


<b>VIA DE CRISTO OF OHIO</b> <b>P.O. BOX 53081</b> <b>CINCINNATI, OH 45253</b>	<b>FIRST CLASS MAIL</b>	PRESORTED ----- <b>FIRST-CLASS MAIL</b> ----- U.S. POSTAGE PAID CUYAHOGA FALLS OH PERMIT NO. 137
	Mailed 12/19/03	
<b>Annual Meeting and Election</b> <b>Jan. 17<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>St. Paul Lutheran</b> <b>48 Church St.</b> <b>Bellville, OH</b>  <b>Ballot inside</b>  <b>Mail By</b> <b>Jan. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!!!!</b></p> 	

**UPCOMING WEEKENDS AND EVENTS IN 2004**

**MEN'S #52 - APR 29-May 2, 2004**

**Rector - Jim Caldwell**

**WOMEN'S #51 - MAY 20-23, 2004**

**Rectora - Mary Ann Sauer**

**MEN'S #54 - SEPT 23-26, 2004**

**Rector - Bob Sauer**

**WOMEN'S #53 - OCT 7-10, 2004**

**Rectora - Christy Brill**

Above Weekends site Holy Cross Catholic Cursillo Center    Downtown Columbus

**MEN'S #53 - JUL 15-18, 2004**

**Rector - Skip Dodds**

**WOMEN'S #52 - JUL 22-25, 2004**

**Rectora - TBD**

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

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT MEETING - JUL 22-25, 2004**

At Johnson Bible College in Knoxville, TN

**SCHOOL FOR LEADERS - February 28 , Abiding Christ , Fairborn**

**ATTEND GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA**

**GET ON THE WEB ==>**

Ohio Via de Cristo Website  
National Via de Cristo Website  
Kairos Website

[www.viadecristooh.org](http://www.viadecristooh.org)  
[www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org)  
[www.kairosohio.org](http://www.kairosohio.org)



Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter  
Affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat

# De Colores!

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 7

December 18, 2003

## From the Lay Director

Dear Friends in Christ,

Well... it's another year older and deeper in debt... at least that's how the song goes. Why is it the older we get, time seems to pass by more quickly? Is it my imagination or did 2003 zip by like a whirlwind? We recently visited El Paso, Texas (my hometown) to witness the wedding of one of our nieces. My niece isn't supposed to get married! Well... she's... well... she's just a kid and kids aren't supposed to be getting married, are they? Kyleen, my daughter, was the Maid of Honor so really, I guess, the "visit" was more than "just a visit." What a whirlwind day... in a very real sense. The wind was blowing so strong that it kicked up the southwest desert's dust and dirt. The dust and dirt was so thick it made the sky that reddish-brown haze that literally blocked out the sun. We could stare at the sun through that darkened dimness without hurting our eyes. The sun looked like a beacon in a storm, pail yellowish red trying desperately to shine through the shadowed sky, eerie and foreboding. Then I thought... I wondered what was it like for Joseph and Mary riding the distance to Bethlehem? Was it blustery like El Paso? Was a Judean wind kicking up the dust and dirt, making the sun appear like a searchlight, seeking lost souls in that desert of despair? Another year older and deeper in debt...

The day after the wedding, the sky was crystal clear. It was so clear that you could see the New Mexico Mountains about a hundred miles away to the north. The sun exploded over the mountains east of El Paso, and everything was beautiful. It was Sunday. Morning's first dawn radiantly beamed over wispy clouds as they danced across the sky. Brilliant rainbow hues signified another glorious day in God's kingdom! That experience made me wonder what it must have been like the day after the Shepherds visited that lonely cattle stall to witness the birth of new life. Was that morning over Jerusalem like the morning in El Paso, wispy and cold, brilliantly bright with the sun's rays? Another year older and deeper in debt...

The census was over. Another young man and young woman were blissfully wed. My niece and her husband were off to live a new life together in the presence of God. Mary and Joseph were counted, too. Their new life lay in their arms as they embraced God in human likeness. Another year older and deeper in debt

A short three decades later and Mary will witness the death of her new life, her very own son crucified on a cruel cross... two arms outstretched on a tree, the length of the road to Calvary... the depth of His pain was the cost... all for you... all for me... all for love did he bleed... to set us free... to set us free. Jesus, the Son, is the "Sun" searching through the darkened dimness of dust and dirt, seeking souls in a desert of despair. Christ does break through to shine brilliantly over glorious mountains, exploding like rainbow hues on a canvas of white. Another year older and deeper in debt... but unlike the rest of that song, Jesus bought my soul and I no longer owe it to the "company store."

So, the next time you visit the "company store," or the local mall, remember this... Jesus came this season for one, and only one, reason... to pay a debt He didn't owe because we owe a debt we cannot pay. So, we are another year older and we are deeper in debt... not to the company store but deeper in debt to Jesus.

*(continued next page)*

## OHIO SECRETARIAT

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

Via de Cristo of Ohio  
P.O. Box 53081  
Cincinnati, OH 45253

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From the Lay Director

Just a few reminders during this season of wonder and awe... Keep God first in your heart and in your mind. Don't let the hustle and bustle of the spending spree catch you up and toss you about. Take time to reflect... to breathe in His wondrous love... and share the moments with loved ones and friends. Seek out each other and embrace in God's love.

