

Volume 26,
Issue 2

April
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]

Enhancing the Gift of Life Br Ambrose

Recently, I found myself going through a pile of pamphlets, handouts, etc., which I picked up along the way or received in the mail. I had to scan them once more just in case there was something I wanted to save, and sure enough, there it was. I came across the US Bishops pastoral letter on stewardship and they talked about a “stewardship of creation” and what it involves. Many things were said but one quote stood out to me: **“Respect for human life, and doing everything possible to enhance the gift of life.”**

Now, isn't that what we are all about as Cursillistas? We have not been called and chosen to make the Cursillo weekend and then live the Method of Cursillo just to fill up our lives with more meetings, encounters, groupings, and social gatherings! We – You and I – were called because we are to enhance our lives and the lives of all our brothers and sisters in the Cursillo community, in our parish and church communities, and the many other communities of which we are a part. How? **BY LIVING THE GOSPEL!**

At the very end of the Gospel of St. Matthew, when Jesus is commissioning the Apostles, he tells them, *“...teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world.”* Yes, teach them by our example, by our living the Gospel of Jesus. It, of course, means that first we take what Jesus has taught us and then let it become a part of our very being so that it shows to all whom we encounter, not only in words but more so in deeds.

I also remember a quote of some retreat preacher years ago who said, *“You may never remember the words that someone said to you, but you will remember how they made you feel.”* Isn't it so true, how we need our brothers and sisters to enhance our

lives? They build us up and become another Christ to us. This was shown to me recently when one of our brother cursillistas sent me an e-mail saying that he was remembering me and my family in prayer that day. That e-mail and that word of encouragement made my day much better as I dealt with the life of my brother who is going through such terrible physical and emotional suffering in his life. Yes, I felt better that day because a brother reached out to me. **WE NEED TO BE BLESSING TO ONE ANOTHER!** Yes, every time we reach out to one another, we bless them.

To close, I quote the Bishops' pastoral letter again: *“We receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return with increase to the Lord.”*

MAY OUR LOVING LORD JESUS BLESS YOU ALWAYS.

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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From your Lay Director.....

Metanoia. A strange word most of us heard for the first time when we made our weekend. A word made up of 8 simple letters that continually challenges me. Maybe it's not just chance that the word itself starts with "ME". Most often we understand this word to mean "conversion" or more specifically, "a spiritual conversion or transformation that occurs after repentance".

25 years ago I made Cursillo #23 at Mount Saint Francis. It was there in the Upper Room, that for the first time I ever heard of "metanoia". I don't really remember that I took particular note when the word was mentioned, but still.....*I was changed that weekend.* And by the grace of God I have slowly continued my spiritual transformation over all of the past 25 years.

I know that in order to experience a true metanoia, I must not only repent, but I must listen to Christ when he asks me to grow, to change. And that change is very often difficult and even kind of scary. And that, my dear friends, is where my own metanoia has brought me today.

As many of you know, I have applied and been accepted as an Aspirant for the Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. This means, I will continue to discern whether I have been called to become an ordained Deacon in Christ's Church. This summer I will gather with 20 or so other men, to begin 4 years of in-depth formation, study, training, and discernment.

In order to fulfill my new responsibilities as an Aspirant, I must relinquish my position as your Lay Director. For over 25 years this wonderful Cursillo Community has been such a blessing in my life. Your love and support have been a constant source of inspiration as Sadie and I have struggled on our journey. And as your Lay Director for the past few years, I have been so blessed to work in God's vineyard with so many of you at my side. You truly are our special Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I ask for your continuing prayers and support as Christ asks Sadie and I to take on a new challenge, and begin walking a slightly different path. Know that we both will continue to keep all of you

wonderful cursillistas in our prayers!

During this wonderful Easter season of growth and renewal, I leave you with the words of Saint Peter:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you! 1 Peter 1:3-5

I have great faith that each of you will one day enjoy your heavenly inheritance!

Your brother in the Risen Christ!

Jeff

Welcome Newest Cursillistas

Sunday April 6, the community celebrated the 4th Day for thirteen new cursillistas. These men, fatigued from their spiritual experience, were overwhelmed and revived by the welcome of their Cursillo brothers and sisters. Tears of joy were not reserved for just the candidates though. Many in attendance dabbed eyes as the Holy Spirit filled the Upper Chapel of Mt St Francis.

Once again, candidates gathered from all around Kentuckiana including Louisville and Ft. Knox. The retreat was described by Jeff Powell as one of the easiest he'd ever been a part of. Jeff attributed this to his team who had shown their dedication throughout the formation meetings. He also thanked all those who had sent in palanca and prayed for the success of this weekend. "God is good. All the time."

