

Letter to the Via de Cristo Community:

After much prayer, discussion, and thought, the Via de Cristo Secretariat has canceled the men's summer weekend. There are several factors in this decision, and we came to this conclusion only after extensive work to try to make arrangements for the weekend to happen. In the end we concluded that this was not God's will for it to happen. We have, however, decided to still have the women's summer weekend (July 29-August 1, 2010).

One of the factors in our decision is the challenge of having enough pilgrims on a weekend. Even though we know of weekends in which there have been an extremely small number of pilgrims and that weekend has been a great blessing to those pilgrims, we also know that the dynamics for a movement of God's Spirit are usually greater when there are more pilgrims present. For the last two years, we canceled one of the three scheduled men's weekends due to an insufficient number of pilgrims signed up to attend a weekend.

Via de Cristo is an expression and an experience of the grace of God. As your lay director I have experienced that grace in abundance in the gifts and sacrifices of so many people. It is amazing to experience so many people pouring themselves out in service to our Lord. It is true palanca. Thank God for you!

Never underestimate the power of a gift of love. For so many of us it was the experiencing of that gift that made our Via de Cristo weekends such a powerful encounter with God.

I invite you to give yourself the gift of giving.

- Pray for the Via de Cristo movement, for its leaders, and for God's blessing upon it.
- Ask God, "Whom do you want me to invite to attend a weekend?" Then invite them.
- Pray for the men's spring weekend, - which is happening right now. Pray for the fall men's weekend (Oct. 21-24).
- Pray for the women's spring weekend (May 13-16), the summer women's weekend (July 29-August 1), the fall women's (November 11-14).
- Do not wait to be asked but offer yourself to serve however God is directing you.

Prayer is the most precious gift that you can give.

As always, you are welcome to contact any secretariat member or me with your thoughts. This is God's Via de Cristo and God speaks to all of us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings and God loves you and so do I!

Cathy Doering

Lay Director – Via de Cristo of Ohio