



**POLICY COMMITTEE
Best Practice Document**

**COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR
SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS**

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THE ROLE OF THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR ON A TRES DIAS WEEKEND

INTRODUCTION:

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each Tres Dias weekend is different and unique. Expect to be blessed. You will receive more than you give, thanks to the all-encompassing work of the Holy Spirit.

Whether this weekend is your first as Spiritual Director, your fifth or more, it is important to know and to recall how the whole weekend fits together in plan, in preparation, in person; how to prepare a Rollo and Meditation; how the lay and clergy Rollos build upon each other day by day; how the Spiritual Directors are ministers (= “minus”, “lesser,” “a servant”) on a team and within a larger community of Christians representing many traditions.

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR?

The Spiritual Directors are ordained and non-ordained Christian clergy. They have several assignments on the weekend. They provide Christian theological perspectives for the weekend, especially during the team meetings. Spiritual Directors lead liturgies, give five chapel Meditations, give five Rollos, and are involved in counseling for the team and candidates before and during the weekend. As their name indicates, they are present to provide spiritual direction.

When and each time we accept a Rector’s invitation to serve on a team, it is also an invitation to ponder more deeply who a Spiritual Director is and what one does. There are several ways and means:

- Examine with the Rector what the Rector understands the role of the Spiritual Director to be, and what the Rector expects of one on the weekend;
- Listen to the expectations and needs of the team during the weeks of preparation;
- Seek through introspection and prayer to discriminate among your own spiritual convictions, your own gifts, your own personality traits, your own Church traditions (e.g., Catholic, Evangelical, Confessional, Charismatic, etc.), your own teaching, preaching, pastoring and liturgical experiences.

Being a Spiritual Director for a Tres Dias weekend is not the same as being a retreat chaplain. The weekend and its activities are to be channeled for the candidates.

COMMON TASKS

While each team member has a unique role to fulfill, there are some tasks which are shared. These can be divided into three categories: Team Building, Participating in the Weekend, and Critiquing the Weekend.

TEAM BUILDING

Each team person is responsible for helping to build a cohesive team. This process takes place during the formative pre-weekend team meetings. It is aided when you:

- *Pray without ceasing for the team, the candidates, their families, and the community;*
- *Attend all the team meetings;*
- *Know and prepare for your own team duties;*
- *Contribute to the sharing times;*
- *Make an effort to know all team members;*
- *Lead with love in all liturgies;*
- *Become familiar with the outlines for each Rollo.*

A Tres Dias Spiritual Director has the opportunity to apply the Scriptures and Church teachings to the personal stories of the team and candidates. During the weekend, it is a basic ministry of the Spiritual Director to keep noticing and pointing out *life-changing* and *eye-opening* connections between Scriptures and people's lives. Spiritual direction is exciting and exacting. Such a ministry requires the complete attention of the Spiritual Director to each person and each situation.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS SUPPORT OF THE RECTOR

The Spiritual Directors need to confirm their absolute availability to and support for the Rector on the weekend; that they are ready to listen and counsel in confidence on issues and discretionary differences that invariably arise in preparation and on the weekend. It will be the little courtesy that makes the big difference. The Rector is the administrative leader for the weekend. Once the Spiritual Directors have been chosen, it is highly desirable that all confer and pray together, perhaps at a meal, at least once before the team meetings begin.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR WITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

As already indicated, the Spiritual Directors should meet together more than once during the team preparation period. Even if they are acquainted and have done weekends together, there are practical matters with which to attend: Mutual and fair agreement upon the division of five clergy Rollos and five Meditations. Each should encourage the other to present Rollos and Meditations they have not presented before. Pressing schedules or emergencies during the preparation period may require adjustment of commitments and editing of an *old* Rollo. Such should not be routine. Each weekend is different. One way for Spiritual Directors to sense the difference is to accept the discipline of writing and giving new Rollos.

Tres Dias is an ecumenical adventure. It presents exceptional opportunities for clergy of different traditions to work together on a weekend. It is a weekend which gathers Christians from a number of denominations and churches.

It is the Spiritual Directors' responsibility to model how it is possible to express unity in Christ under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

At the same time, they can demonstrate respect and care for workaday divisions and different practices and doctrines among the team and also the candidates. These distinctions must not be glossed over or underestimated. How attentive the Spiritual Directors are to these distinctions will be a public sign of their Christian maturity.

