



Schoenstatt of Indiana Rosary Campaign Newsletter

Year of the
mission current



Nothing without you, nothing without us!



Volume 5 Issue 9 Dec 18th, 2012 Covenant Day

“Your Home Shrine, Our Mission; Live it.”

Dear Schoenstatt Family,

SIMPLY SCHOENSTATT

December 18, 2012

Happy third week of Advent to us all: We as church celebrate **Gaudete Sunday**, which calls us to be joyful even in a world filled with violence and hatred. Our own beloved Savior came into such a world with the murder of the innocents by the cruelty of King Herod who wanted to kill the “newborn king”. Even though our beloved Savior was put to death later at age 33, St. Paul tells us to “Rejoice in the Lord always...Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God... Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4: 4-7)

This past weekend we celebrated, on December 15, 2012, the **Schoenstatt Advent Day of Recollection** with Fr. Gerold Langsch. We were happy to be able to be with him during this special time that he is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. It was awesome to hear him say that during his discernment period when considering his “yes” to God, that although he worried about not being up to the calling, God reminded him about the “Burning Bush” and the call of Moses to go to Pharaoh to free His people. Moses was told that God would go with him. Fr. Gerold realized that he didn’t have to try to go alone to save the people for God, but that God himself would go with him and would always be with him. He was so reassured by this that he had the symbol of the burning bush placed on his Chalice. He also was very reassured that in his Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother Thrice Admirable she too would always be with him.

Our Schoenstatt family also celebrated over the weekend the dedication of seven people in their **Covenants of Love** with the Blessed Mother Thrice Admirable at holy Mass on December 14, 2012. Father Gerold presided. We congratulate: Bob and Molly King, Arlene Schau, Ken and Michelle Newcomb, and Chris and Cheri Irons.

Also, we welcome and celebrate the **birth of two new Schoenstatt family home shrines**: The Newcomb Family and the Irons families, both with the blessing of Fr. Gerold Langsch, dedicated their shrines. Congratulations. Let the streams of grace flow from your home shrines out into the world.

The Advent Day celebration also welcomed St. Nicholas as he came to greet the children and the young at heart. He was shown the gifts that the children had prepared to give baby Jesus for his birthday at Christmas. And in turn, St. Nick gave each child a little gift.

We give thanks for all of the helpers for the weekend. Many loving hands worked preparing for all of the various aspects of the festivities. And we especially thank Fr. Gerold Langsch and Schoenstatt Sister Ann Astell for traveling to Delphi and Lafayette to offer their services and reflections to help enrich our experience of the Advent Season.

May we all be blessed and may our Blessed Mother continue to work her miracles of grace in our lives as we offer her our sacrifices and deeds in love for her partnership with us. Be sure to come December 20 at 7 PM for the **Schoenstatt Holy Hour with Benediction** at St. Elizabeth Central Chapel.

May God bless you through Advent and give you a holy happy Christmas Season,
With Mary and the precious Christ Child,
Rosemary



Lauds—Bethlehem

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**Mother Thrice Admirable, your shrine is our Bethlehem
pleasing to God through its sunrise.**

**There you gave virginal birth to the Lord
who chose you as his Bride and Mother.
In your miraculous fruitfulness
you brought forth the Sun of Righteousness.**

**You have graciously established Schoenstatt
so that our times can see the Eternal Light.
From there you want to go through our dark world
as the Christbearer sent by God.**

**Jubilantly place the Lord into my soul anew,
so that, like you, I may perfectly resemble him.
Let me be a Christbearer for our times,
that they may shine in the brightest radiance of the sun.**

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Schoenstatt Holy Hour Thursday December 20th 7pm
St. Elizabeth Adoration Chapel**

The Communion of Saints by Sister Ann Astell

“I believe in the communion of saints.” According to Jesuit theologian George Maloney, this statement of faith is “the one least understood among Christians and therefore the one that has least importance for practical Christian living.”

In issuing a “universal call of holiness” (*Lumen gentium*, Chapter 5), Vatican Council II clearly intended to foreground this dogma, to render it understood and practical in the modern world, and to place it at the heart of the Church’s self-understanding. The communion of saints constitutes the Church in its very sociology. To be a member of the Church is simply to be called to sanctity—called by Christ and called by the saints.

What does “the communion of saints” mean and how is it important for our lives? The creed does not declare our belief simply in the *existence* of saints, but in the *communion* of saints, in their vital connection with each other.

Saint Paul’s great realization was that the saints are the members of Christ’s mystical body, united in the “one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father” (Eph. 4:5). By this definition, the “communion of saints” is the very life of Christ, which binds Christians together. Sharing the Scriptures, the teachings, charitable works, the joys and sorrows of Christian living, and the sacraments—above all, the Eucharist, which is Christ Himself, the food of martyrs—they live out and actually increase the communion of saints.

This mysterious bond in Christ is so deep, so real, that each one’s prayers, good works, suffering, and striving for sanctity affect the others’. This holds true not only of Christians in direct contact with other—who see each other, work together, belong to the same family or parish. No, the communion of saints effects a spiritual connection between persons that overcomes the limits of time and space.

In Christ, what I do and offer in charity makes a difference in the lives of others—no matter in what hidden corner I stand. The servant of God Joseph Kentenich (1885-1968) taught his followers this motto: “I sanctify myself for others.” What I eat at my table affects the hungry. What money I spend affects the poor. What and how I pray affect the prayers of others.

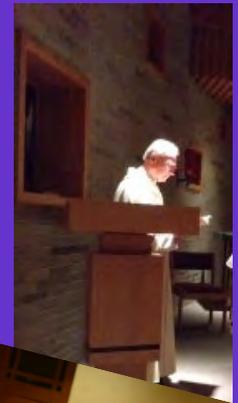
Belief in the communion of saints calls us to a deep responsibility for each other here and now. It also gives us hope, knowing that the saints who have preceded us on the earthly journey continue to intercede for us in Christ. As J. P. Kirsch explains, “The departed saints . . . are concerned about those still struggling.” The saints in heaven care for those on earth.

Because the saints in heaven are united with God, each Christian’s union with God on earth is also a communion with them. To live out of the truth of this communion, to realize its potential, is to crack open what is for many an unbreakable barrier, to achieve a vital communication between heaven and earth, between those living in time and those living in eternity. Our God is “the God of the living, not the dead” (Matt. 22:32).

Whereas the Feast of All Saints invites the whole Church to look upward to the saints in glory, Vatican Council II gives us the same vision from the opposite direction. It invites us to see the Church on earth as the saints in heaven see it and call it to holiness. What unites the two perspectives is the faith of Christians, ancient and ever new, in the communion of saints.



Schoenstatt Mass, Covenants of Love and reception December 14th 2012
Father Gerold Langsch presiding



HOME SHRINE DEDICATIONS AND SCHOENSTATT ADVENT FAMILY DAY

