

**SPIRITUAL**

**RENEWAL**

**EXPERIENCE**



VIA DE CRISTO  
C O L O R A D O

## **FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE**

### **What is Via de Cristo?**

Via de Cristo is a three-day spiritual renewal weekend proclaiming the truth and grace of Jesus Christ. Via de Cristo is one of several methods available to the Church to help renew the faith that is already a gift to believers. Through Via de Cristo we are encouraged to persevere and grow in our faith and to strengthen our personal relationships with Jesus Christ.

All events during a Via de Cristo weekend, including the messages, meditations and leisure activities, are supported by prayer and total dependence upon God. The weekend is based upon sound scriptural principles.

### **Who should attend Via de Cristo?**

- Any Christian who would like to experience the love of God in a very unique manner.
- Any Christian who believes their spiritual life may need strengthening.
- Any Christian who may have questions about prayer, study and sharing their faith.
- Any Christian who is willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an on-going manner.

***In other words, any Christian, whether new in the faith or mature in the faith, married or single, pastor, church worker or layperson.***

### **The History of Via de Cristo**

*Via de Cristo* is the Lutheran expression of the Roman Catholic spiritual renewal experience, *Cursillo® de Cristiandad*, or 'short course in Christianity.'

The original *Cursillo®* had its beginning in the 1940's after the Spanish Civil War when church leaders wanted to bring healing to both the Church and the nation. A three-day study course was designed to give life to the teachings of the church. It was so successful that it spread, eventually reaching the United States.

Lutheran pastors who attended *Cursillo®* felt the renewal experience was excellent, and in 1972 the first Lutheran weekend was held.

The Spanish name, *Via de Cristo*, means 'Way of Christ.' Similar expressions have formed such as *Kairos*, a cursillo prison ministry, the United Methodist *Walk to Emmaus*, and *Tres Dias*, which has a non-denominational focus.

### **What is a Via de Cristo Sponsor?**

A **sponsor** is a person who has previously attended at Via de Cristo weekend. Your sponsor will facilitate your enrollment and escort you to and from the weekend site.

### **What happens at a Via de Cristo weekend?**

Via de Cristo holds **concurrent and coed weekends** where men and women attend at the same time. Much of the time is spent with men and women in separate meeting rooms and/or table groups then coming together for meals and worship. Comfortable lodging and dining is provided.

Every Via de Cristo experience begins on a Thursday evening and concludes on the following Sunday. The three day progression includes worship, songs of praise, prayer, presentations or messages followed by discussion, and unique fellowship events. Holy Communion is served on a daily basis.

An essential part of every weekend is the Spiritual Team which provides spiritual guidance and insight. The Spiritual Team, like the laypersons who organize and facilitate the weekends, have attended previous cursillos as participants.

## Thursday Evening

The weekend starts with a meet and greet to welcome the participants. They then move on to a worship experience that offers an introspective look at our lives and our relationship with God.

## Friday, Saturday and Sunday

The three days center around a series of messages given by both laypersons and clergy. The messages follow a progression that allows each topic to build upon the last and to prepare for the next. While each day has a different emphasis, the entire weekend focuses on God's grace and love, and how we can transform our daily lives in accordance to His teachings.

Additional activities take place throughout the weekend that support and enhance the focus of the messages. A Via de Cristo weekend is an enjoyable balance of study, reflection and fun!

On Sunday afternoon the Via de Cristo experience is concluded with a closing service that encourages the participants to leave in joy and anticipation.

## What happens after a Via de Cristo weekend?

You may attend VIA de CRISTO only ONCE in your life, but you are asked to build on it for the rest of your life. After you have attended a VIA de CRISTO weekend you are considered living in the Fourth Day (meaning the rest of your life), and you are encouraged to:

- Expand your inner spiritual life through study and church participation.
- Become more active witnesses for Christ in your daily life.

VIA de CRISTO also 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.
- **ULTREYA**, gatherings of the local VIA de CRISTO community for encouragement and fellowship

## Summary

Keep an open mind and heart in making your decision to attend VIA de CRISTO. Many of those who have attended also wondered whether they should go. Now that they have attended, they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Please understand that their experience attending VIA de CRISTO was unique, and all the conversations in the world will not become a substitute for your weekend.

You need to experience a weekend yourself to obtain its full and life enriching value.

## Dates of Future *Via de Cristo Weekends*

**CVdC Concurrent Weekend #43**  
**April 25 - 28, 2019**

La Foret Camp and Conference Center  
6145 Shoup Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908

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## CONTACT US:

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