

July 2020

# The VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE  
OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT



## FROM DEACON CHRIS GEORGES

My Cursillo changed my life. It gave me a weekend to rest, reflect, be still, and finally be quiet enough to hear God speaking to me about the diaconate. I applied to the deacon's office and was allowed to begin formation and a new chapter began.

When God calls us to a mission, He gives us the grace, the tools to fulfill the mission. For most of us, our Cursillo opened our eyes to see that we could be doing more with our lives. Often it meant focusing less on ourselves and more on others and relying on God like we never had before. Some focused more on our spouse and family. Some got plugged into the parish more deeply. I began discerning the call to the diaconate through my formation. I learned so much about our beautiful Church and how much God loves us. I also learned that God can use each and every one of us to accomplish His holy will. If or when we say yes to God and go forward to do His will, He helps us do it!

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us for our own piety and spirituality. They are meant to deepen our relationship with our Lord and help us get to heaven. But the Holy Spirit also gives us charisms, gifts that are specific to each of us and are intended to be used for the Body of Christ. These charisms are not for us to keep to ourselves. They are meant to be given away, spent for others to build up the Body of Christ.

So how do you know what your charisms are? What have you been doing since your Cursillo? Most of the time when we look back at our lives, when there is a powerful personal moment with God, our charisms get activated, become more defined and moving in our life. What are you good at? What do people appreciate about you? What do you have great interest and energy in doing? Are you effective and successful when you do these things? Some people are teachers, some make music or sing, some are artistic or can build things, some are leaders, some are

organizers (there is a difference), some pray for others, some have faith that moves mountains, some share their financial gifts very generously, some can discern spirits (very rare), some are the most hospitable you will ever meet, and some can pick you up out of the "dumps" because they are so encouraging! There are quite a number of charisms and everyone has a different mix of them. None of us are the same. But what is really cool is these gifts are very complimentary with everyone else's charisms. Everyone's charisms are for the benefit of the Body of Christ.

If we are working within our charism, we are energetic and joyful. There is great satisfaction and we have a sense that "we fit." It is often an expression of our relationship with God. And if you are introverted like me, you will say it is like prayer or contemplation. Working within our charism, we are remarkably effective without struggle. And people around us affirm us as they say, "he's good at that, ask him."

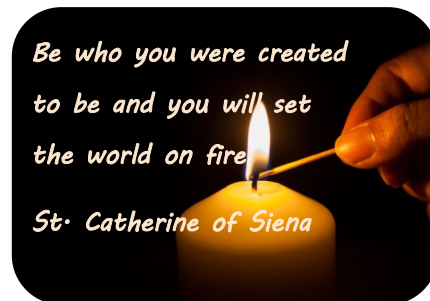
My Cursillo directed me to the diaconate and eventually to my serving the Church through Holy Orders. Your Cursillo probably activated some charisms intended for the Church. With these special gifts comes a call from God. Our charisms are grace with

which to carry out our mission, and knowing them enables us to make good decisions. Knowing them helps us not judge ourselves because we are not like others and not judge others because they are not like us. God's mission for us will be achieved, his love and care will reach others through our charisms.

Deacon Chris Georges (#871)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Glendale

*The Called and Gifted Workshop is where I learned a great deal about our charisms. They are held periodically at parishes in the valley.*





## 30TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CURSILLO ENCOUNTER

July 24-25, 2020

COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU!

*Your chance to finally check out the yearly Encounter  
if you have never been able to travel to it.*

<https://www.natl-cursillo.org/encounter2020/>

**See Flyer  
Page 3**



**H**OW MUCH CAN CHANGE IN JUST A FEW WEEKS! Cautious optimism at the end of May that we would slowly return to Cursillo activities in person has necessarily become redirected into positive enthusiasm for virtual meetings for the rest of the year. Your Secretariat is looking into several options for Cursillo fellowship. **ULTREYA! That is our cry.**

We must continue forward. The fire that burned brightly when you started your Fourth Day needs to be nurtured. Please look into the virtual activities that are offered. If you aren't already, consider going virtual with your Group Reunion. Don't let COVID-19 keep you from keeping the awareness your Piety, Study, and Action at the forefront. Come, Holy Spirit!

