



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

# De Colores!

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September 8, 2015

## A Message from the VdC Spiritual Director

September has always been my favorite month of the year personally and pastorally. It is a busy time filled with a lot of energy. Football begins a new season. School begins for children. Days are warm and nights are cool. September is a month of new starts or restarts.

For congregations September is also an exciting time. Fall programs begin again. Rally Day, Fall Kick Off, Come Back To Church Sundays, are some of the ways that "kick -start" the mission and ministry of the church.

For VDC we have two very important opportunities that call for our attentions. In October there will be the Clergy Experience on **October 5-8** at the St Peter and Paul Center in Newark, Ohio. Later in the month, **October 22-25**, will be a coed VDC weekend to be held at Camp Mowana near Mansfield. Registered Pilgrims have brought the coed weekend to capacity.

At the time of this writing there are 2 pastors who have indicated that they wish to attend. Obviously we need more pastors to register. So my plea to you who are reading this: Do you know a pastor who has not attended a VDC weekend or has your pastor attended a VDC weekend? Please encourage them to attend this special offering designed for pastors. Your pastor will benefit and your congregation will be blessed by your pastor's participation in VDC.

Contact Lay Director Butch Seeley or Rector Chuck Fahnestock (see contact information to the right) for details of the Clergy Experience and to give your pastor's contact information to them.

Include VdC in your thoughts and prayers, with thanksgiving for VdC and also with a plea for God's guidance and blessing on VdC.

May God also bless you.

Pastor G. Karl Gaston  
Spiritual Director  
Via de Cristo of Ohio

## Secretariat

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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!**

## Clergy Experience #2 will be Monday – Thursday, October 5 – 8, 2015 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center. Rector Chuck Fahnestock writes:

How can you help? Speak to your pastor and other pastors you know—Lutheran or another denomination—and see what they know of VdC. Tell them what you know about Via de Cristo, its purpose and content and format, and tell them about the date of Clergy Experience #2. Give their names and addresses to Lay Director Butch Seeley (see contact info on p. 1) who will send them further information. Clergy people do not need “Sponsors” but may register themselves to attend.

As all of you know, Community participation is a vital part of a VdC weekend. During Clergy Experience #1 we have 3 major opportunities for your on-site involvement. We are asking Community members to come the chapel at the center to pray during a Rollo. We will be having a Serenade, CO-ED, no experience necessary (but a song book might help), at 6:30 on Wednesday evening. And our closing will include a worship service, held in the center’s chapel, at 4:00pm Thursday.

Please plan now to attend the Serenade on Wednesday evening and the Closing on Thursday afternoon. The location is **Sts. Peter & Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Rd. SE, Newark, OH 43056.**

Look for a bulletin (mini-Newsletter) coming in two weeks with the Team and Pilgrim rosters as well as the 72-hour Prayer Palanca times. As always, provide the Palanca of your prayer, beginning now, for the Clergy Experience #2.

Peace,

Chuck Fahnestock, Rector for Clergy Experiences #1 & #2

Monday and Tuesday October 5 and 6, 2015		Wednesday, October 7		Thursday, October 8	
Monday--Pilgrims arrive at 6:00 pm Opening reception and introductions				Team will provide Wake-Up Serenade	
Tuesday		Study	8:55 AM	Environment	8:55AM
Ideal	9:55AM	Day in Life	10:00 AM	CCA	9:50AM
Habitual Grace	11:00AM	Apostolic Action	1:00PM	Life in Grace	10:45PM
Laity	1:30PM	Obstacles to Grace	2:40PM	Group Reunion and	2:00PM
Actual Grace	2:35PM	Leaders	3:25PM	Ultreya	
Piety	6:00PM	(No Serenade Practice)			
		Serenade	6:30PM	Closing at Retreat Center	4:00PM

## Co-ed Weekend is coming Thursday – Sunday, October 22-25, 2015 at Camp Mowana in Mansfield. The Rector is Dave Lann. Registration of Pilgrims is welcome!

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last month we talked about Ultreya. **There is going to be an Ultreya October 24** either at St. Timothy Lutheran Church or Camp Mowana in Mansfield. After the Ultreya the community will then do the Serenade for the Co-ed Weekend. Details will be sent out later when they are finalized.

