

## Schoenstatt Day of Recollection – The Child and Childlikeness

Thank you to all who have helped make this day a beautiful gift to our Mother Thrice Admirable. There is much to be done for such an event and all this work done in love makes our Mother and Jesus very happy. Welcome to our guest speakers, Father Gerold Langsch, Sister Barbara Ebbe, and Sister Leah Marie who have come to be with us from Wisconsin, and to Sister Ann Astell who visits us from Notre Dame. We will have a follow up newsletter soon with summaries of the talks. Also - **A MUST READ** – Sally’s reflection in the article below on the beginnings of Schoenstatt and the call to sainthood – very inspiring. Carole DiFabio csdmi@aol

### Our Consecration Prayer

**Our Queen, our Mother, we give ourselves entirely to you. And to show our devotion to you we consecrate to you this day our eyes, our ears, our mouths, our hearts, our entire self without reserve. As we are your own, good Mother, guard us and protect us as your property and possession. Amen.**

<http://schoenstattindiana.org/>

*Check out this web site which our Jenny Bay, Jeff Jarboe, Maryllu Altman and Bill Strausberger have worked on. They will continue developing it*

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION by SALLY FADERAN

### THE SCHOENSTATT SHRINE

“Man sees the practicing sinner but God sees the future saint.” So wrote a man of God.

We know a number of saints who were once servants of God and mammon, confused by the desire to follow God but cannot separate themselves from the pleasures of the world. We are at times quick to judge them rashly. Not with people who are sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and are guided to do something about it.

Fr Joseph Kentenich, (1885-1969), founder of the Schoenstatt movement, was a spiritually gifted person. He appreciated the advancement of technology and the marvels of new things in the world but he observed that these modern things have enslaved man instead of man becoming masters of them. Today, we can see the truth in that. There are cell phones that have become attached to us, or vice versa, for an example.

It is said that one day, as a young priest praying at the choir loft of the church in the seminary campus run by the Pallotine Fathers in the Koblenz area in Germany, he saw a class of minor seminarians enter the church. He was impressed by their silence and great decorum. Unexpectedly, the teacher was called out for something. Well, the boys’ conduct changed. They joked, laughed, went on acting silly - for “boys will be boys” as they say.

Fr. Kentenich was led to think again. How is it that man, in his genius, can produce great inventions, can calculate the distances of planets from the earth, and probe the mysteries of the human body but can not, or has not found a way to “harness the *wild beasts* in the heart of a person?” The challenge fell upon him when he was appointed Dean of Boys of that seminary.

Fr. Kentenich grew up deeply attached to Mary. To him she was the personification of the ideal person, for she was chosen by the Father to be the Mother of God. Now it was necessary for him to guide the boys to a more meaningful devotion to Mary. It helped that the boys were Sodalists of Mary.

Still, Fr. Kentenich was searching for some kind of an anchor for some kind of spiritual base for the boys. He could not put a finger on what it would be exactly.

Divine Providence provided the clue. He was reading an Italian newspaper one day and came across a fascinating story in it. A Capuchin Franciscan named Fr. Cyprian Frohbach (1853-1893) wrote an article about his pilgrimage to Pompeii – the city that was once devastated by a massive volcanic eruption, leaving the Lady of Victory Church in ashes and debris. Now the church was rebuilt and has been attracting thousands of pilgrims. The walls were lined with crutches left behind by the people who received miraculous healings there.

He observed a man, rather elderly, his eyes closed in prayer with a Rosary in his hands. He learned that he was Bartolo Longo, the brilliant Italian lawyer and jurist. He used to be known as a deeply materialistic and confirmed sinner. Some reports say that he was rescued by some seminarians on a wayside and they took him to a hospital. Another mentioned a loved one who was seriously sick. The article said that as he was walking one day, heavily burdened by his problems and wanting to atone for his sins so that he would have peace, he heard a voice that said:

**“If you want to have peace, then spread the devotion to the Holy Rosary, for whoever promotes the Rosary can not perish.”**

At this, Bartolo Longo dropped to his knees, broke into sobs, and prayed. He promised the Blessed Virgin that he would help rebuild the Church of Our Lady of Victory.

