

THE VOICE

AUGUST 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S MESSAGE

Daily Prayer and Growing Deeper in It

Prayer is key to our relationship with God. We all have heard this and we all know this, but we aren't all doing it. And some of those who are doing it, are not satisfied with it.

Daily prayer is our time to converse with the Lord and give Him personal, private time – time you would give to the one you love. Husbands, should you not enjoy spending time alone with your wife; wives, with your husband? It should be no different for God, because we are supposed to love Him even more than a spouse. When we intentionally show up for prayer and are attentive towards Him, we are in effect saying to God, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sam 3:10)

We know that we must spend time with Him each day, and preferably some of that time should focus on interior prayer. The fourth pillar of the Catechism, Christian Prayer, mentions three levels of prayer: vocal, meditative and contemplative.

Vocal prayer allows us to speak out loud to God, intercede for others through petition and give Him praise. Isaiah even sensed as vocal prayer, the angelic praise of the angels' in his vision 6:3, "And one called to another and said: "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory."

But, we should all desire to grow deeper in our prayer and a great way to do that is to practice Christian meditation.

The Lord told us, "When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you." (Mt 6:6)

Christian meditative prayer gives us a chance to quiet down, to shut off the noise of the world, even our own audible voices, and be silent. This makes the adoration chapel an awesome place for quiet, more interior prayer with the beautiful benefit of having the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist right there in front of you. On any given day

FR. DAN VANYO (Fall 1998)

though, any place can work for meditative prayer, as long as it is an environment where you are free from distractions.

One can meditate on Holy Scripture (Lectio Divina) or meditate on a holy object (e.g. a crucifix or icon) or perhaps, and with spiritual direction, practice Ignatian meditation.

Spend at least 30 minutes (or up to an hour at a time), meditating on the Word of God or by focusing on a holy object with your eyes closed or perhaps open. Afterwards, journal the thoughts and insights that come to your mind and heart. This is a way in which the Lord can speak personally and directly to you.

Meditation stretches our ability to be more interiorly quiet and be more able to encounter His voice amidst the silence of our hearts. Practicing meditation will further dispose the soul to receiving higher graces of contemplation in the future. Thus, deeper satisfaction awaits the souls who dare to desire deeper levels of His love.

Daily prayer on this earth is practice for Eternal prayer in heaven. So, the first step is to make the habit of daily prayer a reality.

Father Dan
St. Anne Catholic Church

"My little children, your hearts are small, but prayer stretches them and makes them capable of loving God. Through prayer we receive a foretaste of heaven and something of paradise comes down upon us. Prayer never leaves us without sweetness. It is honey that flows into the souls and makes all things sweet. When we pray properly, sorrows disappear like snow before the sun." Saint John Vianney (Feast Day - August 4)

CALENDAR AND ULTREYA

August 2107

Aug. 1 6:30 pm SOL (Mt. Claret)
Aug. 8 6:30 pm Secretariat (Mt. Claret)
Aug. 12-13 Secretariat Retreat (Mt. Claret)
Aug. 19 9:30 am SOL (St. Agnes)
Aug. 19 Following SOL Ultreya (St. Agnes)
Aug. 25 6:30 pm Ultreya (Blsd Sacrament, Scts)
Aug. 26 9:30 am Ultreya (St. James)

September 2107

Sept. 5 6:30 pm SOL (Mt. Claret)
Sept. 12 6:30 pm Secretariat (Mt. Claret)
Sept. 16 9:30 am SOL (St. Agnes)
Sept. 23 TBD Diocesan Ultreya (Mt. Claret)
Sept. 30 8:30 am Ultreya (St. Anne, Gilbert)

Upcoming Events

Parish Rep and Sponsor Workshop - October 7 (see page 3)

English Weekend Orientation - October 18

Men's English #905 - November 2-5

Women's English #906 - November 16-19

FIESTA! February 3, 2018

— *Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ* —

ULTREYA!

