



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 35, ISSUE

June 9, 2014

A Message from the Ohio Lay Director Butch Seeley

NORTH BOUND TRAIN

The **NORTH BOUND TRAIN** Modelnetic® states that organizations need clearly defined goals and objectives that give direction and lift to the organization. Via de Cristo of Ohio has such goals communicated in our **Five Year Strategic Plan**. All efforts you read and hear about support **THE NORTH BOUND TRAIN**.

The **NORTH BOUND TRAIN** will make brief stops where passengers will get on and off, the train will accelerate and sometimes slow down, the engineer, and the train staff may change, the train will need fuel and maintenance at times as well, tracks and bridges will need work; no matter what the event during the journey, the direction of the **NORTH BOUND TRAIN** will never change, it will always head north, (towards the GOALS).

When Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to the Disciples in Matthew 28:16-20, I think he made it clear, (clear direction) of where His ministry was to Go. He also used the words, "Therefore **go**"...indicating action, (Apostolic Action). He finished with, "And surely **I am with you** always to the very end of the age."

Via de Cristo is a grace-filled experience available to the church and the world. The Weekend structure and Fourth Day tools assist Christians to persevere and so much more.

Via de Cristo of Ohio is heading north, (Christ is counting on all of us). I pray you will get on board.

ALL ABOARD!

I offer all the prayers, works, joys and problems of this day to the Father, through the Son, our Lord and Brother, in union with the Holy Spirit.

I love you,
Warren (Butch) Seeley, #28

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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.



Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!

One of my top priorities over the next several months is to bring Via de Cristo of Ohio into the 21st century with an updated web site and presence in social media. While our current web site is under construction, I launched our official Facebook Page on May 26, and after just 1 week we obtained over 70 likes. If you're on Facebook, please "like" our page and stay connected with upcoming events, prayer requests, and announcements.

Please be advised that our new Facebook Page is different from the "Via de Cristo Ohio Group" to which many already belong. So, what's the difference between a Facebook Page and a Facebook Group?

A Facebook Page is the authentic personal profile of an organization, business, public figure, etc. Pages can only be created by authorized representatives of the company the Page represents. A Page is the Company's way to communicate official business with the Facebook universe and is visible to everyone. Posts from a Facebook Page appear in the News Feed of the person who likes a particular Page.

On the contrary, a Facebook Group can be created by anyone (known as the Administrator) and is usually only open to a select group of people with a common interest. Individuals may join a Group either by invitation or by a request to the Administrator or his/her delegates. A Group allows for discussion among members, and the views and opinions shared in it are not necessarily those of the company, organization, product, service, person around which it is organized. Groups can either be "private" (meaning that the group cannot be found in a Facebook search, and discussions are not seen by those outside the group) but can also be "public" or open to anyone (the current Via de Cristo Ohio group is an Open group). Group members receive Notifications when someone posts on the Group page, but posts do not appear in one's News Feed.

Now that you're up to date on the differences between Facebook Pages and Groups, "like" our new page at <https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh!>



Christy Brill, Via de Cristo of Ohio Technology Media Specialist

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 vdcpayerchain@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, I 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

New Idea! VdC Co-ed Weekend!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

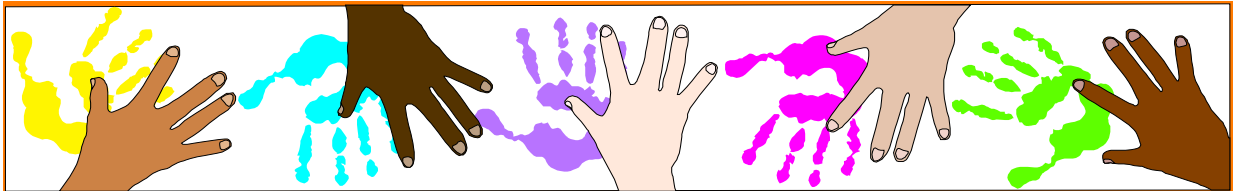
On August 21-24, Via de Cristo of Ohio is embarking on a new adventure by holding a Coed Weekend. This means that we will have men and women at the same Weekend, not separate like the complementary Weekends we have held. It is open to couples as well as individuals.

As of now we are in the cocoon stage, developing the team and looking at the different issues that could arise. As Community we need to take ownership of this weekend to provide Pilgrims, prayer palanca, food palanca as well as other support activities for the weekend. We do have limited space as we have 16 sets of bunk beds at the St. Leonard's retreat center where the Weekend will be held.

If you want to sponsor one person or a couple, get the applications in soon to have a spot. With your support, we can let this cocoon develop into a beautiful butterfly, into a new creation for this movement for God's glory.

God Bless, Dave Lann, Rector

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



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, De Colores!

Once again, I am in awe of the work of the Holy Spirit!

God wove together a loving and caring team, bringing together just the right people for the right position. He bound us together through prayer, love, hard work, tears and laughter. I am so thankful to the communities that lovingly prepared food for the team meetings and the weekend. I am humbled by the outpouring of prayer and palanca from the Community. We say "Christ is counting on you," but I saw that in action as we prepared for the weekend and then as I experienced the weekend. There were a few times that I was literally speechless as I felt the power of God's love. Thank you to each person who helped to make this weekend such a success.

I thank God for each Pilgrim He sent to us. Once again, I was amazed to see how God put the tables together. My heart was overwhelmed so many times during the Weekend. It felt good to see how God worked through and with the different parts of the Weekend. I felt that we were on Holy Ground.

