

Honoring our Mother Thrice Admirable on this
Gaudete Sunday and *hidden* Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12, 2010



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



You know the way for me, you know the time;
Into your hands I trustingly place mine.
Your plan is perfect, born of perfect love.
You know the way for me, that is enough.

I trust your might, your kindness, Mother dear.
I do believe that you always near.
Schoenstatt's great Queen, O Mother Mild,
I blindly trust in you and in your Child.

SIMPLY SCHOENSTATT...from Janine – President

Dear Schoenstatt Family,

Light and Lively: I am still munching on the chocolate Hershey kisses which the children handed out to us at our Advent Family celebration on December 4th. They shared these treats with us right after their presentation of a lively skit--with some very rapid costume changes-- on the life of our founder and Father Joseph Kentenich. Fourteen children participated in this skit "produced and directed" by Julia Haskell with the help of her able assistants, Susana Venis and Rosemary Speaker. After supper, even more children lined up to receive their own bags of goodies from a truly witty and jolly Saint Nicholas and his elf Tim Durbin.

This was our fourth Schoenstatt Family Advent event in Delphi, based on the theme for this year's motto "Father, give us your light". We were fortunate to have Father Gerold Langsch gather us all in during the snowy afternoon with his inspiring talks and his unique way of drawing out from our hearts thoughts and reflections which benefited the whole group. He encouraged us in many ways; and urged us not to be pre-occupied with ourselves, but rather to focus the spotlight upon our neighbors. We started out small in numbers, because of the weather conditions. But Honan Hall kept on steadily filling up with young and old and, by the time our new Bishop Timothy Doherty arrived, we had a crowd ready to enjoy the tasty supper which Gloria Thompson had prepared. All received beautiful programs and prayer cards prepared by Nan Ross. Bishop Doherty was gracious in his greetings to us and seemed to enjoy the family atmosphere.

Home Shrine Dedications: Father Gerold had been up before dawn on the morning of December 4 as he traveled to Indiana all the way from Ohio, where he had spent the week busily presenting various programs. Despite the icy roads, he made it safely for the two home shrine dedications. The first was at the home of Daniel and Rosa Salazar, who with their four children made their Covenants of Love. Their Shrine is named "Morning Star." A special grace from Our Lady was a brief article featuring the Salazars' auto sales business which appeared in our local paper that same morning! Then, onward in a caravan of cars through the snow covered fields to the home of Denise and Jeff Craig for the dedication of their "Spiritual Mother" Shrine.

It was a beautifully white and wonderful day filled with the warmth of Our Lady in a special way! As we continue this Advent Season and prepare for the coming of the **TRUE LIGHT** into our world, we encourage you to consider welcoming the Child Jesus as He is held in the arms of Our Mother Thrice Admirable with the dedication of a home shrine in your OWN HOME.

Yours truly, Janine

see last article for more about Father Langsch's talks

I'm Your Mother

This is a song to honor our Lady of Guadalupe by Marty Rotella and Ed Sansanelli, but which fits so well our desires in Indiana to build a Schoenstatt shrine in the future for our Mother Thrice Admirable. This song was brought to us a few years ago by Suzanne Gardiner. The words are beautiful and the music opens one's heart. It also follows the theme in Janine's letter about welcoming Jesus and Mary with the dedication of your own home shrine so that she can "build" a home in you.

I'm your Mother. Give your love to me.
Put your trust in me. I'm your Mother.
I'm your Mother. God gave you to me.
I gave Him to you. I'm your Mother.

Joseph and I made ready a stable, then a home
For the King of Kings, my Son, Jesus the Lord.

I'm your Mother. Honor me endlessly.
Please have faith in me. I'm your Mother.
I'm your Mother. Build a house for me
For the world to see. I'm your Mother.

My home is your home. My house will be yours, too.
Build for me, so I can build in you.

I'm your Mother. Give your love to me.
Put your trust in me. I'm your Mother.
I'm your Mother. God gave you to me.
I gave Him to you. I'm your Mother.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**December 16th, Thursday, will be our Schoenstatt Holy Hour
at St. Elizabeth's Chapel at 7 pm**

Please join us for reflections, quiet adoration, song, rosary and benediction.

ADVENT AND THE INCARNATION

by Sally D. Faderan

We all know what waiting is like. For the gardener, it is planting a seed and waiting with great expectations for it to grow into a tree that will bear fruit. To parents, it is waiting for that little one in the womb – the gift of life God has entrusted into their care so that, in due time, they would have a baby for whom they will invest time and great affection so that their child will grow to be a beautiful productive adult. These are examples of how we wait for those events that we know are worth the wait and will give us joy.

