



VIA DE CRISTO
C O L O R A D O

Something To CROW about... ..

The experience of our first Via de Cristo weekend can have a wide range of anticipation and reaction. However, after that weekend we all become part of the same community...4th day. We were shown by our peers how to grow in piety, study, and action. We were all encouraged to be effective leaders in the kingdom of God. We were surrounded by people we have never met that prayed for us and served us with unconditional love.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, continuing the 4th day mission can avert worldly distractions. Attend a reunion group, go to an Ultreya, serve at a weekend, or just pray that the “way of Christ” will touch the hearts and minds of future pilgrims. As Lay Director, I would like to “Kindle In Us The Fire Of His Love.”

Please consider getting involved in one way or another as a 4th day community member. We can grow God’s kingdom with your help. God Loves you and so do I.

Lay Director, Phil Bamesberger

We Need Your Help!

Pay It Forward!

Colorado Via de Cristo needs your support with financial donations. The day-to-day cost of maintaining our standard operating procedures to include licenses, dues, insurances, facility deposits, payments and supplies to name a few, cannot happen without your support.

When you were a pilgrim, someone paid the cost forward to give you the gift of Via de Cristo. Through the website, you can make a one-time donation or reoccurring donations through PayPal. You also can pay team or pilgrim fees directly online.

Consider setting up a gift using the online form at <http://www.coloradovdc.org> and click on the donate button.

You may also send a contribution of support by mail to:
Colorado VdC
C/o Treasusrer, Ginny Henderson
2306 Opal Court
Loveland, CO 80537

TEAM BUILDING DATES

September 16, 2023

October 7, 2023

October 28, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted online through
<http://www.coloradovdc.org>

Weekend #47 Dates

November 9 – 12, 2023

\$250.00 Team Fees

Training locations to be determined. The team formed is unique to each weekend. It is important that each member be committed to the team.

Dear 4th Day,

What happens at an Ultreya? We gather to encourage each other in the day-to-day uphill climb of living our lives... as members of our local churches, as retirees, as teachers, as executives or janitors.

We find encouragement and laughter. We connect, network and reunite with 4th day members who have experienced a Via de Cristo weekend. We share our struggles and victories. We sing and pray together. And enjoy some really good food!! Literally, Ultreya! means "Onward!" "Persevere!" "Press On!" "Hang In There!".

We gather to support and help plan upcoming Via de Cristo weekends, Ultreyas and other events. You'll find out how you can be praying and serving.

Please bring a friend (or two!) even if they haven't been on a VdC weekend. Kids are welcome too! And, 4th Day community, please check the Colorado VdC website (coloradovdc.org) and FaceBook page, Colorado VdC (Official), frequently for Ultreya announcements, prayer requests and other important information.

God Loves You and So Do I, -Paula Meredith
Colorado VdC Ultreya Coordinator

TEAM AND PILGRIM : Applications are available on the website.

GO TO: <http://www.coloradovdc.org>

Cost for Weekend #47 is \$250.00

To Sponsor a Pilgrim – you are asked to fill out the Pilgrim Application and Sponsorship Form.

To receive email information/prayer requests/etc. you need to GO TO: cfdc-secretariat@googlegroups.com



A Note from the Rectora....

I first attended Colorado Via de Cristo on Weekend #38 in 2015 at Golden Bell in Divide, Colorado. After my pilgrim weekend, I have enjoyed serving on other weekends over the years. I have met new people and grown my Christian Community each time I serve. Via de Cristo reminds us of the amazing grace and love that God has for us. It has given me additional tools to use in my daily walk. What a great gift to share with another person!

As Rectora for weekend 47 that is taking place at Camp Comica near Cozad NE on November 9-12 2023, I am starting to build the team. I pray this weekend will be a blessing to both team members and those pilgrims God chooses to bring to the weekend. Consider sharing the gift with someone else. If you have the desire to serve or sponsor a pilgrim, please contact me. You can also sign up on the Colorado Via de Cristo web site. I look forward to meeting you and answer any questions you may have. You can reach me at janbames@gmail.com.

*God Loves You and So Do I
Janice Bamesberger*

PHONE CALL WITH JANICE..... (Getting to know the Rectora)

Janice Bamesberger and her husband Phil live on their farm in Nebraska. Janice and Phil have been sweethearts since they were in high school. They have three grown daughters Trisha, Sarah and Angela. Trisha has two girls ages 9 and 7. Her daughter Sarah also has two children that are 9 and 7. Angela has a 15-month-old baby. Janice is very proud of her children, their husbands, and grandchildren.

