



2027 Annual Via de Cristo Gathering Frequently Asked Questions

1. What can I expect to experience at an annual Via de Cristo gathering?

Each year, individuals that are part of the Via de Cristo 4th Day community gather to learn and share how secretariats across the United States are successfully carrying out the Via de Cristo mission. We encourage and inspire each other to hold true to the rudiments of this movement as we encounter the ever-changing world that we live in. You can expect to worship and commune with brothers and sisters in Christ from California to Delaware, Minnesota, Texas and lots of places in between. You'll hear encouraging messages through forums. While you will meet and talk about key ideas in small groups, we will *not* ask you to make any posters! You will have the opportunity to pray for each of our secretariats and add your own name to a wall poster. This palanca will be shared on Via de Cristo weekends in the year that follows. We also take a small bit of time during the gathering to conduct the necessary business of the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS).

2. Who plans the annual Via de Cristo gatherings?

With guidance from the Holy Spirit, the NLS plans and leads the core elements of the gathering. We develop the schedule and agendas, select forum and exchange of idea (EOI) session topics, and select and invite speakers and presenters. The NLS is supported by a local host secretariat or host committee whose primary role is to host the gathering. The host committee secures the venue, manages registration and local transportation, plans the worship services, and provides on-site support throughout the event. They welcome participants, help attendees navigate the gathering, respond to individual needs, and create an atmosphere of Christian hospitality so that guests feel comfortable, cared for, and can fully engage in the gathering.

3. What are the dates of the 2027 annual Via de Cristo gathering?

Thursday, July 22-Sunday, July 25, 2027

4. Where will the 2027 annual Via de Cristo gathering take place?

The 2027 annual Via de Cristo gathering will take place aboard the MSC Seashore. The cruise will depart Thursday from Port Canaveral, Florida, visit Nassau and Ocean Cay – MSC's private marine reserve in the Bahamas before returning to Port Canaveral Sunday morning.



2027 Annual Via de Cristo Gathering Frequently Asked Questions

5. Will the Florida host team provide me with transportation to/from an airport?

The 2027 annual gathering host committee will provide transportation from the Orlando airport (MCO) to a local hotel on Wednesday, July 21, from the hotel to the Port Canaveral Thursday, and then back to MCO on Sunday, July 25th.

6. Is there a specific local hotel that I should plan to stay at on Wednesday night prior to the cruise?

Yes. We ask that annual gathering attendees requesting host committee transportation to the ship on Thursday morning stay in a host committee selected local hotel(s). The host committee is working on blocking rooms now. More details will follow as soon as they are available.

7. Do I have to fly in or arrive on Wednesday July 21, 2027?

No. While not required, it is highly recommended that you arrive in the Port Canaveral/Cocoa Beach vicinity on Wednesday. Unlike annual gatherings to date, the MSC Seashore will depart on schedule. Late arrival will result in your missing the gathering. Plan to be on the ship no later than 1:30pm on Thursday.

8. How much will the annual gathering cost and what does the cost cover?

The annual gathering per person cost listed on the table below includes your cruise, stateroom, all meals (at the Marketplace Buffet and main dining room), coffee/tea, standard gratuities, port charges, taxes, fees, nightly entertainment, and annual gathering expenses.

Occupants	Interior	Balcony
Single occupancy - one adult	\$870 pp	\$1040 pp
Double occupancy - two adults	\$540 pp	\$650 pp

9. What does the annual gathering cost **not** cover?

- Hotel lodging for nights before or after the cruise (~\$150-200/night)
- Meals before boarding the ship or after disembarking
- Meals/snacks at specialty restaurants on board
- Alcoholic and soft drinks; there are two beverage packages available for adults and a minor's package (coffee/tea included):
 - Premium Extra package
 - Alcohol-free package (~\$45 per person, per day – includes gratuity)
- Wi-fi; there is a Wi-fi package that can be purchased on the MSC app after you make your reservation and have your confirmation number
- Parking at the cruise terminal (currently \$85.60 for the duration of cruise)
- Rental of a scooter (currently \$125 for Thursday-Sunday)
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- Cost of shore excursions



2027 Annual Via de Cristo Gathering Frequently Asked Questions

- Shopping
- Incidentals (e.g., laundry, mini-bar, spa services, etc.)
- Discretionary gratuities above and beyond the standard for exceptional service. (Standard gratuities are included.)