We know that the period before the coming of Jesus was a painful time for the people of God to wait for the coming of the Messiah Who was promised by the prophets of their time. Nothing compares with the longing and the expectation that ached in their hearts for they lived "in the dark" and waited for the Light of the world: the Redeemer.

It is this kind of attitude that we are asked to focus on during this Advent days. The Advent wreath helps us mark the exciting weeks progressing into Christmas Day – the day when we commemorate the coming of Jesus into our world to teach us how to live in His ways. More than just the attitude, we are to break away from our spiritual lethargy. St. Paul addresses this to us in his words: *“Brethren it is now the hour. . .to rise from sleep.”*

We have learned that Jesus is the Word of God. The power of God’s love for us allowed the Son to fulfill the ancient prophecy. St. Bonaventure writes, “The mystery of the Trinity is rooted in the mystery of the Father Who is Source and Goal of all reality. The Father is indeed, “Father” because in the diffusion of good, He (infinitely) generates a Son. He is the infinitely first principle of the Godhead.” About Jesus, Hans Urs Von Balthasar describes the coming of Jesus in these words, “Already the way from the bosom of the Father to the womb of the Mother is a path of OBEDIENCE. . .one which is trod on mission of the Father. ‘See, I come to do Your will.’” (Heb10:71) (The Threefold Garland)

In “Simply Bonaventure”, this great Saint and theologian believes that the sin of mankind was not the primary motivation. The first reason, he says, is that God’s infinite power, wisdom and goodness are manifested in the Incarnation – the work of the Trinity, for: “the Power of God is the Father, the Wisdom of God is the Son, and the Goodness of God is the Spirit.” Thus, in the Incarnation, the Triune God is expressed in history.

The second reason, the Incarnation happened for the perfection of the universe. Since the first (principle), God, should be joined with the last (humanity), it is fitting that the word be united to human nature. Put in a scholarly but dynamic language, “Christ and the world are not accidentally related but intrinsically connected.”

The last reason for the Incarnation, according to Bonaventure is that, in order to overcome infirmity of human sin, it was necessary to have a God-man as mediator. Thus, while sin is a reason for the Incarnation, it is not the primary reason. (Xavier Pancheri, “The Universal Primacy of Christ”) Back to Bonaventure, these words come powerfully: “The Incarnation is not the work of God to repair a defect in creation. Rather the Incarnation is the most noble perfection of the universe and Christ is the crown and summit of perfection.”

Zachary Hayes in his “Incarnation and Creation” has this beautiful statement, “Sin is not the primary reason for the Incarnation. Love is.” He also says that it is in a well-ordered love shared between God and creation because “where there is perfect love, there is perfect order, and where there is perfect order, there is justice and peace.”

Advent then is a time to “apply the heart.” – the opening of our heart to love God and neighbor, inspired by Ezekiel’s words: *“I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking your bodies, your stony hearts, and giving you new hearts.”* (Ezek. 36:27)

Angela of Foligno wrote: “As we see, so we love. The more purely and perfectly we love.” (“Complete Works”, 242) Thus, “where there is unity of love, there is the Trinity, and where the Trinity is, there is happiness and love.”

With these rich teachings of great saints, may we await with pure and joyful hearts the coming of Jesus on that first Christmas Day, with even greater fervor and depth each time we receive Him in Holy Communion and in adoring Him at our Adoration Chapels, with the prayer that on His final coming, - with our Blessed Mother’s continued intercession for our salvation - we be among those whom Jesus shall call to join Him and adore Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

COME, LORD JESUS, COME!
HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR OF HAPPY DAYS!

AN OVERVIEW OF FATHER GEROLD'S TALKS

by Carole DiFabio

Janine, in her Simply Schoenstatt letter, gave a wonderful introduction to the talks given by Father Gerold in Honan Hall in Delphi, Indiana on December 4th, 2010. Due to weather we were few in number at first and, so after a brief overview of the outline he brought (attached as a PDF file), Father opened the floor to suggestions of what would most interest us. He was asked to explain the three A's of Schoenstatt, listed as attachments, attitude and atmosphere under the section about becoming a holy family.

