



# THE VOICE

SEPTEMBER 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

## SPIRITUAL ADVISOR'S MESSAGE

### DEACON RON JOHNSON (FLAGSTAFF, 2000)

De Colores, my brothers and sisters in Christ,

For those of you who are in the Valley of the Sun, you probably don't know who is writing this article. My name is Deacon Ron Johnson and I serve at San Francisco De Asis Church. Currently, it is a wonderful 74\* in Flagstaff this evening.

I would like to begin by giving you a little information about me. I have been married for 35 years to my high school sweetheart. I met Toni when she was 14 years old while we attended Bagdad High School. We did date for 5 years before we got married. Toni teaches Spanish kindergarten at Puente De Hozho Elementary. Toni and I have three children. Our oldest son, Dominique, is married to Christine (Allen). As a deacon, it was a blessing to serve at their wedding ceremony. They have our only granddaughter Nora, who is almost 3 years old. Nora is a bundle of joy. Dominique and Christine are also expecting a son at the beginning of January. Praise the Lord! Our son is the Director of Communications for the Diocese of Juneau, Alaska. It brings great joy to our heart to see Dominique being a Christian leader. Christine works for a birthing center in Juneau. Her parents, Steve and Cathy Allen, have been great leaders in the Cursillo Movement in Northern Arizona. Our daughter, Arrianna, was married a year ago to Jason LaRosa. They are both doctoral level physical therapists who are currently relocating to the Phoenix area from San Francisco. Yes, we are happy to have them back in the state. Our youngest son, Diego, is a junior at Benedictine University in Mesa. He is studying psychology and nutrition while attending college on a baseball scholarship. Go Redhawks!

I was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Phoenix by Bishop Olmstead in November of 2010. Deacon Doug Bogart was in charge of my training prior to ordination, while Deacon Jim Trant was the director of our formation. My pastor is Father Patrick Mowrer. Deacons Jim Bret and Larry Whelan were my mentors in Flagstaff. You may be more familiar with my cohort brothers: Deacons Doug Davaz,

*This month we are highlighting, among other important news, our Cursillo brothers and sisters in Flagstaff and surrounding areas. We thank them for keeping the flame burning in northern Arizona! They are every bit a part of Cursillo in the Diocese of Phoenix as those of us in the Phoenix area. Cursillos weekends are held in a former convent that has been turned into a retreat center next to Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel at 224 S. Kendrick in Flagstaff (picture on page 2). Everyone is invited up to Bushmaster Park, 3150 N. Alta Vista on Sunday, September 17, from 2:00 -4:00 pm for their yearly "kick-off" picnic and Ultreya. They supply meat and bread, the rest is potluck.*

Jim Gall, Al Homiski, Tom Klein, Jason Robinson, David Runyan and Bob Torigian. This is my 21<sup>st</sup> year working as a psychologist in Northern Arizona, after spending 10 years as a classroom teacher and school counselor. I made my Cursillo (in Flagstaff) in the summer of 2000, which was a year after my wife made her Cursillo. My original Cursillo was cancelled due to a lack of candidates. For those of you old timers like myself, you can probably understand it when I say that my wife made sure I was the palanca king! The Holy Spirit broke my heart of stone as He entered my body. Then my life was changed. It truly was my spiritual birthday, as I borrow the phrase from my Cursillo mentor Deacon Larry. It was a couple years later, while working a Cursillo, that I received my call to become a deacon during a homily at Mass by Father Mike Straley. So, I'm sure you can understand how and why Cursillo holds a special place in my heart. By this time, you may be wondering if there is a point to this article, or if it's just

Deacon Ron's autobiography. Good question, and yes there is a point.

