



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

De Colores!

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February 26, 2018

Our Lenten Journey

I thought about what information a non-Christian person may be able to find regarding the season of Lent. So, hey, I Goggled it...and pulled a definition of Lent off the internet and here is one I found from BBC-Religions-Christianity: Lent

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, **Lent** is a season of reflection and preparation before the **celebrations** of Easter. By observing the 40 days of **Lent**, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. **Lent** is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

For us disciples of Jesus Christ we don't need to google it. We know we observe it out of reverence for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We want to follow Jesus. God's grace is given freely and we can't earn our way, nor do we need to observe certain practices to get to heaven.

But nevertheless, we want to follow Jesus.

The Via de Cristo, provides a methodology to follow Jesus. There are other methods that disciples use which are successful; Via de Cristo is one which is available to the lay person and Clergy alike. It does bear fruit.

I was reminded of the perseverance tools the ministry provides through Group Reunion and Ultreya. Through Group Reunion we share our walk with Jesus. We share our Piety, Study, and Action.

We commit to an "Apostolic Plan-Grow as a Christian-Plan Ahead!" An Apostolic Plan is defined in the Pilgrim's Guide as "any endeavor which brings someone closer to a life in union with Christ!"

We are asked: "What are you planning for next week? Piety? Study? Action?"

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the day approaching

(Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)

The world needs Christ, the world needs encouragement, we as believers need it too.

God bless you in your Lenten journey!

God loves you, and so do I!

Warren (Butch) Seeley #24

Help Wanted

Have you been wanting to get more involved with Via de Cristo? Do you have fresh new ideas that you think would benefit the Secretariat or Community as a whole? Do you hear God nudging you to serve on a team or committee? Then we want to hear from you!

Below are just a few opportunities available to get more involved, but if you have other ideas that we should consider, please let us know about those as well.

- **Lay Director:** Our current Lay Director, Warren “Butch” Seeley will end his final term as our coach and leader at our Annual Meeting on June 23. Some of the duties of the Lay Director include: presiding over all meetings of the Secretariat, being an ex-officio member of all committees (except the nominating committee), appointing non-elected members of the Secretariat, preparing and presenting reports for the VdC-OH membership as well as to the National Lutheran Secretariat.
- **Secretary:** Kevin Hoch’s first term as Secretary of the Secretariat will end in June. The Secretary’s duties include keeping minutes of all meetings of the Membership and Secretariat and maintaining all archived records of the organization.
- **Tech Media Assistants:** The Tech Media Specialist is currently responsible for all the areas listed below and is in need of assistants to help maintain each area as indicated. Although strongly encouraged, these assistants would not be required to attend Secretariat meetings and would be under the direction of the Tech Media Specialist. There could be an assistant for each area or one assistant to help cover all areas.
 - **Web-site:** Work directly with the Web-site developer to make updates to the Web-site as requested, regularly update the Web-site calendar, and keep the Secretariat apprised of Web-site traffic and current best-practices.
 - **Social Media:**
 - **Archives:** Work under the Secretary to maintain the membership book of Via de Cristo as well as archive weekend rosters and photos. (Microsoft Excel experience highly recommended)
- **Regional/Church Representatives:** These individuals would be the Secretariat’s local presence in their churches or geographical regions. Again, although strongly encouraged, these representatives would not be required to attend Secretariat meetings but would need to be in consistent communication with the 4th Day Shepherd and/or Secretariat Palanca Cha.

If you are interested in or would like more information about any of the above opportunities or to serve on a team, please contact Assistant Lay Director, Christine Brill (614-899-7429 or goosebrill@msn.com).

Remember, Christ Is Counting on You!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Co-Ed Weekend #3 May 3-6, 2018 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark
Rector Sharon Gsellman and Head Cha Bob Gsellman (330-688-4965 or sagsellman@gmail.com)

Clergy Experience #3 Monday October 1-Thursday October 4, 2018
St. Peter and St. Paul Retreat Center, Newark

Rector Dick Brenneman (740-398-4664 or dbbrenneman@gmail.com) and Spiritual Director Pr. Doug Pretorius
Invite some Pastors to introduce them to Via de Cristo methodology and to love on them and show them Grace.

Further information for ALL of these will be in upcoming Newsletters

If you would like to be part of a Team, contact the Rector or Lay Director Butch Seeley (514-332-1357)!!!

A Letter from Sharon Gsellman, Rector of Co-Ed Weekend #3

It's February. The Lord has still not returned.

So, I've been at work on one of God's tasks for me as a Rectora—to provoke people! Don't you think that there's something fun about that word choice in the translating of Hebrews 10:24 into English?

