

Schoenstatt Family News

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

Volume 29, Issue 10

October, 2015

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



We share excerpts from the General Audience of Pope Francis on May 13, 2015, (from the website w2.vatican.va) regarding an important aspect of family life.

Today's catechesis will serve as a doorway to a series of reflections on family life and what it's really like to live in a family, day in and day out. Imagine three expressions written above the doorway; expressions I've already mentioned here in St Peter's Square several times before. The expressions are: "may I?", "thank you", and "pardon me". Indeed, these expressions open up the way to living well in your family, to living in peace. They are simple expressions, but not so simple to put into practice! They hold much power: the power to keep home life intact even when tested with a thousand problems. But if they are absent, little holes can start to crack open and the whole thing may even collapse. ...

Let's look at these expressions: the first expression is, "may I?" When we take care to ask for something kindly – even something we think we have a rightful claim to – we help to strengthen the common life that undergirds marriage and the family. Entering into the life of another, even when that person already has a part to play in our life, demands the sensitivity of a non-invasive attitude which renews trust and respect. Indeed, the deeper and more intimate love is, the more it calls for respect for the other's freedom and the ability to wait until the other opens the door to his or her heart. At this point, we can remember the words of Jesus in the Book of Revelation: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (3:20). Even the Lord asks permission to enter! ... Before doing anything in your family, ask: "Do you mind if I do this? Would you like me to do this?" This way of asking is well-mannered indeed, but it is also full of love. This does so much good for families.

The second expression is "thank you". Sometimes we have to wonder if we are turning into a civilization of bad manners and bad words, as if this were a sign of self-liberation. It's not uncommon to hear these bad words publicly. Kindness and the ability to say "thank you" are often considered a sign of weakness and raise the suspicion of others. This tendency is encountered even within the

nucleus of the family. We must become firmly determined to educate others to be grateful and appreciative: the dignity of the person and social justice must both pass through the portal of the family. If family life neglects this style of living, social life will also reject it. Gratitude, however, stands at the very core of the faith of the believer. A Christian who does not know how to thank has lost the very "language" of God. This is terrible! Let's not forget Jesus' question after he heals the ten lepers and only one of them returns to thank him (Luke 17:18). I remember once listening to a very wise, old person; very simple, but with that uncommon wisdom of life and piety: "Gratitude is a plant that grows only in the soil of noble souls". That nobility of soul, that grace of God in the soul compels us to say "thank you" with gratitude. It is the flower of a noble soul. This really is something beautiful.

The third expression is "pardon me". Granted, it's not always easy to say, but it is so necessary. Whenever it is lacking, the little cracks begin to open up — even when we don't want them to — and they can even become enormous sinkholes. It's hardly insignificant that in the "Our Father" that Jesus teaches us — a prayer that sums up all of life's essential questions — we find this expression: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" (Matt 6:16). To acknowledge that we have fallen short, to be desirous of returning that which has been taken away — respect, sincerity, love — these make us worthy of pardon. This is how we heal the infection. If we are not able to forgive ourselves, then we are no longer able to forgive period. A house in which the words "I'm sorry" are never uttered begins to lack air, and the flood waters begin to choke those who live inside. So many wounds, so many scrapes and bruises are the result of a lack of these precious words: "I am sorry". Marital life is so often torn apart by fights ... the "plates will even start flying", but let me give you a word of advice: never finish the day without making peace with one another. ... And how am I going to make peace? By getting down on my knees? No! Just by a small gesture, a little something, and harmony within your family will be restored. Just a little caress, no words necessary. But don't let the sun go down on your family without having made your peace. ... It's not easy, but you have to do it. It will help to make life so much more beautiful. ...

Father Kentenich's talk on June 19, 1955, with the Madison and Milwaukee couples regarding "Thank You," paraphrased from notes by Henry Gmeinder.

... We should be "magnificat" children -- we should always say "Thank You" to God for everything. Never forget to say "Thank You". God expects this gratitude. Everyday we should recall where and when God has been good to me today. ...

Let us say that a husband and his wife had a little fight -- and they feel guilty -- it happens in every family -- then let them tell God, "See how dumb I was again." When we say that, God says "This is my beloved child." Let's say that they have a big fight and each says that he or she is right - they get further and further apart -- but when they both say "Excuse me!", then they get along much better. It's the same way with God. God wants children that want to be good but just can't be good all of the time and when they say they can't they force God to pour His mercy on them. God could (have) created people without faults but He didn't and even if we get as old as grandmothers and grandfathers, we will still have faults.

Please pray for...

- Father Dieter Haas
- those in our Schoenstatt family who have requested prayers due to illness, surgery, or other intentions.
- the prayer intentions brought to the Founder Shrine by all who visit.
- the Schoenstatt Fathers and Sisters of Mary who have dedicated their entire lives to spreading the message of Schoenstatt to all corners of the earth.



Fall Work Day at Schoenstatt Heights !!!

On Saturday, October 17, help the Sisters prepare for winter by raking leaves, washing windows, removing fallen branches, etc. Some indoor, sit-down work will also be available. The work hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 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.

**The Prodigal Son and Daughter
Experiencing and Showing God's Mercy
Autumn Retreat—November 7-8**

Take time to prepare for the Year of Mercy with talks, prayer, and reflection. Fr. Gerold Langsch will be our retreat director. Retreat hours – Saturday, November 7 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. On Saturday the retreat will start with Holy Mass at 8:00 a.m. as part of Morning with Mary, followed by rosary in the Shrine, and light breakfast. The Morning with Mary meditation will be given by Father Langsch. The opportunity for confession will be offered on Saturday afternoon for those attending the retreat. Holy Mass on Sunday will be at 11:00 a.m.

The cost is \$50 per person and includes lunch and dinner. For more information or to register please contact Sr. M. Deanne Niehaus at (608) 222-7208 or email schgyouthmadison@schsrsmary.org

October

Calendar of Events in Madison

**Each Monday & Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Rosary Devotions in the Shrine (except Oct. 1)**

- 1 **7:00 p.m. Marian Devotions and Benediction at St. Dennis Parish**
- 3 **8:00 a.m. – Morning with Mary:** Mass in the Family Room. Meditation: Queen of the Rosary
- 10 **8:00 a.m. Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine
- 11 **2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Sion Circle:** Prayer for priestly vocations in the Founder Shrine. All are welcome.
- 17 **8:00 a.m. Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine
- 17 **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fall Work Day**
- 17 **Eucharistic Adoration** during the night
- 18 **Eucharistic Adoration** during the day
- 24 **8:00 a.m. Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine
- 25 **9:30 a.m. – Holy Mass – Covenant Sunday**
- 31 **8:00 a.m. Holy Mass** in the Founder Shrine

Calendar of Events in Waukesha

For more information call: (262) 522-4300

- 7 Young Mother's Day of Reflection
- 9-11 National Leaders' Convention
- 18 Covenant Sunday
- 23-25 Girls' Youth October Renewal Weekend
- 30-Nov. 1 Family Retreat

We extend our sympathy and prayers ...

- to the family and friends of Mariette Coffman, who entered eternity on August 25. She was a faithful attendee of Morning with Mary.
- to the family and friends of Norbert Buechner, who entered eternity on August 5. He is the husband of Viola Buechner.