

GOOD NEWS! VIA DE CRISTO

OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN AND NORTHWEST OHIO

FEBRUARY 2017



SPRING WEEKEND LEADERSHIP:

MEN'S WEEKEND

Rector:
Scott Koenig
skoenig@bex.net
(419) 841-1523

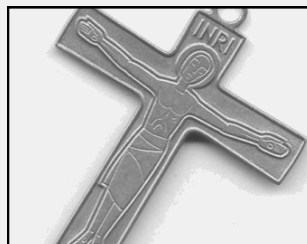
Head Cha
Tony Hauser
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WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Rector:
Sherri Gelman
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Head Cha
Phyllis Ikegami
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(734) 417-5711

Spring Weekend is Coming Soon!



Our spring rectors are hard at work calling and training teams to serve this Spring. As a community, we are called to support them. Here is what you can do to help:

- Donate food or supplies. Contact the head chas to be put in contact with the kitchen team.
- **Attend set-up** (Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.) Serenade (Saturday evening at 6 p.m.) **Clausura** (Sunday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.) and help with **tear down** (Sunday following the clausura)

- Pray. Visit gnvdc.org and follow the link to our **online prayer vigil sign up**. Can you spend 30 minutes in prayer for the team and participants?
- **Volunteer**. Contact the head cook or the head server. Extra hands in the kitchen to chop, wash dishes, and set tables can give the team extra encouragement.
- Visit the **prayer chapel**. This is especially meaningful if one of your reunion group members is giving a rollo. Check with the head server to get access to the building and for schedule details.
- Write letters and give gifts of grace in addition to your prayer palanca. Hand written palanca to

participants is always preferred—but any message can bring a gift of grace. All letters should be turned in by Saturday's serenade. Gifts of love are appreciated on Thursday to allow the palanca chas to plan appropriately for distribution.

- **Make a financial gift**. Often there are team or participants that cannot pay the suggested donation amount. Additionally, when our numbers are lower the fixed costs of each weekend do not change. Making a tax-deductible donation to GNVDC can help ensure that no one is denied a weekend experience because of financial need.

Have you approached potential participants yet?

It's never too early to pray for a potential participant on a weekend. If there's someone you've been praying about, have you approached them yet?

Deadlines for weekend applications are April 10th for the men and April 17th for the women—but it's not too early to get those applications in!

Applying early has benefits:

- 1.) The community gets the names and can start praying.
- 2.) The participant has time to plan ahead for things like child care, pet care, time off work, etc. This can greatly ease the stress of attending a weekend.
- 3.) As a sponsor, you have time to collect palanca letters from family and friends. It can take time to contact those important people. Having time to get letters returned to you means your participant will receive those message of love and grace on Sunday from more people.
- 4.) The team can be assured that the weekend will take place. It can make a team anxious to prepare when they don't know a weekend will happen for sure. When participants register early, it eases the nerves of the team and helps them focus on serving with enthusiasm.

So have you talked to your potential participants yet? The time is NOW!

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A Word from our Lay Director

Answers to prayer

We all talk about how we believe prayer works in our life and for sure sometimes we even witness answers to our prayers. Sometimes the answers come later than when we want, sometimes they come in different ways than we expect.

My wife Joanne and I recently prayed for something very specific and within five minutes we had an answer.

It was so quick that we were not sure what we should do. It was some help to a problem we were having with our house. I mentioned to Joanne that I think this is God telling us we are in a flood, we need to get into the boat. So we got into the boat and ended up with such a wonderful result that we could not have imagined the outcome.

So the point is that when we

pray, we should be alert to his response. God loves us more than we can comprehend and wants the best for us.

God is So Good. So are his people.

Joanne and I are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

GLYASDI,

Jack Eggenberger

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MORE THAN WE
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BEST FOR US.**

Nominations Being Accepted for Secretariat Positions

If you have ever wanted to work farther behind the scenes on a GNVDC weekend, to know more about how things are prepared before the teams are called, or to help make weekends happen in a meaningful way, you just might be someone who would do well to serve on the GNVDC Secretariat. Several positions open each year on this governing board for our Via de Cristo movement. This year we are looking to fill the following positions:

2 year terms: Lay Director/Past Lay Director, Secretary, Pre-Weekend Chair, Leader's Chair, Supplies Chair

3 year term: National Lay Delegate

1 year transition followed by a 2 year term: Communications Chair

Job descriptions for these positions are available in the leaders manual or by contacting leaderschair@gnvdc.org.

