



# FAITHFUL



## Sacred Altar Liturgy Held Reflecting on the Chapel Dedication Mass

**Dear Friends of Mt Claret,**

Our newsletter has a wonderful article and pictures of our Chapel Blessing and the Altar Dedication covered by Joyce Coronel of the Catholic Sun.

I wanted to add my perspective as someone who had never participated in this particular Liturgy, and I learned later that most in attendance had not seen an Altar dedication Mass. What was remarkable to me was the amount of chanting that was included and the richness of the readings. It made it all feel very sacred! The part of the liturgy when the incense was lit in a brazier on the altar was amazing! The smoke filled the Chapel! At one point we lost sight of Bishop Nevares!!! Once the anointing of the Altar was complete and the Altar “dressed” Mass continued as usual. Following Mass we had a reception with time for friendship and fellowship with our community.

We are very grateful for the participation of Bishop Nevares, Fr.



John Muir, Fr. Chris Fraser, Fr. Paul Sullivan, Fr. Fred Adamson, Msgr. Gilbert Rutz, Fr. Eamon Boland, Dcn. Billy Chavira, Dcn. Jim Trant, and Dcn. Bob Carey. We continue to express our gratitude to our community and various Ministries that supported the project and who continue to pray and support Mt. Claret. Above all we give thanks to God for His many gifts!!

Yours in Christ,  
Tom McGuire, Director

# Redesigned and renovated chapel showcases local artists, artisans

## Altar dedicated by Bishop Nevarés

By **Joyce Coronel**, *The Catholic Sun*



**Nestled at the foot of Camelback Mountain on 15 acres of Sonoran Desert, Mount Claret Retreat Center is one of the crowning jewels of the Diocese of Phoenix.**

The facility is home to the Cursillo movement, hosts Catholic organizations such as the Christ Child Society, and serves as the site for many retreats. Diocesan employees are on site make two of their own retreats each year during Advent and Lent.

The altar in the newly renovated and redesigned chapel was dedicated by Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevarés in a Mass celebrated Feb. 15.

It was a moment 13 years in the making.

Tom McGuire, director of Mount Claret, said the idea to reimagine the chapel sprang up years ago as he, Fr. Paul Sullivan, and Fr. John Muir, vicar general and co-moderator of the curia, sat inside the chapel and dreamed about what they would do with the space if they had money to renovate.

"We came up with a list of 12 things, most of which we accomplished on this project," McGuire said. The building itself is still round, but everything else has changed. "We completely gutted the inside."

"The idea was to respect the circular



design of it but beautify the altar and create a little bit more sense of a focal point for prayer," Fr. Muir said.

The former altar was circular, but the new one is rectangular. Another key feature is that the tabernacle opens to the main chapel but also to an Adoration chapel on the other side of the wall that separates the chapel from the Adoration space.

Prior to anointing the new altar, Bishop Nevarés removed his chasuble

"This altar consecrated will remind us always of the sacrifice that Jesus Christ underwent for each of us on the cross. It's also the heavenly banquet table," Bishop Nevarés said. "As we celebrate holy Mass, we're not only remembering the past, we're also remembering that you and I are pilgrim people ... on the way toward our heavenly homeland."

Prior to pouring the Chrism, Bishop Nevarés chanted prayers that harkened back to the altars established by Noah, Abraham, and ultimately by Christ on the Cross.

The incense used during the dedication of the altar symbolizes the incense given to the Christ Child by the Three Wise Men and symbolizes the divinity of Christ. "As the incense rises, so also our prayer will rise before the heavenly throne," Bishop Nevarés said.



and donned the gremial, an apron. He poured Chrism oil on the altar in five places: the center and each of the four corners. Then, he spread the oil over the entire surface of the altar as the congregation prayed.

Prior to anointing the altar, Bishop Nevarés explained the rich symbolism of the ceremony to the donors and dignitaries in attendance.

After the altar was anointed, Rita Lee and Celine Minton came forward to dry and decorate it. Minton is the artist who painted the Marian mantle behind the crucifix and who did all the painting and goldleaf work for the renovation. She said the building committee wanted to go with a mission-style design in line with the overall look of the retreat center.



Minton's next project will be to complete paintings of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Joseph to flank the altar. There is a niche for each that features a painted blue drape that echoes the one behind the altar.

Lee, an interior designer and the project manager for the renovation, said the blue represents the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Diocese of Phoenix. It also represents the relationship Jesus has with His mother.

artisans are all local.

Everything in the chapel, except for the pews, from the painting, goldleaf work and wood carving, was done by local artists like Minton and woodcarver Vicente Munoz.

The woodworking was fashioned by Beyond Woodworking in Tempe.

