



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 7

July 20, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you felt God really close to you? I truly have experienced his presence in the last several weeks. There are major health issues going on with my parents – yet I have felt calm (well, relatively calm for me anyway) and know that God is holding me up. God has blessed me with wonderful friends who have continued to hold up my parents, siblings and me with their prayers. I am grateful. As we have put my Dad in hospice, I know whatever God has in mind for him, it will be okay. While I will truly miss him, I know that Jesus will be there to greet him. There is so much peace in that.

One of the perks to being Lay Director is I get to write letters to the VdC Community regularly. Well, okay, sometimes it is hard. Letter writing is something that I have always struggled with but I know that the Community needs to hear regularly what Secretariat is doing. We have been working on a brochure for our movement here in Ohio. I think we are on the fifth or six revision of it over the past nine months. Please share it with others when you receive it.

It is my job to challenge and encourage you. In recent months, I have asked you how involved you are with Via de Cristo. How have you helped this movement to lead others to a closer bond with Jesus Christ? After the men’s weekend, Butch (Warren) Seeley heard God calling him to Secretariat with a job of being a Coach. He will be helping us to spread the word about the weekends and much more. I am excited and look forward to working with him. Did you read his article in the last newsletter? Do you recall “KINDLE”? Have you formed a list of people to ask on weekends? Whom is God asking you to ask? I have three who have been asked and am working on the other three. The seed is planted. Now it is time for the Lord to water and shine his Son on them.

Have you spoken about Via de Cristo with your Pastor? Have you spoken with friends and relatives about attending a weekend? I know a little about going into churches and speaking about our weekends. I have done it just three times and I was very nervous. But I also knew that God was with me.

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PLEASE NOTE: If you have any questions or suggestions please call any Secretariat member. Also, anyone from the community is welcome to attend Secretariat meetings. The next meeting is September 8, 2012 at 9:30 am.

Via de Cristo of Ohio
P. O. Box 53081
Cincinnati, OH 45253

After the last weekend, Pastor Al Sager took a whole day to meet with some of the team of Women's Weekend #73 and drafted a list of items for Secretariat to prayerfully consider. Some items included: too little time for reflection on weekends, so many write-downs, length of some rollos and meditations, consideration of some other facilities, etc. Are our weekends perfect? No! But we continue to do this ministry and will be making changes. We need to recognize the Holy Spirit's presence in the work we do for the Lord. Please continue to pray for Secretariat and the work we do in the Lord's name.

Next week, some of us will travel to Denver to hear from our National Leaders of this Via de Cristo Movement. We are extremely blessed to have Pastor Al Sager, Pastor Ed Simonsen, Donna Gough, Doug and Kathie Burrows and others who have been around this movement for years. I believe they will all be in attendance along with Raleigh Sandy, Pastor Lisa Peterson and me. I hope I haven't left anyone off my list.

As we start to look at the fall of 2012, please keep Gloria Kemmet and Chuck Fahnestock in your prayers as they work on putting together the Lord's teams. Whom might you ask to attend the weekend? Pray and see whose name the Lord brings to mind. Never pressure someone to attend but in earnest ask this person or persons if they would be willing to take some time away from everyday pressures of life to spend three days with the Lord. The men's weekend is October 14-17 and the women's weekend is November 15-18. The community is responsible for asking pilgrims to the weekend. Let's fill up these weekends with the 24 pilgrims. Please get those applications in NOW! CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!!! (Editor's note: in a separate email, you will receive copies of the Pilgrim's and Sponsor's forms.)

If you haven't been involved for a while (maybe seven to fifteen years or so) and would like to refresh yourself by attending a weekend as a "traveler," i.e. one on a walk with the Lord in the 4th Day, please let me know. We may be able to find room on the weekend for you to attend. We would call you a "traveler" as you take this journey again and it would be a way for you to reconnect and renew your commitment to the words on the back of your cross. There would be limits on the number who could attend and you would not be able to COMPARE or SAY anything about previous weekends. If there is not enough room because we have 24 pilgrims, we would add you if someone drops off or see about scheduling you for an upcoming weekend. If this interests you, please contact me at cdoering1@aol.com or 330-239-0027.