There are a lot of opportunities for all you members of the Via de Cristo Community to participate in the near future as we will have the Clergy Experience in the beginning of October and the Co-ed Weekend at the end of the month. Come to the closings, sing for the serenades, sign up for prayer and food palanca and don't forget personal palanca. Just ask any member of secretariat as to whom to contact if the information isn't in the newsletter.

For the Co-ed Weekend, most of that info will be in the October newsletter with the Team and Pilgrim rosters. We are almost at capacity for the Co-ed Weekend with 15 pilgrims confirmed. Praise the Lord

Dave Lann, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Shepherd and Co-ed Weekend Rector

## So You're Thinking It Would Be Nice to Have an Ultreya Near You

Secretariat members would be happy to help you determine how and where Ultreyas can be established. The size may vary from just enough people for one Group Reunion plus a Spiritual Director, to as many as one hundred, though thirty to fifty is optimum. The quality of Christ-centered participation, coupled with open and honest sharing is more important than large numbers.

In addition to VdC Weekend veterans (aka Cursillistas) other Christians are welcome and invited to Ulreyas.

### THE ULTREYA FORMAT

Before the Ultreya, the leaders should meet, and after setting up the space properly, for a half hour they have their own Group Reunion, pray for the of the Ultreya, and initiate action to build a true community of support.

There are some universal elements of all Ultreyas. They are:

- Opening Prayer
- Music
- Lay witness or speaker
- An opportunity for response (from community and/or Spiritual Director)
- Time for reflection on the talk (small informal Reunion Groups)
- Worship
- Food!

Lay speakers at the Ultreya give witness to their growth in living union with Christ so that others may be encouraged to do likewise. Ultreya witness talks expose Cursillistas to a great variety of witnesses so they may encounter a broad range of possibilities for growth and action. The speaker should offer concrete examples of how to live what is fundamental for being a Christian in their environment. What the speaker should accomplish is sharing a practical way that should inspire others to follow the example or to imitate the actions of the speaker. A witness talk is by definition a talk delivered as a living experience of what the speaker is or believes. Hopefully, the speaker will be able to share something recent in their experience as a living example of how they are living their Fourth Day as learned during their weekend experience. The witness talk should not be an instruction nor an intellectual exercise, but a personal sharing of one's experience during their Fourth Day. The speaker should keep it short (this is not a rollo), simple and upbeat.

Singing is a good way to begin the Ultreya. Songs commonly sung on Via de Cristo weekends are a good way to bring the community together again. After the Lay speaker has given their talk, the leader may instructs those present to break into small groups of three or four for a Reunion Group format sharing time. The purpose of Ultreya Group Reunion is to provide contacts with Christians from as many different backgrounds as possible. In that way each person gains insights into the ways others live as Christians and each of us contributes to the growth of others. Often it is in the floating group that people find others with whom to form a permanent Group Reunion.

The formal Ultreya may continue with Worship and Holy Communion as we honor God and His call to always give God glory and praise.

The evening ends with snack and fellowship time.

**BASIC ADVICE: KEEP IT SIMPLE**

The theme of each Ultreya should be transforming the world for Christ, and it is important not to be distracted from that crucial task. Each Ultreya is meant to be Christ-centered, not Via de Cristo centered, concentrating not on the workings of Via de Cristo but on Jesus working within us to bring the whole world to Himself.

Any open and committed Christian should feel welcomed and perfectly at home at an Ultreya regardless of church background or spiritual experience, finding strength and courage to take Jesus Christ back into events and surroundings of everyday life. Any such person should be welcome at Ultreya and Group Reunion; it is not necessary to make a three-day weekend part of the fourth day program. In fact the entire Via de Cristo 4th Day program is no more and no less than a model for normal Christian life, combining the elements personal piety and spiritual guidance, a small group of Christian friends (the Group Reunion), and a larger community for the support and encouragement of Christian life and witness in the world (the Ultreya). This is a major reason that Via de Cristo is not in competition with, but rather an integral part of the institutional Church.

Finally, although there may be a Worship and Holy Communion as part of the Ultreya, it is important to the well-being of both the Via de Cristo Movement and the life of the congregation or congregations represented in the Ultreya, that everyone understand that this worship time should never appear to be a substitute for or a rival of each person's deep involvement in the liturgical life of his or her own church community

**Do you feel God's call to help establish an Ultreya in your area?**

Feel free to contact me for any help or advice.