Saturday, August 19, 2017

St. Agnes

2311 E. Palm Ln, Phoenix
(Following SOL)

Friday, August 25, 2017

Blessed Sacrament, Scottsdale

11300 N. 64th St., Scottsdale
Mass 6:00 pm; Potluck follows
7:00 pm Ultreya

Saturday, August 26, 2017

St. James Church

19640 N 35th Ave, Glendale
Mass 8:00 am; Potluck follows
9:30 am Ultreya

Mark Your Calendars!

Diocesan Ultreya at Mt. Claret!

Saturday Morning, September 23

Saturday, September 30, 2017

St. Anne Church

440 E. Elliot Rd, Gilbert (JPII Room)

Mass 8:00 am; Potluck follows

9:00 am Ultreya

Interested in hosting an Ultreya?

Please contact Brenda Hope at postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com

2017 Annual Marian Conference

August 25-27, 2017

DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort

Speakers include Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC

author of ***33 Days to Morning Glory***

For info go to <http://www.arizonapeacecenter.org/>



Calling ALL Cursillistas!
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
Come One - Come All!



You are hereby invited to attend:
"A Time to Build"
Parish Representative Forum
and Sponsor's Workshop



October 7th, 2017

7:30 am - 12:30 pm

Please REGISTER AT: atimetobuild.eventbrite.com

Please join us at Mount Claret Retreat Center in the Conference Room for a re-connecting, educational morning brought to you by Precursillo & Postcursillo Teams of the Diocese of Phoenix Cursillo Movement.

Isn't it wonderful that we have 'The Voice' as a monthly replacement for Ye Olde Towne Crier from the olden days? Times, they are a changin'!!

In this digital age, we often seek information at warped speed and in condensed fashion. Our busy lives condition us to being super-efficient with our time and resources. The Cursillo Teams have taken this into consideration in their modulated presentations.

The obvious question is, "Why Should I Attend This Event?"

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Well, **the Parish Representative Forum** is a comprehensive orientation, geared to current Reps and to 'wanna be' Reps. We cover the administrative basics and much, much more; including directives,

communications, resources and support. It runs from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.. Attendees are encouraged to remain and participate in the Sponsor's Workshop.

The Sponsor's Workshop is a dynamic presentation, which focuses on the 'gift' of Sponsorship. This presentation is 'Sponsorship on Steroids' - it's a MUST for all Cursillistas!!!

Now, you may be thinking; "I've sponsored a number of Candidates in the past; I know what Sponsorship is all about and how to do it!" Much like the Parish Representative Forum, we cover basics, 'soup-to-nuts', and more; as we purposefully re-orient, in an in-depth manner, all of the defining measures relative to leading a Candidate toward a unique and blessed Cursillo experience. If you think you know the mechanics of Sponsorship, then, come to learn 'what's new', become enlightened and share this with your Candidate(s).

Please set aside this time and join us for the beginning of a developing Precursillo and Postcursillo curricula focused on enlightenment, joy, education and execution. Just go to the website provided - see the Registration Info, FAQs, and Contact Info. We look forward to seeing you - Get your ticket online (this will enable us to get an accurate count of committed attendees).

WE ARE CALLED TO BE LEADERS!

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5: 14-16)

Let's continue to shine... See you on October 7th.
De Colores!!!!



FROM OUR LAY DIRECTOR

De Colores, Cursillo Community!

We will be back by the time you read this, but as I am preparing for this issue of the Voice, my wife and I are getting ready to leave for the National Encounter in San Antonio, Texas. We will be driving on Wednesday, July 26th and getting to San Antonio by Thursday, the 27th. Pray that we arrive safely, and that the Encounter brings forth much fruit! I will be sharing what I gleaned from the Encounter in the next installment of the Voice, along with notes to share from a visit with Bishop Nevares.

