



# THE VOICE

MARCH 2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

## A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT LENT FROM MSGR. O'GRADY

"Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Cor. 12:7-10

*"Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."*

My repeated failures with Lenten resolutions have brought that line home to me. Now I believe that my "failures" over time came to be a great grace for me and I believe I am in good company: St. Paul had his failures; his "thorn in the flesh."

He writes how he begged the Lord to be healed of it and the Lord answered "My grace is all you need, for My power is greatest when you are weak." I invite you to read 2 Cor 12:7-10. Those verses have been a great comfort to me.

So now I continue to make a couple of resolutions; simple ones: Read the scriptures of the day and let them speak to me. Pray for the gift I need the most. Spend a few minutes each evening looking back over the day. It's the intent that counts. May Lent be time of great grace for all of us.

God bless, Father Mike

P.S. The opening prayer of mass on the first Sunday is also worth meditating upon: "Through our observance of Lent help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and Resurrection and help us to reflect it in our lives."

## Congratulations and Thank you!

God has greatly blessed the Cursillo Movement in the United States by calling our Bishop Eduardo Nevares to be the National Episcopal Advisor for the National Cursillo Movement. His five year term begins October 1. As he continues to guide us with wisdom and love in Phoenix, so will he serve the National Movement. Let us keep him in our prayers.

Onward!



# CALENDAR AND ULTREYA

*Please note: Calendar subject to change!!! Please check the website for the latest info.*

March 2019		April 2019	
March 4	7:00 PM Rosary for the US (Mt. Claret) (also at St. Paul at 6:30PM)	April 2	6:30 PM SOL (Mt Claret)
March 5	6:30 PM SOL (Mt. Claret)	April 5-6	Region X Meeting (Albuquerque, NM)
March 6	ASH WEDNESDAY	April 8	7:00 PM Rosary for the US (Mt. Claret) (also at St. Paul at 6:30PM)
March 7-10	Women's Spanish Weekend #918	April 9	6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Mt. Claret)
March 9	9:00 AM ULTREYA (St. Germaine, Pres.Val.)	April 11-14	7:00 PM Men's English Weekend #921 (Mt. Claret)
March 12	6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Mt. Claret)	April 13	9:00 AM ULTREYA (All Saints, Mesa)
March 14-17	Men's English Weekend #919 (Flagstaff)	April 20	9:30 AM SOL (St. Agnes)
March 16	9:30 AM SOL (St. Agnes)	April 21	EASTER
March 23	8:30 AM ULTREYA (Resurrection, Tempe)	April 27	9:30 AM ULTREYA (St. Thomas More, Glendale)
March 23	9:30 AM ULTREYA (St. James, Glendale)		
March 27	7:00 PM Orientation Phx 921/922 (Mt. Claret)		
March 28-31	Women's English Weekend #920 (Flagstaff)		

*For information about School of Leaders, please contact Manny Yrique at [schoolofleaders@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:schoolofleaders@phoenixcursillo.com)  
For information about Ultreya, please contact Mick Kapanicas at [Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com)*

## ULTREYA!

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

*"The Ultreya is the place where those who have started the conversion process in a Cursillo can establish those essential and life-giving friendships with others who share their same sense of life."  
(Eduardo Bonnin, Evangelization through Conversion)*

*Saturday, March 9, 2019*

*St. Germaine*

*7997 E. Dana Dr., Prescott Valley*

*9:00 am Potluck*

*Ultreya follows*

*April 13, 2019*

*All Saints*

*1534 N. Recker Rd, Mesa*

*McKay Hall*

*9:00 am Potluck*

*Ultreya follows*

*Saturday, March 23, 2019*

*Resurrection*

*3201 S. Evergreen Rd, Tempe*

*8:30 am Potluck*

*Ultreya follows*

*Saturday, March 23, 2019*

*St. James*

*19640 N. 35th Ave., Glendale*

*Conf. Rooms 102*

*8:00 am Mass*

*Pot luck and Ultreya follow*

*April 27, 2019*

*St. Thomas More*

*6180 W Utopia Rd, Glendale*

*Modular Bldg (east of Church)*

*9:00 am Potluck*

*Ultreya follows*



### Cena De Colores—June 1, 2019

*We need you now! We have a lot to do and no time to waste!*

*Please contact Joe Fairlie at 602-291-2669*

*or laydirector@phoenixcursillo.com if you are interested in leading or helping in any capacity.*

