate ourselves to Christ and his work.

Messages build each day.

Weekend touches candidates on **ALL THREE LEVELS**

3.2 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE WEEKEND PHASE

• Key Points

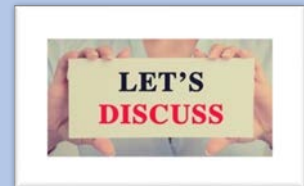
17. That chapel visits by each table occur the third day, preferably in the morning.
18. That table discussion follows *each Rollo* except the FOURTH DAY.
19. That all Rollos and mediations follow the *dynamics and outlines* authorized by TRES DIAS.
20. That the team and candidates have the *opportunity* to celebrate Holy Communion each full day of the weekend.

- Table Chapel Visits – “we prayer” **must be on Saturday and Sunday.**

- Table Discussions are *essential*.

- Rollos/Meditations follow the outlines provided by TDI.

- Communion is offered each day

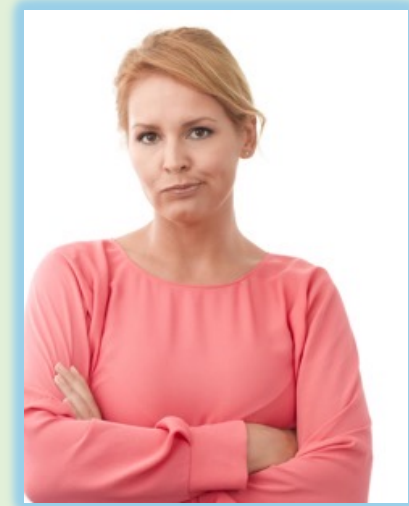
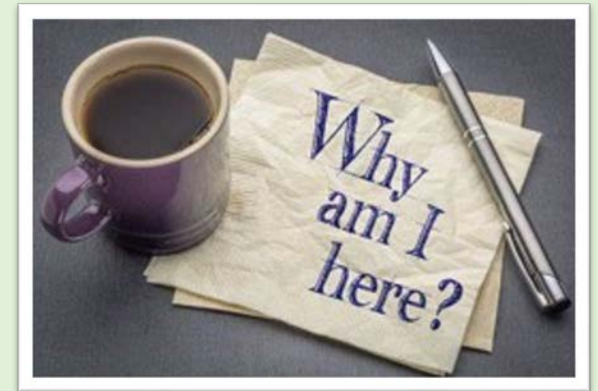


3.2 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE WEEKEND PHASE

21. That a ***diversity of environments and viewpoints*** must be attempted in planning the weekend itself and in forming the tables.
22. That the ***freedom of self-determination*** of each candidate be respected.
23. That the lay Rollos be *informal talks* of a witnessing or sharing nature.

