



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

# De Colores!

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## A Minute with God

My name is God. You may hardly have time for me. I love you and will always bless you. I am always with you. I need you to spend some of your time with Me today. Don't pray, just praise. Today I want this message to go across the world. Will you help? Please do not ignore it and I'll help you with something that you are in need of. Just dare Me. A blessing is coming your way. Please drop everything & pass it on.

Why do we feel sleepy in prayer, but stay awake through a 3 hour movie? Why are we so bored when we look at the HOLY BOOK but find it easy to read other books? Why are prayers getting smaller, but bars and clubs are expanding? Why is it so easy to worship a celebrity, but very difficult to engage with God?

Think about it. Are you going to share Me or are you going to ignore it because you think you will get laughed at? Share Me with all your friends and family. (God says if you deny me in front of your friends, I will deny you on the day of judgment.) When one door closes, God opens two. If God has opened doors for you, pass this message on to everyone you can.

God has no BLACKBERRY but He's my favorite contact. He is not on FACEBOOK but He is my best friend. He is not on TWITTER but I still follow Him, and even without the INTERNET I am always connected to Him. He is not on gmail but He's always online.

Share Him if God has been good to you! God has been very good to me. He has given me a wonderful family, great friends and so much more.

*Adapted from an email shared by Sue Hines*

*Do you recall hearing the words "I have no other plans.  
I am counting on them."*

## Secretariat

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**Southern Region Representative** ..... Open

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.

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

This invitation was sent to 450 Lutheran Pastors in Ohio. It is NOT restricted to Lutheran Pastors. Any Pastor may attend and no sponsor is needed. Share the invitation with any Pastor you know.



## COME AND SEE!

Via de Cristo of Ohio invites you to be our guest to a getaway seminar presented just for Clergy. *Come and See* what Via de Cristo is all about.

Monday through Thursday

October 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

The Sts. Peter & Paul Retreat Ctr.

2734 Seminary Rd. SE

Newark, OH 43056

Gathering on Monday @ 6:00 pm and concluding on Thursday evening. See reverse side for more information.

**Space is limited.** RSVP now at (614) 823-8660 or by email: [harleyrider751@ymail.com](mailto:harleyrider751@ymail.com)

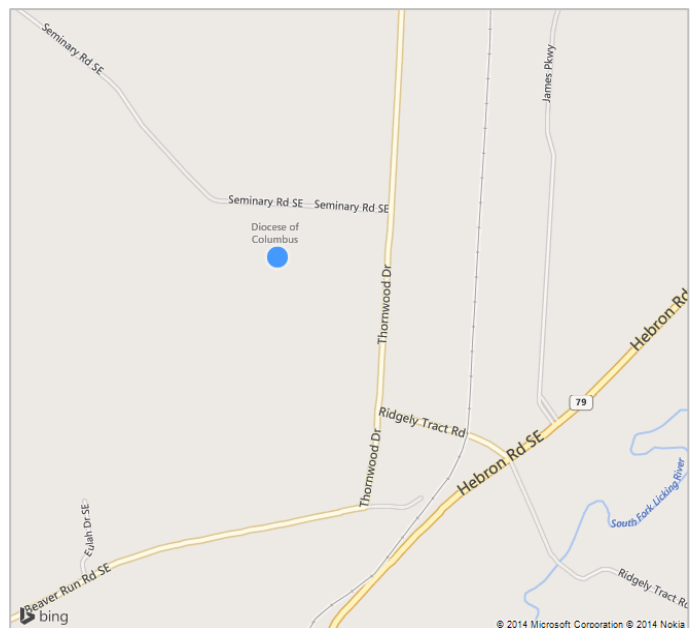
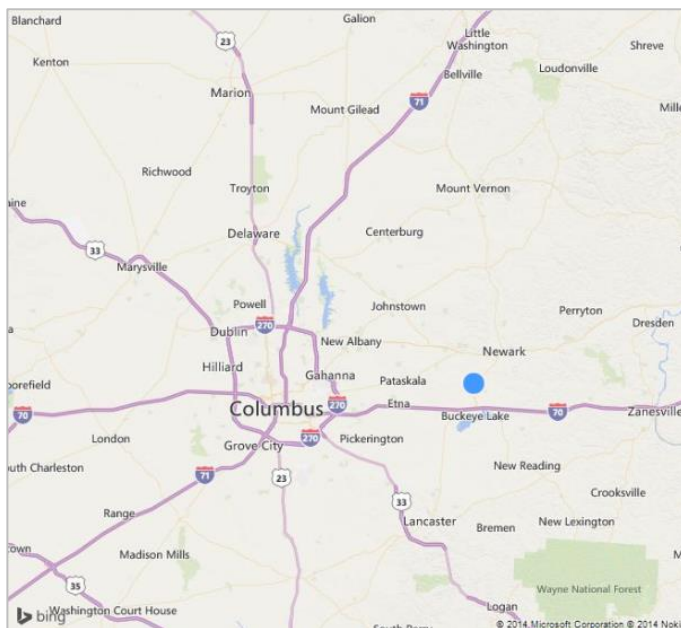
Invitation is open to all Clergy even if you have previously attended a weekend.

