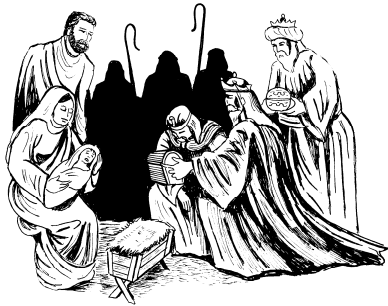


The Witness

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]



The reason for the season

By: Joe Camarata

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This year as we prepare for the Christmas season we will most likely be thinking about what gifts to buy for that special people in our lives. Perhaps it would be a good idea to make a list and check it twice to insure we haven't forgotten anyone to include the dog and cat. How often do we include Jesus on that list?

Jimmy who's real birthday is not until June will be getting that red bicycle he's been wanting and little Susie will get the doll she's had her eye on. During the holiday season most of us do remember exactly whose birthday it really is and since we have a good Christian grasp of our responsibilities we of course decide to go to midnight mass on Dec 24th. Can we put any less thought onto our actions at this most Holy and Joyful season of the year? Let's stop and put more thought into our actions, perhaps we could serve at the soup kitchen or volunteer our talents in other meaningful ways that would be a true gift to our Savior not just at this time of the year but throughout the year. I'm pretty sure Jesus doesn't need another sweater or golf club or actually anything that we will be shopping for this season. What he does need is our love and commitment to serve him just as he serves us all year long.

St. Joseph the Man Who DID Yes!

By: Jo Ann Reas

When the angel Gabriel was sent to the Blessed Mother to ask her to be the Mother to Jesus she Said Yes!

In a dream an angel told St Joseph to not quietly divorce the Blessed Mother, but take her and her unborn son to his home. He Did Yes. Again an angel came in a dream to tell him to leave immediately for Egypt, strange country miles away without the support of family or friends. But he again Did Yes. Being a carpenter is a "logical" trade. Even his acknowledging the visits from angels, had to be a total act of faith. Here was a man who measured twice - that is, he was careful and exact before he cut once, but he quickly acted as the angels directed. What a true man of faith and love of God. What great qualities for fatherhood!

The Witness Online

For pictures, archived articles, and the latest Cursillo news, check out what Steve Volpert has done for us over the years with our website—www.cursillo.org/mtstfrancis. Steve has decided to step down from this position. He has done a wonderful job so please tell him Thank You for all of his devotion and years of service for MSF Cursillo. Please read the want ads on page 4.

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Mother of our Savior**By: Carlos Perez**

"St. Mary, blessed Mother of God ever Virgin and Holy, please pray for, and help us stay closer to your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ."

Every morning I say this prayer, and many others, and call upon St. Mary for her prayers and intercessions along with a devoted Rosary. How dare I, how dare we, ask anything of Virgin Mary after what we have done to her Son. After what we continue to do to her Baby. We slandered Him. We beat Him to a pulp and hung Him on a Cross to die. All the while, Mary was watching. The pain and anguish she suffered was only relieved by the fact that her Baby Boy was going to rise and save us all.

Save us from the very nature and sin that crucified Him in the first place. How can Mary ever forgive us? How can we still continue to abuse Him? Sin. The inherit and original sin that we have that Mary is missing. But, just because we can sin is no excuse to sin. Because, even though we fell from grace and sinned, God sent His only Son down for us to relieve us of our original sin. How dare we sin again and again after what our Lord went through to rid us of it? Can we ever regain St. Mary's trust?

These questions do not need to be asked even though they are obvious. The Lord understands our hearts and minds and continues to wait patiently for us to go back to Him. The true love that He has for us is why He is so patient with us. As, for Mary, being the Mother of us all gives her the ability to never give up on us and know that by her bringing the Lord to us, she will, forever, be in our hearts.

So the next time you pray the Rosary or ask St. Mary for her prayers and intercession, remember to ask her for your forgiveness and to love her so much more for her continued love of the Lord and what she did for us.

Book Reviews By: Don Kochert

An important leg of our Cursillo tripod is formation (study). Besides spiritual direction, homilies and Bible study, reading good books about the faith is an important resource.

The first book that I would recommend is Saint John Paul, the Great, And His Five Great Loves. The author, Jason Evert, begins by revealing the early life of Karol Wojtyla. We learn of his early love of poetry and theater. Then we are told how he evaded first the Nazis and later the Communists in Poland. Events in his young life led him to the priesthood. Pope John Paul's five great loves are as follows: Young people, human love, the Blessed Sacrament, the Virgin Mary and the cross.

Although I have read two other books about Pope John Paul II, I became aware of so many other aspects of his life by reading this one.

