


VIA DE CRISTO OF OHIO P.O. BOX 091005 COLUMBUS, OH 43209	FIRST CLASS MAIL	PRESORTED <hr/> FIRST-CLASS MAIL <hr/> U.S. POSTAGE PAID CUYAHOGA FALLS OH PERMIT NO. 137
	Mailed 12/30/02	
Annual Meeting and Election Jan. 25th Ballot inside Mail By Jan.15th	<p style="text-align: center;">CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!!!!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	

UPCOMING EVENTS In 2003

ANNUAL MEETING - Jan. 25th - Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus

SCHOOL FOR LEADERS - FEB. 22

MEN'S - APRIL 24-27

WOMEN'S - MAY 8-11

MEN'S - SEPT 25-28

WOMEN'S - OCT 16-19

Above Weekends site Holy Cross Catholic Cursillo Center Downtown Columbus

MEN'S - JUNE 26-29

WOMEN'S - JULY 10-13

Above Weekends site St. Leonard's Retreat Center - Avon, OH

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT MEETING - JULY 24-27

At Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus

PRAY FOR THE WEEKENDS, THE RECTOR, AND THE TEAM

---- OFFER YOUR SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE ----

ATTEND GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA

Sign up on the 72-hour Prayer Vigil for the Weekends

GET ON THE WEB ==> Ohio Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristooh.org
 Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristo.org
 Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org



De Colores!

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 7

December 27, 2002

Dear Friends in Christ,

From the Lay Director

Have you ever had one of those times? You know... when it seems you've spent a month in one week? I have to tell you, this past week sure seemed that way to me. I could go on and on about all the happenings that made this week so long, but that would put the focus of the week on complaints and, well, downright unpleasant thoughts. Sure, we need to remember the unpleasant things so we can appreciate the good ones. But this last week was truly a "Bear," both physically and mentally. Sometimes, we cannot see the logic of the happenings around us. Sometimes, there is no logic, only the seemingly endless chaos of our existence. So many things are happening around us today that we cannot possibly fathom all their complexities or their meanings. One barrage after another, the media blitz is too much to take. This happened, that happened, everything just happening! "Stop the merry-go-round, I want off!" And that is exactly what Satan wants us to do. Give it up. Satan plays on our strong desire to control the situation, to the point where we simply cannot stand it anymore and we want to quit. But that's not what God has planned for us. No matter what happens, He wants us to know that He is with us through it all and that He will not put any burden on us that we cannot bear. Remember the ending chapter of Matthew, "... and I will be with you to the end of the age."

I ask another question, "What's the difference between happiness and joy?" I was listening to Christian radio the other day and the pastor spoke of the difference. I would like to share his insight with you. He said that the root word for happiness and happening is the same and that happiness depends on things happening... the excitation of our senses by external stimuli. Something external has to "happen" to affect our "happiness," whether good or bad. **Joy**, on the other hand, comes from within. It is something internal to us, something that does not require an external stimulus to make us feel good or bad. **Joy** is part of our make-up, part of who we are... and that **Joy** brings us through the hard times, through the difficult challenges put before us as we journey through this life, through the "happenings" that bring us down, the "happenings" that try to make us bitter.

We got through this last week, a bit scathed, a bit worn, but nonetheless we got through it. Which brings me to the point of this message: no matter how hard things get, no matter how challenging or mundane, no matter how difficult and painful, God will bring us through those times. I guess what I'm trying to say is that **Hope** is knowing this fact and putting into practice. Often, we cannot see **Hope** even when it's staring us in the face... but I do know this... we can surely feel its presence in the people around us, in the **Love** shared by friends and family, in the **Gracious Gift of Faith** given to us by God Himself.

Well, there you have it. **Joy, Hope, Love, and Faith**. These words take on a renewed meaning to me as I paddle like crazy through the rapids of life because I know God is steering the boat... I can take **Joy** in Christ, knowing that He will bring me through these rough times (**Hope**). I can share His **Love** with friends and family, and be filled with His **Gracious Faith** in eager anticipation of His return.

