

SCHOENSTATT of Indiana ROSARY CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

**Vol. 2
Issue 4**

**Honoring our Mother Thrice Admirable on this
October 7, 2009 – Our Lady of the Rosary**

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,

Autumn greetings. Many are the colors of our God's love for us and one special "color" given to us to honor, enjoy, learn from and love is our Mother Thrice Admirable. We were able to show our love and dependence on her this past weekend when we crowned her Mary, Queen of Our Hearts. We were sorry that our dear Father Gerold could not be with us due to a broken leg, but our Mother rearranged things perfectly. Sister Ann has written a report on this beautiful event which is included below. Also included is the meditation that she shared during the crowning. Our Mother is surely full of gratitude and graces for those who put so much time and effort into that celebration and Mass. She is especially glad for the confidence we place in her and she will continue to help us be her noble children.

In our Covenant, Carole DiFabio csdmi@aol.com or 538-2979

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

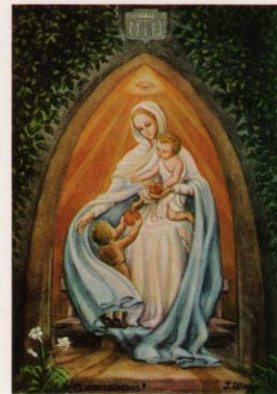
**Sunday, Dec. 6th Advent Afternoon of Recollection in Delphi IN
details coming soon**

**Thursday, October 15th, 7 p.m. Schoenstatt Holy Hour
St. Elizabeth's Chapel**

**Please join us as we continue prayers for our country, our families, our priests
and a Schoenstatt daughter shrine in Indiana**

MOTHER THRICE ADMIRABLE, WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

A large traveling image of our Mother Thrice Admirable has been placed in a place of honor each month in our local Lafayette churches. **See her now, in this month of October, at St. Elizabeth's chapel.** Other churches visited have been Blessed Sacrament, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Lawrence, and St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. She will continue her journey throughout the diocese. Thank you, Mother, for the blessings you bring to our parishes and our people.



**SISTER ANN ASTELL's REPORT ON THE
CROWNING OF MARY, QUEEN OF OUR HEARTS**

**Crowning Report, October 3, 2009
St. Mary's Cathedral, Lafayette, Indiana**

Our MTA must have been delighted to receive her crown in St. Mary's Cathedral from the hands of Bishop William Higi (Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana) under the title "Mary, Queen of our Hearts." Her day of coronation was October 3, the first Saturday in October, a month specially dedicated to her as Queen of the Holy Rosary and the month of Schoenstatt's foundation. It was also the feastday of Saint Theodore Guerin, the recently canonized French missionary Sister who lived, worked, and died in the state of Indiana—our "Hoosier saint," as Bishop Higi referred to her. Truly an ecclesial event, the coronation of our MTA as "Queen of our Hearts" united people and proved our Lady's right to the title "Heart of the Church."

The occasion was indeed a miracle of love and teamwork, involving people from many different parishes and organizations, especially the local Schoenstatt Family and the Legion of Mary, who co-organized the celebration. Fifteen Schoenstatt leaders had prepared for the coronation during a Spirit-filled weekend retreat in South Bend with Fr. Gerold Langsch, who led them in discovering the title, the intentions for the coronation, and the appropriate striving. Filled with zeal, the planning committee invited every priest in the diocese, contacted other Marian organizations to invite their participation, and published announcements in the diocesan newspaper. Before and after the coronation, a large MTA picture is travelling from parish to parish throughout the diocese, to extend the circles of participation in the solemn act of crowning.

It was a chilly, rainy Saturday, and the Holy Mass took place at 8:00 a.m. Despite the early hour and the poor weather, love for our Lady drew many hearts to the cathedral. Between 250 and 300 people—young and old—participated. One of the four priests who concelebrated with the Bishop drove two hours in order to be there for the coronation liturgy. In addition to the Bishop and priests, there were two deacons, three acolytes, and seven Knights of Columbus royally attired in their white plumes, colorful capes, and silver swords. Fifteen minutes before the opening process began, the organist and the violinist began to play Marian hymns, filling the church with heart-swelling melodies in praise of the Blessed Mother.

The program for the liturgy and the sheet with the crowning prayer were beautifully decorated in color with the traditional Schoenstatt paintings of (1) the exchange of hearts between the child and Mary and Jesus and (2) of the children's presentation of pumpkins. (Through some technological marvel and the loving care of Nan Ross, the pumpkins could be turned into hearts!). Each person was also given a holy card with the prayer "My Queen my Mother." The cards were specially made for the occasion, to commemorate the coronation of "Mary, Queen of our Hearts."

At the start of the entrance hymn—the Pilgrim MTA Hymn, sung to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy"—the large MTA picture was carried forward down the aisle to the beautiful, cloth-draped easel in the sanctuary. Children carried flowers forward, to fill the vases arranged below the MTA picture. Representatives of the Legion of Mary carried their banners forward behind the cross-bearer. The salute of the Knights of Columbus added to the regal effect.

