

**Honoring our Mother Thrice Admirable and  
her spouse ,the Holy Spirit, on this May 23rd, 2010  
this Pentecost Sunday**



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

**Priestly and free – he loves me!  
Schoenstatt theme for the Year for Priests  
100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Kentenich's ordination, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Happy Pentecost greetings as we culminate our Easter season with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit while returning this week to the Ordinary Season in the Church. How blessed we are that “ordinary” for the Catholic includes grace upon grace in daily prayers, Masses and confession and an ever deepening awareness of God's love for us.

One of the ways that we in Schoenstatt experience His special love is in the call to deepen our relationship with His Mother with a Covenant of Love. At the end of our Day of Reflection yesterday there were approximately 25 people who sealed their love at this deeper level. There were also four families who deepened their love even more by establishing a Schoenstatt Home Shrine. Sally mentions these two items in her article “Mary, Full of Grace”. Attached you will find some pictures of this gathering.

Our President, Janine, sent me a Simply Schoenstatt column, however my computer could not read it and since she is traveling her column will return with the next issue.

We, however, have a special contributor in this newsletter...Father Gerold Langsch ... who shares a sermon for the birthday of our Schoenstatt Father Dieter who suffered a stroke back in October of 2009. He has not gotten better yet and so Father Gerold also suffers as he witnesses the suffering of his “brother” and friend, who has been such a gentle and faithful priest to Schoenstatt and to us all. Father Gerold shares with us his insight into suffering when one is deeply rooted in God and when one loves God in abandonment. He shared some of these thoughts with us at our Day of Reflection Saturday and was asked for a copy of this sermon, which he graciously sent to the Board Members and which we are sharing with you. His words might help you in your present trials and suffering. Thank you, Father Gerold and thank you, Father Dieter. Please keep them both in your prayers.

In the Joy of Pentecost, Carole DiFabio [csdmi@aol.com](mailto:csdmi@aol.com) or 765-538-2979

**Father Dieter's Birthday Celebration or Father Dieter Lessons  
February 14, 2010 at Clement Manor, Milwaukee  
Sermon of Fr. Gerold M. Langsch**

Dear Fr. Dieter,

What a birthday! A year ago you celebrated your 70<sup>th</sup> and we all really celebrated. Now this year, it's different. We have come to Clement Manor to be with you, to express a little bit of what we feel deep down inside: a deep, deep gratitude for what you are going through for yourself and for us.

Yes, **gratitude**. The Lord has given you a new task for your priesthood. Your preaching is now the testimony of your life, of your love, of your acceptance, of your most profound suffering. A deep suffering in mind, heart and body. God took away your ability to speak, to walk, to do the things you were used to. Instead he took you along on his journey to the cross. He wants you to hang on the cross in silence.

And if I have ever **admired** you, I am admiring you now. I and we all feel with you. We suffer with you, and I have cried over and over with you and for you.

So, we have come to thank you and to express our **support** for you in your interior and exterior battle for acceptance and recovery. We know how hard that must be for you. Having to say yes to the will of God is always hard, but it is much, much harder when it includes having to give up everything, everything. At least, that's what it looks like now.

But we are also here to tell you that we believe in **miracles**. The miracles of physical healing through the intercession of Fr. Kantenich. We have been praying so hard all over this country where they know you and where you have traveled; they all pray for the miracle of healing. Now, of course, being part of Schoenstatt, we know that the Blessed Mother wants to give us all the miracles we need on the spiritual level. And wouldn't that be the **greater miracle**, if you and all of us could **say yes to the will of God in the easy and in the most difficult situations of our life**. The miracle of being open for the big and small crosses in our life?! That's what I want to draw as a lesson for myself in accompanying you in your suffering: the willingness to accept suffering and to let it become fruitful for our priestly life.

There we see you **hanging on the cross** with Jesus, hanging on the cross in silence. What a lesson you give us in learning to speak the language of silence. The language of the heart, the language of inner joy, the language of love. Caritas Patris! The Father's love has become manifest in you in a new dimension. Your whole being shows the *sacrificial love* of Jesus, the *obedient love* of surrender, the *joyful love* of self-giving.

Today we are here from all the different branches of the Schoenstatt family, the League, the Federation, the Institute. We just concluded a weekend for the 3. Federation course. They greet you, they send their prayers, they join their sacrifices with yours for a real recovery. We all want to thank you, to show our support for you and to join our prayers with yours for a full recovery – if this is the will of the Father. **The full recovery of our own will in submitting to the will of God the Father**, that would be the greatest miracle of all. But what a difficult one!

