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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]



Psalms 46:10

Be Still and know I am God

By: Charla K. Perez

I don't know about the rest of you but when I came off of my Cursillo retreat in 2006, I was unsure what would happen next and how I would transition back into the regular world with my booster shot of faith. I saw many former Cursillistas walk away from the weekend filled with the Holy Spirit and they set out to start new ministries or seek a vocation.

I on the other hand, didn't have the slightest inkling what to do next or where God's plan was for me. One thing was certain, God kept reminding me to remain faithful and patient especially in my prayer life and weekly Mass attendance. I kept recalling Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God and I am with you."

There were many hardships that followed with my health, long term illness in the family that ended in the loss of loved ones. I recalled someone during Cursillo saying, "The most fertile soil is in the valleys of life and where you do the most growth." I would eventually find this to be true. There were times in my journey when I felt like, I was standing in the desert by myself and I wanted to cry out, "Why!" but I did not! I remained faithful and listened patiently. I spent many hours over the course of 10 years continually praying and listening, as I still do. Matthew Kelly calls this, The Classroom of Silence. It kept me going each and every day. I kept remembering Psalm 46:10. God did have a plan for me however; he had a great amount of work to do with me first.

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Sharing is Life Giving

By: Joe Proctor

Everyone likes to hear a story. Jesus knew this and used story telling as a means of sharing Himself with those he met. And down through the centuries this time-proven method of communication has been used to inform and enlighten. It started with oral tradition and has progressed to books, TV, newspapers, phone, e-mail and all other ways we talk to each other today. Everyone has a story to tell of themselves. What's more interesting than to read an autobiography of some famous person telling us of their life's story! Which brings me to the reason for writing this article.

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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. Send your email address to svolpert@twc.com to get meeting reminders and real time updates.

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Our family had been experiencing an eight year decline from Alzheimer's of my mother-in-law which resulted in her death in 2007; a year after we both made the Cursillo retreat. Afterwards, I decided I wanted become involved with a new ministry as a hospital Eucharistic Minister. I recalled the numerous hours we, as a family, spent sitting in the hospital or a nursing home with little or no Catholic presence there, except at the very end of her life. This Eucharistic ministry really spoke to me and I would be bringing Christ to others. After about a year into the ministry I encountered a patient at the hospital who wanted to talk to me more after receiving communion. I listened. She shared with me her struggle with her cancer diagnosis and her absence from the church. I definitely felt empathy for her having had a cancer diagnosis myself just nine month earlier. I told her I would keep her in my prayers. When I left her room I felt certain God wanted me to do more. What was it? I had no idea. I couldn't name it and I lacked direction. And I knew I certainly could not fix her situation.

I arrived home later that day I signed onto the computer. I was on a job search at the time. I entered the Archdiocese of Louisville website. As soon as I arrived on the homepage there was an article about the Befriender Ministry training being offered to practicing Catholics. An outreach ministry in the Archdiocese of Louisville — the BeFriender Hospital Ministry — seeks to alleviate some of that anxiety of a hospital visit by providing a prayerful listening and non-judgmental presence for patients and their families during their hospital visit.

I sat back in my chair and said, "This is where you have been leading me all this time." I immediately contacted the head of the program mentioned in the article. I asked several questions and signed up for the three month long training sessions. In May 2013 I began my ministry at Baptist Health-Louisville, which incidentally is the hospital where I received my cancer diagnosis, surgery and treatment. I continue to do so to this day and I am able to give back to the hospital where I was treated.

Through this ministry I have met Catholics from many backgrounds and walks of life and heard their stories. This is not a ministry that came easy to me. As many of you know, I am a very outgoing and talkative person so being an active listener and fully concentrating on what the person is saying was something that took a great of time and discipline on my part. I have been placed in the midst of situations with patients and their families that I never thought I would encounter with my own family much less someone else's. I have prayed for their healing or journey home. It has made me grow in my faith and my prayer life. I could never give out as much as I have received in the form of blessings from others.

My most memorable encounter was being reunited with my RCIA sponsor from 23 years ago through the ministry. We had exchanged Christmas cards over the years to stay in touch. She was on my list of Catholics to visit at the hospital. Over a period of several months she was in and out of the hospital with serious health issues and surgeries. I visited several times with her and her family. I also sat in the surgical waiting room with her daughters during one of her surgeries. She had been a very strong presence and influence in my faith formation as a Catholic and I was able to minister and pray with her at the end of her life. What a gift!

