Upcoming at the Casa

Boundless Compassion Retreat
Explore how to grow in compassion by starting with your inner self.
Friday, September 6—Sunday, September 8

St. Francis Repairs the Church
With Br. Bill Short OFM
Friday, September 13—Sunday, September 15

Hunger Action Workshop: Through Our Hands
Come and see another way that we can love and serve others.
Sunday, September 22, 12:15 - 3 pm

The Conventual Church of
Our Lady of the Angels
at the Franciscan Renewal Center

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekend Mass</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
<td>Monday - Saturday</td>
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<td>Holy Day Masses</td>
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<td>Centering Prayer</td>
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<td>Front Desk Hours</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Books &amp; Blessings</td>
<td>Monday - Friday</td>
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New Liturgy of the Word for Children

Many years ago, I remember listening to a song by Amy Grant called “Thy Word is a Lamp Unto my Feet.” This song challenged me to think about what this “Word” means to me, which led to my becoming a lector. But, the part about lighting my path is something that I continue to explore each time I come to Mass. The Word of God can have great meaning to all of us! Small children are introduced to basic Bible stories through storytelling. As children enter primary school, they can begin to explore the Word — what is being said and how it applies to them, taking their understanding a step deeper each year.

Here is where our new Liturgy of the Word for Children comes in! Starting Sept. 8, children ages 6 – 12 will be dismissed at the beginning of the 9:15 am Mass, continuing the Liturgy of the Word in their own sacred space. This includes the opening prayer, the readings (which are adapted to fit their understanding), and an “interactive homily” where team leaders ask open-ended questions, allowing kids to see how the Word can be a light unto their feet. Children then conclude the Liturgy of the Word by praying the Creed and Intercessions, then return to their families at the Offertory. This is not CCD, Sunday School, or Catechesis, but Liturgy, sacred and holy.

Sharing the Word with children is always exciting! So many times, children’s discussions have shown me a whole different way of looking at a Gospel! Not only are the children developing a love of the Word, but so too are the adult and teen leaders. What a beautiful intergenerational opportunity for growing in faith.

Join the adventure — adult and teen volunteers are needed. Who knows how the Word and our children might light your path this year!

Peace and Good,

Patty Tafolla
Director of Catechetical Ministries
The New Casa Hand Bell Choir is starting in September

The Casa Hand Bell Choir is open to anyone age 12 and up. Adults and teens are all welcome. This is an intergenerational opportunity and a great thing for families to do together. No experience is necessary. Reading music helps, but is not required. You will learn all that you need to know.

Rehearsals will be every Monday from 5 - 6 pm starting Monday, Sept. 9 through May.

It’s time to sign up now!

“Taizé Prayer Around the Cross”
Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 pm

Making time for quiet reflection is important, especially in our very busy and very noisy lives. Taizé prayer consists of meditative singing and periods of silence in order to reach a contemplative state.

All are welcome to join in this beautiful and unique prayer!

We gather in the church on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The prayer service lasts about 35 - 40 minutes.

The Casa Choir

The Casa Choir will resume regular weekly rehearsals in September, every Tuesday evening from 7 - 9 pm. The Casa Choir sings for special Franciscan feast days, at Thanksgiving and Christmas Masses, and for all of the Liturgies during Holy Week.

Choir members must be able to read music notation and sing with a pleasing voice. Previous choir experience is very helpful. To schedule an audition, contact Norbert at norbert@thecasa.org.

Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic?

Are you seeking full initiation into the Roman Catholic church? If so, then you are invited to explore “A Journey in Faith: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).” The RCIA is the sacramental formation process that prepares individuals for living the Christian life in the Roman Catholic community and tradition.

The RCIA sessions will begin on Tuesdays, starting the first week of October from 7 - 9 pm. The first four “inquiry sessions” are open, and you are encouraged to attend all four sessions, but are welcome to begin attending anytime during those four weeks. These inquiry sessions are designed to help you discern whether or not you want to continue on this Journey in Faith through full initiation into the Roman Catholic Church at Easter. Please call Kathleen Garast at 480.483.3803 for more information. You can also email us at rcia@thecasa.org.

