

# He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## THE VOICE

April 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

### FROM SISTER LYDIA

*Seeking God: The structure of life is designed to heighten and refine awareness of God's Presence at all times. (Rule of St. Benedict, 58.7)*

Dear Cursillistas,

#### What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual direction is the art of examining your life for the energy, presence, and movement of God. It is "a long, loving look at the real." A spiritual director assists a "directee" in that look. A good director will also provide support and prayer along the way.

Spiritual direction is an ancient Christian discipline. When the church was only a few hundred years old, people seeking wisdom would trek to the desert to meet with renowned holy men who had sequestered themselves in caves to reduce distractions. Few of us work in caves any more...and many of us are women! The practice in Christian tradition of Spiritual Direction helps us to see God's activity in our lives; it is an

experience in order to reveal His Real Presence.

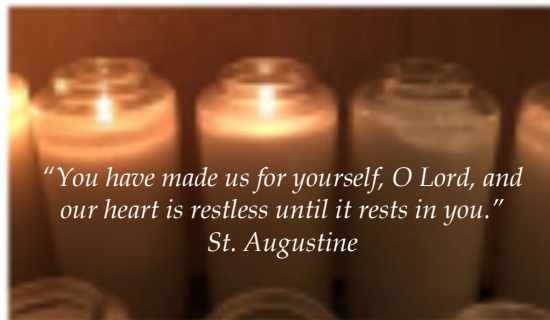
**Who uses a Spiritual Director?** You can! Individuals, clergy or lay, spirituality groups, church groups, governing boards, committees, faith-based nonprofits, and organizations in need of a coach and facilitator to help lead a discernment process.

**How do I find a spiritual director?** Contact a parish priest, a sister from a parish, the Diocesan Office, a website such as

<http://www.catholicspiritualdirection.org/> or <https://www.spiritualdirection.com/>, or a retreat center. I have not only worked with the Cursillo Movement, but also facilitate retreat work and individual spiritual direction at

Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery.

Easter blessings,  
Sister Lydia Armenta, OSB  
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Phoenix, Arizona 85037  
(623) 848-9608/(602) 527-4975  
sisterlydia@olgmonastery.com



*"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."  
St. Augustine*

*Please pray for our upcoming English Weekends:  
Men's English #911, May 3-6 and Women's English #912, May 17-20*

### SAVE THESE DATES!

**MAY 25-27, 2018**

#### **REGION X ENCOUNTER**

Hosted by our Diocese at Mt. Claret!  
More information on page 2.

**JULY 14, 2018\***

A day of retreat and reflection sponsored  
by School of Leaders and Three-Day committee.

More information coming soon!

*\*Please note this is a corrected date*

## CALENDAR

## April 2018

Apr. 3	6:30 pm	SOL (Mt. Claret)
Apr. 10	6:30 pm	Secretariat (Mt. Claret)
Apr. 14	6:00 pm	OLG Monastery Fundraiser (at the Monastery)
Apr. 21	9:30 am	SOL (St. Agnes)
Apr. 25	7:00 pm	Orientation for #911 & #912
Apr. 28	9:00 am	Ultreya (Westside TBD)

## May 2018

May 1	6:30 pm	SOL (Mt. Claret)
May 3-6		Men's English Weekend #911
May 8	6:30 pm	Secretariat (Mt. Claret)
May 17-20		Women's English Weekend #912
May 19	9:30 am	SOL (St. Agnes)
May 25-27		Regional Encounter (Mt. Claret)
May 26	9:00 am	Ultreya (St. Helen)



## REGION X ENCOUNTER

MAY 25-27, 2018

Join us at the Cursillo Region X Encounter May 25-27!

The Region X Encounter will be held at Mt. Claret Retreat Center this year. The three-day event begins Friday, May 25th at 6pm and ends Sunday, May 27th at 3:30pm, and is open to all Cursillistas. This will be a gathering of Cursillistas from across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to pray, share ideas, enjoy fellowship and study the movement.

For the "Study" portion of the weekend, the Phoenix Cursillo Movement has been invited to present talks and materials from the Rediscovering Cursillo Weekend that was held here in July of 2016. Rediscovering Cursillo explored the Foundational Charism and its impact in all phases of the Cursillo Movement. If you missed it the first time, or want to learn more about Eduardo Bonin's original vision for the movement, this is the event for you.

To register and for more information, check it out at: [rediscoveringcursillo2018.eventbrite.com](http://rediscoveringcursillo2018.eventbrite.com) and click on the title: "Rediscovering Cursillo".

This is an opportunity for all Cursillo Leaders (new and experienced) to come together, celebrate our past and experience the joy and hope of an exciting future. DeColores, Cursillistas!

