

September 1, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since we have covered Piety and Study in previous newsletters, the next topic will be Action. What is your action for the Lord? We are sent out to make Christ known as stated in John 20:31 *“As the Father has sent me, so I send you”*. Have you witnessed to someone this week? Have you shared someone’s burden? What service have you done for the Lord? Remember, we are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful and to treat others with the Grace of Christ as it has been extended to us.

Does your reunion group plan activities? Do you all socialize together? Do you hold each other accountable? These are all questions that continue to help us in our Fourth Day.

Everything that happens is a part of our Fourth Day and having the Lord to walk with us is beyond price. Last year, we were devastated when our Daughter living in San Diego told us her husband wanted a divorce. We loved our daughter and our son-in-law but things happened and he wanted out. Many of you know of the struggle they had with the planning and having their wedding, not to mention getting the military to recognize that they did indeed get married. But last summer, Charli moved back home. I am sure this never occurred to her that at 27, she would be coming home to live with her parents again. No one really chooses these kinds of events but they happen. But I have to be honest-- while I am very sorry that she had to travel down this road of heart-ache, I love having her home. I enjoy spending time with her.

This month we are pleased to start recognizing people who have graciously shared their money with us along with those who made in-kind donations. We all know that team members are very giving of their time to attend the team meetings and actually **pay to work** the weekends. There are many others who send donations to Via de Cristo. There are many who pray for our movement and the secretariat. All of these things are needed – for we cannot do what we do without the help of you in the community. We are also blessed to have some talented people on Secretariat (past and present). We praise God for your willingness to help however you help.

The year is flying by. At times, I just want it to slow down. I just get the books closed for the month at work, and another month end is fast approaching. Where do I see myself in the coming months? How can I use the gifts that Lord has given me, even though at times I feel inadequate for the task at hand. For it is certainly true, with God all things are possible. He has made me a leader just as he has made you one. For many years, I didn’t want to be a leader or even a Christian Leader. The responsibilities are large and the risk is great. Sometimes sacrifices are made to do what the Lord requires. Help is needed at the church level and with many organizations. It can be overwhelming, but if we each do one thing, there would be enough volunteers. Please pray about what God wants you to do. We start with one person at a time.

We have a great opportunity coming up on Saturday, October 22. (There is no OSU game that day.) We have a statewide Ultreya planned at Lutheran Memorial Camp near Mt. Gilead. Please invite a friend and come join us. See flyer for some of the information with more information in the October newsletter. Take some time to be with our community for you **all** are a part of it. For so many of us, the travel time would be an hour or two. Won’t you join us?

Consider sending us your faith story to share in the newsletter. When did you realize that God loves you? Was there something that happened to you on the weekend that helped you in your walk as a Christian Leader? Please only write about yourself and not someone else. These stories provide encouragement and hope for all of us. Send your story to Nancy at vdcnewsletterohio@earthlink.net.

Have you encouraged your pastor? Have you touched someone's life? Please send a note to someone – you may never know the power of kind words spoken in Christian love to someone. It can be very short, yet the Holy Spirit will make it powerful. I have seen this in notes that I have sent and received. We can make a difference!

God loves you and so do I!

Cathy Doering
Lay Director – Via de Cristo of Ohio