Now I offer a reflection that came to me through prayer in adoration for a recent team formation. It is a study on the Kingdom of God, and how it can be found in our everyday lives, if we keep our eyes and ears open and listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Parable of the Mustard Seed. Then he said, "What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that a person took and planted in the garden. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and 'the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches.'" (Mt 13: 31-32)

The Parable of the Yeast. Again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed [in] with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened." (Mt 13: 33)

The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has

been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand." (Mt. 13: 10-13)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit." Mt 28:19

The kingdom of God is like...a baseball game! If you look at the field of baseball, it is diamond shaped, bringing to mind the Holy Trinity. There are four bases that need to be crossed before you can score. I would liken the first three to the Godhead of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Many saints had an intimate relationship to the Holy Trinity. St. Elizabeth of the Holy Trinity, and St. Sergius come to mind. We can consider getting to know the Triune God in our spiritual journey as getting on the three bases, until the time when our loving Father calls us home!

"At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you together; yea, I will make you renowned and praised among all peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord." (Zeph 3:20)

The number three is also found in three strikes per batter, and three outs per inning. The nine players per team and nine innings per game can be associated with the nine-day novenas that we pray for various intentions. The seventh inning stretch can remind us of the seven Sacraments that the church provides as signs of God's

Organizational Meetings Starting in August—call Terry McDonald to help! (602) 920-5161

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! *The Fiesta committee, led by Terry McDonald from St. Anne's Parish, is in the process of organizing this community event for every Cursillista in the Diocese; English and Spanish. It will be February 3rd at Mt. Claret. If you would like to volunteer to be part of this event, please call Terry at (602) 920-5161 or email info@phoenixcursillo.com.*



presence in our lives. Speaking of signs, that is what the coaches, batters, and pitchers look for during the game for any advantage.

But he answered them, "an evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign; but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." (Mt 12: 39)

The Lord commands us not to steal, but in the game of baseball, it is perfectly fine to steal base, if you are not thrown out by the catcher. I would compare this to our souls stealing God's heart, who loves us unto madness, while the world, the flesh, and the devil do everything in their power to thwart the soul's advance to God.

The relationship of the pitcher and the batter can be analogous to the relationship between God and man. The pitch thrown is the will of God for us, and the focus of the batter upon the ball as it comes is our attentiveness to connect to God's will. We might connect solidly for a hit, which is perfect conformity to His will. We could foul it off, which is mixing our will with God's perfect will for us. We might swing and strike, which is doing our own thing. We could let it go completely, discerning that this pitch is not God's will, but the tempter trying to get us out of conformity with God. Lastly, we might get hit by the pitch, which would be God getting our attention to listen to him. This can be painful, but in God's mercy, He allows us a free pass to first base, to get to know Him better. Another thought to keep in mind: the batter is always studying the pitcher to know his inclinations, what pitch he likes to throw in certain situations; so it is with us who want to follow the Lord's will for our lives. We study God



in the scriptures, in nature, in our past experiences, etc.

"Enter by the narrow gate, since the road that leads to destruction is wide and spacious, and many take it; but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Mt 7:13-14)

In the Kingdom of God, nothing is done alone. We need the help of our brothers and sisters, the help of our team. In baseball sometimes a designated hitter or runner is called upon to take the place of the regular player. In the Kingdom of God, sacrifices must be made on behalf of our brothers and sisters. So it is in baseball, when a sacrifice fly or sacrifice bunt must be made to advance the runner. A dying to one's will must be established for the advancement of God's Kingdom, and for the runner.

"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom 12:1)

(To the tune of "Take me out to the Ballgame")

Take us out to the ball game
Place us into the crowd
You give us your Grace and the Sacraments
That gives us the strength to forgive and repent
So let's pray, and love one another
And give praise to His Holy Name
Or it's one, two, three strikes we're out
At the old ballgame!

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

As you may recall from working teams or when you lived your Cursillo, there is a talk given on Sunday called the "Sermon on the Amount." The Cursillo Movement continues to call Mt. Claret its home primarily from fundraisers and from your generous contributions. There are two ways to donate; automatically at easytithere.com/Cursillo or make checks out to the Cursillo Movement and mail it to Mt. Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N 54th St, Phoenix, AZ 85018. Just think: if every Cursillista living in the valley could give just \$5.00 a month, the Cursillo Movement would run debt free!



