

The VOICE

October 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF
PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

FROM FR. KILIAN MCCAFFREY

*The Parables of Judgement during Holy Week:
The Cultures of Life and of Death*

We are getting to the business end of the Liturgical Year and we read the great parable of Holy Week which tells of God's Judgment. As Cursillistas, we need to study up on the big issues of today. Life is as big an issue as you can get.

In Ireland, where and when I grew up, there was no such thing as abortion. I heard about it, of course, but it was a strange, alien concept, like the evils of World Wars I and II. I knew the Catholic Church spoke out strongly against abortion and that was good enough for me.

Moving to the United States in 1994, I was not directly exposed to abortion, but I knew it was available here. Living in Michigan, a friend once asked me about my opinion on the issue of abortion and I declared that I was

against it. I responded that obviously, like Nazis or racism or other issues, I just knew that it was simply wrong and evil. He pushed me further, asking why I felt that way and I very quickly found that I could not strongly and effectively support my belief that abortion is wrong.

I remember one Saturday afternoon I drove past a demonstration outside an abortion clinic. I felt curious, but also ambivalent. I certainly did not interrupt my afternoon to join that group of protestors. Like many people, I had become confused and ambivalent by abortion.

Around the same time, I remember reading a magazine article entitled "Pro-Life Low-Life" which attacked and shamed those who protest outside abortion clinics. I began seriously questioning how anyone could attack people who were peacefully trying to save lives. Who was behind such a magazine story?

One night I had a dream and a voice spoke: "**What are you confused about? Abortion is murder!!**" That basically cleared up for me any confusion for me on the issue of

Our LADY OF
GUADALUPE,
Patroness
of the Unborn,
PRAY FOR US!



abortion. **It's murder....** So Catholics - and everyone for that matter - should be opposed to abortion.

However, it is a highly-sensitive, divisive issue. Many people are greatly affected by it, directly or indirectly.

Our own Bishop, Thomas Olmsted writes in his very helpful teaching booklet entitled **Catholics In The Public Square** which is also available online: "**When it comes to direct attacks on innocent human life, being right on all the other issues can never justify a wrong choice on this most serious matter.**"

"*Abortion and euthanasia are 'fundamental' social issues because if the child in the womb has no right to be born, if the sick and the old have no right to be taken care of, then there is no solid foundation to defend anyone's human rights, and no foundation for peace and justice in society.*"

If we reject life as a cornerstone of our society, then our culture cannot survive. To sum up, paraphrasing our own Fr. Ray Greco: "We have to stop abortion in this country, or else God will take this country away from us."

These chilling words echo Our Lord: "**Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.**" (Mt 21:43)

Thanks and God bless you all,

De Colores!

Fr. Kilian

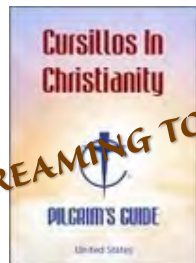


Free at the Diocese of Phoenix
Website: *Catholics in the
Public Square*

<https://dphx.org/catholics-in-the-public-square/>

HOLY MASS EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING AT 6:30 PM

IN PERSON AT MT. CLARET OR ON STREAMING ON FACEBOOK (SEE PG. 6)



STREAMING TO A DEVICE NEAR YOU!
SCHOOL OF LEADERS

Please join us for an opportunity for Catholic fellowship including breakout rooms for sharing in group reunion after each talk or meditation.

School of Leaders is the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. Upcoming meetings are October 17 and November 21.

Join Zoom School of Leaders:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658541324?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658541324?pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMIJCZz09)
[pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMIJCZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658541324?pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMIJCZz09)

Meeting ID: 886 5854 1324

Passcode: 338064

ULTREYA!



As Parishes begin to open up, please watch the Newsletter and the website for Ultreya locations.

If you know of an Ultreya happening, or are interested in holding an Ultreya, please contact the Postcursillo Chair, Mick Kapanicas at Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com.

