SERENADE LEADERS GUIDE

**PURPOSE**

Saturday night’s Serenade is designed to impress upon the Candidates the fact that there are many members of the opposite sex who truly desire to worship God and to sacrifice their time in order to be a blessing to others. Music performed by the entire group is preferable to solos, whether instrumental or vocal. No one who has not made a Tres Dias recognized Weekend may participate in the Serenade (Vida Nueva Weekends do qualify); no persons other than the serenaders may attend a Serenade. The men may stay after the Women’s Serenade for one hour to help the Kitchen Chas cleanup. Spouses or fiancées of candidates are not permitted to participate.

If the Serenade Leader has any questions or concerns about the Serenade, contact the Rector or the Leaders Person for the weekend.

**SUMMARY**

1. Provide song sheets for the serenaders printed in a large font.
2. Include only one or two songs new to most serenaders.
3. Total planned length of serenade: 20 - 30 minutes (maximum).
4. Hearing serenaders voices is essential (limit instruments and amplification).
5. Leave candidates wanting more. The serenade should be a worshipful experience but is not intended to be a worship service.
6. Set up equipment in dining room; verify operation of sound system.
7. Which doors to use for entrance and exit? Move decorations if required.
8. Candlelight walk included?
9. Maintain silence and move serenaders from the auditorium when requested.
10. Begin practice with prayer; limit practice to a 30 minute maximum.
11. Designate someone to open doors and start exit movement.

**PREPARATION**

After the Serenade Leader has accepted the position, the Serenade Leader and the Rector should prayerfully discuss the song selection, presentation style and length of the Serenade. In respect to song selection, the Serenade Leader should temper any extremes considered for the Serenade. This is especially important for new songs that the Rector or Serenade Leader may want to introduce to the community. The Serenade Leader should provide a song sheet for the serenaders printed in a large font to facilitate reading in the low light condition. The Serenade Leader should be sensitive to the diversity of the community regarding any new song that would be introduced at the Serenade. Many in the community will not have memorized or even heard the latest hit on Christian radio. Because it is difficult for serenaders to actually Serenade while reading a song sheet, it is suggested that new Serenade songs be limited to one or two at the most.

Concerning the style of the Serenade, extremes should be avoided. Although a Serenade should be a worshipful experience, Serenades are not intended to be a concert performance or worship service. Many instruments or loud accompaniment can overpower the Serenade voices. Likewise, the amplified voices of the leaders may overpower the collective voices of the serenaders.

The length of the Serenade is perhaps the most sensitive point that can he addressed by the Serenade Leader. The Serenade is posted in the weekend schedule for a maximum time length of 30 minutes. The Serenade is to be 20-30 minutes. This time limit includes the first and second sets of music, along with the ingress and egress of the serenaders between sets. The general community understanding of the amount of time for a Serenade may best be summed up by saying that the candidates and team should still want more when the Serenade is concluded. If there were no other reason than physical discomfort after a meal, the length of the Serenade should be limited. This is not to say that a Serenade planned for 30 minutes, that becomes 40 minutes is either incorrect or a failure. A Serenade that is *planned* for longer than 30 minutes violates these guidelines and the authority placed over the Serenade Leader.

**ASSEMBLY**

The Serenade start time is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Saturday after dinner, which starts at 6:30 PM. Serenade Leaders should make contact with the Head or the Asst. Head Cha shortly after their arrival to confirm details for the Serenade. For instance, if a candlelight walk is planned, have candles and lighters been provided near the exit? Observations concerning the movement of the serenaders will be addressed later in this document; however, the meeting of the Serenade Leaders and the weekend leadership during the assembly time is an opportune moment to finalize the route and flow of the Serenade. On many weekends the entrances to the dining room may be partially blocked by decorations. The Serenade Leaders may need to meet with the Head Kitchen Cha to request that these decorations be moved prior to the start of the Serenade to facilitate entering and exiting the dining room. The Serenade Leaders should verify the sound system, instruments, etc. are setup prior to the start of the dinner and may request help from the gathering serenaders. Serenade Leaders should assist the weekend leadership in moving the serenaders to and from the practice area.