**RELATIONSHIPS!** I would not be where I am today if it were not for the relationships I have in my life. Neither would you or the Cursillo Movement. Our relationship with God and others helps to form who we are, and who we will become. It is that personal and intimate relationship with Christ that allows

**Love One Another**  
FOAG OUG VHOIUGL

**This is how all will know  
that you are My disciples,  
if you have love for one another.**

John 13:35

# SPIRITUAL ADVISOR; FLAGSTAFF NEWS

Cursillistas to become a bridge for others, as we bring them to Jesus. We must put relationships first, because we are defined by our relationship and communion with God and our brothers/sisters. In Mathew 22:37-40, Jesus tell us “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” It’s not as complicated as we can make it out to be sometimes.

**LOVE** – from and with God shows us how to love our neighbor. It is the ultimate *why*. One of the reasons we have Cursillo retreats, Group Reunions and Ultreyas is to assist the Cursillista with evangelizing in their environments. This allows them to bring the love of Jesus and the Gospel to our sisters and brothers around the world. If we can make all major decisions based on the ultimate *why*, life becomes much simpler. That is because the answer to the ultimate *why* is the love of God and neighbor. If the answer is: “that’s how we have always done

## NEWS FROM FLAGSTAFF

De Colores from Flagstaff!!!

First of all, let me introduce myself. My name is Mary Margaret Johnson, my husband Vince and I lived our Cursillos in Denver Colorado in 1998. We moved back to Arizona in 2001 and have been very involved in the Cursillo Movement here in Flagstaff for about the last 10 years. I am currently acting as our School of Leaders committee chair.

Vince and I had the privilege of attending the National Encounter in San Antonio this last July. What an awesome experience. We enjoyed getting to spend time and developing friendships with couples from various parts of the United States as well as some from Phoenix.

This is the one thing that was really brought home for me during the Encounter weekend: Cursillo is about friendship. Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ. Each and every one of us is called to live our Christian life to the fullest, and take every opportunity to share it with others in their environments (Leaders manual page 46). What a huge task God has given us. However, it was made abundantly clear during the weekend as one of the speakers told us, “God doesn’t call the equipped, he equips the called.” It is up to us then to listen, determine where others are and through our piety, study and action provide a truth to those in our personal square meter and be the Good News and bring Christ into their lives.

Cursillo is busy in Flagstaff. As a community, we had the opportunity to serve breakfast to the homeless on the first

it, that’s the part I like the best, etc.”, then it’s time to look at things differently. The how and what we do, should flow from the why we are doing something, not the other way around.

I believe Cursillistas, like deacons, are called to be holy, servant leaders. Our foundation is the loving and prayerful relationship with God. It is only through that relationship with Jesus can we truly understand when we are to serve and how we are to lead our neighbor.

Otherwise, the psychologist in me, thinks that our ego may interfere. Thank you all for the time and sacrifices that you have made and will make in the future. Cursillo is without a doubt one of the most powerful and successful movements in the Catholic Church. Mathew Kelly stated that his research found two programs in the United States that are dynamic Christian programs; Cursillo was one of the two. Make a friend, be a friend and bring your friend to Christ. As our fearless Northern Arizona Cursillo leader Vince Johnson reminds us, Grupo and Ultreya! Always remember that URLOVED\*.

De Colores!



*Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, Flagstaff*

Saturday of August. What a humbling experience that was and how rewarding it was to serve as Christ has asked us. We are also currently discerning teams for our upcoming Cursillos in February and March

so we ask for your prayers.

Each year in September we have an Ultreya to start a new season of Ultreyas and School of Leaders. Summers can be busy and it can be very easy to get out of the routine of attending Ultreya and School of Leaders so this is a way to get back into the swing of things for the year and get people back on track. Our Ultreyas are usually held on a week night but for this “kick off” Ultreya we hold it on a Sunday afternoon and invite all Cursillistas, especially those who have been away from the community for a while to join us to build new relationships and renew old friendships. This year our Ultreya will be held on Sunday, September 17 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Bushmaster Park. All are welcome to join us! Come up from Phoenix and enjoy the cool weather!

In closing, I would ask that each of us continue to pray for our movement. Great things are happening but it takes prayer and perseverance to continue to spread and to be the Good News of Christ. May the blessing of God the Father and the Holy Spirit be with each and every one of us as we continue to live our piety, study and action.

