

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

FROM FATHER KILIAN

Dear Cursillistas,

Bishop, theologian, and abbot, Jacques-Benigne Bossuet (1627-1704) was famous for his sermons and teachings. He wrote so beautifully in his classic book which many of you will know; *Meditations for Lent*, in which he speaks about the essential truths of faith, in mankind, and God:

<sup>(1)</sup>*The first thing that the eternal Father requires of us when he commands us to listen to his Son is that we be convinced with regard to all to that he said and believe him on his word without further examination. This is the immutable foundation of the entire Christian life. To understand this truth, let us begin by observing that men can come to the truth in two ways: either by their own lights, when they discover it themselves, or by being led by another, as when they believe in a trustworthy report. The distinction is well known, but what follows from it is most admirable.*

*It belongs to God alone to lead us to the truth by either of these ways. No, men cannot do so, and it is folly to expect them to. The one who undertakes to teach us must either make us understand the truth or at least make us believe it. To make us understand, much wisdom is necessary; to make us believe it, much authority. Neither readily appears among men.*

*This is why Tertullian said that "the prudence of men is too imperfect to reveal the true good to our reason, and their authority is too weak to be able to require anything from our belief."*

*As a result, we ought to conclude that we should not expect to gain certain knowledge of the truth from men, because their authority is not great enough to make us*

*believe what they say, and their wisdom is too limited to give us understanding.*

*Let us, therefore, come to Mount Tabor and together run to this divine Master, who shows us the heavenly Father. We can recognize his authority by considering the respect paid to him by Moses and Elijah, that is to say by the Law and the prophets.*

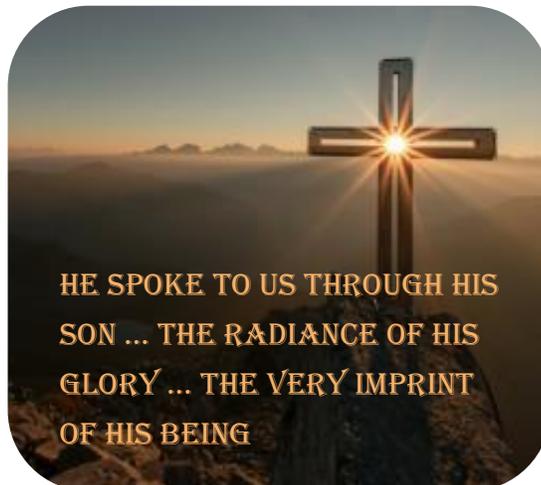
*Let us also note that at the same time the voice of the eternal Father commanded us to listen to his Son, Moses and Elijah disappeared and Jesus remained alone. What is this mystery? Why did Moses and Elijah retire at this word? Here is the mystery explained by the great apostle:*

*"In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, He spoke to us through a Son, Whom He made heir of all things and through Whom He created the universe, Who is the refulgence of His glory, the very imprint of His being, and Who sustains all things by His mighty word." (Hebrews 1: 1-3)*

As we journey together towards Jerusalem this month, keep on with your study, action, and piety as well as grouping, if at all possible. Call a Cursillista

friend you may have lost contact with this last crazy year. Renew your strength, just as Christ renews all things by his Passion. We will come to the mountain of His glory, mercy, and resurrection - if we remain faithful to the end.

De Colores! Fr. Kilian



<sup>(1)</sup> Excerpt from *Meditations For Lent*, Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet; Week 2: Sunday, Sophia Press

## CALENDAR AND EVENTS

### March 2021

- Mar. 1 7:00 PM Rosary for Our Country (Mt. Claret)  
Mar. 9 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Virtual)  
Mar. 20 9:30 AM School of Leaders (Virtual)

### April 2021

- April 5 7:00 PM Rosary for Our Country (Mt. Claret)  
April 13 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Virtual)  
April 17 9:30 AM SOL (Virtual)  
April 24 SAVE THE DATE—ULTREYA

**HOLY MASS FOR CURILLO  
MOVEMENT EACH WEDNESDAY  
EVENING AT 6:30 PM  
POSTPONED FOR NOW!**

## 2021 CURSILLO WEEKENDS

Please note: dates are still tentative due to covid!

