

# Arizona Rosary Celebration

APRIL 2017

Information available at: [www.AzRosary.com](http://www.AzRosary.com)

OR Email: [AzRosary@Yahoo.com](mailto:AzRosary@Yahoo.com)

## Welcome to Arizona Rosary Celebration 2017 Honoring Mary under Her Title Our Lady of Fatima

### DIOCESE OF TUCSON

October 21, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church  
8650 North Shannon Road, Tucson, AZ 85742  
Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, Presiding

### DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

October 22, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Phoenix Convention Center  
33 S. 3rd St. - Halls F & G, Phoenix, AZ 85004  
Most Rev. Eduardo A. Nevares, Presiding

We look forward to the 2017 Arizona Rosary Celebration as we honor our Blessed Mother under her title of Our Lady of Fatima. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the appearances to the three children of Fatima, Portugal. Mary's message to them and to us through them is to pray the Rosary daily for peace in the world. The message they received encouraged prayer, devotion to the Mary and penance to end the war in Europe and bring peace. We are called to the same message to pray for peace and to be attentive to those most in need. You are invited to renew your devotion to Mary, the Mother of God and deliberately pray for an end to violence and inhuman treatment of all God's people everywhere.

-Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas

At Fatima, Mary appeared to three illiterate children. Rooted in a profound relationship with Our Blessed Mother, as children of God, we are all called to learn from her. Today, some use their education and sophistication to erect obstacles to what Mary can teach us.

The message of conversion proclaimed by Our Lady of Fatima is faithful to the tradition that finds expression in the Hebrew prophets, was witnessed to by John the Baptist as he prepared the way for the Lord and was proclaimed by Jesus from the first days of his public ministry. Today, we are called to open our hearts and listen to Mary, as she repeats this most fundamental message that must be proclaimed for every generation to hear: Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.

-Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted

#### NEXT PLANNING MEETING

#### TUCSON

Saturday, June 24, 2017

St. Joseph Parish, St. Francis Room

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

215 S. Craycroft Road, Tucson, AZ 85711

#### NEXT PLANNING MEETING

#### PHOENIX

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Diocesan Pastoral Center

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

400 E. Monroe Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

#### Future Meeting Dates

July 29, 2017 St. Joseph's, St. Francis Rm.  
August 26, 2017 St. Joseph's Healy Hall  
September 30, 2017 St. Joseph's Healy Hall

#### Future Meeting Dates

June 3, 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Center  
July 8, 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Center  
August 5, 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Center  
September 16, 2017 Ss. Simon & Jude Cathedral  
October 7, 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Center

## Our Lady of Fatima

(The first in a series on Our Lady of Fatima)



The story of Our Lady of Fatima begins in the spring of 1916 with the appearance of a resplendent figure to three children who were in the field tending the family sheep. They were Lucia dos Santos, age 10, her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto (siblings), ages 8 and 7, all from Fatima, Portugal, a small village about 70 miles north of Lisbon. They described the figure as a dazzlingly beautiful young man, seemingly made of light, who told them he was the “Angel of Peace.” He invited them to pray with him.

Two more times that year the angel appeared and directed them to accept the sufferings that the Lord allowed them to undergo as an act of reparation for the sins which offend Him, and to pray constantly for the conversion of sinners. It was during the angel’s third and final visit that he appeared before them holding a chalice in his hands. Above it was suspended a host from which drops of blood were falling into the chalice. The Angel left the chalice suspended in the air and lay prostrate before it in prayer.

He then gave the host to Lucia to eat, and let Francisco and Jacinta drink from the chalice while saying: “Take and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, horribly outraged by ungrateful men. Repair their crimes and console your God.” Then he prostrated himself again in prayer before disappearing. The children did not tell anyone about these visits of the Angel, feeling an interior necessity to keep quiet about these events.

