

JULY 2019

THE VOICE

Blessed
is the NATION
whose GOD
is the LORD.
Psalm 33:12

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF PHOENIX CURSILLO MOVEMENT

FROM FATHER KILIAN McCaffrey

The city of Waco, literally deep in the heart of Texas, is traditionally a very Baptist town. So it is strange that this was the location of the first Cursillo in the United States. As we all well know, God’s ways are often most unusual and innovative!

It seems that there was not a traditionally-strong



Catholic presence in Waco. It was not until 1924 that the parish of St. Francis on the Brazos (River), located in the Diocese of Austin, was founded by Franciscan missionaries “to serve the spiritual needs of the community of central Texas. The Church, dedicated in 1931, is a replica of San Jose Mission in San Antonio, Texas”

according to the historical marker sign outside of the Church building. Several other plaques and stones commemorate the first North America Cursillo in May of 1957 and subsequent anniversary milestones.

How did this all come to pass? In his book *Cursillo History & Memory*, Francisco Forteza Pujol explains: “It happened that a young flight lieutenant in the Spanish Air Force participated in the last Cursillo held before Bishop of Mallorca Jess Enciso’s Pastoral Letter. Bernardo Vadell, a man of great personal charms, brighter and more sophisticated than most, gave himself entirely to the Cursillo. Shortly

afterward, he found that, in accord with the Spanish-USA mutual military agreement, he would be sent for a specialized combat jet training program to a military base near Laredo, Texas. This was near Waco, in the diocese of Austin, where Father Gabriel Fernandez, a Franciscan from Mallorca, now worked. He had made his Cursillo in his home country years before, and was looking for ways to establish the movement in the territory evangelized by Junipero Serra.” (p. 157-158)



And so the stage was set for movement to begin in the new world. Along with Agustin Palomino, a second Spanish Air Force officer and colleague of Vadell, and with the help of Fr. Fernandez, the first Cursillo was held at St. Francis of the Brazos Church. A bilingual commemoration stone is set into the wall outside the Church dates it to May 27th, 1957.

Next month, we will explore the spread of the Cursillo to Phoenix in November of 1959. May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit bless you all this month of July when we honor St. Junipero Serra.

Note: A special thank you to Patrick at the National

Cursillo Office in Jarrell, Texas, for a very warm welcome and for providing me with two great books on the history of the Cursillo Movement.

In Christ,
De Colores!
Fr. Kilian McCaffrey



Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie, and Catholic Faith

July is upon us, and our minds naturally turn to the things of summer; perhaps a vacation at the beach or camping in the cool mountains. The baseball season is in full swing and fans flock to the ballpark to cheer on their team, and are hoping that their favorite players will play in the All Star Game, affectionately known as the “Midsummer Classic”. Our culinary tastes tend to turn to cooking over a barbecue grill in the great outdoors, and maybe jumping in the pool to cool off. Of course one of the highlights of summer is the Fourth of July, and the oohs and aahs of children young and old as we watch the fireworks displays. The events and activities of summer speak of “Americana”, and remind us of how blessed we are to live in this great nation.

But it takes more than just creature comforts and prosperity to make a nation great. So what is it that makes the United States a Nation set apart? The Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, who was an outspoken opponent of Cold War Communism and champion of the American way of government said that there were three principle glories of being an American. (*Reference: Life is Worth Living show, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vQiefQ6FJw>.)*

The first glory is that our founding fathers had the foresight to recognize the source of our rights and liberties is not from man and our own designs, but from God our Father. They discerned that if rights came from Parliament, as was the popular thought in Europe at the time, or by a solitary leader, or a majority rule, than the government could take those rights and liberties away from the citizens at its discretion, resulting in just the type of totalitarian rule that they were rebelling against. Although these men were the products of the Enlightenment and Protestant reformation, Charles Carroll being the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, they borrowed heavily from Catholic teaching in formulating their idea of government. In the very first sentence Thomas Jefferson cites the “Natural Law”, and then famously brings the point home in the second

sentence; *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR with certain inalienable rights; that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”* Bishop Sheen states that our Declaration of Independence is in fact a “Declaration of Dependence” on God and on Law. It is the duty of the Law of government to protect the God given rights and liberties of its citizens, which no one can take away. In the Bishop’s words, “If we wish to keep our liberties, we must keep our God. Piety and Patriotism go together.”