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

Mrs. Harrah, my high school Latin teacher, would be so happy to know that I remember some vocabulary: *pro* (for) and *voco* (to call). She told us many years ago that Latin would have practical benefits in our daily lives and now it has happened! Because of her, I know it is not my job to irritate others (as tempting as that might sound to my human nature.) My job is to *call forth*. I am to consider how to call forth love and good deeds.

In this team-calling phase of preparation for Co-Ed Weekend #3, I've been doing a lot of provoking. And, the Holy Spirit has called forth a wonderful team. By the time you read this, I hope our team will be complete.

But, my provoking is not over! Now, I want to provoke you, my VdC Community! I want to call forth your love and good deeds in support of Co-Ed Weekend #3. Please pray for this team and our team preparations. Please invite pilgrims. Please support the weekend in prayer palanca, letter palanca, a serenade voice, and maybe even a financial donation. If you get alone with the Lord, His Spirit will provoke you toward the most fitting self-sacrifice of love.

Your brothers and sisters of Co-Ed Weekend #3 will appreciate it.

GLYASDI

Sharon

Editor's note: The goal of Via de Cristo is to strengthen people of faith and to equip people of faith to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their environments. That takes on many forms! Most Cursillistas (that means people who've been on a VdC Weekend as Pilgrims) become more active in their churches; many start new groups such as for Bible study or teaching children or serving their community; some boldly witness to strangers on the street or in a store; some become Christian mentors to family members or co-workers. They often stay connected to VdC through Reunion Groups and/or Ultreyas. Some become very active as Team members or Secretariat members. Some stay connected with the Website (www.vdcoho.org), on Facebook or by reading the Newsletter. Most value their connection by prayer.

I don't know all the possible ways that Christ is counting on you and you on Him. But I would love to hear your version, to share with others in the VdC Community. Contact me at vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Rd., Bellville, 44813. Nancy Martin, Editor

For assistance to find or form a Reunion Group for your Pilgrim—or yourself—contact Fourth Day shepherd Dave Lann, vdclann@yahoo.com or 330-296-6929. He can look in the VdC Archive for names of people in your area and give you their most recent contact information. But some of the info in the Archive is out of date. If you know people who haven't received a Newsletter or heard from a VdC friend in a while, please send their new contact information to **Secretariat Webmaster and Data Collector Christine Brill** (goosebrill@msn.com or 614-579-8586), or **Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin** (419-886-4420) or vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com.

*If you know of a Cursillista who has recently entered the Church Triumphant,
please let Christine Brill know [(614) 899-7429 or goosebrill@msn.com]
so that we can honor their memory as well as update our records.*

A Message from VdC-Ohio Spiritual Director

With some irony, Lent 2018 began on Valentine's Day, February 14th and ends with the celebration of Easter on April 1 (Fool's Day). Valentine's Day celebrates romantic love. That same day is Ash Wednesday reminding us of our mortality on this planet. Burnt ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday are marked on our foreheads in the form of a cross. The sobering words are spoken to us, "you are dust and to dust you shall return."

The Lenten Season is 40 days not counting Sundays. Forty is an important number in the Bible. Noah, his family, and all those animals were on the Ark while it rained 40 days and 40 nights, destroying everything in its path. God prepared them for a new beginning. After escaping Egyptian slavery, the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness before they were permitted to enter the Promised Land. Years of preparation they were. After his Baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness where he faced temptations from Satan. Days of preparation for his journey to the cross.

The 40 days of Lent are meant to be a period of spiritual preparation for us. We ready ourselves spiritually to more fully appreciate what Easter and the Resurrection means for us. Lent is not an end but a new beginning that points us to a new day that brings new life, that life that has no end.

Many of us have been watching the Winter Olympics. What remarkable athleticism displayed by competitors. Gifted athletes but being gifted is not enough. Hours and hours, days and days, weeks and weeks, and often years and years of preparation bring them to compete in the Olympics. The medals are important, but just being there to compete, to represent their home countries, is what really is important.

The Lenten season can be our time of spiritual preparation for living a new life in light of the Resurrection. We are encouraged to pray, meditate on Scripture, reflect on what it means to be a believer and a disciple, and to realize how we are connected with Jesus our Lord. Through his life, death and resurrection we learn who God has created us to be.

GLYASDI.

Pastor G Karl Gaston

Message from VdC Ohio Music Adviser Jen Briner

It's Valentines Day as I sit down to write this and I'm in the mood for love: Jesus' love!