Seeking Sponsors for the RCIA

We will also be seeking community members from the Our Lady of the Angels Church to walk with these individuals as Sponsors on this Journey in Faith. Sponsor training will begin in October as well. For more information, call Jeff Rochford at 602.369.7882.
September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

Labor Day is the first Monday in September. Take time to write a note or give a small gift to someone who works hard for your community (or your family).

Learn about Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Her feast day is Sept. 5. She received many awards during her lifetime, including the Nobel peace prize. Design an award that you would give her today.

Grandparents Day is Sept. 8! Do something special for your grandparents today! Ask your parents to talk about their grandparents, too.

Decorate wooden or paper letters spelling out “Mary” to celebrate the Most Holy Name of Mary on Sept. 12.

Find your favorite cross craft to create on Sept. 14 for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Donate to the less fortunate in honor of the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul on Sept. 27.

Be a peacemaker on Sept. 28 to mark the feast day of St. Wenceslaus.

**REFLECTION:** The door to Heaven is narrow. Jesus is that door. The map to the door is widely published. The Father issues a regular, personal invitation, but people still need to accept the invitation and walk through the door. Many choose not to — some on purpose, others because they are really busy and will get to it later. There are many reasons, but there comes a moment when the journey is over, and the door closes and locks. Wherever you stand at that moment is where you’ll stand forever.

The fact that you are baptized Catholic is no guarantee that you are now on the inside. But, we went to Mass every Sunday (ate and drank in your company). We went to Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study (You taught in our streets).

What side of the door you stand on is not a choice that is made once, either on the day you confess Christ or the day you are baptized. It is a choice that must be made every day up until that last and final day. You can’t know when that day will be. Here’s the question you need to be concerned with — where do you stand right now?

— Marcellino D’Ambrosio, Ph.D.

**CONVERSATION:** What does it feel like to be last?

**PROCLAMATION/DISCUSSION:**
- Who is called to share in God’s kingdom?
- What is the Lord coming to do?
- Where will the people gather together?

**ACTION:** Door Hanger: Use card stock or buy foam door hangers for each person. Decorate as the narrow door on one side. Discuss distractions that keep us from following Jesus through the narrow door. Write those on the other side.

**PRAYER:** Loving God, thank You for sharing Your life and love with us. Help us to live our lives filled with Your love. Amen.

For Baptisms, Sacramental Preparation and Family Catechesis, contact Patty Tafolla at 480.355.0359 or dcm@thecasa.org; Donna Kinzie at 480.355.0344 or donna@thecasa.org. For Youth Ministry, contact James Whitaker at 480.355.0343 or youth@thecasa.org.
We’ve been telling you it’s coming and now …
our new Safe Environment Program is here!

Easy steps to set up your Safe Environment renewal:
1. Go to our Casa website https://thecasa.org/
2. Click on “SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING" found at the top.
3. Please do not create a new account. Users with previous training: Your historical records have been uploaded to the platform so you can complete the Renewal training. To access your profile, click on “Sign in Here” in the upper right corner of the page.
4. Use the format: FirstName.LastName.frc for your username, and enter 1234 for the password. You will be prompted to set a more secure password. Once you have set a new password, you will be asked to log in again with the new password.
5. Contact the Safe Environment team or your ministry leader if you need help with knowing what your username is.
6. Your main learning dashboard will show you both the required and optional training.
7. Click Start Curriculum under "RENEWAL TRAINING." Follow all prompts, watch the video until the end, mark all the agreements, and you will receive a thumbs up.

Thank you for your stewardship!

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<th>Mass Offerings</th>
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<td>8.12.18</td>
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<td>8.13.17</td>
<td>$18,237.50</td>
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We received 225 collection envelopes.

Support Groups

No appointments required. All Are Welcome.

Monday:
6:30 - 8 pm: Divorce/Separation/Relationship Endings

Tuesday:
5:30 - 7 pm: Grieving the Loss of a Loved One
6:30 - 8 pm: Depression and Anxiety

Wednesday:
6:30 - 8 pm: Addiction & Family

PAZ artist, Nancy, is heading to Medjugorje in late August / early September. This will be an exciting and inspirational trip.

