



SHRINE SOUNDINGS Jubilee Family Shrine & Retreat Center

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USA 50TH JUBILEE OF HOME SHRINES!

Many greetings to all of you who take the time to read our little newsletter from the Schoenstatt Shrine here in the Midwest. I've been writing this one in my head and heart since last Thanksgiving, but it only comes to be typed on this second Schoenstatt milestone anniversary, on January 20, 2013.

With heartfelt *Thanksgiving* we move into the great **YEAR OF FAITH – YEAR OF SCHOENSTATT MISSION – and YEAR OF GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE HOME SHRINE!**

The year's motto that began October 18th and runs through until Founding Sunday, October 20, 2013, is:

YOUR HOME SHRINE, OUR MISSION, LIVE IT!

Many of us have a home shrine. We have dedicated a picture of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt, with a crucifix, and a picture of Father Joseph Kentenich at some special place in our home. It is a way to bring those three pilgrimage graces from the Original Schoenstatt Shrine in Germany, through the now over 200 daughter shrines built as exact replicas in over 40 different countries (we have 10 at present in the USA), often via a traveling Pilgrim MTA Shrine (begun in 1950 in Brazil with Mr. John Pozzobon), right into **my family home**.

A title is given to Mary that reflects a name, a mission, a task, a petition, or a historic event which can be called the "personal ideal of our family." Sometimes that family is me, myself, and I; sometimes it is the young family just beginning with children on the way; sometimes it is the empty-nested parents; or it can be a person in consecrated life in simple one-room accommodations. Our Mother and Queen comes into any and

all situations with her promise to accept our invitation, to dwell among us, and to educate us purposefully and constantly into actual holiness! Schoenstatt wants to form and forge, mold and educate the mild and the wild, the precious and the pride-filled, all of us created and born in the image of God to become SAINTS for our families, Church, and society!

This is no easy task. How do we live a mission which is simple but broad, basic but multifaceted, needed but often overwhelming as our Home Shrine Ideal? One step at a time. We want to use this Year of Faith to engage our covenant of love, to realize Mary will indeed carry out her six requests and promises:

"Prove first by your deeds that you really love me; work on your self-education, sanctify your life, fulfill your duties faithfully and conscientiously, and diligently bring me contributions to the capital of grace. Then it will please me to dwell in your midst {in your home shrine} and dispense gifts and graces in abundance. Then from here I will draw youthful hearts to myself and educate them to become useful instruments in my hand." *Father Joseph Kentenich, MTA, June 15, 1919*

Last October 14th was the 50th anniversary of Father Kentenich blessing the first home shrine in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area. This November 18th will be 50 years since he proclaimed the Home Shrine Document: "Everything which holds true for the Original Shrine and for the daughter shrines also holds true for the home shrines." Mary, who we invite into our homes, IS the great missionary, performing miracles in our home shrines. Entrust all of your worries and cares, your fears and concerns, your loved ones and hard to love ones in her motherly educative care. Then trust she will take perfect care!

From our Jubilee Family Shrine, Sister M Jessica

Featured Schoenstatter: Alice Steffes+



Alice Steffes, a member of the pioneer couples group in Ivanhoe, MN, passed away on November 2, 2012 in Hendricks, MN. Alice and her husband Ray made their home on the family farm where they raised eleven children. Her devotion to Ray and their children created a strong sense of family. Alice was the heart and soul of her family by creating and passing on the family traditions her children and grandchildren will always remember and cherish. Alice's faith in the Blessed Mother and the Church was unwavering. She was active in the Catholic Ladies Guild, taught religious education classes for many years, led the Rosary and distributed Holy Communion in the Hendricks Nursing Home weekly for many years. She was on the selective service board and Willing Workers Neighborhood Group. She also worked at the Divine Providence Hospital and Nursing Home in Ivanhoe.

Her love for the Blessed Mother urged her and Ray to become very faithful members of the Schoenstatt Pioneer Couples group in Ivanhoe in 1969 with eight other couples. They were active in their parish and gave everything for Schoenstatt. When the Schoenstatt Sisters received the new property in Sleepy Eye, Alice, Ray and the other couples often made the 180-mile trip to work on the old farm house and the land so the Sisters of Mary could live in the house. They also were active in working for the shrine. Many sacrifices were brought for this great undertaking.

Since there were nine couples in this group they had a special novena of May Devotions every year. They would meet in each home for devotions and crown the Blessed Mother in their home shrines. It was always a large group because of the many children. They kept up this tradition even after some of the members passed away.

