

Vol. 3  
Issue 2

**Honoring our Mother Thrice Admirable and her  
husband, Joseph, on this March 19, 2010  
The Solemnity of Saint Joseph**

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



**A statue of Saint Joseph is on the left side in all Schoenstatt shrines. The first one was originally presented to Father Kentenich in 1933, who then presented it to the original shrine. The Saint Joseph statue in the original shrine was replaced in 1953 with a version showing Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.**

St. Joseph was honored also during the Schoenstatt Holy Hour last evening. Father Cajetan joined us and gave us benediction. We thank him deeply for the extra blessing of his presence in our time of praying the rosary, meditation, adoration and singing. Please join us next month at 7pm on Thursday, April 15th at St. Elizabeth's. Our presence gives much pleasure to our Mother Thrice Admirable and our dearest Jesus. St. Joseph, pray for us.

**SIMPLY SCHOENSTATT...FROM JANINE**

Our efforts during the months of February and March have been targeted towards the long awaited spring. Specifically, we are preparing for Mary's Month of May and our "Mutual Covenant of Love" Day. This will be our Spring Day of Recollection held on Saturday, May 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Lawrence. We will be including Holy Mass as well.

This day in May will be focused on the very specific theme of Covenant. It will culminate with making afresh and renewing again Covenants of Love with Our Blessed Mother. In preparation for May 22, we encourage those of you who have not yet made your Covenant of Love to take this opportunity and do so. **We have two workshops starting for this purpose: one led by Suzanne Gardiner in the Delphi area (765-564-2942). The second is led by Rosemary Speaker in the Lafayette area (765-463-7510).** Please call them! There is still time to join a workshop. The preparation is effectively simple and the spiritual benefits are immense. Father Gerold Langsch is eagerly anticipating a good number of Covenant makers, doers, and shakers! He will be dedicating Home Shrines as well. Kindly contact me for this at jrek27@gmail.com.

Please continue to be united in heartfelt prayers for Father Dieter's health. In an update, our spiritual director Sister Barbara writes: "All are still praying for Father Dieter. Certainly, the prayers will be heard.

We do not yet know if it is in the plan for a physical miracle or for the continued interior strength to follow Jesus to Calvary through this very difficult situation [which] is the miracle. So, you see prayers are needed and greatly appreciated."

And in keeping with the saying "The Last shall be First," let me, in this final paragraph, highlight five of our Schoenstatt of Indiana Inc. board members who serve as our officers. In our times, the word "serve" is often used very casually and even carelessly. However, I use it with the deepest respect to characterize the work that our officers do. They have titles, of course:

- Don Faderan, Secretary
- Bill Strasburger, Treasurer
- Gloria Thompson, Assistant Treasurer
- Barbara Strasburger, Vice-President
- Rosemary Speaker, Executive Vice-President.

Their titles do not begin to cover or to convey their selfless sacrifices and work on Our Lady's behalf. To know these officers is to love them. Remember that Mary Our Mother is our President and Chairperson. We are her instruments.

With Love,  
Your Acting Prez, Janine Reklaitis

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**MAY 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our Spring Day of Recollection  
at St. Lawrence – Thank you, Father Dan.  
9am-3pm including Holy Mass**

with Father Langsch and some of our dear Schoenstatt Sisters.  
This will be a day of much joy and grace during our Mother's month of May.

**Are you interested in making the  
Covenant of Love  
or having a HOME SHRINE dedicated?  
questions? contact Janine Reklaitis at  
[jrek27@gmail.com](mailto:jrek27@gmail.com)  
A DVD series is available to help you prepare  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> would be a perfect day for this**

**AS ALWAYS  
check out**  
podcasts at <http://schoenstattofohio.org/>  
<http://www.schoenstatt.de/>  
<http://schoenstattindiana.org/>  
<http://www.schoenstatt-texas.org>

### THE CROSS: MARK OF CHRISTIANS

by Sally D. Faderan

I remember a school principal of a diocesan school asking a class, "What is the first thing you see in a classroom that tells you that you are in a Catholic school?" The frequent answer is, "We see a crucifix."

In this Lenten season, we cannot help but reflect on the Passion of Jesus, and the symbol of His victory over sin and death: the Cross. While reading again "God Alone" by St. Louis de Montfort, I was struck by this line: "Jesus loved the Cross from His infancy. . ." (p.96) and also that "while in His Mother's womb, He received it from His Eternal Father." From all eternity, it was the Father's plan to send His beloved Son to come to this world of ours to save us. And so, we look at the Cross as the throne from which He saved us. "Never the Cross without Jesus, or Jesus without the Cross" (de Montfort).

How should we regard the Cross? How should we regard pain and suffering? We need not go far to see that suffering is all around us – sickness, the anxieties over the bad state of our economy, the threat to our safety, the disharmony in families, the disastrous earthquakes in Haiti, Okinawa, and Chile, etc.

As Bishop Fulton Sheen write in his book, "Life is Worth Living", our capacity for pain is greater than our capacity for pleasure. Life in this world is marked more by suffering than pleasure because true happiness is not found here – that is reserved for the life hereafter if we live by God's commandments.

Fulton Sheen lists the subject of pain and suffering into three parts:

1. What pain and suffering does to us
2. How to meet it
3. Why there is suffering

"Sickness invites us to heaven or to hell" (Franz Werfel). When we are in pain, we tend to become selfish, bitter and almost tyrannical. On the other hand, it can help us see beyond our pain, realize that we are dependent on the help of others, that we can unite our suffering with Jesus and be blessed in the process.

