

Treasurer

Annual Report for 2022

Sometimes we find ourselves with a wake-up slap from God. For me, I received my latest one recently when I was sitting on the balcony of a cruise ship – enjoying an afternoon in the Caribbean - when my phone rang. The caller explained that they had encountered a situation where they were seeking resources for someone in need and wanted only to verify if the social service agency where my wife and I volunteer was still providing meals and assistance. It made me feel good to be able to share contact and service information with the caller, but it also felt a little humbling to see how quickly I could disconnect with the reality of the world around me.

As many of us have worked to prepare for the upcoming Annual Gathering in July, we have tried to identify what are those “special things” which we have experienced which make us want to return, year after year. In a broader sense the same can be asked about the Via de Cristo itself; what is it which makes it so special that we would commit *our time, our talent and our treasures* to its longevity? And for each of us the result will likely be a little different.

For me the best I can offer is found at the place where Matthew 26:40 and Luke 5:4 intersect. From Matthew I learned that “whatever I do/did to the least of God’s children” and from Luke I hear the admonition “go where it is deeper and let down your nets”.

It is with this admonition that I humbly offer my last report as your Treasurer. You have blessed me with your confidence and prayers for the past four years, and it is now time to select a new fiscal servant-cha and move forward. I cannot imagine anyone but our Lord could have imagined that we would still be struggling to gather together, worship and share our experiences. Perhaps this is the lesson we are to learn, ***all things in God’s time, not ours.***

Our finances are strong, as we have sheltered in place these past years, we have not incurred anything near the budgeted levels of expenses, and at the same time we (NLS) have found ourselves blessed with your continued generosity. The net-net result has been a very marginal dip in total NLS funds, so when you decide it is time, we will be able to continue the important work of the Via de Cristo.

As for myself, I once again thank you for your prayers, your confidence, and most important, your fellowship in Christ.

DeColores,
Jim Ryan,
Treasurer

