

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]

Autumn Reflections By: Judy Cox

Once again the Labor Day celebration is over and it's time to say "Adios" to summer and "Welcome" to fall. My husband and I enjoy this time of year very much. He loves to grow things, and this is when we harvest the late veggies and fruit which he has grown during the summer months. There is something special about the idea of gathering the delicious produce and feeling grateful to God for this wonderful gift from His bounty.

This is also the time when a list of fun things start happening. Yes, these are all secular activities but very important to each of our lives. School starts and everyone gets back to a more normal routine or schedule. Football begins, and that can be a thrill a minute if one happens to root for our teams which are the University of Louisville, Notre Dame, and the University of Arkansas.

As a matter of fact, I first realized that fall was my favorite time of the year when I attended the University of Arkansas which, as you probably know, is nestled in the heart of the Ozarks. God really puts on a fabulous "Color Show" around October in this beautiful place. I had lived in a much milder climate and had never experienced an Autumn such as this. The most exquisite painting in the world could not compete with the spectacular panoramic view of the vivid collage of colors in God's masterpiece. Golden, orange, plum, and cardinal red leaves cover the landscape and the mountains. This experience has left me with great memories and a deep seeded love for this time of the year.

Autumn represents so much to me in a spiritual way. What a wonderful gift! God has allowed us to be surrounded by Mother Nature in all of her splendor. This lovely season means much more than just a celebration of the harvest and the awesome show of color. Autumn is a time of change. Mother Nature is

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Are you ready for the Harvest? By: Phyllis Schickel

I often think we are the ones who need to be ready for the Harvest. We have been given life and have been nurtured by our families. We went on to have families of our own and we have nurtured them for the life ahead. We have been given the gift of faith and have passed this on each time we have taught our religious belief and trust in God.

I think we are the ones who harvest what God has provided as we care for that which we have been given. Who are we asked to share the beautiful fruits of our labor with? In Genesis 47: 24, it tells us: "But when the harvest is in, you must give Pharaoh a fifth while you keep four-fifths as seed for your fields

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The Witness Online

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.

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

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saying goodbye to summer and is preparing herself for the winter months. This is sometimes difficult to achieve in nature and it can also create difficulties in our own personal experiences. Like the seasons, a human being must go through changes and adjust to different things during the span of his or her lifetime.

We go through various stages of our lives from springtime to winter and from sunrise to sunset, and we must adjust to many different happenings to us-----some happy and some sad.

God has assured us that if we truly believe in Him and try to live by His teachings He will carry us through the dark times of our lives.

I have felt God speaking to me in the past few weeks as I have been preparing this article. I am reminded of a very powerful statement that I read several weeks ago. This statement is from an article entitled "Attitude" -----the author is unknown. I wish that I could take credit for the following quote, but these are not my words:

"I am convinced that life is 10 percent what actually happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it. We cannot change our past. We cannot change the way people act. We cannot change the inevitable. The one thing we can change, and the only thing we have control over, is our attitude."

I must play the hand I am dealt in life, and how I react to each situation will determine whether I am a happy productive person or whether I am lost.

My husband and I recently heard the Oak Ridge Boys in concert at the Kentucky State Fair. One of their new songs, which will probably be a hit, talks about the difference in the way they have viewed things throughout their lifetimes. When they were young it was "We have to" go to church, help dad with the car, etc. Now that they are older it is "We get to" do all of those things. It all depends on how you look at it.

Thanks so much for allowing me to share some autumn reflections and "God thoughts" with you. God be with you and De Colores!

Are you ready for the Harvest? Continued from Page 1

and your families." This is a passage that I think each person needs to figure out.

After this dry year our harvest will be smaller than usual. I know our Lord will provide as long as we remember his promises to us. In Matthew 6: 19-34, he tells us that he has provided for the least of his creatures. Do you think he will do less for us?

We are told over and over in the New Testament that our father in heaven will provide for what we need and we must always trust in him.

I went through these passages because I believe it brings us to the real harvest-- the harvest of our souls. I believe we can go through the motions of all that is good but if we don't do some of what has been told to us in scripture, we are not ready for the harvest. Our way to prepare is by reading the word of God, making those words our way of life and bringing others to the word of God. Only then the fields will be ripe for the harvest. De Colores!