Witness of Piety - Study - Action

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. (Luke 4:14)

Remembering back to my Cursillo, when my life changed, I understand I was now given a direction. My daughter and son-in-law (Ericka and David Barrios) brought me to Cursillo. It really should have been the opposite, I should have been the one to bring them to the Cursillo. Many people invited me over the previous year, but I was not listening to God's call.

My Cursillo was where I found how much of a merciful God we have; where I realized that going to confession was no longer dreadful, but a privilege and joy; allowing God's mercy to clean the soul. The Cursillo is a three-day opportunity to turn off the outside world and the chance to talk with God, and more importantly the chance to listen to what God needs us to hear. As Sr. Cecelia Schlaefel, CSA, would say, "Just sit quietly and let God speak to you."

In the Gospel with Martha and Mary, Martha asked: "Lord, don't you care that my sister Mary has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha" the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her." (Luke 10:40-42)

I now follow God in my daily activities, knowing each day He has given me one more opportunity to become one with Him. Fr. John Shetler advised me: "Steve, let your earthly life be your purgatory."

Here in the Valley of the Sun, we have all kinds of distractions and noise to keep us pre-occupied. It can be really hard to turn off everything around you to find that private time to give God His time. I find that time in my waking hours; God deserves my start of the day for that quiet time and the rosary.

"The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63) We all need to find our quiet time for God has so much He needs us to hear!

God Bless,
Steve Nosal
(Cursillo # 829
Nov. 2011)



Your Voice!

HELP WANTED!

Parish Reps Needed: To see if your parish is one of those not covered, please go to our website:

phoenixcursillo.webs.com. If interested, please contact Brenda Hope at (Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com) or Nancy Kijewski at (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.

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).

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 750 words will be eligible, email them to info@phoenixcursillo.com, or mail them to the Center and include your contact information.

Question and Answers: On our website (www.phoenixcursillo.com) there is a contact form. Fill out the form with your questions and they will be answered by the appropriate committee by personal response or in an upcoming Voice. Or just drop an email to info@phoenixcursillo.com.

SPECIAL PALANCA REQUEST *Please remember the Secretariat in your prayers on August 12-13 as they attend a retreat at Mt. Claret led by Father John Hannigan, Deacon Bob Carey and Deacon Frank Devine.*

Record your prayers and sacrifices on behalf of upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses. On the new website there is a form for General Palanca. Palanca will be gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the US and Internationally. Besides online, you may also send a record of these by email to info@phoenixcursillo.com, by mail to Cursillo Movement, 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 Cursillo Movement all over the world.

GENERAL PALANCA

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is now 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 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.

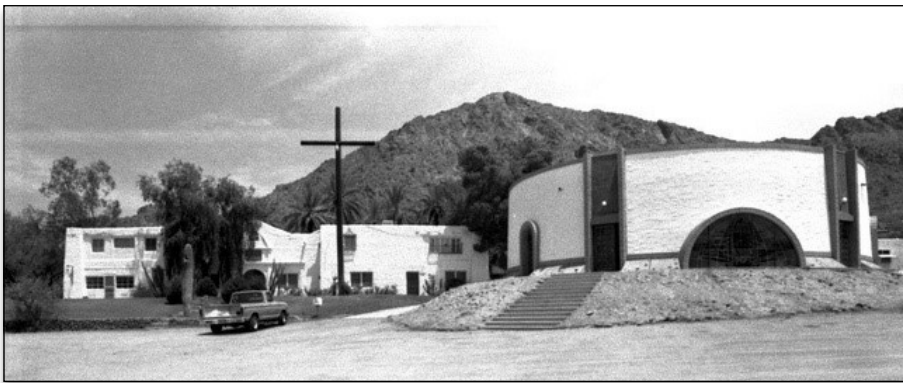
Please help us keep the Cursillo records up to date.

