

Mid-Hudson Tres Dias Policy on Baptism During the Weekend Phase

Section 2.5 of the Essentials of Tres Dias states:

2.0 The Essentials of the Movement

5. *The TRES DIAS Movement shall not assume the role of a denomination.*

Sections 3.2.1.f and 3.2.9 of the Essentials of Tres Dias state:

3.2 The Essentials of the Weekend Phase

1. *That the weekend have the following characteristics:*
 - f. *It is a renewal experience for Christians and is not necessarily a conversion experience.*
9. *That the TRES DIAS weekend be an intensive three-day program lasting approximately 72 continuous hours.*

People attend church for years and then realize on a Tres Dias weekend, that they have never made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and His resurrection, as stated in Romans 10:9-10. For many, baptism is the next sequential step in their walk of faith. In the Bible, salvation and baptism are always tied together. It is discussed in the “Sacred Moments of Grace” rollo during the weekend. So, when conversion or conviction does happen on a Mid-Hudson Tres Dias weekend, it should not come as a surprise that baptism is requested. How to handle this situation during a weekend by the Rector and Spiritual Directors, is the purpose of this policy.

Baptism should not be offered or encouraged, if requested, on a weekend. This is not the purpose of Tres Dias. Tres Dias shall not assume the role of a church or denomination. Most churches feel it is their duty to administer the sacrament of baptism to their members. Family members will also want to witness and share in this sacred moment of grace. Many churches also have the congregation take vows to support the person being baptized. Mid-Hudson Tres Dias does not want to take this blessing and responsibility away from any church or family member. **Therefore, baptism is prohibited from being part of a weekend.** A weekend being defined by Section 3.2.9 of the Essentials of Tres Dias.

If a baptism is requested, it should be recommended that the baptism be done at the pescadore’s church, with other weekend members present, if possible, as well as family members. If the pescadore is not attending a church, perhaps one of the Spiritual Directors can perform the baptism at his or her church. The Rector needs to be informed by the Spiritual Directors or anyone else that has been approached regarding baptism during the weekend. The Rector needs to inform those involved that baptism, as a part of a weekend, is a violation of Mid-Hudson Tres Dias policy. This policy should be included in the Rector’s manual and covered during Rector training and team meetings.