

Volume 27,  
Issue 2

August  
2009

# 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]

## Our New Cursillistas Cursillo's 63 & 64

### Men's Mount St. Francis Cursillo #63

Don Abell  
Rick Arnold  
Ed Cissell  
Dennis Conroy  
Jerry Ennis  
Rick Goode  
Frank LaPilusa  
Chris Morris  
Jim Noggle  
Matthew Schickel  
Mark Schneider  
Mark Siener  
Sparky Sparks  
Shawn Watterson

### Women's Mount St. Francis Cursillo #64

Connie Andres  
Betty Cissell  
Maxe Duffy  
Kathy Ford  
Suzanne Grady  
Linda LaPilusa  
Glenda Minnick  
Nancy Rash  
Melanie Schindler  
Kathy Sears  
Dolores Sparks  
Laura Toler

## Calendar Of Events

**Pilgrim's Way 3rd Monday 7:00 PM,**  
August 17, September 21 & October 19

**Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM,**  
October 26 (No Ultreya's in Aug. or Sept.)

**Men's Cursillo Weekend**

**Oct 14-17, 2010**

**Women's Cursillo Weekend**

**Nov 4-7, 2010**

## 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](http://www.cursillo.org/mtstfrancis). Then send your email address to [mountstfranciscursillo@insightbb.com](mailto:mountstfranciscursillo@insightbb.com) to get meeting reminders and real-time updates.

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## Ordinary Time

By: Sr. Karen Byerley

Isn't it nice when the church allows us this calm, quiet period of time to just be? No big religious holydays, no extra liturgies or sacramental events to punctuate our days. Just time to put into practice all that we have learned and lived during the seasonal times of the church year. This is when we can discover the significance in our own lives concerning Christ's birth, life and resurrection. This is when we can bear the fruits of our almsgiving, palanca and fasting. This is our time to apply that which we've been preached.

As I meditate on this idea my mind turns over all the adages we hear that are meant to guide us as Christians. You know them. We hear them especially during those periods of living when we meet roadblocks, those times when life is difficult. People give them out in their attempts to help us through these tough events. You know them...things like... "When one door closes God opens another"... "They're in a better place"... "It is all part of God's plan"... "God never asks more of you than he gives you the grace to handle."

They are all good and people have the best of intentions when they speak them to us. But for me they fail to encourage or aid me in my daily spiritual journey. So, are there any sayings, common phrases, that call me to my life as Catholic Christian?

Two come to mind. The first is .. "You will be known by the company you keep." Now my own parents said that one quite often and I have heard many other parents say it as well. Usually it is said to encourage teens to find new or better companions. Something tells me the Pharisees might have been saying this to Jesus a few times. They certainly did not approve of Jesus' friends. What kind of company did Jesus keep? He ran around with tax collectors, thieves, lepers, prostitutes, traitors. He defended those shunned by others. He dined at their tables and had conversation with those disallowed by law. Yes, that was the problem. The Pharisees and Sadducees did indeed know Jesus by the company he kept. What they failed to see was that Jesus was trying to show us a new way to live. Jesus also spent time with those 12 chosen. He found encouragement with the 12 apostles, people who were able to listen and had a common bond of understanding.

Yes, Jesus demonstrated that I am called to be with those in need, with those society deems unacceptable, with those who yell the prayers in church, with those

who have beliefs that seem counter to mine, with those in prison, with those in who appear dirty and scary, with those who are cast off. But I am meant to also spend time with other good Catholic Christians so we can listen to each other and learn about God's ways together. People who can journey with us and grow with us. *That is what ordinary time is for.* Learning to live as Jesus did, to reach out and to reach in.

Which brings me to adage number two... "You are what you eat." To me, this one seems so obvious that I feel silly to have to even mention it. Eucharist is the heart of Catholic. We sit at table and are in communion with Christ and one another. When I say "Amen" to those words "Body of Christ" I am allowing myself to become Christ. I am what I receive in my palm "throne". I receive Christ and I receive the spirit of all those who receive Jesus with me. That is true spiritual unity. Together we are the Body of Christ. And in that which sometimes becomes routine and "ordinary" I am made most extraordinary.

So ordinary time is never really ordinary. You are never just ordinary. As Catholic Christians, we, like St. Teresa of Calcutta, do ordinary things in extraordinary ways because we do it for Christ, to Christ, with Christ and in Christ's name. So fools for Christ, carry on!

