

# THE VOICE

JANUARY 2017



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year...!!

It's hard to believe we're already in 2018, and a new year has begun. Many of us have made resolutions about those things we plan to do or change in the New Year. We're going to eat better, or exercise more, or increase our prayer time, or... The list can go on and on – highlighting those things or behaviors we want to change.

Change is something we're very familiar with as Christians and Cursillistas. We heard it proclaimed in our Advent readings as John the Baptist spoke to the people of Israel, "I am the voice of one crying out the desert, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John called the people to repentance – to a complete change of mind and heart – which we call Metanoia.

We are reminded how we, as candidates on our Cursillo weekend, were invited to a complete change of mind and heart as well – to put on the mind of Christ.

The question is – **how are we doing with that...?** As we look back at 2017 and ahead to 2018, how have we done in **BEING** Christ in the environments in which we live? How have we done in preparing the way of the Lord, and making straight his paths?

One only needs to watch the evening news to see that the world is full of people who are sick, hungry, thirsty or downtrodden – whether physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They are searching for hope in a world of despair. They are looking for a light amidst the darkness of our society and culture. They are seeking to encounter Jesus Christ who is the only solution to their problems and the world's problems, as we are reminded in the 'Layperson in the Church' rollo.

We all know people like this. As Cursillistas, we have the unique opportunity to share our own story with them – to tell them how we were once where they are now, looking for an anchor amidst the changing tides of our world, and how we found that in our own deep, personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Just as John the Baptist shared his story with the people of Judea, we have the chance to share our story with the people of Phoenix, or

Scottsdale, or Glendale, or Flagstaff – and invite them into the story by making a friend, being a friend and bringing that friend to Christ.

Maybe that's what our New Year's resolution for 2018 really needs to be....

God Bless, Deacon Richard Kijewski

For | long to see you, that | may share with  
you some spiritual gift so that you may be



strengthened, that is, that you and | may be  
mutually encouraged by one another's faith,  
yours and mine. Romans 1:11,12

Sign up to Volunteer NOW!!!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508044aa5a72ba6fb6-cursillo>

For more info go to:

<https://www.phoenixcursillo.com/family-fiesta.html>



Fiesta!

Feb. 3, 2018

11am - 4pm

Please come to the Volunteer Meeting: Jan. 13, 2018 Upper Room, Mt. Claret

## CALENDAR

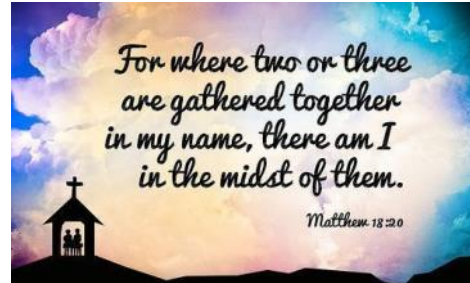
### January 2018

- 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. 13 10:00 am Fiesta Meeting (Upper Room)
- 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)

### February 2018

- Feb. 3 11:00 am FAMILY FIESTA
- Feb. 6 6:30 pm SOL (Mt. Claret)
- Feb. 13 6:30 pm Secretariat (Mt. Claret)
- Feb. 14 ASH WEDNESDAY
- Feb. 15-18 Women's English Weekend #908
- Feb. 17 9:30 am SOL (St. Agnes)
- Feb. 22-25 Flagstaff Men's Weekend #909
- Feb. 24 9:00 am Ultreya  
(Westside, Location TBA)

*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](mailto:postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com).*

# ULTREYA!

## 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? Items not sold during the Fiesta will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Charities.

The POD is HERE! Beginning Saturday, January 6, 2018, drop off your rummage items at Mt. Claret in the Pod in the parking lot. NO TV's PLEASE!

For information contact Rummage Sale Coordinators Jo-Ann and Ruben Trevizo at 480-489-6476.



# Fiesta!

Feb. 3, 2018

11am - 2pm

## FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

DeColores, Cursillo Community!

I pray that everyone enjoyed a stress free holiday season, and that this Advent has brought everyone to a deeper awareness of the mystery of the Incarnation. While the world pulls the plug on Christmas as soon as December 25th rolls around, for us it is just the beginning, ending with the Baptism of the Lord midway through January. As Catholic Christians, we can shine our light by participating in the liturgical season of the Church, while refusing to follow the rhythms of secular culture. With the new year of 2018 comes a hope for our families, our friends, and our world. This can be achieved if we follow the advice of a great Carmelite saint, St. Therese of Lisieux- "When one loves, one does not calculate".

As with the last several months, I will continue to dig deeper into the prayer of the Cursillo, the Leader's Prayer. **8.) And that determination which in spite of failures assures victory.**

When I think of a leader as a model of determination, I think of that great saint in our modern times, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She experienced many apparent failures in her founding of the Missionaries of Charity, but she continued to follow Our Lord's will for her life. A quote from her states: "We are not called to be successful; we are called to be faithful". If we truly know that what we are doing is what God is asking of us, then we are assured victory, in spite of what we see. Often we see a failure as a small number of candidates on a weekend; a successful one has at least 25 or more. Numbers don't often tell the story; the real success is determined on how many of these new candidates get involved in a friendship group afterwards. The weekend is a turning point in many lives, but without follow up with the new Cursillista, it becomes a bridge with no roads attached. If our sole goal is to bring someone to a Cursillo for the sake of making it appear successful, then we are doing it for the wrong reason. We must be determined to walk with our new friend past the weekend, so that it is not just another 'retreat'. Our goal as Cursillistas is to "Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ". It does not necessarily

mean "Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Cursillo". If you know that person for a week or so before sponsoring them, then chances are pretty good that you have not developed an adequate friendship.