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The second American glory according to Bishop Sheen can be found in the opening line of the Constitution; *“We the People”*. Our founders envisioned a republic consisting of persons, who have inherent value, regardless of their station in society. Again borrowing from Catholic social teaching, they recognized the dignity of the human person, who is created in the image and likeness of God. Sheen says that “Democracy is a branch, not a root.” The root of America is that we have a foundational belief that every person has value, even those who do not make a substantial contribution to the economy, such as babies, or the sick and elderly. When

we remember this basic truth, we can see the societal issues with compassion for humanity. Bishop Sheen expressed it this way: *“I begin to think less of the problem of poverty and more of the poor; less of the problem of crime and more of the criminal; less about age and more about service to a Stranger Who lives with all the slum dwellers who have no place to lay their heads. All the little children separated from parents are as one child.”*

The third glory is our relationship to the rest of the world. From its very beginnings our nation has been a sanctuary to the persecuted people of the world. Our forefathers journeyed to a New World to escape religious persecution, and throughout our history immigrants from all nations have come to escape poverty, famine and violence. As the Statue of Liberty calls with words of welcome “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” America not only has been a sanctuary, but we’ve also become an arsenal in the cause for international justice. Our troops have courageously fought on foreign shores in two World Wars, and other conflicts in the name of freedom, without seeking the gain of any territory or having ambitions of colonialism. America has also been a pantry offering aide for the world’s poor and hungry. Catholic American leaders such as Knight of Columbus R. Sargent Shriver helped form international organizations such as the Peace Corp and Special Olympics.

Cursillo literature given to us by our founder, Eduardo Bonin, instructs us to remain true to what is essential. In many ways the same can be said for our nation. The freedoms which we enjoy, independent of God, are not the essence of democracy. Twentieth century world history is proof that the further nations stray from God, the more totalitarian its



Lay Dir. cont'd on pg. 3

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government becomes and the less freedom its citizens will have. Fulton Sheen says that “given a freedom independent of the moral law, independent of inalienable rights as the endowment of the Divine Spirit, America could vote itself out of democracy tomorrow.” So this Independence Day, let’s

remember our Dependence on our Father and Creator, who by Divine Grace has granted us with the gifts of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. May we continue to stand strong upon the foundation of the rock of Faith, and may God bless America.

De Colores! Joe Fairlie, Lay Director (#781)

PIETY - STUDY - ACTION WITNESS

Opportunities for Apostolic Action in Our Environments

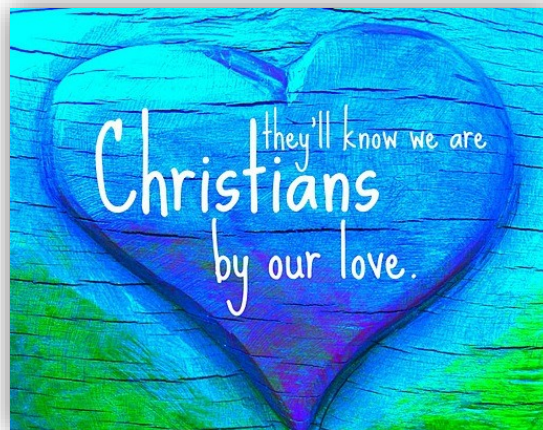
As Cursillistas, we know that apostolic action is an expression and outcome of our love for God. Opportunities for apostolic action in our environments are abound. What will we do with these opportunities?

