



Niagara Huron Anglican Cursillo

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Rainbow Newsletter

"Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day such was the appearance of the splendor all around. This was the appearance of the glory of the Lord." Ezekiel 1.28

1. LAY DIRECTOR'S REPORT Renée Anderson

We are in a Eucharistic fast. But, *what* an opportunity to again develop our prayer patterns and habits. What a time to reach out to our family and friends and say "how's your day going?" Although these are very tough times for us right now, look around at all the beauty also. We have had time to do this! History shows us that people have suffered through really, really, really tough times. God sees us through it every time. We are blessed in North America. I feel blessed. And, I believe God is giving us this time to reflect on this. It is also a time to help one another as we are able. And I know *you* are doing just that.

This has been a good year for Niagara Huron Anglican Cursillo. We started out in September with a good strong Secretariat team that work well together. We managed to meet with both Bishop Susan and Bishop Todd in March for our ongoing connection with the dioceses and introductions to our new Bishop in Huron. We followed our commitment to improve our Cursillo tie with the dioceses by creating a report on a survey and focus group to help us all understand

the Cursillo program, what it was, what it now is, and what it can accomplish into the future with each individual person who desires a path to a closer relationship with Jesus and the Church, without changing the method. An ever-changing relationship with one another; building a better and stronger Cursillo relationship in Niagara and Huron. We understood we needed a workable plan to succeed. Using the resources of inviting the wider Cursillo community to reach out to parishes, we hope to allow God to work in us for the good of all. **His light is a path unto our feet.** We have had assistance along the way. With the guidance of Bishop Susan Bell, Rev'd. Dawn Davis, and Rishia Burke we have been embarking on new territory. With the skills of Blair Richardson and Rev. Brian Galligan we will gain ground as we move along the path that has been created. May God's blessing be on us all!

The pandemic has forced us to make decisions on ways to hold meetings and progress with our communications while still remaining safe and healthy. Your secretariat eventually held Zoom meetings (like everyone else in the world!) to hold our regular meetings and also to continue work on the programs at hand. It has allowed us to meet new people, such as Christyn Perkons. You may be aware that Christyn was appointed by Bishop Susan Bell to be our Liaison with the Diocese of Niagara. You will find her biography in this newsletter and on the website. Welcome Christyn!

Sadly, we will be saying "good-bye" at the Annual Meeting to a few of our members who sit on Secretariat: Anne Gould, Secretary; Shirley Kitchen, Education Chair; Patti Troughton, Fourth Day Chair, and Jan Collinson, Weekend Chair. Kathy Parker is Member-at-Large and has agreed to stay on Secretariat in a new role yet to be announced. A nominating committee is actively putting together a list of possibilities for their replacement. If you know of someone that would be a good choice, please contact them and ask if they would allow their name to stand. Job descriptions can be found on the website www.niagaracursillo.org. Please also provide a letter giving brief details of the experience of the person being nominated, and indicating that s/he has been approached and is willing to accept the nomination. This can be sent to renee_btfd@yahoo.ca. We continue to seek a good selection of Niagara and Huron representation, being mindful of geographic location.

As mentioned, our Annual Meeting (AM) is coming up on September 13th. We have booked Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton, as the location but due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 we may have to change to a Zoom meeting. That will mean no potluck 😞 but at least we can get the business obligations handled. We will keep you informed.

Plans are underway with CACS and Niagara Huron to hold a Cursillo Learners Workshop (CLW) next Spring, March 5th and 6th. This would include an Ultreya on the evening of the 5th. This workshop was the vision of the Cursillo founder, Eduardo Bonnin and it is very fitting to continue with our education and study with the use of

this workshop, offered by CACS. Please visit the website www.anglicancursillo.com under *Resources* to find out more about its purpose and what it includes.

I hope you are grouping. This would have been a challenge during the early days of the pandemic, but technology is available to coordinate a group meeting and share. Otherwise, there is the telephone! Another challenge is to share the anxiety self-isolation creates. But you can be assured that a conversation with a friend or a priest can do much to alleviate the stress. Be sure to group.

