

# Secretariat Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2025

**Attendees:** Dcn. Ernie Gonzales, Veronica Lucas, Sophie Bejarano, Jim Pompe, Bart Blaylock, Aurora Hicks, Ted Cruz, Sharon Matson.

**Guests:** Terry McDonald and Angela Fairlie to update the Secretariat on the Cena de Colores.

**6:40 PM Opening Prayer:** "Come Holy Spirit" prayer and the "Leaders Prayer", led by Veronica Lucas.

**Meditation:** Presented by Ted Cruz.

**Approval of the Minutes from January:** Bart moved to approve the Minutes from January; Aurora seconded the motion. Motion passed, Minutes approved.

Cena Updates: Angela and Terry presented a cost comparison for a catered meal versus a meal prepared at Mount Claret by Ed McDonald's team, as we did last year.

- Angela presented a quote for a fajita dinner from La Canasta Catering, which included appetizers, dinner, dessert & servers for four hours. This service would be all inclusive, set up and clean up too, and would include a 20% gratuity. Price for 150 people would be \$7278.76. The cost for 100 people would be \$5992.76. This would not include alcohol.
- Terry presented a menu similar to last year with appetizers, salad, entrée which would be a choice of beef, chicken, or fish, potato, vegetable and dessert. Last year's cost was \$26 per person and Teri feels it is something she can get something close to that again this year. (approx. \$28-\$30/per person)
- Ed McDonald has agreed to be the Head Cook and is putting together a team of eight people.
- Terri has contacted Melissa Kapanicus and asked her to put together a team of eight people for the cleanup after the event.

## For Servers:

- Rhapsody Canepa can put together a group of high school teens to serve appetizers, the main dinner and dessert.
- Terry McDonald has a contact to do the same.
- It was agreed that we needed an increased number of servers to expedite meal service and make sure the meal is served hot. Everyone was in agreement with that.
- The prices for the Cena tickets will remain the same with either option.
- Beverages included beer, wine, and margaritas, and some discussion followed.

Veronica asked the Secretariat to vote on a catered option or a prepared option at Mount Claret.

Much discussion ensued and although the secretary was very split about both options, it was finally decided that we would have Ed McDonald lead up a team to prepare the meal at Mount Claret. The Secretariat felt that after this year, if there were still difficulties with serving the food quickly and ensuring that the meal was hot, that we would consider a catered option for 2026.

Bart suggested that we develop a budget for the Cena and that these decisions could be best made in committee and reported back to the secretary. It was agreed that a budget is important and

should be done before next year. Veronica mentioned that she would still like the Secretariat to approve any spending above \$500.

### **Lay Director Report-Veronica Lucas:**

The Bishop's English/Spanish Secretariat meeting on 03/08/2025 went very well. Here are the highlights:

#### National Cursillo Movement:

Bishop wants us to seriously consider uniting with the National Cursillo Movement rather than the International Cursillo Movement. Right now we belong to the International Cursillo Movement but we do pay dues to National. Spanish belongs only to International.

The concern with aligning ourselves with the National Movement is that the guidelines have changed a bit. The Rollos/Talks are shorter in length for both the lay presenters and the spiritual directors. The idea behind this is to allow more time for community building. Right now, the English movement cannot get our older Cursillo Manual that outlines the weekend and the Rollos/Talks so we are in need of materials for the teams.

Although the English Movement has received copies of the updated National Rector Handbook, the Spanish Community has not. Since they do not belong to National, Veronica will order some Spanish Rector Handbook so they can review them.

The Bishop is asking both English and Spanish communities to take a serious look at using the materials from National. There was discussion and some concern, among the Spanish Secretariat members in particular, but it was decided that we would invite someone from the National Movement to come and speak to the combined Secretariat once both English and Spanish have an opportunity to review the new Rector Handbook. Veronica will put together a review committee for the English Secretariat and Nelly will do the same for the Spanish.

The Bishop did promise and assure the Secretariat that we would keep the tradition and the spirituality of the Phoenix movement in place, no matter what material we used. That was his pledge and promise to us all.

Bishop announced that Carmela Gonzalez will be a region representative for the National Cursillo Movement. She will be a liaison to our Secretariat. Veronica will join Carmela in attending the region 10 encounter held in Albuquerque, NM, April 4-5, 2025.

Update on the Cursillo Center: Painting of the Center to begin on 02/17/2025.

The keys to the Center have been prepared. The codes have been selected and both will be distributed to Secretariat members.

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

See Separate Report for details.

- Sophie is working on completing the application for the liquor license for the Cena.
- She reminded the Secretariat that we would need to schedule three off-duty police officers for that evening. Veronica will follow up with Terry and Angela.

### **School Of Leaders (SOL) Chairperson Report-Jim Pompe:**

- Veronica will be speaking at the March SOL. Fr. Kilian will also be speaking as the Spiritual Director in March.

- Jim will be speaking at the Prescott SOL in March.
- Freddie Sordia has volunteered to do SOL "Reels" that can be uploaded for the community. Reels are snippets. that can be posted online and help bring interest/exposure to The Movement.
- FYI: Fr. Paul Sullivan is going to be a candidate for the men's May Weekend. As Jim is the Co-Rector, he will help Fr. Paul do an Ultreya in his parish after the weekend so Fr. Paul can meet his parish Cursillistas.
- Jim is also attending the Ultreya at All Saints Parish in February, hoping that they may be willing to host a SOL in the East Valley.

#### **Pre-Cursillo Chairperson Report-Bart Blaylock:**

- Bart is working with Brian Allman along with Bruce & Debi Wiskirchen as they passed the baton to Brian in the role of Application Chairperson to provide a smooth transition.
- Bart says there's a couple in Northern Arizona who would like to take on that role up north.
- His committee is creating a digitized application for an easier and clearer process.
- Bart is roughing out a video series for sponsors and new Cursillistas. He will update us as this progresses.
- Bart says we have received some applications for the women's weekend in May.
- Ted asked if there was there was an updated application that includes the new weekend fees. Bart is going to follow up on this.

#### **Three Day Chairperson Report-Aurora Hicks:**

- Aurora contacted Alicja Kania to ask her to pray about being the director for the northern Arizona weekend. She will update us as she hears back from Aliicja.
- Aurora is going to ask Joe Fairlie to pray about being the director for the Northern Arizona men's weekend.

#### **Post-Cursillo Chairperson Report-Ted Cruz:**

Ted put out the dates for the next trays, which include:

- May 3, 2025
- August 2, 2025
- November 1, 2025

Ted is working with Dcn. Ernie on a list of spiritual directors.

**Spiritual Director's Report-Dcn. Ernie:** Dcn. Ernie has no requests for deacons or clergy for upcoming SOL or Ultreyas. He asks that Jim and Ted to help so that he can update his records as well.

Dcn. Ernie request that Rectors and Rectoras provide him with the dates of their team meetings, the date of their overnigher and the date of their day of recollection so he can invite the Spiritual Director's to attend. Spiritual Director's have been asked to attend as often as possible, to bond with the team and whenever possible, to hear the Rollos on the overnigher from a Spiritual Director's point of view, to help the Core Team be sure the Rollos are consistent with the Cursillo Method.

**8:45 PM: Closing Prayer:** lead by Dcn. Ernie.

**Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Matson: Secretary of the Phoenix English Secretariat