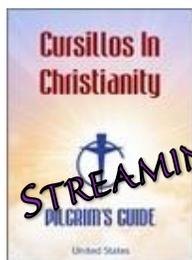
**\*\*\*Originally scheduled March English weekends are postponed.**

- June 3-6 Men's English Weekend #933 (Mt. Claret)  
June 17-20 Women's English Weekend #934 (Mt. Claret)  
Nov. 4-7 Men's English Weekend (Mt. Claret)  
Nov. 18-21 Women's English Weekend (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

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



**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=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMIJCZz09)  
[pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMIJCZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658541324?pwd=d1U4OHkxek0zZlNnR0ZvSUZjMIJCZz09)

Meeting ID: 886 5854 1324 Passcode: 338064



**Please join us** for an opportunity for Catholic 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. Upcoming meetings are March 20, April 17, May 15.



**ROSARY FOR AMERICA - MT. CLARET - 7:00 PM - 1ST MONDAYS**



**ULTREYA!**

**SAVE THE DATE—Diocesan ULTREYA—April 24, 2021**

**Watch for details soon!**

**As Parishes begin to open up, please watch the Newsletter and the website for Ultreya locations.**

**If you know of an Ultreya happening, or are interested in holding an Ultreya, please contact the Postcursillo Chair, Veronica Lucas at [Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:Postcursillo@phoenixcursillo.com).**

### “WE Are Here”

De Colores, everyone! I hope that your Lenten journey has been fruitful so far. Have you ever found it interesting that in the landscape of the first two weeks of Lent, the gospel brings us from the temptation in the desert to a high mountain with the retelling of the Transfiguration of Jesus? I’ve heard the story of the Transfiguration many times and I often relate it to my Cursillo experience. In particular, I’ve always identified with Peter’s wanting to pitch his tents and stay in the moment saying “It’s good that we are here.” These past few weeks there’s been one small word in this gospel passage has stood out largely on my mind. That word is “WE”.

Most of us probably heard it said on Cursillo weekends that it was “God who brought you here.” All three synoptic gospels start the Transfiguration story with “Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain.” For those of us who were blessed to attend our Lenten retreat, Bishop Nevares led us “Up to the Summit” on a wonderful hike with Jesus as our companion and guide. We were reminded that the path of Lent, and life in general for that matter, is difficult and challenging. Lent is a time when we deepen our prayer life, to rest and converse with Jesus along the climb of the steep hills that life presents. The path to salvation is difficult and rocky, but as Christians and Cursillistas, we are equipped for every challenge with the knowledge that we don’t face these challenges alone, because God is with us.

One of the most beautiful and compelling attractions of Cursillo is that it is a communal encounter with Christ of a diverse group of people, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share in His divine life.

This past year has been pretty rough for all of us, and it seems like everything that we see from the news to the entertainment world is a never ending drama telling us that the world is covered in darkness. But out of this darkness I have witnessed the light of Christ reflected in the friendship of our Cursillo family. We pray for one another during hard times and gather together to share in God’s love on virtual media for our Lenten retreat, or the School of Leaders.

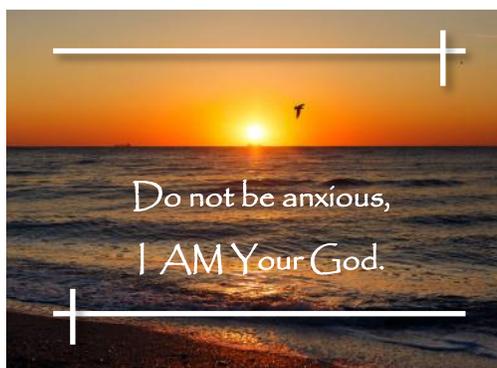
Saint Paul states that the disciples in the Transfiguration are known as the three pillars of the Church (Galatians 2:9). In their writings, St. Peter speaks of the call to holiness (Piety), John presents us with the Gospel of love (Study), and James talks of works (Action). In group reunions we reinforce the balanced pillars of our

tripod in the unity of sincere friendship forged in the love of God and of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In his final speech, given the day before he was assassinated, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King thanked God for placing him in the difficult period of history that he did saying “only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.” The last paragraph of that speech seems prophetic, not only of Dr. King’s fate, but of the times that we find ourselves in today.

