



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 5

May 5, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! We are still in the Easter season and celebrate the risen Christ. There is hope for us all if we keep our eyes on Christ. This will be a different letter than normal from me. There is much going on in my personal life – some good and some not so good. I am working with a friend to open a non-profit corporation to help women who have cancer. I continue to help care for my infirm father. I am no longer in a reunion group but remain in spiritual direction.

I have been blessed to have had three great spiritual directors in the past; not everyone's experience has been as positive as mine. I have been in several reunion groups over the last ten years that have been a blessing to me. I realize this is not everyone's experience. We are still looking for reunion groups for several areas – Akron, Medina, Ashland, Lancaster or Pleasantville area and I am sure other places as well. Please e-mail me if you have openings for new people and thank you to those who have e-mailed to say they have room and are looking for new members.

I have tried my best to build up the body of Christ know as Via de Cristo. I will admit - I am upset to say the least - even angry! Have you noticed that the list of Women's Pilgrims, 15 as of the end of April, has 11 of them being sponsored by team members? Of the 10 Pilgrims on the Men's Weekend, seven were sponsored by team members. I am grateful for all the work the team members have done but it is time to face the music. **Where is the Community in helping us get Pilgrims?** Weekends really do depend on the Community – not just for meals, serenade, palanca, prayer, etc., but for Pilgrims as well. Christ is counting on you and me – not just team members. Did you enjoy your weekend? Have you spoken with your pastor about the weekend? Have you spoken to family members and friends about the weekend? We need all of your help for these weekends to work! We also need people to attend Closings. If you discount people who worked the weekend and their families, Pilgrims and their families, I would bet there were no more than twenty other people at the men's Closing. Please try to attend the Send-off and the Closings, the Serenade (only men this time for the Women's Weekend), the Wake up – as much as you can. This truly shows Community to the pilgrims.

My challenge to the future Rectors is get new people involved. When you are asking people to team, if they have worked several weekends in a row, maybe it is time to give them a break and not ask them to team. While we all want to get

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PLEASE NOTE: If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to call any Secretariat member. Also, anyone from the community is welcome to attend Secretariat meetings. The next meeting is May 12, 2012 at 9:30 am.

Via de Cristo of Ohio
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the best team available, we need to get others involved, not just the same people. This will not be an easy task but it is doable. The Archivist has a roster of everyone who has made a Via de Cristo Weekend, which Weekends they have served if any, and whether they have attended Leaders' School.

No one wants to hear chiding things but occasionally, things must be addressed or said. (I hope this is the only time I do it during my term as Lay Director.)

We are a priesthood of all believers – Christ is counting on us! What can you do to help? Pray for Secretariat, this movement, your church, your pastor and me! Prayer is needed! Pilgrims are needed! Pray, pray and pray!

God loves you and so do I!

Blessings,

Cathy Doering

Lay Director

UPCOMING VIA de CRISTO WEEKENDS

Event	Scheduled Date	Location	Date to have 6 Pilgrims	Date to have 12 Pilgrims
Men's #71	October 11-14, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	September 13, 2012	September 27, 2012
Women's #73	May 17-20, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	April 29, 2012	May 3, 2012
Women's #74	November 15-18, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	October 18, 2012	November 1, 2012

Look for Spring and Summer Weekends to take place in 2013

OTHER VIA de CRISTO ACTIVITIES

Secretariat Meeting at 9:30 am on Saturday, May 12, held at Living Word Lutheran Church

Secretariat Meeting at 9:30 am on Saturday, June 9, held Messiah Lutheran Church, Reynoldsburg

LEADERS' SCHOOL from 9:30 to 2:30 on Saturday, August 4, central location TBA

Journey in Faith VdC (Eastern PA) is working with Rainbow VdC (Greater DC area) and Vineyard VdC (Central & Western MD) on holding a "**Grand Ultreya**" which is for all of the Secretariats and Pilgrims in their Fourth Day in Region 7, which includes VdC of Ohio, Damascus Road VdC (Upstate NY) and Good News VdC (Western Ohio & Eastern Mich.)

It will be a picnic, hosted by Vineyard and held on July 21, at a mountain top pavilion outside Thurmont, MD.

We need information about ULTREYAS anywhere in the state of Ohio to publish in the De Colores Newsletter. Please contact editor Nancy Martin at vdcnewsletterohio@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.

A LETTER FROM THE RECTORA OF WOMEN’S WEEKEND #73

Dear Community of Believers,

God has blessed Women’s #73 with a strong team (31), teasingly referring to themselves as coming from the Northern and Southern Kingdoms (cf. O.T.), since all team meetings are being held in central Ohio at Trinity Seminary in Bexley!

