



The Rooster Crows

Iowa Lutheran
Secretariat

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To Tell the Truth about Recruitment

Instead, consider these tips:

1. Invite the potential pilgrims to the weekend in the same way that you would invite them to dinner in your home.
2. Share with the potential pilgrims all the information they request. Tell them about the talks, the posters, the jokes, the meals, the sleeping arrangements, the bells. Tell them that they will be asked to put away their watches to be on God's time. Tell them that they will be put into families that they will be with for discussion at the tables. Too many times I have heard that potential pilgrims have resisted because they feel it is a secret organization. It is not, and we need to make them feel comfortable.
3. Talk about how they will be taken care of in a Christian camping atmosphere except that the facilities are more like a motel. Let them know that they will be cared for with much love.
4. They will not be asked to do anything they do not feel comfortable doing, such as talking in front of the group, etc.
5. They will experience the Triune God throughout the weekend.

One cursillista has explained that a person doesn't have to go to a weekend, but that he/she **deserves** to have a Via de Cristo weekend. God bless you as you recruit and may we have many, many pilgrims in 2004.

In Christ's service,
Jolene Manzey, Lay Director

Secretariat Membership

- **Spiritual Rector:** Pastor Jane Johnston, Melvin
- **Lay Director:** Jolene Manzey, Storm Lake
- **Secretary:** Sheryl Kleppe, Storm Lake
- **Treasurer:** Bonnie Sleezer, Aureila
- **Palanca Representative:** Newell Bowers, Atlantic
- Jim and Joyce McCrea, Milford
- Mike Shull, Storm Lake
- Ron and Judy Rasmussen, Humboldt
- Reg and Roberta Yoder, Des Moines
- Carroll and Judy Lange, Fort Dodge
- GA Darnell, Spencer

The 2004 Via de Cristo weekends are approaching quickly. Pilgrims need to be recruited now! We would love to have a full slate for both the men's and women's weekends by the Christmas holiday. To do so, however, will require a lot of work on your part.

First give careful thought to the people that you want to ask. These should be men and women for whom Christianity is not a new thing. These should be men and women in whom you sense a strong desire to strengthen their walk with the Lord and their service to others. These should be men and women who would enjoy being pampered by their brothers and sisters while focusing on their Christian walk. These should **not** be men and women who are currently going through a personal crisis of any type.

Now, begin the careful process of recruitment. It is **not** advisable to assault your prospects with all the reasons they **should** attend.

How Do My Pilgrims Make Application for the Weekend?

Registering your pilgrims is a very simple process. First, copy as many application blanks as necessary. Please keep in mind that these applications have been revised so be sure to use the one that is enclosed with this newsletter. Then, fill out the front side of the registration blank with each pilgrim. Do not forget to turn the registration blank over and give us the information on the back. It is particularly important to know how willing the pilgrim is to share as that will be considered when forming the family groups. Third, enclose a ten dollar deposit with the registration. Some sponsors choose to pay the entire amount for their pilgrim. This may be sent with the application if that is your choice. Finally, send the application for the January 2004 weekends to Jolene Manzey, 822

Greenwood Drive, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588. It is our hope to have most of the pilgrims registered prior to the Christmas holidays. Please look for their names on our website <http://www.iowalutheranssecretariat.org> as we receive them. Checking this site often insures that you will have plenty of time to write palanca for each of the pilgrims listed.

Brothers in Blue Goes to Belize



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is a long time since I could address the entire Via de Cristo community of Iowa and know all of them by their first names. Since the 1970s many people have been blessed by the Via de Cristo renewal and it has gone out to the ends of the earth literally. From its beginnings at the Catholic Parish Center in Atlantic to the highlands of New Guinea thousands of people have gone out blessed into the fourth day.

In recent years my participation has been in the Prisons of Iowa. Currently the Brothers in Blue hold nine weekends every year in four Iowa Prisons. Many prisoners in Iowa begin a new direction or are assisted in a new direction already begun by participation in this renewal tool. Now we have under the direction of the Spirit new opportunities for service. We need your help.

1. We need your prayers. Pray for us.
2. We need your palanca. Palanca for the Prison weekends can be sent to Carroll Lang for the Prisons in Rockwell City and Fort Dodge. It can be sent to

Allen Hemeier for the Prisons in Mount Pleasant and Newton. The list of upcoming dates is else where in the Rooster Crows.

3. We need more people willing to serve. If we are to expand into one more Iowa Prison and continue service in the four already served we need more people. Pray about your participation.

We are taking the prison Via de Cristo to a prison seventeen miles out in the jungle in Belize, Central America. The weekend will cost about \$15,000. We would appreciate your financial support as well. We are moving forward in faith knowing that God will provide the funds. Send any donations to: Brothers in Blue-Belize, %Jim Newton, 72549 305th St., Collins, IA 50055. Members of the team are: Randy Bogaards, Allen Hemeier, Lary Holle, Carroll Lang, Douglas Musser, Jim Newton, Don Nielsen, Willis Van Haften, Robert Reynolds, Lary Van Zante, and Max Webb.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Allen Hemeier

Continuing Education Event

When: March 6, 2004

11:00-2:00

Where: Bethany Lutheran
Spencer, Iowa

Who: Anyone interested in knowing how the Via de Cristo is set-up and governed. We will answer these questions:

- Who selects the rector's?
- How is a team selected?
- What is the process for becoming a rector?
- How do I express interest in being part of a team?
- What does the Secretariat do?
- How are we connected to the national movement?
- How do I write palanca?

Notify Jolene Manzey 712-732-4623 if you are planning on coming so we can plan for lunch.



