



Spring 2010 Weekends

Men's #93 - April 8-11, 2010 at Emrich Retreat Center, Brighton, MI – Rector: Mike Moroni

Women's #94 - May 20-23, 2010 at St John's Episcopal Church, Detroit, MI – Rectoress: Michelle Loving Mckay

What is in this issue?

From the President	1
2nd Annual Grand Reunion Christ Party	1
VP Nominations Letter	2
From the President Continued	2
From the Vice President	2
Weekend Stoles – One Person's Palanca	3
From The Treasurer	3
From the Rector Weekend # 91	3
From the Rectoress Weekend # 92	4
En DeColores	4
New From National	5

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I sit in a quiet place, enjoying a beautiful ladies weekend, # 92, pondering life and reflecting back on the dynamics going on around me. I have had the privilege of talking to many individuals on the weekend and visitors as well. We have discussed life's everyday challenges; whether they are on the home front, in the movement, or just in everyday living experiences. It's all about people just interacting with one another; what a blessing to be a part of it all. I have the privilege of being a friend to many, Christian Brother to others, and sometimes, I am the leader as President of our movement.

I realized a long time ago that it should be Principles over Personalities, but sometimes it just doesn't always work out that way, it can be reversed. That's ok though, because I realize that we are all human. I have tried to model my life around trying to do the Lord's work and I fail in many ways, but I also succeed in many ways as well.

I've learned and heard many sayings over my life thus far and try to remember them as I ask for guidance. I'd like to share a few of those with you now.....

ATTITUDE By: Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than

failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.

A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties. Harry Truman

It takes but one positive thought, when given a chance to survive and thrive, to overpower an entire army of negative thoughts. Robert H. Schuller

Continued on page 2

**2ND ANNUAL GRAND REUNION
CHRISTMAS PARTY**



Please save **Saturday, December 12th** as the date for our second annual DeColores Grand Reunion Christmas Party. This year our family-friendly Grand Reunion will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit located at I-75 and Woodward Ave. Festivities start at 5:00pm and activities will include a Potluck, Celebration Service, Silent Auction and Witness Speaker.

Admission will be a donation of a non-perishable food item per person. **Last year, we donated over 79 lbs. of food to Gleaners Food Bank in Detroit!** In lieu of a food donation, a \$5.00 fee per family will be appreciated.

Bring your dish to pass for the potluck and don't forget to bring your family, your Sponsor and your Grouping Partners, too. We all need to celebrate another exciting and faith-filled year in the Metro Detroit and Southeast Michigan DeColores movement. Hope to see all of our Brother and Sisters in Christ there!

Sara Lawrence, Vice-President

VP Nominations Letter

To the Secretariat of DeColores South East Michigan

We would like to be placed on the ballet to be the Vice President Couple of DeColores South East Michigan.

We have held this position in the 1990's. We have held many other positions in Cursillo and DeColores since nineteen seventy-nine. We feel that we can make a positive contribution to the leadership again.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ
Pamela Loving Copeland
William Copeland

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

FROM THE PRESIDENT continued...

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. Serve and thou shall be served. Ralph Waldo Emerson

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience and Infinite love is the only truth; everything else is an illusion. Pema Chodron

Our Attitude toward life determines life's attitude towards us. Earl Nightingale

You cannot tailor make the situations in life, buy you can tailor make the attitudes to fit those situations before they arise. Zig Ziglar

Whenever you're in conflict with someone, there is one factor that can make the difference between damaging your relationship and deepening it. That factor is attitude. Timothy Bentley

Where I was born and where and how I have lived is unimportant. It is what I have done with where I have been that should be of interest. Georgia O'Keeffe

Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right. Henry Ford

I always try my best with the Lord's help to be positive rather than negative; it truly takes so much less energy. That was part of the reason I chose PERSEVERANCE for our theme this year.

We live in a tough world and I believe we can make a difference with a positive attitude. He said he would never leave us, and I truly believe that in my heart.