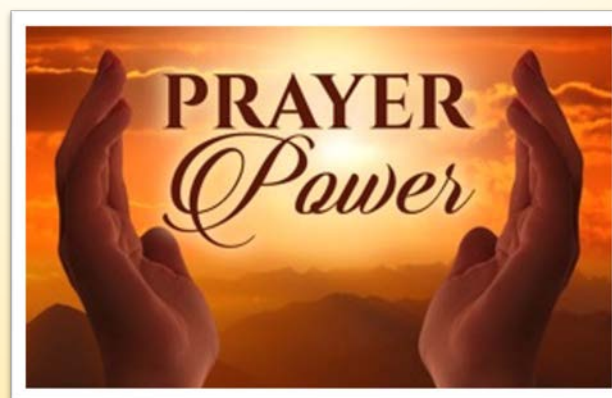


Freedom of self-determination? *What is that?*



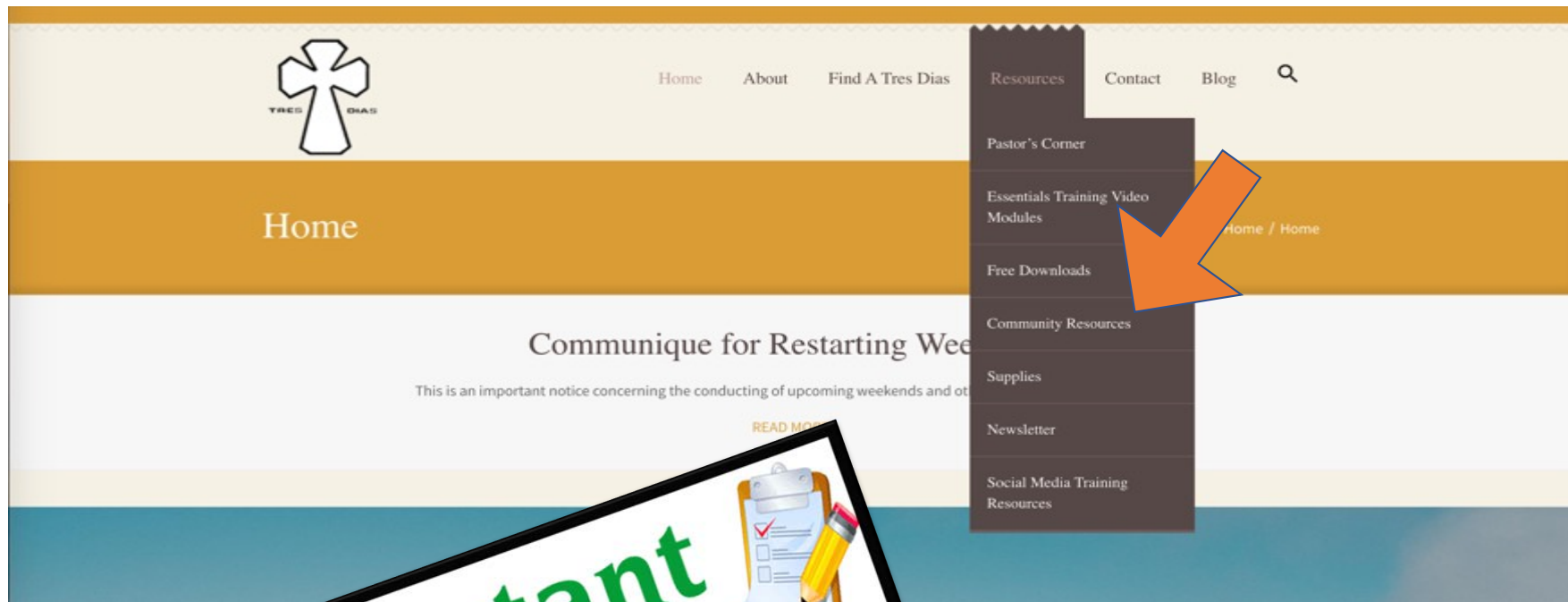
3.2 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE WEEKEND PHASE

- That a *friendly creative Christian environment* be developed and fostered during the TRES DIAS weekend, as opposed to a coercive or manipulative environment.
- That the schedule allow time for *informal personal contact* among the team and candidates.
- That the *Closing* be as *well prepared* as other activities of the weekend.
- That the sponsoring secretariat encourage the community to participate in the weekend through *spiritual and service Palanca*.



- Friendly, creative environment
- Time for informal personal contact
- Closing well prepared
- Spiritual & service palanca

Find Position Papers and Best Practice Documents – under “Community Resources”



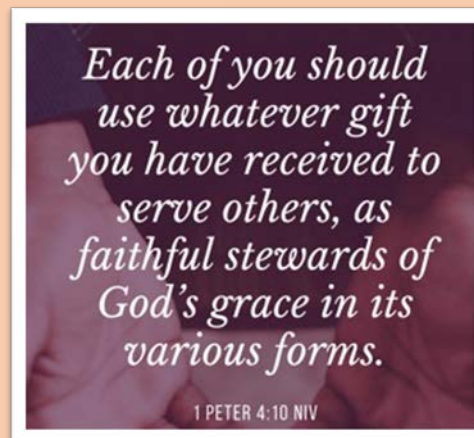
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3.3 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE FOURTH DAY PHASE

The Pre-weekend and Weekend phases are only a prelude to each individual's Fourth Day.

1. Reunion Groups

- A. That local secretariats encourage Pescadores to participate in *Reunion Groups*.
- B. That local secretariats utilize the form of the reunion group known as "*The Working Reunion Group*," to carry out the activities of the TRES DIAS Movement.



Secretariat Board:

The "working reunion group."

Serving together
for God's glory!

Rewarding and fun!

**Local secretariats must “encourage” Pescadores
to participate in *Reunion Groups***

Secretariats sponsor regularly scheduled Secuelas..



SUMMARY STATEMENT: THE FOURTH DAY PHASE

- From its inception, Tres Dias, has been and continues to focus on the training and *equipping of Christian lay leaders.*
- AND encourages them to return to and *plug into service in their local churches.*
- Local Secretariats should do everything that they can to encourage this service in the local church.
- Remember: *We are not a church substitute.*
- We are not in competition with local churches. We exist to *come along side* in the *training and equipping* of leaders to serve in the local church.



4.0 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE LOCAL SECRETARIAT ORGANIZATION

The function of the local secretariat is to *conduct an effective program* in accordance with the TRES DIAS Method.

That each *local secretariat have a document*, approved by its membership, describing its structure and operating procedures.



4.0 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE LOCAL SECRETARIAT ORGANIZATION

That the members of a local secretariat have completed a TRES DIAS weekend or a similar experience recognized by TRES DIAS.

All Pescadores of the TRES DIAS Community, whom the local secretariat claims to represent, must be *eligible to serve as voting members* and officers of the secretariat, *providing they agree to meet, uphold and follow* the qualifications as outlined in the local community's Constitution and By-laws.

