



Sponsoring a pilgrim is a great joy, but it does carry with it many responsibilities. Sponsorship is a lifetime commitment to the spiritual growth of the pilgrim you sponsor. Talk to God about your friend before you talk to your friend about Via de Cristo.

1. When God leads you to sponsor someone on a Via de Cristo weekend, remember that Via de Cristo is for spiritual renewal and developing Christian leaders. It is important that the participants desire to grow spiritually and want to discover their gifts.
2. Keep in mind that Via de Cristo is not for everyone. It is not for healing deep emotional and personal problems such as a recent divorce, death of a loved one, loss of a job, someone having doubts about their faith, etc. Do not invite people because you feel they “need” to go on a weekend.
3. The weekend is emotionally draining and physically tiring and we do not want to endanger anyone’s emotional health. If there is a very emotionally needy person at a table, they may require so much nurturing that the other persons at the table may be deprived of their own experience. This may not be the right time to invite that person. It may be better to postpone the invitation until their lives have stabilized. Please pray for direction.
4. The Via de Cristo method places heavy emphasis on prayer-filled planning. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you identify natural leaders in your environment that you should invite to a weekend.
5. Participants should be baptized Christians, and active participants in a Christian congregation, reasonably stable and mature, with a desire for God’s love and a longing to be set on fire with a zeal to do God’s work in the church and in the world.
6. Tell your pilgrim everything he/she needs to know. Do not be secretive. Answer all questions honestly. Just try not to disclose the surprises: the serenade, prayer palanca, and the silence. Do not tell them there are “Secrets”. Don’t build up any expectations about what they will experience because their experience may be entirely different from yours.
7. Tell them that there will be worship services with communion, that they will hear talks by laypersons and clergy and that there will be discussion of the talks. Tell them they will sing a lot, make new friends, and be invited to join a prayer group after the weekend.
8. Explain what the term “4th day” means.
9. Remind them that the weekend is isolated from the world, so please leave all electronic devices at home.
10. Tell your pilgrim the cost of the weekend if they ask, however, let them know that it is a gift and there is nothing they need pay.
11. It is encouraged that the husband should attend first followed soon by the wife. There are exceptions to this guideline.
12. Coed weekends are not couples weekends. Make sure your pilgrim understands this. A Coed Weekend simply means that both men and women will be attending the weekend. Be sure couples know they will not be rooming together.
13. Be sure the pilgrim’s applications and the sponsor’s forms are complete, and submitted as promptly as possible to the Registrar so that the 4th day can pray for them.
14. Be available to provide assistance to your pilgrim’s family during the weekend.
15. Bring the pilgrim you are sponsoring to the weekend and stay with them until they begin the Welcome. It is important for you to attend the Agape serenade and the Clausura. Plan to take them home after the closing. Tell them and their families they will be home late Sunday evening.
16. Check with your pilgrim often to see if they still plan to attend. If there are any changes, let the Registrar know right away.
17. It is your responsibility to have the spouse letter and other “special” letters turned in to the team by Saturday at the Serenade. If you can bring them on Thursday and give them to the Head Palanca Cha this will be helpful. Make sure they are marked as special and with “spouse, daughter, son, mother, father, friend, etc.” on them. Please save any other palanca until after the weekend. Gifts other than letters will not be put in palanca bags. They will be returned to you to give to your pilgrim after the weekend. So, please be sure not to bring anything other than letters to the weekend for your pilgrim unless you bring enough for all the pilgrims.
18. Assist your pilgrim in finding or forming a reunion group. Remember, the heart of the Via de Cristo movement is the fourth day reunion group. It is the place to share Christ, see Christ, support Christ in each other through the gift of grace.
19. Bring your pilgrim to the first Ultreya after the Via de Cristo weekend.
20. Invite your pilgrim to the next Via de Cristo Training.
21. Continue to be there for your pilgrim and encourage their spiritual growth. Sponsorship never ends. Pray for your pilgrim often-before, during and after the Colorado Via de Cristo weekend.