

GOOD NEWS! Via de Cristo

OF SE MICHIGAN & NW OHIO

Our Mission: By Grace with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal calling, assisting them with a method for influencing their environments.

AUGUST 2012 • VOLUME 27

Via de Cristo Purpose

The Purpose of Via de Cristo is, above all, to see the world reconciled to Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:20). In the great commission, Jesus challenges every Christian to “go into all the world and make disciples” (Matthew 28:18-20). By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Via de Cristo is an effective method through which He reaffirms His original charge to us. It is one of several methods available to the church today to renew and increase a faith that is already a gift to believers. While Via de Cristo would



never promote itself as superior to other methods, we confidently declare that Christ has used the method for many different individuals, in a host of environments, on several continents.

Via de Cristo is both a movement and a method. It is essential to make clear that Via de Cristo considers itself to be a movement within the Church of Jesus Christ. It can in no way function independent of the Church. Each Christian is encouraged to remain loyal to a home congregation and to serve that congregation as an exemplary servant of Jesus Christ.

Lay persons are encouraged to strengthen their partnership with their pastor; to use their personal calling to extend the work of the Church. It would be tragic for any person, inside or outside the movement, to view it as competing with the Church or attempting to break the loyalty to anyone’s Christian heritage. Via de Cristo should not be considered an entity, like an organization or building. It must be viewed as an active communal reality; a living community, and this only because the

people who participate in a Three-Day Weekend adopt the mentality and the fundamental principles of Via de Cristo. The thing that unites people in the Via de Cristo is the desire to be active in its movement and to exercise its method.

Via de Cristo presents a method for renewal of the Christian life, a strategy to affect daily living. It uses careful selection of participants, an inspirational weekend, and friendship/accountability groups as outward tools. †

Taken from the GNVdC Leader’s Manual



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Selecting Rector | Pg 2 |
| Selecting Team | Pg 2 |
| Group Reunion..... | Pg 3 |
| Called to Serve | Pg 3 |
| New Prison Ministry | Pg 4 |
| Upcoming Events..... | Pg 4 |
| Weekend Prayer | Pg 5 |
| Application Deadline..... | Pg 6 |
| From Our Lay Director | Pg 6 |
| Secretariat News | Pg 7 |
| Weekend Events | Pg 8 |

How is a Rector Selected?

It is often asked, How is a Rector Selected? For a better explanation, you can refer to the Leaders Manual which explains this in great detail. Here are a few points taken from the leaders manual (pgs 67-68):

A Rector for our weekends should be given at least forty (40) weeks to prepare. This would mean that approximately one year before the weekend a Rector will serve, the Rector selection process should begin. The Rector Selection Committee includes the Lay Director, the Past Lay Director, the Spiritual Director, and the Leaders Committee.

When they meet they will select three (3) individuals as nominees for the Rector position.

The following qualifications should be considered in selection:

- Active in their own church
- Have served in several varied positions on weekends and have given two Rollos
- Active in a reunion group
- Active in ultreyas, send-offs, Clausura, and in other ways demonstrate leadership in Via de Cristo
- Member of a church with a faith consistent with Lutheran theology



The nominees will be ranked, by the selection committee. The Lay Director will then contact the nominees, in order, as soon as possible after the ranking. A short time can be allowed for the nominee to consider prayerfully the calling. In the event that all three nominees decline, the selection committee will meet again to provide more nominees. †

How are Team Members Selected?

It is also often asked, How are Team Members selected? Here are a few points taken from the leaders manual about team selection.

Suggested Policies for Team Selection:

- Approximately half should be FIRST timers (never served) in order to build experience
- Approximately one half the team should be experienced (having served) on previous weekends
- We encourage a Rector to have her group reunion serving on the team
- Other than group reunion, team members should only be asked to serve one team per year
- Except in rare compelling situations no one should serve in the same position twice, or give the same rollo a second time
- Team members should be in group reunions, actively involved in their church, and supporting Via de Cristo activities

Much prayer and careful consideration is put into selecting team members. Accepting the call to serve on a team involves the commitment to attend ALL team meetings, the entire weekend, and be willing to serve in ANY position.

