

THE

VOICE

DECEMBER 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

The Joy of Seeing God's Face: A Short Advent Meditation for Cursillistas from Fr. Kilian McCaffrey

LOVE beyond all imagining
and all knowing.
... already born over 2,000
years ago and renewed each year in in our hearts, as it
always is at this dark and cold time of year.
... is coming in to our world - and coming soon.

We are now beginning the great season of Advent. Each December we look up at the beautiful, clear night skies of the Southwest to see “the Heavens proclaiming the glory of God” (Psalm 19), and we focus our gaze toward Bethlehem in Advent at the beginning of a new liturgical year. Every Advent is an opportunity to get to know God better by getting deeper into the Scriptures: The Word of God.

We prepare and meditate on “the image of the invisible God, the first-born of creation” as St. Paul writes to the Colossians, the eternally begotten Son of the Father and “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through him all things were made.” (from the Nicene Creed)

This Liturgical Year of 2018 we will focus in on the Gospel of Mark; with the beginning bolstered with the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, with their wonderful genealogies of Jesus, as well as the Gospel of John.

As Steve Ray tells us in his Bible Study website, *CatholicConvert.com*: “Mark preaches Jesus to the Romans as a servant with no genealogy; Luke portrays Jesus as humanity to the Greeks with a genealogy going back to Adam; John tells the world Jesus is divine and as God He has no genealogy. Matthew, however, adeptly presents Jesus to His people as Messiah and King with royal pedigree through the kings to David and back to Abraham the Patriarch of Israel (*Matthew: Understanding the Tax Collector and his Gospel*).

So Christ is all things to all men; He is All in All. The great biblical themes are apparent. Added to this, we very directly focus in on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, commonly referred to as the Fifth Gospel.

Our senses are overpowered and overawed by the symbolism of the Season of Advent leading up to Christmas.

We remember the Star of Bethlehem (the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 2) and the glory of Creation welcoming the New Creation, Christ Our King.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we always focus on each of the four different virtues that Jesus, The Word Made Flesh, brings to us, namely: Hope (Spes), the First Sunday; Love (Amor), the Second Sunday; Joy (Gaudium), the Third Sunday; and Peace (Pax) on the Fourth and last Sunday.

Of course, the Advent Wreath, with its four candles, symbolizes the coming of the Light into the world.

We also get to focus on John the Baptist, preparing the Way of the Lord, and The Holy Family of Mary of Nazareth, Joseph of Bethlehem and indeed the whole reason of the history of salvation is waiting in anticipation of God coming to save and comfort His people.

To paraphrase the late, great Irish author and playwright John B. Keane, “For many people Christmas is not a great time, not a happy and joyful time: but Christmas is so great that it can absorb all the pain, all the heartache, all the loss and all the suffering of the world - and still have Love leftover, overflowing in abundance.”

Seize the time, seize the grace!

Among many excellent daily resources available for this season of Advent is Fr. Mark Toups’ beautiful Marian study, “Theotokos” (meaning ‘God-Bearer’) which takes us on a stunning journey, step-by-step and Word-by-Word, through St.

Luke’s and St. Matthew’s Nativity Scriptures (<https://marktoups.com/theotokos>). Also, Bishop Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet’s book *Meditations for Advent* is a very serene,



Fr. Kilian, continued from page 1

peaceful journey through Advent. Both of these resources are available online.

Finally, if you have not yet seen Frederick Larson's "The Star of Bethlehem" presentation, then you need to whistle up a bunch of Cursillistas, get on to YouTube, search for "Bethlehem Star" and watch this stunning and fascinating study on the scriptural and scientific explanation of just exactly what the Star of Bethlehem was and what it says to us today.*

So, prepare to journey with Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Gabriel the Archangel, John the Baptist, shepherds and kings. You will not be disappointed. (Even if your name is Greg Biltz...)

Praying you all have a happy and Holy Advent,
Fr. Kilian

*Try clicking on this link for The Star of Bethlehem, or cut and paste it into your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGUIWa2r-bk>

CALENDAR

December 2017

- Dec. 5 6:30 pm SOL (Mt. Claret)
- Dec. 11 5:30 pm Fiesta Mtg (Mt. Claret)
- Dec. 12 6:30 pm Secretariat (Mt. Claret)
- Dec. 16 9:30 am SOL (St. Agnes)

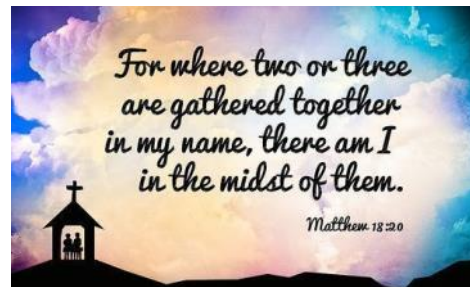
January 2018

- Jan. 2 6:30 pm SOL (Mt. Claret)
- Jan. 3 7:00 pm Orientation (Mt. Claret)
- Jan. 9 6:30 pm Secretariat (Mt. Claret)
- Jan. 18-21 Men's English Weekend #907
- Jan. 20 9:30 am SOL (St. Agnes)
- Jan. 21 Time TBA Clausura for #907
- Jan. 27 9:00 am Ultreya
(Westside, Location TBA)

Upcoming Events

- FIESTA! February 3, 2018 at Mt. Claret
- Women's English Weekend #908 Feb. 15-18, 2018

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



The next Ultreya is January 27, 2018 at one of the westside parishes. Location will be announced.