It was on the 13th day of the month of Our Lady, May 1917, there appeared to them “ a woman all in white, more brilliant than the sun” who presented herself to the three children saying, “ Please don’ t be afraid of me, I’ m not going to harm you.” Lucia asked her where she came from and she told her, “I come from Heaven.” The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. She asked them to pray and devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to “say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”

The Blessed Mother appeared to the children six more times. In her last apparition the woman revealed her name in response to Lucia’s question: “I am the Lady of the Rosary.” That same day, 70,000 people had turned out in the rain to witness the apparition, following a promise by the woman that she would show the people that the apparitions were true. They saw the sun make three circles and move around the sky in an incredible zigzag movement in a manner which left no doubt in their minds about the veracity of the apparitions.

The Blessed Virgin left them with the Secret with three parts that were to be revealed over time. According to the children, the Blessed Virgin Mary said, "If My requests are not granted, Russia will spread its errors throughout the world, raising up wars and persecutions against the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will suffer much and various nations will be annihilated."

In all Her appearances at Fatima, the Blessed Mother repeatedly emphasized the necessity of praying the Rosary daily, of wearing the Brown Scapular of Mount Carmel, and of performing acts of reparation and sacrifice. She requested the solemn public Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart by the Pope and all the Catholic bishops of the world. She also asked that the Faithful practice a new devotion of reparation on the first Saturday of five consecutive months ("The Five First Saturdays"). By 1930 the Bishop had approved of the apparitions and they have been approved by the Church as authentic.

**Message ARIZONA ROSARY CELEBRATION Chairman**  
**Lawrence G. Costanzo**

This year, 2017 marks the 42nd annual Rosary Celebration to be held in Arizona. We are told that this annual event is the longest continual Rosary Celebration in the country. This year we honor Mary under her title of "Our Lady of Fatima" to remember the 100th anniversary of the apparition which occurred on May 13, 1916. Please see the article in this Newsletter.

I want to thank all those who have stepped up to help in both Tucson and Phoenix as chairpersons of various committees in order to make this event successful. Special thanks to the co-chairs for Tucson Karen McEwen and Al Tucker and from Phoenix – Danny Haywood and Greg Mattingly. While most think that when the event is over in October, there is a period of relaxation, but this is not the case, these four people continue to work to get the frame work for the next Celebration in order. There are many others as well and we will identify them as we go on.

One of the most important tasks that we all have is to promote Rosary Celebration in our parishes, Knights of Columbus councils and Assemblies, in other organization that we may be member of and of course among friends, relative and acquaintances. This is a very expensive event – over \$70,000.00 each year and the costs keep rising, so, we must all do our part to try to bring in advertisements for the Program Book, donations from others and generally support the effort.

Our Guest Speaker is Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, C.S.B., Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Los Cruces, New Mexico. His biography is also in this Newsletter.

We are also in need of more volunteers to help in various areas. Contact the local chairpersons to ask where you can be of help.

Pease pray for a successful Rosary Celebration.

**Pray for the Success of the Arizona Rosary Celebration**  
**CONTINUED PRAYERS MAY MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

The Arizona Rosary Celebration leaders and committees are all deeply grateful for the many prayers, Masses, Rosaries, hours of adoration that were offered by you for the success of last year's Arizona Rosary Celebration. Thank you.

To start off this year's Prayer Campaign we ask everyone to again review the '20 Suggested Prayer Activities' found on the website. We hope that many of you will be able to complete all or most all of the 20 during the coming planning months.

Today's request is to pray ONE HAIL MARY. It is simple and it is an easy request. We only ask you to say a daily Hail Mary until our first meeting. Continuing this prayer practice following the meeting would be very helpful, too.