Next year is coming and we have a great deal of work to do... The Annual Meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bellville, OH. The Secretariat meets at 10:00 AM and the Annual Meeting starts at 12:00 Noon (Pot Luck Style Lunch). We are voting for Lay Director and Secretary at this meeting so it is crucial that you make every effort to be at this meeting. The Spring 2004 Leaders Training will be at Abiding Christ Lutheran Church in Fairborn, OH (suburb of Dayton) on February 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 AM and going to around 4:30 PM. So, mark your calendars for these two events and I'll see you there.

God Love You and So Do I,

Kevin

JOY

JOY

JOY

Lighten your hearts and let the love of this season be the shining Star of Bethlehem that everyone can see.

The joyous occasion of the birth of Jesus is God's wonderful way for Him to deliver His Son and message for all to hear.

On behalf of the Ohio Via de Cristo Secretariat, we wish you a very joyous and blessed Merry Christmas & New Year.



# Sing a New Song!

Be sure to mark your calendars NOW for SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 12:00 Noon. That's the day of the ANNUAL MEETING for Ohio Via de Cristo. Beginning with a potluck lunch at 12:00 Noon (bring your best!), followed by election of officers and the Annual Business Meeting, the topping will be a musical presentation by....

## THE KAIROS BAND!

The name is a "catch all" phrase for a group of those who provide music for Kairos weekends in prisons all over Ohio. Under the leadership of ROGER RETHERFORD, they will play and sing for us, and the group will tell us some of the special stories from Kairos weekends, and will finish with a concert/sing-along!

All are welcome! Bring your friends! If you have someone who would like to meet the community of Via de Cristo before attending a weekend, this is a perfect time! The meeting will be held at ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 48 CHURCH ST., BELLVILLE, OHIO. See you there!

**Directions to St. Paul's:** Take I-71 to State Route 97 (Exit #165, Bellville/Lexington). Take SR-97 towards Bellville for about 2 ½ miles. Once in Bellville, SR-97 becomes Church Street. St. Paul's is on the left.

10:00 a.m. - Secretariat Meeting

12:00 Noon - Potluck Lunch

(bring food for your family and place settings)

### 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 **Lay Director and Secretary**. 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 7 to: Via de Cristo of Ohio P.O. Box 53081 Cincinnati, OH 45253**

**BALLOT**

**Via de Cristo of Ohio**

**BALLOT**

**SECRETARY** \_\_\_\_\_ Sharon Gsellman  
(Vote for one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**LAY DIRECTOR** \_\_\_\_\_ Kevin Ayer  
(Vote for one)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY/STATE/ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

# Via de Cristo School for Leaders

**February 28, 2004**

School for Leaders will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2004. 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 28<sup>th</sup> at Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, 326 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Road, Fairborn, Ohio, 45324.

The school starts at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, running til 5:00 p.m. You can register by using the form below. Cost is \$10 per person.

## SCHOOL for LEADERS REGISTRATION for February 28, 2004

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, Ohio 45420 email: [jc4vdc@aol.com](mailto:jc4vdc@aol.com)

**ULTREYA! For further details on these and other Ultreyas in Ohio, contact:** Paul Swinehart 614-476-5979  
[Pauls2303@yahoo.com](mailto:Pauls2303@yahoo.com)

**Cincinnati - Monthly** First Saturday, 7:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Healthy, contact Kevin Hoch, 513-913-8797

**Columbus - Monthly** Fourth Tuesday, 7:30 PM at Linden Lutheran Church, 1230 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus, contact Paul Swinehart 614-476-5979 or Darryl Larson, 614-262-4420 at the church or 614-865-0469 at home.

**Dayton Lutheran Ultreya - 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](mailto: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

**Stow - Quarterly** Contact Gracia Luoma (330) 686-8807

**Western Lake County** Periodic joint Lutheran-Episcopal Ultreya. Hook up through George Cyphers, 216-951-2906

**Western Reserve - Monthly** Second Saturday 7:00 pm, Brecksville 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 ultreya with Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist, and now Lutheran! Contact Dick or Marv Swan, 513/484-3189.

# The Newsletter by e-mail in 2005

\*\*\*\*\* Starting with the newsletter for the Men's Spring weekend in 2005 ,  
\*\*\*\*\* Ohio Via de Cristo will be going to an all-electronic newsletter.

The cost of printing and mailing each newsletter is around \$750 and there are 7 newsletters that get published each year ( $\$750 \times 7 = \$5250$ ). That's over \$5000 that could be used for the weekends.

The electronic version of the newsletter is free. To read or print it, you must have Adobe Reader, which is a free download from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). There are 2 ways to get the newsletter electronically:

- 1) e-mail
- 2) the Ohio Via de Cristo website.

If you are already receiving the newsletter by e-mail, you need do nothing.

**TO START RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL** → Send an e-mail to Dan Steffey, [dsteffey@neo.rr.com](mailto:dsteffey@neo.rr.com) indicating that you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

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**For those who must receive the newsletter by regular mail, we will continue to mail the newsletter to you at a cost of \$5 per year.**

**To receive the newsletter by regular mail, fill out the form below and mail by March 15, 2005:**

For newsletter delivered by the Post Office

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check payable to Ohio Via de Cristo (\$5 per year) and send it with this form to:

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