

On Eagle's Wings...

...I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. Exodus 19:4

Jan./Feb. 2012



Message from the Lay Director

As we embark on a new year, I feel a strong need to review what Via de Cristo is. We can get so caught up in our fast paced lives that we fail to review our spiritual walk. Where are we? Where do we want to be? How do we get there?

Let us start by going back to our roots. The first Carrillo weekends, (the model for Via de Cristo), occurred after seven years of prayer and experimentation. Our present weekends follow a standardized format that is the result of a great deal of preparation. The year 2011 was the 25th anniversary of Via de Cristo, while 2012 will mark our 40th year since our first weekends. The difference in these dates reflect when we began having weekends and when our national secretariat was formed using Via de Cristo as our name. This change took place after much discussion and the decision to be an ecumenical movement, which meant we could not use "Cursillo" as part of our name. Although we follow the Cursillo model, our theology is Lutheran.

The most important ingredients in a weekend, after God's grace, are the participants. The weekend should give each participant an experience in Christian community. Thus, building community is a vital process of the weekend and is part of the model we follow. The weekend is a one-time community, which will never be duplicated.

To live as Christians in a secular world is a huge challenge. Our society is not conditioned to Christian community, and it is very difficult living out the Christian faith without the help, support and contact with other Christians. The Via de Cristo, (Cursillo), method of perseverance in our fourth day is the ultreya

and group reunion.

We have all heard or read the story of the pastor visiting a farmer who had fallen away from church attendance. During his visit, the pastor took a poker and pulled away a glowing hot coal from the fire. It quickly lost its glow and became a gray ash. He then pushed the gray coal back into the fire, where it quickly began to glow again. Group reunion and ultreyas are our means of keeping the glow of the weekend alive.

So, is becoming a member of the Via de Cristo community the goal of our weekend? Our national mission statement is: "By grace, with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal calling, assisting them to influence their environment with the Gospel." Our weekends are to prepare Christians to return to their families, communities, and churches as leaders, using their God given gifts to spread the Gospel. The purpose of serving on weekends, grouping and attending ultreyas is to keep the glow we received on our weekends vibrant and alive.

Finally, I encourage everyone to be personally involved in the 2012 election process to whatever degree you desire. But keep in mind as you watch campaign ads and listen to the rhetoric that unlike the political world, Via de Cristo cannot be defined by such political terms as left-right, liberal-conservative, or any other dichotomy. Our primary goal is to ask Christians, regardless of their political ideology or political leanings, with leadership potential to attend a weekend and be equipped to return home as leaders "to influence their environment with the Gospel." Also, we must view each other in only one way; as fellow Christians.

In Christ, **Cecil Brown**

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012: 6:00 pm	Secretariat Meeting	First English Lutheran Church Peoria, IL
Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012: 6:30 pm: Group Reunion 7:00 pm: Ultreya	Ultreya 4th Day Speaker: Keith Feigum	Living Waters Lutheran Church 7229 N. Knoxville Peoria, IL
Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012: 6:30 pm: Group Reunion 7:00 pm: Ultreya	Ultreya 4th Day Speaker: John Harvey	Salem Lutheran Church Peoria, IL
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012: 6:00 pm	Secretariat Meeting	First English Lutheran Church Peoria, IL
Saturday, March 10, 2012: 6:30 pm: Group Reunion 7:00 pm: Ultreya	Ultreya 4th Day Speaker: Unknown	Zion Lutheran Church Peoria, IL
Tuesday, March 13, 2012: 6:00 pm	Secretariat Meeting	First English Lutheran Church Peoria, IL
Tuesday, April 10, 2012: 6:00 pm	Secretariat Meeting	First English Lutheran Church Peoria, IL
Thursday, April 19, 2012: 6:30 pm	Co-ed Weekend #2 Send-Off	Faith Lutheran Church Washington, IL
April 19 thru 22, 2012:	Co-ed Weekend #2	East Bay Camp, Bloomington, IL
Sunday, April 22, 2012: 4:30 pm	Co-ed Weekend #2 Closure	Faith Lutheran Church Washington, IL

Starting at 6:30 pm at our January 14, 2012 Ultreya, we will be using approximately 20-30 minutes of time for HOIVdC community members that do **not** currently have a reunion group, to meet with each other to group, and to discuss the possibility of starting up some new reunion groups. Existing reunion groups are also invited to "group" at this same time.

If you have any questions, please contact Tony or Tiffney Palmer at 309/747-3176 or via email to: tiffneyp@gridcom.net

If anyone has a Weekend Rollo Training Manual/Notebook, (or a disc of one), please call Mike Schwindenhammer at 309/682-2722, or return it to him as soon as possible.