There is no cost to attend.

## Want more details? Contact:

Name	Email	1st Phone	2nd Phone
Rev. Dr. Allan Sager	<a href="mailto:ahsager@columbus.rr.com">ahsager@columbus.rr.com</a>	(614) 882-1998	(614) 537-7313
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## Seminar location:



Do you know a Pastor –yours or another whom you know-- who would benefit from attending the Via de Cristo Clergy Experience #1? Please contact Butch Seeley right away.

**The purpose of the VdC Clergy Experience is to show them what Via de Cristo is about and allow them to see it as a Pilgrim who is a lay person would see it. It will be Monday - Thursday, October 6 – 9, 6:00 pm to 6:00 pm.**

*Did you know . . . .***History of Cursillo®**

**Via de Cristo is based on the Cursillo® methodology as shown on a VdC Weekend**

The roots of Cursillo® can be traced back to the Roman Catholic Church in the 1940's on the island of Majorca, Spain. The Catholic Action for Young Men, the organized apostolate, wanted to participate in a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. James (a great pilgrimage center of the Middle Ages) located in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. To prepare leaders for this pilgrimage, the group offered "Little Courses for Pilgrim Leaders." The Catholic Action for Young Men had a vitally important goal in conducting this pilgrimage. Although the Spanish Civil War had ended in 1939, the war left the nation and the church bloodied and divided. They wished to bring healing to church and nation. The Spirit of pilgrimage is a spirit or attitude against "lukewarm" religiosity. It is also a spirit of community among fellow pilgrims who strive together to live fully devoted to Christ. The aftermath of the Civil War and then the havoc of World War II repeatedly delayed the pilgrimage. They were finally able to hold it in 1948.

The literal translation of Cursillo® is "little course;" because the Cursillo® Movement evolved out of the "Little Courses for Pilgrim Leaders." The monastery of St. Honorato in Majorca held the first Cursillo® in January 1994, and it was surprisingly similar to present day weekends. It was open only to the young Spanish men of Catholic Action. The courses were so effective, that later it was decided to offer the Cursillo® to other young men without requiring a commitment to Catholic Action.

The Cursillo® Movement was not an accident to fate, nor was it a clever human product. A group of faithful Christian men dedicated themselves to introducing the young man of their city to Jesus Christ. They prayed, Studied and talked together as a team. In the light of God's Word, they discussed the state of the world and the effectiveness of their effort to bring the light of Christ to it. By grace, God revealed to them a method that has proven effective and fruitful. Do not imagine it came easily. It took many years of effort within the Christian community and diligent prayer by the renewal movement within the church.