**2018 Flagstaff Weekends:**

Men’s English February 22-25

Women’s English March 8-11

## September 2107

Sept. 5 6:30 pm SOL (Mt. Claret)  
Sept. 12 6:30 pm Secretariat (Mt. Claret)  
Sept. 15 6:00 pm Ultreya (St. Thomas Aquinas)  
Sept. 16 9:30 am SOL (St. Agnes)  
Sept. 17 2:00 pm Ultreya (Flagstaff)  
Sept. 23 9:00 am Diocesan Ultreya (Mt. Claret)  
Sept. 30 8:30 am Ultreya (St. Anne, Gilbert)

## October 2017

Oct. 3 6:30 pm SOL (Mt. Claret)  
Oct. 7 7:30 am Parish Rep & (10:30 am) Sponsor  
Workshop (Mt. Claret)  
Oct. 10 6:30 pm Secretariat (Mt. Claret)  
Oct. 15 12:30 pm Ultreya (OLG Monastery)  
Oct. 18 7:00 pm Orientation #905 & #906  
Oct. 21 9:30 am SOL (St. Agnes)  
Oct. 28 9:30 am Northwest Ultreya (TBA)

## Upcoming Events

*Parish Rep and Sponsor Workshop - October 7 (see page 4)*

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!

JOIN US FOR THE  
ANNUAL DIOCESAN ULTREYA

at Mt. Claret

Saturday, September 23, 2017

9:00 am Potluck; 10:00 am Ultreya

Friday, September 15, 2017

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

13720 W. Thomas Rd., Avondale (St. Clare Hall)

6:00 pm Potluck followed by Ultreya

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Bushmaster Park, Flagstaff

3150 N. Alta Vista, Flagstaff

2:00 to 4:00 pm

Saturday, September 30, 2017

St. Anne Church

440 E. Elliot Rd, Gilbert (JPII Room)

8:30 am Potluck; 9:00 am Ultreya

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery

8502 W. Pinchot Ave., Phoenix

10:15 am Mass, Potluck follows

12:30 pm Ultreya

*Interested in hosting an Ultreya? Please contact Brenda Hope at [postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com)*

## EVENTS

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](http://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?"

The obvious question is, "Why should I attend this event?"

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!!!!



### *De Colores, Cursillo Community!*

The long, hot summer is more than half-way over, and the children are returning back to school. Whatever happened to the time when the Tuesday after Labor Day was the official start of the school year? The summer vacation must feel really short for kids nowadays.



### *National Encounter*

Speaking of returning to school, Jo-Ann and I had the privilege of increasing our knowledge of Cursillo at the 27th Annual National Encounter held in San Antonio, Texas on the Trinity University campus. Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Cursillo in the USA, it was a gathering of 740

Cursillistas from seven language groups from all over the United States. Included in this gathering were four Bishops, more than fifty priests and deacons, and four international guests.

Also present were three people who made the first Cursillo in Waco, Texas. It was a beautiful, enlightening experience full of fellowship, study of the movement, and some powerful 4th day witness.

As I reflect on the National Encounter, I come away with these impressions:

1. If more Cursillistas were able to attend this yearly Encounter, they would not be so leery of the word 'National'.
2. Eduardo Bonin is not just the founder of the Cursillo Movement, he is also on the first step to being declared a saint. His cause for beatification began in 2015. This is one reason why the Movement is concerned with keeping his original charism intact.
3. When taking part in the multicultural rosary, although the words sound different in the many languages, the common name of 'Maria', is understood by all. It gave me a greater appreciation of her spiritual motherhood for all her children around the world.

The presentations are available for viewing in their entirety on the National website. Next year the encounter will be held in Seattle, Washington. I am looking forward to it!

### *Meeting with Bishop Nevares*

I recently met with Bishop Nevares to go over two documents that we (the Secretariat and the School of Leaders) have been working on for the last several months. The documents were the Apostolic Plan, which the Bishop wanted implemented, and the Articles of Operation, which was last revised in 2011. A future meeting will be set up to finalize these.

