

Monsignor Michael O'Grady

May 21, 1934 - July 13, 2019

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let the perpetual light shine upon him.*

Memorial Mass

Friday, August 9, 2019, 7pm

Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral

6351 N. 27th Avenue, Phoenix

Bless the Lord, my soul; all my being bless His Holy Name!

Bless the Lord, my soul; and do not forget all His gifts,

Who pardons all your sins, and heals all your ills...

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger, abounding in mercy... He has not dealt with us as our sins merit, nor requited us as our wrongs deserve. For as the heavens tower over the earth, so His mercy towers over those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him. For He knows how we are formed, remembers that we are dust.

As for man, his days are like the grass; he blossoms like a flower in the field. A wind sweeps over it and it is gone; its place knows it no more. But the Lord's mercy is from age to age, toward those who fear Him. His salvation is for the children's children of those who keep His covenant, and remember to carry out His precepts.



From Psalm 103, a copy of which our beloved Fr. Mike distributed on every Cursillo weekend. It was of great importance to him that we should always trust in the abundance of God's grace and mercy.

THE FIRST CURSILLOS IN ARIZONA

SO, IMAGINE A ROAD TRIP LIKE THIS....

Taking a week off work, beginning on a Tuesday evening; then getting into a car packed with four others with all of their luggage and then driving two full days, a thousand miles, to San Antonio in Texas; then starting a Cursillo (presumably on the Thursday evening through Sunday evening); and then turning around to drive back the same thousand miles back to Phoenix; getting a few hours of sleep and then going to work for the rest of the week!

And did I mention that this was over sixty years ago... on old, mostly two-lane roads in 1940's or 1950's cars or trucks? Gas was about 30¢ a gallon, by all accounts. But you maybe got ten miles to the gallon (correct me if I am wrong) so it was an expensive experience.

This is what happened in 1958 as Fr. Alfonso Duran prepared to make the first Cursillo possible in Phoenix, and the first retreat outside of the state of Texas - and it was hard work. As Fr. Duran wrote in late 1959:

It had taken many months to find this opportunity, and even then it was very difficult to find four men who were committed to the ideal to travel more than 2000 miles back and forth to go to witness something completely unknown, they were the first seeds.

The road trip may not have been so bad after all. Maybe those many miles had helped to reinforce the message learned in San Antonio. We can only imagine the conversations of the five men had on the road to Texas and back. The seeds started to grow.

And then they repeated the trip with five candidates heading off to San Antonio again on this long road trip to experience a Cursillo weekend. Fr.

Duran explains:

For the second Cursillo of San Antonio, Texas, the new Cursillistas numbered one more than the previous time: now there were five new candidates.

Based on the success of these

“Road Trip Cursillos”, they were able to arrange for the Movement spread to Arizona.



US 290 (now 1-10) about halfway between El Paso and San Antonio, circa 1960.

The first Arizona Cursillo took place on November 5th - 8th, 1959 at Immaculate Heart Parish and the first Cursillistas were from Immaculate Heart and St. Anthony Parishes. The first English Cursillo was held on January 18th - 21st, 1962. We will have reports on these Cursillos over the next months.

The hard work of evangelization that they experienced back in 1959 was echoed in one of Msgr. Mike O’Grady’s classic Cursillo stories, which he related at every weekend he worked. He related how he was trying to

urge some men from Morenci to attend a Cursillo in Phoenix. This was in the early 1960’s, long before the Diocese of Phoenix was established. He asked a gentleman named Fermin if he would attend this retreat weekend. Fermin was not too keen to go and asked if he was the only person from Morenci going. Msgr. O’Grady told Fermin that his best friend was also thinking of going so Fermin said: “Well, if he goes, then I will go.”

So Fr. Mike quickly went to Fermin’s friend and told him about the Cursillo and invited him to go. Again, he was not very keen to go and asked if anyone else was attending from Morenci. Fr. O’Grady told him that Fermin was going and so the friend gave in and said that, yes, he would go if Fermin was going....