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 x42**

MT. CLARET CURSILLO CHAPEL, A JOURNEY OF FAITH



A note about this article: This is the third of three installments of Mr. Chris Doran's recollection of how the Mt. Claret Cursillo Chapel was built. Mr. Doran (Cursillo # 139) contacted the office because he was looking for assistance finding Cursillo numbers for the men who helped plan and construct the chapel. The architect of the chapel was Cursillista Paul Murphy (#105) who

*was declared Servant of God after the cause for his canonization was opened over 15 years ago. Mr. Doran also happens to be one of the men who built the Chapel. The first and second installments can be found in the June and July 2017 editions of **The Voice**, respectively.*

Part 3 TOWARD THE FINISH LINE

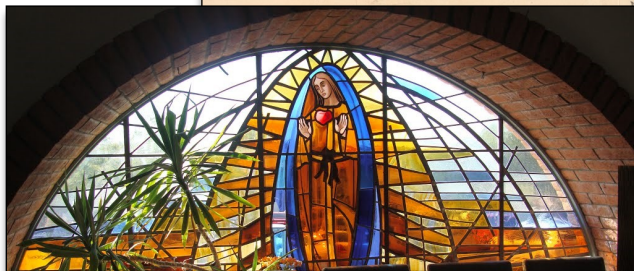
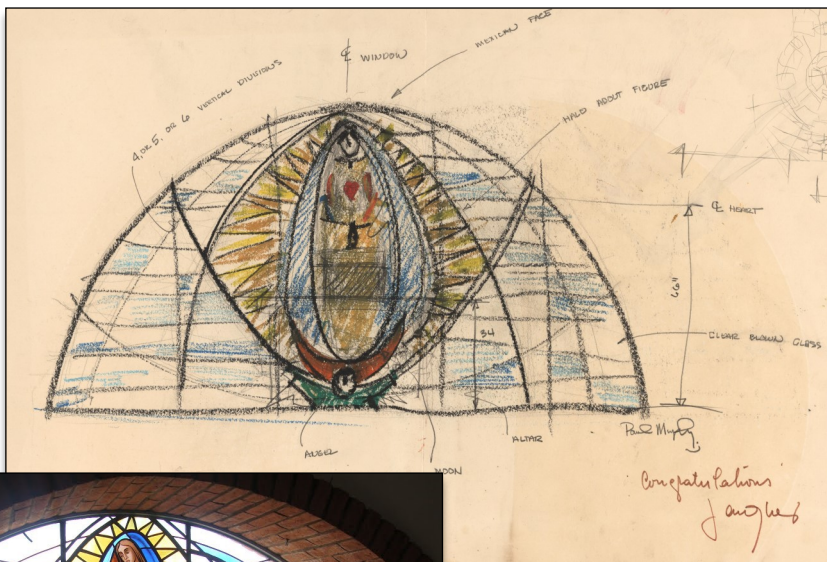
Finishing the Cursillo Chapel was a major undertaking. Numerous people donated time, treasure and hidden support.

Among the major donations for the completion of the Chapel were the wood doors. These were donated by Joe Lessard who later became a deacon and served Mt. Claret from 1995 to 2012.

Paul (Murphy) personally handled the design of the Guadalupe stained glass window. He did some sketches of what he wanted and mailed them to three or four window manufacturers for bids. They finally chose the design by a designer from "the East Coast" (whose name escapes me now). Since the glass is "Bleko Glass," a glass manufactured only by the Belko Glass Company, Milton, VA, it is possible the design was done by Richard Bleko, one of the

younger family managers of the company. Paul sent him the exact measurements for the height of Our Lady's heart which was to align with the host in the old monstrance with three gold circles they used at the time. This was to show how, as Fr. Duran explained, "Our Lady conceived Jesus in her heart before she conceived Him physically." This final "shop drawing" of the window is still in the possession of Miles Jesu.

Later directors of the center changed the location of the tabernacle to the center of the Adoration Chapel so this connection has been lost. The old monstrance was given to St. Edward's Parish when it started as a new parish in 1976. The old table is still in use in the Dining Hall lobby at the Mt. Claret.