Nancy will be sending photos of her travels back to the gift shop. The photos can be viewed on the digital frame in the gift shop or via the website: BOOKSANDBLESSINGSGIFTSHOP.COM

Stop in to give Nancy good wishes for a safe trip!

For more information about our Counseling Ministry, please call 480.948.7460, ext. 134 or email: counseling@thecasa.org
Let Love Lead
Faith in Action Upcoming Events/Programs

Saturday morning through lunch, September 21, World Day of Peace, Morning aerial photo, interfaith prayer service/Peace Award, Peace picnic.

Sunday afternoon, September 22, Hunger Action Through our Hands We Serve in Love.

Sunday morning, October 6, Casa Habitat Ministry presents Habitat: A Chance to thrive. How Habitat for Humanity makes a difference in the affordable housing crisis in central Arizona.

Tuesday Night, October 15, the Casa Veteran Ministry provides a presentation on the Veterans Court, which rehabilitates and restores veterans to be active, contributing members of their community.

Look for more details in upcoming bulletins, flyers in the lobby or narthex and visit the thecasa.org website calendar pages and Faith in Action pages.

For more information about Faith in Action Ministries, contact Patti Sills-Trausch at 480.355.0348 or socialconcerns@thecasa.org; Laura Libertore at 480.355.5645 or laura@thecasa.org.
Looking Ahead …

Oct. 31 - Nov. 8  St. Bonaventure’s Journey Into God Retreat
Nov. 2  Old World Angel Painting Workshop
Nov. 13 or 14  Reigniting Religion
Nov. 15 - 17  Walking the Footsteps of Thich Nhat Hanh
And Thomas Merton Retreat
Nov. 18 or 19  Practicing the Ways of a Mystic in a Busy Life

Please visit the online registration portal to learn more about these and other upcoming programs. [frc.retreatportal.com/events](http://frc.retreatportal.com/events)

St. Francis Repairs the Church
Friday, Sept. 13—Sunday, Sept. 15
Br. Bill Short OFM

Learn how St. Francis discovered his calling and how this calling relates to us today.

Retreat fee including meals: $135; with lodging $250 single, $150 double per person. Check-in: Friday 5 pm; dinner 6 pm. Retreat ends Sunday, 1 pm.
Pre-registration required.

Native American Flute Journey Extended
Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 am - 3 pm
Hank Molder

Come learn about and experience the beautiful sound of the Native American Flute.

Fee per person: $70, lunch included.
Pre-registration required. Limited seating only.
Flute is hand-made: $50. Purchase in class and pay directly to presenter.

Science & Faith
Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 am - 12 pm
Paul Mueller, SJ

Since Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we need to be concerned not only with what is True in science and in faith but also with what that means for us – for our Way of Life. Fr. Mueller’s approach will be both academic and pastoral.

Fee: $30 with lunch at 12 pm.
Register with Science & Faith for $45.
Pre-registration required.

The Vatican Observatory
Saturday, Oct. 19, 12 pm - 3 pm
Paul Mueller, SJ

Learn about the particular history of the Vatican Observatory: Why does the Pope have an observatory? What are its activities and contributions, historically and in the present day? We will discuss several modern discoveries in astronomy and astrophysics, and reflect on what they could mean for faith and for human life.

Fee: $30 with lunch at 12 pm.
Register with Science & Faith for $45.
Pre-registration required.

Native American Flute Journey Extended
Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 am - 3 pm
Hank Molder

For more information or to register for any of these programs, visit thecasa.org or call 480.948.7460 ext. 132
Boundless Compassion
Friday, Sept. 6—Sunday, Sept. 8
Colleen Shepard & Ruth Baker
Explore how to grow in compassion by starting with your inner self.

Retreat fee including meals: $135; with lodging $250 single, $150 double per person. Check-in: Friday 5 pm; dinner 6 pm. Retreat ends Sunday, 1 pm.
Pre-registration required.