You can go to our website www.gnvdc.org and take a Fall Team Availability Survey if you already haven't done so. Team meetings & locations are posted on our website. This survey is used for both NO and YES responses to let our rectors know of our availability. †

Are You REALLY Willing to Serve on a Team?

Have you been asked to serve on a team in a position that might feel a bit out of your comfort? Maybe it was something you felt you could not do or you don't have the skill or time. When we are called to serve on a team, trust is needed that the rector has prayed about filling this position and felt lead to call you to that position. God is always with us and sometimes we need to take that leap of faith and stretch ourselves.

When responding Yes to serving on a team, we need to be willing to serve in ANY position, placing our trust in God to help us with the rest.

Some have physical limitations that might prevent them from serving in any position which is understandable. Please let the rector know when you respond to the survey or team invitation letter. As for the rest of us, take that leap of faith, trust in God and do your best. You will be surrounded by lots of people praying for you! †

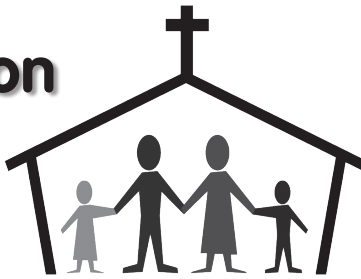


About Group Reunion

Taken from the GNVdC Leader's Manual

Here are the primary disciplines of the group reunion method:

- † The group meets weekly at a mutually convenient time and location
- † It is a primary commitment for its members
- † The members use the Service Card distributed on weekends. The format includes: the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, group sharing, and touches on piety, close moments to Christ, study, and action.
- † The members share plans of apostolic action, what they have done and will do to bring another person closer to Jesus Christ - this could be at home, work, church, or any other environment
- † The members report how last week's plan fared, holding one another accountable for planning and executing apostolic action



Reunion Group List

There are several people that have expressed the need for a reunion group and we have compiled a list of active reunion groups with a contact person.

This list is available at all GNVDC events and online at www.gnvdc.org under the community tab after you log-in.

If you need to add your group to the list, you can contact:

Contact Kevin & Joanne
Phone: (888) 468-3295
communications@gnvdc.org

- † They pray daily for one another and then lift up the detailed plans they have discussed together

When we say that the group is primary, we imply that there is very little that will interfere with a participant attending the group reunion. When Jesus speaks to us about the Kingdom of God (Matt. Cpts.5-7), clearly, to Him, there is nothing more important than service in the Kingdom of God.

Group Reunion is an essential and valuable part of the Via de Cristo method and must not be neglected. Those of us who have invested ourselves generously in Group Reunion can testify that God

has honored the commitment by increasing faith, hope, and love. He sends us into our daily lives with renewed courage and desire to bring the world to Jesus Christ.

It should now be clear why small accountability groups, like group reunion, are prerequisite to team service. †

Called To Serve

My name is Victoria Clifton and I have been called to serve as the "New" Post Weekend Chair on the secretariat board. I am eager and at the same time I am feeling a little out of my comfort zone. I know I was prayed for by the board members and I also prayed for God's direction; but what have I said yes to? 2 years organizing the Post Weekend Ultreya and a fear of what if I mess up? What if everyone is bored to tears or I forget protocol? Yes, in my human nature I have many fears. I tend to get over whelmed by the "What If's" when in reality it is not "I" or "If" it is "YOU" and "God"

To Serve! To Serve God! To Serve the Group! To Serve each other! We are all servants. I have accepted this position because God led me to this place and time.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1 States: *Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven;*

The Via De Cristo has been life changing for me and for countless others. It has been a gift of love! This gift has bonded us together and made us a family. A family with a common goal and that is to show others the love of God! To burn brightly in a dark world! And to serve each other in some capacity

Ecclesiastes 3:1

whether it be as a prayer warrior, a sponsor, serving on a weekend, being available to a brother or a sister in need, or serving on the secretariat.

So when I walked into my first meeting on June 21st, yes, late because once again I got lost! The group welcomed me and we laughed over my inability to tell north from south; and that was all the confirmation I needed to know that God was there! And together as a group, we will proceed forward to serve each other and the Via De Cristo Community.

Remember GLYASDI.....

