


VIA DE CRISTO OF OHIO P.O. BOX 53081 CINCINNATI, OH 45253	FIRST CLASS MAIL	PRESORTED <hr/> FIRST-CLASS MAIL <hr/> U.S. POSTAGE PAID CUYAHOGA FALLS OH PERMIT NO. 137
	Mailed 04/19/04	
Men's #52 Weekend Apr 29 - May 2 Columbus Sign up on the 72-hour Prayer Vigil for the Weekend.	<p style="text-align: center;">CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!!!!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	

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 - Anne Gsellman

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

ATTEND GROUP REUNION AND ULTREYA

GET ON THE WEB ==>

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

www.viadecristooh.org
www.viadecristo.org
www.kairosohio.org



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1 (Rev 4/29/04)

April 16, 2004

From the Lay Director

Dear Friends in Christ,

Another season and we've made it through Good Friday to Easter. Wasn't it a glorious three days? There was something about this year's Lenten season that seemed to make it that much more special... and the Passion Week? Absolutely the most uplifting, enlightening three days I've experienced since my weekend nearly thirteen years ago. You see... my church celebrated a Seder Dinner on Thursday followed by a deep and meaningful service where we stripped the altar. On Good Friday, we had a multimedia presentation of the images throughout history depicting the Christ's last hours before being crucified. We read from John's account of Christ's Passion, focusing more on the humanness of Jesus' ordeal. To hear Jesus' last words made me shiver. I, literally, was riveted as each part of John's account built on the next, crescendo after crescendo... the pounding pace of humanity closing in on Jesus, ridiculing Him, spitting on Him, ripping Him apart with their hate... sin upon sin hurled on His back... Jesus withering under the crushing load... a visitor named Simon forced to carry Jesus' cross the remaining, agonizing steps to Golgotha. I cried as I heard Jesus struggling to speak to Mary, His mother, and John. As Jesus breathed His last breath, I held mine... tears streaming down my face. To know that I caused Him this pain... that I was one of the chastising crowd. I felt ashamed of what I'd done to my Lord. Even though I know the ending to the story, I could barely whisper, "I'm sorry."

As Jesus' body was brought down from the cross, I saw the mere shadow of former glory. His limp, lifeless body drooped in the arms of Joseph of Arimathea... the women preparing spices and herbs to preserve the body. The preparatory mixtures acted much like a cement of sorts. The first cloth was laid on the burial platform. Spices, herbs, and oils spread on the cloth before Jesus' body was placed there... Then, strip by strip, each burial linen was wrapped around the corpse, each layer having its own administering of oils, spices, and herbs... each layer literally being "glued" to the next. Jesus' body was being wrapped much like an Egyptian mummy. And there it was... my Lord and Savior... dead, in a tomb. Hope, indeed, died that day.

Our pastor eloquently put it in her sermon on Easter, "You see, hope died that Friday... at least in the minds of the disciples and the women who followed Jesus. For all they knew, the man lying in that tomb was gone."

Mary Magdalene probably went to the tomb the next day only to encounter a squad of Roman Sentries posted around a sealed tomb. She probably sat at a distance as not to incur the leering eyes of the soldiers. She sat staring at the massive rock that blocked the entry to where her Lord's body lay. Tears gushed from her eyes. Pain struck her heart. She longed for those days when Jesus gently stroked her hair as a loving father would stroke a child's. The humble smile... the eyes that looked into her heart; into her soul... there was no escaping, no hiding from His agape love.

(continued next page)

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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

Her mind's eye blinked, snapping her back to the harsh reality of a cold stone reappearing in her sight. Bearing it no longer, she turned away, returning to where the others stayed.

Then Easter came, not with fanfare and joyful singing as we do today. John tells us that it was in darkness that the first Easter came. Mary returned to the tomb early that morning, in the cover of the darkness, probably fearing the Roman soldiers... maybe because she couldn't sleep the night before... whatever the reason, she returned to the tomb again. Only this journey ended very differently. No guards! The shadowy outline of the tomb entrance... the stone rolled away! Could it be? She ran to the tomb. She looked inside. She panicked! The body was gone! Her heart began to race. The pounding, throbbing in her head... frantic pacing... where is he? She sees two figures, one at the head and one at the feet where Jesus laid... "What have they done with His body?" She implores. A brief answer, "He is not here." On her own, Mary could not find Jesus. Mary turns to look around. Maybe she might find some evidence of where they took Jesus' body. She scurried about in the hazy darkness of early morning. She found another person standing outside the tomb. "Please, sir. Tell me where they've taken His body." She looked back and pointed at the entrance to the tomb. Then, with a simple call, "Mary," she turned with joy at hearing His voice. She cried out, "Teacher!" The pent-up tension from the past few days burst out in excitement... She lunged toward Jesus, grabbing Him, clinged to Him. Jesus came to her where she was... on her own, Mary found an empty tomb. Through Jesus, Mary found eternal life.

