

**Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC**

## **NLS 2005 Annual Meeting July 28 — 31, 2005 in Emmittsburg, Maryland**

### **CASTING OUR NETS**

Happy New Year Everyone!!! 2005 has arrived. The Vineyard and Rainbow communities have been planning for July 2005 for the past three years. We are anxiously looking forward to being your hosts for the annual meeting. Although we are freezing right now with temperatures in the single digits, our hearts are warm with anticipation as we meet to continue our planning to make your visit with us a blessed and pleasurable time. Included in this newsletter is the registration form for the 2005 NLS Annual Meeting. Fran and Bob Stoner are looking for mail.

Some things to remember when making your travel plans. Mount St. Mary's campus in Emmittsburg, Md. is about an hour drive from numerous airports, Dulles, BWI, and Harrisburg. Hagerstown also has a smaller airport and is less than an hour from the campus. There are numerous places to visit that are only a few hours drive from Mt. St. Mary's, Washington D.C., Gettysburg, Hershey Park, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and even the beach. We suggest you consider spending additional time here and see some of the sights.

Our accommodations at "The Mount" are 2 and 3 bedroom apartments with a shared bathroom, kitchen, and living room. The cafeteria is newly remodeled and the hospitality committee is planning tasty treats for break times. Emmittsburg is a small town and is reflective of our two communities. The campus is beautiful with some century old stone buildings against the backdrop of the Catoclin Mountains. The facilities we are using have short walking distance between buildings. Just as Christ called the first disciples to "Cast their nets" and become fishers of men, Christ continues to call each of us to do our own fishing and to make disciples of all nations. Come fishing with us in Maryland as we all seek a closer relationship with our Lord and maybe glean some new "bait" as we fellowship together at The Mount. God's peace and blessings to you in 2005.

Rainbow and Vineyard Host Committee  
Diane Foor and Cathy Glumac Co-Chairs



CONEXIONES

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National Lutheran Secretariat  
**Conexiones-on-the-web**  
**E-Mail Notification Request Form**

**E-Mail Notification**

**Please notify me by E-Mail when the latest edition of Conexiones has been posted on the NLS Web Page**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Secretariate \_\_\_\_\_

Position on Secretariat: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

*Write in large letters - be very clear, computers rely on EXACT information*

Connecting National and Local Secretariats



Volume 23  
Number 1  
January 2005

**Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC**

**CONEXIONES** is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 71,500 who have participated in 37 movements across the U.S. Via de Cristo is a Lutheran expression of Cursillo®, a renewal movement developed within the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1940s. The Lutheran movement had its beginning in Florida and Iowa in 1972. The purpose of this publication is to inform all members of each NLS affiliated secretariat, ELCA bishops and the Directors of the Division for Ministry and the Division for Ministry in Daily Life about the activities of the National Lutheran Secretariat and its affiliated secretariats. Subscriptions to the above are free. If you know one of the above is not receiving **CONEXIONES**, call Larry Witham as the numbers listed on the side.

**Subscriptions** for the general public are \$6.00 per year, and are available by sending your name, complete mailing address, and phone numbers to **CONEXIONES** Treasurer, Jerry Lemcke, 6139 Sunnyvale Drive, Orlando, FL 32822; 407-277-2606.

**Material for CONEXIONES:** If you have information for **CONEXIONES**, items, requests and/or information, address corrections, changes or additions - even inspirational bits - send them to the **CONEXIONES** Editor at the address on the side. **DEADLINES:** January 15th, April 15th, August 15th, and November 15th.

## To “The Mount”!

Are you ready for the adventure of going to “the Mount!” in Maryland. [www.msmary.edu](http://www.msmary.edu) That’s what the local folks call our 2005 Annual Meeting site! Mount St. Mary’s is a wonderful spot that will enable us to expand our agenda. We are thrilled to present you with (5) five seminars along with (2) two forums and a keynote speaker.

In this newsletter, on page five, you will find the long awaited registration form. Please read over it carefully, fill it out and mail it in to Bob & Fran Stoner.

On the reservation form, you will notice a new section asking for your preference of seminars. We would like you to rank order them with 1 being your first choice, 2 your second and so on. Because of this new format and the time allotments we will run (4) four seminars simultaneously and (1) one during committee time. These will be repeated, but we believe your best efforts will allow each person to attend at least 3 out of 5 in the short stay at “The Mount.” Before anyone comments, let’s give this a try. This could just be the opportunity you need to send your delegates and or Secretariat members to different seminars, at the same time, and get more for your money.

