



The Rainbow



Simple Truth for Complicated Times

By Rob Shaw-Fuller, Lay Director

Life is complicated. Right now, it seems as if matters are more complicated than they have been in quite a while. The recent hurricane might have done less damage than we feared – for which we thank God – but Irene still toppled trees, caused trees, and knocked out the power for millions of people. Our politicians don't seem to be able to lead a Cub Scout pack, let alone a nation of over 300 million people. We're **still** in the grip of the Great Recession! Does anyone else feel like we're playing Whack-A-Mole with live land mines?

In the middle of all of this chaos, we have a powerful promise from Our Lord:

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but that you keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to the world just as I do not belong to the world. Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I set myself apart on their behalf, so that they too may be truly set apart. (John 17:15-19)

The Father does not pull us out of all trouble, but He does set us apart from it. We are given peace and security that the economy, the government, nor even nature itself can compromise. We have the truth, or perhaps I should say The Truth: God is on His throne, and all of creation is working according to His plan!

The rest of Christ's prayer amplifies His promise:

I am not praying only on their behalf, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their testimony, that they will all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. The glory you gave to me I have given to them, that they may be one just as we are one – I in them and you in me – that they may be completely one, so that the world will know that you sent me, and you have loved them just as you have loved me. (John 17:20-23)

We are set apart in Christ for His glory. Through Him, we are empowered to show God's love to the world. We know that this promise is true, because it comes from Jesus Himself!

So ... how does it work? How do we remain "set apart" even when it seems like the world could be spinning out of control? Well, we go back to the basics: Piety, Study, and Apostolic Action. Or to put it another way, we spend time with the Father, we learn from His Word, and we share His love with others. No matter what your Fourth Day brings, the Via de Cristo method of Piety, Study, and Apostolic Action will keep you in the grace of Christ.

But wait, Jesus was praying to His Father for us to be set apart, right? He wasn't giving His disciples a command, but rather a promise. We are set apart by **Grace**, not by our own actions. The Via de Cristo method is how we respond to Grace, not how we achieve it. Please don't forget this point! By themselves, Piety, Study, and Apostolic Action wouldn't accomplish anything. In response to God's inestimable and overwhelming Grace, we can accomplish anything that He has in mind for us. Our strength and security come from the Lord, not from our own frail selves! When the earth moves, we will stand upon the solid rock of Christ.

When the wind blows and the storm rages, we will take refuge in the Lord.

When the rest of the world is going mad around us, we will hold on to God's Truth. We are His children, and He loves us!



A Few Comments from Our Upcoming Rector

Rainbow Via De Cristo Men's Weekend #58 October 13 -16, 2011

The initial men's team meeting took place on Saturday, Aug. 27th at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Clifton, VA. This was the same day that we had a visit for "Irene". I believe that the threat of her might have put off quite a few team members, however, the meeting went off well and the weather held off until much later in the day (we ended the day at around 2pm). We will continue have a meeting every two weeks until the weekend of October 13-16, 2011.

The passage for the weekend is, 1 Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." It is a reminder to all of us that we are family and a community, called by God, to carry out his mission (Matt 28:16-20). I believe that it embodies all of which we speak about when we refer to the "Via de Cristo" way. To be emboldened to take on positions of leadership and reach out to all those around us who find themselves lost and in need of direction. To be examples to others of what it means to be led by God and available for his use and service.

At this time the team consists of 22 men. We are still in search for 3 to 5 more men. So if you are interested in participating on this weekend, please feel free to email or call me at: rector@rainbow-vdc.com or 301-875-7125.

We are still in search of a Spiritual Director therefore we could use your prayers and ideas. Please also pray for the pilgrims that have been invited or for whom you are considering inviting. Keep the team in your prayers as well.

I believe that events are progressing well and that God will provide all that we need for a successful weekend in his perfect timing.

God Loves You and So Do I!
Ted Petito



A Few Comments from Our Upcoming Rectora

Rainbow Via De Cristo Women's Weekend #62 October 20-23, 2011

What joy it is to realize how much our Lord loves us. He has made us His Chosen People, the Sheep of His Flock, His Children. And He will not forget us.

