

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

FROM DEACON JOE RYAN

In June, I had the joy and the privilege of working my first Cursillo, #932. Bishop Nevares was the Spiritual Director, but being an ordination weekend, he wasn't able to be with us one hundred percent of the time, so Deacon Dave Knebelberger and I both helped out. Deacon Colin Campbell, a seasoned Spiritual Advisor with many Rollos under his belt was supposed to take the lead and show us two rookies the ropes. (If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans, right?) However, at the eleventh hour, Deacon Colin's daughter informed him that there was a surprise party on for the weekend, and all his kids were coming in from out of town! Needless to say, Deacon Dave and I were sweating bullets for a while! But the team was great, the candidates were great, and the Holy Spirit took care of the rest! Oh yes, and the food was great!

In the last weeks of June, our readings from Genesis recounted the story of Abraham, our father in faith. When Abraham was seventy-five years old, God made a covenant with him and promised him he would be the father of many nations. Years passed and Abraham was still waiting for the promise to be fulfilled. When he expressed his concern about the delay to God in his prayers, God reassured him that His promises don't change. Abraham would have descendants as numerous as the stars.

Abraham definitely had reasons to be doubtful. He was already old when God first made the covenant, and now he and Sarah were getting **really** old! How could they have a child, and how could they possess a land that was already occupied? But he believed that God would keep His covenant and Abraham persevered in his faith.

Sometimes we might feel like Abraham felt. Maybe

you're waiting for a loved one's return to health, or the restoration of a damaged relationship, or the return to God of a rebellious son or daughter. As time goes by and you're waiting for signs that your prayers are being answered, it can be difficult to keep hope alive. You might start to wonder if God's forgotten about you or if He's listening to you.

But God has made a covenant with you as well, and you can count on Him to deliver. His faithfulness and the promise He has made to give you an eternal reward are unbreakable. It may be that the Lord doesn't act according to your time frame or in exactly

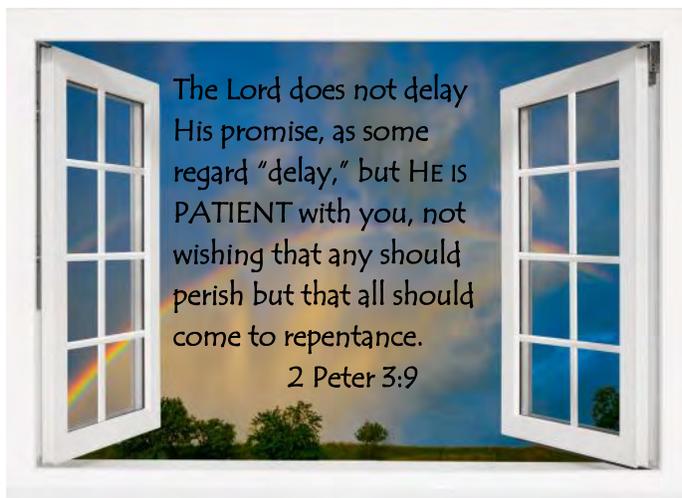
the way you had hoped, but never doubt that He'll answer you!

Waiting on the Lord calls for an active form of patience, remembering God's faithfulness and telling yourself, "I trust in the plans God has for me." It requires

countering fear and doubt with faith and hope. It also means not trying to force things to happen according to your specific plan and time schedule.

And while you're waiting on the Lord, remember our father, Abraham. Follow his example and trust in the God who is faithful and always keeps His promises.