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

Maxe Duffy

Debbie Fackler & Family

Fr. John Geis

Rosemary Gronotte

Angela Hayes

Fr. Mike Hilderbrand

Kaye Hobbs

Jeff Kochert

O.J. Ignacio

Terri Jackson & Family

Mike Lally & Family

Mary Jane Lockett

Patty Lockett

Louisville Women's

New Cursillistas

Our Catholic Church

Charla Perez

Joe Proctor

JoAnn Reas

Mary Shelton

The Laura Toler Family

The MSF Cursillo Community

Steve & Alice Volpert

Jack West

World Peace



The Old Crumpled Bag

By: Sharron Barker

It is a beautiful fall day as I sit here to write to you - my companions on the spiritual journey, my 4th day community. As I reflect on the beauty of God's creation outside my window and count my blessings I count each of you.

2012 has been a very different year to say the least for me. We began the year recovering from our daughter's very difficult pregnancy and pre-mature delivery. The miracle of watching our little Ally catch up was awesome but not without concern. Allan was very ill at the beginning of this year. Remember he suffered major hearing loss and sometimes at the end of the day I find myself exhausted from trying to communicate with him. My older son had to make a decision to take a job in Memphis, Tennessee and live away from his family (and me) for three years. My best friend for thirty years chose to abandon that friendship.

I felt very alone, hurt, exhausted and sad. I was not walking the walk or talking the talk. My 4th day was not turning out to be what I had hoped. I longed for that spiritual high we all get on our weekend or even sometimes at ultreya. I wanted to feel loved again. I needed a friend or two or three. I was in that proverbial Spiritual Desert. I wasn't at fault and why do I always have to be the one that reaches out?? I was all used up and I knew that like the old store I either had to restock the shelves or close the store. Where should I go to restock??

The answer came from all of you. For many years cleaning out the basement has been our project and so I decided I should go to work on that. I was cleaning and throwing away. On about the third trip to the garbage can I was carrying an old crumpled brown bag. Just as I tossed it in something made me decide to see what was in it—PALANCA from the first team I served on. I sat down on the steps and began to pull out and read. The tears of healing began to flow just like on that Friday night years ago. Many from people I barely knew, many from you that are reading this and some from friends that have moved on to their 5th day. Those encouraging words of love and faith. Words from Bro. Bruno and Bud Shelton wrote and apologized because he had to type his beautiful letter rather than hand write because his 76 year old fingers couldn't write to all of us. Juanita told me to keep my bubbles going-I didn't know where I had put my bubbles. Sister Karen, all the

girls I grouped with and all of their husbands, a wonderful letter from my own husband, Allan, The Volperts, The Kocherts, women that were on my weekend and Karleen even called me a wide eyed child of God!

I don't know where the wide eyes and the bubbles went but I can tell you in that instant, through all those cleansing tears, they started the trip back. My shelves were beginning to restock with every letter of palanca I pulled from that old crumpled bag. I realize where I get restocked is from the continuous love, support and palanca I get here at Cursillo.

John 13:35- "By this shall all men know that you are disciples, if you love one another. Love that restocks and sustains me and for that I thank each and everyone of you and our Lord Jesus."

That old crumpled bag will be with me forever and guess what? I have a couple of more I have pulled out from other weekends. Never did I expect to find love and my way out of the desert on my basement steps with an old crumpled brown bag. As I have finished the bags of letters, I hope and pray that some of my palanca can bless those on their journey. I realize that they will be a blessing because in the book of Deuteronomy God promises those who obey Him that He will bless everything to which they put their hands. I almost threw it away, I call that a God Moment.

Christmas Fiesta



When:
December 17, 2012

Where:
Mount St. Francis First
Floor Retreat Center

Time: 6:30 pm

What to Bring:

Please bring an ornament for the prayer tree and a appetizer or dessert to share with others.

Join us for caroling and Christmas Joy!

Awaiting the Harvest

*We must wander through our lives planting seeds
 Seeds from a vine given by our creator so many years ago
 We look for fertile soil, but often find rocky ground
 Still we must plant... and then trust
 That the Son will one day shine upon them
 And they will be nourished by living waters not of this world*

*At times they grow quickly and bear much fruit
 Often they lay dormant simply waiting.....
 Until a time comes that only the creator knows
 Only then will they find life....*

*Yet we must plant ever more seeds
 Regardless of the soil we encounter*

*And wait in faith
 That a time will come
 When all will flourish and bloom
 Bursting forth in all the colors
 Inspiring others to love
 And then continue to plant
 Until that day the Son shines and never sets
 Only then will the harvest will be complete
 And all will bask in the light that is Him.....*

.....Deacon Jeff Powell +

Secretariat

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
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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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