

Good News! Via de Cristo Participant Application (Continued)



SPONSOR SECTION *To be completed by the sponsor*

Are you in a reunion group currently? (circle one) Yes No

Name _____
First (Nickname) Last

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Home phone: (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

E-mail address: (optional): _____

As a sponsor, I agree to pray, care, help and support my participant before, during, and after the weekend. I understand that this will include at least 1) prayer for my participant, 2) coordination of Palanca letters from the participant's family and friends, 3) transportation to and from the weekend, 4) information needed to process this application, 5) assistance in helping the participant join a Reunion Group following the weekend 6) encouragement for the participant to return to his / her home congregation with a renewed spirit.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PASTOR'S SECTION *To be completed and signed by pastor.*

Name _____
First (Nickname) Last

Since the Weekend is designed to help leaders of the Church grow spiritually so that they are able to be more effective servants within the church, we ask that participants and sponsors discuss attending Via de Cristo weekends with their pastor.

_____ I am aware that my parishioner will be attending a Via de Cristo weekend.

_____ I am willing to take some time following the weekend, to discuss the participant's experience and how it might enhance congregational life.

_____ I would like additional information about Via de Cristo.

Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please note: Application **MUST** be filled out completely before being sent to the Registrar. Any questions should be directed to the Registrar, whose contact information is on page 1 of this application.

What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo, pronounced BEE-ah de KREES-toe, meaning, “The Way of Christ”, is a short course in Christianity. It is a three day seminar which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured weekend for CHRISTIANS, designed to examine true faith and , through it, help Christians positively impact their environment. Via de Cristo is presented as a combined effort of laymen and clergy.

Purpose of Via de Cristo

Can Christianity penetrate all of the different areas of our daily lives? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world? *“You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”*. (Matthew 5:14 and 16) Via de Cristo is intended to help Christians be “the light of the world”. It proposes NO NEW TYPE OF CHRISTIANITY. It is not a church, but it does simply present a means through which one’s grace-filled life may be daily lived and shared with others in a natural and loving way. Via de Cristo is designed to help strengthen and renew a Christian’s faith, thereby helping the individual to share their faith within their families, congregations and the environments where they live and work.

Via de Cristo Follow Through

You may attend a Via de Cristo 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. Later retreats do, however, complement it. The subsequent activity is known as the Fourth Day. This is actually the rest of your life.

Those attending are asked to do two things in the Fourth Day: 1. expand their inner spiritual life through study and church participation, and 2. become more active witnesses for Christ in their daily lives. Via de Cristo offers two ongoing means of perseverance: 1. ULTREYA, meetings of the local community for encouragement and study, and 2. GROUP REUNIONS, 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.

History of Via de Cristo

Originating as Cursillo®, Spanish for “short course”, in the Spanish Catholic Church in the late 1940’s, it came into America in the late 1950’s. The movement began in the Lutheran church when laity and clergy, both in Iowa and Florida, attended Catholic Cursillos® in 1971. The first Lutheran-sponsored weekends began independently early in 1972 in both Iowa and Florida. Since that time, the movement has spread to many states across the nation. In 1985, the name Via de Cristo was selected to recognize this movement’s ecumenical character.

What Happens At Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo begins on Thursday night and ends on the following Sunday night. During the three days, participants live and study together with singing and prayer. Via de Cristo is centered around 14 talks, with five given by clergy and nine by laity. Following each talk, small roundtable discussions focus on the main points of the talk. The talks, in an overlapping fashion, present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of JESUS CHRIST, as an Ideal. Via de Cristo gives those attending a living understanding of basic Christian truths.

Who Should Go On A Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo is for Christians who seek more joy, purpose and meaning in their faith. It is for those who desire to grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, Bible study and sharing their faith with others.

In the case of married individuals, both husband and wife are encouraged to attend a Via de Cristo to strengthen their relationship as one in Christ Jesus. It is strongly recommended that the husband and wife attend the same set of weekends. If that is not possible, the husband should attend first.

Jesus said, *“You are the branches...” John 15:1-11*