



Vol. 2
Issue 2

**Honoring our Mother Thrice Admirable on this
May 18th, 2009 – monthly covenant day**

Please print this and put a copy in your shrine bag to share with those who have no computer.

Dear Schoenstatt brothers and sisters in Christ,

Easter greetings to you all as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost – the greater indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Mary’s spouse. Hopefully you are all having a joyous Easter season. The Gospel readings are full of His love for us and the joy He wishes to make complete, as we remain in Him.

The 18th of every month is a special day of prayer in honor of the founding of Schoenstatt so we are especially graced this day. I hope you are taking the time to open and read Father Nicolas’ meditations when they are sent to you. His article on Easter Joy was especially good. And thank you to Sally with her lovely meditation in this volume.

Happy Pentecost to you all

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MASS AT THE WAYSIDE SHRINE

will replace

ADORATION AND ROSARY THIS MONTH

Please join us in Delphi at the Wayside Shrine with Schoenstatt priest, Father Joy from India. *A Mass will be offered at 5pm, but come early with lawn chairs to join us in a rosary before Mass.* This Wednesday, May 20th, in Delphi

Our Consecration Prayer _____

Our Queen, our Mother, we give ourselves entirely to you. And to show our devotion to you we consecrate to you this day our eyes, our ears, our mouths, our hearts, our entire self without reserve. As we are your own, good Mother, guard us and protect us as your property and possession. Amen.

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*Let us be, O mother, like you
more and more a clear reflection
strong and noble, childlike, true
offering peace and joy, protection.
Yours the task in which we share,
hearts for Christ help us prepare.*

Novena for the Descent of the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven, did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your apostles deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to us, that He may perfect in our souls the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom that we may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal; the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of Your divine truth; the Spirit of Counsel that we may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven; the Spirit of Fortitude that we may bear our crosses with You and that we may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose our salvation; the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know God and ourselves and grow perfect in the science of the Saints; the Spirit of Piety that we may find the service of God sweet and amiable; the Spirit of Fear that we may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark us, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate us in all things with Your Spirit.

<p style="text-align: center;">Are you interested in making the Covenant of Love or having a HOME SHRINE dedicated? questions? contact Janine Reklaitis at irek27@gmail.com A DVD series is available to help you prepare</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AS ALWAYS check out podcasts at http://schoenstattofohio.org/ http://www.schoenstatt.de/ http://schoenstattindiana.org/ http://www.schoenstatt-texas.org</p>
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CHRIST'S MOTHER AND OUR MOTHER, TOO by Sally Faderan

Pope John Paul II said that the story of every human being is written first of all in the heart of his own mother. He added, "No wonder that same thing was true of the earthly life story of the Son of God."

Were Mary to write about Jesus' life story, aspects of her experiences with Him from that holy night of His birth in the cave of Bethlehem, through His young years in her care and of St. Joseph, their harrowing flight into Egypt, the great wonder of that miracle at Cana and oh, the agonies she shared with Him in those dark days of his Passion - these, and more - could make an amazingly exceptional reading!

The night of Jesus' Birth had so moved St. Ambrose who wrote Our Lady the following, "Who can describe your soul's feeling, O Virgin most blessed? On one hand you see a little child born of you, on the other, you perceive the immense God! On one hand, the creature, on the other, the Creator; a weak being, and the mightiest of beings; one who needs nourishment, and one who nourishes; one who does not speak, and one who teaches angels!" We could ask our Lady similar questions, too.

On Fr. Mitch Pacwa's program, "Pilgrimage to the Holy Land," which aired on EWTN this past Christmas, he had a segment where he said mass at the House of Milk near the Church of the Nativity. Legend has it that the Holy Family rested in this house where Our Lady could give the Holy Child better care. As Fr. Pacwa was celebrating mass, the videographer panned his camera all over the altar and then paused to capture a most beautiful picture: that of the Blessed Mother nursing the Baby Jesus! That was a spiritually riveting image! Our thoughts echo St. Ambrose's questions to Our Lady: "Who can describe your soul's feelings? . . .As for us proud mortals, we bend our knees before our Humble Infant God!

From all eternity, Mary was chosen by the Eternal Father to be the helpmate of Jesus in His mission of salvation. Fr. Joseph Kentenich, the founder of Schoenstatt taught that Mary is the associate of Jesus in God's salvific act, that in plans of the eternal God there is no image of Mary apart from Christ. He adds that by the same token, the same eternal decrees have no image of Christ apart from Mary. We also learn the significance of the fact that - in the Bible - Mary spoke only twice. First at the Incarnation when she gave her "Fiat" and at Cana when she directed a petition to Him, "They have no wine." Mary was meant to speak the "decisive word" at "the hour of grace". Both were done with trust in Jesus' divine power and for the good of God's people.

Popes through the life of the Church have extolled the virtues and the great role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Pope Leo XIII wrote: As representative of all humanity, she has the task to communicate divine life to our Lord as mother in the physical sense first, but then also to all God's children as mother in a spiritual sense. He also pointed out that when it is a matter of attaining eternal life, she always and voluntarily comes to our aid in any form of distress, even without our request..."

Pope Pius X saw in her Mary's maternal care and concern especially in apocalyptic times as we are experiencing today. He emphasized that "Mary's heart beats with inexpressible tenderness and motherly solicitude for us and the whole world!"

In our modern times, we had all been edified by Pope John Paul's devotion to Our Blessed Mother, to whom he dedicated his pontificate. As we mark the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima this month, we recall his great love for her, crediting her of saving him from the assassination attempt on his life. It is an act of childlike love that he took the bullet to the image of Our Lady of Fatima and laid it in her crown. He also led the world in the solemn Act of Entrustment of the World on June 7, 1981, and again at Fatima in 1982.

As we celebrate again the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima, we bring to mind the three shepherd children who saw and listened to Our Lady. Jacinta and Francesco were beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 13, 2000, and he called them "two small flames that had been kindled to light up the world." Sister Lucia died on February 13, 2005.

Messages of our Lady at Fatima:

1. Repent of our sins and stop offending God.
2. We should pray. Prayer is the medium of communication with God. Today, human communication (TV, newspapers, internet, movies) shamelessly impose their will, and seem bent on getting rid of prayer altogether.)
3. Pray the Rosary everyday to obtain peace in the world and the end of war.
4. Hell exists and it's possible to end up there. At Fatima, Our Lady taught this prayer, "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of mercy. Amen"

Lucia saw a vision of Our Lady "radiating light, and she held a heart in her right hand and a rosary in her left." Asked what the heart in Our Lady's right hand signify, Lucia answered, "It is a sign of saving love. Her Heart is a refuge. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the means of salvation God has bestowed to help the Church and the world through difficult times."

We need to keep an active prayer life, to receive Our Pilgrim MTA with veneration and realistic acceptance of her visit with joy, with hope, and with renewed apostolic zeal. Each one of us should pray for conversion, for those who do not know God, or ignore Him and His commandments that we honor human life in all its stages and to abide by His moral teachings.

SCHOENSTATT TIDBIT - WHAT IS the "PERSONAL IDEAL"?

The personal ideal or "P.I." is the ideal or mission which God gives to each person. Every person has a personal ideal, even if one is not explicitly aware of it. In this sense it is nothing new. Today, however, when it is so much harder to define and assert one's identity in the face of a much more complex society, it becomes very much an urgent matter to seek out and define the "guiding thought" of God's plan for me.