Yes, God was definitely talking to me! I just needed to be still and listen. Be patient. He was allowing me to work on myself and to grow and to see how he was working in my life. As I look back on the past 11 years I reflect on these four things:

"Be still and know that I am God; and I am with you." Psalm 46:10

God has a plan for all of us but it is in his time, not in our time.

"The most fertile soil is in the valleys of life and where you do the most growth." -Unknown

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." -Mother Teresa

Peace and God Bless My Brothers and Sisters in Christ and listen to God's voice, because he certainly has a plan for you! It may not be today. It could be tomorrow or next year. Be patient!

Charla K. Perez, Cursillo #60, Table of Faithfulness Worship: Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**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
Richard Becht & Family
Alan & Sharron Barker
Carol Black
Keith Byerley
Ron Byerley
Joe Camarata
Charlene Fessel
Carol Flum
Debbie Hall
Kevin Hutt Family
Don & Sue Kochert
Carol Lenfert & Family
Tom McDonough
Connie McKinley's
Family
Sheila Malysz
Fr. Mike Hilderbrand
The Mount Saint Francis
Cursillo Community
Steve Reed and Family
Phyllis Naville
Lealynn & Will Orberson
Dennis Conroy
Ann Ross
The Schickel Family
Mary Ann Smith
Bill Unruh
World Peace

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

Continued: from page 1 "Sharing is Life"

As you are aware, each Month on the 4th Monday, we conduct an Ultreya. A coming together of various friendship groups to share our walks with each other and to encourage and support our efforts to live an authentic Christian life. One of the ways we do this is hearing a member of the 4th day community sharing how their journey with Christ is helping them bring Christ into their part of the world.

This witness talk is an integral part of the meeting and is at the heart of why we're coming together. And EVERYONE has something to contribute. It doesn't matter if you're a brand new Cursillista, been at it for a couple years, or an old hand at it like myself. It's just a matter of sharing how your walk is going at that time in your life.

The rules are simple; no more than 10 to 15 minutes max, and something that is occurring or has occurred in the last few weeks, I'm always anxious when someone starts out by saying: "I was born on a cold and rainy night!", on how Cursillo is helping you bring Christ into your environments, and keeping it informal—you're sharing yourself with friends. That's it!

It's nothing more than what you are probably sharing in your friendship group. You couldn't be giving a witness to a more accepting and loving group of people. So why not pray on it and then step forward to tell your story, you can contact Tish Kimble (tshkimb@twc.com) or at 502-468-5842 who can make the necessary arrangements. I know of no better way to bond with another than sharing my faith walk with them. Sharing your faith with another is life giving for the listener. So give it a try! We'd love to hear your story.

De Colores

Joe Proctor

Come the Holy Spirit

By: Vicki Russell

I had a very vivid dream one night in which I saw a dove surrounded by light (Holy Spirit) circling above me while I slept. All of a sudden the Holy Spirit descended upon me and filled my being which was electrifying!!! It was so powerful that my body came up off the bed as if I had been shocked.

Initially, I was fearful and trembling. Then, after I had time to process the dream, I realized that it was the Holy Spirit and I began to cry. I was going through a very difficult time in my life and I believe God was demonstrating to me (in no uncertain terms) the power of the Holy Spirit and the love that God has for me.

Vicki Russell



Mark your Calendars

Secretariat meets on 2nd Monday of each month 7:00PM. @ St. John Paul II - St. Joe Chapel - Old School Room.

Pilgrims Way meets on 3rd Monday of each month 7:00PM. @ St. John Paul II - St. Joe Chapel - Room next to gym.

Ultreya meets on 4th Monday of each month 7:00PM. @ St. John Paul II - St. Joe Chapel - Room next to the gym.

The date for the next Women's Cursillo TBD @ Flaget Center, Louisville Kentucky.

The date for the next Men's Cursillo TBD @ Mount Saint Francis, Indiana

October 9-11: Cursillo Region IV Fall Encounter; Flaget Center in Louisville Kentucky.

This year we have a great opportunity. The Fall Encounter for Region IV is being held in Louisville. If you have never attended a regional meeting you will definitely want to accept this change to meet with other people from many states who have experienced Cursillo and continue to grow in the knowledge of Jesus' love. Keep watching emails and Facebook for information concerning registration and cost for this event. Most of us will be commuting each day.

If anyone would like to help, the Louisville Cursillo would be most appreciated for your efforts, for they need prayers and physical help like shuttling people back and forth from the airport to Flaget Center, helping with daily things that is greatly needed and their Ultreya at the weekend. Please call Cathy Reising 502-727-9067, Mary Ann Wrenn 502-693-2130 or Ann Marie Carmarata at 502-649-9420. For more information.

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