## Christ's Love

By: Elaine Slusser

(Daughter of David and Laurie Slusser)

**This man hung on the cross.  
Wouldn't that be enough for us?  
We always want and think we must.  
But God does not think He should trust.  
He gave us free will.  
But isn't it enough to thrill?  
He came on Easter Day.  
But we still get our way.  
But when He is born on Christmas again,  
Do we think of ourselves then?**



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  
Bill & Sharon Beck  
Ron Byerley &  
Family  
Kathy Eberle  
Malia Edmonds &  
Family  
Charlie Good  
Terri Jackson  
Bernadette Kok  
Eva Libs  
Mary Jane Lockett  
Patty Lockett  
Eunice Luther  
Joe Proctor &  
Family  
Jerry Reising  
Thecla Sinkhorn &  
Family  
Jeanette Voyles  
Jack & Debbie West  
Annette White

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

## What God Wants Most

By: Greg Hamilton

So often, when I pray, I do so to ask some favor from God. Even though I feel like I've matured because I've risen above asking for material things for myself, I'm still not above selfishly asking for things that will make my life easier. I do ask for blessings for others and protections for the ones I love, but I realize that I'm not always in alignment with the desires of the Father. Lately, I have started meditating more and more on what does God want and how should I be praying so that what I ask for glorifies the Father.

Some answers come readily to the question. God wants glory, praise, and worship. When God sent Moses to ask Pharaoh to release his chosen people, it wasn't to free them from slavery. *After that, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Let my people go, that they may celebrate a feast to me in the desert."* (Exodus 5:1) This suggests that if Pharaoh had complied and allowed the Hebrews to worship their God, he could have kept his workforce. Of course, God wants what is best for us, but His focus is eternal and not limited to our present condition.

God deserves our praise and worship, but our Father did not create a race of robots to bow down to Him. He gave us free choice in the hope that we would choose well. When I look throughout salvation history, the one thing that keeps coming up is God's covenants with man. Now, as you may know, covenants are not contracts though they might seem like that. Each covenant contains statements that God will do great things for man and man will do things for God. Yet they are not statements like, "If you sacrifice 100 sheep for me, I will make sure your crop comes in next fall." They are statements like the one to Abraham, *"I will render you exceedingly fertile; I will make nations of you; kings shall stem from you. I will maintain my covenant with you and your descendants after you. I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now staying, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God."* (Gen 17:6-8)

The point of a contract is an exchange of goods and services. Either side can break the contract and render it null and void. The covenant is an exchange of pledges. "You will be my people, and I will be your God." From this, I believe the thing God wants most is a relationship with the people He created.

At face value, this seems like a pretty good deal. God, who already gave us life, will provide abundance and meaning to that life, and as a bonus gift, will provide an eternal life after this life ends. All we have to do is worship Him as our God. What's the catch? Well, the catch is that we are human. We like to believe we are in charge, we are easily distracted by other gods, and we have a stubborn side that allows us to act like spoiled children. This is why God had to keep making covenant after covenant with us. He always kept His side, but we had to be reminded of the covenant and recommit ourselves to our side of the deal.

The final covenant, of course was Jesus Christ. *"Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Mat 26:27-28)* By instituting the Eucharist, Jesus gave us the ultimate and

final covenant with God. There will be no need for another. Oh, we still need reminding. That's why we are reminded of our covenant at every Mass.

The next time you are at Mass, recommit yourself to the covenant. Then, when you pray, think of how the outcome of your prayer will bring praise and glory to your God. Don't worry about your present circumstances. They are temporary. Just concentrate on the relationship you will continue into eternity.



## Secretariat

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Lay Director.....	Open.....		
Spiritual Advisor.....	Sr. Karen Byerley.....	812-949-3189.....	KarenByerley@att.net
Pre-Cursillo.....	Don & Sue Kochert.....	812-923-5787.....	sbirds1@aol.com
3-Day.....	Mike Wild.....	812-944-9539.....	IC2006@aol.com
Post-Cursillo.....	Michelle Rowe.....	812-949-1059.....	michelerowe@webtv.net
Treasurer.....	Jim Smith.....	812-945-4232.....	jsmith@erdmanncorp.com
Secretary.....	Lu Simpson.....	812-989-4895.....	craftyladylu@hotmail.com
Pilgrim's Way.....	Joe Proctor.....	812-945-3667.....	wjproctor@insightbb.com

### Wanted: Your witness articles

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

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