

## **PARTICIPANT'S SELECTION GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are currently being used by the Texas Lutheran Gulf Coast Via de Cristo Secretariat to determine the selection of New Pilgrims and the order in which applications for Via de Cristo are accepted.

The first applications (up to the maximum number determined by the space at the campsite for that weekend) received by the Registrar which meet these guidelines, will be accepted. Applicants still on the waiting lists after the weekend will be given first priority for later weekends. Sponsors will be notified if their applicant is on the waiting list so that the sponsor may assist the applicant in reapplying to the next Via de Cristo weekend.

### **The Selection Guidelines are as follows:**

1. Only applications signed by a pastor & sponsor will be considered.
2. Lay applicants must be recommended by the Via de Cristo, Cursillo, and Walk to Emmaus, etc. clergy of their home church. Lutheran clergy applicants must be recommended by Via de Cristo clergy. 3. Applicants should be active members of Via de Cristo, Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, etc. congregations.
4. Applicants must be mature, 19 years or older and baptized members of a Christian church who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
5. A deposit or a clear indication from the sponsor of the type of financial support and source of support for the applicant is required at the time of application. Full payment is due at or before the start of the weekend. .
6. It is highly recommended that spouses attend together (co-ed) or soon after each other.
7. Up to 5 participants from any one church may be accepted for the same weekend. (3 couples for a Co-Ed weekend)
8. Up to five non-Lutheran participants may be accepted for the same weekend.
9. Up to five men clergy and five women clergy may be accepted for the same weekend.
10. Applicants divorced or widowed will not be accepted until one year from the date they became divorced or widowed. Those known to have emotional problems or chemical dependencies will not be accepted.
11. Neither children nor pets can be accommodated on the weekend.

NOTE: Before you sponsor a person for the weekend, take a prayerful look at his/her Christian Life:

*Do you see Christ in this person?*

*Is this person able to see Christ in others?*

*Will the person grow from the experience?*

The weekend is not the time or place to bring someone for a conversion. The weekend is to strengthen their walk with the Lord and build their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

## GUIDELINES FOR BEING A SPONSOR

As a sponsor, you should feel the Lord's work through Via de Cristo is in your hands and that you are accepting the responsibility for the New Pilgrims. Your consideration of sponsorship should include serious prayer, for you will be that person's liaison.

Read carefully the Guidelines for New Pilgrims. Via de Cristo is not intended to resolve personal problems such as marital difficulties or alcoholism.

Explain Via de Cristo to your candidate. Be factual and truthful - especially in answering questions. Know the participant - family, church involvement, health, diet, handicaps, etc.

Be sure to explain that a continuing program is part of the Via de Cristo experience - not just the weekend.

### These are some of the duties as a sponsor:

1. Help process and track the application.
2. Make sure pre-weekend materials have been received. Keep in touch, especially during the last few weeks before the weekend.
3. Be prepared to help with problems that may arise during the weekend to ease the New Pilgrim's mind on problems back home.
4. Bring the New Pilgrim to the weekend site or *make sure other arrangements have been made if you cannot personally bring him/her*. When delivering them to the site, do not abandon them to visit with friends.
5. If spouse's letters are used - you are responsible for getting them and delivering them - to the weekend site. Give plenty of notice for writing and make certain they understand - the importance of correspondence. Encourage children, relatives and friends to provide letters or notes. Mark the envelopes with the candidate's FULL name and specific delivery time (if desired).
6. Do not assume the spouse will write or send a card. Remind him/her.
7. Do not forget your own palanca to the New Pilgrims as well as providing a cup as a memorable gift from you.
8. Check on the family during the weekend one of the spouses is attending Via de Cristo - and be available if help is needed at home.
9. Attend the Clausura on Sunday afternoon, bringing along family members or friends (not those who plan to attend the next weekend) and see your friend home.
10. Help your friend get started in a Reunion Group and area Ultreyas.
11. Remember to keep him or her in your prayers.
12. Call, write, or e-mail him/her often to keep in touch.

(Revised 8/4/18)