

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]

What's In a Name? Will Orberon

"Call upon the name of the Lord", the psalmist tells us in Psalm 116. During this coming Lent, what better way to reflect on Christ's connection with us and how we can strengthen that connection in our daily lives.

Unlike in our modern world, in Biblical times names really had meaning. They conveyed a sense of the person -- his or her essence. The many ways Scripture "names" our Lord provide wonderful sources for meditating on the essence of Christ and our "essential" relationship with Him.

For instance, start with Emmanuel, which means "God is with us". Mt. 1:23. Through his Son, God continues to be with us everyday. Try meditating on how Jesus is with us in our lives and how we respond, or fail to respond, to His presence each day. Do we give Him the time that we should?

Another great source for names for our Lord is The Book of Revelation. In this last and most dramatic book of the Bible, we find any number of names for Christ. Here's just a few:

- I Am
- Alpha and Omega
- The Word of God
- King of Kings
- Faithful and True.

All of these names convey an aspect of Christ, which can help us take stock of our relationship with Him. "I Am". He who is reality. He who is the priority. Does our "daily reality" truly revolve around Christ? Does our Lord still hold priority in our activities of daily living? The Word of God. Do we follow Christ's teachings everyday? Do we look to them for guidance in even the mundane aspects of life? Faith full and True. How do we respond to that kind of love? Better yet, how are we imitating

that kind of love with the people in our lives?

So, what's in a name? Spend some time this Lent meditating on the names for our Lord and find out for yourself.

A MEANINGFUL FAMILY DISCUSSION Fr Jerry

Do you want to start a scary but a meaningful family discussion? Please read on. Imagine you and your family have just finished eating, and as a family are peacefully enjoying watching a movie on TV. Suddenly you hear a Police Car on your street screaming over its PA system, "YOU MUST EVACUATE YOUR HOUSE IN 20 MINUTES. THE FOREST FIRE IS JUST MINUTES AWAY FROM YOUR HOME." Just after that announcement, another police officer knocks and bangs on your door to tell you that you **must** evacuate now...grasp and grab what you can...the fire is only minutes away. This is scary but true story!!!!

Family or Friend Discussion:

1. If you only had 20 minutes to evacuate your home, maybe never seeing it again, what three

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valuable things would you take? **Share.**

2. If you came back several days later to see that your home was totally destroyed...only a few smoking embers, what would your feelings be?

Share.

3. Would you be angry with God? With yourself? With the world? Other? **Share.**

4. After you got over the actual shock of losing your home, all the valuables, pictures and other memorable keepsakes, what would your feelings be? **Share.**

The above scenario and questions came from a real experience I had. It occurred last October when I was in San Diego, giving two Engaged Encounter Weekends. During those weeks, fires ravaged that area. When I arrived at the home where I was to stay, the mother told me to keep packed. They were already packed and ready to go if the fire had gotten close to them. Four years earlier, they had to abandon their home with their 5 kids for 3 days while the fires raged. In fact, it was roaring down their street, but suddenly made a left-hand turn away from their home, and it was saved. The wife had finished telling me the story when her husband added, "If my home was destroyed and I lost all 'my valuable stuff,' I would be devastated but not demoralized because I have my wife and five kids -- my most valuable possessions. We'd be able to move on".

Now with this background, after you answered the above questions, what do you think the kids and the wife felt when they heard their Dad's thought provoking remarks? What do you think they said?" Be attentive to how your children answer these questions.

The Christmas Season has gone and passed. We all have received many wonderful and meaningful gifts. The above story reminds us that all this "good stuff" we received at Christmas is **NOT** our most valuable gift. Take time to thank God for those most wonderful gifts in your life which many times were taken for granted.

The Witness is now bi-monthly. We need your contributions more than ever. Please send your words of inspiration to share with the Cursillo Community.

Letters from Christ Carlos Perez

Recently, in our bible study we came upon the seven letters in Revelation that St. John revealed to the seven churches. The final question was noted worthy to mention to our Cursillo community, which is as follows: Imagine Jesus composing a simple letter to your parish. What do you imagine would be his commendations and challenges to our faith community, and what are you doing to help your community to grow in faith and holiness?

