

The Witness

Mount Saint Francis Cursillo Center
Mount Saint Francis, Indiana 47146



We are witnesses of these things... [Acts 5:32]

My First Fourth Day Experience By David Slusser

I nearly didn't write this, you know. I've heard so many enlightening stories about Cursillistas 4th day experiences that I thought mine was really not that moving. But on second thought, I felt that if I don't share, then the opportunity, regardless of how small, to enlighten someone may pass.

I'm David Slusser and I made Cursillo 59 at Mount Saint Francis, I sat at the table of St. Francis de Sales, and I'm a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap) Upon returning home from the weekend and eager to begin my 4th day, my wife, kids, and I shared a good hug. As you Cursillistas are well aware, that hug was far from the ordinary hug that had been so mundanely given in the past. Especially for a guy who despised hugging. I was bursting at the seams to let all this goodness out, but I had to be careful with the details as my wife was doing her Cursillo a few weeks later. The truth be told, I think she and the kids thought I had lost my marbles. For one thing I was never the huggy-touchy type, not even with my own family. I had come to think of Church as something that we "should" do. And I constantly criticized my wife for going to Bible study and even worse, trying to get me to go. After all, I was the "cradle Catholic" and she was the convert, what would she know. Catholics don't even look favorably at Bible study. Of course, I was so wrong. So they had to wonder when I came home all full of, "let's pray this, let's pray that". I tipped the scales when I asked "do you guys want to say a night prayer before the kids go to bed?" Naturally everyone was in agreement thinking that they better get me while they can. Then, the prayers.....

We all climbed on to my daughter's bed. Oh yeah, "we better light a candle to concentrate on, right?" More strange looks and a somewhat uncomfortable feeling is lingering in the air. We begin to read the Night Prayers from my new best

friend, "The Pilgrim's Guide". At a point near the end we are asked to offer up our own personal needs. I'm thinking that this will require prodding and cajoling of my daughters to get them through it. As we pause to offer our own intentions, my oldest daughter begins to belt out this laundry list of intentions, thanks, praise, and blessings to God, right off the top of her head. Whoa, I've got goose-bumps and thoughts of dis-belief. She finishes and our other daughter takes off right on cue before Laurie and I can interject. With this, there is now a special electric feeling of togetherness, love, and forgiveness in the air. The forgiveness is mine for ever doubting them. It's almost like slow motion and my head is buzzing. These weren't cookie cutter type prayers. These were heart-felt, meaningful, intentions. Laurie and I follow through and say our prayers, give thanks, and offer up our blessings. The girls go to bed, and I say to Laurie, "Can you believe that?" Laurie wasn't fazed as she knew all along what potential the kids have. Unfortunately, I was the boat anchor holding everyone back. Obviously, pre-Cursillo, somebody was living in a box, and it certainly wasn't Laurie and the kids

The strong Faith my wife has always had, in

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Your Personal Assignment Report By Fr. Jerry

My challenge was directed to those attending the Woman's #60 Cursillo Closing, but the message is applicable to all who proclaim themselves as Cursillistas. For those of you who were not present for the closing of the last Woman's Cursillo, a little background knowledge may be helpful.

I asked those who were present in the crowded Chapel, "How many of you know a person whom you think would enjoy making a Cursillo Weekend?" All the hands went up... Wow!!!! Next, I asked how many know of two persons... a few hands went down. Again, I asked how many know three persons.....a few more hands went down. I am sure that if you had been present your hand would have been raised as knowing at least one person whom you think would enjoy making the Cursillo.

My question to you in this "assignment report" is, have you followed through and invited a person? Have you invited not just one but also two or three friends? I know that this is very difficult for most Catholics, because we have not been trained to be evangelizers for the Lord. I encourage you not to be afraid of the "no's" you may first receive, but do a follow up at a later time to see if they may have reconsidered. Don't expect immediate success. Remember the parable of the Sower (Mt.13:1-9,18-23)? Only one fourth of the seed produced. Jesus knew a lot about the "no's" but, remember it is seed and sometimes no instant results are seen. So, you keep watering and inviting until the seed grows.

Recently I read a very positive and exciting book, "Secularity and the Gospel" by Ronald Rolheiser. This is one of the most positive and scientific studies on how to renew the Church that I've read in recent years. This calls us to be evangelizers and shows that in spite of the bad in the world there is very much good. We need to bring Christ more into our world. If we look at our present-day Church, we are closing Churches and schools. It appears that no one cares. Yet three recent Popes wrote letters calling us to be "evangelizers." Cursillo is one of many ways in which we can carry out this mission to spread the Good News of Jesus to make our world even better and happier.

There is an old Chinese proverb which states that the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Will you take that "first step" in making a better world by inviting someone to make the next Cursillo?

SHARING OUR GIFTS

As I have grown in my understanding of stewardship, I have come to realize a good steward of God's many gifts, must share those gifts with a grateful heart and a happy spirit. Our Cursillo community has been richly blessed and

we can be thankful for the many ways God works in our lives. In this light, I would like to point out a small addition to this issue of the Witness.

The enclosed envelope is for you to consider a gift of your treasure to MSF Cursillo. We have several ongoing expenses associated with our community. Affiliation dues, Witness postage, and current Cursillo literature are just a few of these expenses. We are inviting you to share a small portion of your treasure to enable our community to continue God's work in Cursillo. If you are receiving this electronically, you are already saving us money. Still, we would ask that you mail any donations to:

Mt St Francis Cursillo C/O Jim Smith
1112 Savannah Dr. New Albany, IN 47150

It only takes a little from each of us to make a big difference. Many of you have already been very generous with your time, talent, and treasure. Without your ongoing support we could not survive.