Enjoy the Season... Remember the Christ Child. God Loves You and So Do I. De Colores,
Kevin

OHIO SECRETARIAT

Lay Director -----Kevin Ayer
937-255-0128 ayer4ce1@yahoo.com

Asst. Lay Director ----- Ron Craig
330-678-5135 rcraig3@neo.rr.com

Secretary ----- Mary Ann Sauer
937-439-9742 MASAUER@AOL.COM

Treasurer ----- Chris Albrekton
937-298-0031 JC4Vdc@aol.com

Spiritual Director --- Laurel Bobb
330-689-1045 Lgbobb@aol.com

Palanca Chair --- Barb Ostermeier
513-860-9378 ostermeier@fuse.net

Historian --- Paul Swinehart
614-476-5979 Paul2303@yahoo.com

4th Day Education Chris Albrekton
937-298-0031 JC4Vdc@aol.com

Registrar ----- Jane Starn
740-927-6211 Tonymstarn@aol.com

Archivist ----- Lori Hertlein
740-756-7066 hertlein@greenapple.com

At Large ----- Tim Leu
614-837-7629 PatLeu@aol.com

NLS Delegate --- Fred Schnieder
513-729-0945
KMASCHNEIDER@juno.com

NLS Delegate --- Jim Caldwell
614-818-3975 JTCFMS@aol.com

Pres. Nat. Secretariat - Doug Burrows
614-933-8930 DWBAGCY@aol.com

Weekend Rector Development &
Training Material --- Donna Gough
614-899-1210 Goughdonna@aol.com

Newsletter Editor --- Dan Steffey
330-688-9019 dsteffey@neo.rr.com

Prayer Chain --- Chris Albrekton
937-298-0031 JC4Vdc@aol.com

Regional Management

Northwest ----- Doug Hewitt
Northeast ----- Ruth Lindsey
Southwest ----- Kevin Hoch
Southeast ----- Greg Farra

Via de Cristo of Ohio
P.O. Box 091005
Columbus, OH 43209

Prayer Chain----- Chris Albrekton
2793 Galewood St., Kettering, OH 45420
937-298-0031 E-mail: JC4Vdc@aol.com

Note: If you have questions or suggestions, please
fell free to call any of the Secretariat members
Also, anyone from the community is welcome to
attend the Secretariat meetings.

Via de Cristo was blessed by our departed brother

By Paul Swinehart, historian

The Ohio Via de Cristo Movement got much good advice from the late Oran Gough of Westerville during the 20 years he was its friend and champion. In a recent interview, he was concerned about its growth. He said it needs “intentional, ongoing, frequent public information campaigns” to make known what the movement has to offer, especially to the clergy.

“Through whatever means, more frequent communications, more individual contacts, more marketing tools, the story of Via de Cristo and what it has to offer must be made available to more people, most especially the clergy,” he said.

Oran was a promoter of VdC since he attended Episcopal Cursillo #31 in Florida in 1982. He said he attended because of the effect Kairos #2 weekend had on his son, Frank, who was serving time in Desoto Correctional. The Lord turned Frank around after society had turned its back on him. Oran said it did the same for him.

Oran was asked his closest moment with Christ. He said there had been many, but on his weekend, when “I realized that Christ must be the CENTER of my life, not just on the fringes,” was the precursor of all the rest of them.

Oran served on a dozen teams, from cha-cha to Rector, he served on Lebanon Kairos eight times, including Rector, Advising Rector, Coordinator and Table Leader. He even served a women’s weekend as assistant head cook.

He had a full plate in leadership roles, including Gold Coast Lutheran Cursillo Kitchen Steering Committee and Columbus Ultreya Committee for Southern Ohio Episcopal Cursillo. When Lutheran Cursillo became Via de Cristo in 1986, he served as National Representative and on National Via de Cristo Board from 1992 to 2001. He produced a video, “Counting on You” for the National Board. He was webmaster for National and Ohio Via de Cristo and served on the Ohio Secretariat from 1992 to 2001. He served on multiple Leaders’ Schools, including as Rector. He served on Kairos Ohio District Committee for two terms. He was webmaster for Kairos Ohio District. He was speaker for several Kairos “Celebration” fund-raising banquets.

