

Volume 26,
Issue 4

August
2008

The Witness

Mount Saint Francis Cursillo Center
Mount Saint Francis, Indiana 47146



You are my witnesses, says the Lord, my servants whom I have chosen [Isaiah 43:10]

Fiesta

By Laurie Slusser



LOOKING FOR SOME CHEER & FUN TO END THE SUMMER?

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN YOUR CURSILLO BROTHERS & SISTERS AT MOUNT SAINT FRANCIS FOR THE CURSILLO FIESTA ON **AUGUST 9, 2008.**

WE WILL BEGIN AT **4:00 PM.** WITH DINNER BEING READY BETWEEN **5:00 AND 5:30 PM.** FATHER JOHN ELMER WILL CELEBRATE MASS AT **7:00 PM.**

EACH FAMILY SHOULD BRING A LAWN CHAIR FOR EACH PERSON IN THE FAMILY, A FOLDING TABLE (IF DESIRED), TABLE SERVICE (PLATES, UTENSILS, CUPS, AND NAPKINS), AND A COVERED DISH.

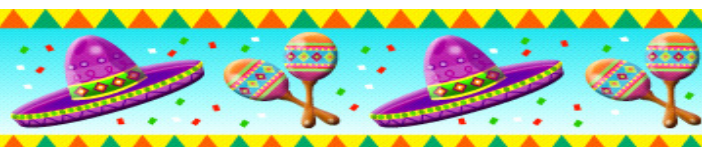
PEOPLE WITH LAST NAMES BEGINNING IN:

A-H: BRING DESSERTS

**I-P: BRING VEGETABLE/SALAD/
VEGETARIAN DISH**

**R-Z: BRING A STARCH VEGETABLE OR A
STARCH CASSEROLE**

THE CURSILLO COMMUNITY WILL PROVIDE THE MEAT AND ALSO GAMES, ACTIVITIES & LIVE MUSIC!
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!
PLEASE CALL CHRIS SCHEPERS OR DONNA MCCRITE AT 526-8426 FOR QUESTIONS.



A Big Hello!

By Laurie Slusser

This Witness Issue starts the beginning of our (mine and David's) editing and composing of the official Mount Saint Francis Cursillo newsletter.

We are happy to offer our gifts and talents to this endeavor but would be most gracious for articles from all of you Cursillistas, sharing your faith journey with everyone. We need your inspiration!

You may email your piece to us at msfwitness@sbcglobal.net or mail it to the address listed on the back cover.

De Colores!

David Slusser (Cursillo #59, Mt. Saint Francis)

Laurie Slusser (Cursillo #60, Mt. Saint Francis)

Are You Connected?

The Witness is a pretty good newsletter but the information here is just a drop in the bucket. For pictures, archived articles, and the latest Cursillo news, check out what Steve Volpert is doing at our website — www.cursillo.org/mtstfrancis. Then send your email address to msfcursillo@yahoo.com to get meeting reminders and real-time updates.

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EXPENSIVE GASOLINE...A BLESSING

By: Father Jerry Timmel

In some parts of rural Kentucky when some one would make a stupid statement like “expensive gasoline is a blessing”, the “local folk” had a polite way to respond to the crazy idea. They would react by saying about the individual, “the butter done slid off his biscuit”.

As Catholic Christians we know that we will experience far worse problems than the inconvenience of gasoline prices. Moreover, we believe that God is always present with us in our “hard times”. That is one of the main reasons why we have crucifixes hung in a number of rooms in our homes. We have visual evidence of Christ’s love for us and the extent to which he went to demonstrate that. Jesus won’t let us down if we go to Him for help. Oh, by the way, if I walked into your home would I see crucifixes and religious art? Would I see in your decorations that it is truly a “Catholic” home?

Let’s get back to the “gasoline problem”. Your funds will be limited for travel. There is an old saying “if life gives you lemons, make lemonade” or how can you turn something sour into something good?

I’ll give a few “starters” but you will be able to add many more. If you have children this is a wonderful opportunity to bring them into your financial struggle, teach them to save for a trip, budgeting... what a help for their future.

Car pooling is not just a way to save money but a way to build a new friendship, make a prayer partner and even a “sounding board” for your feelings. With children it is a wonderful opportunity for you all to stay home and become more of a “tight knit” family...eating and doing more things together. One of my fond memories as a child was when my Dad would take us kids out for a walk on Sunday. We would walk through neighborhood, look at houses, pet dogs, go to a park and even to a construction site where he would explain how things were built. It didn't require any money except for an occasional

ice cream cone.

