

# 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.

FEBRUARY 2013 • VOLUME 28

## To Be Christians in Existing Environments

It is essential that Christians reach out into their own individual environments (I Corinthians 7:20). In Via de Cristo, people are inspired occasionally to enter the pastoral ministry; but that is never the goal.

The goal is to send participants back into their original environments as leavening agents. As a little yeast leavens the whole loaf (Matthew 13:33), so we become the yeast for Christ. For Christ we are salt to the world. For Christ we are the light on the hill (Matthew 5:13). Jesus used many parables to express his intention to use us to carry the Gospel into the world for him. We truly believe this is the work of the entire Christian Church, not professional evangelists.

Far too often Christians withdraw into carefully selected circles of like-thinking individuals. They no longer take occasion to talk with anyone outside these circles. They avoid spending time with the lost. Many believers, when away from their selected circles, are careful to avoid religious talk; often out of fear, maybe out of misdirected respect. Sadly, Christ-followers can go to work and no one recognizes any difference between them and non-Christians. Within Via de Cristo we share tools that enable people to honor their

Lord and share their friendship with Jesus in any environment.

Jesus will make a difference in every environment; in our homes, in our work places, with our families and in our churches. We use the structure and tools given to us through Via de Cristo to submit to the Holy Spirit's work. Once an old pastor wisely said to a young farmer, "I'm impressed with your work! I remember this farm before God brought you in as his partner!" The farmer contributes nothing to the productivity of the farm except his willingness to gain knowledge, remove obstacles, give to seeds the best environment possible, and a personal commitment to diligent good work.

In summary, Via de Cristo is both a movement and a method. The purpose of the movement is to form within the Church small groups of committed leaders that will evangelize their environments with the Gospel. Via de Cristo purpose is to provide a workable structure that helps leaders live what is fundamental to being a Christian by committing themselves to the means of grace in Word and Sacrament, to small group dynamics and to personal growth through Piety, Study and Apostolic Action.

In Via de Cristo we have found that a person using the method will:

- 1) Experience more joy, happiness, and satisfaction from their Christian faith
- 2) Experience a closer walk with Jesus Christ
- 3) Develop a more joyous fellowship with brother and sister Christians
- 4) Find sharing faith with others easier and more enjoyable †

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

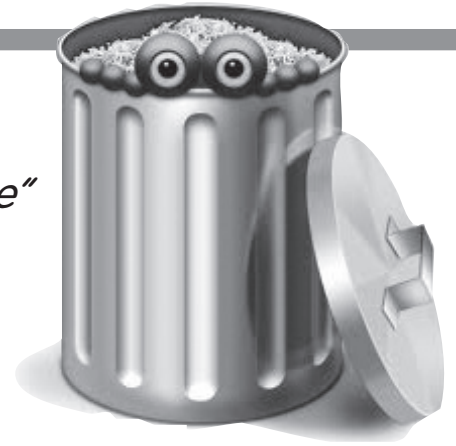
Trash Can Ministry .....	Pg 2
Living Your Fourth Day .....	Pg 2
Palanca .....	Pg 3
You Are Being Called.....	Pg 3
Philippians 4:8 .....	Pg 4
Upcoming Events.....	Pg 4
Getting Involved .....	Pg 5
De Colores.....	Pg 6
Hosting NLS 2016 .....	Pg 6
Secretariat Openings.....	Pg 7
Weekend Events .....	Pg 8

# Trash Can Ministry

*"What's one man's trash is another man's treasure"*

I am one of the people that helps out in our church office trying to replace the multi-talented secretary who had moved on to greener pastures, and sorting the mail is one of the duties I perform. One day a mailing came from Via de Cristo, and even though I had never heard of it before, a thought came into my head that said "pay attention to this" so I glanced at the contents & put the letter in the "keep" pile. A few days later, as I was working on my custodial duties at the church, I came across this mailing in the trash-can in the office & rescued it while separating trash from paper, being the rabid recycler that I am. This time, I looked at the contents more closely, & there was a letter inside talking about some Saturday meeting with

a phone number, so I called it & spoke to the woman on the other end for a while, telling her of my interest & asking if this meeting was something I would want to attend. "No," she answered, and explained that this letter was an invitation to serve on a team once someone has already made a weekend. She went on to explain about making a weekend, that a person would attend only once as a participant, that it cost \$100, that a sponsor was required & an application needed to be submitted and approved by the Minister. She also said that she was surprised this mailing was even sent to the church address, as that was not usually the case. Well, our interim minister at the church who was there for a very short time



was Pr. Bud Miller, who was to be Spiritual Director at the Fall Women's Weekend and the "woman on the phone" turned out to be Jan Pfannes, the Rectora for that weekend. Even though Pr. Miller didn't know me very well, he signed my application & Jan had never met me, she sponsored me to attend, sight unseen! This was truly my weekend to attend, & God got me there by this convoluted path, changing the rest of my life, for which I am forever grateful.