I thank each of you, too, for your love, support and prayers. I believe prayer is the power of the Weekend. May you all receive a special blessing as you live your Fourth Day!

Christ is counting on us! We are counting on Christ.

Linda Morton

Rectora, Women's Weekend #77

Donna Gough, active as a volunteer in ministry to incarcerated women, asks

SO WHAT HAPPENED ON THE KAIROS WEEKEND?

A few weeks ago, I had posted requests for prayer, cookies and money for Kairos #40 at the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Have you wondered what happened? Was the Lord there? Were the cookies blessed and enjoyed? Was it worth all the work and money? This is to give you just a little glimpse at what went on. I would LOVE to tell you ALL about it, but you wouldn't read the 200 pages it would take.

At Kairos, participants are seated at tables of nine, three volunteers (two lay, one clergy), and six residents. In these table families, most of the weekend takes place. We hear talks and meditations, share, visit the chapel, laugh, cry, grow together, and become a true family in the Lord. No one is left out. If special medications are needed, other reasons for the residents to be away, the weekend waits till the residents return. The families are assigned Friday morning, and we were the Family of Elizabeth. Our six resident participants were various ages from early 20s to middle 50s, with varied experiences and issues. Because of some technical glitches in our schedule early on, we had an opportunity to grow together early. By Saturday we were dealing with fear, rejection, guilt, anger, anxiety for families, self-protection and isolation, self-pity, and other things for which a sense of security is needed for discussion--serious things that can sometimes be reduced by sharing, but which seldom are in a prison environment. Mid-morning Saturday, one of our participants (call her Susan because that isn't her name) was informed that she had a *totally unexpected* visit from her children. Susan had not seen them in over 15 months! However, if she left Kairos to take the visit, she would not be able to return! She was on the horns of a dilemma, because Kairos had a waiting list of over 400 for the 42 positions available, and she would not be permitted to return to the weekend! But what mother could reject that one chance to see her children? She chose, and went to the Visiting Hall.

The Family of Elizabeth had developed a bond, was devastated and everyone was heartbroken for Susan. We prayed, and together, volunteers and residents, we asked that the Lord would overcome the regulations and keep the family intact. All nine of us prayed. We hoped, but NEVER in the 20 years of Kairos at ORW had a participant who left been allowed to return!

Then there were more technical things going wrong with the schedule--special medications, delayed count times, and too many others to describe. After a few hours, Susan returned. The Chaplain asked what she had missed. It turned out she had NOT missed ANY of the talks, because the schedule was so badly impacted with delays! The miracle happened.... Susan was allowed to return! There were nine crying ladies at the Family of Elizabeth.

Wait, though! The big miracle was NOT that Susan had been allowed to return. The big miracle was that six residents and three volunteers experienced ANSWERED PRAYER! One of the residents had NEVER believed prayer would be answered! She said so over and over and over again! All of them were awestruck at the Hand of God that was evident FOR THEM, TO THEM, and in response to their prayers! "For us? God did this for US?" one said. The Lord was there! The cookies were blessed and enjoyed! It was worth everything it took! Praise the Lord!

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.

Prayer Palanca and the Palanca Coordinator

Blessings to each and every one of my brothers and sisters in the VdC Ohio areas! The responsibility of 'Palanca Coordinator', as part of the Secretariat of Ohio VdC, includes sending out palanca letters to other 4th day movements, offering our prayers for their Weekends. That might include Tres Dias, Kairos, Catholic Cursillos, Presbyterian Cursillos, Walk to Emaus, Unidos de Dios, and so on, as well as Via de Cristo in other states and nations. For all the 35 letters that I received from different parts of the country, as well as the world, I had responded to each one with a Palanca letter from the Ohio Via de Cristo for their upcoming weekends!

Each time I received a piece of wall Palanca for our Weekends from groups in Oregon, Canada, Texas, Maine, Michigan, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, just to mention a few, allowed me to see the vastness of God's kingdom right here, right now on our tiny planet earth. Those are the letters which appeared on the walls on your Weekend.

The other purpose for this article to you my brothers and sisters, is if you would like for your Reunion Group or for yourself to reach out in prayer to other 4th day movements, I will be more than happy to forward to you letters that I receive requesting prayers for their upcoming weekends. I have already started a group mailing list, which right now includes the names on the Secretariat, since we have members from different parts of Ohio: Dayton, NE Ohio, SW Ohio, NC Ohio, the Columbus area. Anyone else who would like to be included, please send me your email address at: dcsfp20@the-franklins.net.

I have been so very Blessed in the short time that I have been Palanca Coordinator; and I feel that my family has expanded a hundred-fold with brothers and sisters in all parts of the world!

Blessings to all,
God Loves and So Do I!
Sherryl Patterson

Please notice recent changes on the Secretariat. [Dave Lann](#) has changed to the position of [Fourth Day Shepherd](#), helping and encouraging development of Ultreyas and Reunion Groups around the state, but leaving the spot of Northeast Region Representative open. [Christy Brill](#) has expanded her role as [Archivist](#) to include development of our use of [electronic media](#). Added to Secretariat are [Jen Briner](#) as [Music Adviser](#) and [Dick Brenneman](#) for [Weekend Rector Development](#). Remaining open are the places for [Northeast Rep](#) and [Logistics Coordinator](#) who assists with details and supplies at each Weekend location. If **YOU** feel called to help, please contact Lay Director Butch Seeley at harleyrider751@ymail.com or 614-332-1357 to discuss the possibilities.

Christ IS counting on us!

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.**

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