## ULTREYA!

*Saturday, April 28, 2018*

*Location TBD*

*Check back on the website calendar page for  
location and time!*

*Saturday, May 26, 2018*

*St. Helen*

*5510 W. Cholla St., Glendale*

*8:30 am Mass*

*Potluck and Ultreya after Mass*

*Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ! All Are WELCOME!*

*Interested in hosting an Ultreya? Please contact Brenda Hope at [postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com).*

## FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Happy Easter! De Colores!

I pray that you all have had a wonderful Lent! I reflect on how Lent coincides with the seasons, and what takes place in nature during these forty days. Lent is a time of sacrifice, of dying to our old habits, replacing them with healthy ones, getting rid of all that holds us back from growing in our relationship with our Lord. I spent time this Lent removing ripe fruit from our citrus trees, trimming the dead branches, applying fertilizer and cultivating the soil, and deeply watering the trees.

Forty days later I can now see how my efforts in caring for these trees have brought forth new growth, many new blossoms, and healthier trees. The flowers attract the bees,

which in turn enables them to create honey for us and others to enjoy.

This is an analogy of how our forth day

should be lived. We must prune those areas in our life that are dead, replace essential nutrients in our soil (our piety, study, and action) and water them (The Mass, sacraments, group reunion, Ultreya). When these gifts from God are practiced fully, and shared in our friendship groups, we become like these citrus trees. God's grace brings forth fragrant spiritual blossoms in us that attract others, they

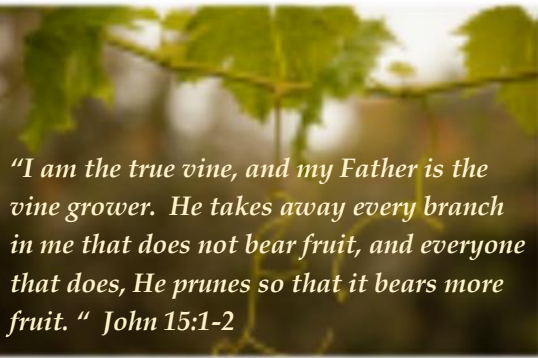
are fed, and in turn feed others in their environments.

I recently had the opportunity to water my "spiritual tree" at the Clausura for Women's Cursillo #908. It was great to hear the women give their testimonies, and for the first time in several years, we had the blessing of God's Grace to experience Benediction at the end. It was on this night that I would like to share a closest moment with Christ with you.

Jo-Ann and I usually pray the rosary at home in the evenings, but because of the time, we decided to pray the rosary on the way home from the Clausura. As Jo-Ann passed the rosary to me to lead it, I was instantly aware of a strong scent of roses coming from the beads. I was quite startled by the aroma, since I have had several sinus surgeries in the past, and I have a poor sense of smell. I noticed the scent would waft upon praying the Hail Mary's. I asked her if she had put some kind of perfume on this rosary. She said no, but she also had smelled the roses. Jo-Ann went on to tell me that she has smelled this from time to time before! I told her that Our Lady was giving us a special tangible sign of her presence. It occurred to me that this sign was just an answer to what I pray for at the beginning of the rosary as I recite the three Hail Mary's; I ask for an increase of my faith, hope, and charity! This sign definitely helped to increase these virtues within my soul.



Ultreya! Ruben Trevizo



*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does, He prunes so that it bears more fruit." John 15:1-2*

**A Call for Articles for the Voice:** Every month we would like articles from Cursillistas sharing their piety, study, or action! How are you living your 4th day? What has been your closest moment to Christ? What was your experience of the weekend you lived? How has Cursillo made a difference in how you live your life? Articles up to 600 words will be eligible, email them to [info@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:info@phoenixcursillo.com), or mail them to the Center and include your contact information.

**Parish Reps Needed:** To see if your parish is one of those not covered, please go to our website: [phoenixcursillo.com](http://phoenixcursillo.com). If interested, please contact Brenda Hope at ([Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com)) or Nancy Kijewski at ([Precursillo@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:Precursillo@phoenixcursillo.com)).

**Ultreya!** Please get in touch with Brenda Hope, the Postcursillo Chair, if you are interested in helping with or hosting an Ultreya in your area. ([Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com))

**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. Please contact Three-Day Chair, Sharon Matson at ([threeday@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:threeday@phoenixcursillo.com)).

**Christ is  
Calling You!**

Witness of Piety - Study - Action

Happy Easter & De Colores!

Recently, I had the opportunity to be the Rectora for the March Women’s English Cursillo. It was truly a blessed weekend, one that reminds me why I keep coming back to the mountain – why spreading God’s love is so important to evangelize our environments.

I made Cursillo #602 in February of 1997 here in Phoenix. At that time, I was a leader in the CRYs, Catholic Retreat for Young Singles ministry. Since that time, I’ve worked many Cursillos, served on the Secretariat, helped with the Cena de Colores, been involved with the Palanca Committee, School of Leaders, attending National Encounters, Regional Workshops, sponsored candidates and grouped. Currently, I attend St. John Vianney in Avondale and Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery in West Phoenix.

In the Spring of 2014, I became an Oblate of St. Benedict at the monastery. As part of my quest to keep growing in my faith, I even spent some time there discerning religious life I am blessed to be connected to that community and to Sister Linda and one of our Cursillo Spiritual Directors, Sr. Lydia. While I discerned that this was not where I was being called, I am still volunteering at the Monastery and still love all that the Sisters are accomplishing in that community.