GLYASDI,

Terry Rajala, Weekend #45 †

**NEW**

## Reunion Group List

Reunion groups are vital to our fourth day and for serving on a team. To better assist our fourth day community, we have created a list of all active reunion groups.

**This list is available at all GNVDC team meetings, Ultreyas, Serenades and online at [www.gnvdc.org](http://www.gnvdc.org)** under the community tab after you log-in.

If you don't see your group listed or need to make changes, you can contact:

Kevin & Joanne DeHetre  
Phone: (888) 468-3295  
[communications@gnvdc.org](mailto:communications@gnvdc.org)  
[www.gnvdc.org/community](http://www.gnvdc.org/community)

## After The Weekend . . . Living Your Fourth Day

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.

# Palanca, Palanca, and more Palanca

Palanca is sacrificial prayer. This sacrificial prayer can take many forms in doing a part of helping with any GNVDC Weekend. You can help with any of these ways to show the Participants that many are praying and caring about them during their 3 day Weekend.

One of the best ways to do Palanca is to sign up to pray for one or more 30 minutes segments during the 72 hours that any GNVDC Weekend is going on. You can sign up at [www.3dayol.org](http://www.3dayol.org). Go to Prayer Vigil. Find Good News! Via de Cristo. You can then click on the date of either the Men's or Women's Weekend. You can then click on the time slot that you would like to sign up for. You are asked to give your name, city, state, and country. This information is used to make up a Prayer Banner that is presented to the Participants by the Team on Friday afternoon during the "Grace In Action" Rollo. Each time slot has name of the person praying for the Weekend on one sheet of colored paper. Each paper is taped

together to make a long banner. This is displayed around the Rollo Room for the rest of the Weekend. The Participants can visually see that Prayer surrounds them the entire 72 hours of their Weekend. For those that do not have computer access, you can get someone else to sign up for you, sign up on a hard copy available at Ultreyas and Team Meetings. You can also call Karen at (517) 546-1509.

Another way you can show Participants that you are praying for them, is to send a note or letter to the Weekend. The Participants are given large envelopes with notes/letters from the Team, Sponsors, their family members, and the GNVDC Community. These notes/letters can be brought to Send-off and/or Serenade. I have had some snail mailed to me and delivered to the weekend: 5633 E. Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843.

You can send small trinkets that can be given to Participants during the Weekend. These are given to the Participants on their beds, at meals



in Dining Room, or at tables in Rollo Room. Sometimes these trinkets are given by individuals, sometimes they are given by Reunion Groups.

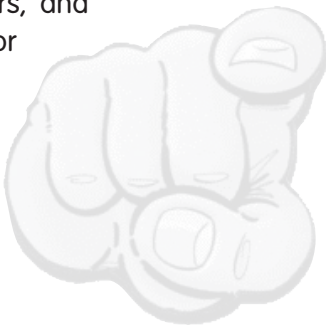
You can also help with food donations and/or Dining Room table decorations. You can sign up to donate food through the website: [gnvdc.org](http://gnvdc.org) or contact Kitchen Chairs, Alan & Lynn McGowan.

These are some ideas about how you can pray and encourage the Participants on the Weekend. Remember how special all of these gifts of love and the knowledge that so many were praying for you was for you as a Participant. Remember you can participate in giving of Palanca whether you are working the Weekend or not. You are an important part of the GNVDC Community!

