

The Voice

The Newsletter of
the Diocese of Phoenix
Cursillo Movement
Summer, 2023

FROM DEACON JOE RYAN

Along with the gift of our human life, the gift of faith is our most precious possession. Life is a wonderful thing and we're all moved by the beauty of God's creation: the sight of green pine trees on snow-covered mountains, the ever-changing shapes of the clouds in the sky, the way the sun lights them up with shades of red and gold and orange at sunset, and then the purple, silver and gray of the evening sky as the peaceful darkness gives rest to our eyes, and the thousands of glimmering stars lift our spirits and fill us with wonder. In Autumn, the flaming colors of the Fall leaves touch our hearts with a secret message, because the dying leaves are the most beautiful of all, and yet we know that new life appears again in the springtime. We're moved by the pure, loving innocence of a little baby's face, and it gives us joy to watch a chubby toddler taking their first steps. The most simple things in life can lift our spirits and make us feel refreshed and renewed: the smell of fresh cut grass on a spring day, the smell of logs burning in someone's fireplace on a crisp fall evening, and after a hard day's work, the smell of meat cooking on the grill outside. We're lifted up by the sound of all the birds singing every morning, and the sounds of children laughing and playing together outdoors.

But if you live long enough, you'll experience times when all these wonderful things just don't seem to be enough. It could be after the loss of a loved one or the loss of a job, the experience of some sort of tragedy or betrayal, something that causes depression. Then it seems that nothing is able to lift our spirits; at least nothing on this earth. And nobody likes those times, when we're really feeling down and empty, when all the wonderful things of this life just don't do a thing for us.

But from this type of painful experience, we can learn a valuable lesson. When all is said and done, this world with all its wonders can't always be enough for us. We were created for more than just this earthly life, this earthly experience. Our true and lasting homeland is heaven, where we will be filled with all good things, where our Father and the rest of the family are waiting for us to share in their joy.

Today, as in the past, the world and the devil are always trying to convince us that faith in God is a joke and a waste of time. His strategy never changes. The devil is very monotonous and boring. But even in hard times when it looks like evil is winning, we have to keep our faith. God and His children will certainly triumph in the end!

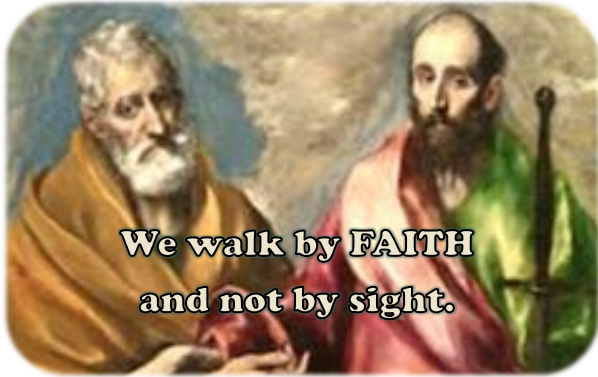
At times, Jesus called the apostles, "men of little faith", but in their humility, they asked Jesus to increase their faith and He did! They started out as twelve average guys and ended up as twelve great heroes of faith! Only Judas didn't value or pray for faith, and so he was replaced by Matthias, a man who did.

And like the apostles, we often lack the faith we need in certain situations, and we should pray for an increase in our faith, just like they did. We do whatever we can to ensure our wealth increases, shouldn't we do the same with our faith? "Lord, increase my faith!" What a beautiful prayer. We should pray it whenever we're struggling with our weakness, or when the loved ones we're praying for don't seem to be responding.

I do BELIEVE!
HELP my unbelief!



Mark 9:24



And even though we love God, at times, our faith may weaken. If this happens, we shouldn't be too surprised. Remember, God knows us and has already taken our weaknesses into account! So, let's imitate the apostles, who humbly acknowledged their defects, but who also learned to rely completely on the power and the goodness of our God.

Lord, increase our faith, and keep us faithful in this beautiful world until the end of our days, and then we can begin to celebrate in an even more beautiful world!

De Colores!

Deacon Joe Ryan, #693, St. Mary, Chandler

FROM OUR LAY DIRECTOR

SUMMER is upon us! We know summer is here because of the warmer weather, people are outside more, family gatherings are going on, and the Fourth of July is here, the great celebration of the birth of our independence.

I would like to challenge each one of you! As we go to summer festivities with our family, friends, social events, let us show those we encounter the love of God. During these events we could meet new people; if we do, we need to remember the Cursillo Motto, "Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ." We need to bring God into conversations or show our love of Him through how we treat people and in our attitudes. As we make friends we can also invite them to Cursillo. What better way for a friend of ours to become a friend of Jesus than living the weekend?

During our Cursillo weekend we learned about Piety, Study and Action. If you are in a small group or attend Ultreya you know we always talk about Piety, Study and Action.

