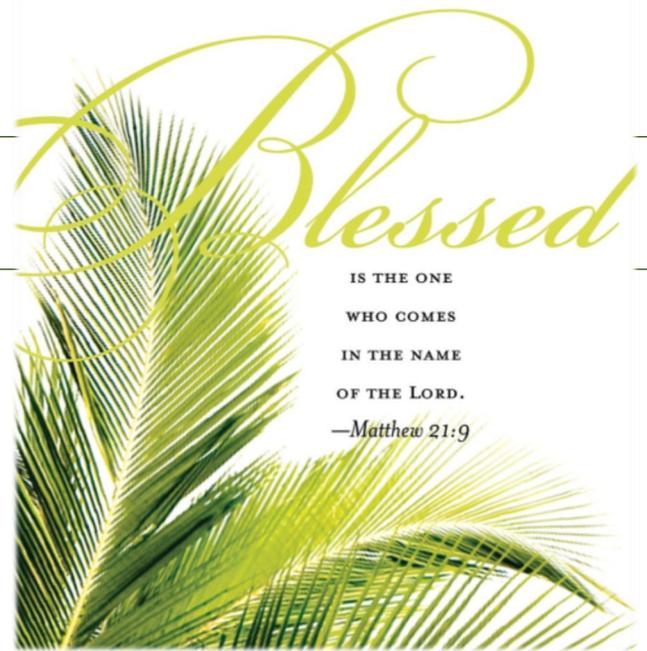


### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT



*A lady* stopped by our Church last Thursday afternoon and she was moved to tears to see the Church open and Eucharistic Adoration available for all. She told me that she had visited other Churches earlier that day and all were closed and dark; she had felt so lonely and sad.

Then she showed up at St. Elizabeth Seton Church and was so moved and overjoyed to see an open, bright Church and Christ waiting for her. She was inspired with the hope that only God can give us.

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so the one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Can you hear the voice of Monsignor Michael O’Grady when you read this Scripture? As he enthroned the Bible during so many Cursillos down the years, he would read these short lines from the Sacred Scriptures. Then every candidate would receive a new Bible, God’s “Good News, fresh from Heaven!”



Last Friday, Pope Francis used Scripture to teach us a special lesson. Referring to Jesus’ calming of the storm from Chapter 4 of St. Mark’s Gospel as his text for his extraordinary Urbi et Orbi blessing and prayer to end the coronavirus pandemic, he gave the world hope. I strongly recommend that you read or listen to it if you did

not experience it live. He gives the world great light and hope at a dark and difficult time.

As we approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week in strange times that are trying our souls, spirits and bodies, our jobs, our livelihoods, and just about everything, let’s talk about Hope.

We need Hope now more than ever. The Virtue of Hope is one of the three Theological Virtues, along with Faith and Love (Charity). We read this in St. Paul’s First Corinthians, Chapter 13, of course.

We need Hope and we have to be people of Hope. Hope is Faith in the future tense, someone once said. We will get through this mess if we return to God.

#### FROM FR. KILIAN MCKAFFREY

Even in a crisis, God speaks to us to encourage us. We need Hope and we have to be people of Hope. Many of us are standing or sitting around with not much to do. Sound familiar?

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20: 1-16) is a Bible passage likewise dealing with those who had nothing to do. However, it is overflowing with Hope: both here on earth and also in Heaven...

*For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denari for the day and sent them into his vineyard.*

*About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, “You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.” So they went.*

*He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?”*

*“Because no one has hired us,” they answered.*

*He said to them, “You also go and work in my vineyard.”*

*When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.”*

*The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a*

denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. "These who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day."

But he answered one of them, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

*So the last will be first, and the first will be last.*

Many of us need to return to the Scriptures at this time to encounter God. We have become lazy and slow. We have been rudely woken up by a crisis we could never have imagined.

We have seen all of our 'false gods' quickly taken away from us. Sports, wealth, entertainment, lust, gambling... what's your 'god'? You name it.

Quoting Jesus in the stern of the boat during the storm, Pope Francis teaches from Friday's Urbi et Orbi: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: "Be converted" . . . "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). You are

calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing.

So, it's time to work together in faith and in hope that it is time to return to the one true God.

