



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3

March 16, 2015

NEWS FLASH! NEW BUMPER/WINDOW STICKERS NOW AVAILABLE

Contact Lay Director Butch Seeley



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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.

God loves you and so do we!

Our New Web-site Launched!

After almost a year of planning and hard work, the new Via de Cristo of Ohio Web-site (www.vdcoho.org) has finally launched! Special thanks to all those who have helped in this endeavor, especially Katrina (Pochard) Bruns who took on the brunt of the project and worked closely with our Web-site developer at Two Mites; Chuck Fahnstock and Warren "Butch" Seeley who helped push the site live when we hit a wall with our former Web-site domain, Joel Marhenke and Dan Steffey who passed on their knowledge of the old site, Carol Yaquinto who designed our new logo, and the rest of the Secretariat who gave their input on development.

Our new Web-site features an all-new up-to-date layout, photos from various events (i.e., ultreyas, team meetings, and reunion groups), and official weekend photos and newsletter archives. Although the site is still being tweaked and adjustments will be made over the next several months (such as calendar updates and additional weekend photos and newsletters), the new site offers valuable information regarding the movement such as what Via de Cristo is, our history and mission statement, secretariat contact info, and guidelines on who should attend weekends along with applications.

Eventually we plan to have bonus features such as a "donate now" link, a prayer wall, and a member's only site that will allow cursillistas to update their own info as well as contact others from the movement directly from the Web-site.

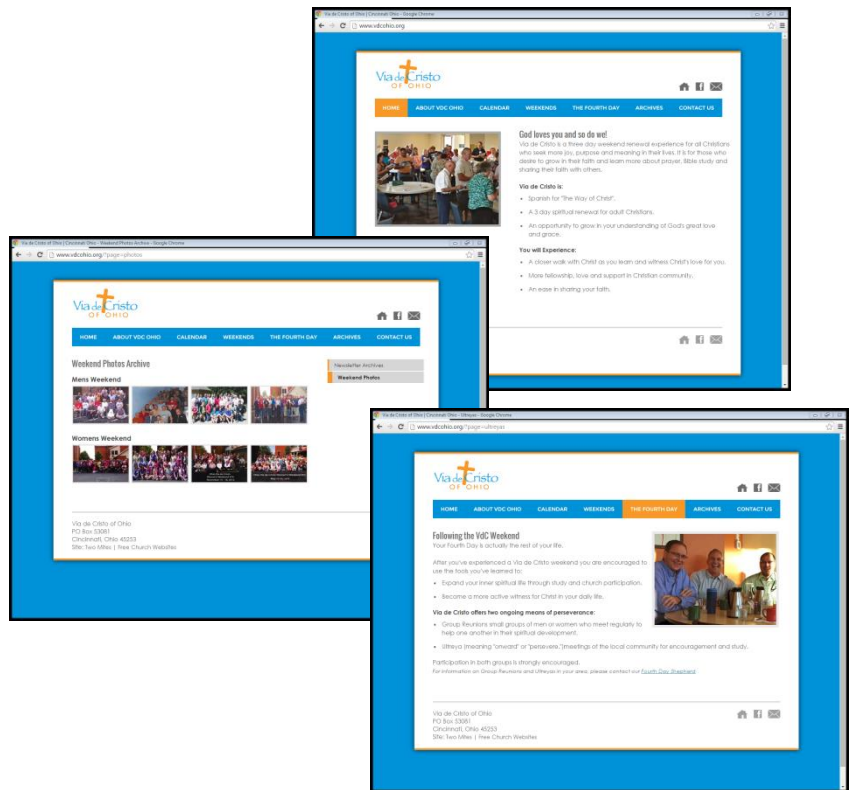
Finally, I would like to remember two special individuals who have entered the Church Triumphant before us: Oran Gough who started our original Web-site, and Tim "Fluffy" Sperling who carried on Oran's vision. Although we are no longer using the original web-site that they maintained, I recognize them both as devoted Web masters for Via de Cristo and dedicate the new site to their memory. I pray that I am able to carry on their legacy in half the manner and grace they both portrayed. Which is where you, the community, come into play.

If you know of VdC events to add to the calendar, have photos of VdC members, or would just like to help with the Web-site maintenance/upkeep in any way, please contact me. This is definitely a team effort, and I need as much help and as many prayers as I can get!

Submitted by Christine Brill (goosebrill@msn.com), Technology Media Specialist

If you know someone who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

If you know someone who does not get the VdC Ohio Newsletter but would like to, please send the contact information to Nancy.



