



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 6

July 13, 2015

Hope

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek-Hebrews 6:19-20

Ordinary hope is a state of mind where by one faces uncertainty with varying shades of expectation, depending on how the prospects look (“I hope it doesn’t rain tomorrow”). But Christian **hope** is a fact--a firm expectation--that believers can **lay hold of**, like an **anchor**. This hope in turn lays hold of a person so that they have confidence in all that has been promised.

The mariner’s anchor is cast down into the depths of the sea; the believer’s anchor is cast upward to the inner sanctuary of heaven, **where it lays hold of Christ and cannot be moved.**

-The Jeremiah Study Bible-

What are you facing this day?

In the seasons of life we all face those times of choppy waters, a storm of uncertainty and Christ is our anchor, our hope. The Via de Cristo methodology helps us lay hold of that hope, and I believe, in some cases, hope lays hold of us. In group reunion, with Christ as our anchor, we come together to talk about our Piety, Study and Apostolic Action. We lift each other up through burden sharing, encouragement and prayer. During this small group gathering hope is revisited, remembered and re-energized. “What was the moment in which you felt closest to Christ?”

What aren’t you facing this day?

Jesus is Lord,
Warren (Butch) Seeley

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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!

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.

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 Fahnestock

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.vdcohio.org

National Via de Cristo Website

www.viadecristo.org

Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org

National Via de Cristo Gathering 2015

Thursday, July 23 through Sunday, July 26, 2015 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.

‘The theme for this year’s gathering will be: "Gather at the River: Centered in Christ "

Our delegates for VdC of Ohio will be Raleigh Sandy and Warren (Butch) and Wendy Seeley. (Sherryl Patterson had planned to attend as a delegate but, on the way to vacation with her family in Minnesota, her car was totaled, necessitating her time, attention (and some money) to get a new car. Praise to God, she was not hurt. Wendy has graciously taken her place.)

Look for a report on the Gathering in the next Newsletter. When you get this Newsletter, that’s the time to pray for safe travel for our delegates and everyone going to the Assembly. Pray also for God’s direction and blessing on the Assembly.

National Via de Cristo Gathering **2016** will be hosted by GoodNews! Via de Cristo of northwest Ohio and southern Michigan with our (VdC Ohio) assistance. Future Newsletters will provide more information.

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 (vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420)for more information.

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

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 VDC community,

Recently, I sent out the request for information about Reunion Groups—members, time and location of meetings, and if they're open to new members. Thank you for those who sent me info on their groups. I'd still like to hear information from others. I will get back to those who contacted me looking for a group once I get info about groups in your area.

One misconception I want to address is that I am not nor is anyone else checking to see if you are in a group. (VDC's ideal is that you are involved in a group and attend Ultreyas, but it's not required.) I want to make sure groups are available and that I as your 4th Day Shepherd can give contact information to those who are changing groups, move into different areas, and so on. Please continue to send me info of your groups.

In the future I will be doing the same thing for Ultreyas in your areas.

As I stated before, it is not my concern if you are grouping or not. Everyone is in a different place in their walk with our Lord. My concern is helping you to be active with the VDC community. There are many opportunities you can be a part of even if you're not grouping or attending Ultreya.

1. Personal Palanca 2. Prayer Palanca 3. Food Palanca 4. Send-offs
 5. Closings 6. Serenades 7. Wake-ups 8. Money donations (help to offset cost of weekends.)

Some of these may change as we change sites for Weekends. If you are not sure what some of these are, please contact me or any member of Secretariat (see contact info on p. 1). We will be happy to give you the information on how to participate or whom to contact.

God bless and have a great summer.

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

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

Palanca Requests for Cursillo 3-Days and Events

Date	Event	Location	Send
July 16-19, 2015	Women's #76	Laredo, TX	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Women's #561 (Spanish)	Yuma, AZ	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Women's #4 (Vietnamese)	Dallas, TX	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Women's #39 (Spanish)	Trenton, NJ	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Women's #769 (Filipino)	San Francisco, CA	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Linares, NL, MEXICO	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Men's #597	Orange, CA	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Men's #351	Chanhassen, MN	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Women's #112 (Filipino)	San Diego, CA	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Men's #157 (Spanish)	San Pedro, CU, MEXICO	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Women's #8	Blumenau, BRASIL	email palanca
July 16-19, 2015	Men's #1160 (Spanish)	Juncos, PUERTO RICO	email palanca

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!

A Message/Faith Story from VdC Ohio Music Advisor Jen Briner

Music has many functions on a Via de Cristo weekend. Lifting our voices together in song helps to form community. A particular song is always used to set the tone for an upcoming Rollo. Songs can elicit powerful emotions and they sometimes speak to us in ways mere words cannot. Songs can also provide some comic relief when we just need to laugh and enjoy each other! This type is the subject of this article.

