

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 fifth question (continued from June) from the area of Church They asked the Holy Father how can we help you in the renewal of the Church and where would you suggest we place our emphasis. The following is a paraphrase of the response from Pope Francis:

• **“Mis”-Encounters:** Nowadays, we are suffering from increasingly greater “mis”-encounters. (...) Family “mis”-encounters, testimonial “mis”-encounters, “mis”-encounters in announcing the Word, and the message, “mis”-encounters of wars, “mis”-encounters of families, in other words, “mis”-encounters, division, this is the devil's weapon. (...) Let me tell you that the devil exists, (...) and he will (try to) get you.

And the path of “mis”-encounter results in fighting, in enmity, Babel. Just as the Church is this temple of living stones, built by the Holy Spirit, so too the devil builds another temple of arrogance, of pride, that results in “mis”-encounters, because no one can make themselves understood, each one says something different, this is Babel.

And from there, we need to work for a culture of encounter. A culture that helps us to find ourselves as a family, as a movement, as a Church, as a parish. Always looking how we can find one another.

(...) Take the story of Joseph and his brothers in the Book of Genesis. How this painful story of betrayal, jealousy, and “mis”-encounter ends in a story of encounter that results in a nation that for 400 years grows and becomes stronger. This people chosen by God. (...) A culture of encounter is a covenant culture. In other words, God chose us, promised us, and in the midst of all, that made a covenant with his people.

To Abraham, He said: "Walk and I will tell you what I will give you." Bit by bit, God told him that he would have more descendants than there are stars in the sky. (...) He chooses him with a promise. At one point he says: "new covenant." And the various covenants that he made with his people are those that build this path of promise through encounter.

• **Solidarity:** A culture of encounter is a covenant culture. And this creates solidarity. Ecclesial solidarity. You know that this is a word at risk. (...) The word that is on the verge of dying, or because they want to kill it, eliminate it from the dictionary, is the word "solidarity." And covenant means solidarity. It signifies the creation of bonds, not the destruction of bonds. And today we are living in this culture,

in this culture of temporariness, a culture that destroys bonds. This is what we were speaking about, problems in the family, for example. Bonds are destroyed, instead of creating bonds. Why? Because we are living in a culture of temporariness, of “mis”-encounter, of the inability to enter into (a) covenant (relationship). Therefore, a culture of encounter. This creates a unity that is not deceitful and is the unity of sanctity, which gives rise to the culture of encounter.

• **Covenant Renewal:** Perhaps I want to end with this...it was very common for the chosen people, in the Bible, to renew the covenant, to make a renewal of the covenant. They renewed the covenant during specific feasts, in specific years, or after having won a battle, after having been freed. With the coming of Jesus, he asks us to renew the covenant. And He himself participates in this renewal in the Eucharist.

In other words, when we celebrate the Eucharist, we celebrate the renewal of the covenant. Not only a representation (of the covenant) but in a very deep, very real, very profound way (a renewal of the covenant). It is the same presence of God who renews the covenant with us. But let us not ignore the renewal of the covenant in the sacrament of reconciliation, because we are forgetful or because it's not in fashion. (...) When I don't confess because I have no idea what to say to the priest, then something is wrong. We don't have an interior light to discover the actions of the evil spirit that harms us. This renewal of the covenant in the Eucharist and in the sacrament of Penance, leads us towards sanctity, always with this culture of encounter, with this solidarity, with this creation of bonds.

• **Conclusion:** (...) in this world of “mis”-encounters, defamation, calumny, destruction with the tongue, you can take this culture of encounter onwards by renewing the covenant. Of course, nobody can be educated alone. You need (the Blessed) Mother to educate you. Therefore, I entrust all of you to the Blessed Mother that she can continue to walk with you in this renewal of the covenant. I send you as missionaries in the years to come

Right after renewing the Covenant of Love, and before giving the blessing, he said:

In giving you the blessing, I send you as missionaries in the years to come. I send you, not in my name, but in the name of Jesus. I send you, not alone, but hand-in-hand with our Mother Mary, and within the womb of our Mother, the Holy Church. I send you out in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Father Kentenich's talk on October 18, 1956, with the Madison and Milwaukee couples regarding Covenant Renewal, paraphrased from notes by Henry Gmeinder (102-103).