Men's Weekend #74 April 23-26, 2015, Columbus Rector Kevin Hoch	Women's Weekend #78 May 14-17, 2015, Columbus Rector Lisa Bacu
Co-ed Weekend is coming in fall, 2015. Exact date and location TBA. Rector Dave Lann	Clergy Experience #2 is Monday – Thursday, October 5 – 8, 2015 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Rector Chuck Fahnstock

From the Rector of Men's Weekend # 74

Greetings to all.

As I write this, the women's team is having its first meeting and the men's team is a week away from holding its third meeting.

So preparations for the spring weekends are well underway. We ask for your prayers as we move toward the weekends and we ask that you send in those pilgrim applications so that we can begin praying for the pilgrims by name both at our meetings and in our daily prayers. I'm sure there is someone that you know who could benefit from a three day opportunity to listen to what God is saying to him or her. You know how meaningful your weekend was to you. Whether it is a family member, someone at church, or a friend at work, ask them about attending a Via de Cristo weekend this spring.

Peace and God's Blessings

Kevin Hoch – Registrar and Rector for Men's #74

PS If you need application forms or have any questions about the registration process, just let me know. My e-mail is khoch@cinci.rr.com and phone is 513-931-8797. Please mail completed application forms to me at 22691 Altura Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45239

Men's Via de Cristo Weekend #74 Team

Name	Position	Church
Doug Pretorius	Spiritual Director	St. Paul Lutheran - Belleville
Jim Caldwell	Ideal / Palanca Cha	Living Word - Galena
Paul Sakala	Laity	St. Paul Lutheran - Bellville
Dick Brennehan	Piety	St. Paul Lutheran - Bellville
Sandy Mueller	Study	Northside Fellowship - Westerville
Sean Quinn	Apostolic Action / Head Cha	Trinity Lutheran - Mt. Healthy
Norbert Peiker	Leaders	St. Paul Lutheran - Bellville
Jim Marsh	Environments	St. John's Lutheran - Marysville
Kevin Hoch	GR & U / Rector	Trinity Lutheran - Mt. Healthy
Fred Schneider	Fourth Day / Chapel Cha	Trinity Lutheran - Mt. Healthy
Dennis Meyer	Rollo Room Cha	Trinity Lutheran - Mt. Healthy
Fred Mabry	Head Kitchen Cha	White Oak Christian - Ross
Carl Isley	Kitchen Cha	Citi Church - Bellville
Lester Bigelow	Kitchen Cha	St. Paul Lutheran - Clyde
John Dagg	Kitchen Cha	St. Paul Lutheran - Clyde
Tony Starn	Kitchen Cha	Hosanna Lutheran - Pataskala
Brian Peters	Music Cha	Messiah Lutheran - Reynoldsburg
Brian McAllister	Gopher Cha	Grace Fellowship - Pickerington

A Message from our Spiritual Director

I want to say a big thank you for all of you who say “yes” to an invitation to be part of a Via de Cristo team. It is a big commitment in time and energy. There are hours in preparation, planning, attending meetings and of course the weekend itself. But the blessings and rewards for you and for those who experience a weekend as a pilgrim and a team member make the time worthwhile.

All of that said, the task of the Rector and Rectora can sometimes feel overwhelming as they call and call and call folks to be part of their teams. Estimates I have heard are in the neighborhood of 200 calls to put a team together.

One problem we have had the last two years is that the Women’s Weekend has fallen on the same weekend as the Northeast Ohio Synod Assembly. I hope we can rectify that conflict next year. One problem that it creates is the availability of Women Spiritual Directors for the women’s weekends since many of our potential women’s spiritual directors are members of the Northeast Ohio Synod.

Which brings me to my problem. I believe the Men’s Weekend is now covered with two spiritual directors but the Women’s Weekend still needs at least one more spiritual director. I have already pretty much exhausted my list of possibilities. If you have served as a spiritual director and could serve on the weekend of May 14-17, will you please call me: 614-364-3110 or Lisa Bacu, Rectora for the weekend: 513-779-6346? I am willing to be the lead spiritual director, but do not believe nor should I try to do it by myself.

Thanks!

Your Servant, Pastor G. Karl Gaston, Spiritual Director, VdCOhio

God loves you and so do I

ULTREYA NEWS

Ultreayas at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kent are usually the third Saturday of the month. They will be at 4:30 pm at 600 S. Water Street, and potluck will be included. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

Cincinnati Ultreayas are usually the first Saturday of each month at 4:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. For questions, please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797.