If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone to serve, please contact the nominating committee chair, Clyde Bame, at preweekendchair@gnvdc.org



If you shop at Kroger, your reward card could help GNVDC! Go to www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com to learn how to link your card to benefit our organization. During the registration process, use our organization ID number of 84232. Any time you make a purchase using your reward card, GNVDC will receive a small portion of your bill.

Already enrolled? **Remember that you must re-enroll each year by April 1 for the benefit to continue!** Your account will not be automatically renewed at the beginning of the new year.

Responsible Sponsorship: Selecting Participants for a Weekend

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. How we select and invite individuals makes a difference in how the weekend flows and the impact Via de Cristo can have on the greater church.

The Via de Cristo is not for everyone. Inviting participants without careful thought, discernment, and prayer is not ideal. While Via de Cristo seeks to be inclusive, a blanket invitation in your congregation is not the most effective way to involve people in the movement. Individuals are not randomly pulled from the crowd. Instead, Christian leaders are called into an experience for growth. Although there may be authentic experiences of conversion that occur at Via de Cristo from time to time, these weekends are intended for Christian renewal. The Via de Cristo is not a place to send people to solve their problems. Via de Cristo makes the biggest difference when a participant is ready to receive the message and apply it to their life.

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 transform their environments. **The goal is to select those who are leaders and potential leaders, in order to equip them for the work of the church.**

Before you sponsor a participant on a weekend, consider the check-list below to guide your discernment and invitation.

Does/is the participant:

- Desire to grow as a Christian?
- Have potential for leadership in his/her environment?
- Have the capacity for careful listening and understanding?
- Seriously open to change and spiritual growth?
- At least 18 years old, mature, responsible, and in good emotional health?
- Physically capable of fully participating in the weekend?
- Understand that Via de Cristo is

more than just attending a weekend?

- Really want to attend a weekend?
- At a relatively stable place in their life?
- Have the support of their pastor?

Are/have you, the sponsor:

- Living the fourth day and understand the goals of Via de Cristo?
- praying for guidance before taking action to sponsor this participant?
- Offered to assist the participant with baby/pet/house sitting, etc.?
- Offered the participant transportation to and from the weekend?
- Able to support the participant through prayer, written palanca, and your presence at the sendoff and the closing?
- Able to actively assist them join a reunion group?
- Able to support the participant in their fourth day for at least six months after the weekend?
- Shared with them about the \$100 suggested donation that will be discussed at the end of the weekend?

Remember: Participant applications are available for download at www.gnvdc.org in the Community section of the webpage.

Update your contact information.

In order to maintain contact with you, it is important that we have your current contact information. We have found that many in our database no longer have a working phone number or email on file with us. Email addresses change. More and more people are discontinuing use of a phone at the house and going to mobile phones. If either of these apply to you, please check your records with us to make sure we know how to get ahold of you. There are two ways to update your information:

- If you have a GNVDC login, you can go to www.gnvdc.org and submit your updated information online. There is also a link to request a login if you do not yet have one and would like to have one created for you. This password protected section of the website helps us maintain some privacy, while giving access to information you need to participate in the movement. On your profile you can also update your congregational affiliation, your newsletter preferences, and your availability to serve on team.
- If you do not have a login, you can contact Michelle Ketepa, our communication chair, at communications@gnvdc.org or call 734-883-5899.



GOOD NEWS! VIA DE CRISTO

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FIND US ONLINE!

WWW.GNVDC.ORG

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Spring Weekends

Men:
April 14-17, 2016
Application Deadline April 4

Women:
April 21-24, 2016
Application Deadline April 11

Spring weekend location:
St. Michael Lutheran Church
5790 W Temperance Rd.
Ottawa Lake, MI

Fall Weekends

Men:
October 12-15, 2017
Application Deadline October 2

Women:
October 19-22, 2017
Application Deadline October 9

Fall weekend location:
Bethel Lutheran Church
26400 Little Mack
St. Clair Shores, MI

Secretariat Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. For more information about meetings check the GNVDC website for a schedule or contact Jack Eggenberger at laydirector@gnvdc.org.



**Spring Post-Weekend
Ultreya**

Sunday, May 21, 2017
3:00-6:00 p.m.

St. Michael Lutheran Church
5790 W Temperance Rd.
Ottawa Lake, MI