"It's not something from a catalog — it's not something you're going to see anywhere else," Lee said. "We have local artisans in this state and in this Valley whose work is beyond what



The total cost for the chapel's renovation, including the campaign, the architect, the builder's cost, and the artwork, plus furnishings, was \$2 million, McGuire said. The original chapel, built in 1969, was in need of an update. Donations from Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, the Catholic Community Foundation, Serra Club, Catholic Cemeteries and Funeral Homes, the Cursillo Movement, the Diocese of Phoenix, the Christ Child Society, the Scaramella Faith Foundation, and 280 individual donors paid for the renovation.

Lee, the project manager who put the design team together, emphasized that the artists and

you could find and who are Catholic individuals who take this beyond more than a job. It's really a ministry."

Fr. Muir said he was rejoicing on multiple levels during the blessing of Mount Claret's chapel and the dedication of the altar. He grew up in the area and remembers riding his bike to the retreat center and praying inside the chapel.

"I was rejoicing for all of the married couples and people who are going to experience so much healing and so much spiritual transformation there in the years to come," Fr. Muir said.

"The chapel is going to play an even more powerful role in those transformations."



# Easter Sunday Mass

at Mt. Claret

8:00AM Mass  
Crosier Priest, Fr. Hubert, OSC

10:00AM Mass  
Msgr. Gilbert Rutz

**SPRING** Join Us!  
**SOCIAL**

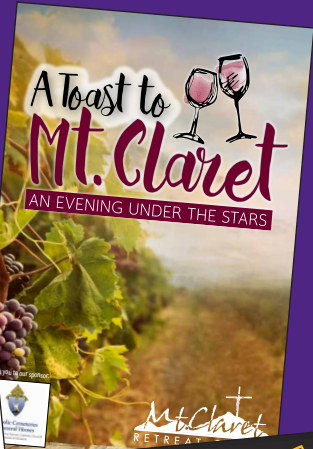
**April 25, 2023**  
5:00-7:00pm

Mt. Claret Retreat Center  
It is a wonderful way to gather our community together over good food, drink, friendship and fellowship! This will be held in our dining room and outdoor patio

RSVP to:  
[info@mtclaret.org](mailto:info@mtclaret.org)  
602.840.5066 by April 21



# SAVE THE DATE!



Planning has begun for 2023

## Evening Under the Stars!

Event Date: **October 14**

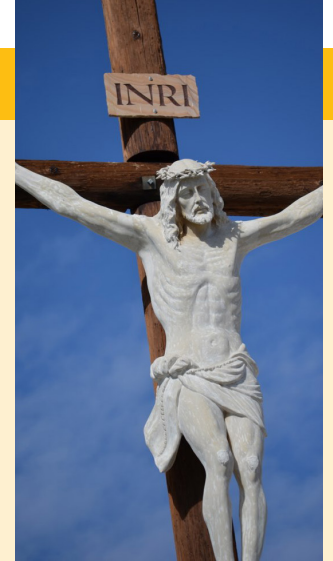
The committee is currently looking for volunteers, sponsors, underwriters, and items for the silent auction.

Contact: [info@mtclaret.org](mailto:info@mtclaret.org)

## Upcoming Retreat Schedule

Please pray for our retreat ministries who are having retreats at Mt Claret in the upcoming weeks:

- Cursillo Men and Women
- Encuentros Con Jesus Men and Women
- City of the Lord
- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher
- Mantle of Hope
- Diocesan Staff Lenten Retreat
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Ignatian Retreat
- Office of Marriage and Respect Life
- St. Tim's Parish ACTS Retreat



## A TRULY GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE

is creating a lasting legacy or making a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one. The following **NAMING OPPORTUNITIES** are available. Gifts will be recognized on a plaque in the Narthex of the Chapel.

NAMING OPPORTUNITY	COST	NAMING OPPORTUNITY	COST
Narthex.....	\$250,000	Sound System.....	\$30,000 (FUNDED)
Bell Tower.....	\$150,000 (FUNDED)	Roofing.....	\$30,000
Restroom (2).....	\$125,000 EA	Entry Doors.....	\$20,000 (FUNDED)
Alter Furnishings.....	\$90,000	Portico.....	\$15,000 (FUNDED)
Adoration Chapel.....	\$40,000 (FUNDED)	Landscaping.....	\$12,000
Heating & Air Conditioning.....	\$40,000	Pews (10).....	\$6,000 EA (3 LEFT)
Flooring.....	\$40,000 (FUNDED)	Sacristy.....	\$5,000 (FUNDED)
Confessionals (2).....	\$30,000 EA (FUNDED)	Outside Pavers.....	\$3,600 EA

(PF) = PARTIALLY FUNDED



**HONORING OUR PAST**  
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

*Mt. Claret Chapel Renewal*

For information on how you can participate in the  
**Capital Campaign for Mt. Claret**  
Call Tom McGuire at (602) 840-5066, or visit [mtclaret.org](http://mtclaret.org)



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The beautiful stained glass window has ordained the chapel since it's beginning and remains today as part of the Chapel restoration.