In 1950 Eduardo Bonnín resigned from Catholic Action to become the chairman of Cursillo®. Supported by his bishop, Juan Hervas, they worked together to clarify the method and defend the movement from its critics. It is a verification of God's grace that even the opposition assisted the founders by forcing clarity of thought and the avoidance of variations.

The Cursillo® Movement remained largely a local effort in Majorca until 1953. The original leaders had remained there working together, praying together and hammering out the basic understanding of Cursillo®. Group reunions, three-day weekends, ultreyas, leaders groups and team meetings, each evolved in a systematic way. In 1955, Bishop Hervas was transferred from Majorca, and he took the idea of the Cursillo® Movement with him. Other early leaders also helped spread the movement as they were called away from Majorca.

The leaders came together as Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Assisted by Bishop Wolber of the American Lutheran Church, the newly former Southeastern District documented their desires and wrote the draft of the draft of the National Lutheran Secretariat Constitution.

It is fundamental to the Cursillo Movement that all movements maintain a close affiliation with the Church. In the 1980's, because of the extensive spread of the movement and the many variations that were springing up, the Roman Catholic National Secretariat began to attempt to enforce this church affiliation. They began requiring any movement that wished to use the not-as-yet registered name, Cursillo, to hold weekends for same-faith participants only. In 1983, during a meeting in Coral Gables, Florida, the President of the National Secretariat of the Cursillo® Movement, Gerry Hughes, came the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) meeting. If NLS would agree to hold weekends for Lutherans only, they would be licensed to use the name Cursillo®. Through its next four meetings the NLS deliberated in great agony on the decision. Finally in February 1986, at the winter meeting held at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Ottawa Lake, Michigan, the NLS decided that their commitment to ecumenism outweighed their attachment to the name Cursillo®, and they adopted the name Via de Cristo. The first Lutheran-sponsored weekends in the USA were held in 1972 in Iowa and Florida, and have now been held in over 25 states and some foreign counties. In addition to the Lutheran expression, other denominations utilizing this method include

Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Reformed churches. The Roman Catholic expression is called Cum Cristo. Variations of the Cursillo® methodology include such names as Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, The Great Banquet, Chrysalis, and Kairos.

The Ohio expression began with the first men's weekend, April 19-22, 1979, aided by 26 generous men coming from Florida, Minnesota, and California to join two locals: Norm Wittschen, a seminary intern well-schooled in the movement who served as Rector, and Pastor Allan Sager of the seminary faculty who had made a weekend in Atlanta and stepped up to serve as an assistant Spiritual Director. In the Fall of that same year, Men's weekend #2 was held with more than half of the team comprised of men from Ohio. Women from Florida, Michigan, Indiana, and South Carolina helped launch Ohio's first women's weekend, November 8-11, 1979. A second women's weekend was held May 28-31, 1981. Ohio's beginnings illustrate the very gracious and generous gifts of time and resources committed by our Christian brothers and sisters from other states to transplant a gift they had experienced as providing rich Spirit-anointed blessings for persons, congregations, and wider environments.

### Team Members for VdC Clergy Experience #1

<p>Spiritual Directors:</p> <p>Pastor Al Sager            Pastor Craig Fourman            Pastor Rhonda Gallagher            Pastor G. Karl Gaston            Pastor Doug Pretorius            Pastor Denise Sager</p>	<p>Lay Team Members:</p> <p>Rector Chuck Fahnestock            Raleigh Sandy, Head Cha            Karen Lindsey, Music/Palanca Cha            Karen Schwartz, Ideal Rollo            Kevin Hoch, Laity Rollo            Jackie Lann, Piety Rollo</p>	<p>Jane Koch, Study Rollo            Nancy Martin, Apostolic Action            Norbert Peiker, Leaders Rollo            Paul Martin, Environment Rollo            Dave Lann, Christian            Community in Action Rollo            Butch Seeley, Group            Reunion/Ultreya Rollo</p>
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You notice few Chas are listed. The site, Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, provides the food and cooking as well as other housekeeping duties. Furthermore, each table of Pilgrims will have one Pastor and one Professor as table discussion facilitators and the other Professors will serve as Table Chas, take care of any other duties, and serve as Pray-ers during Rollos. **Members of Community are requested to volunteer to come to the Retreat Center to serve as Pray-ers during both Lay and Pastoral Rollos as well.** Please contact Karen Schwartz, [kls9195@gmail.com](mailto:kls9195@gmail.com) or 614-668-1127, to volunteer.