Forums will remain open to all in attendance, without other activities scheduled during these times. In case you are unclear, forums are directed at issues facing all of us and are intended to give you direction from our resource materials and fundamentals.

A quick synopsis of the (5) five seminars.

1. What’s So **Apostolic** About **Action**: 2. Shopping for Proper Secretariat **Fishing Gear: Resources** at Your Disposal
3. **Palanca**: It’s Not a Mint on Your Pillow
4. The Other 12 Step Program **Top Ten Ways** to Kill a Secretariat: Are you Guilty?
5. **501(c)(3) for Dummies**: And Other Important Items for Your Treasurer

In order to schedule and be fair, the seminar that gets the least amount of responses will be run during the latter part of committee time.

Please also note that there are (4) four major airports and one (1) regional airport that you can choose from to get to the Annual Meeting in July. HOWEVER, we need to know which airport and when you will be arriving. Without this information, you may need a cab. The host committee’s preferred airports are **Hagerstown, Harrisburg and BWI**. The last Conexiones gave some specifics of the distance and time it will take to get from the airport to “the Mount”. Please take this into consideration when booking flights, especially if you plan on attending the orientation, which begins at 11:00 am on Thursday. Those traveling a distance may need to consider coming a day earlier.

To assist you in your flight planning here are airports (with the codes as seen on the map on page one) and their web site addresses:

**Hagerstown Regional Airport - HGR**  
[Http://www.flyhagerstown.com](http://www.flyhagerstown.com)

**Harrisburg International Airport - MDT**  
[Http://www.flyhia.com](http://www.flyhia.com)

**Baltimore Washington International Airport - BWI**  
[Http://www.bwiairport.com](http://www.bwiairport.com)

**Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport - DCA**  
[Http://www.metwashairports.com/national/index.htm](http://www.metwashairports.com/national/index.htm)

**Washington Dulles International Airport - IAD**  
[Http://www.metwashairports.com/Dulles](http://www.metwashairports.com/Dulles)

We will begin our next annual meeting with an orientation, open to everyone, at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. Lunch begins at 12 noon and our opening worship will be held at 1:00 p.m. Don’t miss a minute!

Tracy Ziemke,  
 VP Administration



## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Before your weekend, if you are like most people, the concept of "Spiritual Direction" was probably foreign to you. On the weekend you were asked, "Have you visited your Spiritual Director?" This is mentioned as a kind of preview to life in the 4<sup>th</sup> Day when Spiritual Direction can be a great resource for growing in grace.

It has been my experiences that as a weekend progresses, the role of Spiritual Directors becomes more and more clear to attendees. However, when the three days are over many are unsure of what this spiritual aid is and how best to utilize it in their Christian walk.

Spiritual Direction is not unique to our movement. It has been around in the Church for a long time. Some denominations have developed its use very effectively. In the context of Via de Cristo, I would offer a few thoughts in the hope that our Secretariats will encourage greater use of Spiritual Direction in the 4<sup>th</sup> day.

Who is my Spiritual Director? Ideally this would be a person's own pastor. He or she need not have attended a weekend, though it would of course be helpful.

How often should I seek Spiritual Direction? Once or twice a year. Make an appointment to sit down for an hour or so to check in with you S.D. Pastors will welcome this – we don't often get to talk one-on-one with folks about their spiritual development (apart from crisis counseling).

What should be the agenda? Think and pray about this beforehand. In the interest of time and focus I think a great outline for a session is:

(Surprise!) Piety – What's happening with my walk in Christ? In my worship life? In my devotional life? What has been satisfying and with what have I been struggling?

Study – What kind of literature have I been reading? What about Bible Study? What can I do to deepen my understanding?

Action – What have I been doing to live out my faith? What opportunities have I missed? As I view my family and work commitments, how can I be the person God wants me to be? And then, pray about these things together.

These are my views.....I welcome yours.

Isn't God good?

Joe Nilsen  
NLS Spiritual Director



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I sit here in the comfort of my home, I am reminded of those less fortunate. I am sure that those suffering from the incredible earthquake and tsunami disaster have been in your prayers also. I cannot imagine what they are going through. It has to be devastating and overwhelming to them. Please continue to pray for God to bring them comfort and hope in their time of despair.