There was also some clarification needed on the issue of Adoration during the Cursillo weekend. The Bishop reiterated that he would like to see adoration starting on Thursday night of the Cursillo, and ending at noontime on Sunday. He suggested having adoration away from the chapel, to keep the cloistered

weekend intact. The Bishop mentioned the use of a palanca team to help out when the team could not cover the hours. The Three Day Committee is working on the plan for the upcoming Cursillos. Tom McGuire suggested using the conference center as a suitable location. There is an altar in place, and there would be access to the restrooms. The teams will continue to use the chapel for the Decuria visits, with the Blessed Sacrament in repose. This is how the Cursillos in the 60's through the late 80's often made the Decuria visits, with the Blessed Sacrament reposed.

Another issue that was discussed was the Marian Dinner on Saturday night of the weekend. I explained what transpires with the procession, candles, roses to the Blessed Virgin, kitchen team in formal attire, etc. The Bishop stated that it all sounded very nice, but that it did not belong on the Cursillo weekend. He is in fact correct, for there is no mention of this devotion on the national schedule. His concern was that this devotion was putting undue stress on the team in time, resources, and planning. He also correctly stated that Mary is honored Saturday morning with the rosary and the Sabatina prayers. The Marian Dinner will be a topic for future discussion on the Three Day Committee.

Additionally, there was some speculation that St. Gregory was available for use as a site for future Cursillos. The Bishop said that this is an active parish, and that it would not be feasible to hold Cursillos there.

Finally, the Bishop also mentioned that Fr. John Hannigan would be having a more active role as the Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Movement, with Monsignor O'Grady helping when he could.

### *Appreciation*

I would like to give a great big "Thank You!" to Deacon Bob Carey, Deacon Frank Devine, and Fr. John Hannigan for leading the Secretariat retreat for us. It is always a plus when you can build friendships in community, and in the sharing of one's journey with Christ. Let us not forget the great cooking and hospitality by the Zellner family, who gave of their time and talents (great pulled pork and homemade mac 'n cheese)! I would also like to thank Bishop Nevares, who took time from his busy schedule to say Sunday Mass for us, and join us at breakfast. Lastly, I would like to thank all of those who came and spent time in adoration as palanca for us. We are truly blessed to have a community such as ours!

I would also like to thank Jim Pompe, who has accepted the position as the Phoenix representative for the District 10 RST (Regional Service Team). Congrats, Jim! I know you will enjoy meeting some of the team that I have come in contact with.

For those of you who get Netflix, check out the film *Footprints*, a film made here in Gilbert, AZ. The film follows the journey of twelve young pilgrims and Fr. Sergio Fita, pastor of St. Anne's Church as they travel on the Way of St. James of Compostela. This is the origins of the Cursillo Movement, where Eduardo Bonin and a group of young men of Catholic Action travelled in 1943.

ULTREYA! Your friend in Christ, Ruben Trevizo

# FROM THE TREASURER

## Financial Report

The Cursillo Movement of Phoenix has a fiscal year for their financial reporting of July 1 – June 30. To the right is a summary for the year that ended June 30, 2017 along with a comparison to the previous year.

For the year ending June 30, 2016, the results include 2 Spanish Cursillos which contributed \$11,600 to the total stipends. That year also included Mt Claret rent at a higher rate until the new agreement was put into effect in March 2016.

Donations are very important to keep the Movement financially viable. We currently receive approximately \$750 per month in monthly tithes to the movement. We were very blessed in the year ending June 30, 2017 to have received a distribution from a trust on the death of a Cursillista. That distribution accounted for half of the donations received during the year. Fundraisers like the Cena and golf tournaments have also been important for both their financial contribution and their community building. We will be looking for fundraising activities in the current year and we certainly encourage ideas and volunteers!