He was married to Donna for 26 years. He had four children (their mother died at 32) and 10 grandchildren. Three of the families live in Florida. Oran was in the broadcasting and advertising industry for over 45 years and was listed in Who’s Who in the South and Southwest. They came to Columbus, where his last position was operations manager of Channel 28. He loved to work with computers and photography and listen to Christian music.

He once advised that the single most important thing anyone can do for Via de Cristo is to pray for it and its leaders, local and national.

On November 26, 2002, Oran returned to our Lord after a long and valiant struggle with complications from heart surgery. Those who knew him or of him are blessed by his wisdom, leadership and strength of character.



Eleven singers traveled to OSU Hospital Saturday, Nov. 16, to serenade Oran Gough in his hospital room. He enjoyed the music and even tried to sing along without his speaking tube. Even the nurses enjoyed it. Present were, from left, Laberta Swinehart, Chris Albrektsen, Kevin Ayer, Donna Gough, Oran. Also there were Jeff Albrektsen, Christopher Albrektsen, Lynn Ayer, Fred and Karen Schneider, Cyndie Murray, and Paul Swinehart.

Many hours needed to prepare a weekend

By Paul Swinehart, historian

It takes more than 1,000 man-hours to prepare a team for a weekend. But it is a labor of love for those who serve.

The first seeds to bring a weekend to reality are sowed possibly a year before the weekend date. The Ohio Lutheran Via de Cristo Secretariat, which meets monthly, uses a balloting process to select four or five persons who are eligible and available to be the rector.

The requirements are that he or she will have given at least two rollos and have served on two additional teams as a cha. He or she must be attending a reunion group and Ultreya. These names are given to the Lay Director, who then calls on the list until finding the one who will serve.

The rector-designate then must receive rector training and receive the load of materials he or she will use to form a team and conduct the weekend. He or she will be given a computer-generated list of persons eligible to serve on a team. Prospective team members must have attended the School for Leaders.

The rector's job is first to contact his team selections and assign them to their various positions on the team. It takes about a 30 member team to run a weekend. These are the rector, the spiritual directors, the head cha, the head kitchen cha, the cha-chas, and the professors. Some past rectors say it takes as many as 100 phone calls and considerable time just to assemble the team list.

The spiritual director on the Secretariat is responsible for obtaining two or three pastors to serve as spiritual directors on the weekend.

The professors may spend weeks writing their rollos, which follow a definite outline, but will contain materials, stories, and witnesses unique to the assigned professor.

Then the team trains for four or five eight-hour Saturdays listening to the rollos, preparing the menus, the worship, the devotions, and all the other details that go into a weekend. As many as 60 persons will be at the weekend, where they must be fed and provided sleeping quarters. The team members get acquainted, learn their roles in the weekend, pray together, and worship together at these meetings.

When the weekend actually happens, these folks experience the joy, the fellowship, the piety, study and action all over again. They will tell you that team service is as rewarding as their first weekend. If you have not yet attended the School for Leaders, get signed up, because Christ is counting on you and He has much more in store for you when you are called to serve on a team.



Judy Thompson (our newsletter editor) is retiring from First Energy and moving to Wisconsin in January. We will all miss her hard work, love, and service to Christ in Ohio Via de Cristo.

Dan Steffey is the new newsletter editor.

His address : 4288 Osage St.
Stow, OH 44224

Phone: 330-688-9019
email: dsteffey@neo.rr.com

Dan and his wife (Lynn) worship at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Stow.

Annual Meeting - January 25
 Trinity Seminary
 Columbus, OH

10:00 a.m. - Secretariat Meeting

12:00 Potluck Dinner
 (bring food for your family and
 place settings)



followed by
**Annual Meeting
 and Election**



See You There

Directions to Trinity Seminary

Coming from the east on I-70: Exit at Livingston Avenue (Exit 103B). Turn left, go under the I-70 overpass and turn right (north) at the next corner, Alum Creek Drive. Go north to Main Street where Alum Creek Drive dead-ends. Turn right on Main Street; go to the second traffic light and turn right onto College Avenue. Turn right from College Avenue into the Trinity Visitor parking lot (just before the yellow caution light at the intersection of College and Mound Street).