I found out that Ultreyas have been held via Zoom and has proven quite successful down East. Secretariat encourages this endeavour—please think about holding one in your area. We hope to hold a regional Ultreya soon. If you have any questions on how this would look, please contact me.

We thank all of those who have helped out this past year in one way or another, making Cursillo visible, coming out to Recharge, holding Ultreyas, serving on Secretariat. There is much to do and we welcome helping hands and spirited people with passion.



2. SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Brian Galligan

I recently had a conversation with Renée Anderson our Lay Director, about the man who is broadly credited with being the founder of the Cursillo Movement, Eduardo Bonnín. Eduardo was born in Palma de Mallorca, Spain on May 4th, 1917 and passed into his 5th day on February 6th, 2008. He was buried in the Church of the Capuchins in Palma and on his tomb are words that he always used to describe himself: **"An Apprentice Christian"**. So what does that mean?

Apprentice – def. *a person bound to a master craftsman in order to learn a trade.*

As a faithful Christian, Eduardo professed that he was bound to serve God; his life would be spent learning the trade of sharing the Gospel and that by transforming his environments, he would strive to introduce more people into forming lifelong relationships with Jesus Christ. He was a man of humility and servanthood, never claiming that he had all the answers but always willing to keep learning. His goal was that he might become even more effective in his ministry of sharing the Gospel so that

it would bring hope, healing and transformation into the lives of others so that, as he is quoted as saying; **"They might become the Good News."**

As a pastor, I have often preached on the well-known scripture passage found in Micah 6 that reads; **"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."** Unfortunately though, I have found that some Christians, either laity or ordained, find these words difficult to live by, mainly because they believe that only their own particular interpretation of the Bible, is the correct one. Such thinking is not healthy and ultimately can lead to extremist opinions being formed, opinions that can result in division within the Body of Christ. I suggest therefore, that Eduardo Bonnín's concept of remaining an "Apprentice Christian", throughout a lifetime of learning, would be a good thing for all Christians to take some time to reflect and act upon. As Cursillistas this is particularly meaningful as we reflect on the learnings of the past, consider where we are in the present, and try to envision what the future of the Cursillo Movement may look like as we constantly seek to learn and find better ways to serve God's Mission on Earth.

You may recall from your own Weekend that we learned about the 3 legs of the Cursillo Tripod that keep us grounded and balanced. They are Faith, Study and Action. An individual's Faith may already be strong like a mighty oak tree, or it may be tiny and weak like a mustard seed, yet no matter how big or how strong it may be, one's faith can only be fulfilled by an acceptance that we must learn to walk humbly with our God. We learn through study and by accepting that we don't have all the answers, we never will, but through study we also learn that nothing ever stays the same. The world around us is changing, it's inevitable and we must learn to accept change if, as "Apprentice Christians", we are to remain effective. **Remember, Christ is counting on us.** Action always needs to be taken in response to what we've learned in study and by what our faith compels us to do.

Already we have discerned that it has become increasingly difficult for prospective Weekend participants to take time off to attend the traditional 3-Day Weekend. Therefore compelled by faith, the Niagara Huron Anglican Cursillo, along with several other Dioceses across the country, has taken action to redesign the Weekend Schedule to ensure that all the required talks and elements can be condensed into 2-days plus an evening. We have also discovered that the traditional secrecy that grew up around what happens on a Weekend in order to facilitate delightful "surprises" for participants eventually backfired. Instead we have received feedback that within parishes it resulted in rumours and suspicions amongst laity and clergy alike, about what Cursillo's motives were for wanting to keep secrets. To address any distrust that may have grown up around the secrecy, we along with other Diocesan Cursillo Movements, have now become totally transparent about what happens on the Weekend, yet despite all that information, participants are still able to experience those same delightful moments.