I would like to talk about Action or Evangelization. Remember that in the Action Rollo it states, "Being Christian without action is equal to not being Christian." We are talking about Apostolic Action; we need to show others the power of love. When we evangelize, we spread the Gospel, the Good News, and as we talk to people, we

must help that person to become the Good News. "The purpose of evangelization is therefore precisely this interior change, and if it had to be expressed in one sentence the best way of stating it would be to say that the Church evangelizes when she seeks to convert, solely through the divine power of the message she proclaims, both the personal and collective consciences of people, the activities in which they engage and the lives and concrete milieu which are theirs." (Pope Paul VI, On Evangelization in the Modern World).

We must be witness to the Gospels, whether it is in our community, work environments, social groups, or families. We as Cursillo

Leaders must live each day to what is fundamental for us to be Christians. This is how we build the community of God. We must help those around us to conversion. Conversion takes time, it is a process. This process is by meeting people, and developing a personal relationship. As we do this, we can continue to bring them closer to Christ.

This summer I am challenging you to build your community, spread the Good News and share it with all those you encounter. We are all busy people, and we are all responsible for taking souls to Jesus. It is said if you want to get anything done go to a busy person and it will get done. Let us be busy people for the right reason and bring Christ to our environments.

De Colores!

Carmela Gonzales (2006)

Sacred Heart, Prescott



Cursillista Evangelization Checkup..

At the sight of the crowds, His heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples,

"The HARVEST is PLENTY
but LABORERS are FEW."

Matthew 9

Christ is counting on YOU!

De Colores to our Cursillista family...

I was asked if I would write a few words for the Voice publication on Piety. Well, my first thought was “Really, me?” There has to be so many other folks who are skilled at writing and so much better than I. The Holy Spirit stopped me in my tracks and said, “Give it a try!” so off to Adoration I went and the following is what He has asked me to share. I hope you enjoy it.

It took me a minute and some study, but I wanted to relate Piety to a definition I read that the core meaning of the word is duty. Piety, my duty, your duty, is to live and do as our Lord asks.

One of the most beautiful visuals of Piety is Michaelangelo’s Pieta. Our duty or piety is so beautifully displayed by the two most perfect examples in the marble figure of our Lady holding Her Son, our Savior! As you ponder on the image of our mother and our Savior do you recognize piety? It is their gift that was given to us so perfectly.

Her piety, her life, resonated with me as I sat in Adoration. Her duty was her love, her caring, and her willingness. She was not afraid to show it in front of all who scoffed. She was so brave and showed so much love as her Son was laid in her arms. She held him tight with the gentleness of a mother who knew she had to let him go.

I started to think about two wonderful woman I work with. Both are suffering different types of cancer, both living their love for family, being brave, staying rooted in faith and getting ready for what comes their way. Their cross is hard but their piety is shown in their daily actions. Christ’s love is shown in their ideals and their faith walk.

Like Momma Mary these two ladies brave the opinion of the outside world, they cry in loneliness and sorrow and fear but they live with joy for the outside world to see! As I continued to ponder on the picture of the Pieta, I

looked at Momma’s hands. One wide opened and the other under the cloth – like a Priest who touches the monstrance with a humeral veil. She honors Him; no longer the small baby but the true Savior.



Then of course “Piety” beckons loudly again as we look at our Lord. Perfect, although beaten, and scorned. Jesus our Savior, her Son, Who lived a life of perfect piety. His whole life was duty! Duty to the Father: at 12 he got in trouble from His parents by staying back behind the caravan, but He was doing His Father’s will – teaching.

Cursillo is a gift, and our Piety is to live our lives for Christ in the tough and good times, recognizing Him and letting others seeing Him through our actions.

Did you ever think what Jesus was like as a toddler? He was born with a duty and a determination and was perfectly human. I am sure He stumbled when He first started to walk and His first words were mimics of Mary and Joseph. May we learn that we too will stumble and that our words won’t be perfect, but with our piety and our recognized duty we can move forward.

I pray, my Cursillista family, that your story, like His, shines with your piety/duty in Christ’s love! Don’t forget we are very human, we will struggle with our reality of sorrow, pain, perhaps depression, anger, or any of the emotions that lay before us, but that we our His children. Understanding that allows us to live our own Piety. We have an Ideal driven by habitual grace enforced by actual grace. Live your action with a pure heart driven by His Eucharist love.

Encounter Jesus, breath in the Holy Spirit, hold hands with Momma Mary and build your relationship with our forever family.

May the Love of Christ shine upon us now and forever.

Annie Taylor, #818, All Saints



Join us the third Saturday morning each month

from 9:30 to 11:00 am

Upcoming: July 15, August 19, September 16, 2023

All Cursillistas are invited!

In Person at Mt. Claret (JP11 Room) or on Zoom

Please go to the website www.phoenixcursillo.com for the link!

**SCHOOL OF
LEADERS**



What is Precursillo?

*How can I make a return to the Lord,
for all the good He has done for me?*

Psalms 116

Greetings from Precursillo!

One of the responsibilities of Precursillo is caring for Parish Representatives and assisting them in creating a team in order to care for the current and future Cursillistas in their parish. The parish team is responsible for keeping track of all sponsors and candidates at their parish, especially so that they may pass on information. As a team they would be divided into a Palanca chair, Activities/Ultreya chair and an Application Chair.