After music and witnessing by several members, Harold Gettelfinger, Bill Striegel, Jim Wade, Pat Wimsatt, Mark Huber, Jack West, Gene Cundiff, Leonard "Lenny" Shrank, Elfren "Joe" Padilla, Paul Bolinsky, Ron Campbell, Richard Hoopengardner, and Don Schmidt were each challenged in their reliance on Christ.

Every one involved in the weekend expressed how the experience was both challenging and yet well worth every bit of effort required of them. Some members, who had not been involved in Cursillo for many years, found the experience brought them back to the joy of their own weekend.

**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

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

Sally Halas and
Family

Tish Kimbel and
Family

Matt Kruer

Eva Libs

Mary Jane Lockett

Patty Lockett

Eunice Luther

Jeanette Voyles

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

Weekends Are Here

Do you feel the excitement in the air? The honey bees flitting from flower to flower is not the only buzz up on the Mount. The Men's Weekend has just successfully completed and now we prepare for the women. The preparations and prayers over the last several months are coming to fruition. We must now assist in the finishing touches to make this weekend just as special.

Ann Marie Camarata has agreed to be our prayer coordinator and has set up multiple ways of sending in your **palanca**. You can email it to her at acamarata@onevisionfcu.org or snail mail it to:

MSF Cursillo
101 St. Anthony Dr
Mt St Francis, IN 47146

In addition, there is a box for palanca in the rotunda of the retreat center.

Closing is scheduled on **Sunday, April 27th, at 5:30 pm**. The community should gather in the **main chapel no later than 5:15 pm**. As enjoyable as these celebrations are for us, they are extremely important for the participants. How can we forget that feeling of emerging from the weekend to find a huge community waiting for us on the other side? Be there to radiate God's love.

For the list of candidates, please refer to the Mt St Francis extension of the Cursillo website at <http://www.cursillo.org/mtstfrancis>. This site can be updated with the most current information. While you're there, check out all the new features Steve Volpert has included.

The team members have put in the hours and will make the weekends successful. Please make your prayerful intensions and presence felt.

DE COLORES

Calendar Of Events

Pilgrim's Way 3rd Monday 7:00PM

Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM

Women's Weekend Apr 24-27, 2008

Making the Impossible Possible

By Greg Hamilton

When does an event go from just uncommon, to being a freak of nature, to becoming a darn strange coincidence, to finally being labeled a miracle? There are many things that I can't explain simply because of my limited knowledge. People smarter than me probably have fewer miracles in their life, but sometimes God takes an event to the point that no one can explain it. In other words, it must be a miracle.

Imagine the Apostles during the trial, torture, and execution of our Lord. They probably expected something to happen that would protect Jesus from this end. They had seen him escape the mob in his home town. Heck, they had just seen a mob sent to arrest Jesus, knocked to the ground by His words, "I AM." So these disciples had every right to expect that angels, or lightning, or burning frogs, or

something would step in and spare Him. Yet, nothing did. Didn't the son of God, who had performed many miracles, deserve one himself?

No one had any idea just how big a miracle was coming. It was over. He was dead. They placed Him in the tomb and there was no one like Jesus to call Him out as He had Lazarus. They even posted guards to make sure no one tried to pull a fast one. In short, the authorities made the return of Jesus impossible. And that was just what God was waiting for, because just as Jesus himself said, "...with God all things are possible." [Mat 19:26]

This was no magic show and there was no other explanation. What does a miracle look like? The chains of death were broken, light came into their darkness, He appeared with them despite the locked doors, and the impossible became possible that Easter. Best of all, it became possible not just for Jesus but for us all. Alleluia!

Secretariat

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Lay Director.....	Jeff Powell	812-948-8766.....	jeff@blue-sky-technologies.com
Spiritual Advisor.....	Sr. Karen Byerley.....	812-949-3189.....	KarenByerley@msn.com
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@otherside.com
Pilgrim's Way.....	Joe Proctor.....	812-945-3667.....	wjproctor@juno.com

Wanted: Your witness articles

E-Mail your newsletter items to: greg.hamilton@insightbb.com, or mail to: Greg Hamilton 3007 Shoreline Turn, Georgetown IN 47122.

Printing done by the grace and good will of Eric Hobough @ Reliable Printing 583-0115 and Copy Connection 944-1916. Your patronage is appreciated

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 Mount Saint Francis, Indiana 47146