For the sake of community-building on the weekend, it is vital that Spiritual Directors, especially when they are of different church traditions and of different kinds of pastoral parish experience, to take the time to learn about each other's *understanding of spiritual direction and each other's practice of the liturgy (Eucharist)*. The Baptists should not take for granted that they know the Methodist theology and practice of Holy Communion; nor Congregationalists, the Episcopalians; nor Presbyterians, the Roman Catholics. These divergences are venerable and important. In the exuberance and enthusiasm of the weekend, the differences should not be discounted and certainly should not be ignored.

What one participant on the weekend may treat as a matter of indifference, may for another be offensive, if not scandalous. Grace notices these things. Remember that on any weekend, there are invariably some who not only have *never* received Holy Communion except from the clergy of their own church, but who have also been instructed that it is *wrong* and *un-Christian* to do so. On the other hand, there may be some whose denomination does not recognize Holy Communion as a sacrament, e.g., Quakers, Salvation Army. There are others, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Disciples of Christ, and increasingly Methodists and Lutherans, who celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday as a central and climatic act of worship. Respect and flexibility are vital. Spiritual direction means noticing and caring for other people's convictions and scruples. In matters liturgically indifferent to one Spiritual Director or team member or candidate, the scruple or faith of the other(s) should then be remembered, honored, and even granted precedent on the weekend.

How the Spiritual Directors work together and how they celebrate the liturgies, will be one of the key witnesses to God's grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit on the weekend.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AND TEAM

In a larger view, Spiritual Directors are expected to move among all the team members, getting to know each in a personal way, and facilitating a network of trust and love among a community forming for the weekend.

The Spiritual Directors should take (make) time to hear some of the personal stories and Christian experiences of the team members, encourage trust, and to offer counsel and direction, as appropriate, during the weeks of preparation and on the weekend itself.

The Spiritual Directors can be a leavening influence in the Rollo critiques; teaching Scriptures, supporting the Rollista, and influencing the anxious and doctrinaire with grace and humor. There may seem to be a lot that is given about the Tres Dias preparation and the weekend; it is the Spiritual Director's call to make the givens, *giving*; graceful and flexible in the Spirit of Christ.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AND CANDIDATES

The pastoral knowledge of each candidate's application is vital. By the first evening of the weekend, if not before, the Spiritual Directors should carefully read and pray over each candidate's application, perhaps keeping a pastor's pocket notebook of perceptions to aid memory and spiritual direction during the weekend.

Candidates with known serious pathology are not admitted; all candidates, however, have existential and spiritual needs which the Spiritual Director may be able to serve by gleaning from the applications and by having conversations with the Rector and team members. Such intuitions can influence how a Spiritual Director may present some teaching in a Rollo or as a guide to a personal conversation.

Candidates invariably move through several moods and attitudes in the course of a weekend; often differently on men's and women's weekends. The Spiritual Directors can encourage table leaders and other team members to share their perceptions, both for the sake of the leaders and the candidates. After-hour team sharing can often be a good time for the Spiritual Director to keep in touch with the dynamics of the weekend and the candidates' receptivity.

Friendship, in a root sense, means letting people be free to be themselves, so that the Spiritual Director must be alert to unintended or well-meaning manipulation among team members and candidates, especially in areas of doctrine and practice, e.g. prayer styles. The Spiritual Directors must also guard against their own temptations to apply authority abruptly or direction prematurely.

When a Spiritual Director sees or is notified of a particular candidate's questions or attitude, the Director can take the initiative to be in touch, as a listener, an encourager, and bearer of good news.

The Spiritual Directors, with the concurrence of the Rector, can let it be known that they are happy to have table referrals of discussions or questions.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR AS TEACHER

Tres Dias is a teaching weekend modeled after Cursillo: (*Short Course in Christianity*). The Spiritual Director is a teacher and witness. The instruction in the Rollos, for example, is for the listeners' spiritual formation, conversion, and perfection. The witness in the Rollos is the Spiritual Director's own testimony to personal formation and growth in the Christian life. The teaching is not simply communicating information about the gospel; it is an existential, bearing witness to the grace of Christ and to the evidences of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the weekend community of Christians. It is making connections between the team and candidates' self-understanding and God's promises and plans for their lives. It is announcing God's deeds and words so *specifically* that ears are opened and hearts awakened. It is relating guilt to grace; the given to the forgiving; the unaccepting to the accepted; the *encircling gloom* to the Spirit's light and leading.

The teaching and witnessing occur in many ways besides the Rollos and Meditations. The liturgies are teaching and witnessing *in action*. Teaching and witnessing are also happening in singing, praying, conversation and silences. On the weekend, *all teaching is for the sake of spiritual direction*.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR AS LITURGIST

One of the great gifts of Cursillo to Tres Dias is the Roman Catholic conviction that the Eucharist is the central act and event in the Body of Christ. The love and unity of the faithful is climactically expressed in this sacrament. Unlike the Roman Catholic and certain other traditions, Tres Dias confesses that the Eucharist is both:

- (1) A means of achieving unity and;
- (2) An expression of the unity we already have in Christ. In the language of the Reformed tradition, the Eucharist is a confirming (strengthening) ordinance.

In the light of this history and these promises, Tres Dias Spiritual Directors must show uncommon courtesy and sensitivity as liturgists on the team and for the weekend.

It must be candidly admitted that Tres Dias has neither decided nor yet developed a basic Eucharistic faith and practice which could be a guide and set the parameters for minimal liturgical texts. This fact is both an advantage and a disadvantage for the Christians of the several traditions coming together on a typical Tres Dias weekend.

- It is an advantage in the early church (Patristic) sense that how we celebrate the Eucharist is a disclosure of what we believe, and that this event of worship is always *in process*; changing, maturing, and reforming itself.
- It is a disadvantage because while Tres Dias itself does not have a developed Eucharistic faith, several of the churches represented by the Spiritual Directors, the team and the candidates do have *basic* theological convictions about ordained ministry and the Eucharist; and they do prescribe minimally acceptable liturgical texts and actions for celebrating the Eucharist in their tradition.

Spiritual Directors may use available Tres Dias liturgical texts which have Eucharistic prayers which may be *more* than or *less* than the expectations and requirements of their own respective traditions. On each weekend, the Spiritual Directors, as discussed earlier, will need to work together *with care and considerable attention to detail* in how they celebrate the Eucharist. It is their basic leadership responsibility and example.

Through their teaching in the key “**Sacred Moments of Grace**” Rollo, and their participation in chapel visits, prayers, Apostolic Hour, and the Closing, the Spiritual Directors will have many opportunities to witness how and why *liturgy* is in fact the *work of the people* of God.

Finally, the Spiritual Directors will need to be constantly alert to all sorts of prayer styles; from those who do not think one can pray except from prayer texts to those whose habit is to pray with lifted hands and in tongues (glossolalia). Christians on the weekend should be free to offer their devotions and prayers as they wish. The Spiritual Directors will exemplify in teaching and

witness that no prayer book or habit is normative; and no style is to be urged or expected to the discomfort of others in the community. (1 Corinthians 13:7)

One last word needs to be said concerning the “Agape” (where it is used), which may be celebrated on the weekend. Many candidates come from the traditions which might cause them to confuse the Agape with the Eucharist. This confusion can only be compounded if the Spiritual Directors take an active part in this event. If they read scripture, present the drink and food, lead the prayers, then the uninformed can only view the Agape as another *form* of the sacrament. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the Spiritual Directors take **no active role** in the Agape.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR AS PASTOR

Pastoring a people involves teaching (Rollo) and feeding (liturgy) them. It is also being personally present (pastor) to them as spiritual counselor and friend. The role of Spiritual Director, as Tres Dias pastor, begins the day of acceptance; first to Rector, then to team, and finally to candidates and community on the weekend and during their Fourth Day.

Spiritual formation, conversion and growth are the purposes of *pastoring*, just as they are the purposes of the Spiritual Directors’ *teaching* and *witnessing*. Candidates and team members will seek out a Spiritual Director for private advice and counseling, to make confession and seek reconciliation (*Penance* in the complete sense). The intensity of thoughts and feelings at the weekend experience tends to break down resistance and inhibitions. Old anxieties, questions, alienations, and heartaches will surface. Team members and candidates will need to listen to each other with a loving ear and eye more than once on a weekend. The Spiritual Director is one pastor among many in the community.

The Spiritual Directors will need to be good stewards of their own energies, regulating how much time on the weekend they can wisely give to personal conferences, during the day and sometimes into the early morning hours. Primary concern should be for listening, connecting the gospel, opening doors, making referrals and contacts following the weekend with Christian counselors, Spiritual Directors, pastors, and friends in the candidates’ home churches.

To be a Spiritual Director is to be a pastor in all things, caring for the people in the ways Christ the Chief Shepherd (*pastor*) cares for the Church and for each of us.

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed. Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, not by constraint, but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory. **1 Peter 5:1-4**

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR AND THE RECTOR

The Rector is really the hub of the Tres Dias weekend. All of the structure of the weekend comes together in him/her. He/she is not to rule or arbitrarily decide what and how others should do, but rather to coordinate the weekend constantly through the normal and proper ways that have been developed for Tres Dias since its inception. The Rector is the leader, therefore he/she is the principal servant of love and harmony between the team and participants of the weekend. However, since the Spiritual Director is responsible for areas of theology, pastoral counseling, worship and communion, there must be open dialogue between the Rector and the Spiritual Director.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S ROLE

Because Spiritual Directors are first team members, they should possess an attitude of living the Tres Dias weekend; not directing it. A Spiritual director must not forget that Tres Dias is a school of Christianity which has an eminently lay emphasis. The basic areas of responsibility for the Spiritual Director on a Tres Dias weekend include the following:

- A) Teaching ministry (Rollos);
- B) Chapel worship;
- C) Pastoral counseling.

A detailed expansion of these responsibilities follows in this manual.

TEAM MEETINGS

The purpose of team meetings is to develop a sense of community while preparing the team for its mission. Remember, the Spiritual Director is first a team member. Participation in team meetings is essential to team community. Also, the Spiritual Director needs to understand the flow and methodology of the Tres Dias weekend.

THE TEAM

God, in His sovereignty and wisdom, has formed this team for the purpose of changing lives for His glory. The team on which you are serving is the "church in miniature." This team creates, through the taught Word and living witness, an urgency to form a Christian community and a desire for total surrender of self to Christ. This team will make it possible for each person involved on the weekend to have a living experience of what is the church.

When we speak of leaders, we speak of all who form the team, because all are required to give the same living witness, the same commitment, and enthusiasm for life. There are no different categories of leaders, only different functions (i.e.: Rector, Spiritual Director, table leader/professor, Cha/Auxiliary, etc.). The witness value of being a Christian, while indispensable in the life of each person, does not reach its full force when restricted to the

individual: Christian witness must be a community witness. Everyone, clergy and layperson, must be a living example of the message of Christ.

The team's mission is not so much to expound the truth, but to live on the weekend in such a way that the truth penetrates deeply into the consciences of the candidates! All must enter this weekend of Tres Dias with an attitude of living it, not just giving it.

One of the critical functions of team meetings is to critique Rollos prior to the weekend! Since the team, in its entirety, represents the same demographic spectrum as the candidates, it enables the team to provide constructive input into each Rollo to make certain the talks will be clearly understandable to the candidates. It also enables team members who may not be present in the Rollo Room on the weekend to hear the Rollo. This requirement includes all Spiritual Directors talks (Rollos). Spiritual Directors are not exempt from the team critique.

NOTE: If a Spiritual Director is from out of the area, special arrangements for critiquing by tape/digital means can be made by the Rector.

Spiritual Directors are encouraged to make arrangements with the Rector, in advance, regarding which times their schedule will permit them to be present for team meetings. The Rector needs your cooperation in order to plan Rollo critiques and team communion service.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY AT TEAM MEETINGS

- Let the Rector know in advance if there are any team meetings that you will be unable to attend.
- Lead the community liturgy and devotion, and serve the Holy Communion elements to the team when the Rector has scheduled a team Communion service.
- Be a part of the team (not just as a pastor or leader) but by fully participating in team meetings.
- If appropriate in your community, escort each Rollista to the designated chapel with those assigned to do Chapel Prayer-Palanca. After prayer, return to the Rollo room with the Rollista.
- Be part of the critique team from a theological point of view. Present your critique comments as directed by the Rector.
- If appropriate in your community, be a part of the section meetings (table leaders/professors, auxiliaries/chas, kitchen, etc.).
- Prepare and present your Rollos for critiquing by the team.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL FLAVOR OF WEEKENDS

In an effort to help assure the inter-denominational flavor of the weekend, Spiritual Directors are chosen from different denominations and assigned the various Rollos, Meditations and worship services. Since this is done based on the policies and authority of the local Tres Dias Secretariat, the actual process of assigning tasks may vary from community to community, although the goals and principles involved will be consistent.

If for any reason you are unable to serve for the entire 72 hours of the weekend, inform your Rector or Tres Dias Secretariat as soon as you are aware of any change in your schedule.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING MEDITATIONS

The Meditations are an integral and essential part of the whole Tres Dias experience. They complement the talks, and with them, form the total message of the weekend. Yet, they have a unity of their own within the Tres Dias Weekend; linked and inter-dependent.

As the name suggests, the Meditations are aids to the participants' personal reflection. The thrust of the Meditations ought to be to initiate serious and prayerful reflection. The emphasis should be on helping the participants to get in touch with themselves and with Christ. The purpose is to help the participants to come to a better self-awareness and a better awareness of their relationship with God.

The Meditations are not primarily content oriented. They seek to raise firmly, yet gently, questions appropriate to the participants' personal growth. They are not intended to disturb or convict the participants. Yet, the style is persuasive, natural, profound and simple, as the Lord would do it. The manner of presentation should also reveal the Spiritual Director's own serious and prayerful reflection.

The source of each Meditation is the Word of God. The Spiritual Director invites the participants to listen anew to the living Word of God and to set an atmosphere in which the full force of the inspired Word can touch their lives. For this reason, the Meditations should be strictly adhered to, read warmly and naturally, rather than liturgically.

Tres Dias is set to a pattern for the rest of the lives of the participants. This is especially true in regard to the Meditations. They should set a pattern for the participants' continued reflection on the Word of God.

The usual length of the Meditations is five to seven minutes. Each Meditation should be followed by a considerable amount of quiet time for reflection.

The Spiritual Director ought not to underestimate the importance of the Meditations. When handled well, they set the tone and pace of the Tres Dias weekend. They provide a very necessary opportunity for personal prayer and reflection during the weekend. If they are treated in a hurried manner or if there is insufficient time for reflection afterwards, an essential part of the total Tres Dias experience is lost.

The Spiritual Director will be assigned Meditations to present on the weekend based on local community policies. Your Rector will cue you as to when to give the Meditation. The ideal

number of Spiritual Directors is two or three. Although all clergy talks can be given by one Spiritual Director, it is strongly discouraged as the perspectives of the different traditions are an important component of the weekend.

YOU ARE NOW A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

These words carry with them a tremendous responsibility. Being asked to serve as a Spiritual Director is a reflection of your commitment to Jesus Christ and your call to ministry. Along with the Rector, Chief Auxiliary/Angel and the Assistant/Backup Rector, the Spiritual Directors are key leaders of the Weekend, with a great deal of influence, as well as responsibility. The way you relate to your clergy partner and the other team members is a key demonstration of the unity of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ. The Spiritual Director is a teacher, a counselor, and a worship leader for the team and on the Weekend. If this is the first time you are serving as a Spiritual Director on a Tres Dias Weekend, you will most likely be partnered with a Spiritual Director who is experienced in the community.

Begin now to fervently pray for the grace, love patience, wisdom and strength you will need to fulfill this important call.

In prayerful surrender to Jesus Christ, may we suggest that you review the attitude of a servant found in Phil 2:1-8:

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross."

QUALIFICATIONS OF A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

(See also the Policy Committee's Best Practice document entitled "Qualifying Pescadores to serve as Spiritual Directors" dated November, 2017)

It is imperative that a Spiritual Director:

1. Declare their personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
2. Affirm their agreement with the "Qualifications for Community Leadership" and the "Tres Dias Statement of Belief" without qualification. These documents are found in the By-Laws of every Tres Dias community;
3. Be an active participant in Tres Dias activities, including frequent attendance at local Sequelas, sponsoring and supporting Weekends;
4. Be living the Tres Dias method, including participation in a Reunion Group or other small sharing group;

