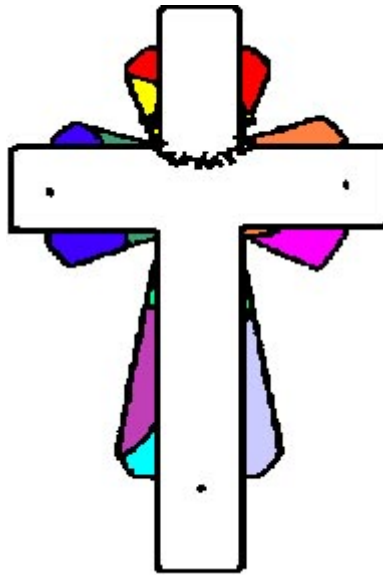


# **Vida Nueva**

## **A Weekend for Teens**

### Talk Progression and Purpose



**June 16, 2022**

<http://www.vidanueva.net/>

# VIDA NUEVA INTERNATIONAL

## Talk/Meditation/Service - Progression and Purpose

### DAY 1

### DIE DAY

"...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat..." "...when we were baptized, we went into the tomb with Him and joined in death..." (John 12:24a and Romans 6:4a)

#### Talk #1 IDEALS

**Speaker & Length** Youth, 15 Minutes

**Progression:** This is the first talk of the weekend. Since all talks are linked together, it is important that the message we send in Ideals is clear. As we mature, we choose ideals we see in other people and model our lives after them. The ideals we choose can imprison us by making us selfish, and hinder our growth, or they can liberate us from selfness and thereby aid our growth. Jesus has shown us ideals. **Jesus is presented as the highest ideal.**

**Purpose:** Talk should be an "ice breaker", whereby the speaker tells about their growing awareness of who they are becoming as a person and the helps and hindrances they have experienced.

#### Talk #2 NEW LIFE/RECONCILIATION

**Speaker & Length** Spiritual Director, 20 Minutes

**Progression:** Jesus Christ came into the world where selfishness imprisoned man. He experienced tensions, but went through a process of liberation from this evil and reached new life. To follow Jesus, we are invited to go through this same process He did--His death and resurrection. In order to suffer and die with Jesus, we must be willing to transform our lives. Reconciliation helps us in the healing process. The Spiritual Director should not dwell on sin nor be legalistic. Tone should be gentle and healing.

**Purpose:** This talk combines in a single talk Jesus' suffering and death that makes new life possible, and reconciliation, an encounter with Christ by which we die to our sins, receive His forgiveness, and live the new life He gives us. Reconciliation is our response to Him. The major point to be emphasized, and which the candidates should clearly understand, is that we are healed of our human condition of sin and are reconciled to God through only one means--the death of Christ on the cross and our acceptance of Him.

**Talk #3                    PRODIGAL SON/DAUGHTER - METANOIA**

**Speaker & Length   Youth, 30 Minutes**

**Progression:** "Prodigal Son" scripture shows one who changed his life from sin back to God. It brings out the difficulties involved in "turning around". The father's attitude is complete acceptance in love and joy. The speaker's witness shows who one was and who one is now--someone attempting to follow Jesus.

**Purpose:** This talk is a combination of "Prodigal Son" meditation and "Metanoia" (change of heart) talk. It places the emphasis on metanoia, a change of heart, a turning to God. The "Prodigal Son" provides the scriptural background for metanoia. It is a talk of truly personal witness as to the change in one's life in following Jesus. This is usually very ordinary and should be given simply.

**Service #1                CRUCIFIXION SERVICE**

**Leaders                    Spiritual Director(s), 60 Minutes**

**Progression:** This service follows the 'PRODIGAL' talk to further show the effects of sin on our life, and to encourage us to share one another's burdens.

**Purpose:** To graphically demonstrate the binding effects of sin on our lives, to show how we are freed from sin, and to emphasize the need to share one another's burdens. The Crucifixion Service is embedded in the Lazarus Service after the pelon strips are tied on to the Lazarus figure and before they are untied.

The Spiritual Director may want to explain at the beginning of this service why we light candles before each Speaker begins.

**Talk #4                    ASHES (Forgiven sins)**

**Speaker & Length   Spiritual Director, 10 Minutes**

**Progression:** When we have returned to God and accepted His forgiveness, our sins are totally destroyed just as the strips have been destroyed.

**Purpose:** To show thru the ashes that our sins are totally forgiven and we don't have to dwell on our past. Those problems have been resolved and we must look to our new life.