Donna Gough

E-Mail: [Goughdonna@aol.com](mailto:Goughdonna@aol.com)

Work phone: 848-4141

Cell phone: 648-2637

Home phone: 948-3833

*Ultreya News*

<p>Ultreyas in north-east Ohio are usually the third Saturday of each 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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**SPRING 2016 Via de Cristo Weekends**

**Men's # 75 April 21 - 24, 2016**

**Women's # 79 May 19 - 22, 2016**

## A Message from VdC Ohio Music Advisor Jen Briner

Recently I had the privilege of taking a meal to a couple at our church that had just given birth. As the new mom handed me that baby, the lyric "How sweet to hold a newborn baby, to feel the pride and joy he gives. Yet greater still, that calm assurance. This child can face uncertain days because He lives" popped into my head! So, of course, that will be my song for this month. Because He Lives was written by Bill and Gloria Gaither (who have written over 600 songs in the last 40 years!) in the late 1960's. The culture was shifting and a "God is dead" attitude in our educational system was emerging, as well as racial tension and rampant drug use. Bill was suffering from mono and they just found out they were pregnant with their first child. Bill, Gloria and Bill's father happened to be out walking and Bill's father pointed out one blade of grass that was poking up through layers of dirt, rock and concrete, straining to find the sun. It had such a strong will to live; it had overcome all the odds to fulfill its destiny. That blade of grass became a symbol to the Gaithers of how God works in His creation. And it inspired Gloria to write a song expressing the hope that was shaped by the resurrection of Jesus, as well as that blade of grass and the birth of her son.

So the next time you face "uncertain days", remember that God sent His son, Jesus, to heal and forgive. "Because He lives", we too have new life and face the days' challenges with a mighty God who can't fail and will never let us down!!! Amen?

God loves you, I love you,  
Jen Briner

### **Wanted: Someone to become the Prayer Chain Coordinator for Via de Cristo of Ohio.**

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity in order to see if God may call you to His service with this position, please contact Lay Director Butch Seeley ([harleyrider751@ymail.com](mailto:harleyrider751@ymail.com) or 614-332-1357) or Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin ([vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or 419-886-4420 )for more information.

**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 [vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

**Clergy Experience #2** is Monday – Thursday, October 5 – 8, 2015 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center.  
Rector Chuck Fahnestock

**Co-ed Weekend** is coming Thursday – Sunday, October 22-25, 2015 at Camp Mowana in Mansfield  
Rector Dave Lann



**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](http://www.vdcoho.org)

National Via de Cristo Website  
[www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org)

Kairos Website [www.kairosOhio.org](http://www.kairosOhio.org)

**What is palanca? What is a palanca letter? A palanca letter is one that is sent to the PILGRIMS and team, informing them of the prayers, affection and sacrifices that you are offering to God on their behalf. A letter may be sent explaining what type of palanca is being offered, but the letter is NOT the palanca. The actual palanca is the action - intercessory prayer, sacrifice, or works of mercy or love, and it can be done without writing a letter. But letters are good!**

**Prior to VdC of Ohio Clergy Experience #2 and for the Co-Ed Weekend, you will have an opportunity to be part of the 72-hour Prayer Palancas. You are invited to prepare other Palanca items if you like.**

## Via de Cristo/Curcillo/Kairos/Chrysalis/Emmaus Weekends around the World

Secretariat Palanca Cha Sherryl Patterson shares the news of these Weekends so that you may consider praying for them as you do for our Weekends. Note that **Via de Cristo of Ohio** is a small part of the world-wide 4<sup>th</sup> **Day Cursillo** movement.

