

Schoenstatt Family News

A publication of the Madison Schoenstatt family for members, friends, and visitors to the Marian Shrine.

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Father's Exile Legacy – Mary's Victory for the Church



On October 25, 2014, Pope Francis met with the Schoenstatt Family as part of the 100th jubilee event. In this newsletter, we will reflect on the fourth question from the area of NEW SOCIAL ORDER. They asked the Holy Father to share the secret of how he maintain his joy and hope despite the difficulties and the wars of our time; and how does he persevere in the service of the sick, the poor, and the defenseless. The following is a paraphrase of the response from Pope Francis:

(...) I honestly don't know... I pray and I surrender. But it is difficult for me to make plans. I dare to say two things: That the Lord gave me the grace of having great trust to abandon myself to His goodness, even in times of great sin. And because He did not abandon me, that has made me even more trusting and I go even further with Him. (...) And I **pray**. This yes, I ask, because I am also aware of the many bad things I did and my many "mistakes." I did not abandon myself to the Lord, and wanted to be the one at the helm. I wanted to enter this murky path of self-salvation, saving myself (...) through compliance. (...) I surrender myself, I pray, but He never fails me. And I have seen that he is capable of performing miracles through, I'm not saying through me, but through people. I have seen the miracles that the Lord has worked through people who abandon themselves into His hands.

(...) I would add something else. Audacity. Audacity is a grace. **Courage**. St. Paul said that Christians need two great attitudes to preach about Jesus Christ: courage and endurance. That is, the courage to carry on and the endurance to bear the weight of the work. Now, this is interesting. This occurs in apostolic life, but it should also be present in prayer. Prayer without courage is "wishy-washy" and doesn't work.

We remember Abraham who, as a good Jew, bargains with God. What if there are 45, what if there are 40, what if there are 30, what if there are 20. Talk about having a nerve. He has courage in prayer.

We remember Moses, when God told him: "Look, I cannot endure these people anymore, I am going to destroy them, but don't worry, I will make you the leader of another, better people." "No, no, if you wipe out these people, wipe me out as well."

Courage! (...) Pray with courage. "Whatever you ask for in my name, if you ask it with faith and believe that you have it, you already have it." Who prays like this? We are weak. Courage. And then, endurance. Endure contradiction, endure weaknesses in life, pain, illness, difficult life situations.

It struck me when it was mentioned that there was a lack of understanding and **rejection** that Fr. Kentenich faced. This is the sign of a Christian who goes further. When the Lord makes him pass the test of rejection. Because it is the sign of the prophets. False prophets were never rejected, because they told kings and the people what they wanted to hear. They said that "ah, how wonderful" everything is and nothing more. Rejection, no?

Here is the **endurance**. Endure life even if you have been cast aside, rejected, without exacting revenge with the tongue, calumny, defamation. (...) What helps me is not to look at things from the center. There is only one center -- Jesus Christ. Rather look at things from the peripheries, because then you see them more clearly.

When one becomes closed in his little world, in the little world of the movement, of the parish, of the archdiocese, or here, in the little world of the Curia, then you cannot grasp the truth. Yes, you may understand it in theory, but you cannot capture the reality of the truth in Jesus. The truth is best seen from the **periphery** rather than from the center. This helps me. (...)

A few days ago, there was a large meeting of international criminal experts here. One of them was speaking about his experiences. We were talking in private at the time and he said: "Father, sometimes when I go to a prison, I cry together with a prisoner." Here you have an example. In other words, he sees reality not only from the perspective of the law, of how he has to judge as a criminal expert, but from the wound that is there, and this is the truth that allows him to look beyond, to see better. And for me, this is one of the most beautiful things during the days [of that meeting], when a judge tells you that he had the grace, that he has the grace to sometimes cry with a prisoner. In other words, go to the periphery.

Father Kentenich's talk to couples from Madison and Milwaukee on July 9, 1956, about the Heavenly Father, paraphrased from notes by Henry Gmeinder (144).