Bellville Ultreya will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. Worship and Holy Communion are followed by discussions and fellowship, and then by Potluck, table service and drinks provided. Call Ken and Josie Riling with questions, 419-886-2437, or Paul and Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573.

The North Dayton Ultreayas 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](tel:937-533-7605).

Please share with us any information you have about Ultreya near you. Send the information about any 4th Day Group Ultreayas to vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or to Editor Nancy Martin at 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813 or 419-886-4420.

From Dave Lann, Rector of Upcoming Co-ed Weekend and 4th Day Shepherd

Hello Community

The Co-ed (or Mixed) Weekend will be in the Fall of 2015, with the date and location to be announced as soon as the location is confirmed. Community members, please pray about the Pilgrims that God has chosen for this Weekend. Pray for Him to move you to ask them and for them to say yes, and for all of you to be blessed.

A couple months ago I sent out a message to contact me about your reunion groups throughout the state. I received a couple of messages of people looking for reunion groups and only one for existing groups.

Our groups are the backbone and heart of this movement. If you can take the time, please send me what day, time, and location you meet, and a contact person so I have a base to work with.

For the Community members who have already given me their info, please remember to keep it current. If there are any changes, please let me know. This would also apply to anyone in the community who has moved, changed phone numbers or e-mails to let Nancy Martin and Christy Brill know so they can make the changes for your Newsletter address and the VdC Archive to keep everyone updated about the happenings of Via de Cristo.

In the coming months I will be trying to locate and revive Ultreyas throughout the state and help new ones get started.

God Bless, Dave Lann

A Message from VdC Ohio Music Advisor Jen Briner

"As the Deer", by Martin Nystrom, has a special place in any Via de Cristo Weekend. Based on Psalm 42, it brings images of longing for God and putting our total trust and purpose in Him.

Martin wrote this song in the summer of 1981 after traveling to Dallas, TX. Was he following God's leading? No, it was a girl! After she broke his heart he was "stuck" in a place of despair and suffering. Not able to purchase a ticket home at the time, he took a friend's advice and fasted. After 19 days of only water and the Holy Spirit, Martin sat down at the piano and read Psalm 42. This song that came out of despair and hopelessness has blessed and brought hope to people world-wide. God took away all Martin's distractions so that, through isolation, He might create a mighty work in him.

Through this, we can know that solitude is sometimes a valuable tool that can lead us to a sacred goal. So the next time you enjoy the silence and solitude on Thursday night during a VdC Weekend, pay attention to what God is doing in you at that moment!

GLASDI,
Jen Briner

Via de Cristo/Curcillo/Kairos Weekends around the USA

Secretariat Palanca Cha Sherryl Patterson shares the news of these Weekends so that you may consider praying for them as you do for our Weekends

Light in the Desert VdC – Nevada Co-ed Weekend #23 March 19-22	Prarie Sonshine VdC – Central Illinois Men’s #17 April 9-12	Eastern North Carolina VdC Mixed #90 Weekend – April 16-19
Florida Lighthouse VdC Men’s #46 March 19-22 Women’s #46 March 26-29	Vineyard Via de Cristo Men’s #27 April 16-19 Women1s #27 April 30-May 3	Lutheran VdC of Minnesota Men April 16-19 South Women April 23-26 Section Men April 30-May 3 North Women May 7-10 Section
Florida Gold Coast VdC Men’s #90 – March 19-22 Women’s #90 April 16-19	Rainbow VdC Men’s – April 16-19 Women’s – April 23-26	Utah VdC Men’s #65 April 16-19 Women’s #66 April 23-26
River’s Edge Via de Cristo Seder Meal March 29		

SUPPORTING PRISON MINISTRY! KAIROS #42 – OHIO REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN! April 9-12

“Whatsoever you have done to the least of these, you have done it unto Me.” Jesus

Just like Via de Cristo, every Kairos weekend in prison is a unique experience! At ORW, God calls a specific group of women to serve as the team and then another specific group of prison residents to receive His blessings, placing them together for three days of growth, sharing and grace. Even if YOU are not on the team, YOU can be involved in Kairos #42! The team makes a financial commitment, sacrifices their time and puts great efforts into preparation. The Christian community at large can help with important tasks to help the weekend run smoothly and support the work of the team.

