



# Interview Opportunities Arizona Rosary Celebration

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Arizona Rosary Celebration Draws Together Thousands of Catholics to Give Public Witness to Their Faith in Phoenix**

*Thousands expected at Phoenix Convention Center on October 17<sup>th</sup> for Celebration with Bishop, featuring the rosary, confession, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a concert by St. John Paul II High School Choir, dancing by Matachines, and ministry displays*

**Phoenix, AZ:** As a public witness to their faith, thousands of Catholics gather each year for Arizona Rosary Celebration, taking place this year on Sunday, October 17, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Phoenix Convention Center, South Building, Halls F & G, 33 S. 3 St., Phoenix AZ 85004. Diocese of Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted will preside over the 46th annual celebration, honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus, with the title, "Our Lady of Sorrows." One of the largest rosary celebrations in the United States, Arizona Rosary Celebration is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Admission is free.

### **Schedule of Events**

**12:00 p.m.** Doors open for confessions, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and ministry tables inside the convention center. Outside, dance groups known as "Matachines" perform.

**1:30 p.m.** St. John Paul II High School choir students perform a concert inside the convention center.

**2:00 – 4:15 p.m.** With emcee Michael Dixon at the podium, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted presides over a program that includes a blessing procession, music, matachines, prayer, the rosary, guest speaker Fr. Wilfred Raymond from Holy Cross Family Ministries, and procession of the Blessed Sacrament. Anyone can write a prayer intention, put it in the prayer box, and have a year of intercessory prayer.

### **Interview Opportunities**

**Col. Lawrence Costanzo**, Chairman, Arizona Rosary Celebration: "It's a great opportunity in the state to encourage the faithful and get people together to pray the rosary," says Larry, a retired Air Force colonel and former supreme master for the Knights of Columbus.

**Danny Haywood**, Co-Chairman, Arizona Rosary Celebration: Involved in the celebration since 1986, Danny observes that the rosary is "a powerful prayer... If we can get more people to pray, maybe things can change."

**Dorothy Westfall**, Committee Chair, Parish Representatives: The Diocese of Phoenix is home to more than 150 parishes, and Dorothy coordinates the effort to have a representative from every single church. Involved since the celebration began 46 years ago, Dorothy's warmth and encouragement fuel hundreds of volunteers.

**Fr. Daniel McBride**, Pastor, St. Mary in Chandler and Director, Catholic Media Ministry: The production of this event involves a stage crew highly specialized in everything from audio, camera, and broadcast to pipe, drape, and theatrical artistry. Fr. Dan oversees it all from behind the scenes.

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