Coming from the west on I-70: exit at Bexley-Main Street (103A) onto a ramp that circles around to Alum Creek Drive (north). Alum Creek Drive dead-ends at Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street; go to the second traffic light and turn right onto College Avenue. Turn right from College Avenue into the Trinity visitor parking lot, just before the yellow caution light at the intersection of College and Mound Street.

Coming from the North on I-71: Take I-71 south to I-70 east. Take the Alum Creek Drive exit (103B) and circle to the right at the bottom of the exit. Get in the middle lane to cross Livingston Avenue, staying on Alum Creek Drive (north). Alum Creek Drive dead-ends at Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street; go to the second traffic light and turn right onto College Avenue. Turn right from College Avenue into the Trinity visitor parking lot just before the yellow caution light at the intersection of College and Mound Street.

The meeting is at the main administration building. Park in the first parking lot on the right as you turn onto College Street off of Main.

Ballot Information

Each year two of the four elected officers of the Via de Cristo Secretariat are elected by our community. This year, you are asked to vote for **Treasurer** and **Assistant Lay Director**. The names below have been offered in nomination. Write-in votes are acceptable and lines have been provided accordingly. Husbands and wives may sign together or submit a copy.

Please complete your ballot and bring to the Annual Meeting OR mail it by January 15 to:
 Via de Cristo of Ohio P.O. Box 091005 Columbus, OH 43209

BALLOT

Via de Cristo of Ohio

BALLOT

TREASURER _____ Warren (Butch) Seeley _____ Other _____
 (Vote for one)

ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR _____ Ron Craig _____ Other _____
 (Vote for one)

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ **City/State/Zip** _____

>>>>> Mail by January 15 <<<<< Via de Cristo PO Box 091005 Columbus, OH 43209

or bring to Annual Meeting Jan. 25

Ultraya!



For further details on these and other Ultrayas in Ohio, contact:

Paul Swinehart
614-476-5979
Paul2303@aol.com

Upcoming
Weekends



Reprinted from Conexiones June, 2002

Cincinnati - Monthly

First Saturdays, 7:30 pm - Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy, contact Kevin Hoch, 513-913-8797

Columbus - Monthly - Lutheran-Episcopal 4th Fridays, 7:30 pm. Contact Dick Logan at 614-965-9420 or Donna Gough at 614-899-1210

Dayton Lutheran Ultraya (corrected)- Monthly

Third Tuesday, 7:30 pm.

At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 901 E. Stroop in Kettering. For details, call Bob & Mary Ann Sauer at 937-439-9742 or Email: MASAUER@aol.com

Kent - call for dates and time:

Contact Pastor Doug Fidler (330) 673-5445

Marysville Area - Monthly

Third Sunday at First English Lutheran, 687 London Avenue, Marysville. Call Judy Hurl 513/642-4621 or Jeanne Haynes, 513/642-4701

Newark/Heath - Monthly

4th Sunday, 7:00 pm. St. John's Lutheran Church, Linneville Road, Newark. Contact Pam Paynter. 614-323-0207

Stow - Quarterly

Contact Gracia Luoma (330) 686-8807

Western Lake County

Periodic joint Lutheran-Episcopal Ultraya. Hook up through George Cyphers, 216-951-2906

Western Reserve - Monthly

Second Saturday, Epworth United Methodist Church, call Martha Mallen (216) 257-0254

Urbana - Monthly

First Friday 6:30 pm at Church of the Epiphany, corner Scioto and Kenton, Urbana. Joint ultraya with Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and now Lutheran! Contact Dick or Marv Swan, 513/484-3189.

