

Fourth Day Family

My Cursillista friend, Gloria Frey, sent me a great email from the wide valley of the Rio Grande. The Grande once fed a southwestern Garden of Eden, home of the pueblos.

Like the pueblo households linked together in harmony, Gloria described Cursillo as ““being” Christ-like for your family, friends, and strangers, all you meet.... That old make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ.....but in God's time.....Sometimes it takes years.....Your spiritual life, as an example, to be the yardstick so your children can see what's true, honest and full of the spirit but never at a point where your prayer takes presence over their needs.”

Gloria continues, “You're helping them, being with them is a prayer, an opportunity to show them how Joseph must have taught Jesus how to build a table, or stool for his mom or plant vegetables.....make it a story....of importance, of love and thank them for their time and tell them this moment will never come again but it's memory will stay in your heart forever.”

Amen, is what I say. When we are present to another soul, be they a friend, neighbor or child, we are Christ-like. It means listening, and trusting in the slow hand of God. My five teenagers bring me straight into the life of Christ everyday. I mean, I am in the movie with Jesus. The toils and times of Jesus gave a template, a preview of all of our lives. The Cursillo method is to then bring Jesus back into our life. Instead of me only witnessing his suffering, He is here in mine. He is present to me just as my family ideal is to be present to my children and marriage.

The Cursillo method builds fourth day families. I see this in current, immediate households and in extended families, families across generations. Families where each person has Christ present. And, of course Christ comes in many cloaks, and in many stages of life. For my family, it started with Cursillo Formation. We lived among Catholic images, Celtic prayers and good books for young readers. My wife and I talked and coached and prayed ourselves along the Cursillo Ideal, for us, a sacramental marriage ideal. We continue to hammer out our marriage ideal like an Irish claddagh ring. Sometimes one person hammers harder than the other but we keep it round and balanced with the Holy Spirit inside our circle. Now, with teenagers, a Sacramental rollo shapes our fourth day. We talk about the riches of a sacramental life with Jesus in it, not watching it. We practice Jesus in it with little prayers, nods or hugs. And for my parents, sisters and in-laws, it is an Evangelization, make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ, approach. “But in God's time.....Sometimes it takes years...,” as we heard from my friend.

Well, thanks Gloria and I hope to hear from others. Like the tall guy from Sacred Heart said at the Fourth Day welcome Ultreya, “We need to hear what God has to tell us and we can only hear it through each other talking.” Amen to that, my friends. DeColores.