This Palm

Sunday and Holy Week, it is crucial that we pray with a great hope, that we read and study the Scriptures like we are hearing them fresh and for the first time.

Spend some time at your parish Church this week. Bring your Bible and study the Scriptures: God will speak to you. God is crying out to us to get back to the Way of Faith, the Hope of Heaven and the Love of God that will save us: Jesus Passion, Death and Rising is our only Hope. Live it - this week - and every day of your life.

Relive your Cursillo again this Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday like it was your weekend!

De Colores, Fr. Kilian McCaffrey

Christian hope is not a ghost and it does not deceive. It is a theological virtue and therefore, ultimately, a gift from God that cannot be reduced to optimism which is only human. God does not mislead hope; God cannot deny himself. God is all promise.

Pope Francis

## COVID-19: A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY

FROM USCCB.ORG

*For all who have contracted coronavirus,  
We pray for care and healing.*

*For those who are particularly vulnerable,  
We pray for safety and protection.*

*For all who experience fear or anxiety,  
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.*

*For affected families who are facing difficult decisions  
between food on the table or public safety,  
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.*

*For those who do not have adequate health insurance,  
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.*

*For those who are afraid to access care  
due to immigration status,*

*We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.*

*For our brothers and sisters around the world,  
We pray for shared solidarity.*

*For public officials and decision makers,  
We pray for wisdom and guidance.*

*Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of  
hope, comfort and love to all.*

*Grant peace. Grant comfort.*

*Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.*



**CENA DE COLORES!  
SAVE THE NEW DATE!  
November 21, 2020**



Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, our upcoming Calendar is empty until the COVID-19 situation plays out. As you know from the email that went out on March 17, all Weekends, Ultreyas,

School of Leaders Meetings, the Cena, and other meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

But the Spirit of Cursillo is never cancelled.

Are you still **grouping**? Skype? Zoom? Email?

Perhaps we should call it “physical distancing”, not “social distancing” - thanking God that He created us to depend on each other and that we are living in a time when we can still see each other, share with each other, and enjoy friendship online, one way or another.

How is your **piety and study**? There are a multitude of daily masses on YouTube; not just locally but from all over. There is, of course, Catholic Radio, EWTN radio and TV. There are many applications for novenas and prayer you can get on your phone. And there is no

shortage of places we may go to Confession. Call your church office.

There are websites and videos of conferences and talks; online learning courses: all those things we never had time for that we might have time for now.

How is your **action**? An email came from a Cursillista asking for her roster. She wanted to call a woman she remembered lived alone; a reminder about the action we can do now: calling a relative, friend, or acquaintance who lives alone; perhaps offering to shop for a neighbor... or helping the families who have members who are on the front lines...don't forget your parish still needs your tithe—mail your envelope in!

**And finally, if you need help, don't hesitate to reach out to a brother or a sister.**

CWD

**ULTREYA!**

**The Catholic Mass** is broadcast live each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. (Arizona time) from Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix. Subscribe to the Phoenix Diocese on YouTube for more videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/phoenixdiocese>

Like the Phoenix Diocese on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/phoenixdiocese>

Follow @PhoenixDiocese on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/phoenixdiocese>

Follow @PhoenixDiocese on Instagram:

<http://instagram.com/phoenixdiocese>

**Donate to Your Parish**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, your parish needs your support more than ever. Your parish gift provides a lifeline of support to your church family in this time of crisis:

<https://www.dphx.org/MyParish>.

**PALM SUNDAY**

What if everyone on Sunday April 5 in the morning, puts a branch on the door of their house or on the window, to celebrate Palm Sunday? It could be any green branch you can get. This would help, despite the social distancing, to be connected as we enter into the Holiest of Weeks. Want to join? We may be physically isolated, but not separated. We are united as the body of Christ.

We are the Church.

