

SEPTEMBER 2019 LUTHERAN CURSILLO OF ARIZONA NEWSLETTER

Message FROM THE HEAD SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

On a tombstone in Scotland, these words were written, "Here lives a miser, who lived for himself and cared for nothing but gathering wealth. Now where he is or how he fared, nobody knows, but nobody cares." I don't think any of us would want to be remembered this way. In contrast, on a tombstone in St. Paul's Cathedral in London are these words: "In sacred memory of General George Charles Gordon who at all times and everywhere gave his strength to the weak, his substance to the poor, his sympathy to the suffering and his heart to God." Followers of Jesus seek to love like Jesus. True love is always unselfish and looks for the best for others. How easy to say, how hard to practice. When we get it right, when we love unselfishly, it is because we have experienced God's gracious love. I believe that learning how to love unselfishly is one of the fruits of Cursillo. The weekend and our Fourth Day practices of piety, study, and action are means through which we experience the wonderful gracious love God gives to us even though we are undeserving of such love. Having received such a gift of love, we understand that we are to love others with grace and with mercy. In our era, one person who has best exemplified this love was Mother Teresa. She loved the poorest of the poor; the very people that many thought were unlovable. She was very humble and did not think what she did was extraordinary. She said, "I am but a small pencil in the almighty hand of God, writing a love letter to the world."

Message FROM THE PRESIDENT ~ GOD'S PROMISES "HOPE "

A small word that carries significant impact for our lives. In thinking about your future you will have trouble assembling plans and ideas without hope being an embracing concern for them. You may know what you want for the future but you cannot supply certainty to that want. God has provided something that is better than certainty and that is hope. Certainty makes us rely on ourselves - Hope makes us rely on God. When you think you have it all together and are going down the road of life believing everything is working well, don't you then think, "I hope nothing goes wrong"? Getting ready for a vacation with bags packed and all considerations taken care of you suddenly think to yourself, "I hope I haven't forgotten anything". No matter how certain you are of your own ability and that of others, we still have doubts about those abilities deep within our hearts. That is when and why we call on God with the Hope that all will be well. Hope is the fuel of our life's purpose. We look forward to tomorrow because we hope our purpose will be fulfilled. Each day has its own purposes and we look forward to those purposes hoping they will meet our expectations. Without this hope we do not look forward to tomorrow and we begin to lose the energy of life. God, in His wisdom, has placed that forward-looking thought into each of us as it says in Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men...". It is hope that points us to our future; eternity with our Heavenly Father in His kingdom. God has promised us so much, but we so easily forget. That is why we become Cursillistas, to help us remember God's promises and to carry on with the purposes of each day. I especially hope that you will – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTpCgoHE5mE>
Make a friend, Be a friend, And bring that friend to Christ.