



Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter
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De Colores!

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The Holy Spirit was with us on the Clergy Experience # 2

And so we gathered for Ohio Via de Cristo Clergy Experience #2 on Monday September 26th through Thursday September 29th. We were blessed to have six Lutheran Pastors as our guests (Pilgrims). The Holy Spirit was present! God's love and grace abundantly falling on our time together.

The Clergy Experience program was developed to provide Clergy with the Via de Cristo experience during the week versus Thursday evening through Sunday evening. This allows a more practical scheduling opportunity for Pastors versus the weekend. This program showcases the experience, theology and structure of Via de Cristo's methodology. It also gives us a chance to love on Pastors while they recharge their spiritual batteries. There is renewal!

Via de Cristo can be a tremendous tool to rise up and rejuvenate leaders within the Parish and the world. The program emphasizes support of the local church and Pastor. Through Piety, Study and Action we endeavor to draw closer to Christ and serve Him.

Thank you to the prayer warriors, Community, team and all those who supported the Clergy during our special time.

We plan to do another Clergy Experience in the fall of 2017. It's time to make those invitations and reservations.

God loves you and so do I,

Butch Seeley

Welcome to new "Cursillistas"* from Clergy Experience #2, held at the end of September. They join around 2,000 others of us who have been part of Via de Cristo in Ohio. We thank God in our prayers for his gift to us of the VdC movement, for all of us whom it's touched and, more importantly, all the people we have touched in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Holli Burkard- Grace Lutheran Church-Toledo, Ohio.
Pastor Loranell "Lor" Breyley- No home church at this time
Pastor Steve Gellatly-Good Shepherd L.C., West Milton, Ohio
Pastor Darla Ann Kratzer-First Lutheran Church-Canton, Ohio.
Pastor Robin Ramos-Zion Lutheran Church-Lafayette, Ohio.
Pastor Alan Knoke -St. Paul Lutheran Church-Clyde, Ohio.

Thank You for Your Prayers

Words cannot express the emotion that was felt on this past Clergy Experience #2. It was three days filled with God's grace and experiencing his total love. Thank you for all the prayers. The Pilgrims and all the team members certainly were thankful that we were surrounded by your prayers. Please continue to pray and keep our six new clergy Pilgrims in your prayers as they go on their 4th Day journeys.

We wrote each name of the person praying on a strip of paper and then put them all together in a paper chain and it made an amazing visual. It took three of the chas to bring it into the rollo room. To see the length of the chain was awesome. We hung the chain up for the rest of the time in the rollo room. To see so many names of people praying not only touched the hearts of the Pilgrims but it also touched the hearts of all the team members.

It was also wonderful to have our Sister in Christ, Wilma Keller, with us in the chapel praying. Wilma is recovering from a lung transplant. It was amazing seeing God's wonderful healing powers working in her life. She is getting stronger with each day and it was powerful to hear her lifting up everyone in her prayers. According to her doctors, it will take her a year or so to regain a lot of her strength. Let us continue to keep Wilma in our prayers that the Lord continues to heal her body.

If anyone out there in our Community needs our prayers, please add them to our Prayer Chain. We all who are faithful can lift them up in prayer with many of God's people praying in the name of Jesus. Contact the Via de Cristo of Ohio Prayer Chain at prayingforvdc@gmail.com or by phoning me at 419-884-1573.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

God's Blessings to you all!!

Vicky Sakala

Prayer Chain Coordinator

What is a story of faith you could share with others? (You don't have to write it perfectly—I can fix it if you like.) You know how you feel when you read the stories in the Newsletter. Help someone else to feel that way. Send your story by email to vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or by US Mail to 4025 Andrews Rd., Bellville, 44813.

Ultreya News

Via de Cristo sisters at **Divinity Lutheran** in Parma Heights, Leslie Crowe and Judy Junker, plan an **Ultreya** for **Sunday, October 30 at 3:00pm**. The program and worship will be first, followed by a potluck dinner. Divinity is at 11877 Blossom Ave., Parma Heights, 44130. From Pearl Rd. (St.Rt. 42) go south on Commonwealth Blvd., then east on Blossom Ave. As is true for every Ultreya, everyone is invited, whether you've made a Via de Cristo Weekend or not. Look forward to singing, sharing and fellowship.

<p>Ultreyas in the Akron-Kent area of Ohio are often the third Saturday of a month, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kent, 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.</p>	<p>Cincinnati area Ultreyas 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.</p>	<p>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, Holy Communion, Potluck with table service and drinks provided. Call Ken & Josie Riling, 419-886-2437, or Paul and Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573 for questions.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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Dear Friends in Christ,

We all have times in our lives where we just don't have the mental or emotional energy to do one more thing! I am in one of those valleys but didn't want the newsletter to go out with nothing so I will speak from the heart.

Music is a powerful form of worship. For some, worship is not complete without it. Some of us get tripped up by it because, without the "right" song, we can no longer worship the way we "want to". Not every song can be a "favorite" but it may be someone else's favorite and evoke something in them that has great meaning. I mentioned last newsletter that I don't like to "Weave" and "Pass It On" is another mental eye roller! The next time I hear these two, I'm going to sing them with everything I have because any song sung with a heart for Jesus is a great one! It's not about me. (Repeat as needed!)

