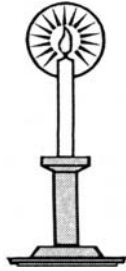


## What is Vía de Cristo?

Vía de Cristo (pronounced Vee-yah day Krease-toe), meaning “The Way of Christ,” is a short course in Christianity. It is a three-day seminar that takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a life style. It is a highly structured weekend, designed to help Christians examine their faith, and through their faith impact their environment for Christ. Vía de Cristo is presented as a combined effort of laity and clergy and is ecumenical in nature.

## Purpose of Vía de Cristo

Can Christianity penetrate all the different areas of our daily lives? Can it grow there? Can it transform the world? Scripture would respond to these questions with a resounding ‘yes.’ Jesus said: *“You are the light of the world ... Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14, 16) Vía de Cristo is intended to help Christians shine before others as “the light of the world.”



Vía de Cristo proposes no new type of spirituality. It is not a church; it simply presents a means through which the grace-filled life can be lived daily, and shared with others in a natural and loving way. Vía de Cristo is designed to strengthen and renew the Christian faith, thereby helping each individual to share their faith within their family, congregation, and the environment in which they live and work.

## Vía de Cristo Follow Through

Vía de Cristo is not a retreat or a substitute for a retreat. You can attend a Vía de Cristo weekend only once in your life. For the rest of your life, you are asked to put into practice and build upon what you learned and experienced during the weekend. This is known as living “the fourth day.” Those who attend a weekend are asked to do at least two things during their fourth day:

- Continue to expand their inner spiritual life through study and church participation
- Become more active witnesses for Christ in their daily lives

Vía de Cristo also offers two ongoing means of promoting perseverance in the Christian faith:

- Ultreya — a monthly meeting of the local community that offers encouragement, understanding, and renewal
- Group reunions — small groups of men or women that meet weekly to help one another in their quest for spiritual development

Although participation in these groups is a voluntary part of the Vía de Cristo, it is strongly encouraged.

## History of Vía de Cristo

Originating in the Roman Catholic Church in Spain in the late 1940s, the Cursillo (Spanish for “short course”) movement came to America in the 1950s. The movement began in the Lutheran Church when laity and clergy attended Catholic Cursillos in 1971, both in Iowa and Florida. The first Lutheran-sponsored Cursillos began early in 1972, both in Iowa and Florida. Lutheran Cursillo was brought to Michigan in 1980 with the help of Lutheran movements in Florida and Virginia. Lutheran weekends are now held in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia/D.C., Washington, and Wisconsin. Lutheran Vía de Cristo of Central Michigan is affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) of Vía de Cristo. The name was changed from Lutheran Cursillo to Lutheran Vía de Cristo nationally in mid-summer 1986.

## What Happens at Vía de Cristo?

Vía de Cristo begins on Thursday night and ends on the following Sunday night. During the three days, participants live and study together with enthusiastic singing, spontaneous fellowship, meaningful worship, and personal and corporate prayer. The Vía de Cristo is centered around 14 talks, five given by clergy and nine by laity. Following each talk, small-group table discussions focus on the main points of the talk. In an overlapping fashion, the talks present various aspects of the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as an ideal. Vía de Cristo offers those in attendance a living and personal understanding of basic Christian truths.

## Who Should Go to Vía de Cristo?

Vía de Cristo is for Christians who desire to grow in their faith and learn more about prayer, Bible study, and sharing their faith with others. It is for those who seek more joy, purpose, and meaning in their faith. In the case of married couples, it is expected that the husband attend first. However, both husband and wife are encouraged to attend a Vía de Cristo weekend, to strengthen their relationship as one in Christ Jesus.



**Note:** Do not go to a Vía de Cristo if you previously attended a Christian renewal movement that was rooted in the Cursillo weekend.

# CANDIDATE APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST LAST NAME FOR NAME TAG

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER AND STREET

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE ZIP

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME BUSINESS EMERGENCY CONTACT

Applying for weekend number: \_\_\_\_ Musical instruments you play: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Gender:  M  F

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Education (highest level): \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status:  Single  Married  Separated  Divorced  Widowed

If married, your spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Has your spouse attended a Vía de Cristo or similar weekend?

Yes  No Year \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Your church: \_\_\_\_\_

Your pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Church address: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER AND STREET

\_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE ZIP

Church Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

How did you become interested in Vía de Cristo? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list leadership positions you hold in church or civic organizations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Will you need special medical or dietary attention during the weekend?

Yes  No If Yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check for completeness and return this form to your sponsor.**