As many of you know, in 2018 the Niagara Huron Anglican Cursillo Secretariat conducted a telephone survey of past participants to learn about what impact the Weekend had on their lives. The results were encouraging and were shared with Bishop Susan Bell of Niagara who expressed strong support for the goals of the Cursillo Movement. However, being aware of some negative views that remained amongst Diocesan clergy about Cursillo, the Bishop suggested that a survey be undertaken to analyse the reasons behind their negativity. This survey was conducted in 2019 and the results were shared with clergy and both Bishop Susan Bell and Bishop Todd Townshend of Huron. You can also view the report on our Cursillo website under the Category "Liaison", or by clicking on this link: <http://niagaracursillo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Report-to-the-Bishop-as-received-by-clergy-of-Niagara.pdf>

As you will see in the report, we have learned that there is quite a diversity of understanding about Cursillo, as well as a historical mixture of positive and negative past experiences among the clergy. Your Secretariat has responded by developing plans that will address the concerns raised by clergy and their suggestions for change. This has been done while remaining true to the original Fundamentals of the Cursillo Movement that our founder, Eduardo Bonnin, helped to develop.

I feel that the implementation of these plans provides a wonderful opportunity for Cursillo to be recognised and warmly embraced by clergy across our two Dioceses, as a responsive, relevant, transparent and effective method, for strengthening faith and equipping and developing, the lay ministry skills of people within their parishes. Our goal is that this should increasingly enable Cursillistas to work in cooperation with, and under the leadership of their parish priests, to help build up the Body of Christ, as together we serve God's Mission on Earth. Ultreya!

3. WEEKEND CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT

Jan Collinson

Weekend 55 was held November 1-3 2019 at Crieff Hills. Carol Summers and the team did an excellent job. Thank you. Carol tried a new training schedule that was held on Friday night and all day Saturday, it was very well received and with a few tweaks will be used for the next weekend. The talks are not given at the training; they are reviewed by the professor and possibly the Spiritual advisor. Team building is a focus and team, conference room, Palanca and support have a chance to spend time on their specific roles. The weekend was wonderful and everyone team and participants were very excited and happy although tired at the end of the weekend. Crieff is a wonderful facility however the stairs are an issue for many.

After many prayers and lots of thought and discussions it was decided to postpone the 2020 weekend to 2021. We will still be using Five Oaks in Paris. Weekend 56 will be November 12-14 2021. Ann Mulvale (the coordinator) was working very hard putting a

team together when Covid 19 hit. She has contacted those who were asked to serve and some are still willing to do so on the 2021 weekend. Unfortunately Ann is not one of them; she is hoping to be travelling with her brother at that time. I am hoping we will have a new Coordinator soon.

God was certainly with us, in more ways than one, March 6-8 when we held the Recharge Weekend. It was hard not hugging but the next weekend Covid hit hard and we would have had to cancel. It was great to return to Mount Mary Retreat Centre, to many of us it felt like we were coming home. Thanks to leader, Susan Little and her team Renee Anderson, Patti Troughton, Shirley Kitchen, Rita Predon and Jan Collinson for their planning and hard work. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Canon Dr. Lizette Larson Miller, who is an Anglican Priest, Professor and Huron-Lawson Chair at Huron University College of Western Ontario. Lizette followed the theme 'Step by Step' and spoke on Liturgy and Life as One Journey into God. She taught us that "liturgy and worship are not exactly the same, liturgy is one way of worshipping." Her talk disclosed that "a life of worship is an active and conscious way of being before God; prayer is always a Godward activity;" gave a list of "the necessary pieces of prayer;" and shared "how are liturgy and life a continuous stream of worship?" These are just a few of the things that were on the Weekend agenda with Lizette. We had a choice of two workshops: Making Prayer Beads with Rev. Sue Nicolls, travelling to the Holy Land with Rev. Brian Galligan, Gospel storytelling lead by Canon Susan Wilson and last but definitely not least contemplative prayer with Venerable Dr. David Anderson. In the evening the Hula Wahines entertained us with Hawaiian dancing, songs and stories. We ended the evening with a Taize worship service lead by Rev. Paddy Doran and musicians from St. Elizabeth's. It was a wonderful weekend refreshing, relaxing and a wonderful time with friends old and new.

My time on Secretariat and Weekend Chair has come to an end. I enjoyed working to put Weekend together and talking with many of you who I might not have had a chance to get to know. Thanks to all.