## CENA DE COLORES/ EVENING UNDER THE STARS

VIRTUAL Fundraiser  
for the Cursillo Movement  
and Mt. Claret  
Information coming soon!



## ROSARY FOR AMERICA

Yes! **Join us at** Mt. Claret (limited attendance  
with COVID-19 guidelines)

1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm



July 6, 2020  
August 3, 2020  
September 7, 2020

## SPONSORSHIP WORKSHOP

**ULTREYA**

## SCHOOL OF LEADERS

*Your Postcursillo and Precursillo Committees  
are working hard on making Ultreyas and  
School of Leaders home-friendly.  
Watch your email, Facebook, or the website for  
upcoming details.*

SAVE THE DATE!  
**THE 30<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL ENCOUNTER**  
IS GOING VIRTUAL!  
**JULY 24-25, 2020**



Livestream Masses, Virtual Fellowship, and Breakout Sessions.  
The Rollos for the Encounter will include:

- ♥ **Personal Encounter with Christ**
- ♥ **Friendship with Self, Christ, and Others**
- ♥ **Regional Coordinator and Service Team Responsibilities**
- ♥ **The Christian Leader in the MCC**

More information to follow! Open Registration: June 5th!  
[www.natl-cursillo.org](http://www.natl-cursillo.org)

**LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER!**

### “Always Forward, Never Back!”

De Colores! In the United States, July is a month where we reflect upon the historical founding of our nation, and the moral standard set in the Declaration of Independence. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The men who signed the declaration on July 4, 1776 were taking a great risk for their principles. They instantly became criminals, and enemies of the King. Catholics were a persecuted minority not well liked in England, and that disdain carried over to the new world as well.

Charles Carroll, the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence, was the wealthiest man in the colonies at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, and had perhaps the most to lose. As the story goes, Carroll stepped forward to John Hancock’s desk, signed his name, put the pen down, and walked away. One of his Catholic hating conspirators said to him, “What risk are you taking? The king could suspect anyone named Carroll and will never be able to arrest you.” Without saying a word, Charles turned back to the document and courageously added “of Carrollton” to his signature so that there could be no doubt as to his identity.

While the War of Independence was waging on the east coast, Spanish Catholics were also forging the future of the United States in the west. As I write this today it is July 1st, the feast day of Saint Junípero Serra, who has become quite a figure of contention recently. The violent upheaval and desecration of statues bearing the likeness of Padre Serra have actually borne spiritual fruit in prompting me to learn more about this controversial saint and the role of the Church in the Spanish Colonialism.

What I’ve discovered is that most historians of any merit will attest that Father Serra was a compassionate advocate for better treatment of the native people of California. He was an intellectual with a doctorate in philosophy, who bravely left behind the comfortable life of academia, to follow his baptismal calling and bring the greatest gift that he possessed, the Love of the One True

God, to an indigenous people in an untamed and dangerous land, who did not know Christ.

Despite a crippling leg injury, Padre Serra, along with some other Franciscan Friars, was instrumental in establishing the Missions of California, where thousands of natives were willingly drawn to be baptized, and the vast majority stayed for the better way of life offered in the mission communities. There were of course some who rejected the new lifestyle and wished to return to their old ways, and they were sometimes treated harshly by the soldiers to the objection of the

Holy Junípero. When a group of native dissenters set fire to the mission that he had built in San Diego, Father Serra stepped in and intervened in their defense to save their lives from the Spanish troops who planned to execute them, saying, “We did not come here to be missionaries of death, but missionaries of the Gospel.” This episode is credited as the first-known public renunciation of capital punishment in the New World.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, do you know that the story of Saint Junípero Serra is closely related to the story of Cursillo? Like the Cursillo Movement, Junípero was also born in Mallorca, Spain. His motto was “Always