Karen Warsop, Palanca Chair †

## You Are Being Called . . . Parish Reps Needed!!!

As another year is upon us, and we are getting ready to clean house, update calendars, and set new goals for the year 2013. How about considering becoming a PARISH REP at your local congregation? We have ample opportunities to reach our



Christian brothers and sisters' right in our own neighborhoods by letting fellow parishioners know about the Via De Cristo. Duties are quite simple! We would give you flyers and brochures to post at your church for upcoming weekends and ultreyas. People at your place of worship would have a local person—YOU! To ask questions and get information! We are the hands and feet of Christ and there are so many churches out

there with no knowledge of who we are! So please pray and see if this is something God is leading you to do! And feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

GLYASDI  
Victoria Clifton  
Post-Weekend Chair  
586.443.1696  
[victoria.clifton@yahoo.com](mailto:victoria.clifton@yahoo.com)  
†

## Upcoming Events

### 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



**Deadlines for Weekend #52 applications: (10 days before the weekend OR earlier if full)**

- Men's - April 1, 2013
- Women's - April 8, 2013

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/community](http://www.gnvdc.org/community)**

## Philippians 4:8

*"Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things"*

A number of years ago I remember a speaker quoting a professor from the New York Theological Seminary: "Whatever gets your attention ultimately gets you". He was holding up the importance of directing our attention our focus, our thoughts to those things truly worthy of our attention, mindful that what we think about has a very powerful influence over our feelings, and ultimately even our actions. If we desire our actions to be Christ-like, we need to fill our minds with those thoughts that will produce such. Maybe that's another way of saying what the scriptures state, "We reap what we sow". Or to put it another way, "stinking thinking is likely to lead to stinking feelings and ultimately to stinking actions!".

The reality is: something is going to get our attention. An old adage from my childhood days cautions: "an idle mind is the devil's playground".

The verse from Philippians would suggest by filling our mind with the right kind of things there will be little room for anything spiritually harmful.

VdC weekends model a healthy way to begin a day – focusing on God in worship. Some persons literally seek out an early morning worship experience on the way to work, others make an altar call on the way to work, and still other have their devotions during breakfast or while out jogging or walking. You'll be a healthier person for it!

Pastor Jerry L. Straszheim  
Sonbeam Via de Cristo †

(Excerpt taken from VDC Devotion Booklet)

If you liked this excerpt, you can purchase this book at GN!VdC Team Meetings and Ultreyas or contact communications to purchase a copy.

Call 1-888-468-3295  
or email: [communications@gnvdc.org](mailto:communications@gnvdc.org)  
Cost: \$3.00 ea

## Via de Cristo is an Ecumenical Movement, So What Does That Mean?

The Via de Cristo movement promotes the unity of the body of Christ. That unity is from Christ, not from us. We do not take away that unity by organizing into denominations, nor do we cause the unity by merging. Our unity exists because Jesus died for us and united us as one body of believers. Because of this, the National Lutheran Secretariat considers its weekends to be ecumenical. All who are baptized

in Christ are welcome to participate in a Via de Cristo weekend. However, the Via de Cristo weekend is Lutheran in its theological and doctrinal content, style of worship and devotion. Christians from other denominations who participate in a Via de Cristo weekend are taking part in a Lutheran experience and no apologetic alterations in the weekend are made as a concession to the non-Lutheran participant. †

# Criteria for Selection of Participants

The Via de Cristo is an instrument of renewal in which a specific method is developed. Through this method there is one objective: the Christian renewal of society.

The task of selecting participants is the greatest importance and consequence both for the effectiveness of the Via de Cristo and for the work towards the objective.

The Via de Cristo is NOT for everyone. Indiscriminate and haphazard distribution of applications is not desired. If you remember the rector at your Via

de Cristo said, "It is not for children or fools." Although there may be authentic experiences of conversion that occur at Via de Cristo from time to time, the weekends are primarily for Christian renewal. Also the Via de Cristo is not a place to send people to solve their problems. It is in this area that the participant's pastor can give helpful direction.

The Via de Cristo must never be concerned primarily with increasing its membership rolls, but must see its role in building and renewing Christian Leaders, so that they might more effectively Christianize their environment. †

**"Speak to God about persons,  
before speaking to persons about God."**

# Getting Involved with GN!VdC

There are many opportunities to serve. If you are willing to serve on a team, please go to our website at: [www.gnvdc.org](http://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. Also on our website is a "team availability survey" which is posted in the community page.