Victoria Clifton, GNVDC #43 †

Upcoming Events

FALL WEEKENDS

Men's Weekend #51

October 11-14, 2012
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI

Women's Weekend #51

October 18-21, 2012
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI

Post Weekend Ultreya

November 4, 2012
3:00 - 6:30 pm
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI



SPRING WEEKENDS

Men's Weekend #52

April 11-14, 2013
St. Michael Lutheran Church
Ottawa Lake, MI

Women's Weekend #52

April 18-21, 2013
St. Michael Lutheran Church
Ottawa Lake, MI

Post Weekend Ultreya

May 5, 2013
3:00 - 6:30 pm
St. Michael Lutheran Church
Ottawa Lake, MI

Summer Picnic – You're Invited!

Enjoy outdoor games and fellowship
with friends and family.



When: Sunday, August 19th
3:00-6:30 pm

Where: St. Michael Lutheran Church
7000 North Sheldon Road
Canton, MI 48187

Pot blessing picnic (meat will be provided). Bring a dish to pass. If your name begins A-M bring snacks or desserts. If your name begins N-Z, bring salad, fruit or veggies. This would also be a great time to invite someone who may be interested in attending the fall weekend!

If you have any question please call Victoria Clifton at (586) 443-1696. †

Volunteers Needed

for a Prison Ministry
starting in Michigan



Greeting Via de Cristo Community,

Prison Fellowship Ministries is on the verge of blossoming in the Michigan Department of Corrections. In order to take full advantage of the seeds that have been planted, we need your help. If God is calling you to minister to those in prison, we need volunteers to serve as mentors, facilitators and various support functions. The program has been very successful at reducing recidivism and truly correcting lives that have been headed down the wrong path. The program is under the direction of Mary Engle, Regional Director of Prison Fellowship Ministries. She used to work quite closely with Chuck Colson, the founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries, before his promotion to heaven. If you are called to serve, please contact Mary Engle at mary_engle@pfm.org or **616-530-9064**. If you any additional questions, feel free to contact my office at senpcolbeck@senate.michigan.gov or **517-373-7350**.



Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this service opportunity!
PJ Colbeck, GNVDC #26 †

Praying for the Weekends

Palanca is fervent, sacrificial prayer. We need Prayer Palanca for both the Men's and Women's Weekends. It is important to pray for the Participants, Team and the events of each Weekend.

The Prayer Banner is shown to the Participants on Friday afternoon during the Grace In Action Rollo. Seeing all the names that are praying for them during all the Weekend, is very powerful to them. It helps them to see that a whole Community of people are helping and caring about them.

To get on the Prayer Banner, you

need to sign up for one or more 1/2 hour time slots. Please sign up on: www.3dayol.org. Go to Palanca List, Oct. 1 – 28, then Oct 8-14 for Men or Oct. 15-21 for Women. You will get a link to sign up for your time slot.

PALANCA:

"The heart and lifeblood of the movement-- deep, intentional, selfless, sacrificial prayer"

Other ways to sign up: Hard copy will be available at the Picnic and Team Meetings. Call Karen – 517.546.1509. Eventually, there will also be a link to the Prayer Chart on www.gnvdc.org.

Thanks for your help with this important part of each Weekend!

Yours in Christ,
Karen Warsop, Palanca Chair †



Find us on

facebook

If you haven't joined already, Facebook is a great way to connect and share with friends. We have a facebook group, and we'd love you to join. (You must have a facebook account and ask for permission to join, as only community members and other, pre-screened individuals are allowed.)



Search for :
Good News! Via de Cristo

Good News! Via de Cristo Community called to their heavenly home:

Ruth Volyes
GNVDC Summer#3

Nancy Hensley
GNVDC#24

Brooke Biel
GNVDC Summer#3

Helen Hiser
GNVDC #7

Sarah Cook
GNVDC #11

John Purcell
GNVDC #9

Norma Holmes
GNVDC #30

Norm Rose
LCVDC



Please keep their family & friends in your prayers.

Congratulations to our Fall Rectors:

Men's Rector
Roger Heino
Weekend #24

Women's Rector
Tina Gans
Weekend #21



Please pray for our new Rectors and their families as they devote so much of their time and talents preparing for this special weekend.

FALL APPLICATION DEADLINES

Reminders from our Registrars

With another set of weekends approaching, it is important that our application process runs smoothly.