Alice always was ready to help; her love for Schoenstatt formed her life. When most of the members of the pioneer couples had passed away, Alice joined a Mother's group, but still met faithfully with the last members of her couples group. When one of the members passed away the others took care that their large MTA picture was nicely decorated in the funeral home and at Church for the funeral Mass. Alice was a woman of prayer and dedicated to helping others until she died on All Souls Day 2012. May she rest in peace.

- Contributed by Sister M Ellen

THANK YOU for Your Christmas Gifts And Generosity throughout the Year

With the Schoenstatt Sisters at the Shrine and Schoenstatt on the Lake, I want to thank you for all your terrific generosity this Christmas Season. **Sister Rita-Marie** who is not only our director, chief cook, and bottle washer, but the one who keeps track of payroll, bills, and all finances, is most grateful with relief that her check book can balance! **Sister M Ellen** who is our sacristan, works in the gift shop, and visits the home-bound and area nursing homes, as well as co-teaches religious education classes, would like you all to stop by for a cup of coffee. She and **Sister M Candace** decorated the shrine in its Christmas finery. (If you didn't get a picture of it via email, give us a call at 507-794-7727.) Sister Candace's job at the New Ulm Diocesan Pastoral Center heads up all family life education and pro-life efforts, including six re/marriage prep Saturdays. **Sister M Deanne** working with the Schoenstatt Girls Youth and I working with the mothers, couples, and professional women – along with our monthly events – are grateful for the big boost we receive at Christmas. Your monthly support at the meetings truly fills the gas tanks and keeps us coming; helps to buy paper and ink toners; maintains the internet and cell phone charges; and puts a new Schoenstatt book or annual brochure in your hands, etc. **We simply couldn't do it without all of you donating!**



Sisters M Deanne, M Ellen, Rita-Marie, M Candace, and M Jessica

Let Me Give Thanks for Everything

For everything, yes for everything, let me give heartfelt thanks, clinging to you, Mother, with tender love. What would have become of us without you and without your motherly care!

Because you delivered us from great need and bound us to yourself in faithful love, I will give you thanks, be grateful forevermore and dedicate myself to you with undivided love. Amen.

Father Joseph Kentenich, *Heavenwards*, p 146

Women's Retreat Nov 16-18, 2012



Father Randal Kasel & Sister Jessica addressed the topic: *Redemptive Suffering in the Plan of the Father* for over 30 women coming from MN, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois.



Sarah Fenelon (pictured at left) from Elm Grove, WI, offered massages and Lisa Cassellius from Bloomington, MN, offered Premier Design Jewelry (which has proven to be a great fundraiser as well as offering quality pieces to embellish authentic femininity); along with Sister Rita-Marie's home cooking to fill the women, body and soul, with Schoenstatt's high ideals.

USCSI provides Vocation Coverage



Sister Jessica and Pat Skarda, professor at Smith College, MA, speak with Archbishop Joseph Tobin at the National Religious Vocation Convocation in Plano, TX, Nov 3, 2012. The archbishop was Pope Benedict's cabinet head for consecrated life and led the recent visitation to religious orders in the USA. Since Dec 18th he heads the Diocese of Indianapolis.



Jan 8-11, 2013, Sister Jessica -as secretary for the US Conference of Secular Institutes-was in Clearwater, FL, for the Catholic Campus Ministry Assoc. These provide invaluable venues to further our Schoenstatt Mission in wider Church circles. In May the board meets near Cape Cod.

Jesus Celebrated at Epiphany Party



James Wolf narrated for the all-star cast with little *Jesuite*: Clara Currans. Over 100 people gathered on January 6th with this year's highlights including: Sister M Ellen's sharing of German Christmas customs and traditions; Father Chris Shofner, LeCenter, MN, leading



Benediction and the Magi blessing on the front door frame as well as blessing a picture of Venerable M Emilie Engel for our main dining room; 16 gingerbread shrines were further enhanced by Hannah Chryst's gingerbread people. The potluck coffee break with favorite Christmas delectables is the concluding highlight.



Eva, Lisa, Elsa, Marty and Helen Cassellius from Bloomington, MN Carter, Elizabeth, Emma, Kevin, Marnee, Clara and Caroline Currans



Three New Home Shrines in Midwest



Vicente & Amy Cortez-Schneider, Ana, Christopher, Maria Teresa (& Joshua & Andres) dedicated **María el camino del Padre** on April 29, 2012, with Father Francisco Rojas. Choosing the living room, Our MTA reigns from “grand central station” in Neillsville, WI.



Anna Richards carries the MTA in procession through her home in Waseca, MN, on Dec 7, 2012. **Our Lady of Sorrows** is the title chosen for Mary to distribute graces. Their pastor, Father Marty Schaefer, officiated at 4 pm, before offering Mass at Sacred Heart Parish.