We have a lot of songs about God's love for us and our response to that love. About the fact that we can only love others because the Father first loved us. Even if you don't have an earthly Valentine, on this day you can take comfort in the fact that someone loves you so much that He was willing to die for you. I finally settled on "They'll Know We Are Christians". It was written in the 1960's by a then-Catholic priest, Fr. Peter Scholtes. The song is inspired by John 13:35 and the title is based on what non-believers in the early church said about Christians: "Behold how they love one another". Fr. Scholes wrote it for his youth choir for a series of ecumenical, interracial gatherings when he couldn't find an existing song to express the unity of the groups gathering. Written entirely in minor chords, it should sound like a dirge but it's quite the opposite!

I was not able to find who first thought to combine the chorus of "Awesome God" with this song but, just like candy and flowers on Valentine's Day, it's a pairing that makes sense!

God loves you 365 days every year, Jesus loves you 365 days every year, and so do I!

Jen Briner

VdC Prayer Chain is prayingforvdc@gmail.com or by phone at 419-884-1573. Vicky Sakala is Prayer Chain Cha.

If you know someone from the Via de Cristo Community who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, or does not get the VdCNewsletter but would like to, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at 419-886-4420 or vdsnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.



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

Ultreya News

Remember, Ultreyas are open to everyone.

Cincinnati Area

Cincinnati area Ultreyas are usually the first Saturday of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. Please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797, for the time.

Stow Area Ultreya

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3725 Kent Road, will host an Ultreya in the spring of 2018. There will be worship, Holy Communion, a short talk and discussion. Dinner and child care are provided, but please bring your Song Book, Pilgrim's Guide and name tag. For questions, call Jane Koch, 330-688-0581, or Cathy Doering, 330-239-0027.

Bellville Area Ultreyas

Bellville Ultreyas will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. There will be Worship, Holy Communion, and Potluck with table service and drinks provided. Call Ken & Josie Riling, 419-886-2437, or Paul & Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573 for questions.

Parma/Cleveland Area

The next Ultreya will be in the spring of 2018 in the Chapel of Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights, 44130. We have a small group Bible Study led by Pastor Doug Gunkelman and Holy Communion with Potluck to follow. Bring a dish to share. Meat will be provided. All are invited. See future Newsletters for information. Call Leslie Crowe at leslie.crowe@aol.com, 440-263-4552 or Judy Junker at JudyJunkmail@aol.com, 440-537-0867 with any questions. God loves you and so do we.

North Dayton Ultreyas

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.

COLUMBUS ULTREYA

Once each quarter in 2018, there will be an Ultreya at All Shepherds Lutheran Church, 6580 Columbus Pike [RT 23], Lewis Center, Ohio. 43035. For more information contact Warren [614.332.1357](tel:614.332.1357) or Wendy [614.332.1352](tel:614.332.1352) Seeley.

KENT Area Ultreyas

Ultreyas in the **Akron-Kent area** of Ohio are often the third Saturday of a month at Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 S. Water Street at 4:30 pm. There will be Worship with Holy Communion, a topic for discussion, and potluck will follow with table service and drinks provided. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

VdCOhio Palanca Cha Sherryl Patterson provides us with dates of 4th Day Movement events for which you may pray.

March 1-4, 2018	Men's #78 – INKY VdC, Camp Lakeview, Seymour, IN
March 8-11, 2018	Women's #79 – INKY VdC, Camp Lakeview, Seymour, IN
March 1-4, 2018	Men's, VdC of Minnesota, Staples, MN
March 8-11, 2018	Women's, VdC of Minnesota, Staples, MN
March 15-18, 2018	Men's #30 – Vineyard VdC in Maryland
March 15-18, 2018	Spring Camp, Northern Light VdC-Wisconsin/Upper Michigan, Westboro, WI
March 22-25, 2018	Men's #96 – Gold Coast VdC, Delray Beach, FL



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Are you Thrivent Financial® member? Do you have 2017 Thrivent Choice Dollars® available to direct to your favorite charity? Did you know that you must indicate where you want those Dollars to go each year and you can direct your Dollars to Via de Cristo of Ohio?

Think of the impact you—along with other eligible Thrivent members—can help make by directing Choice Dollars to Via de Cristo of Ohio. The outreach funding we receive from Thrivent Financial through this program can help defray the cost of weekends or help fund our music license, Web site fees, postage, and other operating expenses.

Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt. Together, we can do even more to help strengthen communities and change lives.

Ask Thrivent to send your Choice Dollars to Via de Cristo Ohio Treasurer Raleigh Sandy at 9418 Hacker Farm Lane, Centerville, OH 45458.

Thought for the Day from “The Upper Room”, February 25, 2018

Today I will think of all God has done for me and let my gratitude inspire joy!