Sponsors, please note:

- Applications need to be filled out completely.
- Pastors signatures must be included.
- Neatness counts! We want to have accurate information for our participants, so please take time and print legibly.



Deadlines for Weekend #51 applications: (10 days before the weekend OR earlier if full)

- Men's - October 1, 2012
- Women's - October 8, 2012

Please mail or fax application to:
P.O. Box 549
Sylvania, OH 43560
(888) 468-3295 phone
(888) 468-3295 fax

**Applications are available on our website:
www.gnvdc.org**

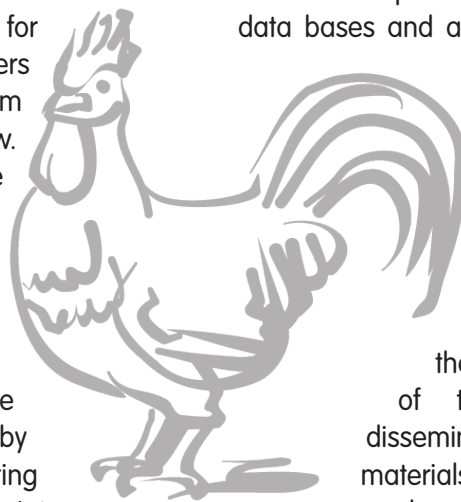
God's blessings to you,
Bob and Nancy Rieck
Registrars

From Our Lay Director

This has been an exciting first year for me. It has been a wonderful opportunity to work with a dedicated Secretariat for 2012 and I look forward to fiscal 2013 with the veterans and some first timers. It is hard to believe that we have passed Weekend #50 and are working on our next 50 weekends. Rectors are in the process of team formation for #51 and the Rectors in waiting for #52 are in place. Praise God for the talented members of Community from which we can draw. The highlight of the year was to bring to fruition all the work done by Jim Nicolai and the Spiritual Director Team task force. We have been blessed by Jim Wenger accepting the position of Secretariat Spiritual Director and the team that he is establishing. This will take a great deal of pressure off future Rectors by having the SD teams selected for their weekends. All this happened in His time. We have been blessed by having such positive response to attend our weekends that we have had to establish "waiting lists" to keep the size of participants at a manageable number that will allow the Holy Spirit to work without putting pressure on several key members of the team. Our Ultreya's and Picnics have been well attended this past year. Our Communications Chairs have brought us to the leading edge of using technology to our best advantage. Due to the development of a Document Policy, we have much

greater control of internal documents and the ability to archive information without creating huge amounts of paperwork and the need for its storage. This was a joint effort with the Leaders Committee. Leaders have also been working on updating some of the scripts used on the weekends as well as job descriptions for positions on the Secretariat. Communications Chairs have developed and implemented data bases and access to data and communications materials that will enhance the flow of information both to and from community. In addition Rectors have found that the selection of teams and the dissemination of team materials have been made much more efficient. We are still involved with the dilemma of using current and somewhat outdated Song Books. Options are being explored as to creating our own from scratch, borrowing ideas from other movements or to purchase existing books being used by other movements. The year ended with two tragedies – Ruth Voyles and Nancy Hensley. It shows how fragile life can be and how we should not take anything for granted. It is a comfort to know that they are with our Lord and we will all be reunited in His time. We keep Bill and Jeff and their families in prayer. Looking for a solid year in 2012 – 2013.

Good loves you and so do I!
Phil Meuser, GNVDC #27 †



Welcome Our Spiritual Director Team

For that past several years, the Secretariat has been trying to find a pastor from our midst that was willing to serve as the Secretariat Spiritual Director. Jim Nicolai had talked with several but none felt the call. His conversations included Jim Wenger, but Jim said that he is not saying "No" but he is saying "not yet."

During the past few months, we as the Secretariat were trying to form a Spiritual Director Team and we had some degree of interest expressed by several clergy. At our last meeting, Pastor Jim Wenger "showed up" and when asked his purpose for attending, he responded that he was aware of the nominating committees' efforts and he was there to serve as our Spiritual Director! Praise God!