The Bamesberger's farm corn, wheat and soybeans. They have cows, hogs, horses and other livestock. Janice loves animals and enjoys riding horse. She has shown horses and traveled to many states.

As I sipped my coffee, I recalled the living nativity that Peace Lutheran Church hosts at Christmas time complete with camels and other animals. I asked Janice how the camels came to be part of the farm and nativity. Janice said that there was an ad on Facebook where a man was wanting to rehome a 7 mo old camel and she answered the ad. As a matter of fact, they now have 3 camels. Janice says they are pretty easy to take care of.

I have had the great pleasure of serving with Janice on several CVdC Weekends and she truly shines for Jesus. Janice has such a servant's heart and usually you will find her serving quietly in the background. God has selected Janice as our Rectora this coming weekend. Janice is looking forward to growing and being stretched into leading this weekend for His glory.

I asked Janice what brings her the most joy in life and she stated, "Family. Seeing them grow in their faith. They are faithful."

That my friends, is your Rectora!

Kim Brownlow



Team Building.....

Some say it is a challenge...I say it's an opportunity!

Via de Cristo has no building to call its own. In order for our community to meet, we use various locations. Our community is spread from Colorado to Nebraska. Weekend 47 is in the planning stages and the Secretariat and Weekend team is looking at various ways to meet for our team meetings.

Over the years, team members have traveled for hours to join together for a team meeting. Today, we find it difficult to take a couple hours out of our busy schedule to attend lunch with a friend! Years ago, I remember the anticipation of seeing my friends and growing together with them. Once the training dates were established, I simply marked them on my calendar. It was my priority. I took the commitment very serious. I wanted to bring my best to God through serving. And God blessed me with wonderful friends that I otherwise may have never met. These friendships have given me so much more than I ever imagined. Via de Cristo made that possible. I didn't realize the gift keeps giving until I served.

As you prayerfully consider serving on team for Weekend #47, I encourage you to make the commitment to give of your time and talents with enthusiasm and excitement. Commit to fellowship with the team, learn the how's and why's of Via de Cristo, and prepare yourself to serve the group of pilgrims that will be attending Weekend #47. There are three team building dates that you will need to commit to along with your commitment to the weekend itself.

Please submit your application as soon as possible for planning purposes. We are looking to assemble a team that will be specially chosen by God for the pilgrims.

Kim Brownlow - Assistant Lay Director / Training Coordinator

Palanca!!

Each weekend is unique from one another. We are asking for our 4th Day to participate in various ways as we prepare to serve the pilgrims of the next Colorado Via de Cristo Weekend. We are depending on **YOU** to help meet the Palanca needs. Keep in mind that palanca is the Spanish word for "lever"; a lever being a tool that allows you to move things that you normally couldn't move by yourself. In Via de Cristo, we learned that **prayer and sacrifice serve as the palanca to move each pilgrim to experience God's Grace.**

Palanca (prayer and sacrifice) can take many forms throughout the weekend and without it no weekend would be successful. Below we have listed only some of the many things that will be needed throughout the upcoming weekends. Please prayerfully consider how you might offer Palanca to our Lord on these weekends.

Personal Palanca

These are personal notes written to individual pilgrims and may come from family, friends, team members and community.

Food Items

Homemade items such as brownies, cookies, breads and perishable items such as vegetables, cheese, chips and crackers.

Angel Hours

This is time donated by members of the community (Angels) to help make the weekend complete. Please prayerfully consider supporting the weekend in this critical position. Angel hours may include weekend setup, serenades, AGAPE dinner, decorating, packing, cleaning, etc.

God Loves You and So Do I, Ana Moffit - Weekend 47 Head Palanca Cha

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S CORNER... ..

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. 2 Corinthians 10:5-6

Are you actively occupied with thinking eternally? The desires and distractions of this world can be so overwhelming they at times hinder us from attaining thoughts of/about/for Jesus. Our thoughts may wander into the ways of this world and its teachings tripping into reasoning that is in direct conflict to Jesus teaching and God's Word. Jesus wants us so engaged in eternal thinking that our every thought is inline with and obedient to His Father. As intentionally engaged Christians, we must be conscious to Jesus in our thinking, speaking and living. Remember we may be the first and/or only bible some people may ever see.

