

Schoenstatt of Indiana Celebrates Past, Plans for Future

By Eileen Thompson

On Saturday, September 29, 2018, Feast of the Archangels, more than 75 adults and their children gathered at the Mary, Mother of the Eucharist Schoenstatt Wayside Shrine in Delphi, IN to celebrate the 50th and 100th anniversaries of the deaths of Schoenstatt founder, Father Joseph Kentenich (September 15, 1968) and founding member, Joseph Engling (May 31, 1918) and to foster awareness and enthusiasm for Schoenstatt of Indiana members' plans to build a daughter shrine, a replica of the Original Shrine in Germany, on the site here in Delphi.



Schoenstatt Sister of Mary, Ann Astell, who is a Professor of Theology at Notre Dame University, (pictured at left) addressed the crowd before leading the recitation of the Rosary. Bishop Emeritus William Higi celebrated Mass while Father Clayton Thompson delivered the homily. In his homily, Father Clayton explained the difference between how the angels in heaven perceive and respond to God's will and how we as human beings do. He told the people, because angels are pure spirits, they can immediately perceive and respond to our Father's requests with certainty. But, God speaks to us through our human senses and we are often uncertain. It is through seeing and hearing, pondering, discerning and finally understanding that we can understand and respond to God's will for our lives. He commended Father Kentenich for living so faithfully out of

Divine Providence though he lived in very uncertain times. Father Kentenich trusted in his Covenant of Love with our Blessed Mother through the uncertainties of WWI, the 3 years in Dachau of WWII, and his own exile to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Schoenstatt Sister of Mary, Deanne Niehaus, (pictured left) who lives at the International Retreat Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin, was also on hand to lend her support and to see for the first time this blessed piece of land which Schoenstatt of Indiana members hope will someday soon welcome pilgrims from all around the state, the nation and the world. Recently, Sister Deanne was assigned to the Schoenstatt of Indiana movement as its Spiritual Director.

JJ Newcomb (also pictured at left) demonstrated to the children how to live out Schoenstatt spirituality by leading them through the Joseph Engling boot camp where they learned respect for all, to sing and march joyfully as they ask for Mother Mary's help to keep spiritually and physically fit to fight the devil and his evil works.

After completing the exercises, the children received certificates of participation and a crown which they promptly laid at the feet of our Lady.

Also present were three deacons whom we wish to acknowledge. Deacon Mike Gray, who has helped us many times with our Schoenstatt Holy Hours in the past. Two new deacons and their wives also joined us, namely Deacon Stan Zak and MaryAnn Zak, and Deacon Joe Poremski with his wife, Sherry. Their presence is providential in that they were ordained on September 15th, the exact day of Father Kentenich's 50th anniversary.



Schoenstatt is Catholic movement which realizes the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a distinctive way. Its history and fruitfulness lend support to the view that it is a special initiative of God. To understand Schoenstatt, one must consider it as:

- a movement of renewal,
- a place of grace and
- a unique spirituality within the Church



As a movement of renewal in the Catholic Church, Schoenstatt works to help renew the Church and society in the spirit of the Gospel. It seeks to reconnect faith with daily life, especially through a deep love of Mary, the Mother of God. As an international movement it is present on all continents and has members from all vocations and walks in life. It is a spiritual family whose many branches and communities join to form a single Schoenstatt Family.

As a place of grace, Schoenstatt has touched the lives of millions. The Schoenstatt Shrine is the movement's spiritual home and center of life. This shrine is dedicated to Mary as the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. In addition to the Original Shrine in Germany, there are over 200 replica daughter shrines around the world where people gather for prayer, renewal and inspiration.

As a unique spirituality in the Church, Schoenstatt has contributed to the growth in holiness of men and women since 1914. Its characteristic features have proven especially fitting for living the faith in our modern times. As a covenant spirituality it fosters a personal relationship with God, Mary and fellow-man. As an instrument spirituality it makes Christian discipleship more tangible and in tune with God's will. As an everyday spirituality it seeks ways to form everyday life with practical steps forward in faith, hope and love.