Brenda Halpain  
Treasurer

There have been many questions about the contract we have with Mt Claret, so we want to give our community a clearer understanding of the agreement in place. Thanks to Bishop Nevares and the previous Secretariat a new contract was negotiated last year.

The basic tenants of the agreement are as follows. Please note that descriptions for the use of the facility are in the contract, but each can be used for a different Cursillo purpose.

**Term: April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2019**

### Facility Access:

\*Cloistered access to the sleeping and meeting facilities (including 3 private rooms) for 4 consecutive days, 6 times per year.

\*Conference Center, Dining Room, Kitchen, Rollo Room one time per year (for Cena).

\*Entire sleeping and meeting facilities for 3 consecutive days twice per year (“Encounter Retreat”).

\*Conference Center, Rollo Room, Kitchen, Dining Room 1 day per year for Diocesan Ultreya.

\*Rollo Room, Kitchen, Dining Room 1

## SO HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

day per year for Parish Rep workshop.

\*Rollo Room, Kitchen, Dining Room for 2 hours, twice per year for Team or Spiritual Director Workshop.

\*Conference Center for 1 day, 6 times per year for Days of Recollection.

\*Cursillo Office

\*Conference Room (Upper Level):

\*2 evenings per month for 9 months for School of Leaders.

\*15 times per year for follow up meetings.

\*2 meeting per month for Secretariat/Finance Committee.

\*8-10 meetings per year for team formation for each of the 6 teams.

And while not included in the contract, they also allow us the locked kitchen pantry, Cena storage room, and Palanca Room.

Mt Claret may grant additional dates, at their sole

discretion. Cursillo has preferential right to use the facility by submitting the preferred dates in a timely manner. Rate: \$3,862 per month (\$46,344 total annual cost).

**To understand how our monthly rate compares with what we would**

	For the Year Ended	
	6/30/17	6/30/16
<u>Income</u>		
Stipends	\$ 20,691	\$ 46,341
Donations	\$ 32,212	\$ 27,223
Fund Raisers:		
Cena	\$ -	\$ 32,833
Other	\$ 7,760	\$ 10,980
Books, etc	\$ 2,088	\$ 1,991
Other	\$ 5,473	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 68,224</b>	<b>\$ 119,368</b>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Rent-Mt Claret	\$ 46,344	\$ 83,199
Cursillo Weekends	\$ 4,140	\$ 10,443
Fund Raisers:		
Cena	\$ -	\$ 14,499
Other	\$ 5,846	\$ 6,440
Books, etc	\$ 2,324	\$ 1,287
Other	\$ 6,218	\$ 4,578
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 64,872</b>	<b>\$ 120,446</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 3,352</b>	<b>\$ (1,078)</b>



## FROM THE TREASURER

pay on a per use basis, consider the following: If we hold six weekends per year and we have 25 team members and 20 candidates per Cursillo we would have a total of 270 people. The cost for Mt Claret for a cloistered retreat is \$159 per retreatant for a three-night retreat. The total cost for the six Cursillos for the team members and candidates if we rented the facility separately by each use would be \$42,930 (270\*\$159).

Additionally, there is a charge of \$234 per private room for the spiritual advisors. Assuming 3 spiritual

advisors per Cursillo weekend, the cost of the private rooms would be \$4,212.

There is an additional charge of \$82 per day for the kitchen, total of \$1,968 for the 6 Cursillos. The total for the six Cursillos alone, using these costs, is \$49,110 (\$2,766 more than our annual contract.)

This per use calculation **does not include** all of the other contractual use we have of the facility; for instance, Team Meetings, School of Leaders, all other events, and the Cursillo office space.

## THANK YOU TO ALL THE STEWARDS OF THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT IN THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX FOR YOUR TIME, YOUR TALENT, YOUR PRAYERS, AND YOUR DONATIONS!

Perhaps you have read the articles in the Voice over the summer of 2017 about the building of our Chapel. Perhaps you remember the changes over the years: a memory about the days when there was barely a kitchen, or when you slept on the bottom level of a rickety wooden bunk, or as part of a kitchen team you slept upstairs on the floor of the upper room.

