

What is Palanca?

The Spanish word “palanca” means “lever” – something that allows a person to move things beyond his or her strength. As used in Tres Dias, palanca is an expression of love through self-sacrifice. It is one of the most characteristic marks of the Tres Dias method and plays a vital role in influencing Pilgrims for Christ.

The purpose of palanca is to serve as God’s hands and feet in extending His grace to the Pilgrims. Whatever palanca we perform for or on a Tres Dias weekend will have little or no value if done in and of ourselves. It is effective *only* when the prayers, sacrifices and works of mercy are done *with* the Holy Spirit; allowing God to use us to serve His people.

Palanca can take a variety of forms. The sacrifice of giving your time for weeks of preparation to serve on a weekend team is palanca. Every prayer you pray on behalf of the Pilgrims is an expression of palanca. The letters, gifts and service that symbolize your prayers are also referred to as palanca.

There are three types of palanca:

- Personal
- General
- Service



LEHIGH VALLEY TRES DIAS

Palanca Guidelines

*Extending God’s Grace
through Prayers, Sacrifices
and Acts of Service*



Personal Palanca

This is palanca performed on behalf of individual Pilgrims and team members. It includes ***an effort of thought, prayer, or sacrifice*** that is most commonly conveyed in the form of personal notes meant only for the recipient. Keep in mind, the action being taken is the actual palanca, *not* the letters themselves.

Typically, the letters reflect brief notes of encouragement, reassurance of God's love, scripture, or a prayer commitment. They may also include small items that can fit into an envelope, such as pins, "pass it on" cards or bookmarks.

When writing personal palanca notes, keep them ***personal***, written directly to the Pilgrim, and ***generic***, applicable for delivery during any palanca drop on the weekend. You may indicate a preferred day when you would like the letter delivered, but actual delivery at that time is not guaranteed. Be careful not to talk about home or family, how you felt on your weekend or special events that happen on the weekend.

Note: palanca is not introduced until after the Holy Spirit Rollo on Friday afternoon; no palanca is presented before then.

General Palanca

This is palanca performed on the weekend. In the ***Rollo Room***, general palanca is most frequently delivered through notes or letters addressed to the Pilgrims and team on a particular weekend, often accompanied by small gifts. The letter should not be more than one page in length and should identify the actual palanca you will provide during the weekend, such as prayer or fasting. It is also good to include an encouraging scripture.

This IS where you can refer to your own weekend ("I sat where you're sitting..."). If possible, include small tokens that have a spiritual significance. They can be something you buy or make; remember, it's the thought, prayer or service that's important, not the item. Posters with brief notes signed by individuals in your church or Reunion Group make an excellent general palanca.

In the ***Dining Room***, general palanca is most commonly presented through table decorations. It can be as simple as a scripture verse at each place setting, or as complex as something that was handmade, specifically for the weekend.

Other types of general palanca include providing break food, CHA aprons, elements for communion, or candy for the tables.

Service Palanca

This is palanca that is performed before, during or after the weekend, typically behind the scenes, without recognition. It includes physical service such as moving bins, arranging furniture, running errands for supplies, or helping with setup/cleanup of weekend events such as the Agape.

Service may also include kitchen palanca such as praying with the Kitchen team, helping to set place settings or table decorations, particularly the Christ Table, or clearing dishes, re-stocking supplies and cleaning up *after* the team and Pilgrims have returned to the Rollo Room.

Service palanca is a much-needed part of the weekend. However, ***maintaining a cloistered environment for the Pilgrims and team is a Tres Dias Essential and number one priority***. Service palanca should be done *behind the scenes, out of sight* of the Pilgrims. It is not a "social time" so it is not appropriate to "chat up" team members while serving. Children should not be brought to the facility while you are serving. Be sensitive to the day's dynamics and weekend progression. All service palanca must be coordinated through the Head CHA or Head Kitchen.