

The Voice



*You are my beloved Son;
with You I am well pleased.*



The Newsletter of the Diocese of Phoenix Cursillo Movement

Winter, 2024

FROM FR. KILIAN MCCAFFREY

I will walk by faith and I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.

Phoenix Men's English Cursillo #817 took place in early March of 2011 at Mount Claret. The theme song for this Cursillo was: "I Will Walk by Faith." Josef Ratschan was the Rector, assisted by Co-Rectors Ben Ayala and Gene Keller; Fr. Don Kline was the Spiritual Director, assisted by Deacons Colin Campbell and Sione Hola.

Jesse and Rob Yarborough sponsored a young man, named **Dalen Soto**, 28, from Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Phoenix. What was unusual about this was that Dalen was 100% wheelchair-bound, having been born with muscular dystrophy. He could only use his right hand to control the joystick on his motorized wheelchair. As Jesse explains:

"In Dalen's case, he had never been mobile. To my knowledge, he was born with muscular dystrophy and had never been able to turn his head, much less walk, so when I hung around him long enough to discover how consistently optimistic he was given his state, I was humbled. It was the sort of character trait that would have anyone counting their blessings."

Dalen was fiercely-independent. Using his cell phone, he would arrange his own transportation with Dial-A-Ride and I would regularly see him outside St. Vincent de Paul Church waiting patiently at the handicap parking turn-around area between the Church and the School.

Rain or shine, but usually shine, I would check in with him and ask if he needed any help or assistance, any water, or any shade, and he would always respond: "No, I am fine."

In his late twenties, Dalen had gone through the OCIA in 2008 and was baptized at the Easter Vigil on April 11th, 2009 at Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Peoria, and Rob was his Godfather.

Rob and Jesse had to do just about everything for Dalen on the Cursillo weekend. Dalen was at the Decuria of Saint Paul, led by Tom Gloria and Dave Zeman. By all accounts, it was a very good Cursillo. There were two candidates from St. George in Utah, as well as from many parishes from around the Valley.

I got to know Dalen over time. He was instantly recognizable in his wheelchair. He was always present and always pleasant. I remember distinctly he would show up for the big Masses at the Cathedral. He would show up at Ordination Mass on the first Saturday of June, as well as the Chrism Mass, and many other important Diocesan liturgical Masses. His response to prayers and blessings was



always about one second behind everybody else. After everybody exclaimed "Amen" there was a pause and then you heard this one squeaky voice shout "AMEN!!!"

Dalen was some man for one man. For all that he could not do, he did so much. He was a huge Phoenix Suns fan, and would regularly attend games at the Footprint Center. He would regularly be caught on camera. Bishop Nevares tells me that, while watching TV one evening, he jumped up out of this Lazy-Boy recliner yelling: "Hey, I know that guy! I know that guy!!!"

Of course, this included Cursillo #817.

It's a long story, but his exploits also included the Phoenix Comic-Con in May of 2022.

As *Sofia Krusmark* wrote in *The Arizona Republic* of 28 May, 2022:

A man named Dalen Soto surprised everyone at a Phoenix Comic-Con Fan Fusion panel featuring Jodi Benson, best known as the voice of Ariel in Disney's "The Little Mermaid". Soto, 38, was diagnosed with spinal muscular dystrophy at birth and has been unable to walk for his entire life, he said.

"I can't walk but even though I can't walk here on this Earth, I would like to walk and run, but I know that I believe in God and I will walk someday in heaven," Soto said to Benson during a Q&A session at the panel.

"Your song, 'Part of Your World' has given me strength that one day I'll walk in heaven. I was wondering if there was any way that you can sing a portion of that song?"

He moved Benson to tears, and everyone in the room whipped out their phones.

"I just want to say, Dalen, that you are incredible," Benson responded. "And you are the reason why I do what I do. You give people all around you a purpose and it's such a privilege to have met you. God has a purpose for you."

She ended the panel by singing a portion of "Part of Your World," as Dalen requested.

"This is a song of healing for him," Benson told the gathering. "I hope it's like that for all of you." She finished to a standing ovation.

Cursillista Dalen Soto died in November of 2022, having lived - against all the odds - for 39 years. He was part of our world for those precious years. Now he has gone to his Heavenly reward, where he will walk in the presence of the Lord. He will also run and skip, go to concerts, sing *De Colores* while playing the electric guitar, shoot hoops, and play soccer and so much more. He was, and is, and always will be such an inspiration to so many people.