For 2003:

Men's Spring - 24-27 April (Cum Cristo Center, Columbus, OH)

Rector is Roger Retherford

Men's Summer - 26 - 29 June (St. Leonard's Center, Avon, OH)
Rector is Jon Paul

Men's Fall - 25 - 28 September (Cum Cristo Center, Columbus, OH)

Rector TBD

Women's Spring - 8 - 11 May (Cum Cristo Center, Col., OH)
Rectora is Barb Ostermeier

Women's Summer - 10 - 13 July (St. Leonard's Ctr, Avon, OH)

Rectora is Fran Dieter

Women's Fall - 16 - 19 Oct (Cum Cristo Center, Columbus, OH)
Rectora TBD

For 2004:

Men's Spring - 29 Apr - 2 May (Cum Cristo Center, Columbus, OH)

Rector is Bob Sauer

Men's Summer - TBD (St. Leonard's Center, Avon, OH)

Rector TBD

Men's Fall - 23 - 26 Sept (Cum Cristo Center, Columbus, OH)

Rector TBD

Women's Spring - 20 - 23 May (Cum Cristo Center, Columbus, OH)

Rectora TBD

Women's Summer - TBD (St. Leonard's Center, Avon, OH)

Rectora TBD

Women's Fall - 7 - 10 Oct (Cum Cristo Center, Columbus, OH)

Rectora TBD

**2003 National Lutheran Secretariat Meeting
July 24 - 27 at Trinity Lutheran Seminary**

It is hard to believe, but the NLS annual meeting in Columbus is only 7 months away. A lot of the planning is already underway. What we truly need right now is your time, talent and treasure.

Time

There will be need for a lot of your time in July but what we could use the most of right now is for your time in prayer for the success of the meeting and for all the preparation.

Talent

There is still room for help in planning of the event on several committees. I still need an audio-visual person who can tape and produce videos of the sessions. Please let me know if you want to help out in any way.

Treasure

The annual meeting will cost over \$20,000 to hold. Most of that cost will be for housing and food for the participants which will be covered by a registration fee. The desire of National is to keep the registration fee low so more people will be able to attend. Therefore, the Ohio Secretariat will need to cover some of the expense for hospitality, logistics and supplies. We need your help. Considering that it is close to year end, please consider a donation to the Secretariat to cover these expenses. Please note on your check that the donation will be for "NLS Annual Meeting" and send to:

VIA DE CRISTO OF OHIO
P.O. BOX 091005
COLUMBUS OH 43209

Thank you in advance for all you will do to make the 2003 NLS meeting a blessing to all.

Jim Caldwell
JTCFMS@aol.com
614-818-3975

National Palanca

We will need many pieces of table Palanca for the National Convention next summer.

If your reunion group would be willing to make about 175 pieces of Palanca, please email me at

masauer@aol.com

Let me know what you are planning to make, so that we don't have duplicates.

Thanks

National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 24 through Sunday, July 27, 2003

Trinity Lutheran Seminary / Capital University, Columbus, Ohio

Phone 614-235-4136

Phone 614-236-6833

Hosted by the Via de Cristo of OH and the Good News Via de Cristo of MI Secretariats

Christ's Grace - "The heart of it all"

Official Registration (One form required for each person attending. Please print using ball point pen.)

Name: _____ Name Tag 1st Name _____

Address: _____ Male Female

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

Cell Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: <_____>

Secretariat: _____ Position: _____

I am a member of: *Church*: _____

Please enter my registration as: Lay Delegate Clergy Delegate NLS Board

For Lay Delegate formula, see NLS Bylaw #4 Lay Visitor Visiting Clergy Speaker

Have you attended a National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Mtg before? Yes No How many? _____

Please list your choices for Committee assignments: 1 for first choice; 2 for a second in the appropriate box

Constitution & Bylaws Long Range Planning Spiritual Director's Dialogue

Newsletter Finance / Budget A/V PowerPoint Presentation

Palanca & Posters Website I choose NOT to serve on or attend a committee

Note: Committees & Seminars may run concurrently; attendees not required to serve on committees.

