



Dear Schoenstatt brothers and sisters in Christ,

End of summer greetings to you all. We have had the opportunity to celebrate many feast days for our Mother in August and September. Remembering her strong love for us, we offer her our own love, especially on a special day such as today. I know many of you and your families have prepared something special for her today. Below find several articles prepared as a gift to our Mother Mary to inspire us to deepen our love for her. In our Covenant, Carole DiFabio csdmi@aol.com or 538-2979

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Saturday October 3rd, 8 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
with the Bishop, our own Father Gerold Langsch and other priests
a Crowning of Mary, Queen of our Hearts
in the beautiful month of the Mary and the Rosary.**

see flier previously sent via email for details
and an article below that explores the idea of "crowning"

WHY CROWN OUR BLESSED MOTHER? thoughts from a Schoenstatt retreat

In Schoenstatt to crown our Mother is a way to deepen our relationship with her. The first Schoenstatt crowning was in 1939 when Father Kentenich saw the rise of demonic powers in Europe. He sought to combat this evil with supernatural action and crowned our Mother.

In the crowning of our Blessed Mother we are saying that we trust in her to be TRIUMPHANT in the situation at hand. We can crown in petition or as an act of thanksgiving, but either way it is not a one-time act, but a mutual event that changes our lives. It is mutual in that, just like our Covenant of Love where we give our Mother our heart and she gives us hers, we crown our Mother Queen in great trust and she then expects us to be her royal children. We can crown her everyday if we wish, and we are then called even more to be noble children of our Queen and Mother.

What is a royal child like? Order, purity, discipline, elegance, generosity and cleanliness are just a few of the traits a noble child will exhibit.

- Crowning and Confidence connect
- Crowning is an act of trust and confidence
 - Mother will take care of my needs
 - she is going to pull me through
- This trust comes out of a deep anchoredness in our Blessed Mother
- We must have unshakable childlike confidence

1. Do we actually use our Mother for an intercessor?? Do we say – I crown you as Queen of ___? Now do your part, Mother. I trust you.
 - a. What is our part? A crowning is always a reciprocal thing in Schoenstatt “Nothing without you, nothing without us.”
 - b. There is a deepening in our exchange of hearts – it is a real exchange
 - c. there is a surrender in our crowning

What do we in Lafayette, Indiana intend with the crowning of our Blessed Mother in this Year of the Priest? See the results of our joint thoughts below...

**It was jointly decided to crown her this October 3rd under the title
MARY, QUEEN OF OUR HEARTS
in the family and for our priests**

We **ASK:**

- **Mary to be active** (this acknowledges her power and also her interest) **in the formation of our personality/identity and in the accomplishing of our mission in life.**

and

We **OFFER:**

- our striving to lead a **HOLY** life
- by becoming **PRIESTLY** people (in surrendering ourselves to God and in becoming channels of grace)
- and **ROYAL** people (dignified, virtuous, noble, respectful, etc)

**HISTORIC MOMENT IN
SCHOENSTATT OF INDIANA**

The first Schoenstatt weekend retreat was offered in Indiana by Father Gerold Langsch and Sister Ann Astell, July 17-19 in South Bend IN. It was attended mainly by Schoenstatt Board Members and was focused on preparing us for the Crowning of our Mother to happen this October 3rd. This year's Schoenstatt theme "Child Be Confident – Father Leads" was also incorporated. Other things affecting our retreat were the Year of the Priest and the current economic situation in which we find ourselves.

We, the present Schoenstatt family, were also asked to consider ourselves the foundation stones of the future daughter Schoenstatt shrine it seems our Mother Mary is proposing to bring to Indiana. Should this future shrine become reality it will be built on our Mother's desire and the foundation stones that each of us are who are involved in supporting Schoenstatt at this time. That is an awesome idea to consider as we strive to become "little Marys" in the places we live and work

At the retreat we also considered our level of confidence in God to lead us as Father. He has shown us so many times how He gives us a glorious

outcome to the many trials in our lives, but often we still revert to grumbling, fear and anxiety when we come to a point of crisis. Why is this? Our Schoenstatt founder, Father Joseph Kentenich was completely anchored in our Blessed Mother, and so was never ruffled, not even by being in a Nazi concentration camp, nor by his exile to the United States for 14 years. We are to ask ourselves – in whom are we anchored? Do we trust our Father and Blessed Mother completely? The goal is to say "God, I trust You. You can do anything with me and I say 'yes'."

These crises usually involve suffering. We explored how we can suffer joyfully.

1. We suffer WITH CHRIST – we are more conformed to him and we are not alone
2. We are fulfilling the will or permitted will of the Father, just as Jesus did
3. We can see an end – no suffering is forever
 - in eternity there is NO SUFFERING only permanent JOY, PEACE < HAPPINESS
 - this suffering is only for a "little while"

The previous article explored the theme of the crowning which ended our retreat conferences.

SEE A SONG FOR THE CROWNING on next page

A Song for the Crowning
sung to the tune of “Morning Has Broken”
by Sister Ann Astell

We want to crown you / Crown you, our Mother
 Confidence crowns you / Lead us your way!
 Lead to our Father! / As Jesus taught us,
 He give us succour / Bread for the day

Confidence crowns you, / Childlike surrender
 Gratitude due you / For your great deeds.
 Prais for your witness, / Praise for your courage,
 Walking so fearless, / Where Father leads.