**Please plan for the Palanca you can provide.** The most important is your prayer—starting now!

1. Team members have lists of 72 hour Prayer Palanca times you can choose, and an email next week will include **Pastor Pilgrims' names** as well as open prayer times for the chart. If you already know times you want, reply to the email with this newsletter.
2. Please consider letters to the Pilgrims as palanca and give them to a team member or mail them to the Retreat Center marked to hold for the Via de Cristo event. (See address, p. 2.)
3. A very important part of Palanca is the **Saturday Serenade**. This one will have both men and women singing—imagine how that will sound! Plan to be at the St. Peter and Paul Center in Newark at 6:00 for the Serenade.
4. Finally, if you'd like to contribute Palanca for the table snacks or the evening socials, please give it to a team member by Sunday, October 5. You know the kinds of things—remember your own Weekend.

The Secretariat of Ohio Via de Cristo welcomes a new member and a returning member. See page 1 for the Secretariat listing to find their contact information. Also please notice positions still open which you might fill.

**Ken Riling** of St. Paul Lutheran in Bellville will serve in the position of **Northern Representative**. He will encourage and assist in the formation of Reunion Groups and development of Ultreyas. Look for more information to come. Please contact him to give him information about your Reunion Group or Ultreya or to ask him about where you can find one.

**Jane Koch** of St. Stephen Lutheran in Stow returns to Secretariat to handle the **Prayer Chain**. See the Prayer Chain address and information below. It is with regret that Secretariat loses the service of Wilma Keller, former Prayer Chain Cha, who must concentrate on her health. We thank her for her service and pray God's good care for her.

#### Via de Cristo of Ohio Prayer Chain

Prayer is at the heart of everything we do in the Via de Cristo movement. Prayer for others in need or for yourself is the purpose of this VdC Prayer Chain. Prayers of joy and thanksgiving are also welcome on the Prayer Chain. 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. The email address is [vdcprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:vdcprayerchain@gmail.com) and the phone number is 330-688-0581. Add these to your contacts for easy access when a need arises.

There is power in prayer and when we pray in community with others, we believe that power is intensified.

*'Let my prayers rise before you like incense.' Psalm 141:3*

*Our Good God hears!*

*Jane Koch, Ohio VdC Prayer Chain*



**Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!**

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

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.viadcristooh.org](http://www.viadcristooh.org)  
National Via de Cristo Website [www.viadcristo.org](http://www.viadcristo.org)  
Kairos Website [www.kairosohio.org](http://www.kairosohio.org)

Please note: Former Lay Director Cathy Doering had her email hacked. She has discontinued her former email address and established this new one, [cookimaker761@aol.com](mailto:cookimaker761@aol.com) and asks that you save her new address. (She was not in Manilla, stuck without phone or money. She hopes you didn't send money to bail her out.)

## **Ultreya is coming in Bellville at St. Paul Lutheran on Sunday, October 12, 3:00**

There will be Worship, Music, Scripture, Discussion, a Layman's Message and Holy Communion. It will be followed by a potluck with table service, meat and drink provided. We're looking to share Fellowship with you! It's at 48 Church Street, Bellville, 44813.

*Please share with us any information you have about Ultreya near you.*

Send the information to [vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or to Editor Nancy Martin at 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

**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.**

#### Your Faith Story

*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 [vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or mail to 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813. Someone in our Community will be blessed by it.*

**God Loves You and So Do We!!**