Here was Fr. Kentenich’s “Eureka Moment”! He must build a chapel, a shrine for the Blessed Mother, a beautiful place fit for her to reign from. It will be a place of pilgrimage primarily for the healing of the soul, the deeper conversion of hearts..

In the seminary campus there was an old tool shed that used to be St. Michael’s Chapel centuries ago. Wars and bad weather had worn it down. Well, Fr. Kentenich invited the boys to repair it, improve it so that it would be a beautiful Shrine of Schoenstatt, home of the Mother Thrice Admirable.

On the historic date of October 18, 1914, Fr. Kentenich gathered the boys to consecrate themselves to the Blessed Mother. The boys made their Covenant of Love with her- a bond of love whereby the boys offered their highest strivings for the noblest ideals, their sacrifices for intentions of the Blessed Mother for Schoenstatt. It was an exchange of hearts between the Mother and her children. Around the picture of the MTA is their motto: **“Nothing Without You; Nothing Without Us”**. The bond of love would be strong, the graces would flow as freely as the willingness and loyalty of the boys would be steadfast. Mary would form them to be childlike, trusting of the Father’s love and Providence and in Mary’s intercessions, formation, and care for them. Faithfulness to the Covenant is the essential for the rich fruition of the bond.

The boys lived their covenant faithfully. Joseph Engling gave the MTA his “blank check” – that is his life if she needed it for her intentions for Schoenstatt . He was killed during WWI. Karl Leisner proved true to his own covenant. He was beatified by Pope John Paul. On the Year of the Holy Rosary, Pope John Paul II made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Victory Church in Pompeii and beatified Bartolo Longo, giving him the title, the “Apostle of the Rosary.”

Sinners of the past are now holy saints. How about us? Schoenstatt offers a way.

See next page for the program for the program for  
The Day of Reflection

*MOTHER TAKES PERFECT CARE*

<p>8:00 -9:00 <b>Holy Mass</b> at St. Joseph's in Delphi  Celebrant: Father Gerold Langsch  Homily: <i>"Let the little children come to me"</i></p> <p>9:00-9:30 Registration in Honan Hall /St. Joseph's  Continental breakfast</p> <p>9:25 Welcome: Barb and Bill Strausburger</p> <p>9:30-9:50 Singing and Story-telling TOGETHER  Jeff Jarboe "The Selfish Giant"  By Oscar Wilde</p> <p>10:00-11:15 Parallel Sessions  <b>Adults in Honan Hall</b>  Fr. Gerold Langsch:  <i>"Childlikeness: Schoenstatt's Ideal of Christian Holiness"</i> short discussion</p> <p><b>Children in CCD classrooms</b>  Sisters Leah Marie and Barbara  Theme: <i>"Bringing the Garden of our Heart to Bloom"</i>  Talk, discussion, crafts</p>	<p>11:15- 11:45 Honan Hall – TOGETHER  Presentation by the children of their work</p> <p>11:45 Angelus, Meal Prayer  11:50-12:30 LUNCH  12:30 Singing, Prayer of Thanksgiving after meal</p> <p>12:45-2:15 Parallel Sessions  <b>Adults in Honan Hall</b>  Sister Ann Astell <i>"The Psychology Of Children and of Heroic Childlikeness"</i> discussion</p> <p><b>Children – CCD classrooms</b>  <i>"Finding the Holy Child in the Garden of our Hearts"</i></p> <p>2:15-2:45 <b>Rosary Pilgrimage</b> to the Schoenstatt Wayside Shrine</p> <p>Note: The idea of having parallel sessions, intermingled with periods when everyone is together, is to allow for families to participate together in a Schoenstatt Day of Reflection, to involve the young, in keeping with the word, "A little child will lead them" (Isaiah 11:6)</p>
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