



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

De Colores!

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Co-ed Via de Cristo Weekend Coming!

Men and women as Pilgrims, men and women as Spiritual Directors, men and women as Professors and men and women as Chas! We haven't done this before. (There have been concurrent Weekends in the past with Men's and Women's Weekends at the same location and time but not operating together.)

The Co-ed Weekend will be held at St. Leonard's Retreat Center in Avon on Thursday through Sunday, **August 21-24**, 2014. Not only may you invite couples for the weekend, but you may also invite individual men or individual women.

Women will give about half the Rollos and men about half. For table discussions, there will be men and women at each table, and one woman and one man as Professors to facilitate the discussions following each Rollo. Spouses will not be seated at the same table. We are looking forward to the different dynamics in the conversations that are sure to happen when there are both masculine and feminine perspectives.

Chapel services and meals will be all together. One dorm will be for men—Pilgrims and Team--and the other for women. (You probably figured that!)

Our God as well as Rector Dave Lann and Head Cha Jackie Lann have the Team nearly formed. Look for the list of the Team and the Pilgrims in the August Newsletter. In the meantime, please include in your prayers that God's blessing will be on the Weekend, the Team, the Rollos, and the Chapel gatherings. He may as well bless the food and those who provide it and prepare it while He's at it.

Especially pray for those whom He's chosen as Pilgrims, that they will hear and heed His call to the Weekend. Pray that the Sponsors He's chosen to invite the Pilgrims will also heed His call. Listen closely to know if He's chosen YOU as a Sponsor and chosen your friends or family members as Pilgrims.

(See the attachments with the registration forms and send completed forms to Registrar Kevin Hoch at P.O. Box 53081, Cincinnati, 45253. If you cannot print the forms, reply to this email with your street address and we will send them by USMail. Same service if you get the Newsletter by USMail and you phone 419-886-4420.)

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Contact Butch for info @ open positions.

Secretariat Meetings are held the third Saturday each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact any member for place and time of the monthly meeting.

When we each received our Via de Cristo crosses, we were told "Christ is counting on you." Most (perhaps ALL) of us replied, "And I am counting on Him." He's not counting on us only to supply pilgrims and team members for VdC Weekends. We know He's counting on us to carry the message of Jesus Christ's salvation to everyone we meet!

This article was written by Fred Schneider when he was Lay Director in 1995. Does it still resonate today?

My pastor recently asked a **Sunday morning gathering** at my church: "Where is the mission field?" Drawing on a book he had read, he told us that for about 300 years after Jesus had died, risen and ascended into heaven, the "Apostolic Church" saw its job as reaching out to those right round them--the mission field was at the front door! Then, of course, Emperor Constantine was converted and a new era of the church began. Christianity was the official religion of "the empire". Everyone was expected to be a Christian, whether they were or not. This is the church that we know, the church in which we grew up. Not an empire, perhaps, but none-the-less the same church. The mission field was not at the front door; it was across the sea somewhere.

There is a state religion in all European countries. Here in the United States we have no official religion, yet during and after World War II Christianity seemed to flourish and churches grew. It was the thing to do, the place to be. Faith may not have been so important; yet, baby boomers were baptized. Baptism might have been more a rite of social passage for many, not a start of a faith life.

But look around you today. Is attendance in your church growing or declining? Do you see more of other religious groups? Islam, not Christianity, is the fastest growing religion in the world and growing rapidly here in the US. Mormonism is expanding rapidly. There are others, too.

Yes, where is the mission field? Another pastor for whom I had a great deal of respect once told me that he believed that no pastor could come to a congregation believing that everyone in the pews was a believer. The first job was to evangelize the congregation, he thought. Then he would work to have the congregation members reach out. While we may not fully agree with that thought, there is some truth in it.

Is there a mission field? Do we see one in our midst? Do we have friends and colleagues who are not Christian? **THEY** are our mission field! They are the ones to whom "Make a friend, be a friend, bring our friend to Christ" applies! Christian leaders, cursillistas, know that they have an important mission right at home. The mission field is at our front door. Christ is counting on each one of us!