Leader's School is planned for August 4th. If you'd like to be on a weekend team, it's not too late to register but you MUST act now! (Forms at the end of the newsletter.)

If you have a story about your weekend that pertains to you, please submit it to Nancy Martin for publication in our newsletter. Maybe there was a rollo that really spoke to you. As an example, when I did the Leader's rollo in May for the women's weekend, several people mentioned to me that the words the Holy Spirit gave me really spoke to them. They didn't want to be a leader just yet, but the Lord had other ideas. What they may not know is the Lord gave me this rollo eight years ago to do as well. When you present a rollo again, it is amazing what the Lord can give you to say. Often, he is reinforcing what you already know but want to ignore! Share with us something that happened for you. (Use vdcnewsletterohio@earthlink.net or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville OH 44813.)

I apologize for my lengthy article. I feel the Holy Spirit has given me much to say.

May our Lord bless you in your ministry at your church and in Via de Cristo.

Be the Change in the World you wish to see!

Blessings,
Cathy Doering, Lay Director

UPCOMING VIA de CRISTO WEEKENDS

Men's Events	Scheduled Date	Location	Target Registration Date	Last Registration Date
Men's #71	October 11-14, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	September 13, 2012	September 27, 2012
Men's #72	April 18-21, 2013	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	March 21, 2013	April 4, 2013
Men's #73	August 8 – 11, 2013	St. Leonard's Retreat Center Avon, Ohio	July 11, 2013	July 25, 2013
Women's Events	Scheduled Date	Location	Target Registration Date	Last Registration Date
Women's #74	November 15-18, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	October 18, 2012	November 1, 2012
Women's #75	May 2 – 5, 2013	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	April 4, 2013	April 18, 2013
Women's #76	August 15-18, 2013	St. Leonard's Retreat Center Avon, Ohio	July 18, 2013	August 1, 2013

*Has your Reunion Group considered being
co-sponsors of a Pilgrim?*

OTHER VIA de CRISTO ACTIVITIES

Secretariat Meeting at 9:30 am on Saturday, September 8, held at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Pataskala

National Via de Cristo Secretariat meeting in Denver Colorado, July 26-29,2012

Our Via de Cristo Ohio delegates are Raleigh Sandy and Donna Gough.

Other attendees are Lay Director Cathy Doering, Spiritual Director Pastor. Lisa Peterson,
Pastor Ed Simonsen, Pastor Al Sager, and Doug and Kathie Burrows

LEADERS' SCHOOL from 9:30 to 2:30 on Saturday, August 4, at Messiah Lutheran Church, Reynoldsburg
(Please find Leaders' School Registration Form at end of Newsletter)

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

National Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristo.org

Kairos Website www.kairosOhio.org



Upcoming Meeting Dates in OHIO

Bellville	Second Sundays Even-numbered months 5:30 pm	St. Paul Lutheran Church 48 Church Street Bellville, OH 44813	Joel Marhenke (419) 567-8432 jjmarhenke@earthlink.net
Boardman (Youngstown Area)	Held at 7:00 PM on third Saturday of odd-numbered months	Boardman United Methodist Church 6809 Market Street Boardman, OH 44512	Sue Drewette gduzbraille@sbcglobal.net
Cincinnati	First Saturday each month At 4:30 pm	Trinity Lutheran Church 1553 Kinney Avenue Mt. Healthy, OH 45231	Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com
Clayton	Held at 6:30PM on the third Saturday of each month. (Pot luck at 6:00)	United Christian Church 8611 Hoke Road Clayton, OH 45315	Wes Scoates (937) 837-1683 Scoatesw@aol.com
Columbus	Information to be announced	Messiah Lutheran Church 1200 Waggoner Rd. Reynoldsburg, OH 43685	Jim Wilson (614) 367-6545 jandcwilson@gmail.com
Dayton	Held at 7:00PM on the second Saturday of each month.	Abiding Christ Lutheran Church 326 East Dayton-Yellow Springs Road Fairborn, OH 45324	Ann Hughes (937) 431-1087 amhughes722@sbcglobal.net
Kent	September Ultreya Information to be announced	Trinity Lutheran Church 600 South Water Street Kent, OH 44224	Dave Lann (330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com
Parma	September Ultreya Information to be announced	Divinity Lutheran Church 11877 Blossom Avenue Parma Heights, OH 44130	Loretta Cross Home (440) 842-4499 Work (440) 845-2060
Western Reserve – Seven Hills	Held at 7:00PM on the second Saturday of each month.	Seven Hills United Methodist Church 7593 Elmhurst Drive Seven Hills, OH 44131	Vince Mallen (440) 257-2235 vince.mallen@yahoo.com
Western Reserve - Mentor	Held at 7:00PM on the fourth Saturday of each month	Mentor United Methodist Church 8600 Mentor Avenue Mentor, OH 44060-5874	Vince Mallen (440) 257-2235 vince.mallen@yahoo.com