On behalf of Women's Weekend #62, I thank you for your prayers. I am blessed to be working with such a wonderful team of faithful servants who love their Lord, each other and the pilgrims whom they have not yet met. In my role as Rectora, I have already seen and felt the Holy Spirit moving among us. I can't wait to see all He will accomplish in the weeks to come. He will be using every member of

the team, but there are so many people He will be using behind the scene. Those who set up chapel, those who serve on Secretariat, those who come to serenade, those who sponsor pilgrims, those who come to Clausura and welcome the new Cursillistas, those who stay to help break down the camp, and those who stand in the gap, praying at all hours. Thanks to each of you for this.

Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands. Isaiah 49:16

God Loves You and So Do I!

Mary Stroup



Kairos Prison Ministry

If you don't already know, Kairos sprang from the Cursillo movement and started in Florida in 1976. It is currently in 33 states and growing along with approximately 8 countries around the world. Kairos is a New Testament Greek term that means "God's Special Time". Kairos currently has 3 separate ministries, Kairos Inside (it's the same sex as what's inside that prison – i.e. men go into the men's and women into the women's). Kairos Outside is for the female family members of those incarcerated, and Kairos Torch which is for the youth offenders.

I'm asking you to prayerfully get involved with this ministry. You don't have to go inside, each inside team needs a support team to prepare meals and pray for those going "inside". The support team consists of both men and women. There are men's Kairos teams in the Hagerstown area along with a start committee to start one in the Jessup area at MCI-J, the women's Kairos is held at MCI-W which is in Jessup. A Kairos Torch weekend was held in Cumberland, MD and is scheduled to come to this area within the few years. There's a Kairos Outside held in Northern Virginia and another near Hagerstown.

Prayer. We all remember seeing the prayer banner showing the 72 hours and everyone praying for that weekend? Imagine a literal paper prayer chain surrounding the Rollo room with names of individuals praying for that particular weekend. That's exactly what happens in Kairos. Everyone who signs up to pray has their name written on a piece of paper that is then made into a giant prayer chain. Those names are also added to a giant paper scroll.

Agape. Kairos uses the term Agape instead of Palanca. Kairos teams are always looking for placemats decorated by children (but there are do's and don'ts) along with writing letters. Please contact me directly for information and requirements on these items.

If you have any questions and/or concerns about getting involved with this ministry, please contact me at 301-627-4094 or C11Sep@comcast.net – Remember: Matthew 25:36 "I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

De Colores

Cheryl Hollar

Women's Weekend #44



Tips for Selecting and Sponsoring Pilgrims

by Kari Campbell, Sponsorship Coordinator

Remember, before asking someone to attend a weekend, first pray for that person.

When you decide to sponsor a pilgrim it is your responsibility to be there for that person. There are 7 things that you must consider:

- (1) Prayer for that person;
- (2) Bringing your pilgrim to and from the weekend;
- (3) Help him/her get into a reunion group;
- (4) Bring him/her to an Ultreya;
- (5) Help them with their 4th day, if needed; and
- (6) Continue prayers for them.

The weekend cost \$200.00 per person. Sponsors have always paid for their pilgrim to go on a weekend. We realize that some people have difficulty paying that amount. If you cannot afford to pay \$200.00, please ask for help. We can make suggestions in finding a way to make sure that they will be able to attend. The most important thing for the sponsorship of a pilgrim is the 6 items mentioned above.



September Ultreya

From: Shannon and John Majsztrik, 4th Day Coordinators

We hope to see everyone at the next Ultreya which will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bowie, MD from 6-8 PM.

Address:

Trinity Lutheran Church
6600 Laurel Bowie Road
Bowie, MD 20715-1706

The fourth day speaker will be Candy Heinlein! We are excited about Candy's talk. Candy has been a missionary in Africa and an active person in our community for some time. We will start with a pot-luck dinner at 6pm, sing songs and enjoy fellowship, followed by the 4th day talk. Drinks and utensils will be provided. Musicians please bring your instruments.



Team Covenant

The Secretariat recently approved the following Team Covenant:

When team meetings are initially convened the team members will be asked to sign a commitment to this covenant.