Please keep the faith; we are moving in the right direction, in his time, not ours. Please keep lifting each other up in prayer and I know we will persevere. I always have to remember, I might be the only big book someone sees, so I had better try and set the right example that I wish to pass on to others.

God Bless
Mike Sieniarecki

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I would like to encourage all of us to pray for strength and guidance to accept change as we continue to return to the basics of our program. In this change, we should pray for the growth and commitment of our members. We have the opportunity to make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ through our Spiritual Weekends, which is of the utmost importance in growing our DeColores community.

Since my original weekend, I have not been the same. The tools I received, have allowed me to get through many valleys and have allowed me to enjoy many mountaintops. One thing I have learned is that for everything, there is a season.

It is with great excitement that we as a body move forward in building God's kingdom and continue to love and serve our Father in Heaven.

May the peace and blessings of Christ be upon you today tomorrow and always!

DeColores
Sara Lawrence

Weekend Stoles One Person's Palanca

Secretariat has often discussed ways to be more effective in our Movement. Take our Baptismal stoles, for example. It was commonly noted that folks who had done many weekends had lots of old stoles and didn't really know what to do with them. Some liked to keep them for sentimental reasons but for many they just collected dust.

A Crucista approached Secretariat with a proposal for stoles. If Secretariat would purchase the raw materials, she would volunteer to crochet our stoles for each weekend as palanca. The stoles could easily be decorated with rainbow ribbon to make them "DeColores-y".

Candidates would be able to keep their stoles as mementos of their original weekend and team members would be encouraged to "re-cycle" their stoles and turn them back into En-DeColores to be re-used on future weekends.

This seemed to be a win-win-win situation as we now have an ongoing source for stoles, a plan for retaining and/or re-cycling the stoles, and another opportunity for personal palanca for every weekend.

Praise God!



FROM THE TREASURER

DeColores Ministries is a 503(c) 3, non profit organization. As such, any donation made to DeColores Ministries is tax exempt. Donations are always needed, appreciated, and used to carry on the work of the Ministry. Green palanca is always welcome.

This is a good time of the year to make donations because it may reduce your tax bill.

Please send your donations to:

DeColores Ministries
Attn: Green Palanca
PO Box 1846
Royal Oak, MI 48068-1846

We will send you a receipt in return.
Ultreya
Nola Fettig



FROM RECTOR WEEKEND #91

TO: My Brothers and sisters of DeColores of South East Michigan:

On the first through the fourth of October 2009, God allowed me to Rector DeColores weekend #91. Our theme was "Use Me With Faith". It was indeed a blessing from God. This was my third opportunity to Rector a DeColores weekend; Weekend #1, Weekend #83 and now Weekend #91. Throughout the formation and the weekend I could feel the Lord using each one of us in a special way to complete His will.

As many of you know, we had an unusually short formation. We only had six team meetings and no core team meetings. God sent me twenty-two very talented team members. Some new and some very experienced members. From the very beginning of formation, we could feel the grace of God. God also sent us fourteen candidates seeking God's blessings.

I have submitted a few recommendations to Secretariat for future Weekends that are to be held at St. John's in Detroit.

I will have more comments at the November Secretariat meeting. If you have any questions. Please send E-Mail wcopplan1@netzero.net

Thank you for the privilege to Rector Weekend #91.

DeColores!
Your Brother in Christ
Willie Copeland



FROM RECTRESS WEEKEND #92

Greetings Community

Well Weekend #92 "Women of Faith" has passed and the Lord has had me in such a quiet place; I haven't left there yet. I have talked to a couple of the team from the weekend and it is amazing because just like in says in Psalm 23, "I will make you lie down by the still waters" that's where we all seem to be right now. It's so hard, because right know I don't know what to say about the weekend. We had a team that stepped up and helped the cha's because we ended up losing two of our Cha's for the weekend. Gwen Thomas stepped right in and she and Cindy Grimwade are a force to be reckoned with. I believe that this weekend was meant for the team as much as it was for the candidates.