A good friend of mine who is Lutheran pastor, sent me an email with an article from the website of Lutheran World Relief (LWR). He asked me to consider making a contribution to such a great cause ... Wave of Giving. I didn't realize it, but he told me that LWR is the 2nd largest non-profit relief organization in the world - only the American Red Cross provides more disaster relief than Lutheran World Relief. You can view their website at [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org). He concluded his email by asking whether it is through LWR, the Red Cross or another agency, that we give generously and pray continually. I echo his request.

Since January is now over, it's time for us to get rolling again. We have a lot of work to get done for our Lord. Plans for our annual meeting this July are well under way. At that meeting, elections will be held for board positions of President, VP of Outreach, and Secretary. Interested persons or suggested names can be submitted to the Nominating Committee consisting of Rose Lundquist ([irlundquist@unitelc.com](mailto:irlundquist@unitelc.com)) of Minnesota and Dottie Schwartz ([ewsdas@aol.com](mailto:ewsdas@aol.com)) of Florida. Rose can also be reached at (218-732-5575).

As the 2005 Host Committee continues to work hard to make your visit in July a memorable one, please keep them in your prayers. You can read more about their plans for the meeting in this newsletter.

As we enter into the season of Lent and we prepare to make the journey to the cross, let us reflect upon the incredible sacrifice made by our Lord. When I think about the way He suffered and died for us, tears fill my eyes. To know that He did it all for the redemption of our sins is overwhelming. No greater love could have been shown. Can't you hear Him say, *I did it all for you. Just for you because I love you!* Take this special time to reflect, give thanks and spread the good news.

May 2005 be a year filled with peace and joy for all of you. God bless each one of you for all that you do for our Lord, through this gift He has given us that we call Via de Cristo.

In service to Christ,  
Larry Witham, NLS President





# 2005 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting

Thursday July 28 through Sunday July 31, 2005

Mount St. Mary's University, Emmittsburg, Maryland

Hosted by Rainbow and Vineyard Via de Cristo Secretariats

## NLS MEETING AND LODGING REGISTRATION

### Please read first:

\*Use one form for each person attending. \*Payment must accompany each registration.

\*Refunds (less \$25.00 fee) will only be considered if postmarked or e-mailed before July 7.

\*Late fee of \$25.00 will be assessed after June 17, 2005.

\*Make checks payable to NLS 2005 Annual Meeting.

Home Secretariat & Position Held \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

My home church is: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me as: \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor \_\_\_\_\_ Clergy Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Visiting Clergy  
\_\_\_\_\_ NLS Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker

Have you attended a NLS Annual Meeting before? \_\_ No \_\_ Yes, Year \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please check this, if you require any special accommodations, medical or necessary dietary needs.

*Please specify:*

Mode of Travel to the NLS Annual Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Auto \_\_\_\_\_ Air

\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you will need to be picked up at an airport? The Transportation committee will contact you for time and airport.

### NLS Registration Fees:

**Payment and Fees include:** Housing, Meals, NLS Annual Meeting materials from Thursday noon thru Sunday 11:00AM.

Registration for NLS meeting per person @ \$175.00 \$175.00

\_\_\_\_ Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ assign a roommate

\_\_\_\_ Single room, limited space, additional \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Late fee of \$25.00 after June 17, 2005 \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to NLS 2005 Annual Meeting Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know what day you will be leaving the NLS Annual Meeting: \_\_ Saturday PM or \_\_ Sunday noon.

**Please choose seminars that you wish to attend and rate 1 thru 5\*\*\*(1 being your first choice)**

\_\_\_\_ **Palanca:** More than a mint on your pillow.

\_\_\_\_ **Top Ten Ways** to kill a Secretariat. (Secretariat Issues)

\_\_\_\_ **Apostolic Action:** What's so Apostolic about Action? The other 12-step A.A. program.

\_\_\_\_ **Fishing gear: Resources.** Shopping for Secretariat

\_\_\_\_ **501 (c) (3) for Dummies:** How to set up Non-Profit Secretariat & Other Treasury Issues.