Parish Representatives also assist sponsors with their responsibilities, provide candidates with explanation of the movement, and invite potential candidates to Ultreya and other Cursillo activities.

At this time the Cursillo Movement is in need of Parish Representatives in many parishes throughout our Diocese. Our numbers of candidates are lower than pre-Covid. So I am asking for prayer and courage for you to step up!

Could you be a Parish Representative or at least assist someone at your parish? You will get plenty of help! For

information, please call me at (602) 920-5161.

Oh, and by the way, we have a scheduled a Parish Representative Education Workshop! September 30th, 2023 at Mount Claret in the Rollo Room. (More info to follow.)

As our Movement lives on, remember to make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ...especially for our upcoming November Cursillo Weekends!

De Colores!

Terry McDonald #582, St. Anne, Gilbert
Precursillo Chair

*Save the Date! Parish Rep Workshop
September 30, 2023
Mt. Claret, Rollo Room
For Current Reps, New Reps and those
interested! More details to come.*

2023 Diocese of Phoenix Cursillo Weekends

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND YOU WISH TO SPONSOR?

Sponsorship begins with prayer and friendship!

Applications are available from your Parish Representative or email Bruce and Debi Wiskirchen at applications@phoenixcursillo.com.

Application process and the Parish Representatives are on the website.

Flagstaff

Men's English #955

July 13-16, 2023

Women's English #956

July 27-30, 2023

Flagstaff

Men's Spanish #957

August 17-20, 2023

Women's Spanish #958

August 24-27, 2023

Mt. Claret

Men's Spanish #959

September 14-17, 2023

Women's Spanish #960

October 23-26, 2023

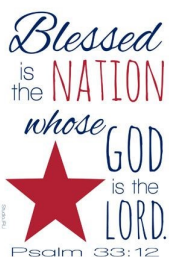
Mt. Claret

Men's English #961

Nov. 2-5, 2023

Women's English #962

Nov. 16-19, 2023



Independence Day Prayer for America July 4 at Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral, Phoenix

Begins at 8:00 am with Mass with Bishop Nevares followed by the Rosary for the United States of America. Come join us and start your holiday as a family united in prayer that we may remain

One Nation Under God!

ULTREYA!



Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ!



**You Are Invited to Attend the
Phoenix Diocesan Ultreya!
Saturday, July 28 th , 2023
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**



JOIN IN PERSON (only):
John Paul II Room, Mount Claret
4633 N. 54th Street, Phoenix

9:00 a.m. Potluck Breakfast
9:30 a.m. ULTREYA
11:00 a.m. Closing Prayer

QUESTIONS & RSVP

Veronica Lucas, Post-Cursillo Chairperson: 602-909-3459 or postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com

*If you are interested in hosting an Ultreya at
your Parish, please contact
Postcursillo Chair Veronica Lucas
(602-909-3459)
who will assist you as needed!*

Ultreyas at Miles Jesu
1925 E Baseline Rd, Phoenix
Fridays, July 14 & August 11, 2023
5:45 pm Holy Hour, confession available
6:30 pm Pilgrim’s Guide Apostolic Hour Prayer
6:45 pm Ultreya

Diocese of Phoenix Cursillo Movement Calendar				July 1, 2023
7/4/2023	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Mass & Rosary for the USA	Ss. Simon & Jude
7/11/2023	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Secretariat Meeting	Virtual
7/13/2023	Thurs.-Sun.		Men's English Weekend #955	Flagstaff
7/14/2023	Friday	6:45 PM	ULTREYA	Miles Jesu
7/15/2023	Saturday	9:30 AM	SOL (In person & Virtual)	Mt. Claret JP II Room
7/22/2023	Saturday	9:00 AM	Rector/Rectora Workshop	Mt. Claret JP II Room
7/27/2023	Thurs.-Sun.		Women's English Weekend #956	Flagstaff
7/29/2023	Saturday	9:00 AM	DIOCESAN ULTREYA	Mt. Claret JP II Room
8/8/2023	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Secretariat Meeting (Virtual)	Virtual
8/11/2023	Friday	6:45 PM	ULTREYA	Miles Jesu
8/17/2023	Thurs.-Sun.		Men's Spanish Weekend #957	Flagstaff
8/19/2023	Saturday	9:30 AM	SOL (In person & Virtual)	Mt. Claret JP II Room
8/24/2023	Thurs.-Sun.		Women's Spanish Weekend #958	Flagstaff
9/12/2023	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Secretariat Meeting (Virtual)	Virtual
9/15/2023	Friday	6:45 PM	ULTREYA	Miles Jesu
9/16/2023	Saturday	9:30 AM	SOL (In person & Virtual)	Mt. Claret JP II Room
9/30/2023	Saturday	TBD	Parish Representative Workshop	Mt. Claret Rollo Room
Miles Jesu		1925 E Baseline Rd, Phoenix		
Ss. Simon & Jude		6351 N 27th Ave, Phoenix		