

*****APPLICANTS MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE*****

*****APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO START OF WEEKEND*****

TASTE OF GRACE VIA de CRISTO

Application Form for the Lutheran Spiritual Renewal Movement

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION (Please print. Return application to sponsor when complete.)

Full Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Male: ___ Female: ___

Name or nickname you would like on your nametag: _____ Home phone:(____)_____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Occupation: _____ Workphone:(____)_____ Email: _____

Name, Address and Relationship of a person not living with you to contact in the event of an emergency:

Name _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Home church: _____ Denomination: _____

Church address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Church phone: (____) _____ Pastor's name (print) _____

Tell us about your present church involvement; list activities (attach an extra page if necessary): _____

Please indicate any special medical or dietary needs, physical limitations, sleeping arrangements, or other special needs you may need (attach an extra page if necessary): _____

Marital Status: Married ___ -spouse's name: _____ Single ___ Divorced ___ Widowed ___

If married, spouse has ___ will ___ will not ___ attend a Via de Cristo or similar weekend

Spouses are encouraged to apply together for consecutive weekends.

Which weekend do you wish to attend _____ Would you be available on short notice if there are cancellations? ___

Due to space limitations, not all applicants may be able to attend the weekend of their preference.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

II. PASTOR'S SIGNATURE

As the applicant's pastor, I offer my support and prayers for my parishioner's participation in this opportunity for growth as a Christian leader.

Pastor's signature (*see notes on back*): _____

III. SPONSOR'S INFORMATION (To be filled in by sponsor.)

Sponsor's name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sponsor's home phone: (____) _____ work: (____) _____ Are you involved in a group reunion? _____

Email Address: _____

Date & location of your VDC or weekend: _____ Weekend number: _____

I have read the responsibilities of the sponsor and agree to abide by them.

Sponsor's signature: _____ Date: _____

(Continued on back)

Taste of Grace Via de Cristo
Application Form

Notes to the applicant's pastor:

This member from your congregation has applied to attend an upcoming Via de Cristo weekend. These weekends are designed to provide faith renewal for Christians by grounding them more fully in God's grace and in the disciplines of prayer, study and service. The purpose of the weekend is for participants to return to their home congregations renewed and better equipped to serve their church as leaders. Like Marriage Encounter, which seeks to strengthen healthy marriages rather than heal troubled ones, Via de Cristo is designed to strengthen faith rather than provide spiritual conversion for a non-believer.

In addition, it is our hope that married persons will be able to attend consecutive weekends so that they can share the experience together. This can be a very positive thing. If one partner is unable to do this, but could at a later date, we encourage the couple to wait. If one partner simply does not want to attend a weekend and is unlikely to ever do so in the future, then we wish to know whether or not you as their pastor have any concerns on the impact of the weekend on their marriage.

If you do not have any concerns about your parishioner's involvement in this weekend, we ask for your signature of support. If you have any apprehension, we would appreciate hearing from you. If you wish to talk to one of our spiritual directors about Via de Cristo, please call Rev. Anne Strickert at (309) 394-2208.

Thank you for responding to our request.

Notes to the applicant's sponsor:

The actual cost of the weekend is currently \$130.00, which we anticipate will be paid at the conclusion of the weekend or upon arrival.

Please send the completed application along with a non-refundable deposit of \$25.00 (scholarships may be available for those in financial need.) Make checks payable to *Taste of Grace Via de Cristo* and send to the Pre-Weekend coordinator(s) listed below.

Frequently pilgrims offer a donation toward a full or partial scholarship for a future pilgrim.

Please let your candidate know that a bookstore supplier will have items for purchase on the weekend, these are not gifts to select one's choice. These are the only situations wherein a pilgrim would wish to carry money or a checkbook.

Mail to:

**Denise Jones
17013 Geneva Ave
Lockport IL 60441**

Note: If the sponsor HAS NOT HAD confirmation within two weeks of the date the application was mailed to the Pre-weekend Coordinator the sponsor should contact the Pre-weekend Coordinator to verify the application was received. Applications have been lost in the US Postal System. The Pre-weekend Coordinator can be emailed at jones4848@att.net and telephoned at (815) 838-0388.

TASTE OF GRACE VIA de CRISTO

Sponsor's Responsibilities

"It is not enough to make a good selection of applicants, but this brings with it the need for giving them proper individual and very special care..." before, during and after their Via de Cristo.

Everyone must recognize that they assume certain responsibilities when they sponsor someone. Some of those responsibilities are:

1. The sponsor shall prayerfully consider all factors in determining whom to sponsor. Any special needs should be communicated to the Pre-Weekend Chair in writing at the time the application is submitted so that appropriate plans can be made.
2. It is the sponsor's responsibility to see that the application is received by the Pre-Weekend Chair at least five weeks prior to the weekend date.
3. The applicant should be contacted and his or her intentions to attend confirmed no later than 2 weeks prior to the weekend.
4. Prayers should be made for the spiritual growth of the applicant and for the success of the weekend.
5. If the person cannot attend, it is the sponsor's duty to inform the Pre-Weekend Chair as soon as possible so that the opening can be filled by someone else.
6. The sponsor should see that the applicant has transportation to the send-off and home after the closing.
7. The sponsor should also attend the Service for the Dedication of the Crosses held immediately after the sendoff.
8. If the applicant is married, efforts should be made to ensure that the spouse's and family's needs are taken care of during the weekend.
9. The sponsor is responsible for obtaining palanca letters from a spouse (if applicable) and/or other family members and close friends. Please see that all letters get to the weekend Palanca Cha in sufficient time.
10. After the weekend, the sponsor should ensure that the applicant is introduced to a Reunion Group.
11. The sponsor should bring the applicant to an Ultreya, a send-off, and a Clausura as soon as possible. The applicant should attend a 4th Day Continuing Ed class after his/her weekend.

The special care and assistance given to your applicant will play a major part in assuring the success of his/her Fourth Day adventure.

Sponsor's checklist:

- _____ 1. The applicant's portion of the application (Part I) is complete.
- _____ 2. The applicant's check is attached.
- _____ 3. The applicant's pastor has signed the application (Part II) and received a palanca support letter request and guidelines.
- _____ 4. The sponsor has completed and signed the application (Part III).
- _____ 5. The sponsor has circulated guidelines and a requests for palanca letters to family and friends of their candidate

**REMOVE THIS PAGE BEFORE GIVING THE APPLICATION FORM TO THE APPLICANT AND
RETAIN IT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**

Sponsorship Letter

Following is an example of a letter that can be sent to family and friends of people you are sponsoring. This may help explain what you want from them without too much explanation.

Dear Friend,

I have the privilege of being the sponsor for _____ who is attending a Christian retreat weekend. As a relative or friend, you can be a very important part of this weekend by writing a letter of encouragement and support to _____. The contents of these letters usually mention such things as memories that you cherish fondly of your relationship, special times you have shared, during which you came to admire their special qualities, or good things that you have thought of sharing with them, but never have said directly.

This retreat will be held over the weekend of _____. Do not mention you have prepared a letter. "Mail" will be an unexpected surprise on the weekend since when "on retreat" one does not expect to have communication from home and friends left behind.

I will need to have your letter by _____(date)_____.

I can possibly pick up your letter, call me at _____ to arrange for this.

*Please place your sealed letter (addressed to your retreatant's name on the envelope) into a mailing envelope and post to me at:
Your name and address _____*

Blessings to you,