SERVING ON A RAINBOW VIA DE CRISTO TEAM IS AN OBLIGATION TO GOD, THE PILGRIMS, AND MY FELLOW TEAM MEMBERS. AS A MEMBER OF THE TEAM:

- I will pray for the pilgrims, team leadership, and the rest of the team.
- I will offer my humble service to the Lord, placing others ahead of myself.
- I will attend – and be available to serve – all three days of the Via de Cristo Weekend.
- I will participate in the pre-Weekend team meetings. If I am unable to attend a team meeting, I will contact the Rector or Rectora as soon as I can.
- I will support the Weekend’s financial needs accordingly:
 - to the best of my ability
 - as sponsored by my church
 - by requesting sponsorship

Our hope is to help team members to remember that serving on a Weekend is a holy commission. Yes, we have fun, but we’re on the Weekend to serve! If you have any questions or concerns about the Team Covenant, please contact a member of the Secretariat. God loves you, and so do we!



The Three Squared Structure

By George Milcetch, Leadership Chairperson

Brothers and sisters, I provide the following as a reminder that **"Jesus is counting on us!"** and **"We are counting on Him!"** We have been lifted up by the Holy Spirit and no longer do church but we are the church. To be the church requires a sound relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit.

An extract from "The Essentials of the Via de Cristo" manual that is subtitled, "A Manual for the Training of Leaders in the Via de Cristo Method of Renewal."

An effective Fourth Day is the fulfillment of the Via de Cristo method. It is the tree that produces the fruit. It is the structured expression of Christian lifestyle. The trained and empowered participants become witnesses that penetrate the environment from which they were called. Martin Luther said, “Even if your job is a dishwasher or stable boy, yours is a divinely appointed vocation, as sacred as that of any pastor or church official.” The participants are called by Jesus, inspired on the weekend, empowered with effective tools, and now are called to return to their individual environments and live an authentic Christian life. Jesus will use these renewed witnesses of his to influence those environments.

“To attribute greater importance to the three days than to the Post-Cursillo would be to prefer the solemn to the decisive, the ‘extraordinary’ to the authentic. It is important, indeed, to have souls encounter God, but it is even more important to motivate them to follow him” (Structure of Ideas, written jointly by Eduardo Bonnin, Francisco Forteza and Bernardo Vadell). Yes, it is vital, to have individuals meet God during the three days, but these encounters become truly significant for the world if the participants are motivated to follow him in their daily lives.

The “Three Squared” Structure of the Via de Cristo Method and Movement.

The “Three Squared” Structure has three categories and each category has three characteristics. The three categories are Via de Cristo, Post-Weekend or 4th Day and Individual Participants within the Movement. Each of these is further divided into three characteristics as follows:

Via de Cristo

Pre-Weekend -- Weekend -- Post-Weekend or 4th Day

Post-Weekend or 4th Day

Reunion Group -- Ultreya -- Spiritual Direction

Individual Participants within the Movement

Piety -- Study -- Apostolic Action

The Via de Cristo structure is both three levels deep and three dimensions wide. The Group Reunion Card reminds us to plan a balanced Christian life. Within the movement we must also maintain a balanced approach to the Via de Cristo with emphasis placed at each level and dimension. Each characteristic or cell is vital to the health of the movement and each must be encouraged. If a Christian focuses exclusively on piety they have missed the power of the method and become unbalanced. If a secretariat only puts on weekends it is equally unbalanced. As stated in Ecclesiastes 3:2, in life there are times and seasons, a time to plant and a time to harvest. So also there are seasons of emphasis, but care must be taken to not neglect any cells of the structure. If neglect occurs, the subsequent unbalance could be difficult, dangerous and even deadly to the movement in your community.



Upcoming Events

Fall 2011 Weekends:

Men: October 13 – 16, 2011 Rector: Ted Petito

Women: October 20 -23, 2011 Rectora: Mary Stroup

Ultreya: September 10, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church of
November Exact date and location to be announced

Prayer Palanca: The 72 hour prayer palanca sign up link is on the web site. Please remember to sign up to pray for the team and pilgrims of Men's #58 and Women's #62.