So, yes: *Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ!*

Thanks and God bless you,

Deo Gratias,

Fr. Kilian McCaffrey

“The more one prays, the more one wishes to pray.” (St. Jean Marie Vianney, Catechism Notes)

“Strive to live content in the midst of things that cause you discontent. Free yourself from all that troubles you. God will take care of things.” (St. Vincent de Paul)

“Until you realize that prayer is the most important thing in life, you will never have time for prayer.” (Fr. Hilary, OSB)



A FATHER'S LOVE

On July 13th we lost a great light to the Cursillo Movement and the entire Church when our beloved friend and spiritual advisor, Monsignor Michael O'Grady peacefully went home to be with our heavenly Father on his fifth day. How can one begin to describe the impact of this delightful little man on everyone that he touched in his over sixty years of service in the priesthood? Even though we will all miss him dearly, rather than feeling sadness, I find my heart filled with joy at every memory that I have of him.

I was blessed to first meet him when he and Monsignor John McMahon served him as spiritual directors on my Cursillo weekend years ago. In many ways for me, Monsignor O'Grady was the personification of what Cursillo is. I've often reflected that we don't necessarily take away complex theological teachings from Cursillo, but more importantly we learn to gain an understanding of just how much we are loved by Our Heavenly Father, and to share in that love with our family in Christ and His Church. Monsignor would often say that he only had two homilies, and if that's true, God's love was the central theme of both of them, and we never grew tired of hearing it. With his humble sense of humor he always had a joke to tell or would willingly poke fun at himself, and in doing so he taught us not take ourselves too seriously. I recall one particularly funny Clausura when Monsignor said "God is our Father, and parents Love the sound of their children's laughter".

One line that he often used, and I am reminded of daily, was to not worry about being perfect, sure you could aim for it, but as he would say "Your aim is not that good, you'll miss it every time." I've heard it said that "The more saintly the soul of a confessor, the less he dwells on the gravity of the offense and the more on the love of the offender." If you've ever had the pleasure of making the sacrament of reconciliation with Monsignor O'Grady, you'll know exactly what that statement means. There is an uplifting feeling when you've confessed whatever is burdening you and the priest in Persona Christi, the person of Christ with a charming Irish brogue, absolves you of your sins and tells you "Don't be so hard on yourself, you're doing all right."

Monsignor loved to teach that God's grace wasn't something that we needed to earn, but that it was a gift freely given, and "All we had to do was SHOW UP!" There were many times in my life that I felt God's grace when Monsignor O'Grady would just show up at unexpected times and places, even in conversation with mutual acquaintances. He had many friends as I found out when I learned of an executive that I knew in the secular world, and his golfing trips to Ireland with his good buddy, Father Mike.

The greatest moments of grace, though, were those where Monsignor would show up in person, with his trusty bible in his hand and a smile on his face that brought joy into any environment. I have a great memory of a day when I was working as a counselor at Holy Cross Cemetery and Monsignor came early to do a graveside service before any of the family had arrived. We sat on a bench under a tree near the first Station of the Cross and as he opened his bible we talked for about thirty minutes about a particular scripture passage that he was going to be reading from for the family. While admittedly I don't recall what passage we spoke of that day, it was a great lesson for me on how to approach scripture. He had a special relationship with God through the Word, and would find a specific line to focus on that struck him in a particularly vivid way. I can hear him saying, with a strong emphasis on the L in the word love; "I LOVE that little line, just the simplicity of it".

Of course he had his favorites and he would insist on giving certain talks to include them during Cursillo weekends, such as the Samaritan woman at the well from John's gospel who "shows up" for an encounter with Christ, and rather than finding judgement and shame over her sinfulness, is moved to ask for God's grace as she says to Jesus "Give me this water."

I was reminded of this in today's gospel from Saint Luke for the 17th Sunday of ordinary time on the Our Father and persistence in prayer when Jesus says "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." The first step to receiving heavenly grace is you just have to show up and ask. The gospel then goes on to speak of the giving love from a Father's heart, and closes with the

line that I know Monsignor would grab onto: "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" Oh, how he must have loved that line!