Many thanks for your consideration, and may God bless you for your grateful heart.

WELCOME NEW CURSILLISTAS

The work of the laborers has reaped a great harvest of Cursillistas. The Cursillo weekends of March 29 through April 1, and 12 through 15 April have produced 43 new members. It is obvious the desire to grow closer to Christ remains strong in our parishes.

Our new members from Cursillo 59 are Tony Aemmer, Harold Beebe, Bill Clark, Gary Fowler, Mark Fuchs, Charles Good, Mark Hereford, Greg Hublar, Chris Lubecke, Gerald McDaniel, Carlos Perez, Joe Rash, and David Slusser.

From the Women's weekend the names added to are roster include: Carol Aemmer, Linda Baker, Anne Boham, Katrina Chaney, Charlene Fessel, Michelle Fessel, Mary Gonzalez, Doris Hancock, Ellen Huber, Terri Jackson, Sarah Keller, Carol Lenfert, Theresa Lenfert, Lori Lott, Barbara Morris, Mary Olges, Esperanza Padilla, Charla Perez, JoAnn Reas, Cathy Reising, Portia Quinkert, Judy Roach, Anne Ross, Michele Rowe, Norleen Shaffer, Laurie Slusser, Debi Snow, Mary Tompkins, Linda Wroblewski, and Sally Weller.

As you all remember, the weekend is an incredible high which can be followed by a relative low. Seek out and support our newest members. Congratulate these Cursillistas for their commitment, invite them into your small group meetings, and support them with prayer. In short, help our newest members make their weekend a starting point in their new life instead of "just a nice weekend" experience.

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

Sharon Beck

Mary Becht

Keith and Ron

Byerley and Family

Joann Day

Malia Edmonds &
Family

Juanita Engle

Jackie Fouts

Sally Halas and
Family

Edna Hardin

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*

Dates to Plan For

Not wanting to lose the momentum we've gained from our successful weekends, it's now time to prepare for future activities. We need to restore ourselves and then prepare for the next set of Cursillo Weekends.

While we still feel the Spirit within us from the celebrations of the 4th days, please plan ahead for the annual 4th Day Retreat on September 22. Last year's retreat was a huge success and we hope we will see even more faces this year. The format will remain the same. The retreat will be just one day with no overnight stays. This reduces the cost for the organization as well as the participants. If you are interested in preparing for this retreat, please contact one of the Secretariat members. More details will follow.

Also, we have set dates for next year's weekends. The men's weekend will be April 3 through 6 and the women's weekend will follow on April 24 through 27. Even though we just finished two fine Cursillo Weekends, it is not too early to start planning for our next groups of Cursillistas. Start approaching friends and letting them know about the dates so they can plan for them. We also need for you to consider helping on teams to keep the spirit of the Cursillo experience flowing.

My First Fourth Day Experience

(Continued from page 1)

combination with the glorious works of our Catholic School, teachers, Priest, and faith community had put our children to a level of understanding that I had long lost. Only by making my Cursillo was I awakened again. What a blessing God has bestowed on our family by bringing Laurie and I to the Cursillo Community. At thirty-five and thirty-six years of age respectively, think of this awesome gift that we have been given. We look forward to growing, loving, and living our lives in this Cursillo Community. It has definitely changed our family forever. De Colores, and God Bless!

Calendar Of Events

School of Leaders 3rd Monday 7:00PM

Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM

4th Day Retreat September 22

Men's Weekend Apr 3-6, 2008

Women's Weekend Apr 24-27, 2008

Openings in the Secretariat

The recent success from our Men's and Women's weekends was born from prayerful consideration and acceptance of positions in the secretariat of our community, as well as the help of many other dedicated members. These people were not looking for more work, for they had plenty. Yet, they all held a desire to make our Cursillo movement vibrant again. They all have talents blessed to them by the Lord, but nothing that made them superior to the rest of the community. They simply were willing to serve where they were needed.

When we reorganized the secretariat last year, we commissioned all of the new officers at the same time. While a normal term would be three years for each position, we recognized at that time that we would want to stagger positions so that we would not need to reconstitute the entire secretariat at the same time. We would now like to begin this process by electing new officers for approximately a third of the Secretariat. Further, the organization would be better served by having two-deep coverage of each secretariat position.

Descriptions of the duties for most positions can be found in the Leaders Manual. The Director of Communications was an added position and encompasses The Witness, the Website and other forms of communication. Feel free to contact the present holder of any position you are interested in. All members of the Secretariat are more than willing to explain the varied parts of their duties. You will not offend them by asking about their positions. We have all taken these positions expecting to leave them when our calling ended. Refer to contact information on pg 4 of The Witness.

Often we feel we are not "the leader type." The fact is, that each of you was recognized as a leader in your catholic parish when you were invited to make your weekend. You may have a special talent in a particular area, but even if you simply have a willing heart, we ask you to explore the possibility of secretariat office. Please pray for discernment, ask questions, and then if you are willing to step forward, contact Jeff Powell at 812-948-8766 or at jeff@blue-sky-technologies.com.

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....	Sharron and Alan Barker.....	812-256-3791	sharbrk4@aol.com
3-Day.....	Mike Wild.....	812-944-9539.....	IC2006@aol.com
Post-Cursillo.....	Bob Eberle	812-246-2785.....	PlumbBobDesign@aol.com
Treasurer.....	Jim Smith	812-945-4232	jsmith@erdmanncorp.com
Secretary.....	Lu Simpson.....	812-989-4895	craftyladylu@otherside.com
School of Leaders.....	Joe Proctor.....	812-945-3667.....	wjproctor@juno.com
Communications.....	Greg Hamilton.....	812-923-8073.....	greg.hamilton@insightbb.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.

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