Stay Safe and hopefully we will be able to meet in person soon. Let Go Let God

4. CURSILLO BIO

Canon Christyn Perkons

My early years as a PK Anglican in Algoma and Niagara were enhanced in adulthood by a year in the Church of England, a couple of years as an Episcopalian, and ten years with the Evangelical Lutherans in California...an abundance of sacred experiences with a wide variety of disciples, explorers and seekers!

Oddly enough, while I was well steeped in the practices, the stories and the culture of the church, I didn't begin to have a sense of a personal relationship with Jesus until my

years in the Lutheran Church where my pastor preached from her own transformed heart and invited me into a different way of being a Christian. That journey unearthed a vocation to leadership in the church; a path which has brought me great joy!

I love to facilitate processes that create a space in parish and diocesan life in which people can more easily discern and engage with their part of God's mission. Writing contextual liturgy that creates an accessible space which opens people to an experience of God is another passion of mine. Not surprisingly, discerning and developing new ways of being the church is also close to my heart.

Faith formation is a critical thread flowing through these passions, and that's what is attractive about Cursillo for me. I appreciate Cursillo's strong connection to the faith formation objective of the diocesan Mission Action Plan. I look forward to supporting the renewal work coming out of the recommendations from the Report to the Bishop and Diocese of Niagara On Proposed Changes within the Diocesan Cursillo Movement Following Feedback from Clergy, and I anticipate with eagerness the fruit that this diocesan liaison role will bear.

5. Progress Report on the Implementation of Recommendations in

the Report on Proposed Changes within the Diocesan Cursillo Movement

Following Feedback from Clergy

In March 2020, the NHACS Report was reviewed with Bishop Susan Bell, who suggested some changes. These were made and on March 15, the Report was distributed to clergy, deacons and honoraries with a cover letter from the Bishop, which expressed support for the proposed changes and announced the appointment of Christyn Perkons as Diocesan Liaison to the Cursillo Movement in Niagara. The full Report is posted to the web site. Here is a brief summary of the Report:

The findings: when we listened, what did we hear?

- Strong evidence that Cursillo is effective in transforming individual lives of participants
- Strong evidence of a desire for change in Cursillo practices
- A lot of misinformation (and obsolete information) is still circulating about Cursillo
- Criticism of some cursillistas' past behaviour

What changes are proposed?

- A "new" parish -level model, with emphasis on pre- and post- Cursillo Weekend
- Some changes to team training and to weekend content itself, including talks
- A more formalized relationship between the diocese and NHACS

What do we need to do, in order to implement these changes effectively and to improve the relationship with the clergy?

We need to strengthen the foundation for the Cursillo movement in Niagara:

- A new formalized relationship between the Diocese and NHACS (Liaison role)
- A clear mandate (updated By-laws) for NHACS
- Changes in NHACS planning and communication processes
- Recruit volunteers to help with the work and focus these resources carefully

What strategy will enable us to manage the change process successfully?

- Establish a work group to manage the project, reporting to NHACS
- Identify ten parishes where the rector strongly supports Cursillo and where there are also active cursillistas willing to help
- Implement the “new” parish model in these ten parishes first
- Regularly communicate progress and successes throughout the Diocese

Current Status

The implementation plan has nine components, and work is proceeding on all components, spearheaded by Renee Anderson, Rev. Brian Galligan and Blair Richardson. Once the new parish-level Model has been approved by NHACS and by the Bishop, implementation will begin immediately. The goal is to have 20 candidates from the ten parishes attend the Cursillo Weekend scheduled for November, 2021. For more information, or to find out how you can be involved, please contact Renee Anderson.

Draft July 9, 2020 Blair Richardson

6. Treasurer's Report

Tim Standish

“God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

And we have many cheerful givers in Cursillo. Our regular pre-authorized payment (PAP) supporters are in many ways the financial backbone of the Cursillo movement in Niagara Huron. Others donate at Ultreyas, Weekend Closing services, special events or make donations in some loved one's memory. Still others donate for some specific or immediate need of Cursillo. In many cases the same people are giving to Cursillo in more than one of the ways listed above and often quite sacrificially. But I expect they would not see it as such a sacrifice. We all have a sense of value for money whether it's buying a new car or groceries. That sense of value is not suspended when it comes to the Church. Some will agonize over being asked to consider a \$5/week increase to the church yet make a snap decision to spend \$3000 on a vacation. They might be reluctant to admit it, but it's really because they consider they get more value out of a vacation than they get from the church. And unfortunately, they may not see much of Christ's love in their own congregation. Others will give to the church because the value they get is feeling God's love expressed in a loving community of faith and friends. For them, if they decide to donate more to the church, accepting a more modest vacation may not seem sacrificial at all.