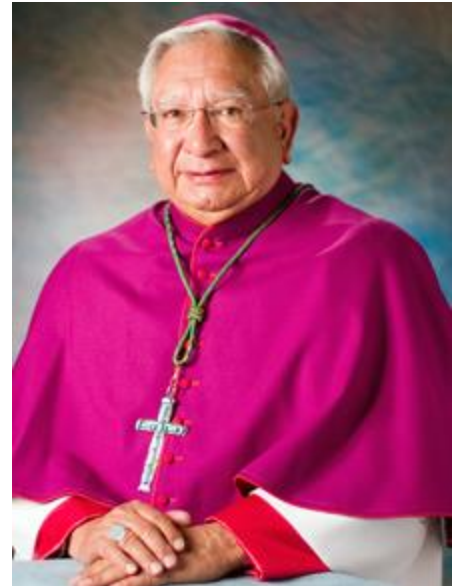
Reflecting on Our Lady of Fatima we recall who she told the children who she was. Mary said, "I am the Lady of the Rosary." Then, to St. Dominic, we recall, when he had trouble converting heretics, the Blessed Mother informed him that the Rosary was the prayer that pleased the Holy Trinity. Now, searching the web, we find several references to what Pope Francis has said about the Rosary. One find mentioned that he said it was a "prayer of my heart". So we pray for the success of this year's Arizona Rosary Celebration to honor Our Lady of the Rosary, to bring conversions, and that the Rosary will become also a prayer of everyone's heart.

**THE HAIL MARY**

*Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

**Most Rev. Ricardo Ramirez, C.S.B.**  
**Keynote Speaker at Arizona Rosary Celebration**

The Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico, is the son of Natividad Espitia Ramírez and María Espinosa Ramírez. He was born on September 12, 1936 in Bay City, Texas and is the second of two sons. As a young boy he attended the Latin American School and Jefferson Davis Grammar School. He graduated from Bay City High School in 1955. As a young man, Ricardo Ramirez received a Bachelor's of Arts Degree from the University of St. Thomas, in Houston, Texas, in 1959.



He responded to the Lord's calling to the priesthood and between 1963 and 1965, attending St. Basil's Seminary in Toronto, Canada and the Seminario Conciliar in Mexico City, Mexico, in 1966. The Reverend Ricardo Ramirez was ordained on December 10, 1966 in Houston, Texas as a member of the Congregation of St. Basil. As a priest, he continued his education and in 1968 received a Masters of Arts Degree from the University of Detroit, Michigan. Soon after, he was bestowed with the title of Doctor of Laws honoris causa, from Neumann College, Wichita, Kansas. In recognition of his other learned pursuits, he is also recognized as a Doctor of Divinity honoris causa, from the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, Canada; Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa, from Siena Heights University, Adrian, Michigan; and Doctor of Law honoris causa, St. John Fisher College, Rochester, New York.

As a priest of the Order of St. Basil, he was posted to many communities, including: St. Mary's Church, Owen Sound, Canada (1967); University Students/Centro Cultural Aragón, Mexico City as Chaplain (1968-1970); Family Religious Education Project, Tehuacán, Puebla, Mexico (1970-1976); and the Mexican American Cultural Center, San Antonio, Texas, where he served as Executive Vice President (1976-1981).

He was named Titular Bishop of Vatarba (Numidia, Algeria) and Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio, Texas on October 27, 1981, by Pope John Paul II and was ordained to the Episcopacy on December 6, 1981, in San Antonio, Texas, by Archbishop Patricio F. Flores. On October 18, 1982, he became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico. While Bishop, he was appointed to two terms as Commissioner of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (2003-2007). The Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez retired in 2013 and was named Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico.

In retirement, Bishop Ramirez continues to serve on many committees related to the pursuit of human rights and the plight of refugees from Latin America and other countries, including: as Episcopal Advisor to the Institute for Hispanic Liturgy, the USCCB, Committee on Migration and Refugee Services, as a member of the Committee on the Catholic Common Ground Initiative, and as a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Hispanic Affairs.

