

A Faithful Friend is a Sturdy Shelter

We have been blessed with a beautiful autumn; it is still summer but at the same time cool enough to keep some mosquitoes at bay. We have finished the month of the Holy Rosary and are now heading into All Saints and All Souls Day. The rosary continues to be my favorite prayer. I will journey outside to my deck, bundled with a fuzzy robe, lap blanket, coffee and rosary. This early morning rosary is wonderful. In my small town of Juniata, I often pray with the multitude of sounds. The roosters and chickens are busy. I often pray with St. Peter in my meditation. The doves help me think of our Blessed Mother and the morning breeze I meditate on the Holy Spirit. There is an occasional rogue sound, trains, dogs or a rooster somewhere in Juniata that is in desperate need of a cough drop. All in all, these sounds of early morning in Juniata are a like that of an orchestra, each playing their part of a beautiful song. It is during that morning the Holy Spirit stirs and give me a chance to meditate on the beauty of council.

Each council is unique and has many different working parts and individuals. Each person brings a different talent. Mine is public speaking and maybe cheerleader. I will cheer you on and try to encourage you into taking on a position that I feel you can do. I have the gift of gab. You will not know or understand a council members talent until you know them personally.

We recently finished a study of the book, "Focus on Discipleship," by Edward Sri and Curtis Martin. In this book there is a chapter on "Fellowship: Virtuous Friendship." In this chapter it was shared three friendships. 1.) Friendships of Utility 2.) Friendship of Pleasure and 3.) Virtuous Friendship. We have friends in all these categories but a Virtuous Friendship is one that becomes Christ centered. These friendships that challenge us to be better followers of Christ. I often say these friendships are women who will pray for you behind your back. Read Sirach 6: 5-17, it is a beautiful insight into friendships with Christ as the center. My personal favorite is Sirach 6:14-17.

If your council is struggling in growth, I STRONGLY recommend you begin your meetings with the study of Focus on Discipleship. Advertise it as a book study for the women of your parish. Put prayer first, create a mini family in this study. I can guarantee once the women attend, they will return. Naturally, you need to have your business meeting but the new attendees can leave or stay. It is their choice. Also, remember all women in your council are unique and different. You might have a member who reminds you of the rooster who needs a cough drop. They are still a part of this beautiful orchestra of council. This work is praise and music to God's ears.

May prayer to all who are looking at new officers and councils seeking to grow.

Your Sister in Christ

President Judy Weston

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