De Colores! Deacon Joe Ryan, #693



CALENDAR AND EVENTS

July 2021

- July 3 8:30 AM Annual Mass & Rosary for our Country
(St. Thomas the Apostle, Phx)
- July 6 7:00 PM Rosary for our Country (Mt. Claret)
- July 13 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Virtual)
- July 16 6:45 PM ULTREYA (Miles Jesu)
- July 17 9:30 AM School of Leaders (Virtual)
- July 23-24 National Encounter (Virtual)

August 2021

- Aug. 2 7:00 PM Rosary for our Country (Mt. Claret)
- Aug. 10 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting
- Aug. 14 TBD Parish Rep Workshop
- Aug. 21 9:30 AM School of Leaders

2021 CURSILLO WEEKENDS

- Sept. 9-12 Men's Spanish #934 (Flagstaff)
- Sept. 23-26 Women's Spanish #935 (Flagstaff)
- Oct. 21-24 Men's Spanish #936 (Mt. Claret)
- Oct. 28-31 Women's Spanish #937 (Mt. Claret)
- Nov. 4-7 Men's English Weekend #938 (Mt. Claret)
- Nov. 18-21 Women's English Weekend #939 (Mt. Claret)

Other Important Dates

- Aug. 14 Parish Rep Workshop (Conference Center)
- Sept. 18 Diocesan ULTREYA (Conference Center)
- Cena de Colores date to be determined

STREAMING TO A DEVICE NEAR YOU!
SCHOOL OF LEADERS



Join Zoom School of Leaders:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658541324?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658541324?pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMlJCZz09)
[pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMlJCZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658541324?pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMlJCZz09)
Meeting ID: 886 5854 1324 Passcode: 338064

Cursillistas, please join us for an opportunity for fellowship including breakout rooms for sharing in group reunion after each talk or meditation. School of Leaders is the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:30 am.

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

ULTREYA!



Friday July 16, 2021 at Miles Jesus
1925 E Baseline Road, Phoenix

- 5:45 PM Holy Hour; Confessions available
- 6:30 PM Pilgrim's Guide Apostolic Hour Prayer
- 6:45 PM Ultreya; Ultreya Witness: Ed Fisher



Would you like to schedule an Ultreya at your parish?

Postcursillo Chair, Veronica Lucas, is here to help!
Please call or email her for more information:
(602) 909-3459 or cursillo.v@gmail.com
She will help plan, facilitate, and spread the good news of your Ultreya.

Diocesan Ultreya!
Saturday,
September 18th

SAVE THE DATE

Join Us For An
INDEPENDENCE DAY
Prayer for America
Saturday July 3rd

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
2312 E. Campbell Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85016

8:30 am Mass with
Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares
followed by praying the
Rosary for the United States of America




*Our country is in dire need of prayer
Your prayers are powerful.
Please help our country's leaders by joining us
and Bishop Nevares as we pray
for God's healing grace for our nation and all Americans.
Start your holiday as a family united in prayer
that we may remain One Nation Under God!*

Participation Organizations








THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

Our Lady of America...Pray for us!

"I can't complain, but sometimes I still do".

Peace be with you everyone, and welcome to the "Dog Days of Summer." Have you ever wondered where this popular idiom came from? Most people assume that it comes from feeling as exhausted as a lazy dog in the heat, but that's actually not the root of the saying. The ancient Roman and Greek astrologers coined the term to mark the period between July 3rd and August 11th when the Earth is closest to Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. Sirius is a Greek word that can be translated as sparkling or scorching. Its Latin name is Alpha Canis Majoris, or the Dog Star. Scientists in the ancient world believed that proximity to this star, which is 25 times as bright and more than twice as hot as the Sun, was the cause not only of oppressive heat, but of seasonal flooding and all sorts of erratic behavior. As for you and I today, we may notice that the long hot days can make people feel a little cranky and we tend to complain more.

