

Solemnity greetings, dear Schoenstatt family,

This is a day of great celebration as we honor the spouse of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. How happy she must be to see all the prayers of gratitude, love and joy that are lifted up to St. Joseph today. It is the feast day of our Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) and our Founding Father Joseph Kentenich. Our prayers are raised in a particular way for them today. This statue of St. Joseph is found in all the Schoenstatt shrines where he is greatly honored. As Protector of the Universal Church he also protects Schoenstatt, which is all of us in different degrees of involvement.

Please find in the issue a letter from our president, shrine prayers to St Joseph, an article about St. Joseph as a master builder, and invitations to many upcoming events. Surely our blessed Mother and St. Joseph will shower blessings on you for taking the time to read these items about this movement so loved and supported by them. Continued Lenten blessings (1) to you and your families, Carole DiFabio, editor

# **Simply Schoenstatt**

This letter from our president is included here because it did not save in the previous issue that was sent out. This was written Jan 21st, 2012

Dear Schoenstatt Family,

The entire world-wide Schoenstatt Family is united in mourning the death of a beloved child of Mary, Fr. Jonathan Niehaus– and we take comfort in the promise that he will never perish. He died on January 19, repeating the words: "Life is beautiful." He is now with the Blessed Mother and her Divine Son Jesus in heaven as the newest Schoenstatt saint. His funeral will be on Monday, January 23, 2012.

We Schoenstatt Family continue in the three year preparation toward the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014 with this New Year being dedicated to the "shrine current" (from October 2011 – October 2012). The motto for this new current in the USA is to "Build family shrines of life and love!"

God be praised! Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, Queen of our hearts takes perfect care! The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Schoenstatt Family Advent Day in Delphi, Indiana was amazing!

Thank you one and all! Mary's instruments used their gifts and talents and inspirations to prepare and offer another beautiful family day. The events of the weekend began on December, 9<sup>th</sup> at the Block Rosary gathering of Filipino families with prayers of the rosary and holy Mass celebrated by Schoenstatt Father Gerold Langsch. It was a joyful hospitable evening.

Then on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> Fr. Gerold again offered holy Mass with an inspiring homily and other talks throughout the day as well as an inspirational talk by Sister Ann Astell. These talks will be available soon on CDs and later on our website. During the day, there were parallel children's programs and a visit from Saint Nicholas to joyful songs accompanied on the keyboard by Fr. Gerold to the delight of all ages. As a final blessing of the day the children led a serenade to the Blessed Mother singing the Covenant Song: "My Queen My Mother."

Please welcome the Blessed Mother Thrice Admirable into your home and heart, during this year dedicated to the "shrine current," so she can assist you in your daily life. Invite friends to receive the MTA as well so that they can benefit from the Shrine's transforming graces. Also consider attending Schoenstatt events that will be offered this spring. Specific details will be announced in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, I encourage all of us to pray to our Blessed Mother with the intercession of our Schoenstatt saints, including our own beloved Sally Faderan, Fr. Jonathan Niehaus, and Fr. Joseph Kentenich, for the return of Her original shrine chapel to Her Schoenstatt Family, and for the possibility to build a daughter Shrine at the site of Her Indiana Schoenstatt Wayside Shrine and Sacred Park in Delphi.

And since the holy souls in purgatory need our prayers, Suzanne Gardiner would like to remind us to pray for them and to ask for their intercession as well. We cannot pray too much because St. Paul, a favorite biblical saint of Fr. Kentenich, exhorts us to "pray always'.

(Also please be encouraged to join us in a family day of cleaning our Schoensatt Wayside Mother of the Eucharist shrine in Delphi on April 21st. Details on page 4. You will be richly blessed.)

Sincerely Yours in our Mother Thrice Admirable, Rosemary



# A Beautiful Place - our SCHOENSTATT LAND, with your help!

Come Participate in the Annual EARTH DAY: PROJECT W.E.E.D. sponsored by the Wabash and Erie Canal Park Association and this year also by Schoenstatt of Indiana, Inc.

**Needed:** Volunteers needed on Earth Day 2012 to beautify / tidy up around the Canal from across IND 25 (to the north of Deer Creek) and at the Schoenstatt Wayside Shrine, the future site of the "Schoenstatt Sacred Park" (along the canal trail off Hwy 421). Free Lunch will be served at noon in the Canal Park shelter for the volunteers

**Date:** Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 9am. (Rain date, April 28) **Meeting Place:** All volunteers are asked to report to Canal Park at 9am where instructions and team assembly will occur.

**What:** We will be removing trash, brush and debris. The big jobs will involve pruning, raking, bagging and chain saw work (by adults) to make both sites more presentable to the public. This year's goal is to top 100 workers. Children working together with parents or teachers as part of church groups, 4-H clubs, scout troops and others are invited to participate.