“The Saturday Skit” is something Team Members look forward to, Head Kitchen Chas dread and Pilgrims fondly remember. Although it is not a mandatory part of the weekend—it’s “adiaphora,” something nice to add—after a day of heavy emotions and wonderful serenading, pure silliness is sometimes in order. During team formation for this past spring Women’s Weekend where I served as Palanca Cha, I took on the responsibility for the skit, knowing that “something would come to me”. It was 7:15 on Saturday night. The serenaders were gone and the pilgrims were enjoying a snack before Decuria. The Head Kitchen Cha came into the palanca room and said “What are we doing for the skit?” Not having had time to think on this, I said the only thing that made sense to me: “God hasn’t given it to me yet.” Even though it was only minutes until the Decuria started, even though we had no clue and no practice time, I have never been more sure that there would be a skit and it would be fabulous! God would provide. Putting aside my letter sorting for the moment, I pulled out my songbook and started flipping pages. The easiest skit, in my opinion, is creating silly words to one of our songs, based on something funny that happened or a “running joke” that presents itself. At this point, a little background is needed.

Lisa Bacu, our fearless leader, tried her hardest to keep everyone together and everything on time but despite her herculean efforts, the pilgrims wandered, sometimes even disappearing! And when we would find one, another would get lost. Even the “melodious bell” was not enough to bring them all together. She made the statement early on that it was like “herding cats” and I knew this had to be the skit theme.

I landed on the song, “I Will Call Upon the Lord” and God and I hit the jackpot. Without any effort on my part, the words popped out at me, given from the Lord into my brain and down on the paper. Within 5 minutes it was ready to go, copied and into the Cha hands. We gathered the Music Cha, practiced it once out in the hall and went for it. It brought down the house! No detail on one of these weekends is too small for God. I consider it one of my “mountaintop moments”. Not the song, but the absolute, child-like trust I had that even in that short time window, God would provide. God is good (and apparently really funny!). Enjoy.

Sung to the tune of “I Will Call Upon the Lord” (no echo)

I will call upon the pilgrims
Who are nowhere to be found
Maybe they’re in another room lying down?

The bell ringeth! And blessed be the sound
that darn bell makes, when it is rung you come around
The bell ringeth! And that means you come here
so Lisa’s head will stay attached and she won’t shed a tear.

She will try and try again
to get things to begin
it would be much easier to herd a cat
(back to chorus)

God Loves You and So Do I,
Jen Briner

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.

Jen's story above is a testament to faith in action. So is the one below from VdC Cursillista/Ohio VdC Newsletter reader Bill Thompson, now living in Arizona. You know about Kairos, from previous Newsletters and perhaps your own experience. Now learn about something similar. Be blessed with Joy! Nancy Martin, Newsletter Editor

WHAT IS CHAYAH?

Chayah (pronounced Ki – yaa) is a Hebrew word meaning “restored life” or “renewed life.” Chayah is an ecumenical ministry for incarcerated youth at the juvenile detention facility located north of Phoenix, AZ. There are usually four weekends conducted each year (2 for boys and 2 for girls). There are Group Reunions held on Saturdays following the weekends, twice a month for each, the boys and the girls.

Chayah began about 25 years ago. It is based on the Cursillo method where there are a series of talks during the 3-day experience. It is primarily a lay directed movement with spiritual direction from clergy. Obviously, there is a good deal of worship with music, communion, healing services, and a nailing of sins on a large cross, after which the sins (written on paper) are taken outside and burned. Lots of good outside-provided food is served with an Agape Feast on Saturday to culminate the event.

Participants: The names of the participants are unknown until they arrive for the 3-day weekend. Just know that each young woman and young man is picked by God to attend. Usually there are 20-40 youth participating on each weekend with a team of 15-20 adult volunteers. Each adult must be cleared by an intensive background check before being permitted to serve on the Chayah team.

Inside Youth Team: We may have several youth on the inside who participate on team. Those serving on teams had previously attended a Chayah weekend. Some are cooks, some are table leaders. Some of the table leaders may also give a talk, either by themselves or with an adult. It's inspiring to see these youth grow as they experience the role of servant. It's not possible to publish their names so we just ask for your prayers for this very special group of young people.

Background on us, Bill and Betty Thompson: We made our Cursillo (when it still was Cursillo) in Ohio. Mine was men's # 6 in October of 1982; Betty's was women's # 4 in the spring of 1983. Yes, we are still active in Cursillo (still called that in AZ), we're still grouping and attending Ultreyas. It's been a couple of years since we've served on Cursillo teams. But we are still serving on Chayah teams. Why do I serve on prison teams? Good question. It was on my Cursillo that I received palanca from inmates in Michigan praying that I would grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That was it for me and when we arrived in Arizona I quickly became a volunteer in the adult prison system thanks to some Roman Catholic men conducting Renewals in the state prison system. I was eventually led to the juvenile system.

**BE A FROG
FULLY
RELY
ON
GOD**

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Utreya News

<p>Utreyas 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 Utreyas 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 Utreya will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm. THIS JULY, HOWEVER, IT WILL BE JULY 19. 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 Utreyas are usually the third Saturdays of every month, so the next one will be May 16 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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My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. I John 2:1