

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 2011 • VOLUME 25

About the Via de Cristo Weekend

A Via de Cristo weekend is a three day course to review Christian fundamentals, discuss ways to live them actively, and learn some practical tools to keep them vital.

The Via de Cristo weekend begins on Thursday night and ends the following Sunday night. During the three days, those attending live and study together. Each day there is prayer, worship, communion, and much singing. All for the purpose of gaining a deep, permanent, living awareness of one's faith and the response that comes from such awareness.

The Via de Cristo weekend is centered around 14 talks, five given by pastors and the rest by laypersons all of whom are part of a team who have attended a previous weekend. The talks present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Those who attend take notes and have small roundtable discussions about the talks. In the evening table groups share the content of their discussions with the whole group. Usually there are four to six table

groups of six or more persons each. Deep friendships and lasting relationships may be formed among table groups.

Each morning before breakfast, the community gathers for prayer, Scripture, and a brief meditation. The team and participants engage in worship and Holy Communion. The sermon is usually a "shared Homily" with comments from all on the meaning and application of scripture.

Each evening before bed, the community gathers for brief devotion and prayer. A brief closing ceremony is held on Sunday afternoon, in which we are reminded of our place in the mission of Christ on earth -- that we have been called for a purpose.

Via de Cristo gives those attending a living understanding of basic Christian truths. There is music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and prayer.

All activity during a Via de Cristo weekend, including the talks and meditations, is surrounded in prayer and total dependence on God.

Please keep an open mind and

heart in making your decision to attend a Via de Cristo weekend. Many participants return from a Via de Cristo weekend with the desire to share that experience with others. Each person's experience attending a Via de Cristo weekend is unique. Your Via de Cristo weekend will be a gift from God, for you alone. †



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Upcoming Events

FALL WEEKENDS

Men's Weekend #49

October 13-16, 2011
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI

Women's Weekend #49

October 20-23, 2011
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI

Post Weekend Ultreya

November 6, 2011
3:00 - 6:30 pm
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI



SPRING WEEKENDS

Men's Weekend #50

April 12-15, 2012
St. Michael Lutheran Church
Ottawa Lake, MI

Women's Weekend #50

April 19-22, 2012
St. Michael Lutheran Church
Ottawa Lake, MI

Post Weekend Ultreya

May 6, 2012
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 14th
3:00-6:00 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 salad, fruit or veggies. If your name begins
N-Z, bring snacks or desserts. 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 Debbie Steyaert at (517) 423-4544. †

After The Weekend

Taken from the GNVdC Leader's Manual

You may attend a Via de Cristo weekend only once in your life, but you are asked to build on it for the rest of your life. Via de Cristo is not a retreat, or a substitute for a retreat. Via de Cristo does not end when the weekend ends.

After you have attended a Via de Cristo weekend, you are considered to be living your Fourth Day -- the rest of your life. After attending your weekend, you are asked to do two things in your Fourth Day:

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

An effective Fourth Day is the fulfillment of the Via de Cristo method. It is the tree that produces the fruit. †

Via de Cristo offers two ongoing means of perseverance:

Ultreya -

Meetings of the local community for encouragement, fellowship, and study.

Reunion Groups -

Small groups of men or women who meet regularly for a short period to help one another in their quest for spiritual development.

Participation in these two groups is a voluntary part of Via de Cristo and is strongly encouraged.

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
- † 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. †

Reunion Groups Needed

There are several people that have expressed the need for a reunion and we need your help finding a group for these people. Below are the areas:

- Sterling Heights area, Men
- Lake Orion area, Women
- Pontiac area, Women
- Flat Rock area, Men

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

What is a Parish Rep?

Anyone one of us can be Parish rep. It is simply someone who believes and loves Via de Cristo. They serve as a link between the secretariat and the church, keeping the church members updated with upcoming events. Information will be mailed or e-mailed to you, you then post it and communicate these events to your church.

