

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]

Tuning in To God

By: Pat Wimsatt

It was one of those exceptionally pretty days. Clear blue skies, moderate temperature, white puffy clouds – a day that it's easy to stop and think about God and his creation. It occurred to me though that it wasn't about what I see, but about what I don't see that makes me wonder about my relationship with God. It occurred to me as I was looking through all that blue space, how much communication is going on around me. I can't see it, and I can't hear it, in fact, all is peaceful and quite if I believe my senses. So what is this invisible aura that surrounds me like water when I'm immersed in a pool?

It occurred to me that radio beams of every type are filling the air right now. Communication of every sort is going on around me and I'm oblivious to it. AM radio, FM radio, Satellite radio, Cell phones, TV stations, two way radio, Air Traffic, police bands, construction sites, even Radio antennas beaming signals to space searching for a response – All these waves blasting through the air that if seen would look like a kaleidoscope of magnificent color. Communication is everywhere – it fills the air, penetrates everything in its path, shoots through my body like I wasn't even there. In fact, without being in tune with it, *I don't* realize it's there. So how do I know it's there? We all know it's there, we take it for granted that when we turn on our car stereo we will hear the music we like, or when we call our spouse they will either answer or will be able to leave a message. Science tells us so. Science has figured out how to differentiate between frequencies, and how to make instruments that can be tuned to those frequencies so communication can happen.

That's when it hit me. As I admired God's beautiful creation, it hit me that God too is everywhere. Okay, yes, I already knew it, as you do. But it really came shining through this day. It was as if the Holy Spirit just grabbed me by the shoulders and said "Look with your heart – not with your eyes" The Spirit of the Lord penetrates my

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Christmas Fiesta

By: Laurie Slusser

December 22, 2008

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Mt. Saint Francis Ultreya Room

Please bring a snack or dessert to share and one Christmas Ornament per each family member or friend attending, labeled with their name.

We will have a Christmas Tree, Sing Carols & Enjoy Each Others Company!

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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body without my even being aware of it. Most days I go about my business with no instrument tuned in to hear what the Lord is saying. I wonder as I drive along where I might find this instrument to “tune in” to our God. Oh, some days I’m aware of it; I feel close to the Lord, feel his presence, feel his overwhelming love for me and my family. Unfortunately, those days don’t happen as much as I wish. My instrument is turned off, or it’s switched to another channel. I rely far too often on feelings to get in touch with God and no where near often enough on faith to get in tune with God. Why faith? Faith is the religious equivalent of science. I know the love of God is there - I need no scientific proof. I just need to be tuned in, just like using my radio. But how? Where or what is this instrument that opens my heart and soul to the Lord? That allows Him to communicate His love as freely as my cell phone allows me to tell my wife I love her.

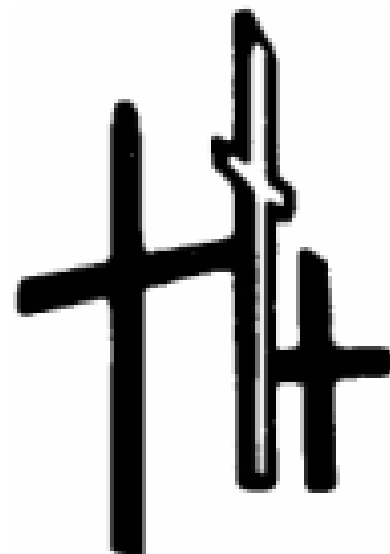
I think I realized the answer at Sunday’s Mass during Holy Communion. It occurred to me the song we were singing “Make me a channel of...” make ME the instrument. I am the only one who can allow me to tune into God. I am the only one who can actively, consciously turn on to prayer, or thought, or love, or openness, or union with the Lord, but it takes action. My radio doesn’t simply come on, (actually mine does because it’s broken) but I digress – I have to turn the knob. My cell phone doesn’t just call my wife; I have to push the numbers. It takes an act, although not always cognitive act, it takes an act. With training and practice, I can tune into God without even thinking about it. For example, trained with discipline, my fingers know where to find the knob of the radio without taking my eyes off the road. My fingers are typing this article right now without my looking at the keys. I am the instrument I’m in search of. I’m ashamed to say - I’m just not trained well in the use of my internal tuning fork.

Of course, radios, and satellites, and TV stations don’t just work on their own. It takes energy. Car batteries, the local electric company, solar panels; whatever, it takes energy. It takes energy to tune into God too. That’s the other realization I had during Holy Communion, I was receiving energy – energy to draw closer to God. Don’t we learn that in faith formation? God calls us, and draws us all closer to Him. He does so by providing the energy for us to act with. Do we not feel a surge of love, closeness to God after receiving a sacrament? After tuning our hearts, and

our minds, and our souls into the Lord? (Ok, maybe not always, but is it because even during Sacraments we’re sometimes turned off? Or to another channel?) Like all energy though, even the energy from God can’t be stored forever. We have to use it. I have to make a conscious effort to turn the energy into action. The action of tuning in to listen for “Our Daily Bread” (Kind of gives more meaning and understanding about being the hands and feet of God thing too; doesn’t it?)