Scoenstatt’s a kingdom / For little children.
 Kingdom of Mary, / Kingdom of Christ.
 Lead to the Father! / Trusting, we follow
 Confidence crowns you / At Calv’rey’s height

Miracles happen! / Wonders of mercy!
 Wine out of water! / Thousands are fed!
 Mary our Mother / We trust your kindness
 To bring God’s Kingdom / “Fiat” you said.

His Kingdom coming, / His will obeying,
 Serving and praying / Hallow His name.
 In Christ you’re winning / Hearts for the Father,
 New life beginning, / Hearts set aflame

From the four corners / Anthems are ringing.
 Crossing the borders, /”They kingdom come!”
 Confidence crowning / Soon wins the vict’ry
 Child’s hope abounding / “Thy will be done.”

We give you “blank check”, / Placing in your hands
 All that we treasure, / All that we love.
 Mary our Mother, / Our Queen and Victress,
 Lead to the Father, / Reigning above!

Lafayette, Delphi! / All Indiana!
 Each of our home shrines.. / they are your throne
 Rule in our heart-shrines! / Reign there forever.
 Our Queen and Mother! / We are your own.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

A suggestion by Sister Ann Astell

Keep a continual novena for priests going. When one novena is over send a note and possibly a copy of the novena to that priest to let him know of your support. Many graces will abound.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

more retreat notes

Father Kentenich said that three aspects of the priesthood need to be in harmony.

1. Jesus Christ as priest
2. the ordained ministerial priesthood
3. priestly lay people see more below

What are the tasks of a priest?

1. to be a priest
 - a. Christ offered himself as a sacrifice for our sins – the sacrificial lamb
 - b. priests are channels of grace from God and to God in the sacraments
 - c. we offer ourselves as sacrifice (also with the priest at Mass) as a sacrifice for our families, etc
2. to be a prophet
 - a. as Christ was
 - b. priests need to teach clear sound doctrine
 - c. the people also can have the vision of looking ahead with God’s eyes
3. to be a shepherd
 - a. who leads, guides, directs by word and example
 - b. knows his sheep, loves his sheep, gives his life for the sheep

How are we being priests, prophets and shepherds???? We know Psalm 23, but do we know the SHEPHERD?? We must know Him in order to be priestly people and to be anchored in all times and all situations.

AS ALWAYS

check out

podcasts at <http://schoenstattofohio.org/>

<http://www.schoenstatt.de/>

<http://schoenstattindiana.org/>

<http://www.schoenstatt-texas.org>

There was no August issue so this article is being included now. Thank you, Sally.

MARY' ASSUMPTION AND QUEENSHIP

by Sally D. Faderan

The dogma of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was pronounced by Pope Pius XII in May, 1954. It is a Feast of the Church celebrated on August 15th. It is not to be confused with Jesus' Ascension when he went up to heaven by His own power. The Feast of the Assumption celebrates Mary's having been taken to heaven to be crowned Queen of heaven and earth. Her Queenship is celebrated on August 22.

Mary was conceived without original sin. She was untouched by sin for she was to become the Mother of God. She was not to be lowered into the dust after her death for her destiny was to be united with her Son in heaven. It means to us that we, humans, "formed from the dust of the earth" have the same destiny: -to be with God in heaven as long as we live as Jesus taught us to, that is, by being faithful to love God and love our brothers as Jesus did. At mass we recite the Nicene Creed and close with the words, "I believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen."

In "Divine Intimacy" St. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., writes that there is a route to that destiny for us. The route is by (1) detachment from the earth, (2) flight to God, and (3) union with God.

- (1) Detachment has something to do with "being IN the world, but NOT OF the world." We are both body and soul. Our body is fed by products of the earth, we need to eat and grow. We are delighted by beautiful things around us and that is good if we see God's beauty and goodness in them. Food is an attractive need but overeating can cause us problems. We wear clothes because they can make us comfortable and they add to our dignity as children of God. When clothes becomes a cause of scandal, it takes away from the respectability of the wearer. Spiritual advisers tell us that anything that distracts another person at mass because of conduct or improper behavior or attire contributes to the sin of others. No one wants to be a cause of the sin of others.

The soul is the center of human activity. It has life, intelligence, and freedom. St. Bonaventure writes that it capable of beatitude and is destined to immortal life.

- (2) Flight into God. Fr. Magdalen writes: "At the mass of the Assumption, the priest says this prayer: "O Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary who was assumed into heaven, may our hearts, enkindled by the fire of Thy love, continually aspire toward Thee." In moments of joy or of pain, we are moved to call upon God because He is the Author of joy and the Healer of pain. In Schoenstatt, we are taught to review during the day our Personal Ideal – that gem of a way of life and of relationship with others that defines who we are.– as we strive to change our weaknesses with virtues. This process keeps us in touch with Mary and keeps us constantly in flight to God.

(3) Union with God. This is the ultimate goal of our life. Mary was assumed to heaven because she is the Mother of God. Her love for, and obedience to God were the same; her humility and purity beyond compare. St. Bernard wrote: "If you cannot imitate Mary's purity, at least, imitate her humility. The virtue of chastity is admirable, but humility is essential. For humility, we have the absolute command" "Unless you become like little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven." We can be saved without virginity, but not without humility. Lucifer was pure but was not humble and pride was his downfall. The fruitfulness of our interior life, or our apostolate, will depend on our humility."

The more the humility of Our Lady, the higher did God reward her. He crowned her Queen of heaven and earth, and with this honor, she continues to look after us, her children, seeking each one us, visiting us in our homes and asking us to be like the Beloved Apostle, St. John, to allow her to come into our lives and into our hearts.