Dear Fr. Dieter, again, thank you for your loyalty! Thank you for your pain! Thank you for being you. We love you. We not only pray for you, we want to strive with you to please the Father, to please our Mother and Queen in all we do.

## MARY, FULL OF GRACE

Sally D. Faderan

“God, the Father, gathered all the waters together and called them *seas*. He gathered all his graces together and called them *Mary*.” Thus wrote Francois Poire, SJ in his “Crown of Excellence.”

We have learned that at the Incarnation, the Angel called Mary “full of grace.” In the Greek language the word *charis* has the same root as “joy” and “rejoice.” In short, grace is joy.

In a book entitled “Mary, the Church and the State” by Hans von Balthazar and then Cardinal Benedict Ratzinger, the idea that grace is a relational term is given. One who is in a state of grace has a connection of himself and God.

No one has this uniquely perfect fullness of grace as the Blessed Virgin Mary, and no one has this powerful connection with each of the Three Persons of the Trinity as she. Because of her role in the salvation of mankind, she was immaculately conceived and lived a life of prayerful relationship with God. As a little girl she went to the Temple and spent her days in prayer and deep devotion to God.

God the Father elected her to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus. To her did he impart his fruitfulness. The Son became man for our salvation but only in Mary and through Mary. The Holy Spirit overshadowed her at the Incarnation and espoused her to him.

A holy relationship with God and with others is the effect of grace and the Blessed Mother showed this during her lifetime. When she went in haste to take care of her cousin, Elizabeth, that was grace –or love – in

action. Not moved by the noble title of divine motherhood, but more by the desire to take Jesus to Elizabeth's family, that was the motive. Jesus is the focus of this visit and He did anoint John, his cousin, to be the Baptizer. She is the Christ Bearer and she teaches us to follow her example.

During the Wedding feast at Cana, Mary must have had a deep connection with the people there and with the disciples of Jesus. How she must have had a happy time with them, until she discovered the lack of wine. Desiring to prevent the newlyweds from embarrassment, she asks Jesus to help. Knowing the heart of her Son, she ordered the servants to "do what He tells you to do." Hearts full of grace can invoke the aid of God as she did here – and does even in our times.

In times of great challenges, as during the Passion of her Son, her Faith in God must have been the strongest, for suffering takes us to a stronger connection with God. She knew first hand the cruel rampage of a Herod, the treachery of a Judas, the sure aim of a Longinus' lance that pierced the side of her crucified Son. From her we ask the grace of courage, of perseverance, of faithfulness even when everything seems unbearable.

St. Louis de Montfort in "God Alone" writes: "Just as in natural and bodily generation, there is a father and a mother, so in the supernatural generation there is a father, who is God, and a mother who is Mary. All the children of God have God as their father and Mary for their mother. Anyone who does not have Mary for his mother does not have God for his father." (Paraphrase of St. Cyprian's)

May is one of the months we dedicate to Mary. We are blessed that the Schoenstatt of Indiana will hold a Reflection Day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and we shall have the grace of Fr. Gerold Langsch and Sr. Ann Astell to give talks on our relationship with our Mother Thrice Admirable. Climaxing this one day gathering will be the Covenant of Love and the dedication of the Home Shrines of Bach & Charisse Bacurio, Gary & Rachel Nodalo, Mac & Jenny Sison, and Murph & Carole DiFabio of Lafayette, IN. If our favorite TV star or famous speaker were to come to town, how eager would we reserve that day and go see him/her? Here the graces of Schoenstatt's MTA await us. Shouldn't we make time to avail ourselves of the incredible graces that she will pour out to those who will attend?

Highlight of the day will be the making the "Covenant of Love", the Schoenstatt beautiful grace-filled rite for those who make it. It is an exchange of our sacrifices and gifts with our MTA's blessings and protection, hoping to sanctify our lives, and to seek the larger goal, which is the greater moral and spiritual renewal of the Church through Mary's intercession. Praying that we receive abundant graces from Mary, we hope to be effective instruments in building God's kingdom right where we are.

Imploring the aid of our Mother Thrice Admirable, we pray:

All I experience today, What I say and what I dare  
All my thoughts and all my actions, What I love and what I merit  
All that I direct and conquer, All my joys and all my sorrows,  
I give to you as a gift of love.  
Use it so the holy stream of grace flows richly from the Shrine  
To win hearts for Schoenstatt  
Lead there all those whom you have chosen  
That the work of the Triune God may be fruitful. Amen.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**June 17<sup>th</sup> will be our Schoenstatt Holy Hour  
at St. Elizabeth's Chapel  
7 pm**

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