It isn't just about the accommodations though, or even the legacy of the many Cursillistas before you. Mt. Claret has been a cloistered, holy home for the Phoenix Cursillo Movement for many years past and hopefully many to come. 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".

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



*Your Help Is Needed!* The Cursillo

Movement runs primarily from your generous contributions and fundraisers.

Here are two ways to donate:

automatically at [easytith.com/Cursillo](http://easytith.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.

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 (and Msgr. McMahon!) 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.

[Easytith.com/Cursillo](http://Easytith.com/Cursillo)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** *The Fiesta committee, led by Terry McDonald from St. Anne's Parish, has begun meeting. This community event for every Cursillista and their families; English and Spanish. If you would like to volunteer to be part of this event, please call Terry at (602) 920-5161 or email [info@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:info@phoenixcursillo.com).*

*Watch your email for more info SOON!*



## Witness of Piety - Study - Action

When I was asked to write an article on my Piety, Study and Action it gave me pause to write this sorta as a confession: they say it's good for the soul!

We put our home on the market in April and three days later we sold it and moved out in seven days. We moved to a home in Peoria, a home that we knew we were going to "refresh". The days ever since have been nothing but people in and out of our home. Not much time for sitting and praying every morning as I had done in the past. Needless to say the tensions of moving have gotten the best of me many times. I have been short with my husband and my actions not always kind. I felt ashamed many times and had to turn to my Holy Face of Jesus. Anyone who knows me well, knows that I have a favorite Face of Jesus given to me by a lady after a trip to the Holy Land. I love that picture and take it everywhere I go. On our move to our new home He came hand carried. No packing him in a box. Many a day I've had to stand before Him and ask for forgiveness. I could almost see him frowning at me. No kidding.

We also were not getting all of our mail and my Magnificat was lost to me for over three months. Not a good thing for me as this was my morning meditation. But I did find some wonderful ways to study, in the car with my rosary as I ran from store to store finding the stuff for our house and also listening to old CD's of past Cursillo weekends, such lovely music. It brought me back to the wonderful weekends that brought so many people to our loving Lord. I think for the most part I was missing my time with the God I love, and His sweet Blessed Mother. I

packed the statue of my Mama Mary and still have not found her. I miss seeing her in her place next to her loving Son. But, sooner or later she will appear out of the depths of a box. I know that there is humor in my life with this God who loves me. After all, we had only 445 boxes to open, and no way are they all opened yet. *(Editor's note: I asked and 445 boxes was not an exaggeration!)*

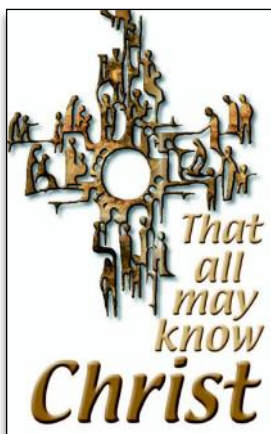
The action in my life for the most part has been all the wonderful people that have come in and out of our home. I'm able in small ways to show them kindness and make them welcome in our home. They also have to pass that Holy Face as they go through our house. I know that God smiles on each and every one of them.

I know that through my sins and crabbiness that God has mercy for my life. Pope Francis says, "The privileged place of encounter with Jesus is the caress of Jesus' mercy regarding my sin."

I know that through everything, even when I fail sometimes, He is always there to pick me up. I'm in wonderful arms!!

God Bless You All!!