ROSARY FOR AMERICA

Join us at Mt. Claret

(limited attendance with COVID-19 guidelines)

1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm

October 5, 2020

November 2, 2020

December 7, 2020

45TH ANNUAL ARIZONA ROSARY CELEBRATION

ONLINE THIS YEAR - DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

October 18, 2020 2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted, Presiding

To stream go to azrosary.net; find the link at the top of the page.



This year's Arizona Rosary Celebration is honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary as Our Lady Undoer of Knots. The origin of this Marian title and devotion comes from the 16th Century when a young couple with marital problems presented their marriage ribbon to the Blessed Virgin and asked her to untie the "knots" of their marriage; and she did! Although this devotion is particularly helpful for couples facing marital problems, our Blessed Mother also invites us to bring other knots to her, like those associated with the struggles, hardships and sufferings in life. This year's celebration comes to us at a time when we greatly need Mary's powerful intercession. Living in such unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are faced with many uncertainties and challenges concerning our health and that of our loved ones, especially the elderly and those who have suffered the loss of their jobs. In such times as these, we can confidently run to Our Blessed Mother for guidance and reaffirmation of our trust in God. May this year's Rosary Celebration inspire us to imitate her unwavering faith in the love and providence of God, who can untangle all the knots of our lives with His fatherly mercy and love.

+Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted



HELP US HONOR:



John & Kay Sack

The Sacks stand out as people who embrace the mission of Mt. Claret and provide leadership to those who visit our center. They have deep ties to Mt. Claret through the Cursillo Movement, Order of Malta, and Christ Child Society.



RETREAT CENTER

EVENING UNDER THE STARS

602.840.5066

www.MtClaret.org

EVENING SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 24, 2020

5:00 - 5:30 PM - Cocktails

5:30 - 6:30 PM - Program

- Silent Auction
- Live Auction
- Raffle

www.2020gatheredtogether.com for tickets and info

FREE ACCESS TO SILENT AUCTION WEBSITE

www.2020gatheredtogether.com

GATHER TOGETHER: \$25

- Link to attend the virtual event broadcast from Mt. Claret Retreat Center.
- 5:00PM – 5:30PM Enjoy a cocktail from the comforts of your home and mingle with other attendees.
- 5:30PM – 6:30PM Sit back and celebrate the gifts of Mt. Claret and the Cursillo Movement. Blessings from our Bishop(s), honoree presentation, bidding on silent auction items, live auction and closing.

WATCH PARTY PACKAGE: \$100

- Includes Gather Together Package
- Receive a bottle of wine delivered to your door prior to the event. Selection of red or white wine & two engraved wine glasses, cheese, crackers & assorted gifts.

JOHN & KAY PREMIER PACKAGE: \$600

- Join us on Saturday, October 24 at Mt. Claret and watch the event in person. There is a very good chance you will be on camera.
- Includes 4 event tickets for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Mt. Claret.
- Your name or company name will appear on screen during the virtual event.
- Special gift included.



BUY YOUR RAFFLE Tickets

- \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20

De Colores Everyone!

I hope that this message finds you feeling restful in the peace of Christ. As for me, my mind has been occupied with thoughts of work and workers of late. September started out with a celebration of Labor Day, and soon deteriorated into a long laborious month. We started a home renovation project and hired a contractor who promised to have all of the work completed within two weeks. After four weeks of our home in a condition of unfinished construction, in my wife Angela's words "Our contractor broke up with us in a text message." The job became partially a do it yourself project and also a scramble to find skilled laborers in various trades to complete an assortment of jobs. In the meantime, the Sunday mass readings for the past few weeks have referenced workers in the Lord's vineyard. This has prompted me to meditate a great deal on comparisons between secular labor, and working for the greater glory of the Kingdom of God.

Like many of us in the age of COVID-19, I've been working from home for nearly seven months now. One noticeable difference in the home office is that my working hours are less clearly defined, and I feel like I have to get right to work as soon as I wake up in the morning. My job involves helping people find solutions to their business needs, and there is some satisfaction in that, but at the end of the day I often find myself mentally spent and just wanting to 'check out' and ease into a comfortable chair and relax, glad that the day is over. Similarly with our home improvement project, we're at the point where we just want it to be done already.