I will leave the last word to Jack Herzfeld, a dear friend of Dalen from Carefree, AZ:

"One time we went to a concert together and at

the end of the concert it took us a little while to get back to the main concourse of the arena. Dalen really wanted to get a concert T-shirt, but by the time we got back to the main level all the merchandise booths were closed. We then heard from another concertgoer that one may still be open on the other side of the arena. Dalen started speeding down the concourse to get there, going right past the arena staff who were closing the event.

"They told him to stop because they didn't want anyone going that way, but he just ignored them and kept going full-speed without any hesitation. When I finally caught up to him, he was buying a T-shirt from the last stand that was open.

"I think this small story shows Dalen's outlook on life and personality in the way that he would just get out there and do things without fear and despite his many challenges. He has been a great inspiration to me because he never in the time I knew him let his disability get in the way of living his life and being part of the world around him. I have a similar disability to his and I am often hesitant to do new things and worried about my physical challenges getting in the way.

"Having known Dalen, I now look to his example whenever I am worried about doing something difficult. Whenever I am worried or hesitant, I just say to myself: "What would Dalen do?" and that gives me courage. He was truly an inspiration to me and everyone he knew."

*"Up where they walk, up where they run,
Up where they stay all day in the sun,
Wanderin' free, wish I could be part of
that world."*

*Part of That World
from The Little Mermaid*

*"But our citizenship is in heaven, and
from it we also await a Savior, the Lord Jesus
Christ. He will change our lowly body to
conform with His glorified Body by the
power that enables Him also to bring all
things into subjection to Himself."*

Phillipians 3:20-21

As a postscript, we are putting together an inspirational booklet about the life of Dalen Soto. If you knew Dalen or if you have any memories of Cursillo # 817 or in general, you can email me at: frmccaffrey@yahoo.com with Dalen Soto as the subject line.

ULTREYA!



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

Ultreyas at Miles Jesu

1925 E Baseline Rd, Phoenix

Jan. 19, Feb. 9, Mar. 15,

Apr. 12, May 17, June 14, 2024

5:45 pm Holy Hour, confession available

6:30 pm Pilgrim's Guide Apostolic Hour Prayer

6:45 pm Ultreya

Ultreya at St. Elizabeth Seton

Saturday, February 10, 2024

9728 W Palmeras Dr., Sun City

8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Breakfast Snacks

9:15 am Ultreya

For more info contact Joanna Smith

480-206-8359 or tjrleadership@yahoo.com

Ultreya at Sacred Heart, Prescott

Saturday, February 24, 2024

150 Fleury St., Prescott

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

For more information: Contact Mike King

mandmking68@gmail.com or 928-925-3645

If you are interested in hosting

an Ultreya at your Parish,

please contact

Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com

Who is a Leader?

Christ is Counting on YOU!

The Cursillo Weekend is just the beginning - come and learn, share, and live out the gifts the Holy Spirit compelled you to accept when you were first invited to be a Cursillista!



School of Leaders

3rd Saturday of each month

9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Virtual AND IN PERSON at Mt. Claret (JP11 Room)



Upcoming Dates: January 20, February 17, March 16, and April 20, 2024

Virtual Meetings on Zoom

Open the Zoom Link on Website School of Leaders Page or cut and paste:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82396681563?pwd=c2lTMndMcDJyOHFCT3pScKVLc2tNdz09#success>

Meeting ID: 823 9668 1563 Passcode: 431438

Watch previous School of Leaders on YouTube!

As of now, you must use the links on the School of Leaders page at www.phoenixcursillo.com. You cannot find them by going directly to YouTube. If you have a gmail account you can use that as your login, if not you will have to create one.

Dear Brother and Sister Cursillistas,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!! I hope and pray that you all had a very blessed holiday season. As for me, Christmas was very special, I was able to spend Christmas with my son and family which does not happen very often since they all live in Massachusetts. As with all holidays it was beautiful, but we had some challenges. I thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on my family; both the good and the challenges. The Lord always has our backs. We must trust and know that all that happens to us whether good or bad is ultimately for His Glory.

Before I wrote this article, I was really pondering on what it is that I needed to write about. As some of you may know we are in the process of having an election for the following chairs on the Secretariat: They are Precursillo, Postcursillo, and Secretary. We have another chair which is attached to our Precursillo and it is Applications. All these people have been doing a wonderful job in all these areas, but it is time for them to move on. I pray and hope that these positions will be filled with new people.

One thing I notice, we tend to go back to the same people and ask for help. So where am I going with this? **Do you remember these words? “Jesus is**

Secretariat Elections Timeline

Candidate Videos due on January 14, 2024 to the Lay Director. Videos will be posted on website on January 17, 2024. Voting will be through the website on Google Forms and close on January 31.

and committees are as follows: Precursillo, Postcursillo, Secretary, Three Day, School of Leaders, Treasurer, and Lay Director.

