

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]

Our Stories

By: Sadie Powell

The people you feel the closest to are more than likely those whom you know “their story”. There’s a bond, sort of a link that connects you because you know an intimate detail of that individual just not everyone knows.

During a recent visit to be with our daughter prior to the birth of her son I shared memories of her own arrival into the world. It was *Her* “birth story” which she and her husband were genuinely interested to know specific details. Certainly she had heard much of the story at various times in her life but now was different. This was another bonding of their lives together and the connection to their son!

Later as we waited at the hospital while our daughter was having a C-section my mind journeyed through those same stories of our daughter’s birth and all that surrounded it. Certainly similar to most but yet uniquely “her” story! During these events my brother shared remembering when I was born and riding to the hospital with our father to bring me home. As I waited I prayed the Rosary which added to my thoughts of the “Our Stories” of the mysteries we meditate on while praying this beautiful prayer. Those stories are *our stories* too! Stories that connect us to our faith and beliefs.

Our faith life is sometimes beyond words when we make a connection to Jesus through the various mysteries such as His birth story and the circumstances of Mary visiting Elizabeth and how John “Leapt” in her womb! Doesn’t that stir your emotions to meditate on that story?

Throughout this time my daughter and son-in-law were experiencing what is now “their story” of the birth of their first child! Our FIRST grandchild, John Paul! I thought of various Bible stories of Jesus such as a young boy who was lost and found in the temple and thought; baby John Paul will have stories too.

My thoughts of “our stories” are never far from my mind because I work with Alzheimer’s patients and their families. I’m always looking to “know their story” in order to make a connection to them. In this way I can talk to them about things in their past and in doing so, they

feel a sense of comfort and safety through someone knowing them. During Holy Week this year I attend Mass alongside of two of my Alzheimer’s patients and sat between them. A gentleman and a lady. Fr. Don Halpin celebrated Mass for us at the nursing home. As part of his homily he spoke of “the stories” of these folks. Stating a quick timeline of their past lives of how they may have lived their younger years. Stating maybe it was getting married, starting families, working, retiring, coming into old age and being in their current community. He didn’t shy away from saying he suspected many were now looking to their final days when they too would come to meet the Lord and know everlasting life through Jesus dying and rising. Throughout the Mass my *two friends* on each side touched my heart and this moment has stayed with me. The male resident stated “Yes Father” and “Thank You Father” at various times as well as appropriate responses to prayers. While the lady is saying aloud not only our responses but Father’s prayers as well. The pivotal moment was when Eucharist was offered. The gentleman with tears in his eyes states “This is wonderful! Thank you Father!” Then turned to me and grabbed my hand and repeated again, “This is

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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/mstfrancis. Send your email address to cursillo_msf@insightbb.com to get meeting reminders and real time updates.

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wonderful, I can't describe it!" These were tears not of sadness but joy only known in our stories of faith that we celebrate in the Eucharist. These two individuals have impaired cognition and have significant memory loss but yet they have retained the ability to grasp the beauty of the Eucharistic feast!

And people wonder why we would bring an Alzheimer's patient to Mass! These two individuals with Alzheimer's have a connection to their faith! They know the story of Jesus and have bonded with him in their earlier years. This engrained faith life has meaning still today. Again this is their "Story" of their life long faith and remains after many other memories fade. *Yes it is so wonderful it's hard to describe!*

We come to share our story. We come to break the bread.

We come to know our rising from the dead.

1. We come as your people. We come as your own.

United with each other, love finds a home.

2. We are called to heal the broken, to be hope for the poor.

We are called to feed the hungry at our door.

3. Bread of life and cup of promise, in this meal we all are one.

In our dying and our rising, may your kingdom come.



Call to Post

By: Mark Fuchs

Living in the southern Indiana and Louisville area most of us are familiar with the Kentucky Derby and maybe some have attended a race or two at Churchill Downs. If you've watched the Derby on television or have been at the races you've heard the bugler play as the horses parade from the paddock onto the racetrack. This tune is referred to as the "Call to Post" and is played approximately ten minutes before the start of a race therefore giving the horses and jockeys a little time to warm up and bettors a little more time to go over their selections and hopefully pick a winner.

As a thoroughbred trainer, I have heard the "Call to Post" many, many times. As I hear the tune when one of my horses is racing I get a little anxious and I spend the next few minutes going over things in my mind prior to the start of the race. Have I prepared my horse properly for this race? Have I given her ample amount of nutrition and care leading up to the race? Has his morning workouts been far enough and fast enough to give him the stamina to go the distance? Is there anything else I could have done to help her get into the winners circle which is the ultimate goal in horse racing?

This scenario has played over many, many times in my head and I find myself wandering, 'Why don't I have a "Call to Post" in my spiritual life?' Maybe at the end of the day I could take a few minutes and reflect on my actions of the day and reflect on how I did to prepare myself to better serve the Lord. Did I nourish myself with study and prayer to better understand the Lord? Did I thank him for the many gifts and blessings he has bestowed on me? Did I reach out to a co-worker at the track whether it be for food, clothing, money or help to overcome an addiction as the Lord has helped me to do? Did I do something kind for my neighbor today? Did I let Satan interject any thoughts or ideas in my head today through the internet, television or the company I chose to keep today? Have I done all I can do today to prepare myself to get into heaven—the real winner's circle?

Save the Date!

4th Day Retreat

September 21, Mount St. Francis

Please plan to attend with your group and to invite other cursillistas.

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will of Eric Hobough @
Atlas Business Forms/502-409-2881.
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