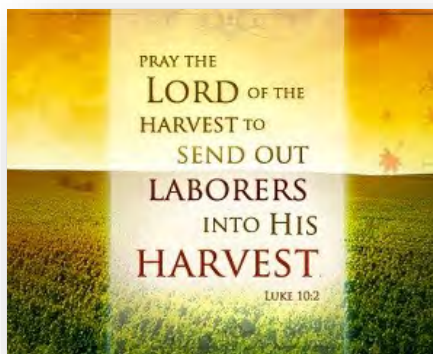
I find that working in the vineyard of God has a much different effect. I serve as Sacristan for the 7:00 am mass every Sunday, and I look forward to waking up early so that I can get to Church and open the doors before 6 o'clock and welcome the early morning prayer warriors.

When I teach RCIA on Wednesday and share the Love of Christ with our group of future Catholics who are longing for Truth, goodness and beauty, we are energized by the Holy Spirit and no one seems to want the evening to end. In the same way, whenever I participate in a Cursillo activity, I always leave feeling uplifted by the Grace of God and fellowship of our community in Christ.

God's grace and secular labor are not separate realities and just the other day they intersected in a wonderful way in my life. We needed some light fixtures installed, so naturally we called our good friend James Diaz with Theocentric Electric to have the work done. Now it's not my intention to use this column to advertise any business, but there's comfort in relying on people that you know to be caring and trustworthy. I have to

say that I was looking forward to seeing James' workers Fidel and Steve, who I consider as brothers since we had worked a Cursillo weekend team together last January. When they showed up at my door, I felt a sincere happiness that Steve and Fidel were here. Admittedly, my work from home was less productive than usual that day, because I spent much of my morning visiting with my Cursillo brothers while they worked.

Sure, I was somewhat interested in what they were doing and they did great work, but I was much more interested in how they were doing because I sincerely care for these guys. After weeks of having strangers about the house, it was heartwarming just to have genuine friends in our home, of whom I can say, as I



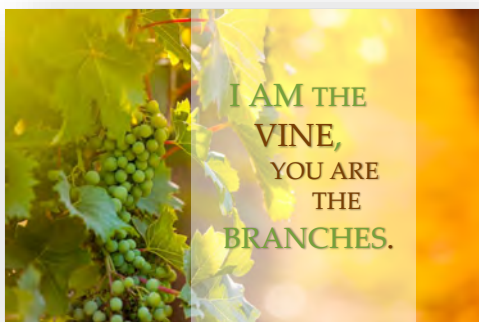
learned from Ted Cruz on my weekend many years ago, "The Christ in me loves the Christ in you." The theme of that recent weekend incidentally was "Serve the Lord with Gladness" and after they left that day I reminisced about being Rector and how Fidel, Steve, and others couldn't seem to stop smiling even through the physical exhaustion of working in the "Decuria of Service" on their first experience on a Cursillo team.

Working in the Lord's vineyard is truly joyful and has many immeasurable rewards. There is always plenty of work to be done, and a multitude of ways to serve. As Jesus said in

Matthew 9:37, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Sometimes in our busyness we are unwittingly like those workers in the marketplace from the parable in Matthew 20 who stand idly by because no one has hired them. Remember the question of the Ideal Rollo, where do you spend your time, your money and your talents? Our fast-paced and crazy world is like a noisy marketplace filled with activity such as political division and hatred, but keeps us standing still and do nothing to progress the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus seeks friendship and communion

with us constantly and we don't have to wait for the landowner to say "Why do you stand here idle all day? You, too, go into my vineyard." He is the Vine and we are the branches. That parable reminds me of the old expression that your parents may have used if you were slow about getting your chores started, "What are you waiting for, a written invitation?"