## THREE DAY NEWS

**PALANCA IS NEEDED!** Please go to <https://www.phoenixcursillo.com/general-palanca.html> to add your prayers, sacrifices, and works of mercy to the growing list. These tallies go to our own candidates and to other candidates across the globe. Thank you! For a list of teams in formation, please see the website.

### 2019 English Cursillo Weekend Schedule

Men: #921, April 11-14, 2019,

Women: #922, May 2-5, 2019,

Men: #923, Oct. 3-6, 2019

Women: #924, Oct. 17-20, 2019

### DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND YOU WISH TO SPONSOR?

Applications available from your Parish Representative or email Bruce and Debi Wiskirchen at [applications@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:applications@phoenixcursillo.com)

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

## REGION X/NATIONAL NEWS

**STEP BY STEP** is a new manual for Rectors and Rectoras that the National Movement is in the process of introducing. (This will not replace our current Three Day manual.) Workshops will be held for all Cursillistas interested in working teams.

In conjunction with the upcoming Region X Meeting in Albuquerque on April 5, there will be a **Step By Step workshop** on April 6, 2019. All

Cursillistas who serve teams, or wish to serve teams are invited. It will be at the Madonna Retreat and Conference Center at Lourdes Hall, 4040 St. Joseph's Place, Albuquerque, NM. The workshop will begin at 7:15 am with breakfast.

At the time of this printing, fees, etc. are unknown. Please check the website after March 6 for those details.

## 2019 EUCHARISTIC MISSION

### March 28 - 30, 2019

All are welcome to join the Augustine Institute's Dr. Tim Gray, Dr. Michael Barber, and Dr. Mark Giszczak, along with Bishop Olmsted and Bishop Nevares for an incredible Lenten mission. Get the full schedule at [simonjude.org](http://simonjude.org).



### March 28 at Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral

6 p.m. opening Mass with Bishop Olmsted

7 p.m. Keynote with Dr. Tim Gray

### March 29 at St. Paul

8:30 a.m. Mass to 3 p.m.

### March 30 at Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral

8:30 a.m. Mass to 4:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass with Bishop Nevares



## FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

### *Into The Desert!*

Lent is upon us and it is one of my favorite seasons of the year. To some, that may seem a little odd. Isn't Lent after all, a time of sacrifice and self-denial? The concept is completely countercultural in these times when we've come to expect instant gratification at our fingertips. In these times when we want it all and we want it now, what could possibly motivate us to give up anything? Perhaps the Gospel can shed some light on this. Luke tells us that after His baptism in the Jordan: "Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." Our Lenten experience is an opportunity for each of us to be imitators of Christ and make room in our cluttered hearts, minds and lives, so that we too can be filled with the Holy Spirit and find the strength to face down our temptations. Like Christ, we too have a mission as a result of our baptism. We shouldn't be glum about prayer, fasting and alms giving, knowing that we are training ourselves for something as wonderful as serving the Lord.

In his Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" Pope Francis says that "There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter." As an RCIA instructor for the past several years, I always look forward to Lent because my Catechumens are in the home stretch to becoming fully immersed as Catholics and there is an excitement in the air leading up to the joy of the Easter vigil. In some ways the Cursillo weekend is much like a mini Lent. Just as on the first day of the weekend we come to know ourselves and to

know Christ, the Scrutiny readings during Lent remind us that we are sinners and that we have personal work to do, but more importantly, they remind us that we are infinitely loved by a merciful God. As our Cursillo progresses toward the Clausura on Sunday, when we go forth to love and serve the Lord, so Lent moves us toward Easter when, like the disciples of Emmaus, we will walk along the road of our fourth day accompanied by the Risen Christ.