We are in need of 4th Day Speakers for some of the upcoming Ultreyas. If you would like to be a 4th Day Speaker, please contact Rosie Biegler at 309/685-0160 or by email to: comppd4@gmail.com

2012 Ultreya Schedule and Locations:

January 14:	Living Waters Lutheran Church
February 11:	Salem Lutheran Church
March 10:	Zion Lutheran Church
April:	No Ultreya
May 12:	First English Lutheran Church
June 9:	Grace & Peace Lutheran Church
July 14:	Faith Lutheran Church
August:	No Ultreya
September 8:	Advent Lutheran Church
October:	No Ultreya
November 10:	First English Lutheran Church
December:	No Ultreya

Another year is dawning
 With the chance to start anew.
 May I be kinder, wiser Lord
 In all I say and do.
 Not so caught up in selfish gain
 That I would fail to see.
 The things in life that mean the most
 Cost not a fancy fee.
 The warm kind word that I can give
 The outstretched hand to help.
 The prayers I pray for those in need
 More precious these than wealth.
 I know not what may be ahead
 Of laughter or of tears
 I only need to know each day
 That you are walking near.
 I am thankful for this brand new year
 As now I humbly pray.
 My hand secure in yours dear Lord
 Each step along the way.

Author Unknown



On behalf of our family, we would like to thank the Via de Cristo community for all the support, including prayers, multiple cards, memorials, visitation/funeral presence, and more prayers, we have received during my Mom's illness and going to meet our Lord.

She is now pain-free and wrapped in the loving arms of our Lord. My family made several comments about how much support Dave and I received from our extended family.

We love you all. Thank you again.
 God's peace and blessings.

Linda, Dave, and Courtney Kerler

Every Christian
 is a **lens** through which
 the **world** is trying
 to catch a **glimpse**
 of **Jesus**.

From the book, *Sanctuary*, by David Jeremiah

Please send any prayer requests or praises to God that you would like communicated to the HOIVDC community by sending an email to: hoiviadecristo@gmail.com

If making a prayer request for someone, please be certain it is okay to use their full name in the newsletter. If they would prefer, we can publish only their first name.

Please pray for the following HOIVDC community members:

- For Pastor Paul Park and his continued recovery from cancer.
- For the family of Margaret Claussen, who passed away on December 6, 2011.
- For Debbie Wiegand, (Debbie is the wife of Merle Wiegand; Merle is a co-worker of Tina Rabenau's), for her recovery from brain surgery to remove a tumor.

- For Tom Trefzger's father, Tom (senior), for recovery from having one of his legs amputated due to complications from diabetes.

The following are prayers of thanksgiving from HOIVDC community members:

- For the birth of Miles Lee Vogel on December 6, 2011 in Bloomington, IL. Mile's parents are Jeremy and Becky Vogel of Mackinaw and his grandparents are Roger and Linda Ericsson of Brimfield.
- For the birth of Samatha Carol Knapp on December 6, 2011. Samatha's parents are Raymond and Tamera Knapp. Raymond is the grandson to Liz Biegler and nephew to Rosie and Evie Biegler.
- For new employment for Dave Kerler at TEK Systems in Bloomington, as an IT Consultant working at State Farm Insurance.

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Heart of Illinois Via de Cristo is a non-profit lay ministry and a member of the National Lutheran Via de Cristo Secretariat. Our mission is to focus on personal spiritual enrichment, provide another source for development of Christian leaders for the institutional church and commit to the on-going evangelization of our environment for Christ. A newsletter is published by the Heart of Illinois Via de Cristo Inc., approximately six times per year. Articles for possible publication should be submitted to the Lay Director or Communications person. Heart of Illinois Via de Cristo Ultrayas are held eight times per year and are open to all who have attended a Via de Cristo, Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias or any similar weekend. Ultrayas are also open to others who have not yet attended a weekend providing an opportunity to become familiar with the Via de Cristo concept.

Save A Tree! Get Your Newsletter Via Email!

As printing costs increase, we would like to encourage everyone to consider receiving their newsletter via email or downloading it from our VdC website. If you would like to receive your VdC newsletter via email, please send an email request to Mark or Laurie Doolittle, at: hoiviadecristo@gmail.com

Reunion Group Information

Information on days, times, locations and contact persons for participating reunion groups can be found on the Via de Cristo website. If your group would like to be listed or your group information has changed, please contact: Tony or Tiffney Palmer at 309/747-3176 or via email at: tiffney@gridcom.net

Website Information

National Via de Cristo website:
www.viadecristo.org

Heart of Illinois Via de Cristo website:
www.heartofillinoisviadecristo.org

More Via de Cristo Information