Well, allow me to invite you to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in how you are called to serve in His kingdom. In the great Irish wisdom of the late Monsignor Mike O'Grady, the best way to start is to "Just show up." Beyond that we serve God by loving our neighbor and showing kindness in these contentious times, even to those we disagree with. Cursillo has many opportunities to offer in the coming weeks. Join us for the



Cont'd on page 6

Holy Mass every Wednesday at 6:30 pm at Mount Claret, or watch the mass live streamed on the Phoenix Cursillo Movement Facebook page.

We've had a wonderful time with our School of Leaders on Zoom every third Saturday of the month. Don't miss the Evening Under the Stars/Cena De Colores Gathered Together virtual event on October 24th. Please consider making a donation and hosting a watch party to support Cursillo and bring your friends to Christ.

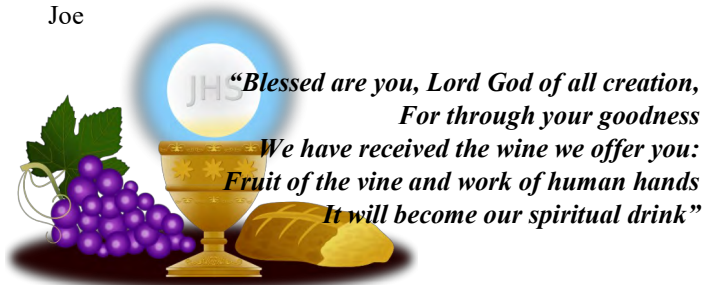
Maybe you are called to serve as a parish representative and build the Cursillo Community in your environment. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is calling you to be a leader in the Movement and serve on the Diocesan Secretariat. There are three positions opening up on the Secretariat at the end of this year and we will ask for nominations soon for the positions of Precursillo Chair, Postcursillo Chair, and Secretary. In contrast to all of the negative political campaigning that we are subjected to these days, our elections are free from hatred and name calling. We only ask the nominees to attend School of Leaders and share their vision for the positions that they feel called to serve in. We

don't seek personal glory, but only the Glory of God. Please feel free to contact me or any of our Secretariat members if you have questions about any of the positions.

I've found that in every Cursillo event or activity, from Secretariat meetings, Ultreyas, School of Leaders, Group Reunion, or the Cena De Colores, my spirits are lifted by the friendship and love of Christ that we share as a community.

May the Lord continue to bless the work of our hands, and may we be guided by the Holy Spirit to hear the Father's invitation to joyfully go into His vineyard, where we are joined as branches of the Living Vine, Jesus Christ, in the Eucharist.

In the Peace of Christ,
Joe



COME TO THE MOUNTAIN!

Join us for Mass, **in-person at Mt. Claret**, or online each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm. Through the generosity of time of our Spiritual Advisors, Holy Mass will be live-streamed over Facebook. To access the mass online, join our Facebook Page "Phoenix Cursillo Movement"; the banner picture is of the Mt. Claret Chapel. Requests to join will be accepted daily. If you need help with this contact Cecelia at info@phoenixcursillo.com.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Cursillo,

Earlier this summer I received a phone call from Fr. Kilian asking my thought on having a special Mass on Wednesdays. Cursillistas could come and celebrate Mass together. Also we would live-stream it on Facebook for those wanting to view it from their homes. "What a great idea," I thought because I think we were all a little tired of not being able to meet and be with some of our best friends due to the COVID-19 scare.

Wednesday, Sept. 30, was our 4th weekly Mass, the Feast of St. Jerome, and Fr. Bob Voss gave a great, uplifting homily. The music for this Mass was from our Cursillo brother, Michael John Poirier. *The only thing missing was YOU!*

Please know that up to 25 people can attend in person! This special Mass is a gift for the Cursillo community, a chance to reconnect in person at our favorite chapel, Mt. Claret, and for the greater Cursillo community to see that our Cursillo family is still alive and ready to open up as soon we are told that we can resume normal Cursillo functions. I know that life is a struggle for most of us, different work and home schedules, different school schedules, a lot of things pulling at us that try and steal that feeling of normal and make us feel unusually stressed out.

