



Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign Newsletter



Nothing without you, nothing without us!



Volume 4 Issue 3 Happy Mother's Day, MTA May 8, 2011

Greetings in this Glorious Easter Season and Mary's Month!

I want to give you all an update of the work your Schoenstatt board has been doing for our Mother Thrice Admirable in this lat month.

In April, we had separate visits from two of our Spiritual Directors and are looking forward to a third in May!

On April 2-4, Sister Ann Astell was in town as she traveled from Notre Dame to Purdue and then flew back to Princeton U. Twelve of us met with her for a congenial visit and brunch. The development committee, headed up by Rosemary Speaker and including Suzanne Gardiner and Julia Haskell, shared their plans for beautifying the Wayside Shrine and the 12 acres surrounding it, making of it a Sacred Park. Sister Ann highlighted the "sacred garden" theme and its link to the *Mariengarten*. The *Mariengarten* was an image of the growth of the Schoenstatt Movement at the time Father Kentenich's imprisonment during World War II. We were very much heartened at this analogy and by her presence among us.

Again, starting with the symbolic sharing of a meal, on Friday evening April 8, twenty of us spent the evening with Father Gerold Langsch as he conducted a type of mini-retreat on the topic of the early saints of Schoenstatt --their courageous striving and sacrifices. Earlier that day, Father Gerold went to the home of Chris and Billie Ruth Scully for the dedication of their home shrine *Mother of Grace, Morning Star*. That name fittingly captures the beauty of this dedication.

On Saturday April 9, over 40 people participated in the Lenten Day of Recollection led by Father Gerold on the theme of Redemptive Suffering. The final two talks of the day were given by Suzanne Gardiner and Patti Durbin. It was wonderful to hear them describe the work our MTA is doing in their hearts, in their families, in their homes. We had seven people newly making their Covenants of Love. See below for names. Also see Patti Durbin's talk.



Covenant of Love



April 30 was the day that the rescheduled clean-up of the Wayside Shrine took place. Our Lady, thanks to the efforts of Rosemary Speaker, provided good weather and an energetic work team who weeded, picked up trash and planted blossoms throughout the morning. I too want to reiterate our thanks to each and every one of you!

The development committee has been busier than bees, meeting multiple times with marketing people, with our architect and with our surveyor in preparation for a major fund-raiser for building a Daughter Shrine, a meeting house, and for developing the "sacred park". STAY TUNED...

We are now preparing for our next Schoenstatt Board meeting to be held on Saturday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m. in Honan Hall at St. Joseph's parish in Delphi. If you are a former board member OR would like to be considered for election to our board, do please join us!

This will be an extraordinary meeting because Sister Barbara Ebbe will be with us. She will help us understand the many facets of Schoenstatt's structure. She will also preview plans for a deeper and more meaningful formation in Schoenstatt spirituality and possible dedication into the Apostolic League.

Finally, we always want to keep in mind our unity with and our grounding within the International and National Schoenstatt Movement. This is all the more true as we "begin the countdown" to the Centennial Celebration in the year 2014. In preparation, each of these next three years has been dedicated to one of three trends or contact points: head, home (shrine) and heart (mission).
With affection, Janine



**Congratulations to
Chris and Billie Ruth Scully
Judy Bauer
Joel, Shaun, Mary and Simon Smith
for making their Covenant of Love on April 9th**

**HOW THE HOME SHRINE HAS HELPED OUR FAMILY
BY PATTI DURBIN, presented April 9, 2011,
Schoenstatt Lenten Day of Recollection, West Lafayette, Indiana**

“We erected our home shrine on 10/02/04 and named it FIAT: Thy Will Be Done. Our home shrine has helped our family in two main ways: first, as a focal point of our home and, secondly, as a help in living out our vocations in life.

1. The Shrine, as Focal Point of our House, is a Reminder of Mary’s Presence.

We have placed our home shrine in the living room over our fireplace on the mantle. “We have invited the Blessed Mother to descend into our midst and work miracles of grace and blessing right where the action of daily life takes place.” We, in turn, pledge a life of faithfulness to our covenant agreement. By doing so, it is a constant reminder of Mary’s presence in our home and in our family.