The Niagara Huron Cursillo fiscal year ended on June 30 with a bank balance of \$10,739.36. Income and expenses for the full year resulted in a surplus of about \$4600. (Full financial details are shown in the balance sheet, income statement and proposed budget printed below.) Since our main expenditure is the Weekend, we are in good shape for the next one, which as you know has been postponed to November 2021. Overall, income for the period was less than budgeted for but so were expenses. Givings were maintained. The Fall '19 weekend at Crieff was as expected. Note that we did not receive way more in fees than we had to pay Crieff – a deposit of \$6555 was paid in the '18-'19 fiscal year. The Recharge weekend came out slightly ahead including donations received. Our other larger expenditures include CACS dues and \$1150 paid to the consultant for the Clergy Survey, as per the budget.

The proposed budget does not deviate much from the previous year's one with the exception that there will be no Weekend in this fiscal year and those items are left blank.

I'm just finishing my first year in the treasurer's position. As someone more conversant with Excel than the conventions of bookkeeping, I have had some learning to do. Thanks especially to Renée for her gentle guiding and prompting.

I know that Cursillo has been key in increasing the value of my faith to me and I find that whatever I give, God seems to give me all that I need and much more. Ultreya

Niagara Anglican Cursillo
Niagara Huron Anglican Cursillo
Balance Sheet Y/E June 30, 2020
as at **June** 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Chequing/Savings

10000 - Bank

10001 - TD CanadaTrust

10,739.36

Total 10000 - BANK

10,739.36

Total Chequing/Savings

10,739.36

Total Current Assets

10,739.36

TOTAL ASSETS

10,739.36

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

30000 - Opening Balance Equity

6,142.61

32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets

-

Net Income (YTD net)

4,596.75

Total Liabilities & Equity

10,739.36

NIAGARA ANGLICAN CURSILLO
NIAGARA HURON ANGLICAN CURSILLO
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT Y/E JUNE 30, 2020
FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2020

	Actual Month of June 2020	Actual YTD Y/E June 30, 2020	Budget 2019-2020	Actual Last Y/E 2019
INCOME				
40001 - Cursillo - Weekend Fees	\$ -	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,660.00
40002 - Cursillo PAP Donations	\$ 304.00	\$ 3,648.00	\$ 3,648.00	\$ 3,678.00
40003 - Donations - J.O.G., Memorials & Other	\$ -	\$ 1,162.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,340.25
40004 - Triennial 2018 (details to be on separate statement)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,002.93
40005 - Cursillo Church Offering (closing/weekends)	\$ -	\$ 512.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 204.25
40006 - Focus Group Facilitation Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 40.00
40008/9* - Recharge Weekend Fees Guests/Team	\$ -	\$ 5,940.00	\$ 10,100.00	\$ -
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 304.00	\$ 18,862.00	\$ 25,548.00	\$ 10,925.43
EXPENDITURES				
60002 - Advertising and Promotion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 365.78
60003 - Bank Service Charges*	\$ -	\$ 75.06	\$ 59.40	\$ 24.75
60004 - Business Licenses and Permits	\$ -	\$ 291.88	\$ 140.00	\$ 137.00
60005 - Website	\$ -	\$ 24.45	\$ 150.00	\$ -
60006 - Conferences and Secretarial Meetings	\$ -	\$ 15.51	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00
60008 - Postage	\$ -	\$ 30.15	\$ 10.00	\$ -
RECHARGE WEEKEND				
60009 - Speakers	\$ -	\$ 628.99	\$ -	\$ -
60010 - Mount Mary Accommodations	\$ -	\$ 4,840.00	\$ 9,700.00	\$ 400.00
60011 - Recharge Weekend - other expenses	\$ -	\$ 183.22	\$ -	\$ -
WEEKEND EXPENDITURES:				
60015 - Office Supplies - photo copies - printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 67.22
60016 - Cursillo Snacks & supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 185.60
60017 - Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ -
60018 - Agape and Maffanita	\$ -	\$ 96.68	\$ 75.00	\$ 74.26
60019 - Crieff Hills/Five Oaks centres	\$ -	\$ 6,229.31	\$ 6,203.00	\$ 11,700.00
60020 - Team Training (church use & supplies/snacks)	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
60021 - Bulletins, closing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65.00	\$ -
OTHER:				
60023 - Cursillo expenses-previous year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
60024 - Cursillo expenses-current year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
60025 - AGM Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -
60027 - CACS - annual dues	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
60028 - Triennial (expense detail on separate statement)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,149.63
60029 - Triennial Expense for Niagara Huron Cursillo	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
60030 - Clergy Survey/Focus Group Facilitator	\$ -	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
60031 - PWRDF Donation re: Clergy Survey	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ 14,265.25	\$ 19,902.40	\$ 27,704.24
NET INCOME	\$ 304.00	\$ 4,596.75	\$ 5,645.60	\$ (16,778.81)