I personally refuse to accept the status quo as our "new

normal"! There is nothing normal about our kids not being able to enjoy their favorite sports. It's not normal being asked to wear a mask especially outdoors and implanting fear in others if we choose not to wear a mask. There is nothing normal about living in fear, as scripture clearly tells us fear is not of God but of the evil one.

I am writing this on a Thursday when we pray the Luminous Mysteries that ends with the 5th decade, *Our Lord Gives Us the Eucharist*. What a tremendously wonderful gift to be able to receive Our Lord sacramentally at each Mass or spiritually during our TV Mass. The Eucharist is food for our daily journey, strength in our daily struggles, and comfort in realizing the Our Lord loves us so much that He gave us this precious food that gives us hope for a better tomorrow.

That being said, I want to challenge each of you my brothers and sisters in Cursillo, to join us each Wednesday for Holy Mass at Mt. Claret, in person or on Facebook. I guarantee you by the end of Mass, you will feel that the weight of world has been lifted from your shoulders.

"Come unto me and I will give you rest."

Manny Yrique, School of Leaders

Editor's Note: Many of you have watched the Mass online live or as you are able; there have been up to 250 people watching. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Chapel was filled and 500 were watching? If you would like, **send your prayer intentions** for the sick or those who have recently passed to info@phoenixcursillo.com by each Tuesday evening.

A Challenge to Leaders

We recently sold our home, downsized, and moved. As part of the move process, I came across some copies of Rollo's I had prepared including the Leaders Rollo. When I finished reading the talks I felt ashamed. It occurred to me that not only had I not led during this time of unrest along with the Covid-19 pandemic, I haven't challenged my leaders to lead either.

Over the summer, we allowed ourselves to be locked out of our churches while we still continue to watch riots going on in many major cities. Apparently we have been attacked by a very discerning and crafty virus. It can tell the difference between people in riots and people in church. It has given rioters carte blanche to yell, scream, and spit all kinds of hatred and

violence without masks and in any size gathering, while at the same time claiming we are too dangerous to be allowed to attend

Mass in our churches. I missed the opportunity to write our bishops to ask them to lead, to let them know we expected to be respected for our desire to stay together in our houses of worship as essential services. I didn't take the opportunity to suggest we unite with other religious affiliations and denominations to make all of God's people heard.

As leaders we know that if we don't lead our families to where God wants us to go, something or someone will lead them where we don't want them to go. And as I watch the news nightly, that is what is happening; the first-hand the verification of the quote by Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Did we arm our church leaders with how strong we felt about losing our religious freedom? We are witnessing the possible destruction of our way of life, our will to pray, and our very existence while we sit back and "take it."

At our parish levels, we are doing all we can. We have new small communities. We have dedicated prayer groups and renewed opportunities for adoration. We are praying our hearts out for our world and our faith. We have an opportunity to turn the chaos around by continuing to pray to God along with our families to help us. We continue to implore our Blessed Mother's intercession for our needs. We can let our church hierarchy know that we want to fight this oppression. Most importantly we will facilitate those prayers to motivate our ACTION to vote.



As Catholics, we can really make an impact and a difference. We belong to a huge army and a huge voting bloc. Think about these statistics that we are comprised of:

- 1.3 Billion Roman Catholics world-wide
- 16% of the world's population
- 71 million Catholics in the US.
- 24% of the US population.

We don't need to accept the controls over us for not being considered important enough to be listened to, to be told our churches are not essential services. We know we need each other. We know we need to pray and most importantly we need to be together to receive Eucharist and be with each other in God's house.