*Interested in hosting an Ultreya?
Please contact Brenda Hope at
postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com.*

ULTREYA!



Fiesta!
Feb. 3, 2018
11am - 4pm

Rummage Sale!

Along with the entertainment, food, and games, we will be holding a rummage sale. Advent is a time of preparation - and we all are preparing our homes for Christmas; does that include a good clear out? Do you have gently used items to donate to our rummage sale? A pod will be available at the beginning January at Mt. Claret. Items not sold during the Fiesta will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Charities. For information contact Rummage Sale Coordinators Jo-Ann and Ruben Trevizo at 480-489-6476.

NOTE: Please do NOT bring anything for the sale to Mt. Claret before the pod is installed! Thanks!

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

DeColores, Cursillistas!

In November we held two Cursillos; Men's Cursillo #905 and Women's Cursillo #906. Let us welcome and lift up the eleven men and twenty women who lived their Cursillos and are now living their 4th day! The candidates on these two weekends had the opportunity to experience the graces of palanca through twenty-four additional hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Nevares requested that adoration would take place from Thursday night of the Cursillo until Sunday noon. I would like to commend the Cursillo community for filling every hour available during these two Cursillos. The adoration took place at the community center at Mt. Claret, and kept the cloister of the weekend intact. The spiritual fruit of this palanca will surely be felt in the future of our Cursillo movement. Spending time with Jesus is always time well spent!

As with the past several articles, I will continue to expound on the Leaders Prayer of the Cursillo.



Instill in us courage in our initiatives

What is courage? A life in Christ is courageous. Courage is also a gift of the Holy Spirit. Our Catholic faith calls us to live a life that is counter-cultural to what the world lives. For me, a good barometer of courage is how comfortable I am living in my one square meter. Am I feeling the challenge to be courageous by sharing my piety, study, and action with others? Or do I take the easy road of complacency, not speaking the truth when needed, not defending the weak and vulnerable around me?

If I don't take the initiative and move on opportunities presented to me, then I am not a good leader, servant or steward. God has instilled within each person gifts and

talents, and when we use them we grow to become the person we were created to be, that is "fully human".

Good judgment in our choice of the right means

Everything we have is a gift from God. God loves us so much that He does not force anything upon us. He gives us our freedom to make the right choices. These choices come from other gifts that God gives us; our memories, and our intellect. With constant prayer to the Holy Spirit, He guides us to the right means.

Our memories are identified with our life's experiences. No one else has them. Even if someone has very similar experiences, they do not possess them in the same way that we possess them.

Our intellect includes all the understanding that has come into our life. It is knowledge learned through formal and informal education. If this knowledge is enlightened by the Holy Spirit, then we become leaders filled with wisdom. It's a wisdom that comes from God. Wisdom is a gift given to us through our trials and tribulations, and not usually when we are 'on top of the world'. True wisdom seeks the Spirit of Truth with purity, freedom of heart and an open mind.

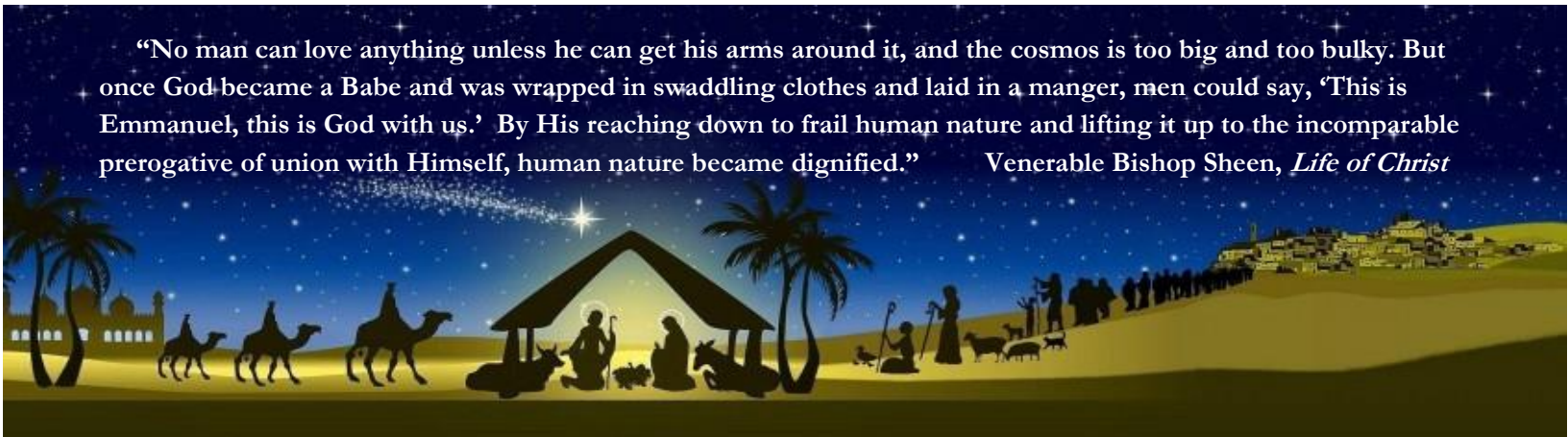
The gift of freedom allows us to make choices in our lives. The good and bad choices that we have made have formed each of us into the person we are today. God can use who we are today to bring others to Him. We have the freedom to use what we consider the right means.

