

PARTICIPANT'S SELECTION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are currently being used by the Texas 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.

Applications received by the Registrar which meet these guidelines will be accepted, up to the maximum number determined by the space at the campsite for that weekend. After all spaces have been filled, additional qualified applicants will be placed on a waiting list and will be given priority for later weekends. Sponsors will be notified if their applicant is on the waiting list so that the sponsor may follow through with 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 must be a mature adult, 19 years or older and baptized members of a Christian church who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
4. 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.
5. It is recommended that spouses attend together (co-ed) or soon after each other.
6. Up to 6 participants, or three couples for a co-ed weekend, from any one church congregation may be accepted for the same weekend.
7. A maximum of five non-Lutheran participants may be accepted for the same weekend.
8. A maximum of five men clergy and five women clergy may be accepted for the same weekend.
9. Applicants who are divorced or widowed will not be accepted until one year from the date they became divorced or widowed.
10. Applicants known to have a diagnosis of a serious emotional disability, mental illness or chemical dependency 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 - **FOR SPONSOR ONLY**

(Sponsor keeps this page)

As a Sponsor you must understand and believe that the Lord's work through Via de Cristo is in your hands, and that you are responsible for caring for and serving the new Pilgrim. Your consideration of sponsorship should include serious prayer, as you will be that person's liaison.

Accepting the role of Sponsor includes the following responsibilities:

BEFORE THE WEEKEND:

- Read carefully the Guidelines for new Pilgrims.
- Understand that Via de Cristo is not intended to resolve personal problems such as marital difficulties or alcoholism.
- Explain Via de Cristo to your Pilgrim candidate, and answer questions he/she may have factually and truthfully.
- Explain that the Via de Cristo experience continues beyond the weekend.
- Be very familiar with your Pilgrim candidate, his/her family situation, church involvement, health, diet, and disabilities, if any.
- Help your Pilgrim complete, process and track the application, including securing the Clergy person's signature.
- Make sure the Pilgrim has received pre-weekend materials and information. Keep in touch, especially during the last few weeks before the weekend.
- Take responsibility for collecting all Palanca letters for your Pilgrim, including letters from the Pilgrim's spouse, and deliver them to the weekend site. Give plenty of notice for writing and make certain they understand the importance and "surprise" of the correspondence. Encourage children, relatives and friends to provide letters or notes. Mark the envelopes with the candidate's FULL name. If a specific delivery time is desired, put the letter in a zip-lock bag and mark the delivery time on the bag.
- Remind the spouse to write a card or letter. (Do not assume they will do this.)
- Write at least one Palanca note to the new Pilgrim.
- Provide a coffee cup or a cup for a cold beverage as a memorable gift from you to your Pilgrim.
- Provide transportation for the new Pilgrim to the weekend site or *assure that other arrangements have been made if you cannot personally bring him/her.*

DURING THE WEEKEND:

- When delivering your Pilgrim to the site, introduce them to others; do not abandon them to visit with your own friends.
- Check in with the Pilgrim's family during the weekend, especially when your Pilgrim's spouse and/or children are back at home.
- Be prepared and available to help if problems arise during the weekend with family at home or with the Pilgrim at the campsite.

AFTER THE WEEKEND:

- Attending the Clausura on Sunday afternoon, bringing along family members or friends, and provide or arrange for your Pilgrim's travel home.
- Help your friend get started in a Reunion Group and area Ultreyas.
- Call, write, or e-mail him/her often to keep in touch.
- Remember to keep him/her in your prayers.