After 27 years, my husband Victor and I decided to sell our Ahwatukee home. We knew that God was guiding us to where He needed us to be. We bought a house in the middle of a cul-de-sac in the Ocotillo area of Chandler. We moved in to our new home on our wedding anniversary on November 13th and we immediately felt a spiritual comfort. By December, we introduced ourselves to each family in our neighborhood and quickly noticed that we lived in a very diverse neighborhood by the different ages, ethnicities and religions. As Christmas and Easter passed and the summer months came, we gradually became friends with our neighbors. At that point it was our way of just making friends and speaking to God about our friends.

Seven months later the Mormon family living next to us experienced a terrible tragedy. Rob, the father of the family, was hit by a truck while jogging across a street one busy morning and died from internal injuries. He left behind a wife, April, and four children. After the initial shock, Victor and I felt a tremendous feeling of sadness for the young family and for the neighbors who knew Rob for many years. We only knew Rob for seven months and could not imagine all of the pain that would consume the neighborhood. Victor and I sprang into action and informed the neighbors about Rob’s passing while another neighbor elicited help from others to purchase gift cards from various stores and restaurants that we could give to April. That was the easy part. The difficult part was deciding to have a prayer meeting with all of the neighbors while not knowing their level of spirituality. Thankfully, everyone attended the prayer meeting at a neighbor’s home. As tears flowed and we hugged one another, we gathered in a circle to say our special intentions for April and her children.

I must admit, when it was my turn to pray I was somewhat hesitant. But I knew that moment was for everyone to get closer to Christ and to our Blessed Mother Mary. Victor and I and our youngest daughter, along with a couple of other families, prayed to Jesus and said a Hail Mary. Several people were not familiar with the Hail Mary prayer which was to be expected. Jesus just wanted us to love the families spiritually as He loves us. The Holy Spirit carried us all through the moment of companionship and provided the grace for us to know that April and her children would be fine. After the prayer meeting, we all went to our homes and grabbed the gifts and food and took them over to April. The following week we attended the Mormon funeral service. I remember admiring the family’s strength as I watched April’s children sing bravely in front of a crowd of people. I kept praying that one day the family would get to know Jesus as their savior, but I also understood that God has a plan for everyone.

I’ve had opportunities to speak about my Catholic faith with individuals in my environment. This spring, I hosted a Cursillo overnighter at my house for the May Cursillo team. The many cars that were parked in the cul-de-sac sparked interest for sure!



That evening after the overnighter, I attended the neighborhood block party. People came up to me and asked what the overnighter was for and what “Cursillo” was. I felt empowered to explain piety, study and action as individuals had a genuine interest in what I had to say. That was because Victor and I made friends before we brought them to Christ. It was a perfect opportunity to connect with fellow Christians and for those looking for a conversion.

Imagine if Victor and I had not put out a plan, if we were not sure of ourselves, and if we had not showed enthusiasm for what we believed. These opportunities would have slipped away. Now that it has been a year since Rob passed away, April invited the neighbors to her home for a dinner and a tribute for Rob. Obviously, we have not finished evangelizing to this new environment that God has set in front of us! It takes time, it takes continuous effort, and it takes faith!

Blessings, Deborah Hernandez (1979)

CALENDAR AND EVENTS

July 2019

- July 2 6:30 PM SOL (Mt. Claret)
July 4 8:30 AM Mass and Rosary for the US
(St. Thomas the Apostle)
July 9 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Mt. Claret)
July 12 7:00 PM ULTREYA (Miles Jesus, Phoenix)
July 18-21 2019 NATIONAL ENCOUNTER, Scranton, PA
July 27 9:30 AM Westside Ultreya (TBD)

August 2019

- August 6 6:30 PM SOL (Mt. Claret)
August 13 6:30 PM Secretariat Meeting (Mt. Claret)
August 17 9:00 AM Sponsor Workshop (Mt. Claret)
August 22-25 MEN'S SPANISH #923 (Flagstaff)
August 24 9:30 AM Westside Ultreya (TBD)