Stucco for the outside of the Chapel was done by Charlie Phillips, an ex-Marine who

donated his services to Mt. Claret and many other parishes in the Valley patching stucco. He very carefully matched the big sweeping trowel strokes of the stucco on the main building. This he affectionately called "dinosaur scales" since they were so big. All this was covered with a smooth coat of stucco when Hugh Knoell, Architect, did the Conference center in 2005. Knoell also added the canopy which connects the Chapel to the main building and the fountain in front of the Cursillo Offices and Book Store.

Once the building was roofed, the interior finishes were started. First, the sand and plastic on the floor slabs were removed. Then, Tony and Paul hung the gyp board on the walls and sacristy/toilet ceilings. Paul instructed him to caulk the bottom of the walls between the toilets and the chapel to sound-proof the toilets. Tony proceeded to caulk all the other walls around the sacristy and the confessional just for good measure. When Paul saw what a great job Tony had done he said, “Jesus’ house will never leak!”

Charlie Phillips did the taping and texturing of the sheet rock walls and ceilings himself. He would show up after finishing his “day work” and work late into the night all by himself. Charlie very carefully imprinted a cross in the finish over the smaller doors to remind us of our passage to Heaven someday. After surviving Sipan, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, he finally graduated to his Fifth Day in 2014.

Upon arriving one morning, Paul found all the ceilings and walls textured and ready for paint, the floors cleaned with no debris lying about. He observed “There must have been a bunch of leprechauns here last night!” Someone replied, “No, just Charlie.”

Paint was purchased and “paint parties” were held on the weekends for two weeks to get everything painted. Some of the students from Brophy Prep School came to help including Pat Walsh. Oscar Diaz may also have been one of the painters. Two coats were applied according to the specification. Paul reminded the painters “No drips, runs or holidays are allowed.”

Prices to install the ceramic tile in the toilets were very high. Paul bought all the tile and grout and did it himself. He installed the cement for the floors sloping it to the drains. The tile on the walls was four feet high as required by code and is still there to this day. The floor tile was replaced in the 2002 remodeling.

Paul had the soil around the Chapel finish graded and set the wood forms for the concrete walks around the Chapel and for the vehicle access ramp on the west side. These were poured and finished with a salt texture by impressing large granules of salt into the soft top surface and letting the concrete harden. Washing the concrete with water dissolves the salt leaving small cavity in the surface. These are still visible today. Newer concrete placed in the 2006 remodeling has a smooth finish.

Paul put Tony and me to work on the sloped concrete

aprons at the bottom of the outside walls (detail 4 on sheet A3). First, we installed the dam proofing on the lower portion of the walls. Then, we wheel barreled the dirt, tamped and soaked it sloping down to the sidewalk and set the redwood 2x4’s to finish the concrete. While Tony went to get the red rocks for the Precious Blood accents, Joe Stark and I formed the stairs on the west side from the sacristy. We had the tractor operator cut the grade at the bottom of the stairs down so there would be 14 risers, one for each Station of the Cross. Two of the risers were covered with the paving of the parking lot during in the 1980’s; so only 12 risers currently show.

Paul, Joe and I wheeled and placed the concrete skirts and floated it smooth, tooled the edges of each section and left it to set.

Paul sent Tony Santa Cruz in the Center Truck to get a half ton of “red rocks” from one of the stone companies.

When Tony arrived with the red stones, together, we placed it according to Paul’s instruction “narrow on the top left with a sweep towards the bottom right.” He drew



a little sketch on a piece of paper to show us. “These symbolize the Precious Blood Jesus shed on the Cross,” he said. We did the first section by the northwest door carefully setting small stones. Paul came by and said “use the big stones like this” wherein he picked up the biggest stone and plopped it into the wet concrete. That big square stone is still there. Many of the smaller stones have been loosened by kids climbing up the inviting slopes and playing, thus the little irregular holes seen today.

Ironically, Tony and I spent many an hour, late at night, as guards for the Blessed Sacrament on First Friday nights sitting leaning back on the sloped concrete beside the Blessed Sacrament door smoking and watching the city lights. To pass the time we would discuss the ideals

MT. CLARET CURSILLO CHAPEL, A JOURNEY OF FAITH

of the Cursillo, Eduardo Bonnin, and other “hot topics” like the Charismatic Renewal and the future of Catholicism in America. Tony was a student of Free Masonry in America and was very pessimistic that the Church would escape undiminished by their scheming. His family had left Mexico in the 1920’s under the persecution of President Calles and immigrated to Phoenix. He was apprehensive that the Masons would try something similar in America. Time will tell.