We belong to the army of God. That makes us prime targets for attacks on us as leaders. We know the battle belongs to the Lord and he has defeated the evil already. There is nothing to fear. He left us here to continue to face the rage and violent attacks from the enemy. Pope John Paul II warned us about that battle back in 1976 when he visited the US:

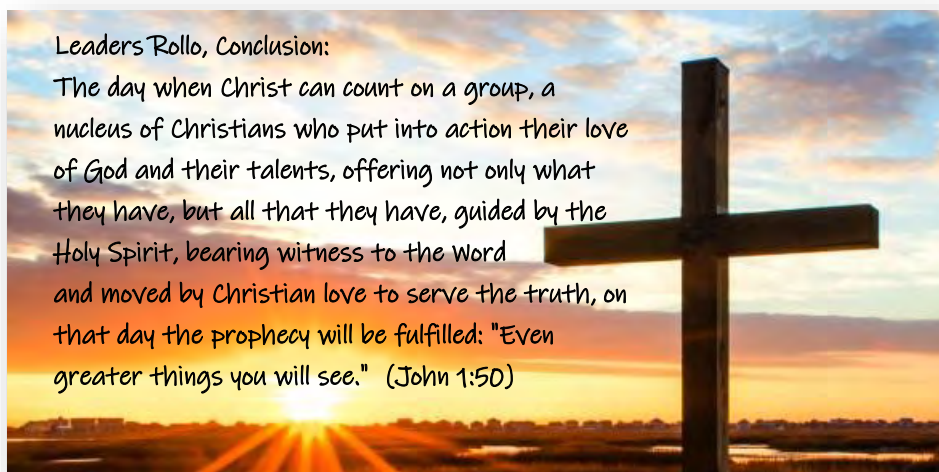
"We are standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has ever experienced. I do not think that most of the American Society or the wider circle of Christian Community realizes that fully.

"We are facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-church, between the gospel and the anti-gospel, Christ and the anti-Christ. The confrontation lies within the plan of divine providence. It is therefore, God's plan and it must be a trial the church must take up and face courageously."

As I re-read what I wrote, my intention is not to offend anyone but to challenge everyone. I'm frustrated as I believe many of you are. We are not quiet, intimidated **"sheeple."** One of our strongest spiritual weapons is "holy boldness" and we need to be willing to claim it. As Fr. Delgado, one of our previous spiritual directors once said, "It's time to get off your knees and stand up for Christ."

I hope to see you on the battle line. The victory belongs to the Lord.

De Colores, my brothers and sisters in Christ,
Jerry Drumm #579



EASY TITHE

- *First, we would like to thank all of you who are currently enrolled with Easy Tithe. Your continued support of the Cursillo Movement is greatly appreciated.* (If your card has changed or expired, please take a minute to go to www.Easytithe.com/Cursillo and update/)

- **WHAT IS IT?**

A low cost monthly auto withdrawal from your bank account directly to the Cursillo Movement to help pay for operating expenses of the Movement (i.e., rent, supplies, stipends and scholarships). You choose the amount you'd like to contribute, when, and how often.

- **WHY?**

- A major goal of Cursillo is to allow every qualified candidate to live their weekend. The cost of the weekend should never keep someone away. The actual cost to put a candidate through the weekend is in excess of \$350 per person. However, we strive to maintain the stipend at \$150 per candidate. To accomplish this goal requires fundraising, including our Easy Tithe program.

- While Cursillo weekends can be held almost anywhere, we are truly blessed to call the beautiful, holy ground that is Mt. Claret Retreat Center, "home". It has been home to the Cursillo for many years due to the vision of the Claretian priests who were caretakers of the Movement in Phoenix in the beginning, the devotion of Msgr. McMahon, and the love, time, and talent of many Cursillistas over the years. Support through Easy Tithe assists in ensuring that Mt. Claret remains our home for future candidates and all Cursillistas.

- **HOW?**

Simply go to the Easy Tithe link on the Cursillo website (www.PhoenixCursillo.com) or go directly to www.Easytithe.com/Cursillo.

- **PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION**

A five (\$5) or ten (\$10) dollar monthly Easy Tithe donation can make a huge difference in not only a candidate's life, but also the many Cursillistas in our Diocese. Please prayerfully consider participating in Easy Tithe and enroll today.

On behalf of the Cursillo Movement of Phoenix,
we thank you for your prayerful consideration and support.