FIRST TALK

The family needs renewing and, as suggested by St. Louis De Montfort, this can take place with Mary, for Mary, like Mary and through Mary. The first A is for attachments and is Schoenstatt's counter to the uncommitted, uprooted society in which we live. We do not stay anchored. In normal development we need to become attached to persons, places and ideas. So first we must grow roots and live "WITH Mary". We must grow roots in the hearts of Jesus and Mary, in our family members, and in our parishes. We must know that we are sheltered in the heart of a noble person – Mary. If we are attached to Mary we have a greater chance of staying anchored spiritually. That is why the Covenant of Love is offered. This is a mutual covenant relationship and it is the task of our Blessed Mother to help us be solid and free personalities, to be anchored and stay together as a family. We attach ourselves to her and offer her all our strivings – we do all FOR Mary.

We are also attached to places. Events become localized. We can remember where we were when we heard the news about 9/11, or where our first kiss with our future spouse was, or where our children were born. And so in Schoenstatt we have an attachment to the Original Shrine where our Mother Thrice Admirable has poured out so many graces and which creates a desire to have our own Home Shrine. We are also attached to ideas – ideas about our Catholic teachings, our Faith, the commandments, freedom, etc. Schoenstatt calls us to constant self education so that we can grow solid in our knowledge and attachment to our Faith.

The second "A" is for attitude. In our attitude we are to be LIKE Mary. It is our Blessed Mother who has to help us change our attitude. We must leave behind the bitter, the critical, the negative and grow in our inner conviction of God's plan and personal love in our lives. People and events influence us and we, in turn, influence others. Can we improve our attitude towards those God has put in our lives? Can we look for the good and the beautiful in each person and situation? This makes all the difference in the atmosphere of our home.

Atmosphere is the third "A". Your family is educated through the atmosphere created in your home. The Home Shrines, THROUGH our Mother's constant presence in your home, help create an atmosphere that is joyful, open, forgiving, and accepting. It is in an atmosphere of love that people grow to their potential. We are to become living shrines, attached to Mary. We do not have to be stressed and uptight. We can choose through our attitude to have a different atmosphere in our homes and workplaces.

In brief, ATTACHMENT to Mary helps change our ATTITUDE, which helps create an ATMOSPHERE of love.

SECOND TALK

Father Gerold was asked to speak to the common occurrence of family members estranged from the Faith and what role we should have in bringing them back. Father shared openly about his own siblings and how he has come to see this situation. Faith has to do with love. And no one came make you love them, not even God. So if faith has to do with love, then we are to love them – period. We are to be victim souls for our families. This is not limited to what we do for them spiritually, but it includes our own sanctification. I sanctify myself for them. We cannot push or shove, we can only live joyfully and thankfully to the fullest the Faith that we have been given and have accepted. In this we are allowed to help our Jesus and Blessed Mother redeem our families. So say thank you for your Faith and believe joyfully on your own and trust that God is allowing you to "catch them" as they fall and bring them to Him.

He was also asked to speak to the issue of Mary and the Trinity. He said that if we are Marian we are Trinitarian. He quoted Father Ed Carter of Cincinnati as saying (and I may have to give you a better version of this quote in the next issue, since I forgot to ask Father to verify what I had written) “Jesus said, ‘If you want to be close to Me then be close to My Mother. The Holy Spirit will transform you into a better likeness of Me, so you will be more pleasing to the Father” In other words, we are born of the Holy Spirit and transformed in Mary, His Spouse. Our Covenant of Love is to bring God in us to life. Mary says “Love my Son. Obey Him. Cherish Him.etc”

And then he talked a little about Heaven also, since he has given many talks on this subject this past year. The Saints and the deceased 1) give us an example 2) intercede for us to God and 3) are actively involved in our lives coming from God to us. We live Heaven, Purgatory and Hell on earth. We have the opportunity to make choices. Some choose to make life a living hell for others. We, however, are made for Heaven. We are supposed to be mature, whole, and perfect. He prepares us by taking away things one by one so that we are happy to leave the human side of things at a certain point. Heaven = Love=Union=God at the center. We need to create a little bit of Heaven here on earth. In our homes we have the choice to make life Heaven for others. Do I really listen to others? Do I put others before myself? We need to come out of self and our self centeredness in order to advance towards our beautiful Heaven and to create a piece of it here today.

AS ALWAYS check out

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submitted with love for Mary, our Mother Thrice Admirable and for the countless conversions
as the result of her appearance as Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico,
and in thanksgiving for the JOY of the coming of Emmanuel – God is with us!!

by Carole DiFabio.

Contact csdmi@aol.com

with questions, corrections or articles of your Schoenstatt experience that you would like to submit