So, right means is nothing more than using all my gifts, talents and life experiences, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, along with my own natural and supernatural qualities of a leader, to serve my brothers and sisters.

On behalf of the Secretariat and the School of Leaders, I pray that you all have a Holy Advent and a blessed Christmas,

Ultreya! Ruben Trevizo

"No man can love anything unless he can get his arms around it, and the cosmos is too big and too bulky. But once God became a Babe and was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, men could say, 'This is Emmanuel, this is God with us.' By His reaching down to frail human nature and lifting it up to the incomparable prerogative of union with Himself, human nature became dignified." Venerable Bishop Sheen, *Life of Christ*



Witness of Piety - Study - Action

Piety ~ Do I Seek & See Jesus?

I have been trying to reflect more about my Piety lately. Am I growing in my life of holiness, do I seek and see God more and more each day, do I see Him in those around me? Sometimes, when I least expect it, there He is! Let me tell you about my recent encounter with the Lord and His love.

We are blessed with six beautiful grandchildren ages eleven down to one year. We see them all often and are very much a part of their lives. Last Saturday we had one-year-old Weston and his four-year-old brother Liam over for a morning of babysitting. Anyone who hangs out with a one-year-old toddler just learning to walk, knows that it's a constant state of motion and injury. Your job as a grandparent is to be "bubble wrap" around that child so there are no major marks on his face when his parents arrive to pick him up. With Weston, this is a two-man job.



One of Weston's favorite things to do is to play in our backyard; watering the flowers, playing soccer with Grandpa B, riding a tricycle or rolling in the grass, all these activities seem to be favorites on his list. So after Weston's fifth tumble, which included a split bottom lip and newly bruised eyebrow, Brad and I thought it would be best if we just simply followed *right* behind him for a

while, to avoid further bodily harm.

It was my turn for Weston duty, so I followed close behind him as he ran all around the backyard. Suddenly those wobbly legs came to an abrupt stop right in front of our statue of the Blessed Mother who presides over our little rose garden. Weston stopped, smiled at Mary and began to look her up and down. Then he reached out to hold her hand, rub her face, began kissing her tummy and her cheeks, finishing his visit with a lovely conversation and a huge hug! Brad and I just stood and watched his delight and encounter with Mamma Mary. We looked at one another, knowing that we had been witness to something very precious, Mary was a real person to Weston. He was smiling ear to ear!

This was a beautiful glimpse of what I think holiness is, that calling to be closer to Christ, who better than His Mother to invite us? I keep thinking about how beautiful that encounter. Children just seem to gravitate toward Mary and through Our Mother Mary, find her sweet Son, Jesus. We are all children of God, aren't we? All week I have thought about the countless ways that I, too, am invited to know better, love more deeply, and grow closer to the Lord in my own life (piety). How often do I accept the invitation and gift I am offered? How often do I see what is right before me?

It is my hope that this advent season draws all of us to a deeper piety or love and relationship, with our Lord and to one another, too. The invitation is always there, let's keep are eyes open and our hearts ever ready!

May God bless and keep you.

DeColores,

Sharon Matson

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

Fiesta Volunteers: Volunteers are needed in all areas for the upcoming Fiesta. See your email and the website for details.

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)

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).

Is Christ Calling You?

SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

Give online at 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.

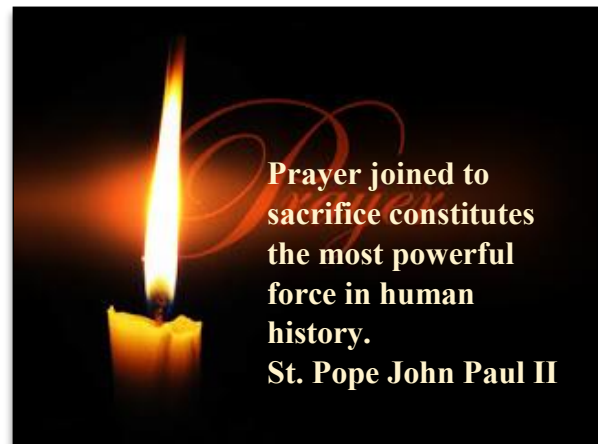
Record your prayers and sacrifices for upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses either on the form below or on the website. Palanca is gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the US and Internationally. Send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

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