At this point, the Head Spiritual Director may asked the person who was bound by the pelon strips to share about their experience – the bondage and feeling of freedom. They should not “preach” and remember this is not a “talk”, just a few moments of personal sharing.

The ashes can be used if the fire is extinguished or they can be used in the Saturday morning chapel.

## DAY 2

## RISE DAY

"...but if it dies it brings a rich harvest..." "...so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory; we too might live a new life..." (John 12:24b and Romans 6:4b)

### **Meditation #1      RISEN CHRIST**

#### **Speaker & Length   Youth, 10 Minutes**

**Progression:** As people of new life--a risen people--a resurrected people, we have Jesus as our example to follow to the Father.

**Purpose:** To set the theme for the day: the risen Christ, who is living right in the body of this community, brings us joy, peace, and love.

### **Talk #5              GOD - A COMMUNITY OF LOVE**

#### **Speaker & Length   Spiritual Director, 40 Minutes**

**Progression:** We are called to live a new life in relation to God. We experience God's new life for us in the context of a loving community. We must live a life of agape (unselfish) love in the community as Christians.

**Purpose:** As God is a community of persons sharing life and love, so should we be a community of life and love. We turn to the Father as children and to each other as members of His family. Man experiences God when he experiences love.

The Night Watch Team and Palanca are introduced during this service. Hearts, or equivalent, are provided and the candidates encouraged to begin writing the names of those they need to forgive.

### **Service #2            KOINONIA**

#### **Leaders & Length   Director, Youth Director and Spiritual Director(s), 60 Minutes**

**Progression:** As a Christian community we are called to be in unity, to fellowship with others, and to be servants. Koinonia is a Greek word meaning "fellowship, sharing in common, communion"

**Purpose:** This service involves fellowship and coming together in unity. It also demonstrates humble servanthood as leaders become servants during the service.

You may want to emphasize koinonia as meaning "joint participation" and the process of being served (Communion at the beginning of the service) and serving (the footwashing).

**Talk #6**                    **THE BIBLE--GOD'S MESSAGE OF LOVE**

**Speaker & Length**   **Spiritual Director, 10 Minutes**

**Progression:** This meditation follows the 'GOD - A COMMUNITY OF LOVE' talk and continues the theme of Palanca with the Bible being palanca from God.

**Purpose:** To introduce the spiritual dimensions of the VN weekend. Our ideal is to live our life under God, lived by the power of the Spirit, in Jesus Christ. We see the ultimate expression of that ideal in the person and work of Jesus whom we see and experience in His Word--the Scripture--the Bible.

You can key off of the palanca letters by presenting the Bible as the greatest palanca/love letter ever written.

**Talk #7**                    **CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**Speaker & Length**   **Youth, 20 Minutes**

**Progression:** This talk continues the theme of God as a community of love by showing that a real personal relationship can be established with Him. This relationship (our Christian life) is built on what we do and what we say.

**Purpose:** Christian life is Christ living in us. We must be witnesses to this life in our relationship with God and our neighbors. Our deeds show our love and our faith strengthens our deeds. Faith in love relationships is bolstered by prayer. The speaker addresses the negative images sometimes associated with Christian life and brings the candidates to an understanding that true Christian life is a living, dynamic relationship with God in which we respond by knowing, loving, and speaking to Him. Christian life should be illustrated through the witness of the speaker.

**Talk #8**                    **COMMUNICATION**

**Speaker & Length**   **Adult, 20 Minutes**

**Progression:** This talk follows the Christian Life talk and emphasizes the need for good communications in building good relationships with others both within and outside the Christian community. If we are to live an effective Christian life and become leaders, teachers, etc in the community, and to share our faith with others, then we must know how to communicate.

**Purpose:** Our everyday life would be impossible without communication. We have an innate desire to relate with/to other human beings. Generally, one's happiness is directly related to the ability to communicate. Failure to communicate creates family and social problems, and can cause people to isolate themselves. Our life in the Christian community is also impossible without communication. Communication helps make our relationship with Jesus and with others more real.

**Talk #9                    CHRISTIAN GROWTH**

**Speaker & Length   Youth, 30 Minutes**

**Progression:** This talk continues with the theme of Christian life by emphasizing the need for spiritual growth. Just as our physical body must be fed in order to grow, so must our spirit be fed in order to grow spiritually.

**Purpose:** Prayer, study, and Christian action enables us to grow in a life of grace and provides for us a well established relationship with God that will give us the strength to deal with situations as they arise.