Forward, Never Back!” which is strikingly similar to the Cursillo pilgrim’s cry of “Ultreya!” meaning onward. In the book “Cursillo History and Memory” by Francisco Forteza Pujol, which Father Killian McCaffrey also quoted in his article on Cursillo history in last July’s Voice, the author recounts the first Cursillo in the United States in 1957 near Waco Texas, “where Father Gabriel Fernandez, a Franciscan

from Mallorca, now worked. He had made his Cursillo in his home country years before, and was looking for ways to establish the movement in the territory evangelized by Junípero Serra.” So you see, the missionary courage of Saint Junípero Serra two hundred years earlier inspired his fellow countryman, a priest of the 20th Century, to have that same missionary zeal to share in the Love of Christ found through Cursillo and bring it to the United States.

Now some in our secularized society will say, why make a big deal about tearing down some statues of dead people, when real people are dying? It’s true that these acts cannot harm the saints. As the Book of Wisdom states



## ULTREYA!

“The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them.” But when these radicals attempt to distort history, and even to erase some historical figures from memory, they tear at the very foundation of the Faith upon which our Church, our nation, and our belief system is built. There have always been seemingly insurmountable challenges, and we have faced them down victoriously time and time again throughout history. When they burn our churches and desecrate our shrines, we must counter their attacks with love, while showing support for our Bishops and Priests with prayer, rather than criticizing them. There is strength in unity. These times are not as unprecedented as we may think. We have to dig deep within ourselves to find the courage that we learned of from our forefathers and face these new challenges with bold and innovative ways to spread the gospel message and share in the love of God.

While the pandemic has limited our personal contact with one another, we are finding new methods to have a personal encounter with Christ. Unfortunately we will not be able to have any Cursillo retreats this year, but we are working on ways to strengthen the community on our Fourth Day.

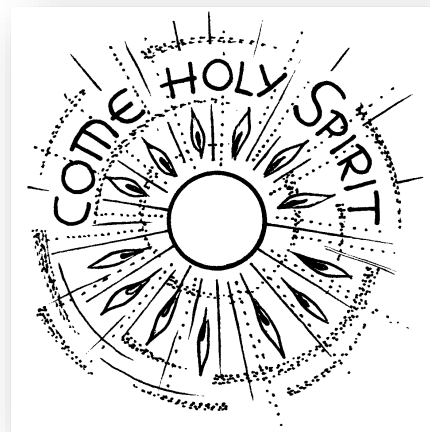
***I encourage you all to attend the National Encounter which will be a virtual event on July 24th and 25th.***

There will be a great opportunity for small group reunion in breakout sessions after each Rollo with others from our

region including Cursillistas from Arizona, New Mexico and El Paso.

The Secretariat is planning a number of virtual events locally including Ultreyas, School of Leaders, online workshops and other means of spiritual enrichment. Like the leaders of the past, we have to find courage to risk leaving behind our comfortable way of doing things and forge new paths to become the saints of today. “Always Forward, Never Back.” As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said “The world offers you comfort, but you are not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”

God Bless you, Joe Fairlie #781



## DE COLORES and a BIG THANK YOU!

You may recall that a few months ago, we, on behalf of the Cursillo Movement of Phoenix, made a request for financial support from our Cursillo community. Due to the corona virus, we were forced to cancel our upcoming weekends and our fundraising efforts, which sustain our Movement here in Phoenix.

### **We asked...and YOU RESPONDED!**

Your generosity and support made May our most successful Easy Tithe and donation month in recent history. The giving spirit is alive in our Cursillo community! We are thankful and appreciative of every prayer and financial donation.

We look forward to the days, in the near future, in which we can rejoice in the return of our Cursillo weekends, celebrate God together at the Cena de Colores, and treasure the fellowship we enjoy with every personal encounter with our Cursillo brothers and sisters.

We know that the Holy Spirit is our guide and the Good Lord accompanies us on every journey. As we all get ready to move into the second half of this eventful (to say the least) 2020, the uncertainty persists and our needs remain. As a result, we continue to rely on and ask for your ongoing prayers and financial support. A recurring monthly contribution or one-time donation to the Cursillo Movement can be made through EasyTithe ([easytithe.com/cursillo](http://easytithe.com/cursillo)).

