



Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter
 Affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat

De Colores!

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August 7, 2015

We Gathered at the River

Some 180 Brothers and Sisters attended the 2015 National Via de Cristo Gathering, Thursday, July 23-Sunday, July 26, 2015 at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. The event was hosted by Living Water Via de Cristo and was fantastic! The theme verse was “...everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.” Isaiah 55:1. So we gathered at the water....the mighty Mississippi at the Quad Cities.

Thursday included an orientation, lunch, worship and a Keynote address given by Dr. Kristy Nabhan-Warren. She is author of the book “The Cursillo Movement in America: Catholics, Protestants, and Fourth-Day Spirituality. Dr. Kristy’s keynote focused on “Perseverance on the journey” and offered encouragement which is ever present in our faith and Cursillo heritage. (I purchased her book earlier this year and I would highly recommend it). We concluded Thursday with a business meeting, dinner, photos, and evening vespers followed by fellowship and hospitality.

Friday started with a hearty breakfast and worship. The day continued with a forum on “The Weekend”, business meeting # 2, lunch, dialogue on “Our Fourth Day”, business meeting # 3 and a tasty dinner. We topped of the day with a Regional meeting, vespers, and fellowship.

Saturday was another exciting day! Another hearty breakfast and worship got us started. We then moved into a forum “Keeping your Secretariat Safe” and Business meeting #4 followed by lunch. Our afternoon had a forum “Whatcha Gonna Do?”, dialogues, leisure and a white table cloth dinner, including a beautiful serenade, then evening vespers and fellowship. Sunday morning we started with yet another grand breakfast and worship. We said our goodbyes and went back to our respective homes.

Some other noteworthy developments:

The following elections were conducted: Steve Gielda - President, Wendy Shotwaller-Vice President of Outreach, Doug Givan-Spiritual Director, and Carol McGill –Secretary.

Tremendous sharing was given by Pastor Doug Givan and Pastor Gene Vincent during worship.

The entire event was anointed by the Holy Spirit and worth attending!

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Contact Butch for info @ open positions.

Secretariat meetings are held the third Saturday of each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Director Butch Seeley for the place and time of each meeting.

God loves you and so do we!

I'm inviting you to next year's 2016 National Via de Cristo Gathering

Come and see what the National gathering is all about. We will gather at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. The gathering is hosted by Good News Via de Cristo and our own Via de Cristo of Ohio is assisting! The theme is "Reaching the Far Away" Ephesians 2:10-14, with an emphasis in verse 13. **See you there!**

God loves you and so do I,
Warren (Butch) Seeley

If you know someone who does not get the VdC Ohio Newsletter but would like to, please send the contact information to Nancy.

Clergy Experience #2 is Monday – Thursday, October 5 – 8, 2015 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center.
Rector Chuck Fahnstock

Co-ed Weekend is coming Thursday – Sunday, October 22-25, 2015 at Camp Mowana in Mansfield.
Rector Dave Lann

**Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!**

We hope you will "like" our new Facebook Page at
<https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh>

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo
www.vdcoho.org

National Via de Cristo Website
www.viadecristo.org

Kairos Website www.kairosOhio.org

If you know someone from the Via de Cristo Community who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

Clergy Experience #2 will be Monday – Thursday, October 5 – 8, 2015 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Rector Chuck Fahnstock writes:

I believe the Clergy Experience has incredible potential. Butch and I attended all three Ohio ELCA Synod Assemblies and we were able to speak to a large number of clergy and congregation delegates. Three big discussion points were revealed over and over: 1) Almost all the laypeople and a majority of clergy had no knowledge of Via de Cristo or cursillo programs, 2) Many clergy who had heard of Via de Cristo but not experienced a cursillo program had doubts, concerns, or misunderstandings about the program, and 3) most of the people we spoke with, both clergy and lay, after hearing the purpose and format of VdC, wanted to learn more.

I had one retired pastor say to me, "I wish I would have known about VdC when I was serving. Why would anyone pass up the opportunity to experience this?"

There are congregations all over the state looking for the kind of spark that VdC can bring to their ministry. I hope you can help make Clergy #2 the grace filled experience that makes our clergy say, "I wish I would have known about this sooner. Why would anyone want to pass up this experience?"

So how can you help? Speak to your pastor and other pastors you know—Lutheran or another denomination—and see what they know of VdC. Tell them what you know about Via de Cristo, its purpose and content and format, and tell them about the date of Clergy Experience #2. Give their names and addresses to Lay Director Butch Seeley (see contact info on p. 1) who will send them further information. Clergy people do not need "Sponsors" but may register themselves to attend.