The Congregation of St. Basil, also known as the Basilian Fathers, is a vibrant community of priests, students for the priesthood, and lay associates. They are an apostolic community whose members profess simple vows. They seek the glory of God, especially in the works of education and evangelization. St. Basil the Great was a fourth century (330-379 CE) Greek bishop and doctor of the Church known as a tireless teacher, theologian, a champion of orthodoxy and particularly for his care of the poor and underprivileged. He was considered a father of communal monasticism who moderated some of the more severe practices in monastic life and helped establish a balance between work and prayer. St. Basil also believed in incorporating secular learning, particularly the "pagan classics," into a Christian education. Other patrons of the Basilians are: the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. John Bosco. More information on the Order of St. Basil can be found on the website <http://www.basilian.org>.



**Message from the Chairman**  
**TUCSON**  
**Al Tucker**

Arizona Rosary Celebration 2017 honoring Mary under Her title Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated in Tucson on Saturday, October 21, 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 8650 North Shannon Road, Tucson, AZ 85742. Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, Bishop of Tucson, presiding.

The Arizona Rosary Celebration 2017 guest speaker for the Tucson and Phoenix rosary celebrations on Saturday and Sunday respectively is Most Rev. Ricardo Ramirez C.S.B. Bishop Emeritus of Las Cruces, New Mexico. His biography is found in this newsletter and on our website [www.AzRosary.com](http://www.AzRosary.com). Bishop Ramirez will also give a small talk at the Holy Hour and dinner and be available for individual greetings at the dinner.

The Parish Representative is a very important key to the success of the Arizona Rosary Celebration. Our goal is to have a Parish Representative on our team from every parish in the Diocese. Early registration of a representative ensures an early flow of information to the parish and aids with scheduling and planning for parish participation in our October celebration for Our Blessed Mother.

For information contact: Al Tucker, [altucker33@yahoo.com](mailto:altucker33@yahoo.com), 520-825-1248.

**Holy Hour and Friday Dinner**  
**TUCSON**

The 2017 Arizona Rosary Celebration will start in Tucson on Friday evening, October 20 with Holy Hour followed by a dinner. Both the Holy Hour and Friday Dinner will be held at Saint Mark Parish, 2727 W. Tangerine Road in Oro Valley. Further details will be published in subsequent newsletter editions. The Saint Mark Life Teens will be assisting Our Lady of the Rosary Council #13272 with hosting the dinner and the Teens will also participate with the Holy Hour.

**Message from the Chairman**  
**PHOENIX**  
**Danny Haywood**

I want to welcome you back to this year's Arizona Rosary Celebration. The work to present the event is unlimited. It takes great people to see that it turns out to be a successful celebration, and we have great people already working on it.

This year we are honoring Our Lady under her title of "Our Lady of Fatima". This is the 100th Anniversary of her Apparition in Fatima, Portugal.

This year we have the honor of having the Most Reverend Eduardo Nevares, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix, presiding over our celebration in Phoenix. Our speaker this year is the Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, C.S.B. He is Bishop-Emeritus of the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico. So save the dates of October 21st in Tucson and October 22nd in Phoenix at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Our Steering Committee Chairpersons are most important to the success of our Rosary Celebration. The Chairperson in charge of each committee has the awesome task to see that their job gets done. And we are always looking for people to help with the committees. If you want to help, please give Greg Mattingly or myself, Danny Haywood, a call.

Another important function is our Parish Representatives. They are the hard working people that get the parishioners involved and motivated to come and pray the Rosary with us. If you would like to be a Parish Representative or help a Parish Representative, contact Dorothy Westfall. She is in charge of organizing the Parish Representatives. She always does a great job.

We have organizational meetings for the Steering Committee and the Parish Representatives. They will be posted in the newsletter for your information. If you would like to help or have any questions, please feel free to call me, Danny Haywood, at 602-469-0758, email [dhaywood65@gmail.com](mailto:dhaywood65@gmail.com), or call Co-chairman Greg Mattingly at 623-910-8414, email [gmattingly3855@live.com](mailto:gmattingly3855@live.com).

I am looking forward to another great year. Please pray for the success of the 42nd year of the Arizona Rosary Celebration.