EFFECTS. As we pass through the room we are more inclined to say a greeting of love to Mary or a quick prayer. Our thoughts turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to God more often just by passing our shrine. We stay in union with God during our day by frequently lifting our thoughts and hearts to Him. Our frequent encounters with our MTA allow this to happen. These encounters have resulted in more conversational prayer, which stimulates prayer from the heart.

Our daily dialogues deepen our relationship with our MTA, as we stop by the shrine in passing, or before we leave the house and when we come back. And better yet, we can ask the MTA to be with us while we are away. We can share our plans, thoughts, action and experiences with her. There are many examples of how our children have progressed in conversational prayer. During our morning prayers, we have a time when each person says what they are thankful for and then they mention a petition for everyone to pray for. Our youngest child Angela is quite precocious in her speech. One day last fall, before she was two years old, she joined us. She began her prayers...”I’m thankful for Oi Oi (her stuffed seal), I’m thankful for my blankie, I’m thankful for balls, for books, I’m thankful for movies...” On and on she went (Legos, puzzles). We just stared at each other, amazed at what Angela was saying. How did she think up all those different things to say? Finally, I put it together: she was naming all of the items that were strewn on the floor, which had not been picked up from the night before! Seriously, I have been amazed over time at how much my children have grown in their comfort level at vocal prayer. Usually they are thankful for simple things: the good weather, being able to go to soccer practice or a game, sleeping in... Yet they have surprised me with such profound answers. Again, our youngest Angela is thankful that she is going to church. Others have mentioned being thankful for their faith, receiving the sacraments, having heat in the winter, plenty of food to eat, clothing and a nice bed to sleep in. And their prayer intentions are profound too. They pray to discern their future vocation and, if it is marriage, they pray for their future spouse.

In the book *My Home a Shrine* (p.104) we read: “The Blessed Mother is personally interested in every one of us, in the finest details of our daily life... The home shrine invites us to come to our Mother, no matter what is bothering us. She encourages us to take a good look at ourselves and to honestly evaluate our behavior and attitudes. She helps us to recognize our weaknesses and awakens in us the desire to improve. She waits for us in the home shrine with her

hands full of grace, ready to educate and form us, to give us the strength to live a life that is more pleasing to God.”

Our increase in intimate, conversational prayer with Mary leads to a greater desire to be with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Since Jesus’ Sacred Heart and Mary’s Immaculate Heart are inseparable and beat as one, it stands to reason that Jesus is present through Mary’s presence in our home shrine. This gives me consolation when I cannot make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament at our church. At a Mothers’ retreat a few months ago, I heard that although we have the desire to love Jesus perfectly, we can’t do this. So, we must ask Mary for her heart, mind and love of Jesus. Mary will then take all of our imperfections and dress them up to present to Jesus. In the book *To Jesus through Mary* it states: “Mary can and will make up for what is lacking in our own love. We must always strive to love Jesus with the perfect love offered to Him by her Immaculate Heart.”

Having a home shrine is also a visible reminder to be more determined to live out my covenant promises. I remember reading: “Since the covenant demands express the special wish of our covenant partner, they can become most effective contributions to the capital of grace. Every effort we make to strive for the highest degree of perfection and sanctity, to live a life of fervent prayer, to faithfully fulfill our daily duties and to prove our love by our deeds, will be a most valuable offering for the capital of grace.”

Having the home shrine makes us more determined to live out our baptismal promises to God. We can ask the MTA to help us overcome our concupiscence since she was free from it, because she was conceived without original sin. Mary, once again, is our model to follow.

