
Lighthouse Via de Cristo is...

...a local interdenominational ministry designed to assist disciples of Jesus to renew and deepen their faith and to provide some time-proven means to become more effective Christians. "Via de Cristo" is a Spanish expression which literally means "Way of Christ." The lighthouse represents both Christ's words, "I am the Light of the World," *and* our location on the shores of Ponce Inlet where a lighthouse has stood to assist travelers since the 19th century.

All activities during a Via de Cristo weekend are done with the express intention of being a means through which the Holy Spirit can work more effectively in the lives of the participants. Many who have attended such a weekend state they have never felt so much love at any time or place before in their entire lives. We are all aware of the healing, transforming power of love, so do yourself a great kindness...APPLY NOW TO ATTEND OUR NEXT WEEKEND.

What is a Via de Cristo Weekend?

The weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Our time together is highly structured and is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them, the faith of their families, congregations, and the environments in which they live, work, and play. It is a combined effort of laypersons and clergy working together to

bring renewal to the Church by taking a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle. You will spend three busy but very enjoyable days, living and studying together with much singing, prayer, worship, and discussion. Discussions center around a series of talks given by both lay people and clergy regarding:

- The grace of God
 - The reality of grace in our lives
 - How we can live the life of grace
 - Ways we can impart grace to others.
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Our Purpose

In today's world, can Christianity penetrate all areas of our secular lives? Can it transform the world in a way that is more fruitful than the past, yet in keeping with the times? Those who are involved in Via de Cristo firmly believe so! We propose no new type of spirituality—only a simple method through which one's grace-filled life may, in a natural, loving way, be lived and shared with others.

Who should attend?

Christians who believe their spiritual lives need strengthening; who may have many unanswered questions about prayer, study, and sharing their faith; who understand being Christian involves responsibility and would like to have both the spiritual foundation and moral reserve to carry this out in their lives; who are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing

manner; are the best candidates to attend a Via de Cristo Weekend. In other words, if you have a strong faith or a question about your faith, you're probably the best candidate to attend.

This ministry is intended primarily for baptized individuals, who already know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is not intended to convert the non-believer.

What happens after the Weekend?

You may attend a Via de Cristo (or similar) Weekend only once in your life, but you are asked to build on it for the rest of your life. Some say it is "three days that last a lifetime." This post-weekend activity is known as your Fourth Day. Those who have attended are asked to do two things during their Fourth Day: 1) expand their spiritual lives through study and participation in their local church, and 2) become more active Christians in their daily lives. The Fourth Day community offers two means of support and perseverance: 1) Group Reunions, small groups of friends who meet for a short period weekly to help one another in their quest for spiritual growth and development; and 2) monthly Ultreyas, meetings of the local community for encouragement and support. Participation in these two activities is an integral part of Via de Cristo and is strongly suggested but, as are all activities of Via de Cristo, is voluntary.

*H*istory of this ministry

The Cursillo de Cristiandad, "Short Course in Christianity," from which our ministry derives, began in the Roman Catholic Church in Spain in the late 1940s and then spread throughout the world among many denominations. An interdenominational "Cursillo", now known as Indian River Via de Cristo, was started in Brevard County in 1981, and its continuing success led to the establishment of the Lighthouse Via de Cristo in Volusia County in 1990.

Everyone who has attended a three-day Weekend (whether Cursillo, Via de Cristo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Kairos, or other) is encouraged to join us in our Fourth Day activities.

For More Information

Speak to your pastor or write to:

Lighthouse Via de Cristo, Inc.
P.O. Box 628
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170

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