* Service chg. of \$4.95 refunded due to balance > \$10,000

NIAGARA ANGLICAN CURSILLO
 NIAGARA HURON ANGLICAN CURSILLO
 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR

July 5, 2020

	Actual YTD Y/E <u>June 30, 2020</u>	Budget <u>2019-2020</u>	Draft Budget <u>2020-2021</u>
INCOME			
40001 - Cursillo - Weekend Fees	7,600.00	10,000	-
40002 - Cursillo PAP Donations	3,648.00	3,648	3,648
40003 - Donations - J.O.G., Memorials & Other	1,162.00	1,300	1,200
40005 - Cursillo Church Offering (closing/weekends)	512.00	300	-
40006 - Focus Group Facilitation Donations	-	200	-
40008/9* - Recharge Weekend Fees Guests/Team	<u>5,940.00</u>	<u>10,100</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL INCOME	18,862.00	25,548	4,848
EXPENDITURES			
60002 - Advertising and Promotion	-	500	200
60003 - Bank Service Charges	75.06	59.40	50
60004 - Business Licenses and Permits	291.88	140	300
60005 - Website	24.45	150	250.20
60006 - Conferences and Secretariat Meetings	15.51	200	200
60008 - Postage	30.15	10	10
RECHARGE WEEKEND			
60009 - Speakers	628.99	-	-
60010 - Mount Mary Accommodations	4,840.00	9,700	-
60011** - Recharge Weekend - other expenses	183.22	-	-
WEEKEND EXPENDITURES:			
60015 - Office Supplies - photo copies - printing	-	80	-
60016 - Cursillo Snacks & supplies	-	100	-
60017 - Postage	-	20	-
60018 - Agape and Mañanita	96.68	75	-
60019 - Crieff Hills/Five Oaks centres	6,229.31	6,203	-
60020 - Team Training (church use & supplies/snacks)	100.00	100	-
60021 - Bulletins, closing	-	65	-
OTHER:			
60024 - Cursillo expenses-current year	-	-	-
60025 - AGM Supplies	-	100	50
60027 - CACS - annual dues	600.00	1,200	1,800
60028 - CACS -CLW	-	-	1,000
60029 - Triennial Expense for Niagara Huron Cursillo	-	-	-
60030 - Clergy Survey/Focus Group Facilitator	1,150.00	1,000	-
60031 - PWRDF Donation re: Clergy Survey	-	200	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>14,265.25</u>	<u>19,902</u>	<u>3,860</u>
NET INCOME	4,292.75	5,646	988

7. CURSILLISTAS SAY

The Summer of 2020 When I Truly Listened

My name is Sandra Thomson. I worship at the church of the Transfiguration in St. Catharines and I attended My Cursillo on weekend 52 at the table of St. Thomas.

I am an introvert, once you get to know me you would think otherwise but honest, I have been tested. I too struggled to see that side of me, however, Covid-19 gave me a true insight into who Sandra Thomson really is.

