

## Secretariat minutes – December 10, 2024

**Attendees:** Deacon Ernie Gonzales, Carmela Gonzalez, Jim Pompe, Sophie Bejarano, Bart Blaylock, Deborah Hernandez, Ted Cruz, Sharon Matson.

**6:30 PM Opening Prayer:** led by Jim Pompe  
Meditation/group reunion: led by Carmela Gonzales

**Minutes:** Bart Blaylock moved to approve the November minutes with corrections. Sophie Bejarano seconded the motion. November minutes approved with corrections.

### **Lay Director Report - Carmela Gonzalez:**

Teen Center lease update: The lease has been updated, and the corrections were made by Shawnee.

Sophie asked if Veronica Lucas, the incoming Lay Director, has been able to read through the lease and asked if it was necessary to insert a line for Veronica's signature. After discussion, it was decided to leave the line in for the Lay Director's signature as is.

The National Cursillo Movement did forward the disbursement payment from our beneficiaries. Carmela suggested that we send a thank you gift to Terry at the National Cursillo Movement for her help in resolving this situation properly. She will take care of that.

Flock Note & Easy Tithe: question: how will we change over from easy time to flock note regarding monthly stipends from the community? Carmela will contact Zelda Graham to see if there is a process in place and if we can initiate it. Jim mentioned that if the community realizes we have such a large balance on our accounts, they may be wondering why we are still asking for monthly tithing. The secretariat felt that in general the community is not aware of the large donation, but should anyone from the community asked to see a financial report it can be provided to them in keeping consistent with what is done at the parish level.

The discussion also pointed out that the monthly tithing is used for the monthly expenses, such as the lease, rental of extra rooms, and Cursillo Weekends and our bills. Carmela also mentioned that we do need to think about investing some of these funds so they can grow. It was not decided what the next step there will be. This is to be discussed further in 2025.

Sophie reminded the secretariat that we only have less than 50 people currently using Easy Tithe so that should be a pretty easy number to convert over to Flock Note.

Further discussion about why so few people are doing a monthly tithing. Ted asked if we're getting good sign ups after each Cursillo Weekend and Sophie reported that we are not seeing a big increase there. Sharon suggested that we revise the Sermon On The Amount Rollo for the weekend to make it a little more relevant. Carmela also suggested that we adapt a QR code to make monthly sign ups easy. This is something that can also be discussed with Zelda.

It was also suggested that we get a sign for the newly leased building changing the name from Teen Center to the Cursillo Center. This was met with unanimous agreement!

Veronica Lucas asked if we could push our January meeting back to January 21st instead of the 14th. This was also unanimously agreed upon.

**Treasurer's Report - Sophie Bejarano:**

See separate report for details.

**School Of Leaders (SOL) Chair Report - Jim Pompe:** there is no school of leaders meeting this month of December. Jim wants to invite Fr. Arthur Naive to present Spiritual Director's talk about: "Why should you make a Cursillo?"

Jim will show his replacement how to pick topics and speakers once a school of leaders chair person is elected. There is currently no one to take over Jim's position in January. Jim is willing to stay in the position until there was a replacement found. (Thank you, Jim)!

Jim is speaking with Thomas Navarro who is a teacher and retires in May. Thomas may be willing to take over this position then. Jim is also considering asking Manny Yrique to be the permanent MC for the school of leaders meetings. Manny has experience and lives very nearby so that helps to make it more convenient for him.

**Pre-Cursillo Chair Report – Bart Blaylock:** 43 people have voted so far for the upcoming secretariat elections. Sophie asked that we resend the voting invitation out through Flock Note.

The secretariat had discussion about how to increase voting turnout. We were asked to check with our group, brothers and sisters, contact directors, and Rector/a's from this year's previous weekends and encourage them to vote and ask them to help encourage their team and candidates from the weekend to vote as well.

Brian Allman has been working with Brian and Debi Wiskirchen to learn the Application process. Bart is working with these three individuals as well as Carmela's friend Maria, to update the Application form and its process. It is hoped that we can make this an electronic & fillable application online.

**Three-Day Chair Report - Deborah Hernandez:** Debi is looking for a Rector for the men's spring Cursillo Weekend. Andy Martinez and Dave Daniels are both possibilities for that position of Rector.

Deborah is asking to swap the dates for the Cena with the Men's Weekend. The Cena will now be on 04/26/25 and the Men's Weekend will be starting on 05/29/25. (after the Women's Weekend)

Geri Desmond is the director for the women's in May and has already formed her team.

Deborah has looked at the women's November evaluations. Some team members and candidates gave lengthy responses. Some team members mentioned that some of the inexperienced team members did not feel as connected to the experienced team members as they wanted to. This is just an awareness for rector/a's moving forward.

Carmela asked that we be sure to include men and women from Flagstaff on the teams

**Post Cursillo Chair Report – Ted Cruz:** Ted says that he is pleased with how the Ultreya was set up and how well they are going. Ted is creating a list of women (in addition to men) who can also share their witness on the Ultreyas. Ted strongly suggests that sponsors bring their candidates to an Ultreya as well as S.O.L. especially once they've completed their weekend. Ted reminded us that the Christmas Dance has been canceled. He is working with Tom Macguire to

secure a date and the space need to schedule a Pig Roast for the community in February or March.

**Secretary Report-Sharon Matson:** Sharon asked if it is tradition to have a secretariat dinner for outgoing and incoming secretary of members. The secretariat decided that it was a great idea and Sharon and Sophie will work on putting together a couple ideas so the dinner can be held at the end of January.

**Spiritual Director's Report** – nothing new to report.

Ted closed us in prayer at 8:19 PM and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Matson, Secretary of  
The Secretariat  
Of the Cursillo Movement of Phoenix