The entire Mass was celebrated in a solemn, deeply joyful spirit. A cantor led us in singing the psalm response and the hymns. Due to an accident that injured Fr. Gerold Langsch, he was sadly unable to be with us for the occasion. Deacon Mike Gray gave the homily in his stead. In it he referred to Fr. Joseph Kentenich and St. Louis Grignon de Montfort as holy priests (models for the "Year of Priests"), whose devotion to Mary had exemplified how love for her is a way of loving Jesus. The Prayer of the Faithful included ten petitions, to which we responded: "Give us this day our daily bread." Members of the Focolare Movement carried the offertory gifts of bread and wine. A little girl, Rachel Durbin, carried the crown on a white pillow and presented it to the Bishop, who smiled with delight at her. After Holy Communion I gave a meditation that emphasized the Eucharistic and

ecclesial significance of the inter-personal exchange of hearts and crowns with the Blessed Mother.

The coronation prayer, led by Bishop Higi, followed. Janine Reklaitis, President of Schoenstatt of Indiana, had composed the prayer, which has a wonderful, seven-fold antiphonal structure and expressed the depth of surrender and the urgency of our requests of love, especially for our priests and for the healing and strengthening of family life. A choir of school children then sang “My Queen, My Mother,” standing close to the crowned MTA picture and accompanied by their teacher, a guitarist.

After the coronation, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the altar. A Legion of Mary member led us in the rosary and the Legion prayers, including the Litany of Loretto. During the rosary the Bishop knelt before the altar. People were also given the opportunity to go to confession at this time. A final benediction then closed the coronation liturgy.

People then gathered in Bishops Memorial Hall (the parish center of the cathedral) for a continental breakfast, prepared by the ladies of the parish and by the Schoenstatt leaders. Flowers were at every table. Bishop Higi enjoyed visiting with the people and stayed with us until 11:30 a.m. Janine Reklaitis (spokesperson for Schoenstatt) and Lory Nettles (Legion of Mary representative) thanked everyone for their participation. “Sister, this has been really wonderful,” Bishop Higi told me. He was impressed with the turn-out and the deep level of participation. He also asked me to convey his warm wishes to the Schoenstatt Fathers, Fr. Gerold and Fr. Dieter, at this difficult time and to assure them of his prayers.

Truly our Blessed Mother conquered many hearts on this day of her coronation as “Queen of our Hearts.” Thank you, dearest Mother and Queen!

Crowning Meditation, Oct. 3, 2009

When the angel Gabriel left the little house in Nazareth, Mary’s life had been changed forever by his sudden greeting, by her fiat, by the embryonic Son of the Most High conceived within her womb and living there. *Mary and Jesus—they gave their hearts.* Let us consider, *turn over in our hearts*, what this mystery means for us personally—each one of us. We may tell ourselves: This day, too, the Lord has greeted me through his messenger: “Behold, the Lamb of God.” *My heart has heard his voice.* Like Mary, and with Mary, I have said my “yes,” my Amen to communion with the Lord, to an interweaving of my destiny, my body and soul, with his: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord.” *I have given him my heart.* I may cherish this Eucharistic moment, these minutes of love and surrender, which prepare me for being sent out, from the altar into the arena. Mary carried Christ *beneath her heart* to the home of her cousin Elizabeth. Now I am to bring Christ to others, as she did—Christ in Mary, Christ in me.

If the Eucharist has the power to make each of us more Marylike, that is because the Church herself, the mystical Body of Christ, is Marylike. The Blessed Mother was the first member of the Church—the first to receive the Lord Jesus, the first of his disciples—and she is the purest member, untouched by sin, full of grace, the mirror of his justice. *Mary is the heart of the Church, its immaculate heart.* Therefore she is the great archetype of the Church, crowned in Heaven. Her children should be like her, the Mother of the Church. In her

the Church has already achieved that heavenly beauty for which the Church, in its earthly struggles, longs. In Mary, Christ sees the lovely face of his bride, his own spotless reflection, because he is “bone of her bone, flesh of her flesh.” His human body, like his mystical body, the Church, takes its form from Mary.

As Christ loves to look upon his bride, the Church, to see in her the features of his mother, so we too, in Christ and with Christ and through Christ, want to turn daily to our Mother Mary. Jesus himself told us from the cross: “Behold your Mother.” And so we behold her with love and admiration, and we pray: “Mother, you are beautiful. *Gladly my heart turns to you.* My greatest joy shall ever be to form your image within me.”

“I consecrate to you this day *my heart*”—all that it loves, all that it cares about, all that it feels and desires. And you give your heart, and the heart of your Son, in return to me, so that I may love all that you love—everything that is good and noble and pure, everything that God loves and wills. How you love Jesus! Exchange of hearts! Exchange of crowns! Let me, let us, be like you, Blessed Mother, for Jesus’ sake and for the sake of his Church.

We give you our hearts, that you may be the Queen of our hearts. Accept the crown we offer you this day as a sign of our love for you, our surrender to you, and make us, in return, a living crown for our Lord, as Isaiah prophesied long ago: “You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of your Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God” (Isaiah 62:3). Amen.

submitted by Sister Ann Astell