Wanted!

Pilgrims: Begin recruitment now to ensure that Via de Cristo 2004 operates at maximum enrollment. We are looking for Christians anxious to renew and reenergize their lives through a weekend. You will

find a Pilgrim Application inside this publication.

Palanca Workers: We are looking for 4th Dayers willing to spend all or part of a weekend serving those who come to experience the weekend. You will find a palanca application inside this publication.

Set-Up Crew: We are in need of men and women

to help set up at the camp on Sunday, January 4, 2004, at 2:00. Just come to the camp if you can help.

Tear Down Crew: We need people willing to be available prior to and following the closing to return the camp to its original state. If you are available, just come to the Women's Closing on January 18, 2004, and plan on staying until the work is completed.

Brothers in Blue Weekends
Please remember the team and the pilgrims at these upcoming weekends in our prison ministry.

December 4-7, 2003
Rockwell City
February 12-15, 2004
Newton
March 11-14, 2004
Mount Pleasant
April 22-25, 2004
Fort Dodge
May 13-16, 2004
Newton

If you want to attend a closing, contact Carroll Lang (515-576-6810) for

Lay Members of the Via de Cristo Teams 2004

Rectors-Larry Lubinus/Bonnie Sleezer

Assistant Rectors-Jerry Ryker/Tammy Ryker/Carol Anderson/Lonnie Cummins/Cindy Pedersen

Ideal-Pres Johnston/Bertha Carlson

Laity-Ron Rasmussen/Barb Brockshuis

Piety-Jerry Burt/Andy Bean

Study-Tom Jacobson/Cheryl Todd

Action-Dan Douglas/Juanita Overmann

Leaders-Harold Overmann/Theone Quattlebaum

Environment-Jeff Buchan/Micky Matuska

C.C. in Action-Dave Jensen/ Chrissy Mathews

Auxiliaries-Tom Kellen/Nicky Sleezer, Gary Koelling/Sheryl Paul, Jim Hitchcock/ Cheryl Hessenius, Luane Todd/ Donita Grebner

Palanca Rectors-Mike Lindemann, Todd Brockshuis/Betty Parrish, Judy Valen, Pat Palmberg, Lorene Gustafson



Kitchen Rectors- Butch Sleezer/Lori Porsch

Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for the upcoming weekends!



A Word From Our Spiritual Director, Pastor Jane Johnston

“Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer then, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ”

Matthew 25:34 –40

When you think on times that were faith-shaping in your life I would imagine you can point to your original Via de Cristo weekend. It was a time when others reached out to you and made sure you had a weekend that was very important to your experience. Do you remember how all of the “elves” came in and made sure your room was clean without you lifting a finger? Remember all the meals – the delicious food, the A-one serving, the snacks and beverages that appeared magically at the appropriate times? It was an experience that would not have happened without the Palanca team members. The people who gave their time so you would be able to see God’s gift of grace come alive for you.

Will you consider giving your gift back to another group of pilgrims? Whether you can serve as a part of Palanca or provide Palanca for the weekend you will be a part of the experience once again. Offer the gift of the weekend to those people you know who are just waiting to be invited – offer the gift of a registration to that special couple or individual. You may be surprised at their response - you will be giving a gift of grace that cannot be purchased at any price.

The weekend in January at Okoboji is just one of the times during the year that you are invited to be a part of a time of the faith-building experience. There will be a weekend held in 2004 at Riverside Camp as well as the Brothers in Blue weekends held at Rockwell City and Ft. Dodge Correctional Facilities.

When you are a part of a weekend you are obeying the dictate that Christ gives us – when you do it to the least of these you are doing it to him. You are being a part of the way Christ moves within the body of believers, strengthening us and building us up.

Pastor Jane Johnston
Iowa Lutheran Secretariat
Spiritual Director

Additional Information

Check information out on the web. Our site is: www.iowalutheransecretariat.org

Send the completed Pilgrim Application Forms to: Jolene Manzey
822 Greenwood Drive
Storm Lake, IA 50588

My email address is: jmanzey@iw.net

Send Palanca Applications to: Men's weekend: Mike Lindeman, Women's Weekend: Betty Parrish
504 1st Street, 1904 Iowa Ave.
Dakota City, Iowa Milford, IA 51351

Closings 2:15 P.M.

Sunday, January 11 & Sunday, January 18 at

**The Camp Chapel
on the grounds of
Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp**

What are my duties as a Sponsor?

Prior to the weekend you have the following responsibilities:

- 1. With others in your church, determine who you are going to invite to the Via de Cristo. Approach those folks to whom you have been assigned in a non-threatening manner.**
- 2. If they agree to attend, complete their application with them.**
- 3. Send the application and the \$10 deposit to Jolene Manzey, 822 Greenwood, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588.**
- 4. Transport your pilgrim to the camp on Thursday night by 7:00. If you cannot do this yourself, make sure that you have arranged transportation for them.**
- 5. Send or take palanca for your pilgrim to the palanca chapel on Thursday evening. This should include any mail from women pilgrims' husbands.**

During the weekend:

- 1. Pray for your pilgrim and for the entire Via de Cristo weekend.**
- 2. If the pilgrim's family needs assistance in their absence, make yourself available.**
- 3. Attend the closing. We cannot stress strongly enough how important this is. If you absolutely cannot attend, make sure someone is there in your stead.**

Following the weekend:

- 1. Help the pilgrim find people with whom to group. Grouping is very important to keeping the three day experience alive in the mind of the pilgrim.**
- 2. Attend an Ultreya with your pilgrim if there is one available. If there is not, consider starting one.**