



Schoenstatt of Indiana

Nothing without You, Nothing without Us!

Newsletter



Volume 12, Issue 2

April 2019

Schoenstatt Table at Ministry Fair Yields 11 New Signatures



On February, 1st, 2nd and 3rd, St. Bridget Parish in Hobart, Indiana sponsored a ministry fair, and Maria Libey (pictured at right in yellow) made certain our Pilgrim Mother was front and center at one of the 37 tables at the fair. Her friend and fellow Schoenstatt

member since 2003, Leona Cupka, (pictured at left) worked with her at the table. They made a sign which said, "The Pilgrim Mother chooses where she wants to be ... invite her to your home". She placed a bowl of candy next to the sign and asked those who were interested to sign a sheet. The parishioners were invited to visit the fair after the Saturday and Sunday masses. It was a very cold day—but some accepted the invitation.

Maria reported, "I was able to pass 46 rosaries with the instruction of 'How to Pray the Rosary'. I also distributed pamphlets informing about the Schoenstatt Movement and picture cards with the Consecration prayer and the address for the web site. Our sign-up list to join the Movement had 11 signatures. I'm praying for the right way to follow up with them. "

Since the groups are not to exceed 10 members, Maria asked one of her members to start another group. Maria has now 10 members and the new group has nine members.

The Spirit is Moving--Some Dirt



Well, it's official. The Spirit is moving within Schoenstatt of Indiana and what He is moving (others to move) at this particular moment is a whole lot of dirt, brush and trees. Last month, the Schoenstatt of Indiana board voted to begin the excavation of many of the trees and brush at the site of the Wayside Shrine in Delphi, IN, and the lay of the land is beginning to look a whole lot different.



Be sure and stop by to see these exciting developments and say a prayer to our Blessed Mother for her continued grace and guidance.

Like Father, Dare to Give Ourselves to the Church!

To learn more about Schoenstatt of Indiana, write P.O. Box 145, Delphi, IN 46923 or visit schoenstattindiana.org.



Just a Little Yes

Lenten greetings to you all, and may you all have a very blessed Easter! We join with all of Christianity in gratitude for Christ's death and resurrection which has set us free and opened the gates of heaven leading us to the Father. We implore the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the depths of our souls as we continue to follow the "open door policy" prescribed by Father Joseph Kentenich as we move forward with faith in

Divine Providence. Each "little yes" we on the Schoenstatt Board say seems to bring us closer to having a Schoenstatt Welcome Center on our wayside shrine land in Delphi, Indiana and, eventually, a Schoenstatt daughter shrine.

On the spiritual level, we are preparing several people for their Covenants of Love and Home Shrine dedications on May 4th to coincide with the visit of Schoenstatt Sisters Deanne and Isabel. We continue to have weekly Masses said for all of you and your intentions, as well as our monthly holy hour at St Thomas Aquinas. The Mothers, Men's and Couples' groups continue to meet monthly thanks to the dedication of these groups' leaders.

The Development Committee is currently meeting with Keystone Architecture to draw up the blueprints for the Schoenstatt Welcome Center and presentation materials for the needed capital funds campaign. We are also looking at conducting a feasibility study, which will determine if the people of Indiana truly desire our Lady's presence and the amazing graces she brings in a Schoenstatt shrine. We can't imagine any Catholic would not want to honor her in such a way. We are already planning a gala event to help raise funds in June of 2020, and we look forward to your attendance and support.

The doors keep opening, and we keep walking through them step by step all for the glory of the Holy Trinity and our Blessed Mother. In this newsletter, Eileen Thompson, editor, has articles which show how everyone's "little yes" continues to be the backbone of our journey forward.

With Joy in our Covenant,
Carole DiFabio, President

Preparing to Make Our Covenant of Love/Home Shrine



(L to R) Carolyn McKay, Pat Schroeder, Kirsten Borchert, Janine Reklaitis and Rosemary Speaker (Back) Gary Thompson

Two groups of "Schoenstatters-in-Waiting" and their teachers are meeting for seven weeks to learn what it means to make a Covenant of Love with our Lady and how to prepare for the dedication of a home shrine. On Saturday, May 4th, participants will meet at Blessed Sacrament Church in West Lafayette at 7:45 am to pray the Rosary, attend Mass and make their Covenants of Love. Brunch will be served at 9:30 am with a talk for mothers by Schoenstatt Sr. of Mary, Deanne Niehaus, at 10 am. Sister Isabel of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will give a talk on Friday, May 3rd at 5:30 pm at MCL Cafeteria. All are welcome.



During this penitential season, please consider supporting Schoenstatt of Indiana, Inc. with a tax-deductible donation.

Your generous contributions will enable us to provide a fitting shrine to Our Lady of Schoenstatt, Our Mother Thrice Admirable, Mother of God, Mother of the Redeemer, Mother of the Eucharist and Mother of the Redeemed where the Schoenstatt family and all who love our Lady can gather for prayer, renewal and inspiration.

Feel free to send your tax-exempt donation by check or money order to:

Schoenstatt of Indiana, Inc.
PO Box 145
Delphi, IN 46923-0145

For non-monetary donations, please contact us at schoenstattindiana@gmail.com.

Providence on the High Seas with the Faithful of Gulf Breeze



Joan Moore (L) and her cousin and author, Karen Grummel (R) pose in front of the Gulf of Mexico.