I am usually (when not in lockdown), a very busy person with rarely an evening free, and with working I am pretty much always with people. Covid allowed my nights free and gave me the opportunity to work in my home office, but I was a bit nervous... what would I do with my free time?

I started out doing a bit of organizing my house, a bit of reading and quite a bit of nothing. In the recent past I started a new hobby, wood carving. I had really not gotten the hang of it all very well, but now I had the time to really figure out the craft. I think the reason I struggled was that my mind was always somewhere else, thinking about what I had to do next or where I needed to be later. Now, my mind was focused on my hand, the knife and the wood and I powered out 17 chip carved crosses, good enough to give away. In others ways also, I became more focused, refreshed and maybe even more alive. That is when I truly believed that the tests were right and I am an introvert, needed alone time to refresh.

Prior to the summer, I thought I knew what God wanted from me and what I was really put on this earth to do. In the past year or so, I spent a lot of time and effort looking into a volunteer placement with a facility dealing with mental health, but every door I tried to open seemed to be locked. I was not qualified; I was not needed at the time or some not even an answer. I felt like I was hitting walls every time, but I came to realize that it was not a wall, but God sending me back into the wilderness to find my way again. I had many people trying to help, who kept telling me that I should look into a ministry with the homeless, however I was sure that was NOT where I should be. But GOD had other thoughts.

My Priest called sometime in April to ask if I would help at a breakfast program, feeding the homeless or those just finding it hard to make ends meet. A few of the people who normally did this had to back out to keep themselves safe from this new virus. I said YES, I could help out for this, since it was before work. I ended up doing two shift per month, making sandwiches, confined to the kitchen with a couple of others. It wasn't long before I received another call looking for Mentors to stand in the gym when the clients arrived, to welcome them, have them sanitize their hands and just be a person

who focused on them unlike the ones who were filling their take out cereal bowls and giving them coffees to go (social distancing a must). It was an eye opener. It felt right; not awkward; it came natural.

I am now a mentor twice a week and look forward to my next shift each time I walk out to my car to go back home to start work. I am looking forward to the future when the masks can come off, the social distancing is loosened and I can sit down next to some of these people and share our stories if that is what they want. I now have a favorite verse from Psalms, which is “Be Still and Know that I am God”.

I was forced to be still and now I know.....THANKS BE TO GOD!

8. Communications

Blanche Mills

C/o Cathedral Place
252 James St. North
Hamilton, ON L8R 2L3

We are on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.niagaracursillo.org

Communications

Contact

niagaracursillocomm@gmail.com

I can't believe that almost a year has passed since I took on this role. Certainly it has been a different year for all of us. I want to take a moment to thank the Gould family (Anne, James and David) whom throughout this year have been at the end of an email when I have needed help with the website or any questions I have had with the communications role. My thanks to Renee who helped me put together the Rainbow in March and will be helping with this one as well. Thank you to my secretariat team for getting their reports in. As it has been said other times there is no "i" in team.

Are you moving? Please remember to forward your new address to niagaracursillocomm@gmail.com so that we can keep our records up to date. This would also be helpful if you have changed your email address so that we can stay in touch with you. Check with your Cursillo friends and ask if they are receiving emails and the rainbow. If not and they would like to, please let me know so that I can continue to keep people up-to-date.

Don't forget the Annual meeting on September 13. Minutes from the Annual Meeting in 2019 can be found on the website under the Cursillo Niagara and Huron Secretariat page. More details will follow as mentioned in the Lay Director's report.

Ultreya!

9. Announcements

Annual Meeting

Sunday September 13, 2020

Possible location – Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

More details will follow via email closer to the date

Holy Land Pilgrimage

April 23rd - May 12th, 2021

Escorted by The Reverend Brian Galligan

**Biblical and Archeological sites
in both Israel and Jordan**

Time for Reflections, Grouping, Witness Talks and Worship

https://craigtravel.com/sites/default/files/docs/pdf/pme230421_israel_jordan_rev6_marv2.pdf

***Peace of Mind COVID-19 Cancellation Policy in effect.*
See Craig Travel Website for details**