



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 3

March 6, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Life sometimes brings changes and uncertainty. Situations change, but God is constant. He is always there for us. We can go to him in prayer, bring our joys and our sorrows, our struggles whatever it is. He is just a prayer away!

Of our three aspects of the weekend, Piety, Study and Action – which is easiest for you, which is toughest? I must admit, I fall short on my study. It is easier to be pious and be active than to study. I just do not make the time daily to study. It is my goal to change this.

What a generous community we have! Someone came to me saying they would do a matching fund campaign up to five hundred dollars, meaning if someone gave ten dollars, they would match it. So the ten became twenty. Please look to the list of donors found elsewhere in this newsletter. We thank you for your generous gifts. I praise God for your willingness to donate to help build up our funds. Praise God for this community.

March is here already. The dates for our weekends are coming fast. Please keep Rector Warren (Butch) Seeley and Rectora Erlene Sager in your prayers as they start their team meetings for the spring weekends. **We need pilgrims for the weekends.** Please pray about asking someone to attend the weekend. This is where community comes in - it could be someone from your work or your church or your family whom God wants to experience Via de Cristo. Plant the seed now even if this time doesn't work for them. Pray for pilgrims for our weekends.

Now, if you know you have a pilgrim, please get the paper work in to Registrar Kevin Hoch as soon as possible. The teams need to know if they'll have enough pilgrims; more importantly, they want to be praying for these people right away. If you have a pilgrim but the paperwork isn't ready yet, please call or email Kevin anyway to let him know registration is coming. (See sidebar to contact him, and registration forms later in this newsletter.)

We have asked several times for your stories about your Via de Cristo weekend – we haven't heard from many of you. Do you have a story that you are willing to share? I had made peace with my past before I went on my weekend as I was in

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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
P. O. Box 53081
Cincinnati, OH 45253

Spiritual Direction for fifteen months before I attended the weekend. Because of that, I was free to enjoy the wonderful talks, the special happenings and the grace on the weekend. Did I feel unworthy? Yes I did! But I was made worthy through Jesus suffering and dying for me. Each team I have worked has reinforced what I learned and sometimes helped me hear that I am forgiven in a different way. But God’s grace is always there for you and me.

If you get the newsletter by US mail but you have e-mail, please let us know. It costs us over \$90 a month with printing and postage to send out the newsletter via US mail. Please send your e-mail addresses to Nancy Martin at vdcnewsletterohio@earthlink.net. Ask her to take you off the regular mailing list. Help us be green and save a tree or two.

Have you found a reunion group? Several of us are looking for a reunion group. We have several women in the Akron/Wooster area looking for a group. I also have one person looking for a group in the Newark area. If YOU are looking for a reunion group or if you’re in a group which would welcome new members, please let me know.

Blessings,
Cathy Doering
Lay Director

**Welcome to our new
Spiritual Director
Pastor Lisa Peterson**

Pastor Lisa made Weekend #53 where she sat at the Table of Abigail. She has served several weekends, both women’s and men’s, as Spiritual Director. Pastor Lisa and her husband Dan worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church on Catawba Island.

Pastor Lisa is a retired clergy member of the North American Lutheran Church, but is active as “pulpit supply”.

Look for more information about her in an upcoming issue.

UPCOMING VIA de CRISTO WEEKENDS

Event	Scheduled Date	Location	4 Week Cut-Off Date	2 Week Cutoff Date
Men’s #70	April 19-22, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	March 22, 2012	April 5, 2012
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	November1, 2012

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 in Columbus area, location TBA

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

Recent Leaders' School
A Time of Reflection and Encouragement

Leaders' school was indeed a time to put the participants' brains and hearts into leading mode! We had 16 people attend for the first time. Thanks to:

All the presenters: for their time, gifts and insights into the process of a weekend and the call to lead for Christ's sake.

