

Volume 31,  
Issue 2  
December  
2014

# 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]

## Would you Consider Making a Cursillo?

By: Joe Proctor

For some of us, we've asked this question several times. When you think about it, it could mean the most important question that the recipient might ever hear. If we consider our own experience and how the weekend changed our lives, and that we are taking on the task of leading another towards a closer relationship with Christ, then we must approach our responsibility with great care. To guide another into their 4<sup>th</sup> day we must be prepared. That means a knowledge of the Cursillo Method and Technique and being able to explain the weekend, what will occur, and that this is just a beginning for them.

That's why the Cursillo has the unique technique of Sponsorship. It's just too important to allow an individual to approach the weekend alone and unprepared. We, as sponsors, are the tool to guide the candidate, through personal contact, to that Thursday evening when their journey will begin and beyond into their 4<sup>th</sup> day.

So, how do I prepare myself for sponsorship? Well, the first and most important thing one can do is PRAY. Remember that phrase from the weekend--- "Speak to God about a person before you speak to them about God"! Nothing will be accomplished without the Holy Spirit being a part of your preparation. Palanca is the engine of the Cursillo! Second, and this is vital, spend time with them! This doesn't mean talking about the latest news, sports, or fashion, but where they are in their spiritual journey. Ask them what they are yearning for and how they see God working in their lives. Do they have emotional problems? Has a recent event in their lives put them in a mental state that is not conducive to attending an intense weekend retreat? There is no substitute for this phase of sponsorship! And don't forget your witness! Your candidate will form their opinion(s) by listening to

you and watching to see how your Cursillo experience has changed your life and brought you closer to Christ.

You may be asking: just how much do I have to know in order to be an effective sponsor? Well, one can never know too much but there are some basic facts with which you should be familiar. There are no secrets about the weekend so tell them what to expect without going into too much detail. ( For instance, you can tell them that others will be praying for them without telling them about the Palanca bags ) Know how the weekend is structured and tell them that they will hear talks by lay and religious. They should be made aware that there will be table discussions and a chance to share with others. Make sure they understand that they will not be asked to do anything they are uncomfortable in doing. And, of course, to be a sponsor you must be active in a friendship group. Your responsibility extends to a year after the weekend or until your candidate is firmly active in a friendship group.

*Continued on Page 3.....*

## 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/mststfrancis](http://www.cursillo.org/mststfrancis). Send your email address to [svolpert@twc.com](mailto:svolpert@twc.com) to get meeting reminders and real time updates.

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Please have every member that is a Cursillista in the household fill out a separate survey.

### Survey for the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell or Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

When did you make Cursillo? Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Cursillo Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you make your Cursillo? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you worked on a Cursillo Team? Yes / No

Would you like to work on a team? Yes / No

Have you sponsored candidates before? Yes / No

Are you currently in a reunion group? Yes / No If Yes,

Where? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_

Would your reunion Group welcome new members at this time? Yes / No

If not in a reunion group would you like to be in one? Yes / No

Do you attend *Ultreya's* regularly? Yes / No

Do you attend 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community Events? Yes / No

Do you have special talent that you are willing to share? (i.e. plumber, artist, musician, printer)? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive the Witness newsletter? E-mail/Regular mail

Would you be interested in joining a committee or the Secretariat? Yes / No

What can we do as your Secretariat to help you in your 4<sup>th</sup> Day journey?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any suggestions or comments that you would like to address to your Secretariat?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Please reply to Robert Eberle  
107 Millview Street  
Sellersburg, Indiana 47172