Via de Cristo of Ohio Prayer Chain

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do in the Via de Cristo movement. And prayer for others in need or for yourself is the purpose of this VdC Prayer Chain. Prayers of thanksgiving and joy are also welcome on the Prayer Chain. The email address is vdcprayerchain@gmail.com. Add this to your contacts for easy access when a need arises. Please note that, due to privacy concerns, you should ask permission to include names of individuals before placing them on the Prayer Chain. Otherwise list them by first name only or as "Known to God". We don't want to cause embarrassment for someone.

There is power in prayer and when we pray in community with others, we believe that power is intensified. There is reference to our prayers being like incense throughout the Bible.

*'Let my prayers rise before you like incense.' Psalm 141:3
Our Good God hears!*

Wilma Keller, Ohio VdC Prayer Chain



Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!

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

Our new VdC Ohio website is "under construction." Log on to see how it's coming along. Check out the other two as well.

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo

www.viadecristooh.org

National Via de Cristo Website

www.viadecristo.org

Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org

Musicians!

Do you play (and own) a guitar or electronic keyboard? Perhaps you have some other instrument and talent that would lend itself to leading the singing at VdC events. Secretariat's Music Adviser Jen Briner is seeking additional people to be Music Chas for Weekends and Ultreyas. Please contact her at jenbriner@yahoo.com or 614-901-0896 if you can help.

Christ IS counting on us!

Your Faith Story

What is the story of your faith experience, your VdC weekend experience, your Fourth Day experience? What was your call from the Holy Spirit to say something to somebody or do something for someone? Who has been your angel from God? Please share your story by email at vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or mail to 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813. Someone in our Community will be blessed by it.

New Idea! VdC Clergy Weekend!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On October 6-9, 2014, Via de Cristo of Ohio is embarking on a new adventure by holding a Coed Clergy Weekend. This means that we will have men and women Pastors as Pilgrims at the same Weekend. Well, it's not really a weekend but will be Monday through Thursday so these Pastors can still do their Sunday jobs.

As of now we are in the cocoon stage, developing the team and looking at the different issues that could arise. Please consider whether God is calling you to speak to your Pastor or another Pastor you know about it. In addition to Pastors who've never been on a Weekend, any Pastor who attended a while ago and would like to reconnect with the Via de Cristo spirit and method is encouraged to attend. Of course, Pastors from any denomination are welcome. Lay people will not be Pilgrims at this Weekend. Pastors, you may be sponsored by a lay person or another Pastor, or you may "sponsor" yourself.

Rector Chuck Fahnestock plans to have at least one "veteran" VdC Pastor at each table to assist the discussion. Lay people will give the Rollos they commonly do, and Spiritual Directors will give theirs. Besides asking God to lift the spirits of these Pastor/Pilgrims, we hope that they will come to understand the purpose and process of a Via de Cristo Weekend so they can better advise and encourage their parishioners for Via de Cristo.

With your support, we can let this cocoon develop into a beautiful butterfly, into a new creation for this movement for God's glory. If you have questions, please contact Chuck at Charles.fahnestock@wright.edu or 937-238-6170.

(Editor's note: If you need Registration forms, please contact Nancy Martin at vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420.)

Ultreya! Sunday, July 20, 3:00 pm, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville. Worship, Speaker, Discussion, Communion! Potluck follows. Questions? Contact Ken Riling, 419-886-2437 or Paul Sakala, 419-884-1573.

If you or someone you know has changed a street address or phone number(s) or e-mail address, please send the information to Technology Media Specialist/Archivist Christy Brill at goosebrill@msn.com or 614-899-7429 and to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at 419-886-4420 or vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com.

God Loves You and So Do We!!

**Will you join with us in corporate prayer for Via de Cristo of Ohio?
It's the second Tuesday of every month from 7:00-7:30pm. When we lift our
thoughts and voices together to our Lord, it's uplifting to each one of us.**