2012 Weekend Dates:

Men's April 12 - 15

Women's April 19 - 22

Men's October 11 - 14

Women's October 18 – 21

Proposed Constitution and By-Laws Amendments – Summer / Fall 2011

CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE V, SECTION 4

PURPOSE

To bring greater flexibility when multiple people share one Secretariat office.

CURRENT TEXT

When two or more people jointly assume one office on the Secretariat, only one of these people shall be designated as the voting member for the duration of their term of office.

REPLACEMENT TEXT

When two or more people jointly assume one office on the Secretariat, they shall share responsibility as the voting member with only one vote amongst them. The joint officeholders must agree on how to cast the vote. If they are unable to agree, their vote shall be considered an abstention.

BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 1, B1.01

PURPOSE

To bring our By-Laws into agreement with our current practice of holding Secretariat meetings in the even-numbered months, and to provide greater flexibility if the Secretariat wants to change the schedule in the future.

CURRENT TEXT

There shall be one regular business meeting of the Secretariat every other month throughout the year beginning with the month of January, unless otherwise determined by the Secretariat.

REPLACEMENT TEXT

There shall be one regular business meeting of the Secretariat every other month throughout the year beginning with the month of January or February, unless otherwise determined by the Secretariat.

BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 2, B2.02

PURPOSE

To make it easier to find Lay Director candidates who have Secretariat experience but **aren't** prevented from serving two full terms as Lay Director.

CURRENT TEXT

Service on the Secretariat shall not exceed four consecutive years without an absence of one term (two years) from the Secretariat.

REPLACEMENT TEXT

Service on the Secretariat shall not exceed four consecutive years without an absence of one term (two years) from the Secretariat. In order to encourage Lay Directors with previous Secretariat experience, service as the Lay Director shall be considered separately from other service on the Secretariat.

BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 2, B2.03

PURPOSE

To clarify how the Lay Director is nominated, according to the intentions of those who adopted our By-Laws.

CURRENT TEXT

The Lay Director shall be nominated by the current members of the Secretariat and elected by Rainbow Via de Cristo to serve a two year term.

REPLACEMENT TEXT

A candidate for Lay Director shall be nominated by a majority vote of the current members of the Secretariat. The nominee must be confirmed by Rainbow Via de Cristo at the next Ultreya. If elected, the Lay Director shall serve a two year term.

BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 2, B2.05

PURPOSE

To remove a dependency on the availability of our Spiritual Directors and better reflect the identity of Via de Cristo as a lay-led movement.

CURRENT TEXT

Any member of the Secretariat missing two (2) consecutive Secretariat meetings without being excused prior to the meeting by the Lay Director shall be removed from office and notified by a Spiritual Director.

REPLACEMENT TEXT

Any member of the Secretariat missing two (2) consecutive Secretariat meetings without being excused prior to the meeting by the Lay Director shall be removed from office.

BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 4, B4.05 & B4.06

PURPOSE

To remove a dependency on the availability of our Spiritual Directors and better reflect the identity of Via de Cristo as a lay-led movement.

CURRENT TEXT

B4.05

All Secretariat officers, including the Lay Director, will participate in this vote. The Spiritual Director(s) will tally the votes.

B4.06

Within seven (7) days following the ballot, the Spiritual Director will contact the primary candidate to see if he/she will serve on the Weekend for which he/she was selected.

REPLACEMENT TEXT

B4.05

All Secretariat officers, including the Lay Director, will participate in this vote. The Spiritual Director(s) or Lay Director will tally the votes.

B4.06

Within seven (7) days following the ballot, the Spiritual Director(s) or Lay Director will contact the primary candidate to see if he/she will serve on the Weekend for which he/she was selected.

BY-LAWS, CHAPTER 6, B6.03

PURPOSE

To better reflect our ecumenical community and mission.

CURRENT TEXT

The number of non-Lutheran Pilgrims is limited to the number of tables, unless approved by the Secretariat. Replacement Text None. (This section should be deleted.)



Brief Look at the Mechanics of the Secretariat

Serving on the Secretariat is an interesting dynamic. Like any organization, they are all individuals from different walks of life and different perspectives but all with the common objective of serving the Lord. Before I joined the Secretariat, I had many questions and curiosity for the Secretariat.