May you and yours be blessed, be safe and be well.

Karla Keller #636, Treasurer

*Reflecting on my Piety, Study, and Action* has been a little bit easier over these last couple of months. We've had a little more time to step back, pause and re-assess our priorities. There really have been many blessings to come from this forced reprieve. There has been time to reflect on God's providence; those instances in our lives when we, who believe, are able to see God's hand in our lives. Whether these come as big or small gifts, we recognize that He has just graced us in an amazing and unexpected way! Thank you, God! That's really all we can say.

Piety. Wow. I feel so blessed to see that my Piety leg has actually increased with all the craziness around me. Life being less busy at work and at home has afforded me the blessing of Rosary time at home in the morning, and frequent attendance at daily Mass. Recently initiated Perpetual Adoration at my parish has also been available. So many doors in my prayer life seem to have opened. Thank you, God!

My wife of 35 years, and seven children have slightly dulled my need to be neat, tidy, organized; however, I still have that glitch in my head that pushes me in those directions. So, as I was recently trying to perfect my back yard and patio for a graduation party for my daughter, I found myself fighting wind and blowing leaves, etc. Atypical as it felt, I was at peace. I felt blessed at the situation around me. St. Joseph? My Guardian Angel? I was able to step back and pray. My prayer was simply this: I know You Father are in charge and You can aid all things. You know what I am trying to accomplish. I do not know Your ways but trust that You have my best interest at heart. The party was fantastic. Family, friends, college classmates enjoyed a beautiful and unusually cool June night that night, having been cooled by the constant breeze of the afternoon and early evening. Thank you, God!

Study. One of my great joys of the past months has been the reading, and the subsequent consecration to St.

Joseph, as presented in Fr. Donald Calloway's book *Consecration to St. Joseph, The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. This book really took me by surprise as it drew me, head and heart to St. Joseph. I grew to better appreciate this man who was entrusted to be the protector, teacher and roll model of Jesus. It offered me a better understanding to possible reasons for his thoughts to distance himself from Mary, when she was found with child. It helped me to reflect on the courage he must have had in so many situations. Thank you, God!

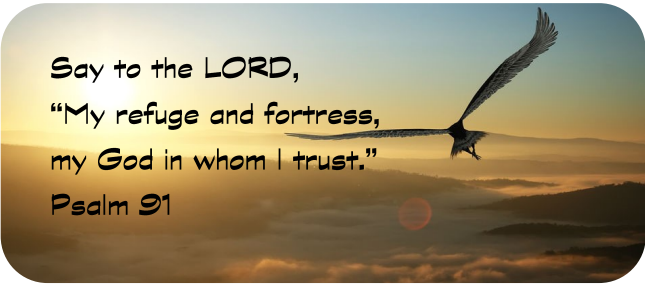
Action. Carl and I have been friends for some 20 years. Our children have been together for grade school, high school and college. We've coached little league together. We've spent a lot of time on the golf course together. We've shared a lot of happy and not-so-happy stuff. We've always been able to discuss, and question, and share our love for our Catholic faith. A year ago Carl moved to North Carolina so he and his wife could spend time with his aging mother-in-law. Our conversations and outings have been less frequent. While back in town for business recently, we made time for golf, but also to get to daily Mass. As he has been a daily communicant, I knew

he'd jump at the chance to attend Mass. What I was unaware of, until after Mass, was that in his home town of Raleigh, the Bishop had not opened churches and it had actually been more than two months since Carl was able to attend Mass. At the end of

Mass, Carl turned to me, his eyes welling up with tears to tell me how beautiful it was to be back in church, and how thankful he was that I had offered to bring him with me. Thank you, God!

I must remember these lessons! These tutorials from the Father. Slow down. The world is of little concern. Stay focused on what is important. Trust in Me, that I have your best interest at heart.