The second book that I highly recommend is Catholicism by Father Robert Barron. Although I had seen the DVD of this book, reading Catholicism filled in a lot of the gaps in my theology. He is able to answer questions about the "why" and "how" behind our Catholic scripture, tradition, history and the lives of saints. I was made aware of the richness of our Catholic faith. If you only have time to read one book about the Catholic faith, this one should be 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
Bill Schwender
Alan & Sharron Barker
Will & Rosie Block
Keith Byerley
Ron Byerley
Joe Camarata
Theresa Simmons
Carol Flum
Ron Campbell
Kevin Hutt Family
Don & Sue Kochert
Carol Lenfert & Family
Steve Volpert
Connie McKinley's
Family
Sheila Malysz
Fr. Mike Hilderbrand
Stan Robison
Dennis Conroy
The Schickel Family
The Mount Saint
Francis Cursillo
Community
World Peace

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

I am His brother (Based on MK 3. 31-35)

By: Joe Proctor

It was such a small room but there were people crammed into it from wall to wall. Our attention was being drawn to a man in the center of this room who was speaking of love and forgiveness of sin. This was a message that just wasn't heard spoken where I lived. Here there was nothing but hard work until you died and then just darkness. But this man spoke of eternal life and how we were all destined to something far better; that He was sent by our heavenly Father and that those who believed in Him also believed in the Father. It all sounded too good to be true. After all, who was I to deserve such a gift? Sure, I believed in an almighty and powerful God, but this God was distant and surely didn't spend His time or attention on someone as unimportant as myself.

And then suddenly there was movement. Someone was pushing through the mass of people to be closer to this preacher. A mummer went through the crowd---"this is His mother!" His mother! Why was she here? I overheard her saying something about coming outside where His brothers and sisters were waiting. And then He said those words which I can still hear ringing in my ears even today: "all these people are my brothers, sisters, and mother!" What is He saying! I don't even know this man—have never even spoken to Him and yet He calls me a brother!! His words swirl around in my brain as I contemplate what this means to me. I am a loner. I have no one to call family or anyone who cares about me. No, this just isn't possible. I know He means well but what He is suggesting is certainly not in the cards for me. It's just too good to be true. And then it happens! As He is repeating that all of us are His brothers, His eyes are fixed on me and His gaze penetrates to the very depths of my heart and soul. I suddenly feel warmth flowing through my body like a wave and I knew then, without doubt, that this man was speaking the truth—we were brothers!

He then moves toward the crowded doorway and is pushed by the mass of people into the bright sunlight outside. All sorts of people approach Him trying just to touch His clothing or to be touched by Him. He attends to all of them with a love and tenderness I had never seen before or since. I follow along as He moves to another small village up the road until He finally disappears from my sight. I will never see Him again. But His words changed my life that day. I am no longer alone. I even feel called to share this wonderful revelation with others. Somehow, for a few short moments, I was allowed to be in the presence of God and called a brother. And my life will never be the same.

The Cursillos in Christianity ... enables living the true Christian life in light of the baptismal commitment. It offers a way to facilitate an encounter with what is fundamental (the basics) of Christian living. ... It can be said that a Cursillo is 'the joyful proclamation of being Christian.'" — Leaders' Manual (9th Edition, 2006) pg. 147



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.

December 11, 2015 Louisville Christmas Fiesta at St. Bridget's in Louisville Please call Mary Ann Wrenn 502-693-2130 or Cathy Reising 502-727-9067 For more information.

December 14, 2015 6:30 PM Mount Saint Frances Christmas Fiesta at Mount Saint Frances—Bring your favorite dish and a Christmas ornament for year prayer exchange.

April 28—May 1, 2016 Women's Cursillo Weekend @ Flaget Center, Louisville Kentucky.

August 25—28, 2016 Men's Cursillo @ Mount Saint Francis, Indiana

****** HELP WANTED **** Mount Saint Frances Cursillo is in need of someone that would be able to volunteer to fill the position of Communications and Palanca coordinator that can maintain our website and updates of our Facebook and e-mails keeping the Cursillo community up to date.**

Secretariat

| <u>POSITION</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>E-MAIL</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Lay Director | Ann Marie Camarata | jncamg72@twc.com |
| Spiritual Advisor | Sr. Karen Byerley | karen102850@att.net |
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| Treasurer | Barbara Morris | bmorr43@yahoo.com |
| Secretary | Jo Ann Reas | reasjo@yahoo.com |
| Communications & Palanca | | |
| Witness | Bob Eberle | photobugbob@aol.com |

Wanted: Your witness articles

E-Mail your newsletter items to: photobugbob@aol.com, or mail to: Bob Eberle, 107 Millview Street, Sellersburg, Indiana 47172-1130

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