## LAZARUS, COME OUT!

Well, this has certainly been a Lent to remember. Just a few short weeks ago we were thinking of what sacrifices we might make to bring us closer to God. For me it was social media, and the truth be told, I probably chose it because I thought it would be easy. I'm not one who spends a lot of time with it anyway, and while I enjoy keeping up with the positive events of friends and family, I thought that it would be peaceful to avoid all of the negativity and divisiveness that have become such a large part of our modern culture. Lent didn't present much of a challenge for me. I abstain from meat on Fridays year round, so that's no big sacrifice to me, and staying away from Facebook would make me feel good.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic burst upon us and suddenly we were scrambling to obtain the bare necessities needed to survive, rather than turning our attentions to the luxuries that we often take for granted, and can easily do without. A new phrase, *Social Distancing*, became a central focus of our everyday lives. Could there be anything more contrary to what we experience in Cursillo? We strive on social intimacy. In our Group Reunions we develop meaningful friendships, and learn to readily share thoughts and emotions that many people would feel too vulnerable to comfortably reveal. Like most good friends we love to laugh together, but we're also not afraid to cry together.

This period of quarantine has caused us to recognize that social interaction is essential. As God says in the creation story of Genesis, "It is not good for man to be alone". There are also some fruits to come about from our exile. I've talked to my wife and kids more in the past couple of weeks that we've all been home than I have in a long time. And we've found new and creative ways to come together with friends and family through "Zoom" or other online outlets. My wife Angela has been very adept at this and from the comfort of our home she's organized online Group Reunion, Family reunions, Happy Hours and Birthday parties. These have all been fun and in these days of uncertainty, it's kind of cool and uplifting to see one another on our screens.

As wonderful as this on screen face time may be however, it still falls short of the feelings that we get from personal touch. As anyone who has ever been to a Cursillo event can tell you, we Cursillistas are huggers! For many



of us the thing that we long for the most in all of this is to visit with our elderly parents, our grown children, or grandchildren who don't live with us and to just give them a hug. Perhaps this is the most genuine Lenten sacrifice of all. To stay away from those dearest to us out of and concern for their safety is an act of love that mirrors Christ's great sacrifice and love for us.

In the middle three Sundays of Lent we are blessed with the deeply beautiful "Scrutiny" readings from John's gospel; The Woman at the Well, the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus from the Tomb. They are especially significant to the Elect who have been preparing to enter into the Body of Christ at the Easter Vigil, but also serve as a reminder to us to live our lives differently.

There is one certainty about life in the time of the Corona Virus, it sure is different! We can't gather for mass at Church on Sunday, but yesterday I watched the mass three different times on television and my daughter and I sat quietly gazing upon the Blessed Sacrament with Pope Francis after watching his special prayer service. Like the Woman at the Well, I find myself thirsting for Christ, the "Living Water" who wells up like a fresh spring inside us.

Normally this would have been a busy week in our family with three birthdays, my wife, mother and daughter, all within four days. If not for the virus, we surely would have gotten together for a family celebration. This year we had to settle for delivering take out dinner, and my brother-in-law even resorted to playing "ring a bell and run" with flowers and gifts for the birthday girls. Maybe this physical separation that we've had to endure will open our eyes to a greater appreciation of the gift of one another's company, and like the Man Born Blind we will begin to see things in a new light.

These are definitely dark days for our world, and for the Cursillo Movement as well. We've had to cancel several weekends and Ultreyas, and our Cena De Colores fundraising celebration had to be postponed. The pandemic has caused us to face both financial and spiritual challenges, but don't be discouraged. Our President has said that he hopes that we can start to get back to some sense of normalcy by Easter.

While this date might be a bit overly optimistic, it

*Cont'd from page 3.*

sure would have symbolic significance if we could come out of this as Jesus exits the darkness of Good Friday and Holy Saturday to the cry of "He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!"

Rest assured, although we may be down now, in some matter of time, we will rise again. Although the Cursillo weekends aren't going to happen as planned, the team formation was not in vain and bears fruit in itself in the bonds of friendship that are built praying with and for one another as we grow closer in our relationship with Christ.



The servant leaders that make up the teams are looking forward to sharing the grace of Cursillo with others in the autumn, or when the time allows.

We were also able to secure a new date for the Cena, November 21st, and we will not only raise the

necessary funds to sustain us, but even more importantly we will raise our hearts in the spirit of joy that is the lifeblood of Cursillo.

Have you ever wondered what metanoia Lazarus must have experienced during the four days before he was summoned from the tomb? Tradition has it that he went on to become a Bishop and spread the gospel in foreign lands. When the time comes soon and we are called out of the darkness of the pandemic to rise in a new sort of Easter, will we live our lives differently? I read that the Latin word for quarantine and Lent are the same. Perhaps we should use this time of Lent to pray for one another and prepare in a special way for that day when Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life, will stand at the rolled back stone of our Lenten quarantine and call to us:

"LAZARUS, COME OUT!"