We have several new churches now and need Parish rep. If you are interested in serving in this area, please contact Debbie Steyaert at (517) 423-4544. †

Congratulations to our Fall Rectors Weekend #49

Men's Rector

Mark Wentz
Weekend #38

Women's Rector

Angie Colbeck
Weekend #24



Please pray for our new Rectors 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 #49 applications: (10 days before the weekend)

- Men's - October 3, 2011
- Women's - October 10, 2011

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

How Do I Get To Be On A Team?

By Jack Eggenberger, GNVdC #25, Table of Paul

After this last set of weekends, I was approached by several people interested in serving on a Via de Cristo team. The question was, "How do I get to be on a team?"

Well, I'm sorry to say that you cannot simply put your name in and automatically be chosen, but there is a way to get your name in front of the next rector, the one calling the next team out of the community.

Much prayer by the leaders committee goes into the calling of rectors, and in turn much prayer by those rectors goes into calling together a team. Former rectors have used various methods discerning who they should call to serve, but getting your name in front of the next rector could certainly help your chances of being called.

One way to make sure you are considered by the next rector for a team position, if you haven't already done so, is to sign into the **www.gnvdc.org** website and create a user profile. One of the check boxes on your

profile asks, (are you) "Available to serve on a Team?" Make sure to check the "Yes" button. A list of community who indicated they are available to serve is able to be accessed by the next rectors.

Yet another way to communicate your willingness to serve, would be to go to: **www.gnvdc.org/community** website and click on the link to take a "team availability survey." This survey is something new we are trying out this fall. All information will be forwarded to the fall rectors. No need to create a user profile, just fill out the survey and your information will be forwarded.

Another way to help your chances is to pray that you might be called. I don't think prayer ever hurt your chances for anything.

One last thing, if you are called to serve, please know your commitment to serve on the team is not just a commitment to be there for the weekend, it would also include your commitment to attend all team meetings. †

Willing to Serve?

There are many opportunities to serve. If you are willing to serve on a team, please go to our website at: **www.gnvdc.org** and log-in, go to "update your profile", and select yes or no next to the question "willing to serve". This will then be updated in our database.

Maybe your are not able to serve on a team but would like to

help out in someway. Below are a few ways you can help:

- † Palanca - Prayer
- † Pre-weekend setup
- † Post-weeked tear-down
- † Attend Send Off and Clausura
- † Attend Serenade
- † Food Donations

Contact Kevin or Joanne DeHetre at (888) 468-3295 for more info. †



My Walk Afterwards

By Victoria Clifton, GNVdC #43, Table of Hannah

The Hallmark channel is great in depicting Christians baking cookies, drinking coffee together, and lending a hand. As little children we are told that Christians should be giving, patient, and examples of Christ's love. I always thought that was a fairytale. In the real world once outside a church pew I couldn't tell a Christian from a non-Christian.

Then one day I was invited to GNVDC # 43 and I sat at the table of Hannah. Oh I walked in and thought: "look at all the pretenders. I bet they couldn't be like this outside the weekend." I even thought it was a bit sappy. It made Hallmark look jaded! But I made it through the first night and that dreaded period of silence. When I awoke on Friday morning a bit bewildered and thinking what did I get myself into? The most amazing thing happened: People were smiling. No words were yet spoken but the smiles let me know that I was accepted and was part of something bigger than myself.

The outpouring of love demonstrated throughout that 72 hours showed me how to live. It showed me that I was responsible for being a light in a dark world. Did I show other's Christ's love? Was I a true friend? Did others want what I had? Before this weekend I would honestly had to answer no! I was religious but did not know how to live

and be a vibrant child of God. I did not show the simplicity of worship through my actions and servitude.

I learned that fellowship through song and study accompanied by laughter made for a joyous time. I learned that through these simple interactions you come to care for each other and that we are all valuable and useful to our Lord.