10. How much deposit is needed to secure my stateroom for the annual gathering?

A \$200 deposit, along with a completed registration form, reserves your stateroom. You will receive an email from MSC/Anchors Away confirming your reservation after your deposit is received.

11. How can I pay for the annual gathering?

Our registration team accepts credit cards, Zelle or checks payable and sent to Anchors Away, 6742 Forest Hill Blvd. #274, West Palm Beach, FL 33413.

12. Is my deposit refundable?

Yes, your payment is fully refundable if you cancel on or before May 7, 2027. All cancellations must be in writing and submitted to the registration team.

13. When is the final payment due?

Saturday, May 1, 2027

14. Can I get a refund if I cancel the trip after May 7, 2027?

Yes, if you cancel before July 7, 2027. There is no refund if you cancel later.

- If you cancel May 8 – June 1, you will be refunded 75%
- If you cancel June 2 – June 21, you will be refunded 50%
- If you cancel June 22 – July 6, you will be refunded 25%
- Cancellations on/after July 7 will receive no refund
- A \$25 administration fee will be assessed for all cancellations

15. Is trip cancellation and interruption insurance available?

Yes. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is highly recommended. World Trips Atlas Journey Economy Group policy is being offered for the cruise only portion of the gathering. A customized quote will be emailed to you for consideration after your stateroom is reserved. Air, sea & land travel protection is also available on request.

16. May I request a different stateroom category?

Yes. If you are interested in pricing for a Suite or Oceanview category stateroom, it will be based on availability at the prevailing rate.



2027 Annual Via de Cristo Gathering Frequently Asked Questions

17. Can the staterooms accommodate a third or fourth guest in the room?

Some staterooms can sleep a third or fourth guest in an upper berth prepared by your stateroom attendant. Other staterooms may have a pull-out sofa bed. There is a cost for each additional guest. Details are available on request.

18. Can I bring my child/children with me?

Yes. The cost for the gathering for children 13 or older is the same as the adult costs. There is a reduced cost for children 12 or younger. There are five different age kid clubs available for children ranging from 0 to 17 years old that are available for no additional charge.

19. Will all annual gathering participants eat meals together?

We have reserved 5:30pm group dinner in the main dining room. Participants will eat breakfast and lunch at the Marketplace Buffet where there is open seating.

20. If I am travelling solo but would like to share the stateroom with another annual Via de Cristo gathering attendee of the same gender, can I make my reservation for a two adult, double occupancy room and then be paired with another annual gathering attendee?

Yes, you can make a deposit and the registration team will match you with another attendee also looking to share a stateroom of the same category (balcony or interior). You will be notified when your request has been fulfilled. If another request cannot be matched with yours, you will be notified prior to the final payment due date.

21. What will I want or need to bring with me?

A list, along with packing FAQs, will be provided to registrants by early 2027.

22. What else should I know now?

You will want to travel with a valid passport. The passport must have an expiration date after January 25, 2028. If you don't have a passport, apply now. If your passport has an expiration date prior to January 25, 2028, renew your passport now. In the unlikely event that an emergency arises and you need to fly home from The Bahamas, a valid passport will be needed to enter the US. Currently, you may cruise with an original birth certificate and driver's license/government issued photo ID.



2027 Annual Via de Cristo Gathering Frequently Asked Questions

23. Who is the Florida host committee registration team and how do I contact them?

Janet Vigilante is the annual gathering registration team leader and President of Anchors Away World Cruise Specialists. You can call her at 800.771.2469 or email AAworldcruises@gmail.com.

Rita Tritt is also on the registration team. Contact her at nlsvdc2027@gmail.com.

24. How do I register?

To register:

- Complete the [registration form](#).
- If paying with credit card, complete the [Credit Card Authorization form](#) or call Anchors Away at 561.433.6434 or 800.771.2469
- If paying by credit card or Zelle, photos of the completed forms can be emailed to AAworldcruises@gmail.com or texted to 561.433.6434.
- If paying by check, send your completed registration form(s) and check made payable to Anchors Away:

Anchors Away
6742 Forest Hill Blvd. #274,
West Palm Beach, FL 33413

25. What if I have a question that is not answered in these FAQs?

Contact Carolyn Witham at vpadmin@viadecristo.org or at 704.651.4230. This document will be updated as more questions arise and as more information becomes available.