- 1) **PRAY!** Prayer is the oil that makes everything work. The work is the work of the Lord, and He has ASKED for your prayers! There is a prayer vigil, and we ask each person who can to sign up for a specific time. Your first name and the date and time will also be written on a colored strip of paper. All the strips are pasted into a rainbow chain that goes all the way around the Conference Room.... sometimes twice.
- 2) **BAKE COOKIES!** Each team member must collect 75 dozen cookies! If individuals make just THREE dozen each, it takes only 25 BAKERS to achieve that goal! Chocolate chip is the favorite, but “special” are used in the Conference Room. Rules: No powdered sugar or frosting. Pack them (cooled) one dozen to a QUART SIZED Ziploc bag (a new procedure). Pray while the cookies are baking that whoever receives the cookies also receives the Lord Jesus Christ! Deliver them to St. Andrews Anglican Church by Easter Sunday or call Donna Gough for pick-up.
- 3) **MAKE A DONATION!** It costs over \$150 for each prison resident to attend the weekend. Costs include Bibles, crosses, food for 3 days, paper supplies, Kleenex, posterboard, markers, rental of round tables, and much, much more. All funds are donated by Christians who love the Lord. NONE of the costs for Kairos weekends are from state funds! Even \$5.00 helps! Please make checks payable to “Kairos of Ohio”, and write “ORW #42” in the memo line.
- 4) **WRITE LETTERS TO THE PARTICIPANTS!** Letters of encouragement are part of the process of sharing Jesus with the women. So many of them feel they have been “warehoused” and forgotten, that they are too discouraged to make a new life! YOUR note may make the difference. Please address to “Dear Sister in Christ”, do NOT seal or write names on the envelope!
- 5) **MAKE BANNERS OR POSTERS!** Banners and posters are pinned all over the walls to show the love and support of the Christian community outside the razor wire. These are a witness, too, to those who come to visit the prison library, which is in the same building.
- 6) **ATTEND THE CLOSING!** Kairos #42 Closing is open to all Christians who are interested in seeing the outcome. Attendees are asked to be at the ORW Entrance Building by 4:00 PM on Sunday, April 12, at the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Application forms have address and instructions.

I am serving on this team, and ask your support for this work of the Lord. Applications for closing must be mailed in prior to Friday, April 3. All other items are needed by Easter Sunday! I ESPECIALLY ask for PRAYERS and COOKIES! Questions: Donna Gough – 614-948-3833, goughdonna@aol.com, or catch me in person! God loves you, and so do I!

A faith story found in my late Grandma's Bible

A Child's Prayer

By Hjalmar Sundquist

God, Who loves His children all,
Loves me too though I am small.
Where I am, awake or sleeping,
I am always in His keeping.
Safe with Him I have no fear—
God is good, and God is near.

Hear me Father when I pray.
Help me to be good today!
Bless my father and my mother,
sister also and our brother.
Give to father strength and cheer.
Bless and keep our mother dear.

Every home where Mother's dead,
every child who's lacking bread,
every homeless lonely stranger,
folks in need, distress or danger—
help them, God our Father dear,
in their trouble, from their fear.

Help each poor unhappy soul
Who has strayed and lost his goal.
Every wayward, erring brother
Who's forgotten God and mother—
Bring them back from moor and glen
To be children once again.

Take the aged by the hand,
Lead them to the promised land
From this vale of pain and sorrow
To Thy glorious tomorrow.
As their evening shadows fall
Hear and help them when they call.

And the blind who cannot see
This Thy world and honor Thee
For its beauty, for Thy power,
Who cannot see a single flower—
Lily, rose or goldenrod—
Let them see Thyselves, O God!

Thanks for good and tender care,
Loving kindness everywhere,
For our home with Thee in heaven,
For Thy Son, our Saviour given.
Thanks for what He sacrificed.
Thanks, O God, for Jesus Christ.



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.vdcoho.org
National Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristo.org
Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org

(Our VdCOhio website is LIVE and RUNNING!)

It is our pleasure to tell you of a matching grant of \$1,000 offered anonymously to Via de Cristo of Ohio.

If you would like to help claim this grant and make a one-time gift, please make your check to VdC Ohio and send it to P.O. Box 53081, Cincinnati, Oh 45253. If you'd like to make a regular gift and do your banking on-line, consider setting a monthly payment to VdC Ohio. Contact Treasurer Raleigh Sandy, 937-885-1868, for details. These gifts help to fund our Weekends (costs exceed registration amounts requested) and communication costs.

If you're looking for a good summer vacation idea, consider this! Information about the Quad Cities area and other things to do there is in another attachment with this Newsletter.



National Via de Cristo Gathering 2015

Thursday, July 23 through
Sunday, July 26, 2015

Historic Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill.

Hosted by Living Water Via de Cristo

'The theme for this year's gathering will be: "Gather at the River: Centered in Christ "

"...everyone who thirsts, come to the waters." Isaiah 55:1