Bev Arnold (1988)



## Your Voice!

### 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.

## 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).



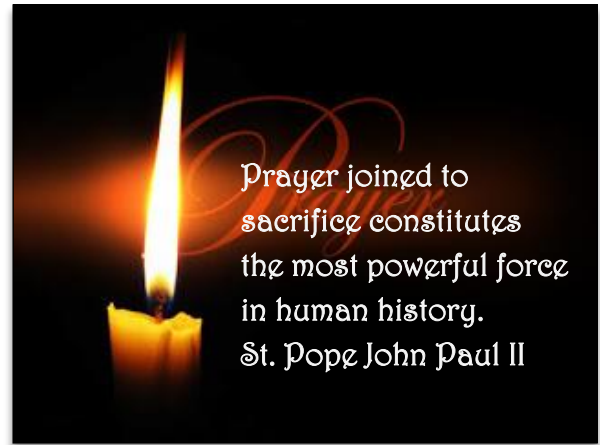
Record your prayers and sacrifices on behalf of upcoming Cursillo weekends both in our Diocese and other Dioceses. On the new website there is a form for General Palanca. Palanca will be gathered cumulatively, recorded, and relayed in a general palanca letter for those weekends, both locally, in the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



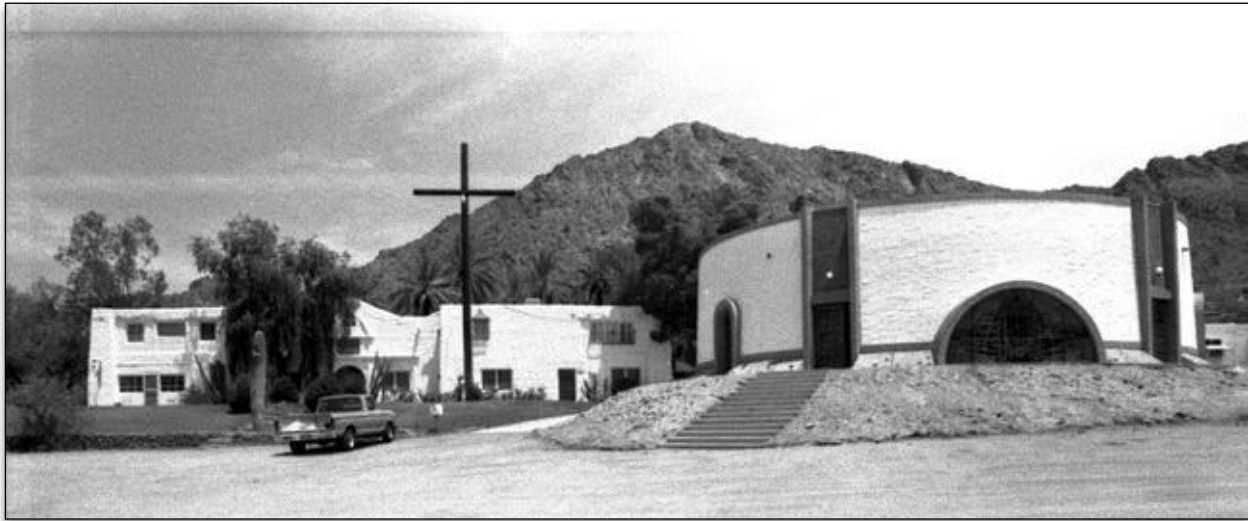
**PHOENIX CURSILLO DATABASE**

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 x42**

# MT. CLARET CHAPEL: A JOURNEY OF FAITH



## Post Script (Part 4)

By Chris B. Doran (Cursillo #139)

Several ancillary events occurred during the construction of the Cursillo Chapel which are worthy of comment.

First of these was the discovery of problems with the old electric meter. It had been in the old utility room just north of the old pool (north of the east end of the Main Building). The plans for the Chapel called for a new 200 amp power panel to be fed from the existing electric panel. However, upon close examination, Paul discovered the power was a 240 volt three phase “Y” type system and only the two 240 volt legs of the service were metered. The third leg, the 277 volt leg, was not metered. Upon this discovery that for the last 50 years, the third leg (which ran all the air conditioners) had been “free electricity”, he promptly reported to Fr. Duran the situation.

With some help from Cursillista Merle Scheldon, who worked for Salt River Project, they had a new 400 amp meter installed to properly meter all three legs of the power for the Cursillo Center. Then, in 2002, with the addition of the Kitchen and Conference Centers, new service was installed to handle the new load.