Phone: 812-406-6566  
E-mail: PhotoBugBob@aol.com  
Thank you and 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  
Alan Barker  
Richard Becht &  
Family  
Joe Camarata  
Margaret Campbell  
Danny Hall  
Debbie Hall  
Howard Gettelfinger &  
Family  
Rosemary Gronotte  
Fr. Mike Hilderbrand  
Carol Lenfert & Family  
Tom McDonough  
The Mount Saint  
Francis Cursillo  
Community  
Phyllis Naville  
Joe Proctor– Prayers of  
Thanksgiving  
Ann Ross  
The Schickel Family  
Mary Ann Smith &  
Family  
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 on Page 1- "Would you consider making a Cursillo?".....*

One of the most effective ways you can prepare your candidate is by inviting them to your friendship group and Ultreya. Remember, we conduct Cursillo weekends in order to form friendship groups not the other way around! If your candidate doesn't understand the vital importance of grouping and how it can prepare them for their 4<sup>th</sup> day walk, then the chance of them following the Method and Technique of Cursillo is very slim indeed. Witness to them how grouping has strengthened your spiritual life and helped you bring Christ into your environments. Let them know the importance of community and that they will become a part of a loving Cursillo community. As mentioned, invite them to an Ultreya where they can observe, first hand, how we come together to support one another.

Being a sponsor, as you can see, requires preparation. The study of Cursillo literature can be of great help. A convenient way to do this is by attending Pilgrims' Way which is held every 3rd Monday at 7:00 PM at St. Joe Hill. I hope this information will help you prepare your candidate. While it's a great responsibility, what greater joy can we have than leading another pilgrim to the Lord? If we do our "homework" we will not be afraid to ask that very important question: would you consider making a Cursillo?

**Everyday is a New Beginning  
By: Sister Karen Byerley**

Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Years. These important days all happen to us in such rapid succession. Perhaps they come almost too fast for us to relish the wonderfulness, the holiness of each day or period of time. I have discovered that if I try to keep them each in their own compartment then I do indeed short change one or the other. But if look at them as a Christian attitude to live each day then each not only gets it due but the impact of their ideals becomes part of me, part of my daily living. The need to be grateful for each and every day allows an open heart to see God's hand in all good things. The ability to prepare for upcoming events keeps me alert and aware of all about me. The joy of birth and new life helps me rejoice in the love of life lived for Christ. Knowing that each day is a total gift opens the eyes of my heart to see each day as a new beginning and new happening. We have been so blessed these last weeks with the good news of births, near death experiences of friends, journeys to Holy Lands, and saying final good-byes to those who have entered the gates of heaven's glory. The song I pray to the Blessed Sacrament when I am alone says this – Jesus, you love us. Just as we are, you love us. Help us see like you, help us be like you. And love one another, as you taught us to. (Written by Marchiando, I think). And so I sing that song and then pray, thank you my dear Jesus for all that prepares me to see You in all things and all people. Happy Catholic Living! And may each day be Holy.

## Anticipation of Christmas—By: Theresa Simmons

Christmas is all about expectations. Imagine if all of us awaited the gift of Jesus as much as a child waits for his/her favorite toy or game. We would mark the days off the calendar and as the day draws near, we fill with excitement and can hardly breathe. Our hearts are pounding out of our chest and we find it impossible to sit still. We thank God for the gift of His Son and look forward to learning more about him and growing to be more like him. When December 25 comes, we feel like we are going to explode. The tears of joy flow because we can't imagine receiving such a gift. My godson, Noah, said it best when he was younger and said that we should wrap Jesus in a box with beautiful ribbon and put him under our Christmas tree because, after all, he is the best gift we ever got.

Don't forget your  
**ornament** for the  
 prayer tree.  
 Please write your  
 name on the  
**ornament.**

### You are invited to the Christmas Fiesta

December 15 at 6:30 pm

**Mt. Saint Francis**

Please bring an appetizer, other food item or a 2-Liter to share.



<b>Secretariat</b>		
<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
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& Palanca		svolpert@twc.com

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 E-Mail your newsletter items to:  
 david.laurie91@gmail.com, or mail  
 to: Laurie Slusser, 1229 Lafayette  
 Drive, New Albany, IN 47150

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