

What is VdC?

Via de Cristo is:

- Spanish for "The Way of Christ".
- A 3 day spiritual renewal for adult Christians.
- An opportunity to grow in your understanding of God's great love and grace.

You will Experience:

- A closer walk with Christ as you learn and witness Christ's love for you.
- More fellowship, love and support in Christian community.
- An ease in sharing your faith.

Via de Cristo of Ohio

Via de Cristo of Ohio began as Lutheran Cursillo of Ohio about one year before the first Men's Weekend on April 19-22, 1979, that was held in Canal Winchester, Ohio. Norm Wittschen served as the first rector and worked collaboratively with the Lutheran Cursillo in Florida. Women's Weekend #1 was held November 8-11, 1979, at Bible Campground in Lancaster, Ohio. With these beginnings the Via de Cristo weekends continued to grow.

In October 2014, the first Clergy Experience was held at Sts. Peter & Paul Retreat Center in Newark, Ohio. Running Monday through Thursday, this special experience is geared to give clergy an understanding of the weekend as it would pertain to members of their congregations while focusing on the special needs of the pastor.

Through the spring of 2017, there have been 74 men's weekends, 78 women's weekends, 2 co-ed weekends, and 2 clergy experiences with over 2650 participants in total.

The Secretariat, or governing body, was officially incorporated as a non-profit organization with the State of Ohio as "Via de Cristo of Ohio" in 1987.



www.vdcoho.org
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The Way of Christ

Via de Cristo is a three day renewal experience for all Christians who seek more joy, purpose and meaning in their lives. It is for those who desire to grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, Bible study and sharing their faith with others.



Who We Are

History of Via de Cristo

The lay movement originated as “Cursillo®” in the late 1940’s in the Spanish Roman Catholic church and moved to the United States in the late 1950’s. It began in the Lutheran church when lay people and clergy attended a Catholic Cursillo® in 1971, both in Iowa and Florida. The first Lutheran sponsored weekends were held in 1972 and have now been held in over 25 states and some foreign countries. Via de Cristo is the Lutheran expression of this method, which is currently being used in many denominations.

Purpose of Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on Via de Cristo itself, but on the local church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and communities.



What Happens

What Happens at Via de Cristo

Beginning on Thursday evening the retreat ends late afternoon on Sunday. During the three days participants live and study together with singing and prayer in a safe, loving environment. Via de Cristo centers around 14 talks, with five given by clergy and nine by lay people. Following each talk, small round table discussions focus on the main point. The talks, in an overlapping fashion, present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Who Should Attend a Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo is for all Baptized Christians who seek more joy, purpose, and meaning in their lives. It is for those who desire to grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, Bible study, and sharing their faith with others.

In the case of married individuals, both spouses are encouraged to attend a Via de Cristo weekend to strengthen their relationship as one with Jesus Christ.

Via de Cristo of Ohio Mission Statement

To strengthen and renew the faith of individuals in order to change our world based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Fourth Day

Following the VdC Weekend

Your Fourth Day is actually the rest of your life. After you’ve experienced a Via de Cristo weekend you are encouraged to use the tools you’ve learned to:

- Expand your inner spiritual life through study and church participation.
- Become a more active witness for Christ in your daily life.

VdC offers two ongoing means of perseverance:

- Group Reunions – small groups who meet regularly to help one another in their spiritual development.
- Ultreya – meetings of the local community for encouragement and study.

Participation in both groups is strongly encouraged.

For more information please visit our website: www.vdcoho.org.

God Loves You and So Do I