Complete this form and attach Your Payment then Mail to: **NLS 2005 Annual Meeting**  
**Bob & Fran Stoner, registrars**  
**7953 Talhelm Rd.**  
**Chambersburg, PA 17201-8536**  
**E-Mail: [bfstoner@pa.net](mailto:bfstoner@pa.net)**  
**Phone: 717-597-0189**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### Secretariat dues

All secretariats should receive a letter in March regarding NLS dues and the rate structure. The letter is being sent to the treasurer of record. Please check with your treasurer to see if the letter has arrived. If you are the past treasurer and receive the letter, please pass it on to the new treasurer and let Jerry Lemcke, treasurer for the NLS, know of the change. It is important for your secretariat to update changes in officers for more effective communication.

### Corporate Registrations

A reminder to secretariats – This is a good time of the year to confirm the status of your corporate registration in your state of incorporation. Many states require a yearly filing of your corporate registration.

### Financial position as of January 15, 2005

#### **Assets**

Cash balance - General fund	\$19,366.82
Cash balance - Distribution Center	4,916.02
NLS Savings	( 0 )
<u>Investment</u>	<u>5,008.73</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$29,291.57</b>

#### **Net assets**

Unrestricted - General Fund	\$14,504.55
Unrestricted - Distribution Center	4,916.02
<u>Designated Restricted</u>	<u>9,871.00</u>

**Total Net Assets** **\$29,291.57**  
(For Internal Use Only)

\$



## NLS OUTREACH NEWS

Brrrrr! These cold temperatures are making me anticipate (I know, we're not supposed to anticipate) warmer weather. Especially warmer weather in July in Emmitsburg, MD, site of this year's annual NLS meeting. Be sure to read about the great seminars and forums coming up this year; July 28-31. See you there!

As I'm writing this article in middle January, I'm looking forward to welcoming two new secretariats this year to our growing Via de Cristo family:

Although they have already held some Via de Cristo weekends in the past, **Yellowstone Via de Cristo** is finally prepared to officially join the NLS. Carolyn Munsen is the "main mover" for this secretariat, based in Billings, MT. Hopefully she, or someone else from their group, will be able to attend the meeting in July.

The folks in Kansas City have made great strides, and have now been incorporated as **Heart of America Via de Cristo**. Deena Rogers has spearheaded this effort, and their first weekend (co-ed) is set for April 21-24. They could use a little financial help at this point. Perhaps the lay director, treasurer and palanca person from each current secretariat could get together and agree on a small donation (any amount: \$25, \$50, or whatever) to help them out. Send any donations to: **Joe Rogers, 1744 Labette Road, Ottawa, KS, 66067**

I have hopes of one or two other new movements this year, and will keep you advised. Meanwhile, let God's love keep you warm during these chilly months.

In His Mighty Grip,  
Ron Millard  
VP of Outreach, NLS

### Permission to Reprint

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— NLS Executive Board

# Palanca!!!

## For Future weekends

All pending weekends for the next six months from publication will be printed in each Conexiones.

- Jan. 2005 - Michigan: **Central Michigan VdC**, Men's #63, Jan. 13-16 & Women's #63, Jan. 20-23, Send palanca to: Charles W. Bash 1304 Brentwood Dr. Midland, MI 48640
- Jan. 2005 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida**, Men's #93: Jan. 20-23, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317
- Jan. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #444, Jan. 20-23 & Women's #445 Jan. 27-30, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Feb. 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota-Metro**, Men's #446, Feb. 10-13 & Women's #447 Feb. 17-20, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- Feb. 2005 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #51 Feb. 10-13, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- Feb. 2005 - South Dakota: **South Dakota Lutheran VdC** Men's Feb. 10-13 & Women's Feb. 17-20, Send palanca to: Margaret Svitak 86238 550th Ave. Randolph, NE 68771-6004
- March 2005 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Men #19: March. 3-6 & Women's #19 March. 10-13, Send palanca to: Amy Dempsey 3021 Mandalay Grove #5 Colorado Springs, CO 80917
- March 2005 - IA/IL: **Living Waters VDC**, Men's #31: March. 3-6 & Women's #31 March. 10-13, Send palanca to: Tom & Theresa Oloffson 122 E 2nd St. P.O. Box 207 Wyandot, IL 61379
- March 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Men's #448, March. 3-6 & Women's #449 March. 10-13, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- March 2005 - Nebraska: **Nebraska VDC**, Coed March. 3-6, Send palanca to: Becky Lindsay 2100 Heather Lane Lincoln, NE 68512
- March 2005 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, March. 3-6, Send palanca to: Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- March 2005 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #51: March. 3-6 & Women's #52 March. 10-13, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- March 2005 - Wisconsin: **SonRise VDC**, Men's March. 3-6 & Women's March. 10-13, Send palanca to: Stephanie Schubart 82 E 3rd St. Fond du Lac, WI 54935
- March 2005 - AR/OK: **AR-OK VDC**, Coed #11: March. 10-13, Send palanca to: Matt Milzarek 634 So. Poplar St. Sapulpa, OK 74066
- March 2005 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Men's #102: March. 10-13 & Women's #103: March. 17-20, Send palanca to: Roy Heitkamp 10653 E Linder Circle Mesa, AZ 85212
- March 2005 - Florida: **Sonshine VDC of South Florida**, Women's #92: March. 31-April 3, Send palanca to: Ginny Esch 2360 SW 70th Terrace Davie, FL 33317

