

# 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]

## Thank You! Lord! By: Tish Kimbel

Recently, after a very difficult day at work, I was thankful that I could go straight home and take it easy for awhile. As soon as I got onto the expressway, I saw the backed up traffic trying to get onto the Kennedy Bridge. I quickly opted for the I-64 West to cross via the Sherman Minton Bridge and seeing the river along side the highway gave me peace.

I decided on a whim to get off at the State Street exit to stop by a store. On my way back to the car, I decided to walk to Kroger as I thought to myself, "How did my plan change so much that I ended up here?". When plans change like this I stop and ask myself, "What is it that you want me to see Lord?". It seems that the Holy Spirit is at work when my day is not going according to plan. As I entered Kroger, I told myself to just get something for supper and get home. Instead I felt pulled to the left by the vitamin section by the entrance door. Again, I thought to myself, "Maybe this is why I am here, I was out of calcium pills. Thanks, Lord!".

While comparing the vitamin brands, I backed into someone that I hadn't seen in years! We exchanged hugs and I was going to say that I had to go but decided to remain present in the moment.

Our polite conversation led to a good update on friends and family then grew intimate with sharing feelings. We talked about things we wished that we had done differently. We shared sadness in how other things had not turned out the way we thought that they would in relationships and attitudes. I realized that I was talking about what I do not have in my life.

I have learned that when I am focusing on what I do not have I need to change gears. It is time to change my heart to thankfulness. When I feel disappointment, I stop and look at what is good.

I shared with my old friend how blessings have grown amidst the disappointments. I told her, for example, that while I was sad because I will be seeing less of my son who just got his first apartment that I am happy for him. I can remember the great feeling of "freedom" when moving out of your parent's home.

I also said that when I feel pain I thank God that I am so much better than I was 3 years ago! There is so much good in my life! When I feel sad where there seems to be no love or there is failure, I feel grateful for how much love there is in my life. When I give thanks for this, I am gently flooded with faces and memories. As I shared these thoughts in Kroger, my friend said, "I want to do that too. I think I'll start doing that.". Oh! I was talking so much! Her statement stopped me in my tracks. I took it in. I have learned that sometimes when I say something from deep within, while sharing or comforting another, there comes a realization that "This message is really for me!".

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## The Witness Online

For pictures, archived articles, and the latest Cursillo news, check out what Steve Volpert is doing to our website—[www.cursillo.org/mtstfrancis](http://www.cursillo.org/mtstfrancis). Send your email address to [cursillo\\_msf@insightbb.com](mailto:cursillo_msf@insightbb.com) to get meeting reminders and real time updates.

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At that moment in Kroger, I knew that I am supposed to focus more on the great gifts that the Lord has placed in my heart and in my life.  
I have heard many times at Mass and from my Cursillo friends that when we pray we should start with praise and thanks.

*Psalm 118: 28—29*

*You are my God, I give you thanks, my God. I offer You praise.  
Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever.*

When I focus on what was not good in the past, get caught up in worry or when planning for the future consumes me, I pull out of it by praying.

*“O Lord, I praise You! I love You! Thank You for all of Your great gifts! Thank You for forgiving me! Thank You for Your great love!”*

That prayer brings me into the present. As I relish the many blessings in my life, I become grounded and centered in the NOW.

*John 10:10*

*I came so that they might have life and live it more abundantly.*

I am grateful for God’s gifts and He wants me to enjoy and use those gifts. I can only do that by living in the NOW, the PRESENT. This is what is real! Life is happening NOW!

God the Father said His name is “I AM”. Jesus replied “I AM”. The Holy Spirit fills me when I “AM” too....living each moment that God Has given me. I wish that I could be aware of that more often.

*Psalm 118: 24*

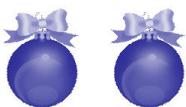
*This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

When I am thankful, I find peace. There is no peace in worrying about the past or the future nor is there peace in examining failure and weakness.

*Philippians 4: 4*

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!  
Your kindness shall be known to all. The Lord is near.  
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.  
Then the peace of God that surpasses  
all understanding will guard your hearts  
and minds in Christ Jesus.*

To quote our friend Chips Cronen in heaven, who said it often, “Thank you, Lord!”.



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

Brother Ambrose

Sharron Barker

Keith Byerley

Ron Byerley & Family

Joe Camarata

Joann Day

Fr. John Geis

Angela Hayes

Fr. Mike Hilderbrand

Kay Hobbs

Jeff Kochert

OJ Ignacio

Terri Jackson & Family

Bernadette Kok

Charla Perez

Patty Lockett

Carmen Mas

The Mount Saint Francis

Cursillo Community

Alice Volpert & Family

Jack West

World Peace

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

## The Christmas Event

By: Jo Ann Reas

If I was a promoter and my assignment was to  
plan for the coming of the King of Kings,  
that is to **plan Christmas**,  
I would do things sooooo different then what  
the Almighty did.

First I would get on the social media and  
announce His coming.

I would notify all the radio and T.V. stations that our Lord was going to  
make a public appearance to the world.

Of course there would have to be a  
parade with marching bands,  
giant balloons, floats with

**Angels** throwing candy and pizza.

Our Lord would then come out as a giant, big and powerful Being with a  
**crown of gold**.

We surely would know Our Lord when we see Him.  
But, Our God instead picked different time and place  
with no human instant messaging.

He relied on his prophets instead to **personally** invite  
His people to watch for his coming.

Our Lord chose to come as a dependent infant whose earthly parents  
were displaced, poor, young and with **no power** of their own.  
St. Joseph couldn't even get a room in the inn for Our Lord's birth.

But here we are, millions still proclaiming the Good News

**2,000** years later!!

Our human wisdom is not very wise,  
but God's wisdom is **everlasting**.

### Calendar Of Events

Pilgrim's Way 3rd Monday 7:00 PM

Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM

Christmas Fiesta,

December 17, 2012 at 6:30 pm



# Christmas Fiesta



December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Some things to remember:

Bring family & friends,

One Christmas ornament per person,

A covered dish, snack, dessert, or drink to share

Please remember Palanca for the success of the Fiesta

Don't forget lots of Christmas Cheer

We will meet in the Mount

St. Francis First Floor Retreat Center.

We hope you can all make it for fun and prayer!

## Secretariat

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### Wanted: Your witness articles

E-Mail your newsletter items to:  
David.laurie91@gmail.com, or mail to:  
David & Laurie Slusser, 1229 Lafayette  
Drive, New Albany, IN 47150

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