Then, unexpectedly, Jesus tells her a most strange thing, "Mary. Do not cling to me because I have not yet ascended to my Father." Can you imagine Mary's shock? "What?" Jesus had to go ahead of us to prepare a place for each of us. As our pastor put it, "Jesus could not return to the person He was before Friday... and Mary couldn't hold Him back." Just as a shepherd would walk through a dark crevice to the other side, so Jesus walked through the darkest of all canyons to reach the other side... to show us that we can and will walk through all the dark chasms in our lives. He beckons from the other side, always ahead of us, always leading us, always encouraging us. It reminds me of a wonderful story a friend e-mailed to me. The story goes like this...

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted an old friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE."

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Then leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played. Only the classic "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Perhaps that's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't always graceful, flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work can truly be beautiful. Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing." May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces.

(continued from previous page)

From the Lay Director

Remember, God doesn't call the equipped; rather, He equips the "called." Life is more accurately measured by the lives we touch than by the things we acquire. May God bless you and be with you always.

He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

God loves you and so do I. De Colores,

Kevin

From the Rector



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ

De Colores!!!

This month marks a significant anniversary for me. It is the 10th anniversary of my weekend #29 in 1994. I cannot think of a better way to celebrate this anniversary than to be the Rector of Men's #52. Over the last 10 years many of you have heard me talk about the profound impact that my weekend had on me and how it has changed my life. Thank you for being a faithful Christian Community to me as I have journeyed in my 4th day.

Men's # 52 is quickly approaching. The team is assembled and ready to go. The one thing we will need is lots of prayer. Please pray for us as we finish our planning and as we enter the weekend. Please pray for our Pilgrims during the weekend and as they enter their 4th day. And especially pray for the one Pilgrim that needs to hear the message of Via de Cristo the most. Those prayers worked well 10 years ago. You never know you may be praying for a future Rector.

God loves you and so do I.

Jim Caldwell

Ohio Men's # 29.

Ohio Men's Weekend #52
April 29 - May 2 , 2004


Names received by Registrar as of April 28

Men's Team #52			Pilgrims and Sponsors		
Name	Position on Team	Home City	Pilgrim	Sponsor	Church, City
Jim Caldwell	Rector	Westerville	Chris Hoecker	Bob Glessner	Holy Trinity Lutheran, Mansfield
Mel Hall	Head Cha	Westerville	Jim Gaunt	Bob Glessner	Holy Trinity Lutheran, Mansfield
Pastor Doug Pretorius	Spiritual Director	Bellville	Dave Boyles	Curtis Kemmet	Abiding Christ Lutheran, Fairborn
Pastor Craig Richter	Spiritual Director	Columbus	Bob Hauser	Doug Pretorius	Bellville Presbyterian, Bellville
Pastor Paul Schmidlin	Spiritual Director	Toledo	Mike Finck	Mel Hall	Hope Lutheran, Sunbury
Seth Bridger	Chapel Cha	Columbus	Ben Leese	Craig Richter	Trinity Lutheran, East Berlin, PA
Kevin Ayer	Music Cha	Dayton	Bill Lane	Jim Caldwell	All Saints Episcopal, New Albany
John Schalip	Palanca Cha	Sunbury	Frank Berger	Jim Caldwell	Overbrook Presbyterian, Columbus
Dean Gatton	Gopher Cha	Westerville	David Kelly	Jim Caldwell	Hope Lutheran, Sunbury
Tim Leu	Head Kitchen Cha	Canal Winchester	Jeff Brooks	Mark Timberlake	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Rick Delynko	Asst. Hd. Kit. Cha	Granville	Eric Leeth	Seth Bridger	Grace Lutheran, Springfield
Bob Glessner	Kitchen Cha	Mansfield	Bruce Green	David Moller	Grace Lutheran, Columbus
Mel Musser	Kitchen Cha	Fairborn	Bill Steinbrueck	Mel Musser	Abiding Christ Lutheran, Fairborn
Don Piddock	Kitchen Cha	Fairborn	Chris Joehlin	Hilde Hildebrandt	Christ Lutheran, Heath
Raleigh Sandy	Kitchen Cha	Centerville	Fritz Ammons Jr.	Doug Pretorius	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Mark Armstrong	Table Cha	Bellville	Doug Rink	Rodney Dumond	Grace Lutheran, Columbus
Craig Fourman	Table Cha	Fairborn	Floyd Seim	Robert Sauer	Good Shepherd Lutheran, Kettering
Curt Kemmet	Table Cha	Beavercreek	Pentti Maki	Bob Glessner	Holy Trinity Lutheran, Mansfield
Rich Maassel	Table Cha	Westerville	John Tipton	Bob Glessner	Holy Trinity Lutheran, Mansfield
Jamie Vannoy	Table Cha	Columbus	Jay Jackson	Doug Jackson	Grace Lutheran, Columbus
Fred Gesell	Ideal Rollo	Sandusky	Duane Van Horn	Dawn Armstrong	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Chris Hogstad	Laity Rollo	Columbus	Bill O'Malley	Dean Gatton	Vineyard, Columbus
Doug Hertlein	Piety Rollo	Carroll	Tom Hart	Jim Caldwell	St. Paul's RCC, Westerville
Scott Robinson	Study Rollo	Columbus			
Mark Timberlake	Action Rollo	Bellville			
John Wynkoop	Leaders Rollo	Canal Winchester			
Mark Kannenwischer	Environment Rollo	Westerville			
Bob Lochmeyer	CCA Rollo	Pataskala			
Bob Riggs	Silent Professor	Sunbury			
Dick Retherford	Silent Professor	Galena			
Bob Sauer	Observing Rector	Kettering			
Tom & Amy Fauquet	Fourth Day Couple	Urbana			