Living Word: For providing a place and a wonderful lunch for us

Worship: Pastor G. Karl Gaston - reminding us of a few reluctant leaders

Music: Jen Briner - giving examples of what music is appropriate when

Theology of the Weekend: Pastor Al Sager - complete and thought provoking

Progress/Psychology of the weekend: Sandy Mueller - how it comes together

Sponsorship: Donna Gough - God's call and our paper work

Servant Opportunities: Wilma Keller - where we can lift up our gifts

What a joy it was to listen to these talks and be inspired all over again to lift up my gifts together with my sisters and brothers in Christ to be the leader that I have been called and equipped to be! Our next school will be in August - look for information in June!

Jane Koch
 Secretariat Leader's School Coordinator

Treasurer's Report
\$4,564.65 SAVINGS
\$3,300.84 CHECKING
\$7,865.49 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

A NEW CHALLENGE—The Result

For every Dollar donated to Via de Cristo during the month of February, a match was made up to \$500. Thanks to these people for their generous gifts!

Steve and Jen Briner
 Roger and Mary Ervin
 Melinda Caspary
 Susan Smith
 Al Sager
 Sharon Keenan
 Sarah Prohl

Delores Kalb
 Dale Mortensen
 Mary Alice McGinnis
 Douglas Pretorius
 Erline Sager
 Sandra Randles
 St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mansfield

Ed and Sandra Simonsen
 Margery Stoodt
 Cathy Doering
 Clarice Soppe
 Jane McKinley
 Vito Mensah



A Letter from the Rector

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Men's Via de Cristo #70 weekend approaches quickly and mightily. This three day weekend is our pivotal evangelistic and educational effort. Our mission for these three days is, by grace with the Holy Spirit, to become a community of the living Word.

The Lord's team is gathering in thanks, praise, and preparation. God has assembled a group of men ready to demonstrate His love, and through His power, the desire for a better life in Him. This group of unique Men assembled to be anointed and empowered to offer themselves as living examples of the Christian life. I am privileged to work with each of them, and to call them Brothers. The Holy Spirit is showing up in a big way.

Our Lord is already calling the Pilgrims, who we pray will experience Christ in a new and special way.

Thanks to all of you who have cheerfully given to the Lord's team as we gather and build. And thanks to all of you who will provide palanca during the weekend. All of your support to the weekend is appreciated.

"Genuine palanca is deep intentional selfless prayer".

I humbly write to you, considering myself a co-Rector with Christ, and yielding to His Kingship.

God loves you and so do I,

Warren (Butch) Seeley
Co-Rector, Men's # 70

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE TEAM MEMBERS OF MEN'S WEEKEND #70

Dean Gatton	Head Cha	Karl Petzenger	Chapel Cha
Kip Kanya	Ideal Rollo	Toby Troup	Music Cha
Ben Berger	Laity Rollo	Brian Howman	Palanca Cha
Dick Hatch	Piety Rollo	Kevin Hoch	Head Rollo Room Cha
Raleigh Sandy	Study Rollo	Dan Arkfeld	Rollo Room Cha
Mike Ryan	Apostolic Action Rollo	John Freese	Rollo Room Cha
Norbert Peiker	Leaders Rollo	Michael Meier	Rollo Room Cha
Ron Craig	Environment Rollo	Paul Sakala	Rollo Room Cha
Sandy Mueller	CCA Rollo	Mark Kannenwischer	Head Kitchen Cha
Bob Sauer	Silent Professor	Dick Brenneman	Kitchen Cha
Chuck Fahnestock	Observing Rector	Vito Mensah	Kitchen Cha
Pastor Doug Pretorius	Spiritual Director	Doug Newman	Kitchen Cha
Pastor Jim Stalder	Spiritual Director	Scott Padgett	Kitchen Cha
Jim and Charlotte Wilson	4 th Day Couple	Mel Hall	Gopher Cha

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 (15)
- 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
- The dinner 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.

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.



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

GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO !!!!