Light fixtures were purchased by Paul from one of the wholesale houses. The dressing of the wires and mounting of the lamps was done by his brother, Don, in the evenings. For the Chapel Troffer lights (detail 10 on sheet A4), Paul had me install the brackets to hold the 1x10 wood valances which covered the 4 foot long florescent fixtures which we mounted directly on the bottom of the four main beams in the chapel. Next, I mounted the 1x10’s and painted them brown. Paul put the plastic “Parahex” lenses in the bottom of the valances himself. These were also removed in the 2002 remodeling.

The words “May He be the Center of all Human Life” came from Fr. Duran (source unknown). Paul ordered the letters and mixed the concrete himself pressing the letters into the soft concrete straight with a level. Fortunately, these were not covered when some over-zealous decorator insisted on putting carpet on the cheap concrete floors in the chapel. The Spartan frugality of the original chapel was slowly being covered by middle class comfort.

Paul hired two finish carpenters to hang the big wood doors and the cabinets in the Sacristy. John Walrath (Cursillo #119) helped them with the moving and hanging that afternoon. When they finished at 3 o’clock, Paul had them etch the floor in the chapel with muriatic acid to get

the stains off. They washed the floors after with water and swept it out the two northerly doors into the planter.

The Guadalupe Window glass arrived a few days before the dedication in big wood boxes. Paul and Oscar Diaz (age 17) carefully installed them. Some had to be filed to remove the bumps in the solder at the joints in the leading strips (between pieces of glass). But in the pushing and tugging, two panes broke leaving little cracks in the glass. These are still visible today with aluminum tape on them.

Tom Swisher, who later became a deacon, (Cursillo #119) installed the sheet metal collar below the sky light and Paul had someone set three strands of wire to hold the big crucifix with the metal corpus on it in the center above

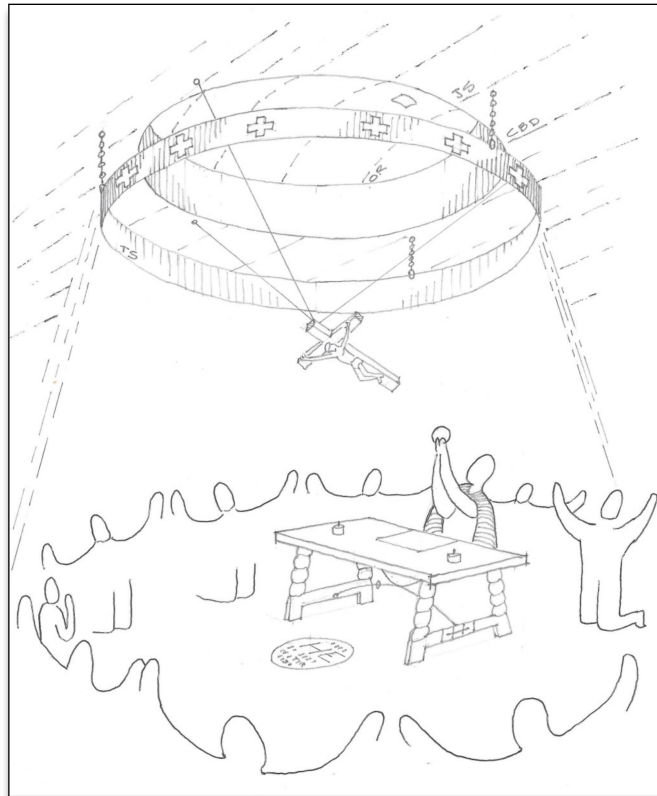
the altar (sketch attached). This was taken down and used for the “biggest sinner” to hold during the Stations of the Cross on Friday night of the Cursillo weekend.