As Catholic Christians, we are optimists. We believe that out of all evil, we can bring good. Do you believe that? Do you live that way? The crucifix is the perfect example as it was followed by Christ’s resurrection where good came out of evil. That’s why we display it in our homes.

Soooo, back to the gasoline problem. Are you dealing with it a positive or negative way? Are you making lemonade...something good from it for you personally or for your family? Recall a time or incident in your life where, with your faith, you were able to overcome a bad situation.

This gasoline "crunch" would be a wonderful family discussion with your children, your spouse or a group of friends. What an interesting discussion you would have if you shared with each other your new ideas, which surface in your various discussions. Now you see that the “gasoline shortage” can be turned in a blessing!!!! Soooo, go bloom and make lemonade!!!! Be happy about it.



**The Following
Cursillistas Need Your
Prayers**

The lost I will seek out,
the strayed I will bring
back, the injured I will
bind up, the sick I will
heal

Ezekiel 34:16

The Franciscan
Friars

Tony Aemmer

Sharron Barker

Sharon Beck

Archbishop Daniel
Buechlein

Keith and Ron

Byerley and Family

Joann Day

Malia Edmonds &

Family

Juanita Engle

Fr. Bill Ernst

Jackie Fouts

Charlie Good

Sally Halas and

Family

Tish Kimbel and

Family

Matt Kruer

Eva Libs

Mary Jane Lockett

Patty Lockett

Eunice Luther

Barbara Morris Family

Charla Perez

Jeanette Voyles

Please help keep our
prayer list updated.
Contact Sr. Karen at
812-949-3189 or send
an email to karenbyerley
@msn.com

Having Something They Want By Greg Hamilton

Looking back at the early days of the faith, it is interesting to note why people were attracted to Christianity. The Book of Acts has many stories of the Apostles speaking and witnessing the conversion of thousands through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is amazing considering the cost of such conversion. New Christians were ostracized by other Jews and persecuted by the Romans and other pagan cultures. Further, they were expected to change their lifestyles and contribute their wealth and time to supporting their new brothers and sisters.

For those who did not readily hear the words of the Apostles, there was a different attraction. They noticed that these "Followers of the Way" would take care of each other and that they had a sense of joy about them. *"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."* [Acts 2:44-47] More striking was the way they conducted themselves if it brought to execution. *"As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and when he said this, he fell asleep."* [Acts 7:59-60]

These actions must have had a great effect on observers. We must obviously recognize the power of the Holy Spirit in changing hearts but we should also give some credit to those early Christians for their attractive actions. If they had only kept to themselves in solemn and serious prayer, hiding in the shadows where it was safe, Christianity might have only been a cult-group attractive to a few. Being filled with the Holy Spirit and letting that joy spill

(Continued on page 4)

Calendar Of Events

Pilgrim's Way 3rd Monday 7:00PM

Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM (No Ultreya Aug or Sep)

Summer Fiesta Aug 9, 2008

4th Day Retreat Sep 27, 2008

Men's Weekend Apr 2-5, 2009

Women's Weekend Apr 23-26, 2009

(Continued from page 3)

out into the surrounding community, the Church grew.

Through self-reflection and examination of conscience I recognize that many times I fail to demonstrate the joy of Christian living. Too many times I fail to keep a positive outlook. In fact, I can be down right pessimistic. This causes me to wonder if anyone ever looks at me and wishes to have what I have. In other words, does the life I lead, attract others to Christ and Christianity?

I justify my actions by claiming I don't always feel joyful and I'm just being honest. Yet, looking on those first Christians I have to ask if they always felt joyful? Obviously they didn't. The Book of Revelations was even written to give them courage during extremely scary and depressing times of persecution.

If the joy of Christianity is not just a feeling, then it must be a decision. Granted, it is an easier decision to be joyful at times when you naturally feel it. That is one reason to join together in community, to raise each others' spirits. As a representative of Christ though, I am also expected to decide to be joyful at other times. It doesn't mean we are expected to become Pollyannaish and sing "Don't Worry, Be Happy" all day long. It has more to do with how we bear the burdens of our day and the gratefulness we feel for having our Lord there to help us in our trials.

If becoming Christian meant you would never have another problem, then no one would even question the value of following Christ. Obviously, being Christian won't take away problems and in fact might add challenges to people's lives. We must demonstrate the joy that comes from dealing with our lives in a Christian way while we look forward to an eternal life in the Father's presence. In that way, we can be assured that others will want what we have.

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Wanted: Your witness articles
 E-Mail your newsletter items to:
 msfwitness@sbcglobal.net, or mail to:
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