A few weeks ago I was on my way to adoration at Mount Claret, and admittedly I was kind of stressed and was not in the right frame of mind to spend quality time with our Lord. It had been one of those really busy weeks when I was feeling like a sleep deprived juggler running out of hands. Just before I arrived I turned on a Catholic radio station on Sirius XM Radio and there was a medical professional talking about the physical effects that complaining has on the brain. I was intrigued enough to

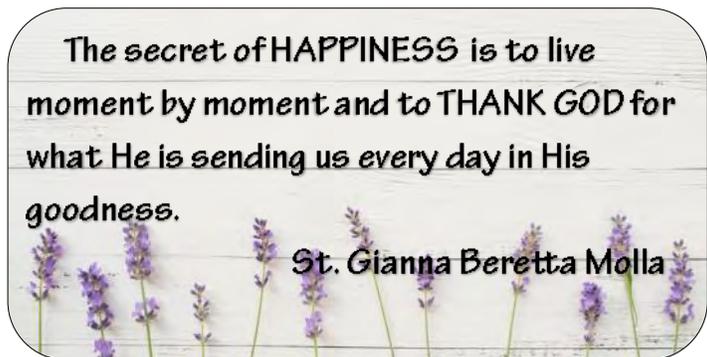
do a little research and found a number of articles on the subject. A Stanford University study found that the stress caused by complaining damages the neurons in the hippocampus, the region of the brain that controls cognitive function and problem solving. In the long term, shrinkage of the hippocampus is one of the prominent findings in patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease. In the short term, our complaining typically just doesn't help us to solve anything.

So what's the use in complaining if it does us more harm than good? At times we all feel a need to vent our frustrations. It's a defense mechanism of course, and perhaps we just desire a little sympathy. As they say; "misery loves company!" But can just letting off steam once in a while always be a bad thing?

As it turns out our brains rely on muscle memory and the reflex to complain is five times more habitual than to react positively. The more that we complain, the more prone we are to become chronic complainers. This is clearly evident in the social media culture where many use electronic outlets to express their outrage over anything from social injustice issues, whether actual or wrongly conceived, to grumbling about even the minor inconveniences of life.

Like second hand smoke, complaining soon spreads and we are exposed to a toxic environment of negativity

Cont'd on page 5



We have recently had prayer requests for beloved former Spiritual Advisors of the Diocese of Phoenix Cursillo Movement. Please remember the following in your prayers:

Fr. Alberto M Ruiz, CMF

Fr. Alberto is in New Jersey recovering from a pulmonary inflammation of his left lung. He had COVID and was hospitalized with pneumonia for 14 days. When he is fully recovered he hopes to be assigned to Los Angeles.

Sr. Cecelia Schlaefel, CSA

News received from her Congregation: "Sister Cecelia turned 99 years old on her birthday in March. Physically she is still very strong. She does suffer from dementia which makes it difficult for her to communicate any longer. She will be told of your love, concern, and promise

of prayers. I know this will bring a smile to her face and her heart." To write her: Nazareth Court and Center, 375 Gillett Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS: On the website there is a prayer page; listed are those who have asked for prayers, including the sick and those who have gone on to their 5th Day. Please check that page and pray for those listed; you may also send in a prayer request on the available form. Please be certain that the person to be prayed for wants their name on the list!

Cont'd from page 4

which contributes to the divisiveness in our culture today. So now that we've identified a problem, what's the solution?

Our Faith has provided the answer to negativity in the virtue of

Gratitude. The cure for healing all of the negativity and division that we encounter can be summed up in one word; EUCHARIST.

Although Catholics may know that the origin of the word comes from the Greek "eukharistia", meaning thanksgiving, we don't typically think in those terms when we approach the Blessed Sacrament. Often we carry our grievances with us, as I did on that day in the Adoration Chapel. In the letter to the Colossians Chapter 3, the Apostle Paul, writing from prison where you would certainly think he would find reason to complain, instructs the Church to put away anger, fury, malice, and obscene language out of your mouths. *"And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful."* (Col 3:15).