I am now in my fourth day a new Christian by no means perfect but teachable. One with a heart for sharing the love I found with others. I

am grateful to the many in this movement who shared their lives with me. Who offered up prayer and petitions on my behalf and who showed me the true meaning of Christian fellowship.

We are the walking example of the Gospel. For some the only Gospel they will see. What do people see when they look at you? Do they see a grateful spirit? Do they see joy and contentment in your soul? Do they see the love of God shining through you? Because of my weekend I ask myself these questions everyday. I pray to bring honor to the Lord and not dishonor. I pray for Him to increase more and more in me every moment of my 4th day and that I may decrease. I pray to be used! †

When I walk in love God is present.
1 John 4:12



Updating Your Information

We need your help in updating our database. Please take a few minutes to update or verify your information. There are several ways to update your information below:

WEBSITE

www.gnvdc.org
log-in (under community)
go to "update your profile"

(NOTE: If you do not have a password, please request one on the website and one will be emailed within 24 hours.)

BY E-MAIL

communications@gnvdc.org

BY MAIL

Kevin & Joanne DeHetre
30434 Bock St.
Garden City, MI 48135

BY PHONE

Kevin & Joanne DeHetre
(888) 468-3295

BY FAX

(888) 468-3295

We will have **change of information forms** available at team meetings, on the website, at Ultreyas, at Serenades, and other GNVDC events.



GNVdC Secretariat

Lay Director - Phil Meuser
laydirector@gnvdc.org

Spiritual Director - Vacant
spiritualdirector@gnvdc.org

Secretary - Tina Gans
secretary@gnvdc.org

Treasurer - Marge Herrman
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 - Debbie Steyaert
postweekend@gnvdc.org

Kitchen - Alan & Lynn McGowan
kitchen@gnvdc.org

Supplies -
Gary & Debbie Maxwell
supplies@gnvdc.org

National Lay Delegate -
Claire Sobson
laydelegatevoting@gnvdc.org
Judi Lado
laydelegatenonvoting@gnvdc.org

The older you get, the faster the days go by!

By Jim Nicolai, GNVdC #20, Table of Paul

I became 65 years old on July 10th. My dad used to say, "The older you get, the faster the days and months and years go by!" When I was younger I didn't fully understand how that would feel. Now I do!

For the past four years I've had the privilege of serving as Lay Director of Good News Via de Cristo. Seems like it was only yesterday that I was commissioned and now my second term is complete and I'm working with our new Lay Director, Phil Meuser, as he transitions into the position. Serving this community has been a labor of love that has blessed me in countless ways.

Over the past four years I have worked with many, many dedicated members of our community who have invested themselves in our ministry serving as secretariat members, registrars, Spiritual Directors, outreach coordinators, site coordinators, rectors, team members and sponsors. Your faith, enthusiasm, generosity, and

resourcefulness have inspired me and being with you always lifts my spirit. There is always an awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence when you're with "Via de Cristo People."

As Phil begins his service as Lay Director, he is joined by several new members on secretariat. Tina Gans as Secretary, replacing Tony Biel, Terry Grundy as Leaders Chair, replacing Marilyn Taulbee and Debbie and Gary Maxwell as Supplies Co-chairs, replacing Joanne and Jack

*You are
precious
in His sight*

eggenberger. Please join me in supporting each of our new secretariat members with prayer during their service to God

and our community. We also give thanks for all of the benefits gained during the service of our retiring members including Klaus Doll as Past Lay Director.

I owe a special, personal thank you is my wife Pat. She has been an ever present source of love, support and inspiration not only during my service to Good News, but throughout our 45 years of marriage. †

New Secretariat Members

Welcome to our newest members of the secretariat:

- † **Tina Gans**, Secretary
- † **Terry Grundy**, Leaders Chair
- † **Gary & Debbie Maxwell**, Supplies Co-chairs
- † **Phil Meuser**, Lay Director

Spiritual Checkup...