World Peace Day
Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 am - 2 pm
Sign up to be a part of the Peace Day Aerial Photo in the Hospitality area on Sunday, Sept. 8! The word this year is PEACE.

Hunger Action Workshop:
Through Our Hands
Sunday, Sept. 22, 12:15 - 3 pm
Yolanda Soto
Come and see another way that we can love and serve others.

Please register online. $10 includes a simple lunch, which is provided by the Hunger Action Ministry and workshop with Yolanda Soto, followed by assembling the Casa Food-for-a-Meal Bags for distribution.

Sign-in/check-in for the workshop in Palm Court outside Fr. Owen.

Retirement and Conscious Aging
Friday, Sept. 27—Sunday, Sept. 29
Jim Briggs
Making Room for the Spirit as We Grow Older
Discover how to see life after retirement as a blessing and how to live differently and more contemplatively.

Fee: Commuter $135, Single room $250, Double occupancy $150 per person. Fees include meals. Pre-registration required.

Embracing a Spirituality of Imperfection: Following the Example of Henri Nouwen
Monday, Oct. 14—Wednesday, Oct. 16
Wil Hernandez
Discover how we can use our brokenness as a way to find wholeness.

Fee: Commuter $135, Single room $250, Double occupancy $150 per person. Fees include meals. Pre-registration required.

Franciscan Vision Series:
St. Francis, Master of Prayer, Part 1
Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 - 11 am
Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR
The writings of St. Francis and the legends about the saint demonstrate the important place of prayer in his spiritual journey. This first part of the two-part presentation will explore the depth and richness of the prayers that he composed. As many scholars point out, he truly deserves the title of Master of Prayer.

Fee: $95 per person, Pre-registration required.

The Way of Henri Nouwen
Monday, Oct. 18—Wednesday, Oct. 20
Wil Hernandez
Learn from Henri Nouwen how to make room for tension in our lives and use it as a way to grow on this journey of life.

Fee: Commuter $135, Single room $250, Double occupancy $150 per person. Fees include meals. Pre-registration required.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, visit thecasa.org or call 480.948.7460 ext. 132
What is a Discover the Vision Tour?

What is a Discover the Vision Tour? I’m sure you have seen the ad in the bulletin, or Discover the Vision cards in the Narthex, or maybe you received a personal invitation from Casa staff or volunteers. Did you think to yourself, "I have been coming to the Casa for years, why do I need to attend this?"

The Discover the Vision Tour is a wonderful way to be introduced to the Casa. In just one hour, you will hear amazing stories of healing and transformation, spiritual growth, and service to others. Some of these stories are very personal and will possibly resonate with your own story when you hear them. You may already have knowledge of the various ministries on the campus, but the Discover the Vision Tour takes a deeper dive.

The tour is a great catalyst for you to share your love of the Casa with a friend, co-worker, or neighbor.

Maybe you know someone who is struggling and is in need of counseling. Charlie Brown enlightens guests about the counseling ministry and support groups. Maybe you know a military veteran who needs help. Patti Sills-Trausch discusses how the Veteran’s Ministry has been life-changing for so many. Maybe you know someone who is searching for a church community to call home. Norbert Zwickl talks about how the Casa welcomes everyone, right where they’re at.

When you invite someone to a Discover the Vision tour, you may open a whole new world for them. I really like the quote: “Sometimes what you’re looking for comes when you’re not looking at all.” It is not for us to decide if our guest will discover a new vision at the Casa. However, we can decide to simply offer the invitation.

— Sue Force, Donor Relations, 480.355.5631

For information regarding the RENEWING LIVES initiative, please call 480.355.0357 or email sarah@thecasa.org

Who Needs a Will?!

There is a common misconception that you only need a will if you have substantial assets. Not true.

In fact, no matter how much (or how little) property you have, it is important to have a will. A will allows you to make choices about how your assets will be distributed, and eases the burden on those you leave behind. If you don’t have a will, the state will decide for you.