As we follow Jesus into the desert, I'd like to share with each of you some sound spiritual advice that I received from Bishop Nevares when I spoke to him last week to congratulate him and thank him for accepting the invitation to serve as the National Episcopal Advisor for the Cursillo Movement in the United States. Our beloved Bishop gave three words of advice: "Pray, Pray, Pray!" So this season please pray for the Cursillo Movement. Pray for the teams in formation for the Spring Cursillo weekends. And pray for the candidates considering attending the upcoming weekends and joining this wonderful community. Rest assured that I will be praying for all of you. De Colores!

Joe Fairlie, Cursillo #781



## Piety - Study - Action

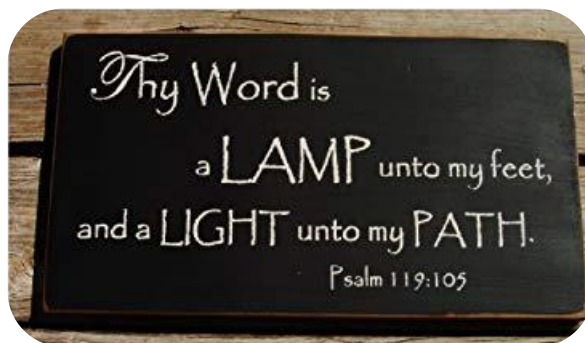
By Brad Matson

This past month in Arizona we experienced unique weather all over the state. It included massive amounts of snow in the high country and snow recorded in various parts of the Phoenix area. We also experienced a record "coldest high" in Phoenix, a very unique event.

My brother is an accountant who works in Phoenix, but lives in Prescott. Because of the weather he was unable to drive home each day and he spent the three nights at our house. Whenever we are together, my brother John, my wife Sharon, and I talk about old times and about life while we were growing up. Sharon has known John for forty-five years, so she knows him almost as well as I do. He caught me off guard when he mentioned that he thought I was a "deeper" individual than he was. Surprised, I asked for clarification.

We talked about our young lives as Christians in the Presbyterian Church. My father was the head of the household as it related to Church and we did not miss attending services

any Sunday. My two brothers and I received every possible yearly award relating to our attendance. I still have medals that total twelve years marking my perfect attendance at Sunday School. As I reflect, this was a great accomplishment and an illustration of the love and leadership of my mother and father. My mother sang in the choir and my father taught an adult class for as long as I remember.



Like every young student we received a Bible from the church in our early teens. I was very intrigued by the Bible and I felt very important having one of my own. I always remember my father reading the Bible and studying it. I frequently asked him about where in the Bible I could find the stories I heard in Sunday School. This was part of the reason my brother described as me

"being deeper." I never thought about myself as a deep person.

My father challenged me at the age of twelve or thirteen to begin to read the Bible; one chapter at a time, each day, before

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# CHRIST IS CALLING YOU!



**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 (Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com) or Precursillo Chair at (Precursillo@phoenixcursillo.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. (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. This can be done from your home! Please contact Three-Day Chair at (threeday@phoenixcursillo.com).

## SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

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

**Your Help Is Needed!** The Cursillo Movement runs primarily from your generous contributions and fundraisers. Please prayerfully consider how you can help (how about

\$10.00 a month?) to safeguard the vision of the Claretian priests who were the caretakers of the Movement in Phoenix in the beginning, and all those Cursillistas, along with Msgr. McMahan, whose stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) and love over the years were instrumental in the beautiful Holy ground that is Mt. Claret Retreat Center today.