The original altar was a big Mexican table taken from the old Chapel. It had a thick wood top with iron legs. Fr. Duran had it placed just to the south of the center circle so the congregation would be able to see the directly under the altar.

The night before the Dedication, we all worked until midnight cleaning construction debris, windows and setting chairs and tables for the dinner in the lawn area.

The day of the Dedication, April 19, 1969, over 1,500 people attended. Cars were parked all the way down 54th Street and on Camelback Road.

The Dedication Mass was accompanied by the Mexican Mariachi singers with many of the joyful songs from the Cursillo, some in Spanish and some in English. Since the Cursillo had spread to the Diocese of Los Angeles from Mt. Claret, Cardinal McIntyre came to officiate at the blessing and first Mass (photo attached).



Several Claretian priests also came from California and Chicago including Fr. McPallen, the Provincial Superior who had told Fr. Duran he would not give any money to build the Chapel. Msgr. John McMahan from St. Theresa's Parish, a long-time supporter of the Cursillo Movement, came and said a few words. Donations from his parish are also memorialized on the Plaque. He later became the director of the Cursillo Center after the Claretians withdrew due to lack of priests in 1988.

My parents came from Los Angeles to see what I had been working on. Paul's parents also attended from Wilmette, IL. Both of our families ended up sitting together in the dinner which followed the Dedication Mass. The pot luck dinner featured all kinds of food, drinks and desserts. Only the people who could not pick up a plate went home hungry.

Architecturally, the Cursillo Center Chapel was the second round church built in the state of Arizona, after Mt.

Carmel in Tempe which was opened in 1968. It represented more than just a liturgical building; it was the result of the blood, sweat, and tears of hundreds of people with donations of money, materials, labor, and palanca (sacrificial prayer). Many people helped pray the Chapel to completion, like Mrs. Abrill (Cursillo #31) who came every Friday

night during the construction and prayed for an hour (or more) before the Blessed Sacrament for the success of the work. Upon leaving the old Adoration Chapel, located on the northeast corner of the main building, she could be heard saying "mucho palanca, mucho palanca." Her name is also on the plaque.

Paul Murphy envisioned that the Chapel would be a great artistic statement about the Passion but the budget gave him a slightly tapered white stucco cylinder with restrained Southwest details and style. The only remaining remnant of his vision of representing the crucifixion was the sloped apron at the bottom of the main

walls with the red stones representing the Shed Blood of Jesus. What God gave the Cursillo Movement was a great step forward for bigger gatherings for both the Cursillo and for other retreats and daily (evening) Mass.

The Memorial Plaque, mounted on the east wall of the Adoration Chapel includes the names of many donors and families representing groups of donors. The Edward P. Murphy Family represents not only Paul and Don but the many benefactors who supported Paul from the Cursillo Men's Community while he managed the construction. The Anastasia Stark Family represents many local donors who gave funds to Joe Stark to support his time as a carpenter. The Dr. Frank Fernandez represents many of Frank's friends who donated via him such as Omar Reed. The George Clark and Richard Zigman families also collected donations from friends in their parishes, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Scottsdale and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Tempe, respectively.



Cardinal McIntyre (with Miter on), Fr. Duran (with black hair), and Fr. McPallen to his right.

Lastly, Tony Barajas received single notation as he was the one who secured, indirectly, the first big donation from Jack Steward.

Up until Cursillo 400, in El Rollo Dólares (the fund raising talk on Sunday afternoon), many of the older Rollistas would give the account of how the Cursillo came to

Phoenix, the early years in the basement of Immaculate Heart Church, how Tony Santa Cruz drove a car from his used car lot to Waco, Texas with the candidates for Cursillo #1. Tony Barajas was always given proper credit for his stellar honesty and for getting the fundraising going. George Clark, who loved giving the Rollo if he was on the team, would emphasize how a dedicated little band of Cursillistas begged for and built the Cursillo Chapel. We hope the facts of this little miracle will not go forgotten and that this tradition lives on as an example of Laity in the Church.

Next month, more inside stories about the Chapel.