Sponsor's Registration Form

One for each Person

PLEASE BEFORE SPONSORING ANYONE, PRAYERFULLY REVIEW THE "Sponsor Guidelines" PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM
PLEASE PRINT

SPONSOR INFORMATION

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
Street Name and Number	City & State	Zip Code
PHONE: Home	Work	Fax
Area Code - Number	Area Code - Number	Area Code - Number
E-MAIL: <i>If you have multiple e-mail addresses, please list those at which you wish to receive Via de Cristo related electronic messages</i>		

SPONSOR CHURCH INFORMATION

CHURCH:	
Name	City & State

PILGRIM INFORMATION

PILGRIM'S NAME:
Why is this person a good candidate for a Via de Cristo weekend?
Did you discuss Via de Cristo with the pilgrim's spouse (if applicable)? (Circle One: Y N) Will both attend a weekend? (Circle One: Y N) If both will not attend, please briefly explain the circumstances?
Briefly state the pilgrim's attitude toward Via de Cristo?
How, <u>SPECIFICALLY</u> , will <u>YOU</u> support the pilgrim in the 4 th day?
Any other pertinent information about the pilgrim?

I have prayerfully considered sponsoring this pilgrim and believe this pilgrim to be mentally, physically, and spiritually stable and capable of experiencing the weekend fully. I understand my responsibilities noted in the "Sponsor Guidelines" printed on the back of this registration form and with the Lord's help, I will do my best to honor them.

Sponsor(s) Signature(s)
Sponsor(s) Weekend(s)

Complete **BOTH** sides of this form and mail with the completed Pilgrim's Registration and your \$15.00 check payable to "Via de Cristo of Ohio" to

Via De Cristo of Ohio
PO Box 53081
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253

Incomplete Registration Forms will be returned to the sponsor(s)
 The \$15.00 Registration Fee is **NOT** refundable

Pilgrim Checklist – Does/Is the pilgrim:

	Check as Appropriate	
	Yes	No
Desire to grow as a Christian and has been baptized?		
Have potential for leadership in his/her environment?		
Have the capacity for careful listening and understanding?		
Seriously open to change?		
Mature, responsible, and in good emotional health?		
Physically capable of fully participating in the weekend?		
Understand that Via de Cristo is much more than just a weekend experience?		
Able to live in a close community with others?		
Really want to attend a weekend?		
Currently experiencing a crisis (family, marital, health, job, etc) *** SEE BELOW***		

Sponsor Checklist – Do/have you, as sponsor(s):

	Check as Appropriate	
	Yes	No
Been living the 4 th Day and understand the goals of Via de Cristo?		
Prayed for guidance before taking any action toward sponsoring the pilgrim?		
Told the pilgrim about the 4 th Day?		
Ensured that pilgrim really wants to participate, not just do you a "favor"?		
Offered to assist the pilgrim with family support (babysitting, house-sitting, etc)?		
Offered the pilgrim transportation to and from the weekend?		
Agree to support the pilgrim through prayer, palanca, and your presence at Closing?		
Agree to actively assist the pilgrim to join a Reunion Group and participate in Ultreya?		
Agree to support the pilgrim in the 4 th Day for at least six months after the weekend?		

Before you approach your pilgrim: Note that a maximum of eight from a given church may attend any given weekend. This is to ensure that the table discussions are varied and that all congregations have an opportunity to send pilgrims to any given weekend

1. The Via de Cristo movement is Christian and provides renewal opportunity for baptized believers in Jesus Christ. The weekend is an emotional and deeply spiritual experience that is not suited for everyone. Your pilgrims should be mentally, physically, and spiritually able to experience the weekend completely and MUST have the endorsement of clergy that know them well enough to provide such endorsement.
2. Clergy endorsement cannot be overemphasized! Check with the endorsing clergy BEFORE approaching a prospective pilgrim to ensure endorsement is forthcoming. Failure to do so can cause serious problems. The clergy may know something about the prospective pilgrim that makes that pilgrim unsuitable for a Via de Cristo weekend at the time you approach them. This does not preclude you from approaching them once the situation is rectified or the clergy is willing to provide endorsement.