I will leave you with song lyrics that really put this into perspective, from "The Heart of Worship" by Michael W. Smith:

"I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it, when it's all about You, all about You, Jesus."

**God Loves You and I do too,
Jen Briner**

Hymn #365 A smile for today because God also gave us a sense of humor.
This is too funny - but I suspect the minister didn't appreciate it.

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, 'If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'
With even greater emphasis he said, 'And if I had All the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river.'
And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he Said, 'And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river'
Sermon complete, he sat down...
The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, 'For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River.'

Smile - life is too short not to!!
If this brightened your day
Don't let it stop here
Pass it on with a smile
Keep spreading the Cheer.

See you at the river!
Bring your own glass!

Kairos Weekend Coming

We are blessed with another opportunity to support the Kairos Prison Ministry with prayers, letters, cookies and financial resources. Kairos #45 will take place October 27-30 at the Ohio Reformatory for Women, and two Via de Cristo women are on the team.... Donna Gough and Mary Ervin. 42 residents of the prison will be blessed for three days to share, eat, and hear about Jesus! Anyone in Christian community can help follow Jesus' words, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me!" Here's how:

- 1) Prayers are needed! Prayer is the "oil" that keeps Kairos going just as it does for Via de Cristo. There is an 80-hour prayer vigil. Just pick your time and send an e-mail to either Donna or Mary. These names will be "linked" in a beautiful chain of prayer on the weekend.
- 2) Cookies! Home baked, and prayed for, packed one dozen each in quart size ziplock bags. Mostly chocolate chip are needed, because everyone in the institution gets a bag. Other kinds (peanut butter, snickerdoodles, oatmeal) will be served to the weekend participants during the weekend. Please, no powdered sugar or sprinkles! These are needed by Donna or Mary by October 26.
- 3) Money! It does not matter how much or how little! \$5.00 will buy a meal for an inmate! This is NOT paid for by the State, but by those who care that the message of Jesus Christ is carried to EVERYONE.
- 4) Letters! The same kind of letter that blessed YOUR weekend, just addressed "Dear Sister in Christ". Do not write on the envelope or seal it. Get them to Donna or Mary!
- 5) Banners, decorated placemats, posters! Show the love of Jesus to others! No glue, glitter, or stickers! Markers only.
- 6) Attend the closing on Sunday afternoon at the prison! You will have your socks blessed off! Applications for that need to be in by October 15, so call Donna Gough FAST with name, address, and Driver's License Number!

If you have any questions contact Donna Gough, [614-948-3833](tel:614-948-3833) or goughdonna@aol.com or contact Mary Ervin, 740-659-2557 or mrervin123@yahoo.com.

Upcoming 4th Day Weekends in US

We're invited to pray for these Weekends. Did you know Via de Cristo is one kind of 4th Day Weekend?

To be part of the 72-hour Prayer Vigil for any of these, go to www.3dayol.org/Vigil/

Sherryl Patterson, VdC Ohio Palanca Chair

Oct. 6-9, Women's #77, Lynchburg Central VA Emmaus	Oct. 6-9, Women's #4 (Vietnamese), Sacramento, CA
Oct. 7-8, Region 3 Encounter, Pittsburgh, PA	Oct. 6-9, Men's #136, Atlanta, GA
Oct. 6-9, Women's #26, Diocesi Tioli (RM) Italy	Oct. 6-9, Men's #53, Albany, NY
Oct. 6-9, Women's #3, Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY	Oct. 6-9, Women's #133, Mobile, AL
Oct. 6-9, Men's Cursillo #94 (Filipino), Diocese of Oakland CA	Oct. 13-16, Men's Walk #215, Abilene, TX Big Country Emmaus
Oct. 6-9, Women's #1 (Vietnamese), Ft. Worth, TX	Oct. 13-16, Men's Walk #51, Midwest Crossroads Emmaus, IN
Oct. 6-9, Diocese of Allentown PA	Oct. 20-23, Women's Walk #54, " " " " , IN
Oct. 6-9, Men's Cursillo, San Jose, CA	Oct. 20-23, Cursillo Co-ed #180, Diocese of S. Carolina
Oct. 6-9, Men's #421, San Antonio, TX	Oct. 20-23, Kairos Lynaugh Unit #36, Ft. Stockton, TX

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 vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

(For assistance to find or form a Reunion Group for your Pilgrim—or yourself—contact Nancy. I can look in the VdC Archive for names of people in your area and give you their most recent contact information that I have.)



Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!

We hope you will "like" our new Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh>

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo www.vdcoho.org

National Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristo.org

Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org

VdC Prayer Chain is prayingforvdc@gmail.com or by phone at 419-884-1573. Vicky Sakala is Prayer Chain Cha.

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Contact Butch for info @ open positions.

Secretariat meetings are held the third Saturday of each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Director Butch Seeley for the place and time of each meeting.

God loves you and so do we!