Bishop Sheen advises us to think about Jesus Crucified, with the Good Thief and the Bad Thief flanking him. The Bad Thief concentrated on his ego, challenging Jesus to "Save Thyself and us, too, if Thou art the Christ." The Good Thief chided the Bad Thief saying that they deserved their sentence but that Jesus had not done anything bad. So he turned to Jesus and said one simple thing, "Remember me when Thou comest to Thy

Kingdom.” That thief, writers like to say, “stole” Paradise in an instant.

How are we to meet suffering? Bishop Sheen writes, “We do it with love. Pain without love is hell. Suffering with love is sacrifice.” Parents know what loving with sacrifice means. Anyone who truly loves knows this.

One of the most meaningful ways by which to bear suffering is to read St. Paul’s testimony on God’s reasons for withholding healing him of the “thorn in the flesh “ that was given to him. He asked God to take it away from him three times, and God’s answer to him was: “**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.**” (2 Cor.12: 7-9). This calls for us to submit to the holy will and the loving Providence of God for He knows best what is good for us. It inspires us to think that the greater our suffering, the more the graces we receive, provided that we respond to Jesus’ call to “Come, follow Me.”

Why is there suffering? Asked at one of His Sunday TV programs this question, Fr. Groeschel had a quick, if a bit caustic answer: ”This world is NOT Disneyland!” We have to go back to God’s words to our first parents when they disobeyed God. The life that would be theirs on earth was not to be the Paradise that they had lost. We are all in it for the pains, but Jesus’ saving power is our hope. Eternal love is worth our sacrifices.

We look to Mary to be our model for she was, as Bishop Sheen wrote, “the Mother of Sorrows” and yet the “Cause of our Joy.” Our Schoenstatt motive for sacrifice is to contribute to the “Capital of Graces.” It is the token with which we gain an abundance of graces.

From Fulton Sheen’s prolific pen comes this poem:

I slipped His fingers, I escaped His feet  
I ran and hid, for Him I feared to meet.  
One day I passed Him, fettered to a Tree  
He turned His Head, looked, and beckoned me.

Neither by speed, nor strength could He prevail  
Each hand and foot was pinioned by a nail.  
He could not run and clasp me if He tried,  
But with His eye, He bade me reach His side,  
For pity’s sake thought I, I’ll set you free.

‘Nay – hold this Cross,’ He said, ‘and follow Me.’  
‘This yoke is easy, this burden light,  
Nor hard or grievous if you wear it tight’  
So did I follow Him Who could not move  
An uncaught captive in the hands of Love..

### **MARCH SCHOENSTATT TIDBIT - WHAT IS the COVENANT OF LOVE?**

--Fr. Jonathan Niehaus, *200 Questions about Schoenstatt*, 3<sup>rd</sup> rev. ed., 2005 .

The act of consecration to Mary as the Mother Thrice Admirable instills a deeper relationship with Mary and gives one full participation in the stream of life and graces originating in the covenant of 1914 and flowing from the Shrine. Each new member contributes in a unique way to the original covenant, enhancing and enriching it, even while the covenant enhances and enriches the life of each member.

The Schoenstatt consecration was always understood as a mutual covenant between Mary and those who consecrated themselves to her in the Shrine. theologically, it was understood as a specific way of fulfilling the injunction of Our Lord before He died: “Woman, behold your son....Son, behold your Mother” (Jn 19,26f).

**FIND OUT MORE IN THE ARTICLE BELOW AND THRU THE DVD series being presented in Delphi and Lafayette. See the Simply Schoenstatt column for details.**

## OUR MUTUAL COVENANT OF LOVE

*SCHOENSTATT COVENANT OF LOVE. Introduction into Schoenstatt, vol. 4,  
Compiled by Sr. M. Thomasine Treese, Waukesha, Wisconsin, 1983.*

Mary's mission as our great educator also takes place within and through the Covenant of Love.

### *Education through the Covenant of Love*

“Our Mother and Queen educates us in a very special way by choosing us as her partners in the covenant of love. Covenant partners must grow in likeness so together they can accomplish their common task. This covenant is a mutual agreement in which we are not only the recipients, but also the givers. We have the right to ask for favors and cry out to her in our great need. But we are also obliged to fulfill our part of the covenant agreement. The duties and rights of the partners which were expressed in very clear and definite terms in the first covenant, are the same for every covenant...”

Our first duty in our covenant agreement is our own striving for holiness.  
But we work on self-sanctification out of a spirit of love for others.

### *Education through proofs of love*

“Our Lady educates us by the many proofs of love and gifts of grace which she showers upon us. Could we only be more open and receptive! In Schoenstatt, Mary unfolds her activity as our great educator. However, she can only educate us when we allow her to do so and open ourselves for her inspirations. Love is creative. If we truly love our covenant partner we will discover countless different ways through which we can expose ourselves to her educational influence.”

### *Specific way of apostolic activity*

“Schoenstatt not only inspires us to answer specific apostolic needs; it also offers us a very effective way to make everything in life fruitful for the apostolate. As partners in the covenant of love we offer the Blessed Mother our **contributions to the capital of grace** so she can fulfill her part of the covenant by distributing abundant gifts and graces to all in need. The more contributions of prayers and sacrifices, of joys and sufferings, of significant and insignificant deeds we offer, the more gifts and graces she can channel from the shrine to those in need. Thus we can be apostolically active at every moment of our day, no matter what we do or which position we hold. Divine grace is much more powerful than our own words and deeds for others. Through our contributions to the capital of grace more people can be reached and affected by divine grace than we could ever accomplish by our own power.”

**IN THIS YEAR FOR PRIESTS**  
**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ALL PRIESTS,**  
especially those who serve us in Schoenstatt

respectfully submitted by Carole DiFabio, [csdmi@aol.com](mailto:csdmi@aol.com)  
in thanksgiving for His Love and Providence and for those who contributed articles ☺  
A BLESSED LENT AND EASTER TO YOU ALL