**Supporting the Arizona Rosary Celebration  
TUCSON**

Purchase of advertisements in the Arizona Rosary Celebration Program Book is our main source of financial support for this annual celebration to honor Our Blessed Mother. The purchases of ads by businesses decreased significantly last year and we need your help. Our chairperson for this action, Mary Ann Cleveland, has done a superb effort in obtaining the ad purchases. However, this important task cannot be single handedly accomplished by Mary Ann (even as the super star that she is). Our call remains out for at least 2 additional persons to assist Mary Ann with obtaining and following up with business ads for the program book. Also, our parish representatives and other team members can be a big help by asking (or at least notifying Mary Ann about) potential advertisers in their area (for example, those who advertise in your parish bulletins). Please contact:

Mary Ann Cleveland at [cleves@cox.net](mailto:cleves@cox.net)  
520-248-8472: or  
Al Tucker, [altucker33@yahoo.com](mailto:altucker33@yahoo.com) ,  
520-825-1248.

**Poster Contest  
TUCSON**

All parishes and schools are encouraged to begin plans for submitting posters for the annual poster contest that will again be held in conjunction with the 2017 Arizona Rosary Celebration. The theme for this year's poster contest will be "Praying with Our Lady of Fatima" and the entries should have a drawing of the child and his/her family praying the rosary before Our Lady of Fatima. Details for submitting the posters will be published in upcoming newsletter issues and on the ARC website [www.AzRosary.com](http://www.AzRosary.com) as well as via mailings to parishes and schools. The contest helps to bring the students closer to Our Lady as well as increasing faith and understanding. In addition, the contestants and their parents have a chance to win attending a pizza party with Bishop Kicanas. Winning posters will be displayed at the pizza party with the Bishop. These posters will be returned to the winners at the end of the pizza party.

For information please contact: Samuel Kiser, [Samuel@kisers.net](mailto:Samuel@kisers.net), 520-820-5808 or Karen McEwen, [kmcewen@seastucson.org](mailto:kmcewen@seastucson.org), 520-219-7615.

**Supporting the Arizona Rosary Celebration  
PHOENIX**

The Annual Arizona Rosary Celebration is Arizona's largest gathering of Catholics; over 8,000 attended last year in both Dioceses. The primary source of income for the celebration is revenues received through the sale of advertising in the program book. It costs nearly \$70,000 to produce the celebration. Every Organization, Parish, Business, Club and Knights of Columbus Council, Assembly, and Columbian Squire's Circle, throughout the State should purchase an advertisement to help support the Arizona Rosary Celebration.

In Tucson for information about program book ads and donations contact: Mary Ann Cleveland, 520-574-7380, or [cleves@cox.net](mailto:cleves@cox.net). In Phoenix contact Rick Garrison, 480-522-7064, or email [KofCRick@q.com](mailto:KofCRick@q.com)

A great idea is to take a Booster Ad Forms to every meeting you attend and encourage everyone at the meeting to take a one line, 30 character, \$3.00, ad. Although this seems to be a small dollar item they can add up to a significant benefit for our bottom line. Advertising and Booster order forms can be found on the Arizona Rosary Celebration website: [www.AzRosary.com](http://www.AzRosary.com). Your monetary and prayer support are appreciated.

**Reconciliation  
PHOENIX**

One of the great experiences we have at our Rosary Celebration is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Every year we have over 100 faithful that have their confessions heard. This is only possible due to the sacrifice our priests make to spend a few hours with us. If you know of a priest that is able to spend a few hours with us hearing confessions please let me know. I can be reached at [fyanez@cox.net](mailto:fyanez@cox.net) or at 602-402-4090. Please pray for our priests.

*Pray for  
The Success of  
Arizona Rosary Celebration*

*Knights of Columbus  
14175 W Indian School Rd  
Suite B4-626  
Goodyear, AZ 85395*

**Please Open Today!**

**Arizona Rosary Celebration  
NEXT MEETING**

**PHOENIX  
May 6, 2017**

**TUCSON  
June 24, 2016**

*Arizona Rosary Celebration  
www.AzRosary.com*

