



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 2

February 5, 2016

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, already!

We look ahead to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity.

Here we are, already one month has passed since the New Year. Some of us made a New Year resolution or two, resolutions to do something or do some things.

As Disciples of Jesus Christ we can probably recite the "great commission" without hesitation.

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 16-20

The mission of the church to the world is to share Jesus Christ in love. In Matthew, Jesus commanded us to go (Action). He also assures us that he is with us to the very end of the age (Love, Grace, Power...).

In group reunion we have the chance to share with our brothers and sisters about our Piety, Study and Action. ***"I will make you fishers of men"***.

What Apostolic success did the Lord accomplish through you in your family, in your work, in your environment? Make a friend, be a friend, introduce your friend to Christ. The Via de Cristo methodology provides tools and accountability in our walk with Jesus. We lift each other up in prayer. (Prayer is great Palanca). In today's Gospel reading, Jesus' Mother implores the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

We look ahead to the mission of the Church to the world in the confidence of Jesus Christ.

GLYASDI, Warren (Butch) Seeley # 28

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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!

NATIONAL VIA DE CRISTO ANNUAL MEETING

Our Journey to 2016 # 3 The Invitation



Happy New Year! Good News Via de Cristo, **Via de Cristo of Ohio** and Region 5 would like to invite you to the 2016 Annual National Gathering at Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio. **It will be July 21- July 24.**

If you have ever wondered what others around the country are doing within the Via de Cristo, this is a meeting you do not want to miss. We are making preparations for you to join us in July and we would like to know if you are coming. You will find in this newsletter and on the National website a registration form and a travel form.

For many, The New Year is here and time to plan summer vacations.

In case you would like to begin planning, we are using Detroit Metro Airport, Toledo Express Airport and Amtrak's Toledo Union Station, Martin Luther King, Jr Plaza in Toledo, Ohio. If you would like to arrive a day or two early and visit the area, we will have some rooms available, but they are limited, so please make your reservations early! Or there is a Wingate by Wyndham right in heart of downtown Sylvania. Call 419-517-2000 to make a reservation and let them know you are with a conference from Lourdes.

Speaking of early reservations, we are offering a discount if your registration comes to us by May 1st. This could be quite beneficial if several people are joining you or your Secretariat has decided this is the year to attend as a group!

We are also offering T-shirts with this year's logo and theme verse and beautiful rainbow scarves. These two items are not only fun to have, but also will help us to fund the gathering. Please consider pre-ordering these items as the price will go up at the gathering.

Want to know more about where the meeting will be held? Go to Lourdes University on the web at: <http://www.lourdes.edu/> You may also want to visit the City of Sylvania website <http://www.cityofsylvania.com/visitors/visitor-resources/attractions/> and you will see just some of the attractions in the area. Go ahead, copy and paste the city's web address and choose the information blurb that says "For Visitors". Hover over the Visitors red leaf and notice the list beneath it. Choose attractions and, voila! See what you'd like to do while you're in the area before or after the NLS Annual Meeting.

A Message from our Spiritual Director

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. It is six weeks or 40 days minus the Sundays in Lent. Through the years Lent has been a special time for Lutherans. In many ways it can be a gift to us and for us as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter.

During the Lenten season we are invited to set aside more time in prayer, more time reading the Scriptures, more time being with Jesus.

For Via De Cristo people, the Lenten season fits in well with what we call the Fourth Day. The disciplines of Lent are very much like what was experienced on a Weekend, and perhaps in Reunion Groups and at Ultreyas you've attended.

Over the years I have encouraged people to think of Lent as a time to give more of themselves rather than giving up something for Lent. Christ gave up his life in order for us to have new life! Faith transforms our Christian walk so that we can be more intentional in the ways we extend Christ's love of us to others.

May God be with you on your Lenten journey.

Pastor G. Karl Gaston

A Story of Faith in Action

(This action was initiated by one person, but involved uncounted others. It also highlights the faith of the family who received.)

To members and friends at St. Paul

Thank you for all the generous donations of food you bought in for the Amish widow. With help from the Marhenke kids, we were able to load up the trunk and back seat of my car to overflowing!!

Josie and I delivered the food this morning to a group of stunned faces...big and small. I told Iva, the widow, of how I happened to be transporting her neighbor when he stopped by and left free fruit on her doorstep. Of how he told me of her husband's demise and her being left to raise 13 children on her own. And...I could not stop thinking of it and turned on the radio to hear a commercial telling me (and others) to be the feet and hands of Jesus. She was dumbfounded to think that total strangers would put forth an effort to help her and her children with not even having met her. On my way out the door, I believe I saw a tear cascade down her cheek.

She asked me to pass her thanks on to all of you as well. A little bag here, a small box there...and the result was an entire kitchen full of food items for her and her family. I imagine it took them quite some time to unpack and sort it all!

THANK YOU for being the feet and hands of Jesus. You are the most caring, giving, loving and generous people I have ever known in my entire life. Josie and I are blessed beyond measure to have you as friends and church family.

Blessings, Ken and Josie Riling

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.