The candidates were just awesome; we all laughed, cried, sang and worshipped the Lord together. Then there were the Spiritual Directors, Angela Thomas-Weldon and DusJohn Williams. Need I say more! That is another chapter!!!!

I just want to take this time to say thank you to Becky Nickels, Nola Fettig and Mike Sieniarecki for all of their help on this weekend. The cook lost her helper and Becky and Nola stepped into the kitchen. Well Becky, I never got you on the team but in the end I got you on the team!! Nola, thanks so much for just doing what you do best. And last but not least, Mike Sieniarecki. Thank you for spending so much time talking with me and reminding me that everything would be okay. There are a lot of others to thank and I will get to each and every one of you.

Love to you all
Joy Barber

From Our Spiritual Director

Thanksgiving

I am thankful to God for all things – for His son, Jesus, for the Spirit that guides and protects us, for my loving family, and for this beautiful DeColores community.

This December completes my two-year term as Spiritual Director for the DeColores SEM Secretariat. I plan to continue to serve as a Spiritual Director for DeColores. It is my way of giving or “returning thanks” (Greek verb “eucharisto”, noun form – “eucharist”).

It has been a blessing to serve with the Secretariat under the leadership of Mike Sieniarecki (this year) and Becky Nickels (last year). These two truly love the Lord and have shown great Christian leadership in some pretty difficult times. God has greatly blessed the movement with both Mike and Becky. They have given us Eucharist.

To all of the other Secretariat members who have done so much work for the furthering of the Kingdom of God, thank you for giving us Eucharist.

For all of those who said “yes” to God’s calling to lead and to be part of the DeColores movement and teams, thank you for giving us Eucharist.

I thank God for my sponsor, Tom Lequier, who sponsored me for Cursillo weekend #207, December 1976. That weekend changed my life. Tom, thank you for giving me Eucharist.

My dear friends of the DeColores community may God the Father smile upon you and bless you. May Jesus, the Light of the World, continue to shine in your heart and soul and may your love for him grow deeper every day. May the Spirit of the Living God guide you and protect you on your pilgrimage here on earth.

Happy Eucharist,

Fr. Tim Schabeck
tschabeck@charter.net

En DeColores

My brothers and sisters,

One of the great things about serving on the Secretariat for our movement is that we are given the opportunity to hear opinions from people outside of the formal settings in which we operate. As more and

more people become aware that I am on the Secretariat I hear more and more of these opinions. I have heard enough now to form an opinion of my own. The vast majority of opinions are in regard to what’s wrong. This seems to be a common theme in society today and DeColores is not immune. The funny thing is that because I listen, I hear what’s wrong from both sides of the issue.

Just one example I want to share with you is “The Rules” which are really “Guidelines” which upon deep reflection become “Common Sense” with the intent of maintaining the method developed by Bishop Hervas that we call DeColores Ministries. The guidelines have always existed. Some are documented and some are not.

It is in the application of these guidelines where opinions become divergent. There are those who live by the opinion that guidelines are made to be broken. Another opinion is that guidelines are only protected by strict adherence and demonstrable enforcement. From these extremes it is very easy to see that pointing out what is wrong with the other is much easier than pointing out what is right with either.

Whenever we look at what is wrong we generally look to extremes and hold them up as being justification for our opinion. The less we know about something the easier it is to hold these extremes as a solid foundation for our opinion. I would like to offer a little advice on opinions in general that comes from our wonderful method.

Through our Piety, we are able to quiet our human tendencies and feel the love of God in our whole being; our heart, our soul, and our thoughts. From this place we can Study all sides of a situation with the intent of understanding with compassion and without fear of appearing weak in our own opinion. From this understanding, we can then take the Action required to achieve the harmony of God’s Peace and Joy within our DeColores community.