When you approach your pilgrim:

3. Once you have clergy concurrence, approach the prospective pilgrim. Answer any questions they may ask. If asked, let the pilgrim know that their weekend has been paid for by those who have gone on previous weekends, by the community, or by the sponsor. Let the pilgrim know that a free-will offering will be received in the spirit of giving. Assist the pilgrim in filling out the Pilgrim's Registration Form to ensure accuracy and completeness.

After your pilgrim agrees to attend:

4. For each registrant, mail the fully completed Pilgrim's Registration AND associated Sponsor's Registration along with the non-refundable \$15.00 (payable to Via de Cristo of Ohio) to the address on the front of this form.
5. Stay in contact with your pilgrim and give your support. Both registrants and sponsors will receive acknowledgement of registration and instructions for the weekend.

Pilgrim's Registration Form

One for each Person

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS FULLY SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE FOR YOU
PLEASE PRINT

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

NAME: <i>Please list any nicknames, maiden names, or other titles you wish to be called</i>		
ADDRESS:		
Street Name and Number	City & State	Zip Code
PHONE: Home	Work	Fax
Area Code - Number	Area Code - Number	Area Code - Number
E-MAIL: <i>If you have multiple e-mail addresses, please list those at which you wish to receive Via de Cristo related electronic messages</i>		
DATE OF BIRTH:	SEX: (Male or Female)	EDUCATION: (Highest Level)
MARITAL STATUS:	SPOUSE NAME: (If Applicable)	HAS YOUR SPOUSE ATTENDED Via De Cristo? (If Applicable)
YOUR OCCUPATION:	ARE YOU A BAPTIZED CHRISTIAN?	

CHURCH INFORMATION

CHURCH:	
Name	City & State

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Food Allergies or Dietary Requirements – For examples: allergic to certain vegetables or nuts. Vegetarian, Low Cholesterol, or Low Sugar
Special Medications and/or Medical Requirements – For Examples: Need insulin every morning,, C-PAP machine, Needs to sit upright to sleep, etc.

Please indicate your weekend preference:
First Choice: 1, Second Choice: 2, Third Choice: 3

Fall	Summer	Spring

SIGNATURES

NOTE: Please prayerfully consider signing this registration form. By signing, you indorse this person as mentally, physically, and spiritually fit to attend the Via de Cristo Weekend in Ohio.

SPONSOR:		
Signature	Date:	
CLERGY:		COMMENTS:
Signature	Date:	
CANDIDATE:		COMMENTS: Special Interests, Activities (Church Service, Community Service, etc.)
Signature	Date:	

Cursillo is a tested and valid renewal movement beginning in the Roman Catholic Church and is now active in many Protestant denominations. The Lutheran expression of this movement is called Via de Cristo (Way of Christ). It is designed for baptized Christians the age of 18 or older who wish to strengthen and nurture their commitment to Christ. Via de Cristo does not provide solutions to serious personal problems, nor does it diminish the importance and necessity of corporate worship through the church. There is no prescribed manner to respond to the Via de Cristo experience.

Via de Cristo weekends begin at 7:00 PM Thursday and end about 8:00 PM on Sunday. The weekend consists of a sequence of inter-dependent events **requiring that each pilgrim be present for the entire weekend**. Couples are encouraged to complete registration forms at the same time, and also encouraged, but not required, to attend the same set of weekends. There is no set charge to attend a weekend, but each pilgrim will be given the opportunity to contribute. Via de Cristo receives no direct financial support from the Lutheran Church.

You will be informed when your registration has been received and processed. At that time, you will be given further information to prepare for your weekend.

Please Check Your Registration Form For Completeness And Accuracy And Give This Form To Your Sponsor(s)