**SAVE THE DATES!
CALLING ALL CURSILLISTAS
COME AND JOIN US!**

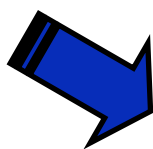
Presented by Pre- and
Postcursillo Committees at Mt. Claret

Saturday, August 17, 2019
9:00 AM

Cursillo Sponsorship Workshop

Saturday, September 21, 2019
11:00 AM

Diocesan Ultreya



SCHOOL OF LEADERS MEETING CHANGE

Saturday morning School of Leaders at St. Agnes will be suspended until October 19, 2019. Evening School of Leaders will continue at Mt. Claret on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend School of Leaders!

THREE DAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE 2019

Flagstaff: Men's Spanish #923 Aug. 22-25; Women's Spanish #924 Sept. 12-15
Mt. Claret: Men's English #925 Oct. 3-6; Women's English #926 Oct. 17-20
Mt. Claret: Men's Spanish #927 Nov. 14-17; Women's Spanish #928 Nov. 21-24

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND YOU WISH TO SPONSOR?

Applications are available from your Parish Representative or email Bruce and Debi Wiskirchen at applications@phoenixcursillo.com.

A list of Parish Representatives can be found at <https://www.phoenixcursillo.com>

*Please note:
We are working very
hard on the 2020
schedule; check the
website later this month
and the August Voice!*

ULTREYA!

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

July 12, 2019

Miles Jesu Community, 1925 E Baseline Rd, Phx

6:00 pm Holy Hour

7:00 pm Ultreya

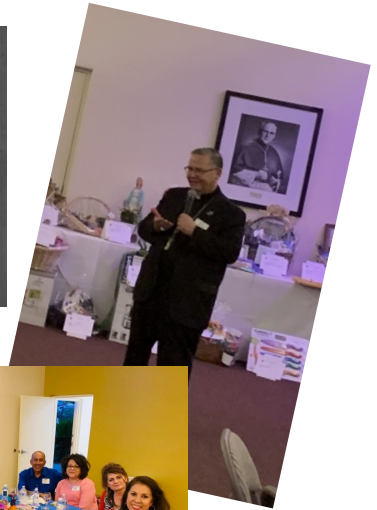
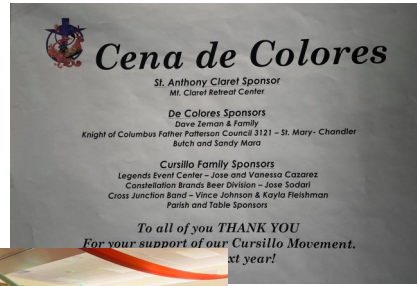
Bring your Pilgrim's Guide!

Confession available during Holy Hour



**Independence Day Mass and Rosary
for the United States of America
Thursday, July 4, 2019
8:30 am Mass with Aux. Bishop Nevares
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Phoenix**

*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. Start your holiday as a family united in prayer that we remain **One Nation Under God!***



2019

Cena De Colores

The beauty of Cursillo is the lifetime friends brought together for the love of our Lord. Cena De Colores is our party for God where all of us can reconnect and enjoy our friendship. Joe and I were honored to chair this year's Cena de Colores and, as Joe mentioned in last month's Voice, our committee started small but grew and with it came generous gifts of time, ideas, hard work, and lots of laughter.

We would like to thank our committee for all of their hard work. Thank you to all of our early-bird table leaders, our vendors, and volunteers like the Catholic Young Adults who graciously stepped in and served as our waiters. Thank you to St. Mary Church in Chandler's Knights of Columbus for the presentation of their gracious gift earned from their weekly fish fry. Thank you to our parishes and families who donated wonderful gift baskets and to Butch Mara for the generous donation of the Lake Tahoe Cabin which was the successful live auction item.