*“We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter with me now. Because I’ve been to the mountaintop. And I don’t mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land. And I’m happy, tonight. I’m not worried about anything. I’m not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.”* (MLK-April 3, 1968)

There are promising signs on the horizon that we will soon arise from the gloomy desert of the pandemic which feels like the longest Lent ever, to once again be the shining light on a hillside for all of the world to see.



We’ve had six consecutive weeks of declining Covid-19 cases, Mount Claret Retreat Center has begun to schedule retreats for other ministries in small numbers, we have Cursillo teams being formed, and just today I spoke with a young couple at our parish who are looking forward to living their Cursillo weekends this June. I encourage all of you to please consider who you might

sponsor to join our community as we journey together on the joyful path to salvation and holiness. Most importantly, please offer your Palanca prayers for all of the potential candidates and team members.

I would like to close by thanking the Good Lord for His grace in allowing me to navigate through this most difficult period of history together with you. I have faith and hope that we will soon come out of this as a stronger community of love than ever before. In the Cursillo we have scaled the summit of the mountain top and seen the glory of God together, and as the gospel reminds us, “It is good that WE are here.”

Your Brother in Christ, Joe Fairlie #781

I AM WELL into my second year of retirement and have become one of those retirees who is as busy now as when they worked full-time. God is good. My typical morning starts with quiet time for prayer as I retreat with my coffee to a bedroom, my sacred space. Several years ago my spiritual director asked me to use the “Jesus Prayer” as part of my prayer life. He recommended that I just start with “Jesus” and over time add to it. This is my first prayer of the day. This simple prayer has become a part of my whole day. During mass, “Jesus, have mercy on me” prevails. “Blessed be the name of Jesus” when someone takes our Lord’s name in vain.

My next prayer is the Our Father which, not so coincidentally, is today’s Gospel (Mt 6:7-15). I have broken it into sections so that I can meditate on each part. After “on earth as it is in heaven”, I plan how I might show God that He is my King with mass, holy rosary, adoration, confession... When I petition God for my daily bread, I think about when my day might be most difficult and ask for help during that specific time. Asking to be forgiven at the beginning of the day brings me to offering my day to Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph.

The past year has challenged me to up my game when I pray for the forgiveness of others to include those who I believe are hurting our church the most. Lastly, I ask God to remind me to look to Him when I rely too much on myself in good times or do and say things I shouldn’t when things are going south. I continue my prayer with petitions and words of thanks. The simplicity of the Jesus prayer and the Our Father has been enough to fill my morning with grace.

The second part of my morning I spend with the daily readings. Once I read them, I use several websites that offer insights. One is from St Thomas Aquinas who took writings from the Church Fathers and organized them by bible verse. St Augustine does a great job of addressing the differences between the accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. During this morning’s study of the readings, I was reminded that the Our Father starts with “Our”. This is Jesus’ prayer, too, as He prays with all of us. Sometimes these moments become my “closest moment.” I have books that I have purchased waiting to be read but for now, I am being filled in this simple way.

There are many informal ways to study that I tend to forget about but seem to have a big effect on my spirituality. It is not hard to hear something that doesn’t sit well and I begin to think about it. Recently a family member asked through social media, “We live in the same country. How can we see things so differently?” It has been several weeks now that I have pondered how I might answer her question. I have come to the conclusion that we, as broken people, can convince ourselves of anything. Our hard heads and hard hearts can ignore anything that might not fit our beliefs. The Bible, some 2000 pages, has produced more than 30,000 interpretations. The Jews of Jesus’ day, who watched and heard Jesus directly were divided into those who thought it was best that Jesus die (Jn 11:50) and those who would die for His Name. This realization has helped me to utter more frequently, “Father, forgive Us, for they know not what We do.”