“Come Holy Spirit...” our theme and prayer, unites and challenges us faithfully to:

- + invite pilgrims,
- + reach out to team members with individual prayer needs,
- + serve caringly for our own and extended families,
- + witness to all those God provides in our daily path.

We rejoice that the weekend is a “go” and pray for yet more Pilgrims to make a “full house.”

Community support continues to sustain and motivate us. Thank you for your on-going:

- Prayers
- Palanca
- Pilgrim invitations

My own 4th Day journey continues to be strengthened by my Reunion Groups – sisters who share their faith struggles, growth experiences, and avenues of serving Jesus. My own weekend was a “mountain top” experience many years ago (1980). God’s Grace continues to call me to live In Him, With Him, and For Him. PERSEVERING is now the challenge to maintain an ongoing relationship with Christ through WORD, SACRAMENT, and PRAYER, and to be strengthened daily through contact with my Christian sisters and brothers.

May you experience joy and peace in your daily journey.

God loves you and so do I.

Erline Sager,
 Rectora – Women’s #73

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 17

Pilgrims arrive at Cum Cristo Center at 7:00PM.

Friday, May 18

Ideal	10:15AM
Habitual Grace	11:25AM
Laity	1:50PM
Actual Grace	3:00PM
Piety	4:45PM

Saturday, May 19

Study	9:00AM
Grace Filled Days	10:20AM
Apostolic Action	1:40PM
Obstacles to Grace	2:55PM
Leaders	4:25PM

Serenade Practice will be held at Linden Lutheran Church 5:00PM

Serenade 6:30PM

Sunday, May 20

Wakeup Serenade (Gather Quietly in Kitchen Prior) 6:00AM

Environment	9:20AM
CCA	10:20AM
Life in Grace	12:00PM
Group Reunion/Ultreya	1:50PM

Closing Will Be Held at Messiah Lutheran Church, 1200 Waggoner Road, Reynoldsburg 5:00PM

EMERGENCY NUMBER 614-97-6790

PILGRIMS and SPONSORS for Ohio Women's Weekend #73

April 19-22, 2012

PLEASE PRAY for THESE WOMEN

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Church/City</u>
Kyann Minor	Susan Smith	Clay Memorial Lutheran, Mansfield
Ashley Seeley	Warren & Wendy Seeley	Vineyard Church, Columbus
Ellen Florer	Sandy Mueller	Living Word Lutheran, Galena
Jackie Willis	Beverly Willis	Wright Patterson AFB Chapel 3
Kerry Dawley	Erline and Allan Sager	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Suzan Flanagan	Erline and Allan Sager	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Linda Hallberg	Erline and Allan Sager	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Carolinn Shibley	Carol Kohs	Messiah Lutheran, Reynoldsburg
Renee Middleton	Jeanne Gaston	Linden Lutheran, Columbus
Kim Kish	Jeanne Gaston	Holy Trinity Lutheran, Massilon
Emily Strausbaugh	Lisa and Ron Bacu	Lord of Life Lutheran, West Chester
Pam Hartman	Kelly Ryan	Vineyard, Columbus
Hollye Pratt	Carol Kohs	Messiah Lutheran, Reynoldsburg
Judy Oldham	Mary Ann Sauer	Good Shepherd Lutheran, Kettering
Tonia Smith	Mary Lynn Sutter	Trinity Lutheran, Monroeville
Connie Brown	Mary Lynn Sutter	Trinity Lutheran, Monroeville
Kim Harris	Phyllis Sneed	Messiah Lutheran, Reynoldsburg