This year we were fortunate to have some wonderful sponsors, including Mt Claret Retreat Center and Dave Zeman and family who were our first donors to help us with the initial seed money to get the party started, but the event could not be a success without all of you.

We would like to thank everyone who attended and supported the event. Because of you the Cena de Colores was a huge success. We hope you had a wonderful time.

See you next year June 6, 2020!

De Colores!

Joe (#781) and Angela (#782) Fairlie
2019 Cena De Colores Chairs



IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW...

SERVANT OF GOD, EDUARDO BONNÍN



On February 15, 2015, The Chancellor of the Diocese of Mallorca, Spain, read the written petition as the first step toward the beatification of the founder of the Cursillo Movement, Eduardo Bonnín Aguilo. The petition was presented by the Cursillo Secretariat of the Diocese of Mallorca, and was solicited by the national Secretariats of Italy, Portugal, and El Salvador. Bonnín can now be called Servant of God, and we can pray for his intercession. Any miracles which occur as the result of his intercession can be submitted to the postulator, Father Gabriel Ramis, at Feba-usa.org, as a possible step toward the cause of beatification or canonization of Eduardo Bonnín.

Vatican approved prayer for intercession

“Oh God, the dispenser of all graces and charisms, You granted your servant Eduardo Bonnín 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 favore 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.)

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).



SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

We have all heard the “Sermon on the Amount.” We know the beauty of Mt. Claret and the legacy of Cursillo in Phoenix. It is hard to imagine having Cursillo any where else. Yes, of course, Cursillo weekends would be a life-giving and God-serving part of the Movement in Phoenix if held almost anywhere, but those of us who lived our weekends at Mt. Claret know the special meaning of “going up to the mountain.”

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! The Cursillo Movement runs primarily from your generous contributions and fundraisers. Won’t you please prayerfully consider how you can help? How about \$5.00 or \$10.00 a month? Help us safeguard the vision of the Claretian priests who were the caretakers of the Movement in Phoenix in the beginning, and all those Cursillistas, along with Msgr. McMahon, whose stewardship (time, talent, and treasure) and love over the years were instrumental in the beautiful Holy ground that is Mt. Claret Retreat Center today.

Here are two ways to donate: automatically at EASYTITHE.COM/CURSILLO or by making checks out to the Cursillo Movement and mailing to Cursillo, Mt. Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N 54th St, Phoenix, AZ 85018. And no worries, you will be tapped up for

Please prayerfully consider serving and supporting your Cursillo Community.



SUPPORT CURSILLO AT MT. CLARET

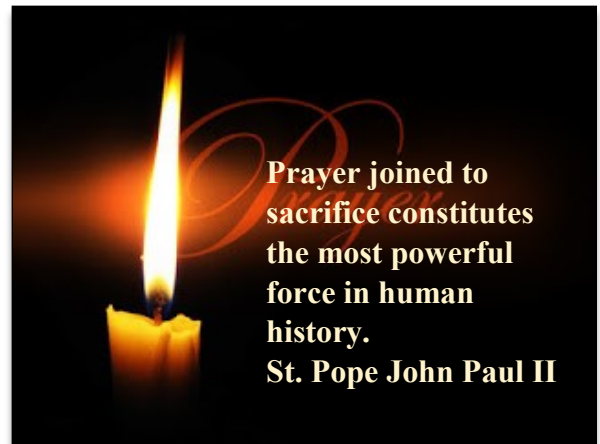
Give online at www.easytithes.com/Cursillo or make checks out to the Cursillo Movement.

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 PRAYER
PALANCA REQUESTS**

There is a prayer list on the website that will be updated weekly 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.

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:	



PHOENIX CURSILLO DATABASE

A significant amount of volunteer time has been spent maintaining and updating the database of Cursillistas. If you know someone who is not getting the Voice, please have them contact the Cursillo office.

Please help us keep the Cursillo records up to date. If you change your address, email, phones, etc., please email the updated information 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

Email: info@phoenixcursillo.com Website: www.phoenixcursillo.com

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