A genuine Father Child always circles around the Father. Perhaps we say, we cling to Our Savior, but what does the Savior say? "Go to the Father!" If you continue to think it over, when Our Savior began to talk to the apostles about the Father, He was entirely enthusiastic. Then He could talk very beautifully. Think of all the wonderful parables: He compared the human life with the life of the birds, with the life of the lilies ... The Father takes care of them all, why shouldn't He care for you? The Father knows your name, He said: "Not even one hair drops from your head if it is not in the plan of My Father." Therefore, He was enthusiastic when He was talking about the Father. And one of the apostles, who was an original, his name was Philip, in him is seen the symbol of a very naïve soul. We can imagine very well that when Christ again started to talk about the Father so enthusiastically, Philip exclaimed: "Well, now show us the Father once when You have so much enthusiasm towards Him." That was entirely original! And what did Our Lord answer? "Philip, who sees Me sees the Father." (...)

How was the praying of Our Savior? Oh, it is very beautiful how Our Savior prayed. And now we should study the kind of prayer of Our Lord. First of all, it was on one occasion that one was surprised when simple people could understand everything that Our Lord taught. And then Jesus asked: "Where did your understanding come from?" The answer was; "I came from the Father." Then Christ said the thanksgiving prayer; "Father, I thank you that You revealed this to the little ones, but not to the wise and puffed up ones. To those You didn't say anything." To whom did He address His prayers? Always to the Father. And now you must ask once: When do you pray to the Father? I don't ask now how often you say the Our Father because that is only recited, but not prayed. You will say that the Father is too far above us. Our Lord always said there, there. He said so wonderfully: "Nobody comes to the Father but through Me." And "Nobody recognizes the Son except through the Father. (...)

May 2 – Spring Work Day at Schoenstatt Heights !!!

Help the Sisters prepare for summer by raking leaves, washing windows, putting out lawn furniture and toys, removing fallen branches, etc. Some indoor, sit-down work will also be available. We will begin immediately following Morning with Mary (10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.). Lunch will be served at noon. Please call the Sisters at (608) 222-7208 so we know how much work to plan and food to prepare.

WELCOME!

Sister M. Taqui is the new superior at Schoenstatt Heights. She is originally from Puerto Rico. Sister M. Taqui is happy to be here and looks forward to meeting everyone.

May

Calendar of Events in Madison

Each Monday & Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Marian Devotions in the Shrine (except May 7).

Our Blessed Mother would be happy to see many of her children together in the Founder Shrine for Marian Devotions in May. Consider taking time to join us to pray the rosary at the Shrine.

- 2 **8:00 a.m. – Morning with Mary:** Mass in the Family Room. Meditation: Cause of our Joy
- 2 **10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Spring Work Day**
- 5 **9:00 - 11:30 a.m. – Mom's Morning**
- 7 **7:00 p.m. – Marian Devotions and Benediction at St. Dennis Parish**
- 9 **8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine
- 9 **9:00 - 10:30 a.m. – Women's Group**
- 9 **10:00 - 11:30 a.m. – Schoenstatt Girls' Youth May Crowning and Dedications**
- 9 **6:30 - 8:30 p.m. – Couples Group**
- 10 **2:00 - 3:00 p.m. – Sion Circle:** Prayer for priestly vocations in the Founder Shrine. All are welcome.

15-17 Camp Gray Schoenstatt Family Retreat

- 16 **8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine
- 17 **Eucharistic Adoration** during the night
- 18 **Eucharistic Adoration** during the day
- 23 **8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine
- 24 **9:30 a.m. – Holy Mass – Covenant Sunday with May Crowning** (Please bring a flower.)
- 30 **8:00 a.m. – Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine

Calendar of Events in Waukesha

For more information call: (262) 522-4300

- 9-10 Filipino May Crowning and Santa Cruzan
- 13 Young Mothers' Day of Reflection
- 15-17 Girls Youth May Crowning Weekend
- 17 Covenant Sunday May Crowning
- 21 Women's Day of Reflection
- 24 Hispanic May Crowning
- 30 Run Walk

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of: –Joan Zeier, who passed away on April 3
–George Young, who passed away on April 8
–Juliana Walls, who passed away on April 19

Please pray for.. Father Dieter Haas, Sister M. Angela, and those in our Schoenstatt family who have requested prayers due to illness, surgery, or other intentions.