Pr Jim Wenger, Jim Nicolai, Terry Grundy from the Leaders Committee and I met on April 27 with several

clergy that had expressed an interest in taking a part of the responsibilities of that team. We as the Secretariat are excited to have Pr Jim on board and details will come as the team is finalized.

Keep us all in your prayers as we develop this essential part of our movement.

Phil Meuser, GNVDC #27
Lay Director †

Here is our spiritual director team:

Pastor Jim Wenger, Lead
Timothy Freund
Pastor Cindy Getzinger
Pastor Dave Hendricks
Pastor Daniel LeCouteur

New Secretariat Members...

Welcome to our newest members of the secretariat:

- † **Pastor Jim Wenger**, Lead Spiritual Director
- † **Cathy Ownes**, National Lay Delegate
- † **Victoria Clifton**, Post-weekend
- † **Mark Belcik**, Treasurer

From Our Treasurer

Here are annual figures
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

If any of you would like to make a donation: Please make check out to: Good News Via de Cristo, mail it to: PO Box 549, Sylvania, OH 43560.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Beginning balance | \$17,347 |
| Income | |
| Weekend Giving | \$20,643 |
| General Contributions | 600 |
| Kroger | 216 |
| Total Income | \$21,459 |
| Expenses | |
| Weekend | 19,285 |
| Other | 0 |
| Total Expenses | 19,285 |
| ENDING BALANCE | \$ 19,521 |



GNVdC Secretariat

Lay Director - Phil Meuser
laydirector@gnvdc.org

Spiritual Director -
Pastor Jim Wenger
spiritualdirector@gnvdc.org

Secretary - Tina Gans
secretary@gnvdc.org

Treasurer - Mark Belcik
treasurer@gnvdc.org

Communications -
Kevin & Joanne DeHetre
communications@gnvdc.org

Leaders - Terry Grundy
leaders@gnvdc.org

Palanca - Karen Warsop
palanca@gnvdc.org

Pre-Weekend -
Scott & Laura Koenig
preweekend@gnvdc.org

Post-Weekend - Victoria Clifton
postweekend@gnvdc.org

Kitchen - Alan & Lynn McGowan
kitchen@gnvdc.org

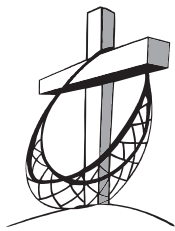
Supplies -
Gary & Debbie Maxwell
supplies@gnvdc.org

National Lay Delegate -
Cathy Owens
laydelegatevoting@gnvdc.org

Judi Lado
laydelegatenonvoting@gnvdc.org

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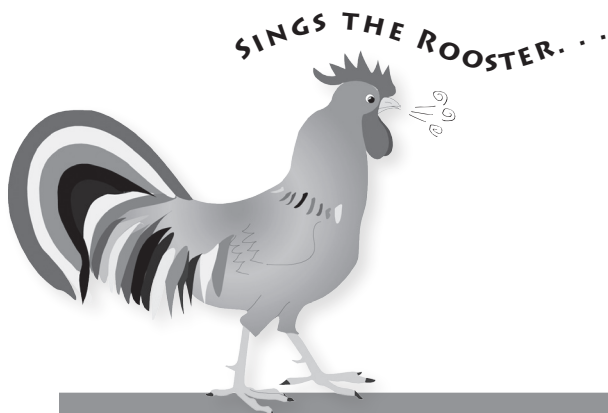
OF SE MICHIGAN & NW OHIO

Our Mission: By Grace with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal calling, assisting them with a method for influencing their environments.

Fall Weekend #51 Events

Join us!

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events for Men's and Women's GN!VdC #51. For maps and more information, go to our website at: www.gnvd.org



Men's Weekend #51

October 11-14, 2012
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Claire Shores, MI

Set-Up

Wednesday, Oct. 10
7:00 pm

Send Off

Thursday, Oct. 11
7:30 pm

Serenade

Saturday, Oct. 13
6:00 pm

Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, Oct. 14
4:30 pm

Women's Weekend #51

October 18-21, 2012
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Claire Shores, MI

Set-Up

Wednesday, Oct. 17
7:00 pm

Send Off

Thursday, Oct. 18
7:30 pm

Serenade

Saturday, Oct. 20
6:00 pm

Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, Oct. 21
4:30 pm