Maybe your are not able to serve on a team but would like to help out in someway. Below are some ways you can help:

### Weekend Help –

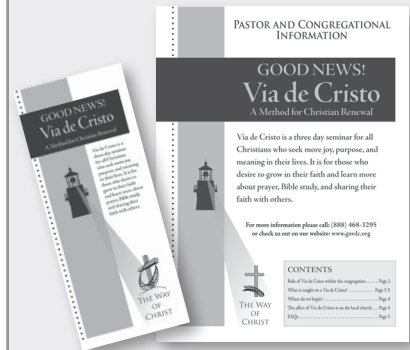
- † Palanca - Prayer Banner
- † Palanca - Personal Letters
- † Pre-weekend setup
- † Post-weekend tear-down
- † Attend Send Off
- † Attend Clausura
- † Attend Serenade
- † Food Donations
- † Table Decoration
- † Help Wash Dishes
- † Sponsor Someone
- † Make a Monetary Donation

### Year Round Help –

- † Contacting new participants
- † Considering organizing a Ultreya at your Church
- † Become a parish rep
- † Start a new reunion group
- † Website/Programming
- † Help with the newsletter
- † Serve as a Parish Rep
- † Write a personal testimony for the newsletter
- † Organize an activity for your reunion group to do

For More Information, Contact Kevin or Joanne DeHetre at (888) 468-3295 or email: [communications@gnvdc.org](mailto:communications@gnvdc.org)

## Get The News Out!



We have new Good News! Via de Cristo brochures, Pastor and Congregational informational booklets, a 12 minute DVD, Posters for the church bulletin board with upcoming Via de Cristo weekend 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 Colbeck at [acolbeck@comcast.net](mailto:acolbeck@comcast.net) or call (734) 453-3105. †

## 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.

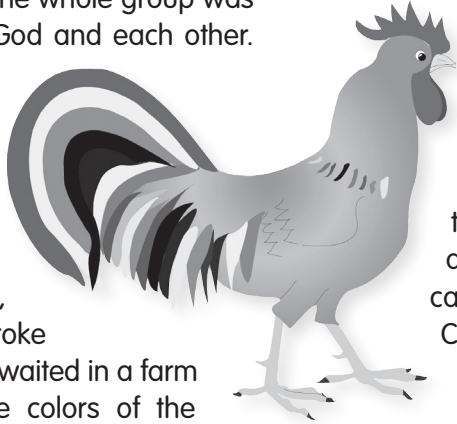


Search for :  
**Good News! Via de Cristo**

# What Does De Colores Mean?

The first Cursillo was done on an open hillside in Spain in 1947. Following it, one of the participants saw a Rooster. As the story goes, it was a wonderful three days of getting closer to God. The whole group was full of love for God and each other. This love made everything look more alive and yes, more beautiful. On the return trip, their bus broke down and they waited in a farm yard where the colors of the Rooster seemed to jump out and demand recognition for the bird as one of God's beautiful creatures. Singing and shouting 'De Colores!' The Cursillistas began to rejoice again, praising God and rejoicing in the shining colors of a little Rooster. So, they wrote a song about it, and gained a theme song and mascot for what was to become the Cursillo movement.

The song they wrote is De Colores, which means "of many colors". Some say there are 70-100 verses to this song. This song is sung at nearly all Cursillos, and many other fourth day movements, with the most infamous verses being:



Sings the Rooster; sings the Rooster with his quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri, quiri;

And the cluck hen; and the cluck hen with her cara, cara, cara, cara, cara;

And the babe chicks; and the babe chicks with their pio, pio, pio, pi.

Thinking back to the early days in Spain, and the people who came to participate in the Cursillo Movement, you will realize the value of the symbol of the Rooster and its beautiful tail feathers. To the Spanish the Rooster was symbolic of the rainbow in the Old Testament where God makes a covenant with His People. Also, the Spanish, with much poverty following the war years of World War II, found the Rooster a symbol of wealth and prosperity, a status symbol in a rural farm area. Roosters are found wandering the roadways and hillsides all over Spain. And, a good Rooster and hen give promise of eggs and more chickens to come. Thus, the countryman has promise of food and a commodity to sell or trade to provide for his family and community. †

The rainbow colors of the tail feathers have a special and significant meaning to the Christian.

- **Green** denotes new life, growth, and God's beauty of nature that surrounds us. It symbolizes the ordinary times of the Church year.

- **Blue** denotes loyalty, our commitment to God and His people. It also denotes truth, justice, and the waters of our Baptism.

- **Purple** denotes our dying and rising again along with the suffering of Jesus Christ.

- **Yellow** and **Orange** hues denote warmth, light, promise. They remind us of the love of God's Son in our lives, the light of a candle, the rays of the sun, and the changing seasons.

- **Red** denotes celebration, joy, and confirmation. It is symbolic of our feast days within, the Church, Christmas Day, and Pentecost.