Have you served on committees before? Yes No

In what capacity have you served? _____

Registration Fees Register by 6/1/2003 and receive a \$25.00 discount

(Host Committee cannot guarantee housing after June 1)

(Refund requests in writing postmarked before July 14: \$25 of fee is non-refundable)

Delegate / Visitor:..(\$150 before June 1) \$175.00

Registration includes meals and double occupancy lodging. Total Registration: \$ _____

Upgrade to a single room (Limited availability) \$15.00 per night

Additional night: \$40 Double-- \$50.00 Single Thur Fri Sat Sun

Single day registration (*Meals only*):...\$25.00..... Which day(s)

I will room with: _____ Assign me a roommate

Mode of travel: Fly Drive Other _____

Special Diets required: _____

Special Housing required: _____

PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:

NLS 2003 Annual Meeting
Registration Committee
7456 Wethersfield Drive
West Chester, Ohio 45069-5508

Please Leave Blank

Postmarked Date: _____

Reg # _____

Check# _____ Amt _____

Make checks payable to: Via de Cristo of Ohio-National Meeting

Via de Cristo School for Leaders

February of 2003

School for Leaders will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2003. The purpose of this school is to provide a better understanding of all aspects of Via de Cristo.

Topics covered include:

Theology of the Weekend

Dynamics and Psychology of the Weekend

Team Roles and much more.

Attend to gain a fuller understanding of your weekend experience. You must attend the School for Leaders to serve on a Via de Cristo team.

The school will be offered February 22nd at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 901 E. Stroop Road, Kettering, Ohio. The school starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, running till 5:00 p.m. You can register by using the form below. Cost is \$10 per person.

=====

SCHOOL for LEADERS REGISTRATION for February 22, 2003

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ Request Friday Night Housing (Yes or No) _____

Church _____ E-Mail Address _____

Attended: Via de Cristo () Other _____ Weekend Number _____

Please enclose a check payable to Ohio Via de Cristo (\$10 per person) and send it with this form to Chris Albrekton, 2793 Galewood St, Kettering, OH 45420 email: JC4VDC@aol.com

I am in the process of gathering some data concerning the Via de Cristo movement. This data will give the Secretariat some important insights into what's working and what's not working in the movement. This information will help make this movement more effective in bringing individuals closer to our Lord.

Please take a few minutes and complete the attached survey. Your answers are very important. You can send your completed surveys to me by e-mail at kihoch@prodigy.net (the survey will be on the website) or by snail mail at:

2691 Altura Dr.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45239

Thanks.
Kevin Hoch

<p>1) Since your Via de Cristo weekend, which of the following activities have you participated in? Please check all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Attended Leaders' School <input type="checkbox"/> Served on a Team <input type="checkbox"/> Been in a Reunion Group <input type="checkbox"/> Attended Ultreya <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsored a Pilgrim</p> <p>2a) If you have not attended Leaders' School, would you like to?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>2b) If you have attended Leaders' School, have you been asked to serve on a team?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>3) Are you currently active in a Reunion Group?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>3a) If you answered no to question 3, would you like to join a group?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>3a1) If you answered yes to question 3a, what is preventing you from joining a group?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Can't find a group I'm comfortable with. <input type="checkbox"/> Can't find a group that meets at a convenient time. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>3a2) If you answered no to question 3a, why do you not want to join a group?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Don't have the time <input type="checkbox"/> Group is not helpful to me <input type="checkbox"/> Just not interested <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	<p>4) Do you currently attend Ultreya?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>4a) If you answered no to question 4, why do you not attend?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Meets at an inconvenient time <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know when it is <input type="checkbox"/> Don't get anything out of it <input type="checkbox"/> Just not interested <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>5) How long before you went on your weekend were you first asked to consider attending a weekend? If you don't remember, please make a choice and put a question mark after your answer.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 4 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 2 months <input type="checkbox"/> 2 to 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> more than 3 months</p> <p>6) Have you sponsored a pilgrim on a Via de Cristo or similar weekend?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>7) Do you use the Via de Cristo concepts of Piety, Study, and Action as a guide in your 4th day walk?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>8) General comments - What one or two things about the Via de Cristo movement have been extra beneficial to you? What one or two things do you feel could be improved?</p>
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