To really get a good understanding of Via de Cristo I think it is important to see the workings of the Secretariat. One can see this readily at a Secretariat meeting. I was impressed by the welcome and positivity of some of the people on the Secretariat and the concerned involvement of all the members. There is so much dedication of purpose and hard work and there are many places and opportunities to serve behind the scenes.

Previously, I had only been exposed to the Secretariat through the governance of my own church and for me that left a lot of questions.

Via de Cristo is more than the weekend and so much more than serving on the weekend. While that is the “sexy” part of it the other things like the 4th day, Support of Pilgrims, Ultreyas, Prayer for the weekends and our organization, peripheral support of the weekends on Thursday and Saturday and finally serving on the Secretariat are equally as important, rewarding and spiritually giving.

Some of the members have been on the Secretariat for a long time and it is time for them to give someone else an opportunity. They have served us well and demonstrated how to do it with dedication and most efficiently. Other than the Lay Director, Weekend Coordinator, and Leadership Coordinator the other positions really involve just a couple of hours or two days of work per month.

We should applaud Rob, George, Kari, Holly and Charissa and all the others as they leave the Secretariat. They have done a wonderful job and set an admirable example for us to follow. If they could get frequent flyer miles just for the miles they have driven to keep everything going they would have earned round trip tickets around the world. While this is true, if you asked any one of them about their experience, I am sure they would say it was a very rewarding, spiritual and giving experience that they would not have wanted to miss. Through this fellowship they have become very close to each other and the Via de Cristo mission in general.

Consider participating on the Secretariat when members are elected in November. For a new pilgrim, it is an excellent way to serve the Lord and to get a good understanding of the whole Via de Cristo movement. You earn a good appreciation of the magnitude of the impact of Via de Cristo in spreading the good word and the love of Jesus Christ. For a seasoned member of the community, it is the next step in the management of Via de Cristo and “Christ is Depending on You” to help with that leadership. If you feel called, please step up to the plate.

In my brief association with the Secretariat, I have found that I have benefited so much more than I am expected to give. Sometimes, it has challenged my patience but in the end we are accomplishing something really good and in full praise to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I give and serve willingly and for me that has been a great blessing, even when it is hard. Thanks be to God.

Secretariat Position Opportunities

The following positions will be elected at the **November Ultreya**:

- Lay Director
- Secretary
- Sponsorship Coordinator
- Weekend Coordinator
- Fourth Day Coordinator
- Leadership Coordinator

Some of these positions will already have volunteers, but others will be available. Prayerfully consider this calling to serve in one of these positions.

If you are interested in serving on the Secretariat, please contact the Lay Director (Rob Shaw-Fuller), Assistant Lay Director (Charissa Aclin), or another current member of the Secretariat.

Rainbow Secretariat			
Position	Name	Telephone	VdC email
Spiritual Director	Pastor Aurelio Magarino	240-603-3371	pastors@rainbow-vdc.com
Lay Director	Rob Shaw-Fuller	540-338-0699	laydirector@rainbow-vdc.com
Secretary	Holly Hypes	301-856-3938	secretary@rainbow-vdc.com
Treasurer	Mike Tinman	703-724-4253	treasurer@rainbow-vdc.com
Communications Coord.	Cathie Mott	301-725-9776	communicatioins@rainbow-vdc.com
4th Day Coordinators	John and Shannon Majsztrik	301-498-7478	fourthday@rainbow-vdc.com
Leadership Coordinator	George Milcetch	301-373-5052	leadership@rainbow-vdc.com
Music Coordinator	Julia Shaw-Fuller	540-338-0699	music@rainbow-vdc.com
Outreach Coordinators	John Hargraves	301- 863-279	outreach@rainbow-vdc.com
Palanca Coordinator	Debbie Howe	703 830-2538	palanca@rainbow-vdc.com
Sponsorship Coordinator	Kari Campbell	703-815-1811	sponsorship@rainbow-vdc.com
Weekend Coordinator	Charissa Aclin	301-352-7708	weekends@rainbow-vdc.com
Web Cha	Charissa Aclin Nancy Shampo	301-352-7708 301-776-7670	web@rainbow-vdc.com