With the proper disposition, the Eucharist calls us into Communion in the One Body of Christ, with a spirit of gratitude for the grace that God has shown us. In fact, the Preface of the Eucharistic Rite in the mass clearly states the need for gratitude when the celebrant beckons *"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God"* to which we reply *"It is right and just."* In Spanish this response translates as *"Es Justo y Necesario,"* highlighting that it is not only an act of justice to give thanks to God, but it is a necessity. The priest then goes

on to proclaim *"It is truly right and just, OUR DUTY AND OUR SALVATION, ALWAYS AND EVERYWHERE TO GIVE YOU THANKS, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord."*

If we believe what we say in the mass, our Salvation is linked to the Eucharist, to dutifully paying thankful homage to God for his grace and mercy. Now it's true that being grateful "always and everywhere" seems like a lot to ask in these times. But if we follow the example of Saint

Remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, look forward to the future with confidence."

St. John Paul II

Paul, who suffered every conceivable indignity from shipwrecks, beatings, stoning, and imprisonment to imminent martyrdom and still thanked God for even his trials, what burdens can we not bear knowing that Christ is with us? Things aren't always going to go according to our plans, but we have to trust that God has a bigger plan. I'm sure that Mary and Saint Joseph had plans for their lives until the Angel Gabriel visited them with a big change of plans, but I've never heard of either of them complaining. In the original Greek language of the Annunciation in Luke 1:28, the word for Hail is "Chaire", which means Rejoice. Pope Benedict XVI said that "Gabriel's greeting, 'Rejoice, Full of Grace' is an invitation to joy, deep joy." The kind of joy that only comes through Communion with the living God.

Reflecting upon all of this I'm reminded of a Lyric from the Joe Walsh song, *Life's Been Good* that says *"I can't complain, but sometimes I still do."* If you remember the song, Walsh lists a number of material benefits associated with the wealth and fame of being a rock star, then counters each one with a negative repercussion. It stands to reason that if indeed we are five times more prone to negative than positive reactions, a one-for-one exchange of good for bad in the temporal world is not going to lead to happiness.

One suggestion that I heard is that whenever we are tempted to complain about something, think of five blessings in your life and give thanks for them. Perhaps

this exercise will work even better if we don't focus on material things, but on the signs of divine grace that bring

lasting joy, such as the gifts of the Holy Spirit, or the love that we share with family and friends. Why don't we give it a try? And when we feel the urge to complain coming on, let's count our blessings. Maybe then we can echo the chorus of the song "Life's been good to me so far" and joyfully sing one added line:

THANKS BE TO GOD!

De Colores!

Joe Fairlie; Cursillo #781

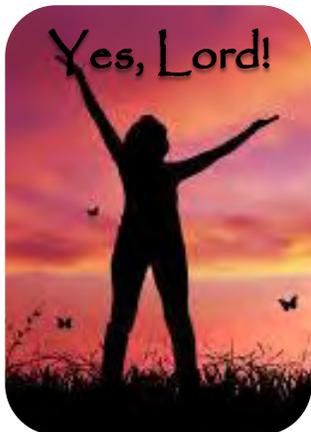
"Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope." Pope Francis

"Say 'YES' to Serve the Lord", do the little part that you can, and be amazed in the abundant graces HE has to offer us.

What a blessing to serve on the team for the recent Men's Cursillo #932. I was asked. No explanation or expectations, just, "Do you want to serve on the team?" I prayed about it. We discussed it and I said, "Yes, Bob, thanks for asking." It was a lot of time, effort and struggle, but of course I would do it again. At the time of our discussion, we didn't realize that we were all saying "Yes": Brian, Nereida, and Maryann. While I was at the weekend, the girls were praying for us, covering hours of adoration, dropping us wonderful palanca letters, and to add a great touch to lunch, making fresh brownies.

My family and I have received so many graces and many great friendships through Cursillo. Following the recent men's #932, my wife, daughter, and I joined the Rosary for America held on the first Monday of the month at Mt. Claret. We went out for dinner with friends prior to the rosary and were surprised with another gift afterward, ice cream, and then, another gift! At this point, we didn't realize that Nereida would also be asked to join the women's team, #933, following men's team.