Month after month we come to this shrine to renew our Covenant of Love with our Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt. ** As a result we have received many graces. We came to the shrine and we went home again into everyday life and we presented this everyday life with God's graces. With God's graces we led a sanctified life.

Like Naaman from the Old Testament, who was cured from his disease when he bathed in the Jordan (River), we may assume that we are more and more cured from our failures each time we renew our Covenant of Love. Our sicknesses, our weaknesses, etc., are more and more cured each time we renew our Covenant of Love.

How often and how many weaknesses have we overcome during the past year can we tell ourselves and others. For this grace we should say many thanks to our Mother Thrice Admirable.

Each time we renewed our Covenant of Love we were like the little Herman Joseph. We know the story of little Herman Joseph. Blessed Herman Joseph made a Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother. Every time he was in need he would quickly make his way to Mary's altar, pour out his need to his Heavenly Mother, and trustingly raise the stone and there find what he needed.

Thus through our Covenant of Love the Blessed Mother not only helped us (overcome our) shortcomings, etc. but she gave us many more graces.

What did the Blessed Mother give to us when we came to the shrine? First, she gave us graces to find a spiritual home in the shrine and more and more at home in the spiritual world. Don't we sometimes feel like strangers in the world because we understand things others don't understand? Not only did we receive graces for a spiritual home but also for a spiritual transformation. We have changed! We have a different scale to measure things by! We have different thoughts! For all these gifts say a heartfelt thank you to our Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt.

Our life in this world has been more fruitful. The new atmosphere here helps others to get to heaven. We say thank you to our Blessed Mother for all of this.

**Mary's title was expanded to include Victress after the Exile that is why it is not included in her title here.

July 30, 31 & August 1—Tent Sale

Starting July 19, we will accept donations for the tent sale weekend. Please contact the Sisters at (608) 222-7208 before you drop off items.

Items accepted for donation: furniture, household items, games, toys; clean and in good condition.

Items NOT accepted: clothing, TVs, electronics, shoes and baby equipment.

If you have questions, please contact Barb Brochtrup at barb.brochtrup@gmail.com or (608) 770-8449.

July

Calendar of Events in Madison

2 7:00 p.m. Marian Devotions and Benediction at St. Dennis Parish

NO Morning with Mary

4 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass in the Founder Shrine

11 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass in the Founder Shrine

11 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Women's Group

12 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Sion Circle: Prayer for priestly vocations in the Founder Shrine. All are welcome.

17 Eucharistic Adoration during the night

18 Eucharistic Adoration during the day

18 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass in the Founder Shrine

23-26 National Exile Congress at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha.

25 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass in the Founder Shrine

NO Covenant Sunday

Calendar of Events in Waukesha

For more information call: (262) 522-4300

5-9 Girls' Camp II

10 Girls' Day Camp II

12-16 Girls' Camp III

17 Girls' Day Camp III

19 Covenant Sunday

23-26 National Exile Congress

27-31 Girls' Camp IV

31-2 National Girls' Youth Leaders' Convention

Sunday, August 2—Ice Cream Social

The sign-up list to volunteer to work at the Ice Cream Social is available at Schoenstatt Heights. You can also volunteer to donate 1, 2, or 3 pounds of sloppy joes, bake sale items, pies, or cakes. Raffle tickets are also available at Schoenstatt Heights. This is still our main fundraiser for the movement, so we encourage you to take as many tickets as you can sell (or purchase yourselves) in order to help fund our movement activities throughout the year. All tickets and money must be returned before the drawing at 4:00 p.m. on August 2.

If you have questions, please contact Tess Unger at tunger911@gmail.com or (773) 844-1180.

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