

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



**VOLUME 39, ISSUE 5** 

June 7, 2018

# Via de Cristo of Ohio Annual Meeting & Picnic

Burgers, Hot Dogs, Drinks, S'mores, and Paper Products Provided.

Please bring a covered dish to share.

Saturday June 23

| SECRETARIAT MEETING | FOOD & FELLOWSHIP         | *GOLFING |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 10:00 AM            | 12:00 PM                  | 4:00 PM  |
| <b>\</b>            | ELECTION & ANNUAL MEETING |          |

Mt. Gilead State Park
4119 State Route 95
Mt. Gilead, OH 43338
Look for the Picnic Shelter

\*Golfing will take place at 901 E High St., Mt. Gilead, 43338

Cost is \$26 for seniors and \$28 for others.

Overnight camping is also available.

Questions? Call Butch Seeley at (614)332-1357

#### **Election of Officers at Annual Meeting**

We will choose a new Lay Director and a Secretary for the next two years on June 23. Warren (Butch) Seeley will retire from Secretariat, having served his final term as Lay Director of Via de Cristo, and given us strong, enthusiastic leadership. Nominated for Lay Director is **Dave Lann**, long-time VdC member and experienced Secretariat member who has served on several Weekend Teams. Currently he is appointed as Fourth Day Shepherd. Kevin Hoch has served one term as secretary of Secretariat. He is eligible and nominated for a second term as Secretary. He too is a long-time member of VdC and has served as Registrar for many years, as well as on many teams. Please know that nominations from the floor may be made, with the consent of the nominee, including self-nominations.

#### Hello Community,

Welcome to the Fourth Day Pilgrims (now sometimes called "Cursillistas") from Coed Weekend # 3. As you have read elsewhere in this Newsletter there is to be a Grand Ultreya at Mt. Gilead State Park June 23. It is also our Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there where you can meet even more of the Via de Cristo Community. Your family members are welcome as well.

After the Ultreya and Annual Meeting there will be time for fellowship. Corn hole, Frisbee golf, hiking trails or even a campfire will be available. For those interested in regular golf, I have set tee times at Pine Lakes Golf Course just across the street from the park. Let me know if you are willing to join us for fellowship in this adventure. If you and your family would like to join some of us for overnight camping, that is also available. Contact me for that information too.

Most important, let me know if you need help in finding a Reunion Group in your area.

God bless, Dave Lann Fourth Day Shepherd vdclann@yahoo.com or 330-569-4049

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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 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)!!!

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.

If you know someone who has changed email address or other contact information, please let Christine Brill or Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin know (419-571-6315 or vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com).

### **A Reflection**

I suppose, it is only fitting to type out a few words to reflect on my last four years as your Lay Director. Lord knows, my proper use of the English language, punctuality, and writing skills are not stellar. I pray you will send me some grace as you read this feeble attempt to pound out some words from my keyboard.

**Over 20 years ago...** I attended my weekend (1993). It was a game changer for me in my walk with Jesus Christ. During my immediate post week end I was zealous in my support of the Via de Cristo ministry and also of my church. Like many of you, I worked on Weekends, attended Group Reunion meetings and Ultreya gatherings.

**Life got busy...** Children's activities, career, and so many things pulled at my time and on my check book. I found it more difficult to support the Via de Cristo ministry. It seemed almost impossible to make Group Reunion, Ultreya, or even work on a team. My support of my church got a little lax too, although it was a constant.

I received a call... the Secretariat of Via de Cristo wanted to know if I would consider serving as a Rector on a Weekend a year or so out. I already made up my mind, the answer was no, but I reluctantly said I would pray about it. So I did and God wouldn't let me be at peace if I said no. On the Weekend I did serve on as the Rector, I believe I received a second call... The circumstances of what happened on that Weekend in my view, could be nothing short of the blessed Holy Spirit calling me back to the Via de Cristo ministry.

The ministry is hyper dynamic... that is, unusually energetic, progressively full of energy, and forward looking. That progress goes from the start of our contemplated Ideal to the introduction of Piety, Study and Action, with a resounding conclusion that "Christ is counting on me" and "I am counting on Him". This ministry will have its ups and downs, its ebbs and flows, its fans and dissenters, but as I listen to a Pilgrim's sharing at a Closing I am constantly reminded: This ministry is and will make a difference for the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. It is not the only way, but it is one of the ways for a person to find their way back, to grow in Christ, and to experience grace.

**For the sake of Christ, we must persevere...** the ministry of Via de Cristo continues to make a difference in our environments. We must continue forward and nurture this wonderful ministry gem for the cause of Christ. I'm blessed to have served you and Jesus these four years as Lay Director.

God loves you and so do I,

Butch Seeley # 28

**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.vdcohio.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 <a href="mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com">vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com</a> or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Rd., Bellville, 44813. Nancy Martin, Editor

(Editor's note: this article appeared in an earlier Newsletter but it bears further consideration by all. Your questions and comments at Annual Meeting will be most welcome.)

#### **Help Wanted**

Would you like 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 n on-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 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 4<sup>th</sup> Day Shepherd and/or Secretariat Palanca Cha. This would be a good position for you to learn and share more about VdC.

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 <a href="mailto:goosebrill@msn.com">goosebrill@msn.com</a>).

Remember, Christ Is Counting on You!