**Service #3                    FORGIVENESS MEDITATION / CROSS SERVICE**

**FORGIVENESS:**

**Speaker & Length   Spiritual Director, 10 Minutes**

**Progression:** God has forgiven our sins but have we forgiven others for things they have done or said? Have we forgiven ourselves?

**Purpose:** To introduce the 'CROSS' service where old grudges, unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, etc. can be dealt with and resolved. The use of "stand-ins" (Mommy/Daddy hugs) is highly recommended.

**THE CROSS:**

**Leaders & Length   Spiritual Directors, 60 Minutes**

**Progression:** Continues the forgiveness theme.

**Purpose:** Unforgiveness of others or yourself is resolved by nailing hearts, or equivalent, to the cross containing the names of those the candidate needs to forgive.

"As the Father sent Me, I now send you ... you shall be My witnesses...  
to the ends of the earth..." (John 20:21)

**Meditation #2      CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST****Speaker & Length   Youth, 10 Minutes**

**Progression:** The theme of the third day is to "go forth in Christ and proclaim His Good News." In order to live a Christian life, we must be able to go forth in the Spirit with complete confidence. (Faith)

**Purpose:** This meditation should show that, as followers of Christ, we will be going forth from this weekend to spread the Good News and we can do this because we have the confidence that He goes with us to strengthen and sustain us. The speaker's witness to his personal confidence in Christ is essential for conveying this message to the candidates. Be sensitive to all that has gone on before.

**Talk #10              MARRIAGE****Speakers & Length   Adult couple, 45 Minutes**

**Progression:** We are all called to live a life of holiness as we go forth as God's people. This talk establishes marriage as one way to live a holy life as two people enter into a covenant relationship with each other.

**Purpose:** Christian marriage is a covenant relationship between equals. The union is likened to that of Christ with the Church. Because Christ compares the relationship between the Church and Himself to the relationship between a husband and a wife, it is important that the same sacrificial love that exists between Christ and His Church is emphasized in the marriage relationship. Furthermore, that quality of love is only possible when both partners are committed to Christ and place Him in the center of their marriage. Difficulties as well as joys should be shared. That the love relationship is based on scripture should be clearly shown and this should be supported in the witness of the speakers.

**Talk #11              SINGLE LIFE****Speaker & Length   Adult, 45 Minutes**

**Progression:** We are called to holiness in single life. If one is living a fulfilled Christian life as a single, then an effective and healthy viewpoint for sharing is present. Singleness is not a consolation to being married.

**Purpose:** This talk should show how holiness is part of one's life as a single person in society. The speaker should give witness as to how God has used his/her singleness for His purpose.

**Talk #12                    CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD**

**Speaker & Length    Spiritual Director, 10 minutes**

**Introduction**

The working title of this talk is, "YOU are the church in the modern world".

The theme of the first day was "die to self". The second day was "rise in Christ". The theme for today is "go with Christ". This talk should remind the butterflies that the church is the body of Christ, not a collection of bricks and mortar. Like any healthy body, the body of Christ is a vital, functioning, body. When the butterflies return from the weekend, they should take their place in that body and fulfill their calling in the life of grace.

**Talk #13                    CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION**

**Speaker & Length    Youth, 20 Minutes**

**Progression:** We can best witness to our faith by our actions. We can practice our Christian action right where we are--in our own homes, families, schools, churches, and work places. It is not necessary to leave our everyday environment to practice Christian action.

**Purpose:** This talk should acquaint all with existing Christian action and get them to know how and what they can do. The speaker can effectively illustrate this with examples from his/her own life.

**Talk #14                    BEYOND VN**

**Speaker & Length    Youth, 20 Minutes**

**Progression:** Finally, we are to be gentle in spreading the message of Jesus with others. Our hearts may be burning with love, but we will not have to shout about this. It will be seen by all.

**Purpose:** This talk prepares the candidates for re-entry into the "real world". They have encountered Christ in a potentially life-changing experience, and sharing of this experience and of rekindled faith with family and friends should be done with great sensitivity. It is very likely that many people in their environment may not have had such a powerful encounter with Christ. Candidates must be careful not to turn them off. This talk should also list future VN events for growth and sharing such as reunion groups, VN Council, future candle-lightings, etc. While there is some "informational" in this talk, sharing of the speaker's personal experience in how VN changed them and helped them better function in the Fourth Day is essential for the candidates.