As always, provide the Palanca of your prayer.

Peace,
Chuck Fahnstock, Rector for Clergy Experiences #1 & #2

A Message from VdC Ohio Music Advisor Jen Briner

“Blessed Be the Name of the Lord” is one of the newer songs which was introduced into the Via de Cristo songbook during the last update. It was written by Matt and Beth Redman in 2011 in response to the events that unfolded on 9/11.

They noticed in the weeks to follow the brokenness that was everywhere and that many were seeking comfort in the church. In the weeks following 9/11, church attendance in America went up dramatically. During their visiting of many congregations and hearing many powerful sermons, the Redmans began to wonder where the songwriters were in a time like this? There were no appropriate songs to adequately express pain and lament. Sometimes, the Church of God needs her songs of lament just as much as she needs her songs of victory. “Blessed Be the Name of the Lord” is not a song that was consciously written in response to those dark events but a song born out of the whole of life, a realization that we will all face seasons of pain or unease. In these seasons we will need to find our voice of lament before God.

This song was first sung on a women’s weekend when I chose it to be my Rollo song. My life has been both “In the land that is plentiful, where Your streams of abundance flow” and “In the desert place though I walk through the wilderness” but, as the Bible says in Job 2, “Shall we indeed expect good from God and not adversity?” It is only through the power and grace of Jesus Christ that I can still say “Blessed be the name of the Lord”! And you can too.

God loves you, I love you,
Jen Briner

Co-ed Weekend is coming Thursday – Sunday, October 22-25, 2015 at Camp Mowana in Mansfield. The Rector is Dave Lann. Registration of Pilgrims is welcome!

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month I would like to share about Ultreyas. Ultreya is a gathering of Christians on a regular basis to share Christ and his presence in their individual lives and strengthen and encourage each other.

You have heard that it is “a reunion of group reunions,” which is VdC’s ideal. Even if you’re not grouping, Ultreyas are a place to gather, reunite with fellow 4th Dayers or just meet new Christian friends to keep your walk with Christ encouraged and uplifted.

Do not be afraid. Where have you heard that before? Ask your sponsor or a friend to attend a local Ultreya with you. Jackie and I have invited many to attend an Ultreya before they have even gone on a weekend. They get to experience the environment of a weekend; some then made weekends and others did not. It did not hurt to invite them to come and see.

If there are no Ultreyas in your area, please talk to someone on Secretariat and we can help you get one started at your place of worship. They are not meant to be inclusive of only your church, but open to the whole Christian community beyond your church, VdC veterans and others. You may also see the articles “Ultreya How-To” by Donna Gough and “Ultreya (an Overview)” from the National Lutheran Secretariat which are attached with this Newsletter.

In the future I would like to have a list of when and where they are around the state so I can pass them on to Nancy Martin, Newsletter Editor, and Christy Brill, VdCOhio website and Facebook Co-ordinator, and they can be electronically advertised for you. (See their contact info in Secretariat list on p. 1.)

Dave Lann
4th Day Shepherd and Co-ed Weekend Rector

I would also like to remind you of the coed weekend coming up in October. It is at Camp Mowana in the newer hotel-like retreat center. We will have limited space available so get your pilgrim’s application in sooner than later. Everything is on one floor. The team is nearly complete and ready to get this new adventure underway.

HOW TO PUT AN ULTREYA TOGETHER

1. Pray! For the Ultreya, about whom to call, for God's blessing.
2. Read the Ultreya article from the National Lutheran Secretariat. (Call Donna Gough)
3. Call the following individuals to be part of the Ultreya:
 - A. MC or Moderator. Should be someone who can speak well. MC will keep time on track, operate from Schedule (sample attached).
 - B. Musician or Musicians. Plan and play for the Ultreya. Prepare a song sheet or provide song books.
 - C. Lay Speaker. To talk about what the Lord is doing in their life, for about 10 minutes. Provide with Ultreya speaker guidelines.
 - D. Spiritual Director. To tie the lay witness talk to the Gospel, and provide Holy Communion.
4. As far in advance as possible, arrange publicity within the congregation, in OhioVDC, and within your Area. If e-mail addresses are not available, ask Nancy Martin to send the announcement to the entire state. Just provide her with details of YOUR Ultreya
5. Arrange for setup of location (chairs, podium, Holy Communion, snack table, handout table).
6. Provide the following handouts:
 - A. Songsheets or song books (see Musician above)
 - B. Announcements of upcoming events (if known)
 - C. Weekend Pilgrim and Sponsor applications. (Download from OhioVDC website)
 - D. Leaders' School applications (Download from OhioVDC website)
 - E. Temporary Nametags.
7. Ask everyone to bring a snack to share, but arrange for beverages.
8. Arrange for the Ultreya team to arrive early for prayer and to set up site.
9. Arrange for or clean up site afterwards.
10. Write a short article for the next Newsletter to encourage attendance at the next Ultreya!