Here are two ways to donate: automatically at [easytithes.com](http://easytithes.com) Cursillo or by making checks out to the Cursillo Movement and mailing to Cursillo, Mt. Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N 54th St, Phoenix, AZ 85018. And no worries, you will be tapped up for your talent at upcoming fundraisers, too!

**Please prayerfully consider serving and supporting your Cursillo Community.**

## Piety, Study, Action cont'd from Page 4

bed and to finish before my sixteenth birthday. He told me I would discover all the stories I had heard about, plus so many others. Little did I know, he had set the foundation of my religious life for the rest of my life.

After my wife Sharon and I married, I studied about the Catholic Church under the guidance of Fr. Michael Diskin at St. Louis the King for over a year and I was confirmed in the Catholic Church. My wife Sharon and I became a members of St. Helen Parish, in Glendale in 1979. I later started teaching High School RE classes in the Church and this helped me (or maybe even forced me a little) to continue my study.

I continue my father's challenge to read The Word daily. I can count on one hand the times I have missed since that day my Dad first challenged me. The more I study, and the more I explore the Catholic faith, the deeper my relationship with Jesus Christ grows, and it is sometimes just amazing to me when others around me can see His reflection in me. To be the face of Christ to others is the most inviting way we can share our love and faith.

Study is an important facet in the life of a Cursillista and study tools are a great way to grow. Aside from my bible, I am currently committed to two publications to lead and encourage me on my journey: *Living Faith Daily Catholic Devotions* and

## *The Word Among Us, Daily Meditations for Catholics.*

These are great guides that aid my study and help me reflect on God's Word. I start each day this way and I am often amazed at how The Word I

reflected upon in the morning serves me throughout my entire day or even week. Over the years I have read about struggles of many of the daily authors in these publications and realize they are just like me in my struggles; maybe you too.

I love exercise. I have exercised by lifting weights most of my life with the goal of being healthy and strong, knowing that to get stronger, it required adding small 5, 10, and 20 pound weight plates to the bar on a regular basis. A few days ago I reflected in *The Word Among Us*, upon this question: "How do we develop faith?" For me, the answer is by treating my faith like a muscle that only becomes stronger as it is used, exercised and added to each day. I encourage all of us to find the exercise that strengthens your own faith muscle today as we all strive to grow in faith and love of the Lord more and more each day.

De Colores, Brad Matson #543



SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

Give online at [www.easytithe.com/Cursillo](http://www.easytithe.com/Cursillo) or make checks out to the Cursillo Movement.

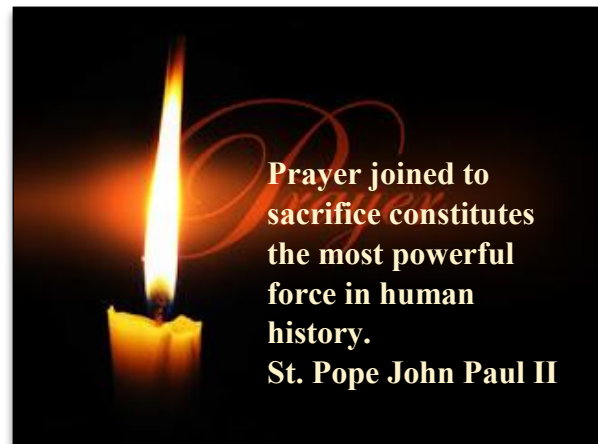
Record your prayers and sacrifices for upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses either on the form below or on the website. Palanca is gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the US and Internationally. Send the form below to Cursillo Movement, Mt. Claret, 4633 N 54th St, Phoenix, AZ 85018 or bring the form to School of Leaders. Your intercessory prayer, sacrifice, and works of mercy are the levers which lift up the Movement all over the world.

**GENERAL PRAYER  
PALANCA REQUESTS**

There is a prayer list on the website that will be updated weekly with your prayer requests and 5th day notices.

On this page, you will find a form to send in your request, or send it directly to [info@phoenixcursillo.com](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**