

# What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo, a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ," is a three-day school which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. The weekend is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and through them, their families, churches and the environment in which they live. It is a united effort of laity and clergy to aid congregations in developing Christian leaders to more effectively serve Christ in the church.

## History

The Via de Cristo movement originated first as the Spanish Catholic church "Cursillo" in the 1940's and moved to the United States in the late 1950's. In 1971, lay people and clergy in the Lutheran church attended a Catholic Cursillo in Iowa and Florida, which led to the first Lutheran sponsored weekends in 1972. The Indiana Lutheran community held its first weekend in May 1984 with the help of the Ohio and Michigan communities, who helped establish our movement. In 1986 our Indiana community adopted the Via de Cristo name and in 2003 it became INKY Via de Cristo, including northern Kentucky as part of our community. Just as our community received help in getting started, INKY Via de Cristo helped in the birth of the Latvian Via de Cristo, who in turn is helping start the movement in Sweden. Now held in over 25 states and some foreign countries, Via de Cristo is the Lutheran expression of this method which is used in many denominations including: Episcopal, Brethren, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reformed churches, with weekend names such as The Great Banquet, Way of Christ and Emmaus Walk.

## Purpose

The heart and essence of the Via de Cristo is to bring Christians to a full awareness of what is meant by living the life of grace, adding new strength and vitality to their Christianity. The purpose of the Via De Cristo is to develop in Christians a consciousness of their power and mission to become leaders in Christian renewal, and the desire to continue to live the life of grace, personally and together with their brothers and sisters in Christ. The focus of Via De Cristo is not on the weekend itself, but on the local church and a simple method for living a strong Christian life in today's world.

## The Weekend

A Via de Cristo weekend is three days in length, beginning on Thursday evening and ending on Sunday evening. The participants live, study, worship and commune together daily. Several talks are given

by lay people and clergy. Following each talk, small round table discussions focus on the main points of the talk. The talks present the Christian life, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Via de Cristo, reveals a living understanding of basic Christian truths. There is up-lifting music, singing, food and fellowship; times for laughter and prayer.

## After The Weekend

Via de Cristo is intended to help create a Christian foundation on which to build for the rest of your life. After your three-day weekend you are considered to be on your Fourth Day, or the rest of your life. You are encouraged to expand your spiritual life through study, church participation and become a more active Christian in your daily life. Via de Cristo offers two ongoing means of perseverance: Renewal Groups, small groups of men or women who meet regularly to study, pray, share and help one another in their quest for spiritual development and Ultreya, gatherings of the local church Via de Cristo community for encouragement and fellowship.

## Who Should Attend

Via de Cristo is intended for people who wish to live strong and active lives in Christ; those who seek to renew and strengthen their relationship with Christ and the people around them. In short, any person who has a desire to grow in their discipleship for and with Christ. Separate Men/Women weekends and Co-ed weekends are available for lay people as well as Pastors. People who have completed a weekend years ago, can also choose to attend again for renewal, as space permits. Transportation to and from the weekend is provided.

## Summary

A Via de Cristo weekend is an excellent opportunity for both married and single people to renew or deepen their walk with Christ. Please give prayerful consideration when choosing which weekend to attend, it needs to be the right weekend for you. Many who attend, first wondered whether they should go, but after attending, they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Be assured you will not be forced to do anything against your will, no need to be a Bible Scholar and no leading public prayers. Simply go with an open mind and heart, listen to talks and participate in small group discussions. You might not want to go, you may not even need to go, but you most certainly deserve to go! Maybe God is calling you to go on a Via de Cristo weekend?

APPLICATION TO ATTEND  
ON REVERSE SIDE



*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Matthew 7:7

## INKY Via de Cristo 2012 Spring Weekends

**March 1-4, 2012 South MEN'S #67**

> Camp Lakeview, Seymour, IN (Southwest of Columbus)

**March 8-11, 2012 South WOMEN'S #68**

> Camp Lakeview, Seymour, IN (Southwest of Columbus)

**March 22-25, 2012 North CO-ED #17**

> Camp Lutherhaven, Albion, IN (Near Ft. Wayne)



Contact Information:

[www.INKYvdc.org](http://www.INKYvdc.org)

[sstewart@inkyvdc.org](mailto:sstewart@inkyvdc.org)

Steve Stewart  
INKY Communications

(317) 577-9607

This Brochure and other helpful information is available online at our INKY website, go to What is VDC ?