Feel free to contact me for any help or advice.

Donna Gough

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Ultreya News

<p>Ultrayas in north-east Ohio are usually the third Saturday of each month, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kent, at 4:30 pm at 600 S. Water Street, and potluck will be included. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.</p>	<p>Cincinnati area Ultrayas are usually the first Saturday of each month at 4:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. For questions, please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797.</p>	<p>Bellville Ultreya will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm. It's at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. Worship and Holy Communion are followed by Potluck, table service and drinks provided. Call Ken and Josie Riling with questions, 419-886-2437, or Paul and Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573.</p>	<p>North Dayton Ultrayas are usually the third Saturdays of every month at 7pm at the United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Rd, Clayton, OH 45315. (Bring snack to share.) For questions, please call Wes Scoates at 937 533-7605.</p>
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What is palanca? What is a palanca letter? A palanca letter is one that is sent to the PILGRIMS and team, informing them of the prayers, affection and sacrifices that you are offering to God on their behalf. A letter may be sent explaining what type of palanca is being offered, but the letter is NOT the palanca. The actual palanca is the action - intercessory prayer, sacrifice, or works of mercy or love, and it can be done without writing a letter. But letters are good!

Prior to VdC of Ohio Clergy Experience #2 and for the Co-Ed Weekend, you will have an opportunity to be part of the 72-hour Prayer Palancas. You are invited to prepare other Palanca items if you like.

Via de Cristo/Curcillo/Kairos/Chrysalis/Emmaus Weekends around the World

Secretariat Palanca Cha Sherryl Patterson shares the news of these Weekends so that you may consider praying for them as you do for our Weekends. Note that **Via de Cristo of Ohio** is a small part of the world-wide 4th Day Cursillo movement.

Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's Cursillo	Smithfield, NC	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's #183 (Spanish)	San Francisco, CA	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's #39 (Spanish)	Trenton, NJ	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Eagle Pass, TX	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's #76 (Spanish)	Santa Rosa, CA	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's #231 (Spanish)	Roswell, NM	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's #270	Corpus Christi, TX	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's #79	Greensboro, NC	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's #121	Frankfort, IL	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's #46 (Spanish)	Chincha Alta, PERU	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Red Bank, NJ	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's #18 (Spanish)	Pilar, PARAGUAY	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's Tres Dias #34	Orange County, CA	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Sonshine VdC Men's #114	South Florida	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's Kairos Inside #31	Ross Corr. Inst. Ohio	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Emmaus Women's #38	Maribyrnong, Australia	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Emmaus Women's #67	Mid North Coast, Australia	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's Kairos Inside #34	Moore Haven Corr. Inst. FL	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Men's Tres Dias	South Central Kentucky	
Aug. 6-9, 2015	Women's Tres Dias #34	Orange County, CA	
Aug. 8-10, 2015	Boys' Chrysalis Flight #17	Western New York	
Aug. 12-15, 2015	Emmaus Men's #171	Central Alabama	
Aug. 13-16, 2015	Men's Walk to Emmaus	New Horizon--Texas	
Aug. 13-16, 2015	Emmaus Women's #53	Channel Islands	
Aug. 13-16, 2015	Men's Tres Dias #33	Orange County, CA	
Aug. 13-16, 2015	Girls' Chrysalis Flight #7	Houston West, TX	

Ed. Note: I always ask for "Faith Stories" from the members of the VdC Community to share in the Newsletter. Faith Stories come in many forms. They may be about how **you** came to faith; how your faith has grown; how the Holy Spirit gives you little surprises; how you share your faith with your family, your friends or in your church or community; or how you've seen these things in **others**. You've seen many kinds in the Newsletter—short and long, simple and complex. All of them have lifted me and, I hope, you. I also ask you to share yours by email to vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or by US Mail to 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813. Be blessed with Joy! Nancy Martin, Newsletter Editor

Wanted: Someone to become the Prayer Chain Coordinator for Via de Cristo of Ohio.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity in order to see if God may call you to His service with this position, please contact Lay Director Butch Seeley (harleyrider751@ymail.com or 614-332-1357) or Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin (vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420)for more information.