Suzanne Gardiner, Schoenstatt of Indiana Pilgrim Mother Coordinator and Board member, takes our Mother Thrice Admirable with her wherever she goes, and wherever she goes she talks to others about all the wonderful things our Lady has done for her and for Schoenstatt of Indiana. Recently, she took a trip to Pensacola, Florida, and then on to Mobile, Alabama to celebrate her 50th wedding anniversary to her husband, Dick Gardiner.

While in Pensacola, Suzanne attended Mass at St. Ann's Catholic Church near Pensacola in Gulf Breeze. One day Mass celebrant, Monsignor Hunt, gave Suzanne a chance to introduce herself when he asked where the snow birds were from. She replied, "Indiana" which prompted a conversation with Joan Moore, the woman who had been sitting next to her at Mass each morning. Suzanne told Joan she lived in Delphi "...about 20 miles from Lafayette". Joan shared she has family who used to live in Rossville, Indiana.

Joan asked Suzanne if she liked to read because she had a cousin who had written a book called "In the Name of Love" who had once lived in Frankfort, Indiana. Suzanne answered, "Yes, I like to read, and I would love to read your cousin's book". The book talks about the challenges the author's family faced and how their mother's unconditional love kept everyone moving forward.

Well, Suzanne liked the book so much, she finished it in one night and brought it back to Joan the next day. This caused Joan to think she hadn't liked it. When Suzanne assured her she loved the book and

had read it in one night, Joan asked if she would like to meet the author.

As our Lady would have it, Suzanne joined the author, Karen, and her husband, Larry, at Joan's condo overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. As the fog rolled over the beach, they shared stories. Karen's parents, Bill and Georgia Adair, were the family members who had once lived in Rossville, and when visiting them, Karen, Larry and Joan visited St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Delphi, Indiana where Suzanne attends. Since they were all familiar with Delphi and St. Joseph's, Suzanne began sharing with them about Schoenstatt of Indiana and how it had all started in her community. Suzanne says, "Our visit lasted over two hours, and I felt it was truly directed by the Holy Spirit".

The next day, Karen called Suzanne and told her she couldn't sleep thinking about all they had shared and wondering what God's purpose was for bringing them all together.

Karen invited Suzanne to visit and during that visit told her she would like to write our story, so more people would hear of the love and devotion to God and the Blessed Mother which continues to abound in making the Schoenstatt Shrine a reality in our community.

Karen will soon be working on "Color Me Blessed", a book of short stories about experiences and people who have left lasting impressions on her life. Another section of the book will feature compelling stories from people whose lives have been changed with their acceptance and trust in God. She told Suzanne she would like to include the story of Schoenstatt and how it started in our community in this section of her future book.

Before going to Florida, it was discussed at a Development Committee meeting that it is time to write our history, and it seems that Divine Providence has opened the door for it not only to be written, but for it to be published.

As if that was not enough apostolate fruit from Suzanne's journey, Monsignor Hunt gave another St. Ann's of Gulf Breeze parishioner, Nina Cobia, a blessing to start a Schoenstatt Mother's group, and snowbird, Kim Doyle, is starting a new group back home in Minnesota. Please pray with us the Triple Crown for our Mother Thrice Admirable for hearts, funds and a Shrine. May God be praised!

200 Questions

Two and a half years ago, my husband, Gary, and I moved from Concord, North Carolina, back to our home state of Indiana after a twenty-year absence. As we settled into our new life in Lafayette, we naturally began to look for a church, and I, especially, began to look for ways to connect to members of our faith family.

Since I work at Purdue, I began attending daily Mass at St. Tom's on campus and joined an Ignite (Scripture study and discussion) group there.

Soon after, I began hearing about a Marian group which hosted a Holy Hour the third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at St. Tom's called Schoenstatt. Since my husband is a convert to Catholicism, and I was a somewhat poorly-informed cradle Catholic, turned Protestant, turned Catholic, we were both trying to figure out where our Blessed Mother fit into our spiritual life. We both knew she was an extremely important figure in salvation history, we just didn't know where her life and our faith intersected. Nevertheless, while in North Carolina, we had both participated in a 33 Days to Morning Glory consecration to Our Lady.

So, this Schoenstatt movement, seemed a natural way to continue our discovery of and devotion to Our Lady. However, Schoenstatt has its own, unique charism, history, prayers and set of guiding principles which I was beginning to learn. In a way, I liken learning about Schoenstatt to cooking a meal in a slow cooker rather than in a microwave.

First, I began attending the monthly Holy Hour. Next, I was invited to a Garden of Mary meeting at a member's home where Sister Ann Astell gave a wonderful talk. Then, I attended a banquet in Delphi, Indiana. Each time, I left with a greater appreciation of our Lady and those who had determined to call her Mother Thrice Admirable.

Finally, in March of 2018, I was invited to join a group of pilgrims traveling from Lafayette, Indiana to the Schoenstatt International Retreat Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where I was able to meet others, attend classes and spend time in quiet reflection at the shrine. During that two-day retreat, I made a Covenant of Love with Our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

This regular column is called 200 Questions because even though I have made my Covenant of Love, I still have lots and lots of questions and room for growth in this beautiful, Marian movement. And, so I invite you to join me on this journey of discovery as we work our way through the book of the same title *200 Questions about Schoenstatt* written by Schoenstatt Fr. Jonathan Niehaus. The first question, of course, is:

“What is Schoenstatt?”

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 (è 141-150) join to form a single Schoenstatt Family (statistics, è 161).

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 160 replica daughter shrines around the world where people gather for prayer, renewal and inspiration (è Chapter 3).

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 (è 85-89).