We need information about ULTREYAS anywhere in the state of Ohio to publish in the De Colores Newsletter. Please contact editor Nancy Martin at vdnewsletterohio@earthlink.net or at (419) 886-4420 or (419) 571-6315 with information or with the name of someone else who might have the information.

If you have not served on a Weekend but would like to in the future, or have not served recently, please contact Lay Director Cathy Doering at Cdoering1@aol.com or (330)239-0027. (You must attend Leaders' School before serving on a weekend.)

Treasurer's Report Assets May 31, 2012 \$3,301.51 SAVINGS 2,947.42 CHECKING \$6,248.93 TOTAL	Year-to-date Income \$ 7,674.48 Expenses 6,786.14	If you wish to see a full financial statement, contact Treasurer Kip Kanya (440) 230-1530 or Kipkanya@aol.com 11676 Harrow Place, North Royalton, OH 44133
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REFLECTIONS ON WOMEN'S Weekend #73

"Come Holy Spirit" was the selected theme for Women's #73 and became personally a very real and meaningful prayer.

The first team meeting established prayer cell groups of three that continue to date.

God's Spirit was the sustaining power that helped us through the sad loss of team member Wanda Stadler who "went home" suddenly in April, and through other health concerns – breast cancer and hospitalized family members of our team.

Challenges continued:

1. Filling the Apostolic Action rollo position.
2. Calling a new Head Cha days before the weekend due to the unexpected illness of the previously called Head Cha.
3. Dealing with the "retirement" of the main kitchen refrigerator on Friday evening, yet enjoying wonderful meals prepared by the creative and dedicated kitchen staff.

Fifteen Pilgrims completed the weekend and seemed blessed in many ways by the loving efforts of the team and VdC Community. Special palanca gifts touched many hearts. The prayer support by the VdC Community energized us, and the Saturday night serenade and Sunday morning "wake up" were tops.

Some weekend "firsts" —

1. Printing the weekend picture at the Center – a palanca gift.
2. A smaller version of the total picture was turned into a bookmark for ongoing prayer reminders.
3. Having three spiritual directors present for the weekend.
4. Hosting a post-weekend evaluation and critique by the team at the Sagers' home two weeks later.

Comments included: Days are too long; some "down times" are needed. Involve more persons in team selection. Use of more presentation aids (handouts, electronic aids, etc.) Ways to attract younger pilgrims. Research other possible locations. Openness to more changes. These and other ideas have been shared with the Secretariat.

We continue forward in our 4th Day – remaining alert to closeness to the Lord (piety), ongoing growth in Christian faith and life (study), and serving our Lord as the Holy Spirit directs (apostolic action).

The 73rd Team and Pilgrims wish you many blessed 4th days.

Erline Sager, 73rd Rectora



*There are many paths we walk in our 4th Day.
 There are many stories to share.
 Read on for one of them.
 Please share your story with us.*



The Experience of the Kairos Prison Ministry

There are so few of them. Life-changing moments that is. But I experienced one on Sunday evening as I had the privilege of attending a closing ceremony of a men's Kairos Weekend at the North Central Correctional Institution in Marion, Ohio.

Kairos Prison Ministry is a lay, ecumenical movement that addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, children and families of those who work in a prison environment. Often known as 'Cookies for Kairos,' this ministry feeds stomachs and souls.

As Christ served both the physical and spiritual needs of His people, as with the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, an important aspect of this ministry is the physical feeding of the men with homemade cookies and homemade meals throughout the weekend. This is a rare treat in prison; fresh fruit and vegetables are practically unheard of here, and inmates have been known to actually cry and say, "I haven't seen a fresh strawberry in 16 years."

