

The Witness

Mount Saint Francis Cursillo Center
Mount Saint Francis, Indiana 47146



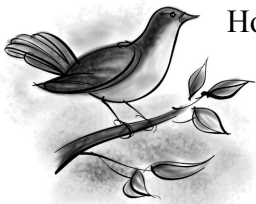
You are my witnesses, says the Lord, my servants whom I have chosen [Isaiah 43:10]

"ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA"

By: Carol Lenfert

One morning a few weeks ago, I was up (not by choice) at 6:30 a.m. I am not a morning person. I cheered when Daylight Savings Time was moved up to March and extended until November.

On this morning, when I let the dog out, I walked out on the deck as I usually do every morning, but normally it's not until about 3 hours later. I like to go outside to see what's going on, feed the birds and get a feel for what the weather might be like for the day.



However, on this morning it was still dark and the air was damp and cold and there was nothing to see. But out of that darkness came the sound of the birds singing. Not just one bird, like the mockingbird does at 2:00 in the morning, but all the birds. The bare treetops were filled with the beautiful sounds of the singing birds. The sun wasn't up and wouldn't be for a while, but they were happily singing because they knew that soon the darkness would be over and the light would come and they were joyful.

As I stood there listening to them I thought, this is the way life is at times. There are moments of great darkness and we are unsure of what may come, but eventually the light comes again and we are joyful.

Our journey through Lent is the same. We live through the darkness and the cold, but we are hopeful that the Son is coming soon. For six weeks we make preparations for His arrival and when He comes on that glorious Easter morning, we sing.

Lent will be over when this newsletter goes out and we will have experienced the glorious renewal of faith and the blessings of the Holy Spirit. Personally, I think this is the most beautiful time in the Church year and I look forward to it every spring, much like those singing birds.

I wish all of you a beautiful Easter season filled with the hope and promise the love of our Lord brings to us now and forever!



The Witness Goes Green

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 cursillo_msf@insightbb.com to get meeting reminders and real-time updates. You can also receive the Witness electronically by submitting your email address to: cursillo_msf@insightbb.com.

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“Making Friends, Being Friends,
Sainly Friends,
and Living as Friends in Christ” .

Mount Saint Francis Cursillo - 4th Day Retreat Registration Form

Please join us on May 19, 2012 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm for the annual Mount St. Francis Cursillo 4th Day Retreat. The cost for the day is \$20.00 per person and the day begins in the Youth Center at the Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center. This spirit filled day that includes: Continental breakfast, lunch and dinner, Witness talks, Free time, Prayer, Music and Sunday Liturgy Mass. If you are able, please bring something to share for the snack table. Coffee and drinks will be provided.

Registration Deadline– **May 4, 2012**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: Mount St. Francis Cursillo

Return registration to:

Jim Smith
Attn: 4th Day Retreat
1112 Savannah Drive
New Albany, IN 47150

Gratitude

By: Brother Ambrose

A Blessed and Happy Easter Season to all who read this gathering of words which I am putting together this evening. This Lenten and Easter Season has once again been full of many blessings for me as well as more challenges than I want to admit as I continue to embrace this intimate relationship with Our Crucified and Risen Savior, JESUS OUR CHRIST.

During Lent I was blessed to be on a weekend retreat with a large group of Secular Franciscans (men & women), had the opportunity to attend a 4-day Parish Mission preached by a Franciscan and took part in an Easter Cantata which used multi-media to bring the whole Paschal Mystery to life in a new way. I am so blessed!! YES, THE CHALLENGES!! Seems with blessings come challenges.....and no, I need not share them. However, there is the one as to whether I am truly living up to the profession I made to live the GOSPEL LIFE in the steps of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis of Assisi.

So....how to express gratitude to Our Risen Lord?? More light was shed on this as I was reading from Acts 3: 1-10 on the Wednesday after Easter. The man crippled from birth was healed and went into the temple walking, jumping and praising God!!! I believe that we need to do much more praise and thanksgiving for all that comes our way and less of the begging. Yes, we need to ask but it must always be followed by thanks.

I'm challenged on the several days a week that I spend at our Franciscan Shelter House in Louisville as I welcome and greet our brothers and sisters who come to be fed....both physical and spiritual food. In greeting, sometimes the words “how ya doing” are used and very often the response is “I’M BLESSED”. Responses like that will take me back there again and again.