When I read this, the first thing that came to mind is how different we would view our faith if instead of reading it as something from the passed; we actually lived it here today. When I read the scriptures, I always think in passed tense and how the first Christians managed with their faith. This time I was forced to look at what I would do in their place. I can only imagine that if Christ was to write the letter to my church and my faith community, that I would respond as a faithful Catholic with Christ as my never-ending light and love.

So, come with me and read along as we answer His letter. First, His commendation, I hope, would be that we are still together in Christ. We celebrate the Trinity, and keep the Sabbath. We receive the Eucharist and thank God for our blessing. We raise our children in the faith and pray for our salvation. The challenges we face would also have to be addressed. There is nothing you can hide from Christ.

Do we love our neighbors as we love ourselves? Do we turn the other cheek? Do we judge others and forget the wood bean in our eye? I believe that Christ would be a little broken hearted if He were to evaluate our lives, whether as a church or a faith community. The great news is that Jesus Christ forgives if we repent and atone. This helps with His final question: what are you doing to help your community to grow in faith and holiness? The beauty of our Lord is that there is always hope in salvation. So what are we doing? Are we helping the less fortunate among us? Do we love our enemies? Are we forgiving our transgressors?

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[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 Approach

A lot of time and hard work is coming to fruition in the form of a Men's and a Women's weekend. Candidates have been prepared and teams have been working together for months to bring these events into being. Now we have the opportunity to celebrate the vitality of our community and the passage of several new members into their 4th day. So what's our part in all of this?

First of all, **it's not too late for applications!** Get them in quickly but don't give up if you have a candidate who's ready. Contact Jeff Powell if you have any questions. Secondly, the Cursillo Method emphasizes **Palanca**. Through palanca, we all participate in the weekend. Decide what you want to do as palanca and then write a short note letting the candidates know you are doing it for them. These notes can be dropped off at the Cursillo mailbox just past the rotunda at the retreat center. Third, you can volunteer to help during the weekend. Contact Jeff Powell or Angela Hayes to find out what needs to be done. Finally, be present at closing.

Closing is scheduled on **Sundays the 6th and 27th April, at 5:30 pm**. The community should gather in the **main chapel no later than 5:15 pm**. The weekend will be draining for all concerned and your presence for the greeting of our candidates will add that last crescendo to their spiritual high.

In closing we want to ask you to think back on your weekend. Think of all that was happening in your heart and the emotional roller coaster that you rode through the weekend. Remember the feeling of having people praying for you through Palanca? Of members serving you? Of the celebration of your Fourth Day?

Now you have the opportunity to pass on those feelings. Please be a part of the celebration and future of our Cursillo community. **DE COLORES!**

Calendar Of Events

Pilgrim's Way 3rd Monday 7:00PM

Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM

Men's Weekend Apr 3-6, 2008

Women's Weekend Apr 24-27, 2008

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To use the modern colloquialism, "it's a work in progress." Christ knows what we are capable of, and knows our limitations long before we do. We are His children, and He loves us, but like children we need to learn what is right and what is wrong to help our souls reach heaven. Christ is not a hands-off Father. He gives us plenty to learn and several chances to get it right. He lets us fail, but is always there to catches when we fall. So, since we get another chance to answer his letter we need to think what we would tell Christ in response. Maybe start out something like this; Dear Lord I will help Your

**Just Wondering
Contributed by Dave Slusser**

Where do beautiful things go
like rose petals
when they fade --
Where do autumn colors gather,
the fragrance of lilacs
the song of the meadowlark
I like to think a loving God
gathers them to Himself again
pieces of His laughter
given as solace to
this race of humans
who bear His likeness

a simple promise
of untold wonders
yet to come

- Cecilia Slusser
May 1984

Secretariat Welcomes Newest Member

The Secretariat welcomes **Michelle Rowe** as the new Post-Cursillo director. Michelle has graciously volunteered to fill this important position. Please add your welcome and consider volunteering for a Secretariat position yourself.

**Not Receiving E-Mails from Jeff?
Please send a note to
msfcursillo@yahoo.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.....	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.

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