- March/April 2005 - IN/KY: **Indiana/Kentucky VdC**, Men's #52: March. 31-April 3 & Women's #53 April. 7-10, Send palanca to: Rich Rager 589 Shorelane Dr. Cicero, IN 46034
- April 2005 - South Carolina: **South Carolina VdC**: Men's #26: April 7-10 & Women's #27: April 21-24, Send palanca to: Keith Nichols 2267 Forest Lake Blvd. Charleston, SC 29414
- April 2005 - VA: **Rainbow VDC**, Men's #46: April 7-10 & Women's #49: April 21-24, Send palanca to: Julia Shaw-Fuller 301 N Old Dominion Lane, Purcellville, VA 20132
- April 2005 - Florida: **Indian River VDC**, Men's #44: April 14-17, Send palanca to: Regina de La Rosa 5520 Fishtail Palm Ave. Cocoa, FL 32927
- April 2005 - Illinois: **River's Edge VdC**, Men's #4: April 14-17, Send palanca to: Marylee Howard 1225 N State St. Litchfield, IL 62056
- April 2005 - Michigan/Ohio: **Good News VdC**, Men's #36: April 14-17, & Women's #36: April 21-24, Send palanca to: Kathy Jurrus 10 1/2 Vineyard Dr. Rossford, OH 43460-1350
- April 2005 - North Carolina: **Eastern NC VDC**, Mixed #51 April 14-17, Send palanca to: Vicki McCombs P O Box 760 Rockwell, NC 28138
- April 2005 - Tennessee: **Tennessee Lutheran VDC**, Mixed #14 April 14-17, Send palanca to: Bill McComb 21 Meadowlark Cr., Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
- April 2005 - Texas: **North Texas Lutheran VdC**, Coed #65: April 14-17, Send palanca to: Lily Gholston 401 Campbell Lane Denton, TX 76209-4580
- April 2005 - Georgia: **Atlanta VDC**, Coed #19: April 21-24, Send palanca to: John & Agnes Nelson 2859 Appling Dr. Chamblee, GA 30152
- April 2005 - Kansas: **Heart of America VDC**, Coed #1: April 21-24, Send palanca to: Deena Rogers 1744 Labette Rd Ottawa, KS 66067
- April 2005 - Florida: **Lighthouse VDC**, Men #28: April 21-24, & Women's #28: April 28-May 1, Send palanca to: Jeanne Constable PO Box 1717 Smyrna Beach, FL 32170
- April 2005 - Illinois: **Heart of Illinois VDC**, Men #14: April 21-24, & Women's #15: April 28-May 1, Send palanca to: Natalie Arff 11021 Buckskin Ct. Peoria, IL 61615
- April 2005 - Florida: **Sonbeam VDC**, Men #45: April 21-24, & Women's #45: April 28-May 1, Send palanca to: Skip Young 2885 10th Ave. No. St. Petersburg, FL 33713
- May 2005 - Arizona: **AZ Lutheran Cursillo**, Women's #104: May. 12-15, Send palanca to: Roy Heitkamp 10653 E Linder Circle Mesa, AZ 85212
- May 2005 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, May. 19-22, Send palanca to: Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- May 2005 - Minnesota: **Lutheran VdC of Minnesota**, Single Men's #450, May. 19-22 & Single Women's #451 May. 26-29, Send palanca to: Ann Taylor 1070 Lakewood Dr. No. Maplewood, MN 55119
- June 2005 - California: **VDC of Southern CA and the Central Valley**, March. 3-6, Send palanca to: Leslie Symm 1908 Village Oak Ct. Bakersfield, CA 93311
- June 2005 - Colorado: **Colorado VDC**, Coed's #20, Send palanca to: Amy Dempsey 3021 Mandalay Grove #5 Colorado Springs, CO 80917