It is our love for each other through Christ and in each other that makes us so special to each other and to our candidates and to the rest of the world. This is an opinion we can all thrive with. DeColores and so must all Love be of every bright Color.

Also, the entire En-DeColores inventory is ready for our next weekend.

Be with God as He is with you – All Ways
 Your brother in Christ,
 Joe Carron

News from National

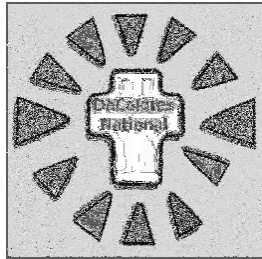
President Mike Sieniarecki, Vice President Sara Lawrence and Past President Becky Nickles attended the National DeColores Secretariat Meeting in Traverse City on Oct. 17th, 2009.

The National Governing Body is made up of delegates from each Local Secretariat, i.e., Northern Michigan (*Traverse City area*), Westshore (*Muskegon area*), Grand Rapids, Southwest Michigan (*Kalamazoo/Niles area*), and MD-SEM (Metro Detroit-Southeast Michigan).

The overall purpose of National is to strengthen the desire for greater lay activity in Christian churches.

Specifically this means:

- Promoting the activities of DeColores Ministries
- Facilitating, encouraging and coordinating communication among Locals
- Providing consistent general guidance to Locals
- Developing/maintaining materials and other resources for use by Locals
- Monitoring compliance by Locals with their responsibilities under any agreements made between National and the Locals
- Receiving and administering funds to enable our operation as a 501(c) organization.
- Encouraging and promoting outreach efforts, i.e. helping to establish new Local Secretariats.



And speaking of outreach efforts, National is presently looking at starting new Local Secretariats in the Lake Michigan/Frankfort area and the Grayling/Gaylord area; possibly as early as Spring 2010. We also found out that the other locals have had anywhere from 11 to 22 candidates at their recent weekends, so we are definitely in the ballpark in Detroit (*no pun intended...*).

In other news, the overall response to our new National tote bags given to all candidates on the weekend has been very positive. Northern Michigan is holding their 2nd annual Christian fundraising concert on Sat. Oct. 24th. MD-SEM issued an open invitation to our upcoming Christmas Grand Reunion on Dec. 12th.

We were also reminded to ensure that our Music Chas and other leaders document our songs sung at any DeColores functions, e.g., Weekends, Holy Hours, Ultreyas, Grand Reunions, etc. in order to maintain our CCLI music license.

In addition, our National Presidential board for 2010 was confirmed: President Cathy Vaandering (*Westshore*), newly elected Vice President Terri Rutzen (*Westshore*) and Past Presidents Mitch (Steve) & Linda Mitchem (*Northern*).

Appreciation for outstanding service was also given to outgoing Past Presidents Dave & Faye Vander Veen (*Grand Rapids*). The next National meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2010 at the University Reformed Church in East Lansing.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a National delegate for MD-SEM (Detroit) can contact any member of Secretariat by sending an email to secretariat@decolores-sem.org

In Loving Service,
DeColores
Becky Nickles



FROM COMMUNICATIONS and WEBMASTER

The DeColores Ministries Web Site will be undergoing an upgrade this holiday season as we prepare to add some new features. We have plans to add an on-line membership directory. Your participation is optional but encouraged. Many members have been asking to ways to contact other members. In addition, we will be adding a password reset feature that will allow you to reset your own password when knowing only your email address.

If you have strong computer skills or web design experience are would like to help please contact the webmaster@decolores-sem.org.

We are also looking for volunteers to with strong word processing skills to help assemble this newsletter.

And finally, if you have any experience with Microsoft access database or Microsoft excel spreadsheet your assistance with managing our mail list is also welcome.

We are hoping everyone will register on our web site. www.decolores-sem.org and receive the newsletter via our email distribution. Currently, we mail over 500 copies of the Newsletter via US Post Office at great expense to our Ministry and the environment. Think Green!

Sign-up today on-line and receive the Newsletter electronically in your inbox.