As we move on into a future without our beloved Father O'Grady being physically present on our Cursillo journey, I hope that our memories of him will be a constant reminder of Our Father's presence and great Love for us.

Eternal rest grant onto your servant Michael, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him; May he rest in peace. And may Monsignor Michael O'Grady's light continue to shine on the Cursillo Movement, and on all who have felt the warmth and joy of his love for Our Lord, and for us God's children, for years to come. Amen.

De Colores!

Joe Fairlie

MAY CHOIRS OF ANGELS

lead you into Paradise

and may the martyrs come to welcome you;

to bring you home into the Holy City

so you may dwell in New Jerusalem.

May holy angels be there at your welcoming

with all the saints who go before you there.

That you may know the peace and joy of paradise,

that you may enter into everlasting rest.

**You are Invited to a
Special Event!
Saturday
August 17, 2019
From
9 AM to 11 AM**



**Cursillo School of Leaders is pleased to present the
2019 Cursillo Sponsor's Workshop**

*This program will provide the information you need to effectively
sponsor a new generation of Cursillistas for upcoming weekends.*

*You will be given the tools to prepare your candidates to
receive all that is available from the Cursillo experience.*

**Mount Claret Retreat Center
Conference Center
4633 N 54th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85018**

Light Brunch Provided

Please RSVP to Precursillo@phoenixcursillo.com

CALENDAR AND EVENTS

CALENDAR

August 2019

- Aug. 6 6:30 PM SOL (Mt. Claret)
Aug. 10 9:15 AM ULTREYA (Miles Jesu)
Aug. 13 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Mt. Claret)
Aug. 17 9:00 AM Sponsor Workshop (Mt. Claret)
Aug. 22 MEN'S SPANISH #923 (Flagstaff)
Aug. 24 9:00 AM ULTREYA (St. James, Phoenix)

September 2019

- Sept. 3 6:30 PM SOL (Mt. Claret)
Sept. 10 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Mt. Claret)
Sept. 12 WOMEN'S SPANISH #924 (Flagstaff)
Sept. 18 7:00 PM Eng Weekend Orientation (Mt. Claret)
Sept. 21 11:00 AM Diocesan Eng/Span Ultreya (Mt. Claret)
Sept. 28 9:30 AM Westside Ultreya (TBD)

UPCOMING THREE DAY WEEKENDS

- Flagstaff: Men's Spanish #923 Aug. 22-25
Women's Spanish #924 Sept. 12-15
Mt. Claret: Men's English #925 Oct. 3-6;
Women's English #926 Oct. 17-20
Mt. Claret: Men's Spanish #927 Nov. 14-17;
Women's Spanish #928 Nov. 21-24

2020

- Mt. Claret: Men's English Jan. 16-19;
Women's English Jan. 30-Feb. 2
Mt. Claret: Men's English April 16-20;
Women's English April 30-May 3
Mt. Claret: Men's English Oct. 22-25;
Women's English Nov. 5-8
*Please Note! 2020 weekend numbers will be assigned
when the Spanish Weekend and Flagstaff Weekend
schedules are known.*

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND YOU WISH TO SPONSOR?

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

A list of Parish Representatives can be found at <https://www.phoenixcursillo.com>

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

OTHER ULTREYAS

Saturday, August 10, 2019

Miles Jesu Community

1925 E Baseline Rd, Phx

7:30 AM Holy Hour

8:30 AM Mass; 9:15 AM Ultreya

Bring your Pilgrim's Guide!

Confessions available

during Holy Hour



Saturday, August 24, 2019

St. James Church

19640 N. 35th Ave., Glendale

Conference Rooms 1 and 2

8:00 am Mass

Pot luck and Ultreya follow

"Save the Date"

Diocesan Ultreya & Potluck

Saturday, September 21, 2019

10:30 am Gather

11:00 am to 12:30 pm Ultreya

12:30 pm Potluck & Fellowship

(Appetizer A-E/Salads F-I/Main Dish J-O/Sides P-S/Desserts T-Z)

Come Experience the Love of Cursillo

A time to encourage and support one another in faith; share our lives

in friendship as we live out Christianity within our community.