Piety, Study, Action. Thank you, God!  
Dave Roessler, #595



Say to the LORD,  
"My refuge and fortress,  
my God in whom I trust."  
Psalm 91

## PRAYER RESOURCES FOR THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

USCCB: <http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-crisis.cfm>

### EASY TITHE

- **First, we would like to thank all of you who are currently enrolled with Easy Tithe. Your continued support of the Cursillo Movement is greatly appreciated.** (If your card has changed or expired, please take a minute to go to [www.Easytithe.com/Cursillo](http://www.Easytithe.com/Cursillo) and update/)
  - **WHAT IS IT?**  
A low cost monthly auto withdrawal from your bank account directly to the Cursillo Movement to help pay for operating expenses of the Movement (i.e., rent, supplies, stipends and scholarships). You choose the amount you'd like to contribute, when, and how often.
  - **WHY?**  
A major goal of Cursillo is to allow every qualified candidate to live their weekend. The cost of the weekend should never keep someone away. The actual cost to put a candidate through the weekend is in excess of \$350 per person. However, we strive to maintain the stipend at \$150 per candidate. To accomplish this goal requires fundraising, including our Easy Tithe program.
  - While Cursillo weekends can be held almost anywhere, we are truly blessed to call the beautiful, holy ground that is Mt. Claret Retreat Center, "home". It has been home to the Cursillo for many years due to the vision of the Claretian priests who were caretakers of the Movement in Phoenix in the beginning, the devotion of Msgr. McMahon, and the love, time, and talent of many Cursillistas over the years. Support through Easy Tithe assists in ensuring that Mt. Claret remains our home for future candidates and all Cursillistas.
  - **HOW?**  
Simply go to the Easy Tithe link on the Cursillo website ([www.PhoenixCursillo.com](http://www.PhoenixCursillo.com)) or go directly to [www.Easytithe.com/Cursillo](http://www.Easytithe.com/Cursillo).
  - **PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION**  
A five (\$5) or ten (\$10) dollar monthly Easy Tithe donation can make a huge difference in not only a candidate's life, but also the many Cursillistas in our Diocese. Please prayerfully consider participating in Easy Tithe and enroll today.  
On behalf of the Cursillo Movement of Phoenix,  
we thank you for your prayerful consideration and support.
- If you have any questions, please contact Karla Keller (Treasurer@PhoenixCursillo.com)



### **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**



**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).

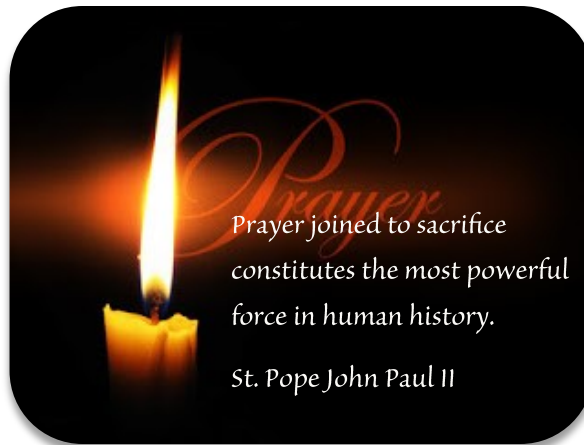
**Ultreya!** It just takes a place and some friends to rejoice together in the graces we receive as we live our piety, study, and action throughout our 4th day. Please get in touch with the Postcursillo Chair, if you are interested in helping with or hosting an Ultreya in your area.

**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).

## GENERAL PALANCA

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 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:	



## PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a prayer list on the website that will be updated 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.

### Vatican-approved prayer for the intercession of Servant of God, Eduardo Bonnin, Founder of the Cursillo Movement

*“Oh God, the dispenser of all graces and charisms, You granted your servant Eduardo Bonnin 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 favor 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.)*

### PHOENIX CURSILLO DATABASE

**Please help us keep the Cursillo records up to date.**

If you change your address, email, phones, etc., please email the updated info 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**  
**(602) 840-5066**

**Email: [info@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:info@phoenixcursillo.com) Website: [www.phoenixcursillo.com](http://www.phoenixcursillo.com)**

**Facebook: Phoenix Cursillo Movement**