“Will The Christians Please Stand Up”

By Anonymous Author

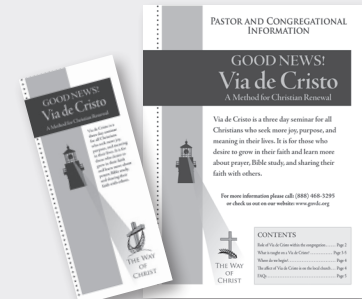
I would venture to say that most people reading this, and most people in general, have roll models—shining stars who stood out among the rest when we were growing up or seeking support in difficult times.

My question today here is simply this: are you and I that shining star for somebody else? Whether we know it or not, my guess is that you and I are probably one of somebody else’s shining star. This is a great honor, to say the least, yet it is one that carries the burden, and the blessing, of great responsibility.

As brothers and sisters who are making our Fourth Day, lets remember the following points:

1. Somebody is always watching: “You may be the only Gospel somebody is reading.”
 2. Our good works and “light” are from God alone, not of our own doing. (Think of the moon and how it has no light of it’s own, but only reflects the light of the sun).
 3. Faith is not private. It is definitely personal to be sure, but it is not private. As Jesus says, only a fool lights a lamp and then hides it.
- Let us pray for those who may be watching us and for ourselves, that our hearts be attentive and ready to hear God when he calls us. In this way we can bear effective witness to those around us of how life-transforming the Gospel really is. †

Get The News Out!



We have new Via de Cristo brochures, new Pastor and Congregational informational booklets, a 12 minute DVD, posters for the church bulletin board with upcoming Via de Cristo dates, and people that are willing to come to your church and let them know what Via de Cristo is all about! If you need any materials or are interested in a temple talk, you can e-mail Angie at accolbeck@comcast.net or call (734) 453-3105. †

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

Money, self, health, power, finances, relationships ... I worry about these things, and, admittedly, put these things foremost in my thoughts much of the time. How in the world can God ever accept my praises and worship when I have all these things swirling in my mind? I go to a great church with a wonderful congregation and a couple awesome pastors and I lift my hands and sing and praise and worship ... yet walk out the door and start worrying about the week ahead. In the word of Homer

Simpson -- DOH!

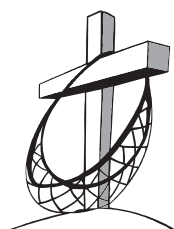
But I heard a great truth yesterday. God gets me. God understands my wandering thoughts and my worries and my cares. He “gets” it. He’s been here. I’m so thankful that He puts people into my life who can gently (and sometimes not so gently) put me back into a “God first” frame of mind. I don’t have to wander around thinking about Him all the time, but I do try to think about what Jesus would do in certain situations, or what He might say to someone who

By Anonymous Author

is experiencing trials and troubles. When I start my day with God’s Word and wake up with a song of joy, thankfulness or praise in my mind, my days flow better. It helps me focus on the things that need to be done and to do them to God’s glory to the best of my ability no matter what else is going on in my life.

That, I think, is the essence of God’s first command -- to put Him first in your thoughts and in everything you do; not as an afterthought. †

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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.

Weekend #49 Events

Join us!

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events for Men's and Women's GN!VdC #49.
For maps and more information, go to our website: www.gnvdc.org

Men's Weekend #49

Oct. 13-16, 2011
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI

Set-Up

Wednesday, Oct. 12
7:00 pm

Send Off

Thursday, Oct. 13
7:30 pm

Serenade

Saturday, Oct. 15
6:00 pm

Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, Oct. 16
4:30 pm

Women's Weekend #49

Oct. 20-23, 2011
Bethel Lutheran Church
St. Clair Shores, MI

Set-Up

Wednesday, Oct. 19
7:00 pm

Send Off

Thursday, Oct. 20
7:30 pm

Serenade

Saturday, Oct. 22
6:00 pm

Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, Oct. 23
4:30 pm