Sept. 3-6,2015	Men's #885 (Spanish)	Flagstaff, AZ	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #563 (Spanish)	Casa Grande, AZ	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #43 (Spanish)	Kansas City, KS	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #91 (Filipino)	Aptos, CA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #89 (Spanish)	San Martín, ARGENTINA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Men's #121	Running Springs, CA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #35 (Filipino)	Riverside, CA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #44 (Spanish)	Allentown, PA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Men's Cursillo (Spanish)	Los Angeles, CA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Men's Cursillo	Copperopolis, CA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #1 (Spanish)	San Felipe, GTO, MEXICO	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Men's #84 (Spanish)	Potosí, BOLIVIA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #43 (Spanish)	Kansas City, KS	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #44 (Spanish)	Allentown, PA	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Men's #885 (Spanish)	Flagstaff, AZ	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #70 (Spanish)	Arequipa, PERU	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Women's #377 (Spanish)	Guadalajara, MEXICO	
Sept. 3-6, 2015	Men's #281 (Spanish)	Santiago, CHILE	
Sept. 4-7, 2015	Men's #55 (Spanish)	Wichita, KS	
Sept. 4-7, 2015	Men's #110 (Spanish)	Clinton, OK	
Sept. 4-7, 2015	Women's #306 (Spanish)	Richmond, CA	

Bethlehem Walk to Emmaus	Men's Walk to Emmaus #25	10-13 September 2015 ( <a href="#">CDT:GMT-5</a> )
Blue Lake Emmaus Community	Women's Walk to Emmaus #243	10-13 September 2015 ( <a href="#">EDT:GMT-4</a> )
Big Country Emmaus Community	Women's Walk to Emmaus #206	17-20 September 2015 ( <a href="#">CDT:GMT-5</a> )
Brisbane North Coast Walk to Emmaus	Women's Walk to Emmaus #92	10-13 September 2015
Bryan, Ohio Great Banquet	Women's Great Banquet #71	17-20 September 2015
Central Alabama Emmaus Walk	Women's Walk to Emmaus #172	16-19 September 2015
Central California Women's Facility	Women's Kairos Inside #15	04-07 September 2015
Century Correctional Institution	Men's Kairos Inside #39	10-13 September 2015
Chrysalis C.A.R.E.S.	Girl's Chrysalis Flight #52 / Young Women's Journey #21	02-05 September 2015
Denver Women's Correctional Facility	Women's Kairos Inside #24	10-13 September 2015

Ed. Note: I always ask for "Faith Stories" from the members of the VdC Community to share in the Newsletter. Faith Stories come in many forms. They may be about how **you** came to faith; how your faith has grown; how the Holy Spirit gives you little surprises; how you share your faith with your family, your friends or in your church or community; or how you've seen these things in **others**. You've seen many kinds in the Newsletter—short and long, simple and complex. All of them have lifted me and, I hope, you. I also ask you to share yours by email to [vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or by US Mail to 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813. Be blessed with Joy! Nancy Martin, Newsletter Editor



## TEACH US TO PRAY

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples” (Luke 11:1).*

What followed is familiar to most of us. Jesus responds to his disciple’s request with what we have come to refer to as “The Lord’s Prayer”—a beautiful and simple model of how to engage in conversation with God the Father.

Most of us have memorized this prayer. It’s repeated every Sunday in churches around the world. Books have been written and sermons preached about it.

And yet, this prayer was in response to a request: “Lord, teach us to pray . . . .” Even those disciples who walked closely with Jesus in His earthly ministry sought help with their prayer lives. Prayer wasn’t something that came naturally to them. They had to learn it.

The disciples didn’t ask for instructions on sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom. They didn’t request to be taught how to heal. They didn’t ask Jesus to teach them how to study the scriptures. They asked Him to teach them to pray. They knew it was important. The Scriptures, after all, are full of exhortations to pray.

And yet, those who follow Jesus repeatedly confess that the spiritual discipline they struggle with the most is prayer. The form of communion with God holds the promise of intimate interaction with our heavenly Father. And that intimate relationship is the foundation for everything we do as followers of Jesus.

A number of years ago a man named Ed Reis spoke to a group of pastors about the importance of prayer and told them, “We already know enough about prayer. We just need to pray.” That’s probably true for most of us today. We don’t need more information about prayer—we need a new perspective on it, and we need to do it. That’s how we learn.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He didn’t put on a prayer seminar or discuss the various types of prayer or the biblical basis for why prayer was important. He didn’t give them techniques. He taught them by praying.

Our Via de Cristo hope is that you will spend time talking and listening to God. Becoming a person of prayer isn’t about learning to do it right—it’s about learning to engage God in conversation and about getting to know him more intimately. It may not come naturally to us. It didn’t come naturally to the early disciples, either. But as we do it, we can ask—as they did—“Lord, teach us to pray!”