

CITY OF THE LORD

A Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community

www.cityofthelord.org

Arizona Branch—General Community Gathering - January 19th 3-5:00 PM

Founding Charism

Receptivity and Commitment to the Person and Culture of the Holy Spirit, particularly in Covenant love

UPCOMING GATHERINGS:

FEBRUARY 9TH ~ 3-5 PM

14-16 CONVOCATION ~ Fun for the entire family!

MARCH 1ST & 15TH ~ 3-5 PM

Sound Booth Service Team

As part of our effort to provide meaningful service for all, we have established a Sound Booth Service Team (SBST) to oversee song lyrics projection, sound mixing, and audio recording at GCG's and other Phoenix events. The SBST will consist of our COTL teens.

Teens will typically begin serving when they turn 13, and continue until they are 18 or graduate High School, whichever comes first. When a young person is 12, he or she will be trained by the current members of the SBST so as to be ready to begin. We hope to have this be a self-perpetuating ministry that provides the type of service that the Lord loves - quiet, behind-the-scenes service that is crucial for our community life to run in good order...And our teens love it!

An adult who is knowledgeable about using the system will also be on standby at every gathering to help with unexpected glitches, but our experience so far in the practice runs we've done have led us to believe that the teens will quickly become more skilled in running sound and projecting lyrics than the adults! As we continue, we hope that this will become a normative part of our community life, and that teens can take a measure of pride in what they do to help our life together run more smoothly.

The current members of the SBST are:

- * Joseph Beguhl
- * Luke Beguhl
- * Hannah Chadwick
- * Douglas Feckovics
- * Kolbe Pivonka

On behalf of the entire community, we thank these young men and women for being pioneers in this new service. Please join us in thanking them when you see them.
Geoff Shell

Pray for Our Coordinators:

Jeff Looker, Senior Coordinator
John Hoyt, Coordinator
Geoff Shell, Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONVOCATION— February 14-16
Save \$5 and register by February 2. The registration deadline is February 10 2020.
No registrations accepted after February 10 th.

HAPPY HOUR FAMILY SOCIAL EVERY FRIDAY
7-8:30 PM
April 17th through May 29th

DATE CHANGE TEEN RETREAT (7th-12th grd.)
April 17-19, 2020
at the Looker/Hoyt cabins in Payson

DATE CHANGE
KIDS RETREAT ~ March 27-29, 2020
Ojai, California

See these events and more on the Calendar at
www.cityofthelord.org

Please pray for our pregnant women and the children in their womb:

Christopher & Marie LeBeau ~ April 11th
Ben & Sarah Butler ~ April 13th
Josh & Mary Frances Bautista ~ July 20th

Wheelchair Ramp!

We are happy to let you know we now have a wheelchair accessible ramp in the alley that enters directly into the main hall. Please contact the office ahead of time so we can prepare to assist you.

Pray for Our Senior Women Leaders:

Doris Martinez, Presiding SWL
Jenelle Van Brunt
Sandy Shell

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

01 Mailani Bowler	11 Naleia Bowler	23 '82 Geoff & Sandy Shell
03 '87 Bill & Beth Marcotte	11 William Eberhardt	24 *10 Al Hoyt
03 '87 Steve & Holly Beguhl	12 Taylor Shroll	25 Emma Gilsdorf
05 ' Alice Green	14 *00 Lora Palovic	27 *97 Ernie Baca
06 Sarah Castellanos	16 '88 Vince & Andrea Martinez	28 Theresa Girardi
06 '90 Robert & Lori Moriarty	17 Jill DesBaillets	28 Mary Ann Pfost
07 Justin Chadwick	17 Anthony Walterscheid	29 *06 Eva Fernandez
07 Julie Looker	18 Holly Beguhl	29 *12 Fr. John Rose Hayden
07 '84 Kevin & Diana O'Melia	18 *04 Sue Walker	30 Andrea Martinez
09 Thomas Menefee	21 '72 John & Mary Morgan	30 Moira Noonan
*Deceased	22 David Pivonka	

Letter from the Senior Coordinator:

Brothers and Sisters-

Convocation is almost upon us once again! It seems like just a few months ago we had Mary Healey, Fr Charles, and Dan Keating here speaking to us. That was almost a year ago!. Time certainly does pass quickly. We are all busy doing so many things. But the question I have to ask myself is, am I doing **THE** things I am called by God to do?

Recently the coordinators have been discussing a word that came to us about the Spirit of Passivity in our community. When I first heard this, my reaction was- really? We are all so busy and involved! As I prayed and asked for wisdom and revelation on this, I was led to our good brother Dan Almeter of the Alleluia Community in Augusta Georgia. He told me that his community had a similar revelation, but discerned the Spirit of Acedia. Acedia? I hadn't thought about that word in some time. He suggested a book called "The Noonday Devil" by Abbot Nault.

The Spirit of Acedia is not simply defined as the human weakness of laziness or sloth, although that is an aspect (see #3 below). In fact, one can be very active and busy with many things- many good things and have the Spirit of Acedia!. Abbot Nault discusses in his book how the Desert Father Evagrius in the fourth century, identified Acedia in the desert monks. The monks were called by God to stay in their cell praying. This unglamorous work was the call they joyously said yes to. Evagrius identified five areas that afflicted the monks. 1. Interior Instability (I need to get out of this cell and do something more important with my life!) 2. An exaggerated concern with one's health (I would do this work if I felt better) 3. Aversion to manual work (Boredom and Laziness) 4. Neglect of one's Agreements (minimalism) 5. General Discouragement (Have I wasted my life?)

After I read abbot Nault's book, I could easily remember how the Spirit of Acedia had lied to me during my 36 years as a covenant member of the City of the Lord. Like many of us, I have sometimes questioned whether the "Yes" I made to the City of the Lord so many years ago was bearing any fruit and worth the sacrifice.

Brothers and sisters, In preparation for our Convocation in less than a month, I would like us all to spend time examining how we have been responding to the call and commitment we have made to the City of the Lord. Fr Andriy, in his talk at the Convocation, will be speaking in more detail about the antidotes Evagrius suggested to battle Acedia (He is somewhat of an expert on Evagrius- of course he is...). Yes, we want to be active and engaged in building the Kingdom, but let's pray that we are faithful to and not distracted from **THE** things God has uniquely called us to do as members of City of the Lord.

Blessings, Jeff Looker, Senior Coordinator