In addition to the physical feeding, there is of course, the spiritual feeding by the Kairos team and the prison chaplains, through personal sharing and by the Word of God. A lesser-known aspect of this ministry is the letter-writing campaign—as the Kairos team and other parishioners write personal letters to each of the 42 inmates. For some, unbelievably, this is the only mail they will ever receive in prison.

At this closing ceremony, the crowd of visitors, Kairos team members, and Kairos graduates sang When the Saints go Marching In to welcome the inmates to the closing. Many of the 42 inmates who were selected by the prison chaplain to participate in this weekend, admitted that when the weekend began on Thursday evening they were feeling "scared, lost, alone, downtrodden, hopeless, desperate, as an empty soul, one with a stony heart."

But that after the weekend of prayer and sharing, and the experience of God's love and forgiveness, with the leadership and support of the members of the Kairos team and prison staff, they felt, in their words, "Freedom from past failures ... Renewed faith ... Relationships, brotherhood, love, and caring ... Spiritual growth ... Wholeness and freedom ... A believing in myself and in Christ ... Forgiveness and healing ... The real Jesus ... A human heart ... An overabundance of joy and love ... An experience of God and we know that God loves us ..."

With incredible dedication, the Kairos team gave 8 Saturdays of preparation and led the 3-day weekend away from their families, and they will tell you that they wouldn't trade it for the world. Their encouragement and love for these inmates is truly a living, breathing example of ordinary people being transformed by God's love into the hands and feet of Christ.

The public witness by the inmates at this closing ceremony was moving, heartfelt, and uplifting with men, ages 18-78, crying and publicly sharing their new faith, hope, love and joy to a room full of about 150 people.

"We walked in as strangers to each other," said one man in the family of Peter. "We walked out dripping with love and watching the Spirit moving in us." Six inmates and three Kairos team members form a 'family,' with families named after the disciples: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James and John.

"I am learning to love with God's love and to show love to my brother with a new respect," said a member of the family of Mark. "I served Satan for a long time. It ain't nothing like how I am going to serve God."

"All those labels we carry around with us and what society hangs on us," said a member of the family of John, referring to the exercise of writing down the labels society places on them and then ripping those labels off the poster. "Finally I was able to let go of those labels and begin to think of myself as lovable by God." "Only God could give me my peace in my heart. I can start over," said a member of the family of Peter. "I am a prayer warrior. I believe that is why I am here ... to pray for the walls of hearts of others to open."

"I have no resentment anymore," said an inmate referring to the group exercise of writing down resentments on water-soluble paper and watching it dissolve instantly in water. "When that paper dissolved I had no more resentment, no more hatred. God remodels and reshapes us. I am now a child of God."

Did the men state what crime they had committed? Some did, but most didn't. It didn't matter. The weekend was about forgiveness: forgiving themselves and forgiving others, accepting Christ's love, and accepting the really hard task of loving their inmate brothers and living out this new life in prison. Monthly prayer and share meeting will help and the Kairos graduates lean on

each other for support.

My prayer is for these men to stay strong on their journey. It won't be easy, but it isn't easy for any of us. So I will pray for them, and in the words of an inmate, "I will pray for each person who is praying for me," and none of us can ever have too many prayers.

Lori Crock (From the Kairos Website)

**Leader's School
Saturday, August 4, 2012
Messiah Lutheran Church
1200 Waggoner Rd., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

This one day school is for all men and women who have attended a Weekend. The program will include information about the way the weekend "works" and will enhance your call to serve as Christ's hands and feet in this world. The cost is \$10. Check should be made out to **Via de Cristo of Ohio** and is payable either with registration or on August 4. Please send the registration to:

**Jane Koch, 109 Lindsey Rd., Munroe Falls, Ohio 44262
on or before Saturday, July 28, 2012**

Please bring your Name Tag, Song Book and Pilgrim's Guide as well as \$3.00 for a continental breakfast and lunch.

**Registration for Leader's School
Saturday, August 4, 2012
Messiah Lutheran Church**

Name -----

Address -----

Phone Number ----- **Email** -----

Weekend ----- **Table** -----

Mail to Jane Koch

Phone Jane with your questions at 330-338-3731