

Commonly Answered Questions

1. **What if I've attended another weekend with another movement? May I serve and be active in Wisconsin SonRise Via de Cristo?**

Yes! We are made up of community that have attended Catholic Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, De Colores, and other forms of the Cursillo method. Let us know that you are in our community and we will put you in our database to receive our newsletter and general information about upcoming weekends. You may also be asked to serve on a team

2. **As a Pastor, am I required to attend a weekend before sponsoring members of my congregation to attend?**

This is a requirement in Wisconsin as well as most of the other Via de Cristo and Cursillo type movements. To attend a Via de Cristo weekend is a total experience which is almost impossible to describe. Pastors need to know what is happening in their congregations and also must decide if they want Via de Cristo in their congregation. Only by attending a weekend can they properly judge for themselves. To assist in making this judgment, a priority is given to one lay couple from their congregation to attend at the same time. This allows the pastor to observe how they receive and react to the weekend.

A second and separate reason is participation. Each Via de Cristo team has at least three pastors. They are needed to celebrate the Eucharist, to counsel, give the pastoral talks, conduct worship services, etc. If no new pastors were to attend, then this burden would continually fall on only a few, who of course also have other parish responsibilities. Pastors who have participated find the benefits of serving on team outweigh the responsibilities in sermon material alone.

The third reason is to prevent Via de Cristo from being divisive. If the program is successful, the lay people who attend will return to their congregations filled with new zeal and enthusiasm. A pastor who has not had a similar experience may not be able to understand this change. The result is confusion and the possibility of a pastor not accepting the Via de Cristo participants. This is not an uncommon happening. It has happened in other states, particularly where pastors are not required to go first.

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES?

The governing council will receive and carefully consider requests for exceptions that can be made. Requests must be in writing and directed to the council. They can be submitted to the coordinator.

MUST THE FIRST PASTOR ATTENDING BE THE SENIOR PASTOR?

No. It is best, but not necessary. However, not to be divisive, the senior pastor must give personal permission by signing the application form for the associate. Either pastor can sign for the lay people.

3. **Could my church host a weekend?**

We are always open to having a weekend at a new facility. Each weekend has approximately 40 team members and 30-40 participants. We need several rooms for sleeping, a large room for the weekend talks and small table discussions, use of the kitchen, dining area, and sanctuary or chapel, and adequate bathroom space. We will send a team to do an evaluation of your church's facilities, to make sure that we do have enough space.