**PRACTICE**

When the serenaders have gathered in Auditorium, the serenade leaders should introduce themselves and begin the practice with a petition of prayer and blessing. A serenade leader may pray or ask another serenader do so. Also the following items should be discussed for those participants who may be attending for the first time as well as reminders for those who have attended before:

**Announcements**

* Welcome / Introductions / Prayer
* Walk thru evening for those who haven't participated before…how/where to enter/exit. May exit through both kitchen exits (dorm and foyer).
* Please do not touch the candidates or team members during the serenade or candlelight walk.
* Make sure and turn cell phones off, and do not use a cell phone for a flashlight.
* If your spouse or fiancée is a candidate on this weekend you are not permitted to join us in the dining room by Tres Dias tradition.
* We do not permit children or infants at serenade.
* Designate someone to increase light level slightly once in the dining room so that words can be seen.
* Encourage participants to worship!
* Men may stay for up to one hour after the serenade to help clean the kitchen, otherwise depart immediately after the candlelight walk. Otherwise, serenaders are not permitted in the building after candlelight walk.
* Please do not leave any items in the Auditorium, as you will not be returning here.

The weekend schedule provides 30 minutes for the dinner meal. Finish the practice during this time and have the serenaders ready when called to begin the Serenade. The Head Cha and the Rector may come to the practice to greet the serenaders. Allow time in the practice schedule for this. Other announcements of community interest are not precluded but should be weighed carefully by the Serenade Leader due to practice time constraints. Encourage the serenaders to move quickly while entering or exiting.

**MOVEMENT**

Directing the movements of the assembled serenaders is an important function of the serenade leader. Before leaving the practice area, the serenade leader should convey to the serenaders the anticipated movements of the serenade. Exit through the rear auditorium doors and split off to go to dorm end (weather permitting). Review the entrance and exit songs for both sets. Songs chosen for serenade entrance and exit must be well known to most serenaders to enable them to sing confidently while moving. The serenade leader should designate someone to be positioned at the entrances/exits to open the doors and start the movement on cue.

**CANDLELIGHT WALK**

Weather permitting; the outside candlelight walk is extremely powerful. Serenaders should exit the dining room going out the Dorm hall exits (Some have found it helpful to have some exit through the foyer to speed the process). The candles should have been delivered by the Storeroom Chas prior to dinner. Line the sidewalks around the front of the building leading the serenaders to enter either the foyer doors or the doors nearest the Rollo room. In case of inclement weather, serenaders can line the foyer and interior hallway to the Auditorium. Once in the Auditorium, the serenaders should go to the outside walls and allow the candidates and team to proceed down the center isle and sit in the pews. When all are in the serenaders should exit out the rear doors. – NO CANDLES IF THE HALLWAYS ARE LINED INSIDE.

**TYPICAL TDSETN SERENADE SEQUENCE**

Although not necessary the following sequence might be helpful to those leading…keep in mind that times are approximate:

5:00pm Worship Cha’s assist Serenade Leaders with setup of systems (mic, instruments, etc.) in Dining Room and in Auditorium

5:30pm Serenade Leaders practice in Auditorium; discuss prayer with Rector’s spouse

6:30pm Serenaders arrive in Auditorium for practice and pick-up song sheets; dinner starts in Dining Room for team and candidates

6:45pm Rector, Head Cha, Assistant Head Cha, Head Spiritual Director slip out of dinner to greet the serenaders in auditorium. Rover may observe from the back of the auditorium.

6:50pm Prayer Chas slip out of dinner and prepare to anoint Serenaders as they leave the Auditorium

7:00pm Prayer Chas back to Dining Room.

Serenaders are anointed as they leave Auditorium and enter the Dining Room singing, half from Dorm side and half from Rollo room side

After completion of Song #1; Rector reads from script

 Remainder of songs for first half

 Exit/Re-entry

 Rector’s spouse prayer

 Blessing Song - “The Lord Bless Thee” - Number 6:24-26

Blessing of the Candidates by Rector’s spouse

Return to and complete the Blessing song

The Weekend Theme Song is often inserted into this times slot

7:30pm Exit singing

7:40pm Candlelight Walk