And the TDI Qualifications for Community Leadership



- **BOARD MEMBERS – MUST HAVE COMPLETED A WEEKEND**
- **ALL PESCADORES CAN SERVE AS VOTING MEMBERS & OFFICERS OF SECRETARIAT**
- **MUST AGREE TO MEET, UPHOLD, FOLLOW COMMUNITY'S BY-LAWS, POLICIES & PROCEDURES**
- **TDI QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP *******

4.0 THE ESSENTIALS OF THE LOCAL SECRETARIAT ORGANIZATION

That the local secretariat have a plan for the *periodic election of new members*.

The local secretariat must be the sole sponsor of a TRES DIAS weekend held in its community.

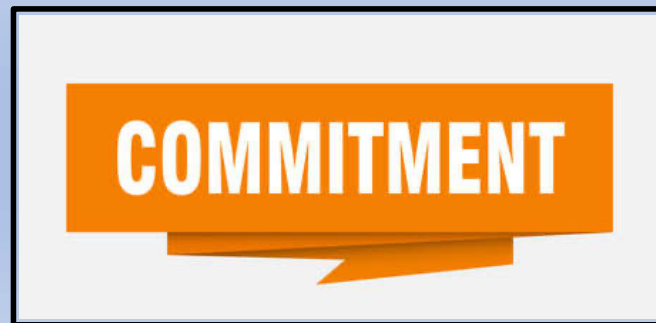
Each local secretariat must sponsor at least **two TRES DIAS weekends a year**. For the purpose of charter, this requirement may be waived by TRES DIAS.



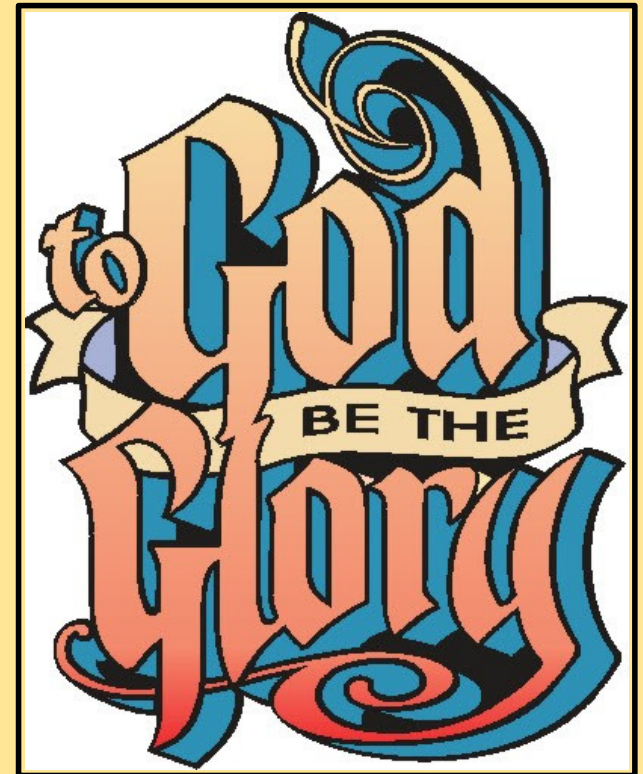
- *Periodic elections*
- *Must be sole sponsor*
- *Two weekends a year (one set)*

QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

ANY PESCADORE WISHING TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP, WHICH INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO TEAM MEMBERS, ELECTED AND OTHER LOCAL SECRETARIAT MEMBERS, AND MEMBERS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE LOCAL SECRETARIAT *MUST AGREE* TO THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SET FOR BY TRES DIAS INTERNATIONAL AS FOLLOWS:

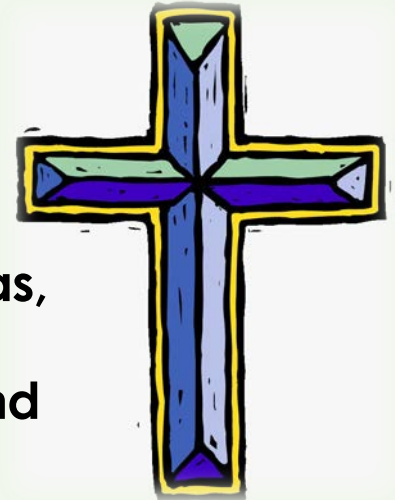


Any person serving in a Community Leadership position *must be living a life* that is not in a state of rebellion against God. A state of rebellion against God can best be described as an unrepentant, open and active participation in or advocacy of activities contrary to the commands (for example, *The Ten Commandments*) and guidelines in Scripture* for holy living and Christian leadership.



Some examples (*although not limited to these areas*) are:

1. Dependence upon alcohol or illegal drugs;
2. Involvement in illegal activities whereby such involvement knowingly violates federal, state or local laws, statutes or ordinances;
3. Involvement in lustful, immoral or perverted activities such as, but not limited to, pornography and/or any sexual relationship outside of a lawful marriage between a man and a woman;
4. Involvement in the occult or Satanic worship;
5. Openly professed allegiance to any non-Christian religion or organization which denies the deity of Jesus Christ.



NOTE: For purposes of standards and principles, Tres Dias ascribes to those stated in the "Authorized King James Version" of the Bible of 1611 (KJV).

Thank you for joining us!

