

July 24, 2025

Dear Via de Cristo Sisters and Brothers-in-Christ:

With hearts overflowing with joy, we welcome you to Charlotte! It is a profound blessing to gather in the presence of our Lord Jesus for His 2025 Via de Cristo National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Gathering. We are so excited to reunite, to worship, and to share in the deep bonds of our Community.

As we open our hearts to one another, may the Holy Spirit move powerfully among us. This year's theme, drawn from Romans 12:2, offers a beautiful invitation to transformation: **"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."** May this divine call stir our piety, deepen our study, and ignite our apostolic action as we respond to Jesus' boundless, grace-filled love for us.

Queens University of Charlotte provides a beautiful, serene setting for our time together. While we enjoy our peaceful surroundings, please respect the University's guidelines of no smoking, no alcohol, and no pets on the premises.

We will also be in the midst of the remarkable "24 Hours of Booty" cycling/walking fundraiser on July 25-26. This incredible event, that has raised over \$29 million for cancer charities during the past 24 years, is a testament to the power of community and perseverance. While this event offers a wonderful opportunity for "people watching," please note it will impact traffic and pedestrian access in our immediate vicinity. The "24 Hours of Booty" is not about the race or the miles; rather it's an experience, a celebration, and a triumph! Doesn't that sound much like our Via de Cristo Weekends, Ultreyas, and Annual Gatherings? We know that "it only gets better". God's grace and love that we share are of inestimable value and eternal!

The Western NC Via de Cristo Host Committee is honored and ready to serve you during the next four days. We pray that this gathering will be a time of profound fellowship, collaboration, and spiritual renewal as we continue to support and strengthen the Via de Cristo movement. To God be the glory!

God loves you, and so do we!

David Deeds, John Mark & Tara Trexler WNCLVdC Host Committee Co-Chairs

Gary Roseman, WNCLVdC Lay Director