The gratitude from so many of these people challenges me to be grateful for all that is so freely given to me and to each one of us. The men and women who volunteer their time to feed the hungry are true inspiration to me as well. The list of blessings could go on and on. I only write this to challenge you to take time...YES, TAKE TIME....to reflect on HOW BLESSED WE ARE and then TO GIVE THANKS & PRAISE GOD....and if you have to WALK, LEAP AND JUMP TO PRAISE GOD.....DO IT! AND KEEP DOING IT!

**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
- Alan Barker
- Red Baumann
- Bill & Sharon Beck
- Mary Beeler
- Janie Boggs Family
- Mary Lou Byerley
- Ron Byerley & Family
- Joe Camarata
- Maxe Duffy
- Fr. Mike Hilderbrand
- Kaye Hobbs
- O.J. Ignacio
- Deacon Chris LuBecke
- Patty Luckett
- Bob & Irene Naville
- Jeff Powell
- Cathy & Jerry Reising
- Charlie & Mary Ann Sanders
- Phyllis Schickel & Family
- Rita Schueler & Family
- Jim & Mary Ann Smith & Family
- Marie Smith
- Richard Striegel
- The MSF Cursillo Community
- Alice Volpert
- Jeanette Voyles
- Jack 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*

**Many Special Days are in the Month of May
By: Gayle Schrank**

In each moment of the day
God is with us as we breath,
and if we pay attention
He is teaching us how to be.
Many times we don't recall
the significance of our days.
That gives me something to write about...
opportunities that come in May:
May 3 is on a Thursday.
It's the National Day of Prayer.
This occasion helps reinforce,
surrender to God all our cares.
Another special day in May
shows diversity embraced with pride.
Cinco de Mayo is on May 5.
It's through Christ all cultures abide.
On the second Sunday in May
we commemorate our mothers.
It's through her love that we were born,
and learn how to do for others.
A special day occurs 40 days after Easter.
This year it falls May 17.
It's the Ascension of our Savior.
Save May 19 for those who serve.
Give tribute on Armed Forces Day.
Armed Forces Week begins
the second Saturday of May.
Our Holy Father issued a message
for World Communication Day...
"In silence we understand with greater clarity
what it is we want to say."
...that special date is on May 20,
and we need to carve out space,
for profound thoughts...word and silence...
let us listen and contemplate.
May 27 we will celebrate
the Feast of Pentecost.
It's the birthday of our Church,
which without we would be lost.
Memorial Day we will remember...
it's on May 28 we recall,
those who gave their lives for us,
with honor they gave their all.
We revere our Blessed Mother
all during the month of May,
and through her intercession
we gain confidence as we pray.
Mary visited with her cousin,
on May 31 we call to mind
when Mary left the hill-country,
and Elizabeth, with child, she would find.
Remembering these things during May
can help us gain comfort and peace.
When we take time to ponder our days
Christ's love in us will increase.

Calendar Of Events

- Pilgrim's Way 3rd Monday 7:00 PM**
- Ultreya 4th Monday 7:30 PM**
- Summer Fiesta/Lake Shelter:
August 4 from 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

By: Dennis Conroy

A pilgrimage is defined as a journey to a sacred place, one of an exalted purpose. *A pilgrimage is certainly not a vacation*-as I and 49 others found out when we traveled "In the footsteps of the Saints" last month with our good shepherd Father Eric Augenstein, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, IN. In no way can I describe how fortunate we were to have not only Father Eric but also Patrizia Lisi as our tour guide. Patrizia came to us as we arrived at the airport in Milan and was with us to the very end of our trip. She proved to all of us over and over again why she was so highly recommended to us from Pentecost Tours. We traveled from Milan visiting Bologna, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Cascia and into Rome with a day trip to Subiaco and Tivoli. The pace was frantic, the sights were without compare and the food was an experience unto itself. I highly recommend that anyone who is reading this article to visit the Our Lady of Perpetual Help website www.olphna.org to get the extensive overview of Father Eric's blog from the pilgrimage. His dedication and extra hours of composing entries will truly be worth your time and make you feel like you were along for the ride. I know that I haven't told you very much in this article about the trip but I promise to try and do a better job at the Ultreya coming up on April 23rd at the Mount. Hope to see you there! DeColores!



Secretariat			
<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Lay Director.....	Open.....		
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3-Day.....	Mike Wild.....	812-944-9539.....	IC2006@aol.com
Post-Cursillo.....	Open.....		
Treasurer.....	Jim Smith.....	812-945-4232.....	jsmith@erdmanncorp.com
Secretary.....	Jo Ann Reas.....	502-599-1492.....	reasjo@yahoo.com
Pilgrim's Way.....	Joe Proctor.....	812-945-3667.....	wjproctor@insightbb.com

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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