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

After a year of praying and working together (and wondering what we might see), our Lord gave us what we had hoped to see on Co-ed Weekend #3, May 3-6:

- Our God of Truth and Love glorified
- the Holy Spirit obviously present
- the Pilgrims able to move past some significant difficulties to a better understanding of God's grace
- the Team Members empowered in tasks, working <u>very</u> well together, and feeling blessed in their (sometimes normal and sometimes sacrificial) service
- all ten pilgrims able to speak at Clausura about being either greatly encouraged or amazingly transformed

May the Lord lead them to reunion groups and continuing commitment to Him through Piety, Study and Action!

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## Ultreya News

Remember, Ultreyas are open to everyone, whether or not they have made a VdC Weekend.

#### 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/summer 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/summer 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 <a href="mailto:leslie.crowe@aol.com">leslie.crowe@aol.com</a>, 440-263-4552 or Judy Junker at <a href="mailto:JudyJJunkmail@aol.com">JudyJJunkmail@aol.com</a>, 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 or Wendy 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.

For assistance to find or form a Reunion Group for your Pilgrim—or yourself—contact Fourth Day shepherd Dave Lann, <a href="mailto:vdclann@yahoo.com">vdclann@yahoo.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:vdc.newsletterohio@gmail.com">vdc.newsletterohio@gmail.com</a>).

VdC Ohio Palanca Cha Sherry Patterson brings us a list of some Via de Cristo Weekends in the Americas for our prayers of God's blessings. Note all the places, how *many* Weekends some places have had, and the languages. God reigns!

|                          | *               |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Women's #364 (Spanish)   | June 7-10       | Bronx, NY   |
| Women's #339 (English)   | June 7-10       | Oakland, CA   |
| Women's #123 (English)   | June 7-10       | Houma-Thibodaux, LA   |
| Men's #1154 (English)    | June 7-10       | Peoria, IL  |
| Women's #267 (English)   | June 7-10       | Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO  |
| Men's #80 (Spanish)      | June 7-10       | Santa Rosa, CA  |
| Women's #17 (Portugues)  | June 7-10       | Osorio, RS, Brasil  |
| Women's #151 (Spanish)   | June 7-10       | Maracay, Aragua, Venezuela  |
| Women's #2 (Spanish)     | June 7-10       | Evansville, IN  |
| Women's #75 (Filipino)   | June 7-10       | Imus Cavite, Philippines  |
| Men's Cursillo (Spanish) | June 7-10       | San Jose, CA  |
| Men's #24 (Spanish)      | June 7-10       | Birmingham, AL  |
| Women's #404 (Spanish)   | June 7-10       | Santa Fe, NM  |
| Men's #52 (Spanish)      | June 7-10       | Kansas City, KS   |
| Men's #643 (Spanish)     | June 7-10       | Orange, CA  |
| Men's #31 (English)      | June 7-10       | (location unspecified)  |
| Men's #119               | August 2-5      | Sonshine VdC of South Florida, Miami Shores Presbyterian Church   |
| Women's #119             | September 27-30 | Sonshine VdC of South Florida, Riverside Baptist Church           |
| Co-ed #34                | August 23-26    | Atlanta Lutheran VdC, Camp of Colors                              |
| Co-ed #26                | September 27-30 | INKY VdC, Epworth Forest, North Webster, Indiana                  |
| Women's #665             | June 7-10       | Lutheran VdC of Minnesota, Lord of Life Lutheran, Maple Grove, MN |
| 1                        |                 |   |

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 <a href="mailto:vdsnewsletterohio@gmail.com">vdsnewsletterohio@gmail.com</a> 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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh">https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh</a>

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo <u>www.vdcohio.org</u>
National Via de Cristo Website <u>www.viadecristo.org</u>
Kairos Website <u>www.kairosohio.org</u>

#### Secretariat

| Lay Director Warren Seeley                      | Logistics Coordinator Mark Ludrosky  | Rector/Weekend Orient Dick Brenneman       |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com         | (330) 882-4244 mludrosky1@neo.rr.com | (740) 398-0945 dbbrenneman@gmail.com       |
| Asst. Lay Director                              | Fourth Day Shepherd Dave Lann        | Technology Media Specialist Christy Brill  |
| (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com               | (330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com     | (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com          |
| Secretary Kevin Hoch                            | Prayer Chain Vicky Sakala            | Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin             |
| (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com               | 419-884-1573 prayingforvdc@gmail.com | (419) 571-6315 vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com |
| Treasurer                                       | Music Adviser Jen Briner             |  |
| (937) 885-1868 sandyjr@donet.com                | (614) 901-0896 jenbriner@yahoo.com   | Central Ohio Regional Representative       |
| <b>Spiritual Director</b> Pastor G. Karl Gaston | Palanca Cha Sherry Patterson         |  |
| (614) 364-3110 jgaston550@yahoo.com             | (740) 262-0563 safpv317@gmail.com    | Northern Ohio Regional Representative      |
| coach Butch Seeley                              | Registrar                            |  |
| (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@ymail.com         | (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com    | Southern Ohio Regional Representative      |
|   |                                      |  |

Contact Lay Director Warren "Butch" Seeley with your interest in serving on Secretariat.

Contact 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

# NLS / VdC Annual Gathering has A Break From Tradition...

Registration opens at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 26th

Orientation will begin at 1:00 p.m. with

**Opening Worship** to follow.

The Host Committee & NLS Board sincerely hope this scheduling change affords more people the opportunity to attend by arriving Thursday, July 26th rather than Wednesday, July 25th. We eagerly await your presence as we celebrate our Lord's ministry through...

Christian Fellowship

Uplifting Worship

Music Jam

Inspiring Speakers

Art & Service Projects

Development Workshops

~ July 26-29, 2018 ~ Palm Beach Atlantic University West Palm Beach, Florida