2. The Shrine as a Help in Being More Docile in Living Out Our Vocations in Life.

The Holy Family is our model for living out vocations with perfection. For me, specifically, Mary is my model in being the ideal wife and mother. What spiritual poverty she experienced in her lifetime! Even though she was the mother of God, she did not have special direction from God in how to raise Jesus or what to do in all the circumstances of her life. Mary is *the model* for all women to live out their mission to love and to give life. Women should be the presence of Mary and Jesus to their husbands, their children, and to everyone else they come in contact with. When I am cooking, cleaning, grading papers or doing something else I would rather not do, it helps me to think, “There’s no place I’d rather be than where you’ve placed me right now, God.” The fruit of this meditation is peace and joy. And when doing my duty becomes overwhelming, because of the challenges of home schooling, I remember John 16:33 where Jesus says “*I have overcome the world.*” Nothing is impossible for God. He is all-powerful. And when I experience loneliness, when my husband Bob must travel for work, I have our MTA here with me—who can be lonely for long?

These examples from my daily life bring to mind the Schoenstatt phrase: *Mother takes care*. Through the graces Mary obtains for us in our shrine and covenant, we are able to do God’s will. We must place all our trust in the MTA and God by surrendering everything. Here’s where the prayer “*You know the way for me, you know the time*” is appropriate; here is when we also pray “*I trust your might, your kindness mother dear.*” I have so many examples of Mary’s perfect care. Within days of our petition, she arranged for our son Matthew’s job at Camp Tecumseh. She protected my husband Bob in a very serious car accident. The Rosary CD he was using for praying was the only thing that was not totaled. Bob escaped with cuts, scrapes and whip lash.

In the Covenant of Love series, Book 4, we read:

“To make the shrine our home and foster a living attachment to it, we must do our part and the rest will be accomplished by grace... We must believe that at this place of grace the Blessed Mother will grant us whatever we most urgently need and whatever is best for us. We must allow her a chance to prove her power in our life... When we leave this place of grace, we know and should firmly believe—even if we do not feel it—that our MTA has renewed our confidence and strength, and has motivated us to accept the challenges of daily life anew with courage and hope in the spirit of victory.”

This brings me to acknowledge a mistake I made when we first dedicated our home shrine. I thought that I had to feel Mary’s presence because she was here. I thought that maybe I wasn’t praying enough or in the right way because I couldn’t feel Mary’s presence. I realized that this is not how faith works. We need to be objective in our faith like Mary was. She did not know directly from God her every move. It is incorrect to replace faith with experience and feelings (in my case, feelings of inadequacy). It is important to understand that we please God more by surrendering ourselves to his love in faith like Mary did, than by trying to “feel” love for God.

“When we seal the true Schoenstatt covenant of love, we have to acknowledge the specialty of the shrine as a place of grace and believe in the Blessed Mother’s real presence and activity in the shrine as Mediatrix of Graces. As covenant partners we also take upon ourselves the grave responsibility to maintain the shrine as a place of grace. Our contributions to the capital of grace will be efficacious for Mary’s activity from the shrine. Without us she cannot and does not want to do anything; without us the shrine will lose its specialty as a powerhouse of grace. This responsibility becomes the greatest challenge and privilege for us as human partners: We are chosen to help renew the world in a most effective way.” (Covenant of Loves series, book 4)

Home Shrine Prayer

Written by Father Kentenich in Milwaukee, May 1965

My room (home) is your shrine
where you work to the glory of the Father.
There he transforms my entire being into the Trinity’s
most beloved shrine,
where the sanctuary light constantly burns
and the love never dies;
where the fire of sacrifice upon sacrifice
banishes all selfishness from the heart;
where roses adorn the altar
and lilies never cease to bloom;
where paradisaal breezes waft
and raise heart and mind to heaven;
where the spirit of the world cannot enter
as in the eternal city of Zion;
where peace reigns and happiness laughs
because God’s angel keeps diligent watch;
where Christ rules and is triumphant
And leads the whole world to the Father

Please join us for our Schoenstatt Holy Hour
Thursday, May 19th, 7pm
St Elizabeth Chapel

Thanks to Nan Ross for new Masthead and design



Submitted with love for Mary, our Mother Thrice Admirable by Carole DiFabio. If you have questions or corrections, please contact csdmi@aol.com. Or, if you would like to tell us about your Schoenstatt experience, we’d love to hear from you !