My Faith Story - My Journey:

On July 25, 2009 at 7:38 p.m., my life made a very dramatic change -- and this day, July 25, 2015 marks the 6th year anniversary of that change.

I found DC Patterson, my husband of 20 years, 3 months, 19 hours and 38 minutes lying on the floor of the office in our house at 483 Marion Cardington Road West, Marion, Ohio. I went in and began talking to Denny and touching him to get his attention, but there was no response. All that day DC was sleeping in the chair in the living room, where he usually can sleep, since he felt unable to breathe lying down in bed for a number of years.

The day before DC had a doctor appointment with his VA doctor and we were both so thrilled when he told me that his blood pressure was the best it had ever been in months, perhaps even years. However, that night he was unable to sleep in the chair and so the next day we spent, just two of us watching movies and DC kept dozing off in the chair. Late in the afternoon DC went into the office to play his Freecell game on the computer.

Close to dinnertime, DC was just sitting in front of the computer with a blackened screen, still dozing. I said that I was going to the grocery to pick something up for dinner. We said our usual goodbyes: I love you more - No, I love you more! When I returned home, I put groceries away and went to check on DC in the office and found him lying on his right side from falling off the chair onto the floor.

I kept trying to get him to speak to me and touching and shaking him to wake up and then I just sat down on the floor beside him and leaned against the wall, looked up and prayed to God to bring him back to me - but of course, God couldn't do that - for God had called him home at 7: 38 p.m., Saturday, July 25th, of 2009.

The only thing I could do then was to call 911 and Harley and Mary Page next door, who had become our second parents, always there to help us in any way they could, just as we were there to help them in their needs as well.

The medics checked DC for any signs of life, saying they heard a shallow breathing; at first I thought there was some hope. They took him to Marion General hospital, and I knew by that time that shallow breathing means nothing more than God had him in His comforting arms and DC's body was gone.

I didn't want to leave the hospital without DC, but I kissed him goodbye - and I knew that he knew how much I loved him! He was watching me from heaven, standing beside Jesus! Seeing Denny where he was NOW - I knew that I had to find a way to continue on in this new Journey where God had placed me and I remembered what Denny once said to me in a letter while we were courting - "Sherry, I love watching you grow!"

In the "Jesus Calling" devotional for July 25th, God is saying to me six years to this day: "As you listen to birds calling to one another, hear also My love-call to you. I speak to you continually: through sights, sounds, thoughts, impressions, scriptures. There is no limit to the variety of ways I can communicate with you. Your part is to be attentive to My messages, in whatever form they come. When you set out to find Me in a day, you discover that the world is vibrantly alive with My Presence. You can find Me not only in beauty and birdcalls, but also in tragedy and faces filled with grief. I can take the deepest sorrow and *weave it into a pattern for good*. Search for Me and My messages, as you go through this day. *You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with your whole being.*"

I'm reading a book by Thomas Merton, Dialogues with Silence. This spoke to me in particular: "Not to know where his life was going was always to begin again in Merton's journey to love learning and desire God." I have found myself here in recent months: A "thin place" as Merton describes it, between night and the edge of light that signals dawn. As Pastor Al Sager described it in one of his articles etched in my memory, "Thin places" has its home in a particular way of thinking about God. I have been seeing God as not somewhere else, but "right here," sitting, walking, standing beside me, wherever I am! God is closer than the air we breathe ... God is the air we breathe! He's given us a message through Paul in Philippians 4:9, Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you!

Blessings, Sherryl Franklin-Patterson

Via de Cristo of Ohio
Roster Update Information Sheet

Please Print Legibly

Date: _____

Name _____

Weekend # _____ *(Please note movement if your weekend was other than Ohio VdC)*

Street _____

City, State and Zip _____

Birth Year (NOT DATE) _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Church Name & City _____

Additional Information:

Clergy: *(please circle)* Yes No

Musician: *(please circle)* Yes No Instrument(s): _____

Medical Training: *(please circle)* Yes No Type: _____

Are you interested in serving on a Team? *(please circle)* Yes No

Have you attended Leaders' School? *(please circle)* Yes No

Which of the below best describes your Geographical Area? *(please circle all that apply)*

Akron/Canton

Clyde

Parma

Bellville

Columbus

Western Reserve

Cincinnati

Dayton

Youngstown

Clayton

Kent

Other *(please specify)*

Cleveland

Mentor

*Please send all changes to Christine Brill, 3216 E. Powell Rd., Lewis Center OH 43035
 Or email goosebrill@msn.com subject VdC-OH Roster Update*