Women's Team #73

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Church/City</u>
Erline Sager	Rector	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Pris Petzinger	Head Cha	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Rev. Allan Sager	Spiritual Director	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Rev. Denise Sager	Spiritual Director	Dallas, TX
Rev. Deb Dingus	Spiritual Director	Lord of Life Lutheran, West Chester
Barbara Wood	Chapel Cha	Vineyard Church, Columbus
Karen Lindsey	Music Cha	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Ruth Lindsey	Palanca Cha	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Jeanne Gaston	Go-for Cha	Linden Lutheran, Columbus
Susan Kannenwischer	Ideal Rollo	Living Word Lutheran, Galena
Shenita Wilson	Laity Rollo	Messiah Lutheran, Reynoldsburg
Lisa Bacu	Piety Rollo	Lord of Life Lutheran, West Chester
Carol Kohs	Study Rollo	Messiah Lutheran, Reynoldsburg
Jane Koch	Action Rollo	St. Stephen Lutheran, Stow
Cathy Doering	Leaders Rollo	St. Paul Lutheran, Sharon Center
Beverly Willis	Environment	Pleasant Green Baptist
Pam Newman	CCA Rollo	Vineyard Church, Columbus
Sharon Iseringhausen	Silent Professor	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Rhea Mathias	Head Kitchen Cha	Hosanna Lutheran, Pataskala
Susan Weber	Kitchen Cha	Cornerstone Free Methodist, Akron
Carrie Steele	Kitchen Cha	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Jane McKinley	Kitchen Cha	Christ Lutheran, Bexley
Sherryl Patterson	Kitchen Cha	St. Paul Lutheran, Marion
Jackie Fahnestock	Kitchen Cha	First Lutheran, Donnelsville
JewelLee Smith	Head Rollo Room Cha	Trinity Lutheran, Norton
Leann Fourman	Rollo Room Cha	Abiding Christ Lutheran, Fairborn
Karen Sandberg	Rollo Room Cha	Peace Lutheran, Gahanna
Paula Quinn	Rollo Room Cha	Trinity Lutheran, Mt. Healthy
Sarah Prohl	Rollo Room Cha	Living Word Lutheran, Galena
Kelly Ryan	Rollo Room Cha	Vineyard Church, Columbus
Caryl and Dean Gatton	Fourth Day Couple	Vineyard Church, Columbus

Possible Palanca Supplied by Community for a Weekend

You or your Reunion Group, with prayerful consideration and inspiration from the Holy Spirit, might provide:

- Some of the food items (check with a team member for needs)
- Handmade covers for the songbooks or Pilgrim's Guides (40-50)
- Aprons for the Chas (17)
- Goodies for the Rollo Room table discussions or evening snacks
- Handmade palanca bags (40-50) (Contact Ann Hughes—see sidebar with Secretariat)
- The team dinner on Thursday evening or dinner for all on Saturday evening
- Your donation to cover the suggested donation for a Pilgrim (\$15) or Team Member (\$75)

Of course, your most important palanca is **your prayer** for the Rector/Rectora, Team, Pilgrims and the direction of the Holy Spirit for each Weekend. The second-most important is your hand-written notes to each pilgrim and team member.

Please check with Lay Director Cathy Doering for the contact information for the Rector/Rectora and the theme of a specific weekend, or choose to make something general for use on any weekend.

Did you recently move or get a new e-mail address?

Did you cancel your home phone or get a new cell phone number?

Have you changed your name or joined a new church?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, we need to hear from you!

If you know anyone else in Via de Cristo to whom this applies, we'd like to hear from you!

*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 Rev Nov 2011

Would you like a new Songbook? (Our new one has been out about two years.) They'll be available at Send-offs and Closings of Weekends and at next year's Annual Meeting for a suggested donation of \$5. To get a number of Songbooks for a group, contact vdcnewsletterohio@earthlink.net or call editor Nancy Martin (419)886-4420.

Treasurer's Report
\$5,563.04 SAVINGS
\$3,301.24 CHECKING
\$8,864.28 TOTAL

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

We thank these people for their generous donations:

Brenda and George Spradling

Tom and Nancy James

David and De An Williams

Robert and Mary Ann

Sauer (as a memorial for

Wanda Stalder)

Ted Spradling

Debbie Sterling

Elizabeth York

Barbara Girard

Doug Newman

A LETTER from our NEW SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Greetings from your new Ohio Via de Cristo Spiritual Director, Pastor Lisa Peterson

Many who receive this newsletter will not know me, so by way of introduction, let me say I did Ohio Women's Weekend #53, where I sat at the table of Abigail. I live in Marblehead, Ohio with my husband Dan and our black Labrador retriever, Reina (Spanish for "queen"). We have four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Being a "newby" allows me to beg your indulgence as I "settle in" to this new role, which I view as a privilege as well as a challenge.

"Christ above me; Christ beside me; Christ before me; Christ to guide me." (Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.)

None of us, perhaps, sees clearly where this life's path may lead him or her. Our dreams and ambitions may come to fruition along a smooth path, or something may intervene to adjust or change them. We may have occasion to call all our adaptive powers to the fore as we meet some "rocky road". We may even get stopped in our tracks by an unexpected and unwelcome obstacle.

One of the strangest pieces of path in my life was in Tanzania, on my third mission trip there. I was asked to officiate at a wedding of two young people in their village. I was thrilled to accept this gracious request, and with Francisco, my interpreter, the District Pastor, and my husband, Dan, we piled into the District's enclosed Jeep and set out. We drove a long way on one dirt road, finally turning off at another dirt road and then into what can only be described as a field. The then-five-years of drought had left the whole area a field of unmown hay with here and there a low-growing shrub. The Jeep slowed, the terrain very bumpy. The thought crossed my mind that the heat of the vehicles might ignite the grasses.