**9.) Move away from us the tiny rivalries, sensitivities, discourtesies, pride, everything which distracts from you, everything which divides or discourages.**

**From *Whom Shall I Send?* (p.66)** "Satan hates anything that comes from God, so he will always find ways to frustrate the Divine plan. He will even set Cursillo Leaders against one another. Divide and conquer is the mode of Satanic operation." This portion of the Leader's prayer is probably the one segment that is the most difficult to swallow, as in "swallowing my pride". It is so easy to get caught up in these lines; "that offends me", or "what did you mean by that?" or the ever popular phrase in college "I need my safe space!" Our greatest strength in the Cursillo- our diversity, or "DeColores" if you will, can become our greatest weakness. We come from a multitude of backgrounds, cultures, experiences, not to mention our past hurts and frailties. We bring all these to the table, and mix them in with others, and it can be volatile, if we do not consider why we are there- to be Christ's arms, legs, hands, and feet to a hurting world. Quite often, that hurting world is right in front of us, in the form of frail leaders just like me. That is why group reunion is so important before beginning any leaders' meeting. It can help take the 'edge' off of egos when we allow ourselves to become vulnerable with each other in sharing how Christ impacted us for the better in the past week.

I know if I stay connected to my regular group reunion, receive the sacraments on a regular basis, keep up with my daily prayer life, and my weekly adoration hour, I am least likely to be offended by what someone said to me. It is when I mess up on any of the above, that I get easily offended. Funny how that works!

Ultreya!

Ruben Trevizo



### *Prayer for the New Year*

*REMEMBER us, O GOD; from age to age be our COMFORTER. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, in seasons and years. BLESS your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright HOPE that is ours in the coming of CHRIST. You are our GOD, living and reigning, forever and ever. AMEN.*



## Witness of Piety - Study - Action

A challenging part of my life and my desire to “live in the world but not of it” is being in a Catholic family where almost everyone identifies themselves as Catholic, but few are practicing. My husband and I are often asked to be Godparents because we can get the letter – you know, the one that says we are practicing and so we can be Godparents. We have discussed saying “no”. We are thrilled they are having the children baptized – at least the child will have the most important armor in this world – but we are disheartened that the parents seem to think baptism and Godparents are a formality; that being a Christian parent is a matter of just saying “we are Catholic” even if they aren’t attending Mass. So we say “yes” and we pray. And perhaps that is as much as we can do for now – pray.

Grouping has been so important; assisting me in these challenges and keeping me on the right path. When I go it alone, it’s so easy to become spiritually lazy; it’s easy to find a reason to skip my daily prayer. It’s easy to push something aside that I have been studying to watch something mindless on TV. It’s easy to remain quiet when a word of encouragement or even loving challenge should be said. It’s easy to be focused only on my own concerns and feelings and point of view instead of listening to the wisdom of others. Easy to dismiss the call of the Holy Spirit.

My group sisters and I are examples to each other of the beauty and peace that come when keeping up with our practices of piety, study, and action. Getting into those good habits helps me to find courage and fortitude when I am tempted to be lazy.



*ST MONICA, I need your prayers. You know exactly how I'm feeling because you once felt it yourself. I'm hurting, hopeless, and in despair. I desperately want my family to return to Christ in His Church but I can't do it alone. I need God's help. Please join me in begging the Lord's powerful grace to flow into their lives. Ask the Lord Jesus to soften their hearts, prepare a path for their conversion, and activate the Holy Spirit in their lives. Amen.*

It helps me to trust in God’s plan for everyone in my life.

I can trust in His plan for my 16 year old niece/Goddaughter, who sat sullenly and silently at our recent Christmas dinner with her arms crossed when the rest of us prayed before the meal. When she was very little, I taught her the answer to the question “who are you?” She would answer, “I am a beloved Child of God.” At the time, I babysat for her almost daily and every day I would ask her that question. I pray now that somewhere in the recesses of her heart she still knows the answer; even though it is especially tough to believe you are loved when you are 16! My action with her is pray, pray, pray – palanca.

I found the prayer to St. Monica in the insert below that has given me comfort when I think of those whom I love who are far away from God. St. Monica prayed constantly for the conversion of her son St. Augustine of Hippo, who became one of our greatest saints. I finish with a line I added myself: “I ask God for forgiveness and to make better the times my example is sinful, flawed, and inadequate.” Amen.

My group sisters and I share our struggles and our joys, we pray for each other and our families, we trade advice, suggestions, sometimes scold each other a little bit, but mostly we can rest in the confidence that we keep each other focused; keep those tripods balanced; which helps us get through the hardest challenges.

They are a gift from God to me. Before my Cursillo weekend 25 years ago I mostly went it alone, and I think it was a great deal more difficult.

Cecelia Dusold

**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)).

## Is Christ Calling You?

## 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).

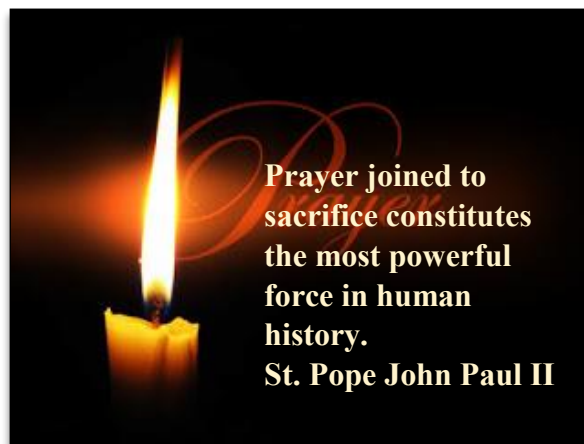
Record your prayers and sacrifices for upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses either on the form below or on the website. Palanca is gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the US and Internationally. Send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