All are Welcome!

Mount Claret Conference Hall

4633 N. 54th Street Phoenix, AZ 85018

Please R.S.V.P. to micknmelissa@cox.net

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...



SERVANT OF GOD, EDUARDO BONNÍN

On February 15, 2015, The Chancellor of the Diocese of Mallorca, Spain, read the written petition as the first step toward the beatification of the founder of the Cursillo Movement, Eduardo Bonnín Aguilo. The petition was presented by the Cursillo Secretariat of the Diocese of Mallorca, and was solicited by the national Secretariats of Italy, Portugal, and El Salvador. Bonnín can now be called Servant of God, and we can pray for his intercession. Any miracles which occur as the result of his intercession can be submitted to the postulator, Father Gabriel Ramis, at Feba-usa.org, as a possible step toward the cause of beatification or canonization of Eduardo Bonnín.

Vatican approved prayer for intercession

“Oh God, the dispenser of all graces and charisms, You granted your servant Eduardo Bonnín 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 favore 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.)

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).



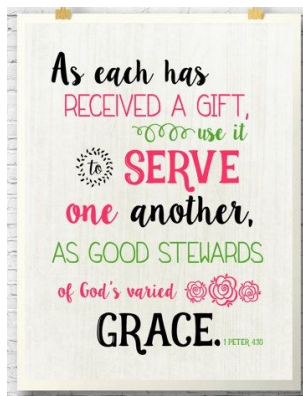
SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

We have all heard the “Sermon on the Amount.” We know the beauty of Mt. Claret and the legacy of Cursillo in Phoenix. It is hard to imagine having Cursillo any where else. Yes, of course, Cursillo weekends would be a life-giving and God-serving part of the Movement in Phoenix if held almost anywhere, but those of us who lived our weekends at Mt. Claret know the special meaning of “going up to the mountain.”

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! The Cursillo Movement runs primarily from your generous contributions and fundraisers. Won’t you please prayerfully consider how you can help? How about \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month? Help us safeguard the vision of the Claretian priests who were the caretakers of the Movement in Phoenix in the beginning, and all those Cursillistas, along with Msgr. McMahon, whose stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) and love over the years were instrumental in the beautiful Holy ground that is Mt. Claret Retreat Center today.

Here are two ways to donate: automatically at EASYTITHE.COM/CURSILLO or by making checks out to the Cursillo Movement and mailing to Cursillo, Mt. Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N 54th St, Phoenix, AZ 85018. And no worries, you will be tapped up for

Please prayerfully consider serving and supporting your Cursillo Community.



SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

Give online at www.easytithes.com/Cursillo or make checks out to the Cursillo Movement.

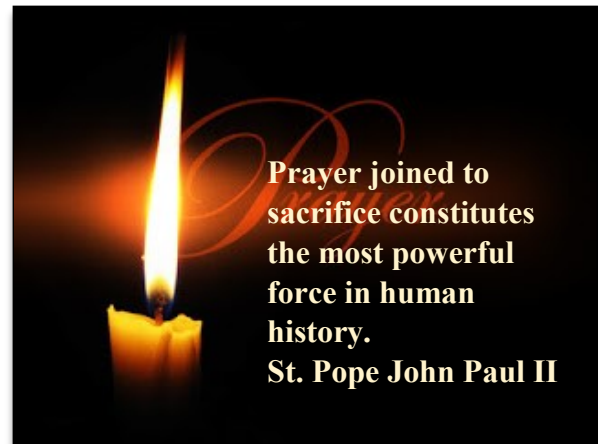
Record your prayers and sacrifices for upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses either on the form below or on the website. Palanca is gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the US and Internationally. Send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

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. 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 Website: www.phoenixcursillo.com

(602) 840-5066