I’ve begun to realize more deeply that God’s abundant love, and great enthusiasm is there daily, constantly communicating something that I need to hear - something that I need to experience. But only I can accept and decide to do something with it. Only I can use the special gift of energy that God has given to me. Sure, the energy will dissipate with use, but there’s always an avenue to recharge. If I take the time to plug in and allow myself to recharge, I can continue my journey drawing closer and closer to God. Through prayer, sacrament, song, and recognition of the journey I take, I can continually recharge. The really cool thing about all this is as I draw closer to the Lord, I will naturally draw others closer as well. As sure as I can hear the radio from the car three cars in front of me at the stop light, others will be able to “hear” my relationship with God. Do I need to do more than let my energy shine for all to see? Sound cliché? Yeah, we’ve all heard it said in church, but I’ve never really been able to put it together until that pretty day, with the blue skies, and puffy clouds, and my FM radio turned off.

I pray for all, that they may find the tuning, to dial into our Lord, and experience His energy. May God bless you.
DeColores.



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

Jeff & Sadie Powell &
Family

Jeanette Voyles

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

Being Grateful for What We Have

By: Sister Karen Byerley

“This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn’t life worth more than food? And isn’t the body worth more than clothes? Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it into barns, yet your Creator in heaven takes care of them! Aren’t you worth much more than birds?” Matt. 6: 25-27

Yes, these are hard economic times and we are inclined to worry about our financial situation. We all want the best for our families and certainly do not want them to lack anything they need. Perhaps this is a time when God is asking us to re-evaluate what it is we truly need and what is simply “want”. We talk about simplifying our lives, making them more carefree, less stress-filled. How are we to achieve this? Saying I am putting my worries and stresses into God’s hands is easy to do but not so easy to actually accomplish 100%. What needs to occur is a radical change in my attitude. The attitude is one of gratitude for what we do have, and face it, we have a lot. We tend to over-look all our worldly treasure when we see the glitz and glamour of more.

The ability to look beyond self to others often has a way of opening my eyes to see how good I have it. There is a song, probably a few years old now, but some of the lyrics go like this; “I don’t have digital. I don’t have diddly-squat. It’s not having what you want; it’s wanting what you’ve got.” Those words say a lot...wanting what you’ve got, and add, with a grateful heart.

This season many of us may be tempted to refrain from our usual charitable giving because of our own perceived lack of resources. I challenge each of us to recall the poor of our society each time we buy a small extravagance whether it be a soda from a fast food spot, or super-sizing an order or another pair of crocs to match an outfit. (You get the idea.) Each time you spend something on yourself put the same amount aside for the Salvation Army or Angel Tree or Thanksgiving parish baskets for St. Vincent DePaul Society. And add...being a cheerful giver.

I will end by telling you to find the book “One Is a Feast for Mouse: A Thanksgiving Tale” by Judy Cox (ISBN- 978-0-8234-1977-7) This small mouse finds a feast of left-overs from the human beings dinner. After collecting one of many foods and a frantic race from the ever fearsome cat, the mouse is left with only one small pea. As he cuts into the pea he pronounces, “Give thanks! One is a feast for me!”

Enjoy the feast God has set before you each day with a joyful Amen!

Calendar Of Events

Pilgrim’s Way 3rd Monday 7:00 PM, Nov 17 & Dec. 15

Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM, Nov 24

Christmas Fiesta 6:30 PM, Dec 22

Men’s Weekend Apr 2-5, 2009

Women’s Weekend Apr 23-26, 2009

Praying for Your Christian Brothers and Sisters

By: Carlos Perez

Recently a friend of over 20 years had to suffer the sudden loss of his mother to terminal cancer. This came very quickly, and fortunately little suffering for his mother. I took it upon myself to convey to my Protestant friend my condolences and my prayers in a personal letter, and quickly, I discovered the difficulties in relating Catholic prayers to our Protestant brother. I explained how I prayed for her and offered a decade of the Rosary for repose for her soul. The death of a mother brought back to me that terrible pain of the loss of my own mother, but the Holy Spirit moved me to turn that experience into something that would help ease the pain of a friend. Telling him to let go and let God was the easy part, explaining why we should realize that our Lord Jesus Christ wanted her soul at this time was the difficult one. Prior to my Cursillo (#59 Mt. St. Francis) I would have never even thought of writing this personal letter, a

simple "I'm sorry for your loss" would have sufficed. With the Holy Spirit more apparent to me now, I left my comfort zone to try and comfort a friend. I hope that we are never too afraid to not just be Catholic but also to use our Catholic faith the way Christ intended us to do.



Secretariat

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Wanted: Your witness articles

E-Mail your newsletter items to: msfwitness@sbcglobal.net, or mail to: David & Laurie Slusser, 1229 Lafayette Drive, New Albany, IN 47150

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