

Mail to: **Good News! Via de Cristo** Registrars, P.O. Box 351893, Toledo, OH 43635
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Good News! Via de Cristo

Participant Application



***Mission statement:** By grace, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal calling, assisting them with a method for influencing their environment!*

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

PARTICIPANT SECTION

Weekend: Spring Fall Year _____

Name _____ Age _____
First Last

First name, or nickname for your nametag _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

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

Emergency Phone: (____) _____ Contact Name: _____

Occupation _____ E-mail Address _____

Gender: Male Female Marital Status: Married Single Widowed
 If married, name of spouse: _____

Has anyone in your family attended a Via de Cristo, Cursillo, or similar weekend? ____

If yes, who? _____ When? _____

What is your home congregation, including city, state and phone number?:

 _____ (____) _____

Do you have any special physical, medical, sleeping or dietary needs that we need to accommodate? (We ask that dietary requests be for medical necessity only) _____

Sleeping Arrangements: Supplied cot I will bring own cot or air mattress

As a Via de Cristo participant, I agree to:

- 1) pray for myself and other participants prior to the weekend*
- 2) involve myself as I am best able during the weekend and*
- 3) consider joining a Reunion Group & participating in other post-weekend activities.*

Signature: _____ Date: _____

What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo, pronounced BEE-ah de KREES-toe, meaning, “The Way of Christ”, is a short course in Christianity. It is a three day seminar which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured weekend for CHRISTIANS, designed to examine true faith and , through it, help Christians positively impact their environment. Via de Cristo is presented as a combined effort of laymen and clergy.

Purpose of Via de Cristo

Can Christianity penetrate all of the different areas of our daily lives? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world? *“You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”*. (Matthew 5:14 and 16) Via de Cristo is intended to help Christians be “the light of the world”. It proposes NO NEW TYPE OF CHRISTIANITY. It is not a church, but it does simply present a means through which one’s grace-filled life may be daily lived and shared with others in a natural and loving way. Via de Cristo is designed to help strengthen and renew a Christian’s faith, thereby helping the individual to share their faith within their families, congregations and the environments where they live and work.

Via de Cristo Follow Through

You may attend a Via de Cristo only ONCE in your life, but you are asked to build on it for the rest of your life. Via de Cristo is NOT A RETREAT or a substitute for a retreat. Later retreats do, however, complement it. The subsequent activity is known as the Fourth Day. This is actually the rest of your life.

Those attending are asked to do two things in the Fourth Day: 1. expand their inner spiritual life through study and church participation, and 2. become more active witnesses for Christ in their daily lives. Via de Cristo offers two ongoing means of perseverance: 1. ULTREYA, meetings of the local community for encouragement and study, and 2. GROUP REUNIONS, small groups of men or women who meet regularly for a short period to help one another in their quest for spiritual development. Participation in these two groups is a voluntary part of Via de Cristo and is strongly encouraged.

History of Via de Cristo

Originating as Cursillo®, Spanish for “short course”, in the Spanish Catholic Church in the late 1940’s, it came into America in the late 1950’s. The movement began in the Lutheran church when laity and clergy, both in Iowa and Florida, attended Catholic Cursillos® in 1971. The first Lutheran-sponsored weekends began independently early in 1972 in both Iowa and Florida. Since that time, the movement has spread to many states across the nation. In 1985, the name Via de Cristo was selected to recognize this movement’s ecumenical character.

What Happens At Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo begins on Thursday night and ends on the following Sunday night. During the three days, participants live and study together with singing and prayer. Via de Cristo is centered around 14 talks, with five given by clergy and nine by laity. Following each talk, small roundtable discussions focus on the main points of the talk. The talks, in an overlapping fashion, present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of JESUS CHRIST, as an Ideal. Via de Cristo gives those attending a living understanding of basic Christian truths.

Who Should Go On A Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo is for Christians who seek more joy, purpose and meaning in their faith. It is for those who desire to grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, Bible study and sharing their faith with others.

In the case of married individuals, both husband and wife are encouraged to attend a Via de Cristo to strengthen their relationship as one in Christ Jesus. It is strongly recommended that the husband and wife attend the same set of weekends. If that is not possible, the husband should attend first.

Jesus said, *“You are the branches...” John 15:1-11*