My point in sharing this with you is that it is an example of how I am continually seeking spiritual growth. The time I spend at the Monastery gives me an awareness of where I’ve been and how God calls me to open my heart and mind to more opportunities of grace.

I am challenged daily to live out my Piety, Action and Study. I work for an agency called First Things First, the early childhood development and health board for the State of Arizona. I have been with the agency for over two years and I receive constant affirmations from Our Lord, that this is where I

am supposed to be. My colleagues know I’m an active, participating Catholic and most importantly know where to come when they need prayer.

On January 13, 2018, my grandmother, Guadalupe Vaquera entered her 5th day. She was the most devoted, spiritual, loving woman I have ever known. I knew that when she passed, I would become our family’s spiritual leader. This is a challenging role that I know I must carry out. My Nana, was an excellent example of someone who shared Christ with her family and community. In her final months, I know that she passed a silent challenge to me - to keep the faith alive in our family. This is a daunting task and I know that I must not only pray for my family, but encourage love and forgiveness in every situation.

I’m not certain where God is leading me to next, but I know that I have peace of mind and a happy heart to share God’s love to everyone I meet. May you have a blessed Easter season filled with abundant graces, your friend, V. (Veronica Lucas)

*If you have never been to the Monastery, I highly recommend a visit. It’s a beautiful, peaceful property – holy ground. The Sisters and Oblates have mastered the art of hospitality and stories of healing and hope are shared every Sunday at their 10:15 a.m. Mass. They have a thrift shop that offers gently used items to a very poor community. It is open every Friday and Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and that’s where you will find me volunteering. Behind Lupe’s Thrift Shop is Benedict’s Garden, where oblates work diligently in the garden planting and harvesting organic produce. They pray and fellowship while they work and bring the harvest to Sunday Mass for donations.*

OLG Monastery  
Needs Our Help!



Many of you are already aware that in December of last year, a fire began in the monastery chapel and left extensive smoke damage throughout the main building. The chapel suffered structural damage. (News story: <http://www.azfamily.com/story/37094489/phoenix-nuns-need-your-help-after-fire-rips-through-monastery-chapel>) There has been a strong connection between the Monastery and the Diocesan Cursillo movement; many of us have been blessed to have Sr. Lydia as a Spiritual Director on a Cursillo Weekend and teams in formation have often used the Monastery for their Day of Recollection or stayed there for the “Overnight”, for a free-will donation. Please consider making a donation now to continue to help restore the buildings. Insurance did not cover all of the expenses.

**FUNDRAISER:** *Additionally, there is a fundraising event “Music Under the Stars” which will include a night of music and an Indian Fry Bread dinner. It will be held on the Monastery grounds April 14, from 6-9pm. Purchase your tickets online at [olgmonastery.com](http://olgmonastery.com) or you can buy them at the “door”.*



## SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

Give online at [www.easytithes.com/Cursillo](http://www.easytithes.com/Cursillo) or make checks out to the Cursillo Movement.

For the 2017 Financial Report go to page 6 & 7 of the September 2017 Voice at [phoenixcursillo.com/news.html](http://phoenixcursillo.com/news.html).

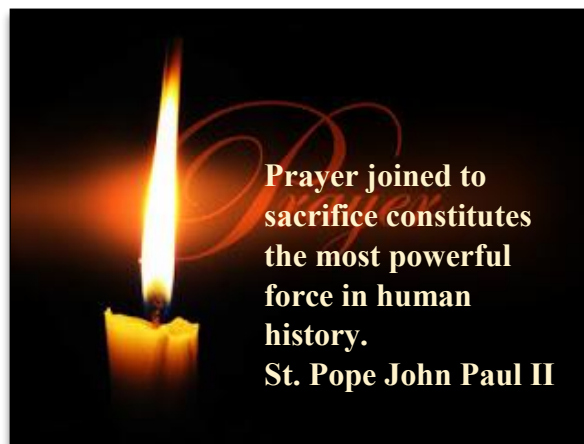
Record your prayers and sacrifices for upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses either on the form below or on the website. Palanca is gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the US and Internationally. Send 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 PRAYER PALANCA REQUESTS

There is a prayer list on the website that will be updated weekly 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](mailto:info@phoenixcursillo.com). People will remain on the prayer list and on the 5<sup>th</sup> day list for one month. Resubmit if you would like to have the name remain on the list.

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:	



### PHOENIX CURSILLO DATABASE

A significant amount of volunteer time has been spent maintaining and updating the database of Cursillistas. If you know someone who is not getting the Voice, please have them contact the Cursillo office.

**Please help us keep the Cursillo records up to date.** If you change your address, email, phones, etc., please email the updated information to [info@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto: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

**Email:** [info@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:info@phoenixcursillo.com) **Website:** [www.phoenixcursillo.com](http://www.phoenixcursillo.com)  
(602) 840-5066 x4