Regarding the **big saguaro** in the parking lot just south of the main building: Paul originally proposed

*A note about this article: This is the final postscript to 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 three installments can be found in the June, July, and August 2017 editions of **The Voice**, respectively.*

to move it or sell it and have it removed. However, since it was so big, nobody wanted to try to remove it. The bid to destroy it and remove the pieces was over \$2,000.

Tight on budget, Paul elected to just leave it and to fit the new parking lot around it. When the Life Teen Studios were built in 1985, they also elected to leave it and pave the new parking lot around it. “Ol’man Saguaro”, over 500 years old, is the oldest living thing to survive on the Cursillo Center site.

The big wooden Cross in front of the main building was installed several weeks after the dedication by an SRP line crew compliments of Merle Scheldon. They showed up on a Saturday with a line truck and a bundle of old wood poles on



# MT. CLARET CHAPEL: A JOURNEY OF FAITH

a trailer. While the truck drilled a hole ten feet down in the lawn, the rest of the crew cut the pole and bolted the plinth to it. In less than an hour, Mt. Claret had the biggest cross in Arizona.

In 2002, a corpus of Jesus was added. From then on, Jesus could look down at Phoenix, just as he did on



Calvary, as he laid down his body for the love of Mankind. The new Corpus was added with the help of Cursillista (1986) Buster Estrada who passed the hat at every Cursillo gathering for a couple of months. (Buster entered his Fifth Day in 2014).

Over the next few years, the new Chapel served the Cursillo well. An average of 25 Cursillos a year were given for the next ten years; over 6,000 more Catholics were introduced to La Vida de Gracia (the Life of Grace)! Clausuras were attended by record numbers with adequate space and air conditioning. Sometimes it took kneeling on the cold, hard, concrete floors for the Stations of the Cross to bring a sinner home to Jesus. The new Chapel made all this possible.

Paul Murphy always loved to meditate at night in the Guadalupe Chapel and to see the little light from Sky Harbor Airport Tower which flashed in the dark to bring the planes in for safe landings. He always said "it was like God guiding us home to heaven." On the first anniversary of the dedication, at the request of Fr. Frank Ambrose, CFM, Paul drew a picture of the Chapel with the big cross for a poster to advertise the first Fiesta. I remember that there was a young man climbing the fourteen steps to the Adoration Chapel - and that was me on my Saturday "visit to the Blessed Sacrament". The poster lives on as a memento to Paul who went on to his Fifth Day in 1976 from a brain tumor.

As for the remodeling of the interiors, in the 1980s, the concrete floors were carpeted and the Altar of Repose was

moved to the center of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel with kneelers surrounding it. During this time, the original Monstrance which aligned the Host for Adoration with the heart in the stained glass window was



substituted for a smaller one. The new table is lower and the current Monstrance holds the host below Our Lady of Guadalupe's heart when set on top of the tabernacle.

In 2004, a major building program was started to add the new Conference Center and the three Casitas for retired priests. Hugh Knoell Jr. was the architect and substantial changes were made to all the buildings on the Campus. Most notably for the Cursillo Chapel was the re-plaster which included covering the slump block parapet cap and ALL the stucco on the exterior with a smooth, white, finish. A new canopy was added connecting the Center and the Chapel, also in smooth, white stucco. In addition, the casita just northeast of the Chapel was demolished for the Christ Child garden.

Also, the parking lot was paved covering the bottom two steps of the fourteen original steps on the southwest side and low walls and railings were added.



Archeologists may wonder at how the two steps came to be covered.

Over all this activity, the begging, the palanca, the blood, sweat and tears, St. Joseph, patron of builders, will continue to cast an approving smile and hold his protective hand over Mt. Claret for years

and generations to come.

In the history of the Cursillo in America, Mt. Claret was the leader for over 20 years. Scrimping and begging for the first ten years kept the Leaders lean and mean. With the blessing of the new chapel, the second ten years were equally stellar.

Viva Cristo Rey!!