If you have any questions, please contact Karla Keller (Treasurer@PhoenixCursillo.com)



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



Parish Reps Needed!!!: To see if your parish is one of those not covered, please go to our website. If interested, please contact the Postcursillo Chair at (mickkapanicas@gmail.com) or Precursillo Chair at (jdiaz.theocentric@gmail.com).

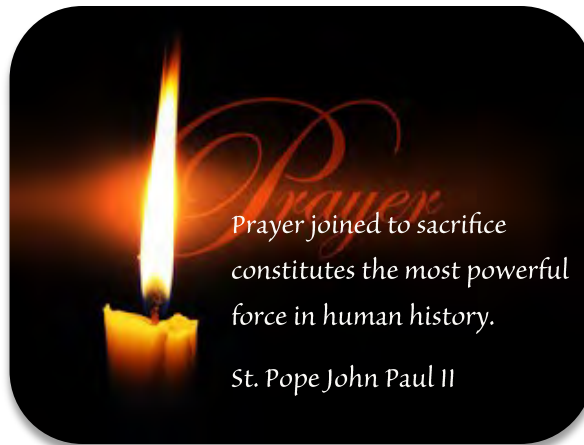
Ultreya! It just takes a place and some friends to rejoice together in the graces we receive as we live our piety, study, and action throughout our 4th day. Please get in touch with the Postcursillo Chair, if you are interested in helping with or hosting an Ultreya in your area.

Palanca Chair: The palanca chair is responsible for requesting General Palanca for Phoenix, and sending General Palanca for other Diocese's weekends, and downloading and printing the General Palanca for our Weekends. This can be done from your home! Please contact Three-Day Chair at (zeldagraham@yahoo.com).

GENERAL PALANCA

Record your prayers and sacrifices for upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses either on the form below or on the website. Palanca is gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the US and Internationally. Send the form below to Cursillo Movement, Mt. Claret, 4633 N 54th St, Phoenix, AZ 85018 or bring the form to School of Leaders. Your intercessory prayer, sacrifice, and works of mercy are the levers which lift up the Movement all over the world.

General Palanca	Amount
Sacramental Masses	
Spiritual Communion	
Hours of Adoration	
Visits to Blessed Sacrament	
Daily Prayers	
Rosaries	
Glory Be	
Hail Holy Queen	
Hail Marys	
Our Fathers	
Instances of Fasting	
Hours of Prayer	
Hours of Study	
Hours of Service	
Leader's Prayer	
Chaplets of Divine Mercy	
Novenas	
Offerings of Pain/Distress	
Reconciliation	
Other:	
Other:	
Other:	



PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a prayer list on the website that will be updated with your prayer requests and 5th day notices. On this page, you will find a form to send in your request, or send it directly to info@phoenixcursillo.com.

People will remain on the prayer list and on the 5th day list for one month. Resubmit if you would like to have the name remain on the list.

Vatican-approved prayer for the intercession of Servant of God, Eduardo Bonnin, Founder of the Cursillo Movement

“Oh God, the dispenser of all graces and charisms, You granted your servant Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo the grace of dedicating his whole life with humility and generosity, to the work of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement, as he traveled the five continents proclaiming that God in Christ loves us. Grant us through his intercession the favor that we now implore Thee. (Name favor being requested.) Also grant us the grace, of his beatification for your greater glory and the good of your Church, that shines throughout the lives of its saints. We beg this of you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.”
(At the end pray the Lord’s Prayer.)

PHOENIX CURSILLO DATABASE

Please help us keep the Cursillo records up to date.
If you change your address, email, phones, etc., please email the updated info to info@phoenixcursillo.com.
THANKS!

PS... Info on the database is never given out or sold. It is used only for sending Cursillo news such as the Voice and contacting persons for Team Formation.

Cursillo Movement
Mt. Claret Retreat Center 4633 N 54th St, Phoenix, AZ 85018
(602) 840-5066
Email: info@phoenixcursillo.com Website: www.phoenixcursillo.com
Facebook: Phoenix Cursillo Movement