Secretariat


<p>Lay Director Warren Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com</p> <p>Asst. Lay DirectorChristy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com</p> <p>Secretary Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com</p> <p>TreasurerRaleigh Sandy (937) 885-1868 sandyjr@donet.com</p> <p>Spiritual Director Pastor G. Karl Gaston (614) 364-3110 jgaston550@yahoo.com</p> <p>coach Butch Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com</p>	<p>Logistics Coordinator Mark Ludrosky (330) 882-4244 mludrosky1@neo.rr.com</p> <p>Fourth Day Shepherd Dave Lann (330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com</p> <p>Prayer Chain Vicky Sakala 419-884-1573 prayingforvdc@gmail.com</p> <p>Music AdviserJen Briner (614) 901-0896 jenbriner@yahoo.com</p> <p>Palanca Cha Sherry Patterson (740) 262-0563 dcspf20@the-franklins.net</p> <p>Registrar Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com</p>	<p>Rector/Weekend Orient Dick Brenneman (740) 398-0945 dbbrenneman@gmail.com</p> <p>Technology Media Specialist .. Christy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com</p> <p>Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin (419) 886-4420 vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com</p> <p>Central Ohio Regional Representative</p> <p>Northern Ohio Regional Representative . . .</p> <p>Southern Ohio Regional Representative...</p>
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Contact Lay Director Warren “Butch” Seeley with your interest in serving on Secretariat.
 Contact 4th Day Shepherd Dave Lann to reach people in your area of Ohio to encourage them for Reunion Groups and Ultreyas.
 Secretariat meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Direct Butch Seeley for the place of each meeting. For 2017, they will be in person at 10am in March, May, July, September and November. They will be by conference call at 10am in February, April, June, August and October.

Please meet just a few of our Via de Cristo of Ohio Secretariat (or governing body) members:

- **Warren Butch Seeley** (harleyrider751@ymail.com) is our Lay Director for Ohio. He has spoken to many of you at the Closing (that service at the end of the weekend that is probably a blur) and is the captain of our ship until June of 2018 when we will be holding our annual meeting and elections. He also serves on the National VdC Secretariat.
- **Kevin Hoch** (khoch@cinci.rr.com) is our Secretary and is serving his first term as such. Kevin also serves as our Registrar and manages our PO Box down in Cincinnati.
- **Raleigh Sandy** (sandyjr@donet.com) is our Treasurer and is serving his second term. Donations to the organization can be sent to the PO Box or directly to Raleigh at [9418 Hacker Farm Lane, Centerville OH](#) OH.
- **Nancy Martin** (vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com) is our Newsletter Editor and sends out the newsletters via email and US Mail. She also sends by email important VdC-[OH](#) updates on an as needed basis. Be on the look-out for her emails...she is always interested in faith stories too so you may get a gentle nudge from her in the near future to share your weekend experience.
- **Vicky Sakala** (prayingforvdc@gmail.com or 419-545-3823) is in charge of the email Prayer Chain. If you have any prayers requests, send them to her and she will make sure they are disseminated to the rest of the VdC-OH Community.
- **Dick Brenneman** (dbbrenneman@gmail.com) is the one in charge of our training. Leader's School or 4th Day Orientation as it is now called is required training for anyone interested in serving on a team. Look for information in upcoming Newsletters about future 4th Day Orientation dates.
- **Dave Lann** (vdclann@yahoo.com) is our 4th Day Shepherd. He is here to help people find Reunion Groups as well as a plethora of other activities as needed.
- And I'm **Christine Gosnell Brill** (goosebrill@msn.com). I serve as the Assistant Lay Director as well as the Technology Media Specialist. I'm in charge of our Social Media, Web site, and membership roster as well as other duties as assigned.

Finally, below are the links to our Web-site and Facebook pages. Although most info is sent through email from Nancy & Vicky, I keep our online world current with good information as well. Bookmark these pages for future reference:

- Web site: <http://www.vdcoho.org> (This is our official Web site. In addition to basic information about VdC-OH, it lists all of the Secretariat members with contact info, a calendar, an archive of newsletters from the past 7 years and all weekend photos. Eventually I would like to build this site out more with a repository for forms and marketing collateral as well as a donate now button)
- Official Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/viadecristooh (This is the public-facing "business" page for VdC-OH; anyone can see it, like it, comment on it, etc). **PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.** 
- Official Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123733778409/> (This is the private group for VdC-OH; anyone can find it through a search, but only members who have been accepted to join can read posts and share in the group, this is where more personal information is shared in regards to prayer requests, weekend info, etc)

Please reach out to anyone on Secretariat if you have questions about the organization, have suggestions, or would like to volunteer in any capacity. We are here to help you in your 4th Day.

God Loves You & So Do I,

Christine Brill

VdC-OH Assistant Lay Director

Technology Media Specialist

VdC-OH Women's #36