In April I was blessed to be invited and serve on my second weekend in Las Vegas, NV and one evening the SD's entered into a discussion on "what would it take for us to draw a line, or who would we say could not come to a weekend?" The discussion left me pondering this important question.

Imagine saying to someone "No, you cannot come to Via de Cristo." And, if you can imagine saying it, why would you say it? What would justify taking such a position? Who is not "worthy?"

If you came as a pilgrim to VDC, and, despite cautions, warnings and admonishments, continued to interrupt rollos and worship with outbursts, I suppose I would ask you to leave. If you could not maintain proper decorum, that would not only be rude but unacceptable and would be a problem. If you came as a pilgrim to VDC and committed crimes (theft, vandalism, assault), I suppose I would call the police and they would find you some other accommodations.

But, apart from that, I cannot imagine saying to anyone "no you cannot come to Via de Cristo."

- 1) I don't have to agree with you, like you, or affirm you to include you.
- 2) I don't have to understand you to include you.
- 3) I don't include you because I'm a nice person but because I am included.
- 4) I include you because God shows no partiality.
- 5) I include you because everyone in our community brings beauty and brokenness. Everyone.

When I came to my first weekend back in Indiana in 1998, I was a total mess, broken and needing God's love and found it in the community of VDC. Accepted because of who's I was not who I was. God used the VDC community to reveal Himself to me, to reveal myself to me, to provide healing and freedom. To heal my relationship with the church and with the ability to accept myself not by what I had done but because of how He sees me.

This is why I keep coming back. This is why I exhaust myself at Via de Cristo weekends. This is why I would die defending this community. This totally imperfect, goofy, broken and gloriously beautiful community. I am attempting to repay a debt that I can repay, not because I have to but because I get to! Paying back what I have been given by paying forward, praying that others can see what I missed all those years I was lost. In Jesus, we are never square, never even, we can never balance the scales with grace. We always owe. This knowledge sets us free to be forever joyously, forever gratefully, permitting us pouring ourselves into one another in love. **Pretty cool way to run a universe, right?**

In closing I ask, what do pilgrims and team have in common? Oh, it only looks like the team serves the pilgrims so that God can pound the pilgrims senseless with grace. But God shows no partiality. God pounds the team members, too. Because it never stops. God's desire to grow us is relentless. And God is ruthless towards anything that stands in the way.

Father in Heaven, this day we ask that You keep us in Your eternal mindset. Remind us constantly that when we leave this life behind it is not the end for us, but rather a transition from temporal beings to eternal. Make us a reminder to those who are lost, confused, alone with no hope, that our hope is in You and Your eternal promise of eternity with You. As this Colorado VDC #47 approaches, keep it in our minds the high price You paid, defeating death and Satan in the act of dying and raising on the third day! Our Hope is in You Lord Jesus! We sing these praises and lift up this prayer of thanks and joy in Your mighty name, Jesus of Nazareth! Amen. ❤️ 🙏 ❤️ <>< Dennis Lawson, Spiritual Director – Colorado VdC

Via De Cristo National Lutheran Secretariat

There are 44 Secretariats located throughout the United States. The National Annual Gathering will be held Indianapolis in July of 2023.

This Annual Gathering is a time to share ideas and thoughts with our brothers and sisters from other Via de Cristo's. We will have opportunities to attend forums, small groups, Regional meetings, Chapel, and the National Via De Cristo Business Meetings where the Colorado Delegates will have a voice in the NLS Board's reports, proposals, plans and elections.

We will share this wonderful information that we were able to gain and learn at the NLS Annual Gathering with the 4th Day of Colorado VdC.

Please keep this meeting in your prayers as many people will be traveling from all over the country, spending time together in prayer, listening to each other as they shared ideas, blessings and barriers. Your Colorado Delegates will represent you!

CONSIDER THIS.... THE CHALLENGE....

Via de Cristo is about Relationships. When you think back to the friends made over the years... Have you seen them? Have you spoken to them? It is our prayer that each person reading this newsletter will share it with a friend.

The Challenge...

Call and talk to a friend or two. Consider getting together for a cup of coffee and catching up.

REUNION GROUPS are staying connected with our brothers and sisters in Christ – building community, praying for one another, growing in relationship with God, staying in His word and moving into action. Let's gather our community and connect!