## 2005 A Year of Faith and Overflow

New Year Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ from Florida, In Genesis 12:1-3 we are told "I shall bless you ... so you shall be a blessing." Many ministries are talking about how 2005 will be a Year of Overflow, based on the seeds planted in 2004. They our trusting and believing our God will provide the overflow. Through trust, they believe their Faith has a Destiny. In 2005 we will have a Year of Overflow of blessings. Faith is described - "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Paul told the Corinthians "We live by faith, not by sight." In 2005, our communities in VdC looks forward to a year overflowing with opportunities to follow His lead to Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ in all our environments. We will accomplish this by Faith in Him by following His commandment "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Prayer is the vehicle we have to talk with our Heavenly Father. He instructs us in His Word to talk with Him regarding all things. Our prayers are conversations where we thank Him and seek His blessings and involvement in the Via de Cristo Weekends and the lives of all those participating. Palanca is prayer, a dialog with God. We do provide love letters, cards and items as visible expressions of the prayer and sacrifices. However, these items must be provided only after being bathed in prayer to be some of the levers that the Lord uses to encourage and equip His servants to accomplish His works. Palanca is a part of the mystery of Faith. We provide prayers and sacrifices just because we know that we know our God will provide.

In this month of January, we have received many notifications of 2005 Weekends and know that more are forthcoming. We encourage you to send in the information from your Secretariat, regarding Weekends and Palanca Coordinators, so it may be added to the Palanca pages of the National Lutheran Secretariat Website. Also, we encourage you to visit the website for both VdC Weekends Teen and Prison Weekends. Communicate with one another concerning the Weekends, offer Prayers and send the visible expressions of those prayers and sacrifices. Through the conversations with our Heavenly Father, He will be faithful and bless us to be a blessing to others :o)

Blessings, YBIC and Ultreya!  
Paul Sabatier-Smith <<<  
NLS Palanca Coordinator

### NLS Distribution Center

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 E-Mail: [ricisa@aol.com](mailto:ricisa@aol.com)

### Annual Meeting Items Available

All the material that was available at the 2004 Annual Meeting and video tapes from the meeting are available from the Distribution Center. Order forms for all NLS materials can be found on the web page.



### Conexiones Subscription

About 250 of you are choosing to obtain the Conexiones through mail delivery. The suggested annual donation is **\$6.00** and can be sent to the treasurer, address is found on page two. Please help us to be good stewards of these materials and we thank you in advance for your payment. Again if you would prefer to receive an email notification, just fill out the E-Mail Notification Request Form that can be found on the web.



### Order Forms

In this newsletter you will not find order forms for our NLS materials or tapes and the numerous crosses from Symbols, Inc. Those forms can be found on the web and can be downloaded as needed. A smaller version of the email request on page two is a reminder to sign up, but that too can be downloaded off the web. This change has been done to continue to be good stewards of our resources, since it will save us and you time and money in printing costs. We are aware that not everyone has access to the web and email service. If you are in need of either form, we encourage you to talk to someone in your secretariat who can obtain a copy of that form for you. Don't hesitate to contact the board with any of your questions in this change. Their address, phone numbers and email addresses can be found on page two. Thank You!

### Visited our Web Site Lately?



<http://www.viadechristo.org>

Webmaster: Bob Northrup

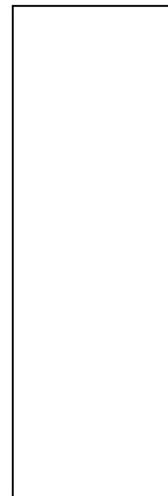
### CONEXIONES-ON-THE-WEB

Are you interested in saving the NLS money? Please sign up to receive the E-Mail Notification by filling out the E-Mail Notification Request Form. How this works is that you will receive an email notification when the latest edition of the Conexiones has been posted on the NLS Web Page. You then can view the newsletter at your leisure and chose to copy it.



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