The emergency phone # at the center is :
614-221-1809

THURSDAY & FRIDAY April 29 & 30	
Thursday	Send Off - 7:00 PM at Grace Lutheran in Columbus on Refugee Rd.
Friday	
Ideal	10:00 AM
Habitual Grace	11:15 AM
Laity	1:40 PM
Actual Grace	2:55 PM
Piety	4:45 PM

SUNDAY May 2	
Gather In Kitchen	5:45 AM QUIETLY!!!
Wake-up Serenade	- 6:00 AM
Environment	9:15 AM
Life of Grace	10:10 AM
Christian Community in Action	11:35 AM
Total Security in the 4 th Day	1:45 PM
Closing - 5:00 PM	At Grace Lutheran in Columbus on Refugee Rd. (Directions next page)

SATURDAY May 1	
Study	9:00 AM
Day in the Life	10:20 AM
Apostolic Action	1:15 PM
Obstacles to Grace	2:55 PM
Leaders	4:25 PM
Serenade Practice	4:30 PM
At Livingston United Methodist in Columbus. (Directions on next page)	
	
Serenade	6:00 PM

Directions to GRACE

**SEND-OFF & CLOSING
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4500 Refugee Road , Columbus**

From Cleveland - Take I-71 South. In Columbus, take I-270 East and continue to the I-70 exit. Take I-70 West exit to next exit, Hamilton Rd. exit. Turn left onto Hamilton and proceed past Eastland Mall to Refugee Road.

Turn left onto Refugee Road. Grace Lutheran is on the left about 1/4 mile.

From Cincinnati - Take I-71 North. In Columbus, take I-270 East and proceed as in Cleveland directions.

From Eastern Ohio - Take I-70 West past the I-270 outerbelt. Proceed to Hamilton Road exit and proceed as in Cleveland. directions.

From Western Ohio - Take I-70 East . Proceed through downtown Columbus and continue to Hamilton Road Exit (317 S). Bear right onto Hamilton road and proceed as in Cleveland directions..

Directions to Livingston

**SATURDAY SERENADE PRACTICE
LIVINGSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 E. Livingston Ave, Columbus**

From the North. Take I-71 South to Columbus. Take the US-23 / Fourth St exit (100B). Stay straight to go onto E. FULTON ST. Turn LEFT on to US-33. US-33 becomes E. LIVINGSTON AVE.

From the South. Take I-71 North to Columbus. Take the US-23 NORTH / LIVINGSTON AVE exit (100B), towards FOURTH ST.

PALANCA LETTERS

**Please.....Mark all letters: Sponsor, Spouse, Family,
Friend, or Community**

**Remember the blessings of Palanca mail - sent from the
community, but inspired by the Lord.**

Emphases and Purposes of Clergy Rollos on a Via de Cristo Weekend

The first rollo comes following the ideal talk. On Thursday night we have focused on our sin. We realize that we have fallen far short of our own ideal for ourselves, not to mention God's ideal for us.

Through the first "Grace" rollo, we learn of God's ideal of love for humanity. We hear that Jesus perfectly fulfilled that ideal, and that through him, God showed his perfect love for all of humanity. We emphasize that God's grace is sufficient for everyone, no matter how great the sins they have committed. This grace has been shown throughout all of history, but most clearly in Jesus' death and resurrection.