## Congratulations to our Spring Rectors Weekend #52

Men's Rector

**PJ Colbeck**  
Weekend #26

Women's Rector

**Michele Wandrei**  
Weekend #27



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

# Good News! VdC is Hosting the NLS Annual Meeting in 2016!!!

GN!VdC Secretariat recently voted to host the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) Annual Meeting in July of 2016. So what does this mean? First, this is a great honor to served the larger VdC community. It will take many volunteers to host, offers an opportunity for wonderful fellowship, and a time to learn and share what others are doing.

## The purpose of the NLS Annual Meeting is four-fold:

- (1) Its a gathering of delegates from all member secretariats to conduct necessary business of the NLS.
- (2) It is to learn and share. This may be accomplished through forums, workshops, seminars, small groups and/or guest speakers.
- (3) It is to hold true to and teach the basic fundamentals, while visioning for the future as we change and grow, while maintaining continuity.
- (4) It assists the hosting secretariat in furthering its own movement and developing its' leadership in a non monetary way.

## Here are some of the Hosting Secretariat Responsibilities:

- (1) To obtain a contract
- (2) To provide housing
- (3) Provide meals for all attendees
- (4) To provide space for the annual meeting
- (5) To host the mid-year NLSEB Meeting
- (6) To provide equipment
- (7) To handle all funds received
- (8) To provide transportation
- (9) To provide maps

So you might be asking yourself "how can I help?" There are many jobs that will need filled. On our website [www.gnvdc.org/community](http://www.gnvdc.org/community) is a link to the entire guidelines for hosting a NLS Annual meeting, in detail. Here are some highlights of some positions that will need filled. Each chairperson may have several sub-committees.

- † General Chairperson
- † Assistant/Co-Chairperson(s)
- † Spiritual Director(s)
- † Treasurer
- † Secretary/Record Keeper
- † Registration/Housing
- † Meal Liaison
- † Facilities/Physical Arrangements
- † Communications Audio/Visual
- † Hospitality
- † Transportation
- † Music
- † Palanca
- † Public Relations/ Fund Raising

We will need approximately a minimum of 30 people in advance with an additional 30-45 people on site during the weekend.

Please pray about whether you are feeling lead to step up and help out. If you are interested contact:

Phil Meuser, Lay Director  
(419) 842-0507  
or email [laydirector@gnvdc.org](mailto:laydirector@gnvdc.org) †



## Secretariat Openings and Brief Descriptions

Nominations are being sought for GN!VdC Secretariat positions coming up this June. If you feel a calling to become more involved in serving the GN!VdC community or have someone in mind that displays a love for the movement and has leadership skills, please contact Terry Grundy at (734) 856-5652. She will share the job descriptions of the positions available and answer questions you might have.

### Communications Chair

Responsible for website, social media, publicity materials, database management. Coordinates the creation and mailing of newsletters, emails, printed materials such as team manuals, forms, applications, brochures, etc. Communications with the Good News Community, NLS and other movements.

### Leaders Chair

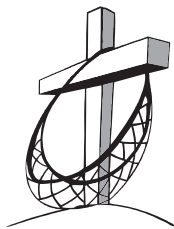
Convenes the Leaders Committee, develops and maintains team and leaders training materials, receives and directs availability forms and conducts leaders training workshops. Assists in rector selection, training, support and with team selection as needed.

### Palanca Chair

Coordinates and communicates with the NLS and other movements on matters relating to palanca. Receives and distributes palanca gifts and letters on weekends. Organizes a 72 hour prayer banner for use on Good News weekends. Keeps an updated list of banners used on weekends. Coordinates movement's music program. †



**GOOD NEWS! Via de Cristo**  
 OF SE MICHIGAN & NW OHIO  
 Newsletter Editor  
 c/o DeHetre  
 30434 Bock Street  
 Garden City, MI 48135



# 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.

### Spring Weekend #52 Events

#### Join us!

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events for Men's and Women's GN!VdC #52. For maps and more information, go to our website at: [www.gnvdc.org](http://www.gnvdc.org)



#### Men's Weekend #52

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

#### Set-Up

Wednesday, April 10  
 7:00 pm

#### Send Off

Thursday, April 11  
 7:30 pm

#### Serenade

Saturday, April 13  
 6:00 pm

#### Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, April 14  
 4:30 pm

#### Women's Weekend #52

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

#### Set-Up

Wednesday, April 17  
 7:00 pm

#### Send Off

Thursday, April 18  
 7:30 pm

#### Serenade

Saturday, April 20  
 6:00 pm

#### Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, April 21  
 4:30 pm