**Co-ed Weekend #2 Set For Thursday, May 19 – Sunday, May 22, 2016
At Camp Otyokwah outside Butler, OH**

Rectora Jeanne Gaston and Head Cha Mary McGinnis are finishing the formation of the Team and beginning the Team Meetings. It's time to pray to ask God whom you should invite to attend. They may be individual women or men or married couples. Look in the March Newsletter for Jeanne's article with the theme and other information as well as the Team Roster. With that Newsletter there will also be copies of the registration forms for both you, the sponsor, and your Pilgrims. (The sponsorship fee is \$15)

**Clergy Experience #2 Set for Monday September 26 – Thursday 29, 2016
At St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, Newark, OH**

Invitations to Pastors throughout Ohio will go out in February. Speak to your Pastor about it.

Ultreya News

<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. It's at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. Worship and Holy Communion are followed 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.</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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Kairos Night!

Saturday February 20, 2016, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm (doors open at 5:45, dinner at 6:15)
St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, 218 West Main Street, St. Clairsville, OH 43950

Speakers: Assistant Warden Mary Potter, a Kairos Graduate and a Kairos Volunteer

Complete informational packets will be available for all prospective volunteers

There is no charge for this program and dinner.

Donations to the Kairos Prison Ministry are always appreciated.

Please RSVP to hnmasslanes@gmail.com with the anticipated number of guests to help us have adequate seating, informational packets and food.

(Please do not enter St. Mary's church before 5:45)

You're invited to pray for these upcoming Weekends around the USA and elsewhere. There are a lot listed here. Remember, God's attention span is infinite. So is His love and grace. Blessings, Sherry Paterson, Palanca Chair

Men's Salvation Army Credo #21 (Feb. 4-7, 2016).

Men's Credo #22 (May 26-29, 2016).

Northern MN - 2/25/2016 Men #632 and 3/3/2016 Women #633.

Wisconsin "Sonrise" Via de Cristo - 2/25/2016 Men #93 and 3/3/2016 Women #94.

InKy VDC - March 3-6, 2016 Men #74 and March 10-13 Women #75.

South Dakota VDC – Reunion Ultreya February 7, 2016

Tennessee Lutheran VDC - A Retreat for the development of Christian Leaders - April 10, 2016

St. Louis Cursillo - 2/18-21 Women; 2/25-28 Men.

February 4-7,2016

Men's #355, Oakdale, MN
Women's Cursillo, Chatham-Kent, CANADA
Women's Cursillo, Auburn, CA
Cursillo de Cursillos, Buffalo, NY
Women's #604, Orange, CA

February 11-14, 2016

Men's Cursillo (Portuguese), Union, NJ
Men's Cursillo, Harvey, ND
Women's #218, Washington, DC
Women's #40 (Korean), Los Angeles, CA
Men's #96 (Spanish), Dodge City, KS
Women's #356, Oakdale, MN
Men's #54, Columbia, SC
Men's #117 (Spanish), Jacksonville, FL

February 12-15, 2016

Women's #308 (Spanish), Richmond, CA

February 13, 2016

Workshop for Rectors, Camp Dixie, NC

February 18-21, 2016

Women's #689 (Spanish), Brooklyn, NY
Women's Cursillo, Harvey, ND
Women's Cursillo, Essex, CANADA
Women's #309 (Spanish), Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
Men's Cursillo, Los Angeles, CA
Men's #77 (Spanish), Santa Rosa, CA
Men's #258, Kansas City, MO
Women's #350, Easton MA
Men's #105, Nashville, TN
Men's #273 (Spanish), Miami, FL
Women's #45 (Spanish), Tyler, TX
Men's #27, (Spanish), Lake Placid, FL
Cursillo (Portuguese), Newark, NJ
Men's #483, Richmond, VA
Women's #118 (Spanish), Jacksonville, FL

February 25-28, 2016

Men's Cursillo (Portuguese), Bilerica, MA
Women's Cursillo, (Portuguese), Bilerica, MA
Women's (Portuguese), Newark, NJ
Men's #161, St. Louis, MO
Men's Cursillo, Sutton, NE
Men's #561 (Spanish), Amarillo, TX
Women's Cursillo, Los Angeles, CA
Womens #1, Mandeville, JAMAICA
Women's #78 (Spanish), Santa Rosa, CA
Men's #58, Scranton, PA
Men's #39, Conway, MI
Men's #130, Holy Trinity, AL
Women's #17 (Spanish), Silver Spring, MD
Women's Cursillo (Spanish), Providence, RI
Men's #85, Evansville, IN
Men's #97, Winter Park, FL
Women's #28 (Spanish), Providence, RI

March 3-6, 2016

Men's #233 (Spanish), Milwaukee, WI
Women's #259, Kansas city, MO
Women's #174, Lorain, OH
Women's #89, Nashville, TN
Men's #605 (Spanish), Orange, CA
Women's #5, Eagle Pass, TX
Women's #247 (Spanish), Miami, FL
Men's #128, Grande Prairie, AB, Canada
Women's #131, Holy Trinity, AL
Women's #102, Memphis, TN
Men's Cursillo, Hankinson, ND
Women's #54, Columbia, SC
Women's #16, Victoria, KS

March 4-6, 2016

Team Formation Workshop, Topsail Island, NC
Regional Assembly, Petropolis, BRASIL

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

If you know someone from the Via de Cristo Community 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.



Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!

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

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo www.vdcoho.org
National Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristo.org
Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org