God's love is supernatural. We don't understand how or why God loves, or the method of salvation God has chosen, but we accept it as a given, because that is what the biblical witness teaches us.

God loves because God chooses to love. God's grace is habitual; God is in the habit of showing love and mercy to God's creation, especially to that part of creation which was made in God's image.

The question we pose over the next few days to the pilgrims is, "What are you going to do about the fact that you are so loved and forgiven?" Having been made aware of the extent of God's grace we are challenged to think about what difference that might make in our lives. We are living in a different reality from those of the world. Can anyone tell? Assured once again that we don't earn God's grace and favor, we are invited to live out God's ideal and grow in our faith and love toward God and our fellow humanity.

*Pastor Laurel Bobb
Spiritual Director of Ohio VdC Secretariat*



Lutheran weekend !!

Three days close to Christ! Learn more about His love and the scope and meaning of the Grace of God.

A three-day school which takes a look at Christianity as a lifestyle, highly structured to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people. Presenters are inspired laymen and ordained ministers. There is no charge for a weekend, but participants will be given an opportunity to support the movement. Food and lodging are included.

The Ohio Via de Cristo Secretariat, affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat, conducts six weekends each year—three for men and three for women. We invite all Lutherans to experience one of these events. Weekends scheduled:

Men's Spring, April 29-May 2, 2004, in Columbus

Women's Spring, May 20-23, 2004, in Columbus

Men's Summer, July 15-18, 2004, in Avon, OH

Women's Summer, July 22-25, 2004, in Avon, OH

Men's Fall, September 23-26, 2004, in Columbus

Women's Fall, October 7-10, 2004, in Columbus

Men's Spring, April 14-17, 2005, in Columbus

Women's Spring, April 28-May 1, 2005, in Columbus

Spring and Fall weekends are held at the Holy Cross Cum Cristo Center in Downtown Columbus. Summer weekends are held at St. Leonard's Retreat Center in Avon, Ohio.

To learn more, log on to our web site at www.viadecristooh.org, or write to Via de Cristo of Ohio, P. O. Box 53081, Cincinnati, OH 45253.

The Via de Cristo movement is self-supporting, not an official arm of the ELCA. But it adheres strictly to Lutheran doctrine. We invite the financial support of individual churches in the form of special benevolence. The goal of Via de Cristo is to make Christian church members more deeply aware of God's grace through Christ, to encourage a deeper commitment to their home churches and to teach and encourage them to tell others about Jesus.

Come learn with us, because God loves you and so do we!!

Cursillistas!! Help, help!!

Let your fellow church members know more about us. See if your church will use this as a Sunday bulletin insert or run it in the church newsletter. Or both!! Newsletters reach all members. Put it on your bulletin board.

You can add your name as a contact for information, if you like.

You also could add that you would be glad to sponsor anyone who wants to attend. Spring weekends are about to go and summer weekends are not that far off. We need to get applications in early. You can download application blanks from the web site address you see in the insert.

DeColores

Ultreya completes a year at Linden Lutheran

It was just 14 months ago that the Greater Columbus Ultreya resumed regular monthly meetings at Linden Lutheran Church. It meets on the evening of the fourth Tuesday of every month. We have continued on a positive note. Attendance has been good, with the lowest attendance at 18 and the highest over 30.

We were honored at our December Christmas party with the presence of designated rectors Bob Sauer and Jim Caldwell. Also with us was Mary Ann Sauer, rectora for the Spring weekend. Bob and Mary Ann came over from Dayton on a not-too-warm winter evening.

Also with us was Dave and Mary Ridenour, all the way from St. Paul's in Glenford. This stirred memories for Laberta and I, because we were married in St. Paul's on June. 4, 1944, just before WWII's D-Day. It is hard to believe that we will celebrate 60 years together this year!!

The Ultreya started the new year on Jan. 27 with a program on Kairos. We were pleased to have Harriet and Bob Dana, of Columbus, come to witness to their experiences in the prison ministry.

In February we had a video visit from Coach Jim Tressell and some of the National Champion Buckeyes. Coach Tressell said he gave his life to Christ some time ago and would ask you, "If the game ended tonight, would you be a winner?" The DVD is titled "The Big Win." If you get a chance, show it at your Ultreya or reunion group.

We look forward to seeing more of you this year. If you live in the five-county area in Central Ohio, or anywhere, you have a special invitation. The address is 1230 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus. Bring a bag of chips and join us. DeColores.

Paul Swinehart, historian

ULTREYA! in OHIO For further details on these and other Ultreyas in Ohio, contact: Paul Swinehart
614-476-5979 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

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 (440) 257-2235.

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. 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 indicating that you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail.

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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Johnstown, Ohio 43031