The biggest gift received started during the same journey, yet finished after the men's and before the women's Cursillos. We volunteered to promote Catholic Charities at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish a week prior



to the men's weekend. After mass we talked with Sisters: WOW! Joy flows in them! Sister Rose of Heaven was promoting the upcoming Marian Consecration for children. It was a child-sized twelve-day consecration, rather than the 33 day De Montfort Consecration. We went to the gift shop and got the book in English and Spanish. We started it that night, so we would be able to join them for

the consecration in two weeks. June 12th is the feast day of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Mass was in Spanish, we sat towards the back. I got lost with Spanish as a second language and the rough acoustics. I felt like I was hearing the Father on echo. I told my wife after the mass that I got nothing out of it. She said it was a great message. Following mass, everyone



that was going to consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary was asked to get up and come to the front of the Church. Hundreds arose. They started with the children's consecration, then followed with the adults. As it is their feast day, they held a party with mariachis and a lot of great food and deserts. We returned to the car to change my daughter's shoes and there I was overwhelmed with the fragrance of roses; my wife and daughter both noticed it, too. But there were no roses present: that was a gift from Our Lady.

Nereida said "YES" and served at the women's weekend #933. So again, Maryann baked a desert for the Father, Deacons, and the ladies too. After all, it was on Father's Day weekend. We were praying for them and spent time with our Lord over the weekend. I barely could wait to see the fruits of the women's weekend: greater friendships, love of our Lord, and I could only imagine the blessings. Ask, seek, knock. Those ladies in the kitchen were really nailing it even with record Phoenix heat. The Head Cook's husband came to install a portable air and some fans with an ice bucket to blow fresh air to the kitchen. They were hot, yet served with joy! We hope our sisters from the North had a blessed time despite the heat!



Unbelievably, yes there was another unexpected blessing. Three of Nereida's brothers were without jobs for long time. One of them got a job with the health department, and told her that he had no idea where this was coming from. Nereida answered, "I know where it come from; our Lord Jesus Christ!"

We need the three legs of Cursillo: **Piety, Study and Action**. Over the last month, outside of preparation for the Cursillo, I have been missing my study. I started with Exodus 90 with a group of Knights from St. Andrew the Apostle in early 2020. Following the initial 90 days, I continued on. I was about to start another session, but postponed it as I would be gone for the weekend. I put myself to start on the day following, yet have had a difficult time going. One of my new brothers said he would like to join in fraternity and return to Exodus with me. Yet one more gift...

We just ask to all of you please, keep us in your prayers because you-know-who is not happy with the service we are doing! Pray for us! Pray for Cursillo! and Pray for our Nation!

Brian Shipman, #915

SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

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 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) or go directly to 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 (postcursillo@gmail.com) or Precursillo Chair at (precursillo@gmail.com).

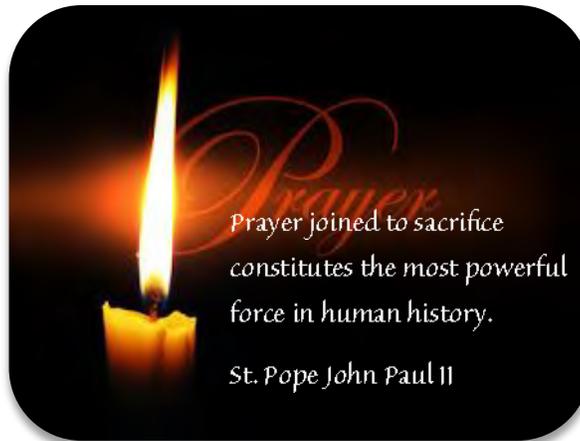
Ultreya! It just takes a place and some friends to rejoice together in the graces we receive as we live our piety, study, and action throughout our 4th day. Please get in touch with the Postcursillo Chair, if you are interested in helping with or hosting an Ultreya in your area.

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.

People will remain on the prayer list and on the 5th 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.
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 Website: www.phoenixcursillo.com

Facebook: Phoenix Cursillo Movement