God bless you all.

Be Safe, Be Healthy, Be Holy!

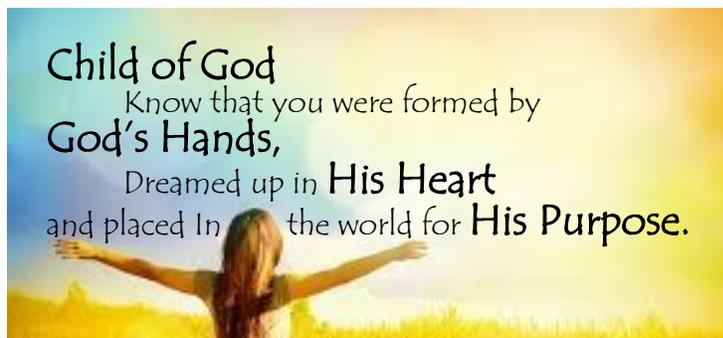
Joe Fairlie

## PIETY, STUDY, AND ACTION

Blessings my Brothers and Sisters! As Our Lord would have it, I have been called to share on my Cursillo experience. I made my Cursillo #688 in 2000. Patty O'Neal was our Rectora. At that time I did not know many people, but since then my family has grown to include you all. It is challenging to write, and during these extreme times, I find it all the more difficult. However I pray to place myself as if I were with you in the rollo room and we were just sharing.

I have been blessed to remain in continued contact with my Cursillo sisters. We group, pray, study and act. I have found that it is a very natural process when I am around Cursillistas. When we gather, whether in twos or more, our encounter is Christ centered. We share our joys and sorrows and always there is a thanksgiving to God and or a need to make a petition to Our Lord for His help. God's love is never idle, it is active. A need will compel us to pray and serve. In the last 20 years my non-Cursillista family members have asked me, after working team, aren't you tired, why don't you say no? The truth is working Cursillo has given me one of the greatest rewards in life.

Now for our new Cursillistas, when we become a part of a Cursillo team we meet for months in what is called formation. It is like getting ready for the Spiritual Olympics. We prepare ourselves for one another. We experience personal growth and witness the same in others. We become stronger, more focused and more courageous. We experience God's love through one



another. The culmination is the profound love of the Holy Spirit experienced during the Cursillo weekend.

So today we find ourselves in these painful times of the Coronavirus. We ask ourselves how do we move forward courageously in hope when are presently experiencing physical isolation and the pain of not attending Mass? Well, we need to look to one another and remind ourselves of who we are: We are the children of God, "Be strong and courageous. I command you: be firm and steadfast! Do not fear or be dismayed, for the Lord your God, is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9.

We will reach out to one another in prayer, sharing scripture and hope and reminding ourselves that we are the body of Jesus Christ. "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are." 1 John 3:1

Together we thank God for His love and mercy and we look forward to seeing Jesus in one another, De Colores!

Debbie Alcantar

### 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)



### **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 (mickkapanicas@gmail.com) or Precursillo Chair at (jdiaz.theocentric@gmail.com).

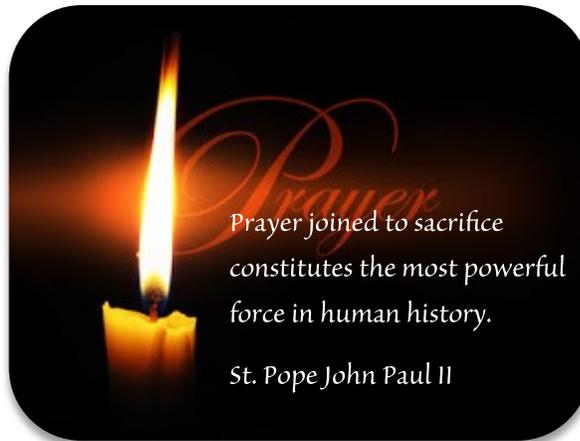
**Ultreya!** It just takes a place and some friends to rejoice together in the graces we receive as we live our piety, study, and action throughout our 4th day. Please get in touch with the Postcursillo Chair, if you are interested in helping with or hosting an Ultreya in your area.

**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](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