After taking care of loved ones, a charitable gift through your will is a wonderful way to create a lasting impact on your community, and is something anyone can do. It can be your legacy to future generations. Here are two reasons to consider a legacy gift:

• It’s easy. You simply specify in your will the asset, percentage, or dollar amount you wish to transfer to charity, and you can always change it if you wish.
• It costs you nothing during your lifetime. Making a legacy gift is a way to demonstrate your commitment to helping others in need, with no impact on your cash flow.

Next week: More reasons to consider a legacy gift …

To learn how you can make a difference in the lives and causes you love, visit our legacy website: http://www.frclegacy.org/, or contact Mary Dunn, 480.355.0345, endowment@thecasa.org.
Faith Sharing Groups

**Casa Prayer Partners Ministry** petitions prayers and prays for our human family. Send requests to: CasaPrayerPartners@gmail.com

**Casa Rosary Prayer Group** meets every Tuesday, 6 pm in the Meditation Chapel to share our prayer intentions, and those of the community. Through the Rosary, we seek to deepen our relationship with Christ and each other as we contemplate with Mary the face of Christ.

**Casa Singles** Single, Divorced, Widowed — AGES 40+, meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. For more information and to be added to the email list, contact rick@thecasa.org.

**Cornerstone at the Casa Meditation** Wednesdays 11:30 am in the Spiritual Direction/Cornerstone Center and Mondays 8:30 am in Room B. All are welcome.

**Men in Spirit** This group of Christian men meets the first Saturday of every month for 7 am Mass, breakfast, then discussion, study, lectures and guidance. Contact: Al Sapia-Bosch or Chuck Jirau: MenInSpirit@thecasa.org.

**The Order of Secular Franciscans (OFS) Peace Fraternity** meets at the Casa on the second Sunday of the month from 2 - 4 pm. This canonical Order of the Catholic Church is open to lay Catholics. Contact: Pat Kennedy, OFS, at 602.284.9343.

Nonprofit Meetings and Conferences

Nonprofit organizations are offered an exclusively serene gathering place for meetings, conferences and special events. For more information about hosting your next nonprofit event at the Casa, contact Indra Rodney, Director of Meetings & Conferences at 480.355.5632 or indra@thecasa.org.

**Spiritual Direction**

A spiritual director/companion is trained to listen and encourage you to explore a closer relationship with God through conversation, listening and prayer. If you are curious about spiritual direction at the Casa, or would like to make an appointment, please contact: Cathy Olds at 480.948.7460, x162 or spiritualdirection@thecasa.org.

Upcoming Special Collections

Sept. 14,15: The Catholic University
Sept. 28,29: Franciscan Missionary Union (Province)
Oct. 19,20: Mission Sunday (Diocese)

Mass Intentions August 25 – August 31, 2019

**Sunday**
- Pro-Populo
- Judi Bernhardt
- Frank Finnegan
- Frank Hollsday

**Monday**
- Terri and Mike Mansfield

**Tuesday**
- James Haulinan

**Wednesday**
- Petra H. Morris & Benita C. Espinosa

**Thursday**
- Aurelio Guerrero-Tiro

**Friday**
- Rosa Valdivieso

**Saturday**
- Larry Schwietz
- Claire Ann Zwickl

For weekly readings, please visit usccb.org.

Marriage Conference Saturday, Sept. 28, 10:30 am - 6 pm

Two Locations: St. Thomas Aquinas in Avondale and St. Andrew the Apostle in Chandler

For more information, please visit togetherinholiness.org or email Conference Coordinator Susie Lopez at: susie@forlifeandfamily.org.

About the Franciscan Renewal Center

The Franciscan Renewal Center began in 1951 as a place for retreat programs. Affectionately known as the “Casa de Paz y Bien” or simply “the Casa.” It is today a Catholic renewal center, offering opportunities for spiritual growth, healing and transformation and service to others.

The Casa is an active religious community of the Order of Friars Minor — part of the worldwide Franciscan family, following in the footsteps of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi. The Casa is a wholly owned entity of the Franciscan Province of Saint Barbara, based in Oakland, CA, that works cooperatively with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix.