

## MISCELLANEOUS PALANCA GIFTS FOR A VIA DE CRISTO WEEKEND

**PALANCA** is an expression of your love, prayers and sacrifices for another person or persons. These acts of kindness could change a person's whole life. God answers prayers! Palanca can come in many forms. It may be letters, cards, trinkets, decorating tables, praying in the community chapel, food items, working at the site, etc. The spiritual director does not introduce palanca until Friday afternoon during the second talk on grace. Therefore, palanca should not be given until after this talk.

**COMMUNITY CHAPEL:** Prayer palanca is always needed. The community chapel is always available for people to pray and support the weekend. Prior to the weekend, a list of chapel prayer times for each rollista and spiritual director is printed in the community newsletter. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to this posted time. **Please remember that in addition to the rollistas' rollos, the spiritual directors' grace rollos *always* need community prayer and support.**

**MAIL ROOM:** The mail room is responsible for *all* communications from the community, for the team and candidates. The mail room is set up for the community to write palanca notes and distribute *all* communications to everyone on the weekend. This is handled by the mail room chas, two of the busiest people on the weekend.

Special personal palanca should not be given to candidates or team members during the weekend. A good time for this can be anytime after the closing so as not to make others feel bad because they did not receive anything special. Mail palanca has to be able to fit in the envelopes provided by the mail room and therefore cannot include loose trinkets/gifts.

The mail room closes at noon on Sunday.

**GENERAL PALANCA** is palanca that is not individually addressed. When general palanca is given there should be enough for all participants. General palanca can be given in the following ways (be sure to label Palanca with # of pieces):

- Rollo Room Table Palanca (42 candidates and 12 Professors = 54 pieces)
- Dining Room Palanca (42 candidates and 43 team = 85 pieces)
- Candidate Pillow Palanca (42 candidates)
- Entire Candidate & Team Pillow Palanca (85 pieces)

**GREEN PALANCA** = money donations. A monetary donation is *always* welcome and appreciated. There are always green-covered coffee cans available at all activities to accept a donation. Checks can be made out to "LVCCM" or "Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan."

**DECORATING TABLES:** Tables are *not* decorated until Friday supper. Friday supper should have simple decorations—a little color and small amounts of palanca. From that meal on, each table has just a bit more color and palanca. This is coordinated through the head server. Table decorations include napkins, placemats, and table cloths (there are some colored plastic table cloths that have already been donated at the sites, but the specific color may not be available, so check at the site first.) Centerpieces are optional for Friday, but desired for Saturday and Sunday.

**FOOD PALANCA:** Both groups and individuals are encouraged to bring gifts of food. It is recommended that those wishing to bring food of *any* type contact the head servers that are listed in the newsletter. Please let the head server know what you are bringing and when you can bring it. Storage at some sites is *very* limited.

**SERENADE:** Please arrive at the site at the time posted in the community newsletter. Spouses and fiancées of candidates are *not* to participate in the serenade. They are asked and needed to pray in the site's community chapel or help in the kitchen (see below). This is done so no candidate will suffer any hurt or pain because their loved one is not present. The purpose of the serenade is to be a blessing to *all* candidates by being a living example of Christ's love and grace.

Community that has come to serve the meals is *expected* to help with clean up after the meal, set-up for the serenade participant's dessert, and clean up afterward. Help after the serenade may be needed to set-up tables for Sunday's breakfast.

**MUSICIANS:** The community is always looking for talented (both new and experienced) musicians to share their gifts. We need musicians for ultreyas and weekends (including send-offs, serenades, community chapel and team music chas). Please contact a member of the secretariat and let them know you would be willing to share your gift!

**VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH SET-UP, TEARDOWN AND MISC. TASKS:**

Men's help is especially appreciated and needed for all these tasks, including for the women's weekend!

**SET-UP:** (Usually Wednesday evening) Set-up is under the direction of the facilities chair. It involves unloading, placing tables, mattresses, banners, etc. It takes about an hour of time if there is enough help. Check community newsletter for exact time.

**SEND-OFF:** Help with the loading of luggage at send-off. Men can help with the unloading of luggage at site at both the men's and women's weekends. Volunteer your personal van to transport luggage or team members to the site from send-off.

**KITCHEN:** Volunteer to be on the "official" cook team for an upcoming weekend. Help is always needed during a weekend to cook and serve (even if you aren't an "official" cook). Men *can* volunteer to help in the kitchen during a women's weekend (and vice versa). For *servicing* meals, only women serve meals on women's weekend, and only men serve meals on men's weekend.

Help is needed in preparing, peeling, and cutting fresh fruits and veggies. At most sites, help is also needed to wash dishes, to wash pots and pans, run the dishwasher, set the tables, and clear and wash the tables after a meal.

**ROLLO ROOM TRANSFER SATURDAY NIGHT.** At some sites (e.g., Midland Reformed Church), the rollo room must be moved after Saturday night decuria, since that room is needed and used by the site church for their Sunday morning activities. **For women's weekends, especially, men are needed to do this task after the women complete their decuria on Saturday night and while they are in the chapel for evening worship.**

**TEARDOWN:** This is under the direction of the facilities chair. Teardown involves packing supplies, moving and loading mattresses and large wooden supply boxes, vacuuming, etc. Teardown goes on at various times on Sunday. Teardown is needed for the kitchen, bedrooms, rollo room, community chapel. Bedrooms are cleaned in the early morning, as soon as the candidates go to the rollo room. Kitchen is taken down as soon as lunch is finished, and the rollo room and mail room as soon as the candidates leave for the apostolic hour.

Our community's palanca gift to the site is to leave it in *better* condition than we found it!

If you have any other questions about palanca, please feel free to contact the palanca chairperson.