It was then that two young men jumped out of our companion vehicle, ran ahead of us, and started chopping the shrubbery to make a lane for the Jeeps to get through, using machetes they had brought along. To my Western eyes, there was nothing ahead of us for half a mile, at least. When we came to a stop, though, the villagers were there to greet us, with smiles so big it made me feel like a celebrity. I was certainly an oddity --- the first white person to ever visit their village.

The ceremony was held in their church building --- a stick structure held together with sisal twine (native grown), and covered with a grass-mat roof. There was one doorway opposite the single window. A low table for the candle and Holy Bible was the only "manufactured" piece. Besides this, there were four or five hand-hewn planks set across tree stumps for seating. It accommodated about 12 altogether, and the rest of the wedding guests stood outside the door.

A strange path. I could not have foreseen it. I could do nothing to make it easier; others had to clear the way. The only clear thing in the whole picture was that God had a plan for the life of this couple, and their life together began that day. In fact, they met one another just before the wedding. Two shy, optimistic young people --- 16 and 17 years old, joined by God's plan after their loving parents had agreed this would be "a good match". They had been baptized, and they trusted God's grace for their future. It was I who received the greatest blessing that day.

God loves you and so do I!

Pastor Lisa Peterson, Spiritual Director, Via de Cristo of Ohio

I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. Acts 20:32

Godspeed, Good and Faithful Servant

I've never known Ohio Via de Cristo without her. Even she says that she was "born and bred Via de Cristo." Her earliest memory of VdC was when she was just 7. It was the closing of her father's pilgrim weekend and she stood in the Fellowship hall of Grace Lutheran Church, Westerville, looking down at her father through the glass windows. Ohio Via de Cristo wishes Godspeed to Katrina (Pochard) Bruns as she and her family have moved to a little town in upstate New York just across the border from Ottawa, Canada.

Katrina, daughter of Tony (OH Men's VdC # 20) and Judy (OH Women's VdC #13) Pochard, literally grew up in the Via de Cristo community. She attended send-offs, closings, and serenades long before she attended her pilgrim weekend in the Spring of 2001 (OH Women's VdC # 42). Since that day, Katrina has faithfully served on 9 different teams in almost every role, culminating her service as Rector of Ohio Women's Via de Cristo #70 in November 2010.

Meeting her husband was definitely an act of faith as well. Having recently gone through a lousy break-up at the time, Katrina met Billy Bruns on MySpace. Hitting it off almost immediately, they were engaged after just 9 weeks of dating and were married on August 4, 2007, exactly 365 days to the date of first meeting (which just happened to be Judy's birthday as well). They welcomed their first child, Matthew Grayson, into the world on November 28 this past year.

Billy, a licensed Nazarene Minister, is finishing his Bachelor's in Biblical Studies at Indiana Wesleyan University, accepted the position of Senior Pastor at Norfolk Wesleyan Church in Norfolk, NY, where they are living above the church in a parsonage that is actually bigger than their former house in Trenton, OH. Katrina says that although Norfolk (pronounced "nor-fork") is small (population of just 1,300), the Damascus Road Via de Cristo community in the area is very active and she hopes to get plugged in soon.

For Katrina, this move was a "coming home" of sorts. She was born less than 200 miles south of Norfolk in Sarasota Springs, where the Pochards lived until 1984 when they moved to N. Charleston SC where Tony was stationed in the Navy. While Tony was on a long sea duty, Judy and Katrina moved to Hamilton, OH in the spring of 1987.

Once in Hamilton, Judy started attending Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt Healthy, where Rev. Tim Kuenzli introduced the family to this organization we call Via de Cristo. The rest, you could say, is history, and the Pochards have since become one of our most active VdC families serving on over 40 combined teams. One of Judy's proudest memories of Via de Cristo is when 3 Pochard women (Tony's mother "Archie" Pochard attended OH Women's VdC #38) were able to attend one weekend together. And although she has yet to attend a weekend, Katrina's younger sister, Kimberly (a senior in high school), can be seen at her fair share of Via de Cristo events as well.

When I asked Katrina recently about her favorite Via de Cristo moment, it's no surprise that it's from her first team experience. She shared how she and a few other teammates, who shall remain nameless so as to not incriminate anyone, thought it would be fun to hoist the Rectora's mattress on top of the refrigerator that was then stored in the Palanca room. Little did they realize that this little act they did early in the day would not be appreciated very well by the very tired Rectora at the end of what turned out to be a stressful day when she went to turn in for the night. I, for one, will miss these little antics as I had the privilege to serve with Katrina on 5 different teams and pray that someday we will get that chance again.

Written by Christy Brill

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