**Important Information:** Transportation may be required to some sites (and then back to Canal Park at noon for lunch.) Team captains, in Earth Team white hats, will direct work and answer questions at the various sites. **We encourage you to bring your own tools.** Please mark them with your name before you come. Dress appropriately in work clothes-long pants, work shoes, gloves and other protective wear. Children should work together with parents or teachers. No pets please. **Check for last minute cancellation by calling the CANAL HOTLINE (765) 564-6572** 

## <u>Join In Three Ways:</u>

- 1) Pre-register at <u>rspeaker@lion-lamb.com</u> Give your: Name, address, telephone, cell phone, email:
- 2) or call Rosemary Speaker 765 414 1382:
- 3) or come and sign up that morning! May God bless you a hundred fold!

Advent Day of Recollection Talks available	DATES TO REMEMBER
Disk 1	March 15th Schoenstatt Holy Hour 7pm St. Eliz
Fr. Gerold Langsch—homily and 1st talk	March 23-25 Schoenstatt Retreat at the Maria
The Dynamics of Living with the Shrine in Our	Stein Center in Ohio
Daily Life	April 19th Schoenstatt Holy Hour 7pm St. Eliz
Disk 2 Sister Ann Astell—	April 21st see above
The Domestic Church: The Home Shrine and	April 25th Father Gerold/Fr Pacwa on EWTN
the Coming of Christ.	May 18th Mass and Covenants of Love at
Disk 3 Fr. Gerold Langsch—	Blessed Sacrament
The Heart Shrine in our Daily Life	May 19th Schoenstatt Day of Recollection
Contact Rosemary Speaker	Mass, Talks, Covenants of Love
rspeaker@lion-lamb.com	Fr. Gerold Langsch in Delphi
Also available on our website	HAVE A BLESSED AND HOLY
http://schoenstattindiana.org	LENT and EASTER

### St. Joseph, a Master Builder

On March 19, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Joseph, the husband of Our Blessed Mother and the foster father of Jesus. What little we know about St. Joseph can be found in the gospels of St. Mathew and St. Luke.

I wish I could have been a friend of St. Joseph. I guess when you think about it, we all are really friends of St. Joseph because of Our Blessed Mother and Jesus. Without St. Joseph, we would not have the Holy Family, Jesus would not have had an earthly father and our Blessed Mother would probably have been stoned because she was with child without a husband. That was the custom in those days.

St. Joseph had to be the most perfect man born because of the job he was called to do. First he was divinely chosen as the husband of Mary when a lily began to flower on his walking stick. God proved by this act that St. Joseph was the one He wanted to love, protect, and raise Jesus. To do all that he must have been very wise, patient, persistent and hard working . He was not only a carpenter, but an artisan who could work with wood, iron or stone, all the materials we will be using to build Schoenstatt's Sacred Park. I would have loved to have sat by his side and watched the way he handled each tool he used and to experience the love he had for all that God created. I would have listened to the patient way he explained how to prepare the material that he would work with to create an object of beauty.

As we prepare to create Schoenstatt Sacred Park in Delphi, Indiana, let us prepare ourselves through prayer, fasting and giving. May our gifts be the cornerstone and foundation that with the help and intersession of St. Joseph will be the most perfect gift we could give to his wife, Mary and his son, Jesus.

St. Joseph is a master builder by profession, protector of the Holy Family and all of us by duty and patron of the Church by designation.

St Joseph we love you and ask that you be our master builder in Delphi, protector of the land and those who come to find peace and grace in the Sacred Park and continue to intercede for us and guide us as we plan to build this Shrine to show our love for your wife and our mother.

By Julia Haskell, member of the Development Committee

#### **MEDITATION** by Father Kentenich from the WI Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign Newsletter, Fall 2008

"Let us recall how St. Joseph received his mission. What did the angel tell him in the dream? 'Joseph, get up, take the Child and his Mother.' I believe that God called us to help fulfill this great mission....Like St. Joseph we listen to the words today: 'Get up!' Do not lie down and rest for awhile. Do not wish for yourself a life of comfort and complacency. Do not wish to find pleasures in this world. No, the angel ordered; 'Joseph, get up, take the Child and his Mother.' First of all we shall accept them into our own hearts. Then we have to prepare for them a warm place in our family and in the hearts of others." (cf Mt 2:13-15)

"Besides the beauty of family life, we all have already experienced its worries, crosses and suffering. And yet we know that if we receive the Child and his Mother anew into our family, we also give our 'yes' to the path of cross and suffering which they have walked. In this spirit we will accept our Schoenstatt mission anew, take the Child and his Mother, who seem to be exiled today from many hearts, and offer them a dwelling in our hearts and homes." JK p 26 Shrine Meditations

**PRAYER:** Mother, on this day of celebration, let us imitate St. Joseph as we build our living shrine. Help me to offer up my work today in a special way, being as selfless, as serving, and as generous as St. Joseph was to you in your lifetime.