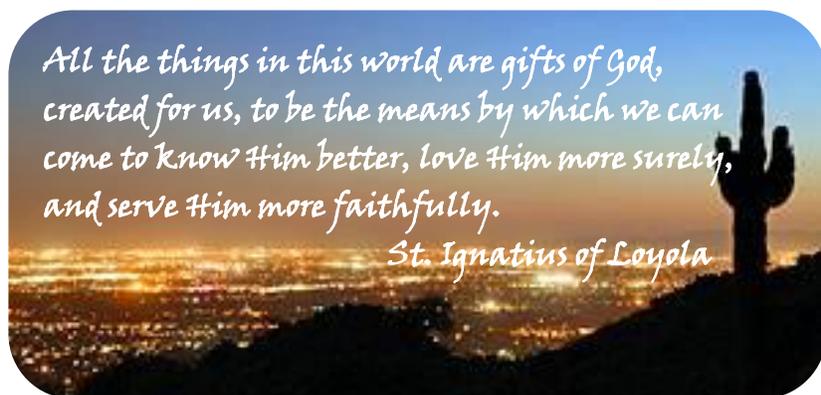
*“Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk?’”* (Mark 2: 9-10) While reflecting on this passage, it was pointed out to me that Jesus is referring to two types of paralysis, a physical one and a spiritual one. My tripod tends to be out of balance with a long study leg and a not as long action leg. The inspiration or close moments I have as I study scripture tend to linger in my heart and head without action. This is the perfect description of spiritual paralysis.

God has filled my life to overflowing. I thank him for this time to get out of my comfort zone and to be open to opportunities of grace. He has placed many opportunities for apostolic action in my path. My group brother has brought me to pray in front of Planned

Parenthood. My sister has brought me to weekly visits to the cemetery. A 78 year old retiree has brought me to redoing the landscape at St. Anne with him. A family friend has invited me to take her to morning mass. Cheryl and I are on a pilgrimage to build a home in northern AZ to invite family and friends to retreat with us in the quiet of God’s beauty.

During retirement I have made a concerted effort to accept more of the opportunities presented to me for apostolic action. Thank you, Cecelia, for presenting to me the opportunity to share my piety, study, and action.

De Colores,  
Marty Sprinzl #511



# 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](http://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](http://www.PhoenixCursillo.com)) or go directly to [www.Easytithe.com/Cursillo](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:postcursillo@gmail.com)) or Precursillo Chair at ([precursillo@gmail.com](mailto: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.

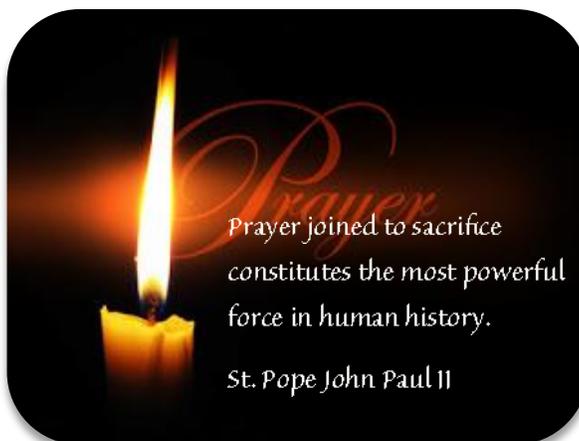
**Palanca Chair:** The palanca chair is responsible for requesting General Palanca for Phoenix, and sending General Palanca for other Diocese's weekends, and downloading and printing the General Palanca for our Weekends. This can be done from your home! Please contact Three-Day Chair at ([zeldagraham@yahoo.com](mailto:zeldagraham@yahoo.com)).

# NOTICES AND PRAYER

## 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](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.

### 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](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  
(602) 840-5066

Email: [info@phoenixcursillo.com](mailto:info@phoenixcursillo.com) Website: [www.phoenixcursillo.com](http://www.phoenixcursillo.com)  
Facebook: Phoenix Cursillo Movement