5. Be willing to abide by the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures of the local Secretariat as well as the International Secretariat;
6. Be willing to submit to the authority of the local Secretariat through the leadership of the Rector and to follow the **“Tres Dias Dynamics of the Weekend”**;
7. Has attended a Tres Dias or equivalent Weekend prior to the Weekend at which the Spiritual Director is serving;
8. Be willing to pray regularly for the team and candidates who will attend the Weekend;
9. Be willing to attend all team meetings, understanding that as a pastor, an emergency regarding a parishioner may not always allow attendance at **all** team meetings;
10. Be willing to follow up with candidates in their Fourth Day;
11. Not be actively involved in activities contrary to the guidelines stated in Scripture for holy living and Christian leadership (Col. 3:1-25);
12. Have completed and signed the **“Tres Dias Team Application”** form;
13. Be qualified to teach and counsel in spiritual matters;
14. Be ordained and be authorized to celebrate Holy Communion by their denomination (one of the recognized Christian denominations) or by a church in a fellowship of churches;
15. Because of the **“Tres Dias Dynamics of the Weekend”** and out of respect for the position of many of the denominations, only male Spiritual Directors will serve on Men’s Weekends. It is also strongly recommended that at least one of the Spiritual Directors on a Women’s Weekend be male;
16. It is strongly recommended that the community engage their Head Spiritual Director (or equivalent) in the process of interviewing and approving candidates for Spiritual Director and prayerfully evaluating their qualifications.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

1. Prays for the Rector, team and candidates;
2. Participates with the Rector and Assistant/Backup Rector in the spiritual preparation of the team;
3. Ministers to team members during team preparation;
4. Participates with the Rector and Assistant/Backup Rector in planning the liturgies and chapel visits on the Weekend;
5. Participates with the Music Director and the Rector in planning the music for liturgies;
6. Attends all team meetings if possible, which is the same requirement as for any team member;
7. Commissions the team at the first team meeting;
8. Prepares and delivers the assigned Rollos;
9. Prepares and delivers the assigned Chapel Meditations;
10. Celebrates Holy Communion at least twice during the team meetings;
11. Celebrates Holy Communion each day on the Weekend;
12. Is available for individual counseling of candidates during the Weekend;
13. Supports the team, especially the table leaders (from the “Back Table”);
14. Enthrones the Bible (on Friday morning);
15. Participates with the Rector and Assistant/Backup Rector in the Apostolic Hour.

COUNSELING:

Only Spiritual Directors are authorized to perform counseling.

HOLY COMMUNION:

In recognition of the fact that Tres Dias is a Christian inter-denominational movement and its stated desire is to “stress those things which the denominations have in common and to respect those things which are different,” local communities may choose to offer both wine and grape juice during the celebration of Holy Communion – both during the Weekend and at Post Weekend activities.

1. In the administration of this Sacrament, the offering of the wine and grape juice shall be performed in such a fashion that it is not conspicuous who is receiving wine and who is receiving grape juice.
2. The method of intinction (dipping the bread into the wine or grape juice) shall be the recommended way of receiving Holy Communion at Tres Dias functions. However, if anyone has a problem with this method, the Rector should consider whether an alternate method may be appropriate for that individual(s) only, based on guidelines established by the local Tres Dias secretariat.
3. A statement shall be made by the Celebrant to the effect that anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is welcome to receive Holy Communion.
4. It shall be made clear by the Celebrant that anyone may receive a blessing in lieu of receiving Holy Communion if, for whatever reason, the person does not feel comfortable receiving Holy Communion at that time.
5. Any remaining elements used in Holy Communion shall be disposed of according to local community guidelines. (It is recommended that those guidelines state that the remaining elements are to either be consumed or returned to the ground, [i.e., the bread buried] from where they came, out of respect for those persons who are sensitive to this matter. Please do not place remaining elements in the garbage or feed them to animals).

OPEN COMMUNION

People from denominations whose church disallows participation in open communion should be accepted for Tres Dias teams in light of the Tres Dias Essentials which state that “we stress those things which the denominations have in common and respect those things which are different.”

CHAPEL PRAYER PALANCA FOR A ROLLISTA

Performing Chapel Prayer Palanca is one of the greatest blessings you will receive at the Tres Dias weekend. You, and at least two other persons (can be more), will go into Chapel (or an appropriate location) with the Rollista. The group will offer up short prayers for the Rollista, the Rollo about to be given, and the candidates who are about to hear it. The Rollista and the Spiritual Director will leave for the Rollo room. From the time they leave until they return to the Chapel (or assigned location), one or two prayer palanca brothers/sisters will be in prayer for them.

After the Rollo, the Rollista and the Spiritual Director return. Each person will have a prayer of Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God for the Rollista and the Lord's message through the Rollo, and then close with a prayer from the Spiritual Director.

May God bless you richly as you serve in this critical role within the Tres Dias ministry.