By doing this, we continue to grow new leaders in the movement. All Cursillistas are called to lead! As I have stated in the past when I moved here from another Diocese and thought “how can I help the movement?” it was through prayer and getting involved wherever I could that I was prompted by the Holy Spirit to apply for the Lay Director.

Below is a brief synopsis of the Chairs:

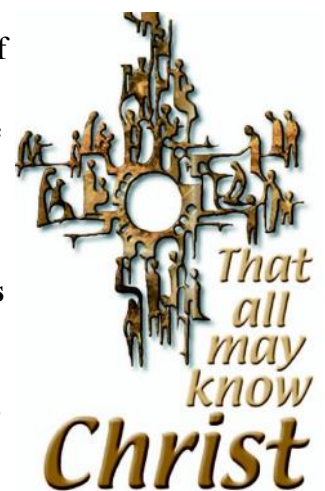
- Lay Director** - Ensures all duties are fulfilled. Prepares agenda for monthly meetings. Find ways to enhance our movement by coordinating with all chairs.
- School of Leaders** - Prepares a calendar year syllabus for Cursillo Study. Will determine presenters for the technique talks. Will keep track of attendance for recording in the database.
- Three Day** - Ensures that all necessary elements core teams and elements will be in place for the weekend. Selects rectors/rectoras and works with rectors/rectoras to choose co-rector/rectoras. Provides handbooks, guides, and forms to core teams for their use as tools to prepare for the weekend. Works with core teams to ensure they carry on their responsibilities to prepare for team formation and Cursillo weekends. Gathers supplies from inventory and provide them for Cursillo weekends. Facilitate Rector/Rectora Workshops. Present at the Cursillo orientation and opening.
- Postcursillo** - Links School of Leaders and the Ultreyas. Schedules and coordinates the Diocesan Ultreyas. Finds people to present 4th day talk; schedules Spiritual Directors.
- Precursillo and Applications** - These two work hand in hand; ensuring applications are processed. The Precursillo ensures that all Parish Representatives have the

counting on you, and I on him.” Yes these were the last words you said before you left for your beautiful



weekend of your Cursillo.

As we begin this new year, I want to challenge every Cursillista to prayerfully consider helping the movement in some way. We, as the Secretariat, want to strongly encourage everyone that has any interest in helping to call us, email us, text us, or whatever else you can do. **All the chairs need to have a committee to assist them in doing their functions.** It is not easy for one person to do all the work; we all need help, as the disciples helped Jesus. The chairs



proper training. Distributes information to Parish Representatives to ensure that word gets out about our events. Finds Parish Representatives for those churches that may not have one.

Application Chairs are responsible for reviewing and processing Applications, and attending the Thursday opening night of the Cursillo to register



the candidates and collect fees. The current volunteers would love some help.

Treasurer - Handles all financial matters for the Movement.

Secretary - Takes minutes for meetings, Secretary will record all attendance turned

into them for the School of Leaders.

These are just brief descriptions of the positions. If you are interested in helping contact the chair. The information can be found on our Secretariat page on our website.



We pray that you will consider how Cursillo can become a ministry for you - are you willing to use your time, talents and treasures and ultimately bring more people to heaven? Listen to what the Lord would like you to do in this Movement; let the Holy Spirit guide you. You are needed.

Carmela Gonzales

Lay Director, Diocese of Phoenix Cursillo

What's On the Website???

- * Find links to join virtual or in-person events such as the Diocesan Ultreya and the School of Leaders.
- * Send in questions and prayer requests, email and address changes.
- * See the Teams in Formation and candidates for upcoming weekends as available.
- * Sign up for Adoration for the weekends, record your general palanca, and much more.
- * Information on how to sponsor a candidate or how to reach your Parish Representative or Secretariat member is included, too.

It's a full service website! It doesn't take the place, however, of face to face friendship! Join us for the many Ultreyas and other activities in the coming months!

2024 Rector/Rectora Workshop

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Rollo Room

Saturday, April 6, 2024
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
JPII Room

(Register and attend only one date)

Light snack will be provided.

Who is it for?

All Rectors, Rectoras, and Co's are invited to attend this important workshop. You must attend to be considered to lead a Cursillo.

Registration Link is on the Diocese of Phoenix Website or cut and paste:

<https://forms.gle/guk5aSQNJg5MFKk68>

Seats are limited for each session.

SAVE THE DATE: CENA DE COLORES MAY 4, 2024