After Mass the home shrine of Gregory & Jeanne Feldkamp was dedicated as **Mary, Queen of Peace** on Dec 7, at Janesville, MN. All in attendance were motivated by the living symbols of Matthew, Isaac, Joseph, Samuel & Luke before Fr Schaefer’s blessing.

PLEASE NOTE: Take a family photo in your home shrine and send it with one of your family customs with our MTA to srjessica@schrsmary.org by April 1, 2013, to be included in the 50th Anniversary USA Album!

Covenants of Love with Our MTA

Our MTA calls hearts to her Son in many different ways. For many years there have been Schoenstatt groups meeting in the St Cloud area. After faithfully preparing via the Schoenstatt Covenant of Love DVD 8-meeting series, the husbands of two of the mothers sealed their covenants of love during trips to the Jubilee Family Shrine when summer camp was in full session this past July 2012. Blessings!



Sister Rita-Marie is with Maddy, Sylvia, Sam, and Steve LaFond.



Gianna, Miriam, Gemma, Celia, Zelig are standing with Monsignor Lozinski, Courtney and Clarissa Copper. A family so proud of Dad!



Jenny and Dan Gifford from Lino Lakes, MN, sealed their covenant of love into the Family League on Sunday, January 6, 2013. Father Mark Steffl came to accept their consecration to our MTA. Arianna happily participated as best she could.

Heart Shrine Sealed in the Jubilee Family Shrine

"We are living shrines. We are dwelling places of the Blessed Trinity. We should see to it that during the day we live in a sacred atmosphere which overflows from our hearts into today's profane and secularized world." –Father Kentenich



Mary Lou Hubly, from Clarks Grove, MN, sealed her Heart Shrine Dedication on Sunday, Nov 18, 2012, in the Jubilee Family Shrine. Her husband John was united via cell phone.



Mother Daughter retreatants included Chris & Katie Rockers, Margaret & Sarah Fenelon, Mary Lou & Cara & Katie Hubly.

+ + + + + + **Prayers** + + + + + + +
My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you, and to show my devotion to you, I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my entire self without reserve. As I am your own, my good mother, guard me and defend me as your property and possession. Amen.

Angel of God, my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side to light and to guard, to rule and to guide. From sinful stain oh keep me free, and at death's hour my helper be.

Jesus and Mary, I place my hands in yours. Lead us on our journey of faith to eternity. Amen. –Rose Deutsch

If a minute of silence was observed for **every baby aborted** since Roe v Wade 40 years ago, we would be silent for **over 100 years!**

Bishop John LeVoir: Continue to Defend Marriage

As you know, the Marriage Protection Amendment which was on the ballot last fall did not pass. If it had passed, it would have preserved marriage as the union of one man and woman in our state constitution, where activist judges and politicians could not redefine it. The amendment was narrowly defeated. Even so, same-sex marriage advocates are now pressing hard to repeal our current Defense of Marriage Act and legalize genderless marriage legislatively in Minnesota. Please keep current on this issue and pray that the authentic definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman will be preserved and taught. We are reminded by Blessed John Paul II at the conclusion of his *Letter to Families*, issued in 1994:

"The history of mankind, the history of salvation, passes by way of the family. In these pages I have tried to show how the family is placed at the centre of the great struggle between good and evil, between life and death, between love and all that is opposed to love. To the family is entrusted the task of striving, first and foremost, *to unleash the forces of good*, the source of which is found in Christ the Redeemer of man. I speak with the power of his truth to all people of our day, so that they will come to appreciate the grandeur of the goods of marriage, family and life; so that they will come to appreciate the great danger which follows when these realities are not respected, or when the supreme values which lie at the foundation of the family and of human dignity are disregarded. May the Holy Family, icon and model of every human family, help each individual to walk in the spirit of Nazareth. May it help each family unit to grow in understanding of its particular mission in society and the Church by hearing the Word of God, by prayer, and by a fraternal sharing of life. May Mary, Mother of 'Fairnest Love,' and Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, accompany us all with their constant protection."

Pray, Discern, and Make Plans to Attend:
International HOME SHRINE CONGRESS-Waukesha, WI
June 27-30, 2013 will be this historic event. Something begun by Father Kentenich with American Couples. This part of our Exile Legacy will be our specific gift to the entire Schoenstatt Family in 2014. Families are welcome, camping is an option, delegates from Texas, Chile, and Germany are already registered. Look to your email on February 5th for complete information.

One of the 2014 CENTENNIAL PILRIMAGES to EUROPE:
June 16-30, 2014 will be the USA English Pilgrimage to Rome and Schoenstatt, Germany. A Spanish Pilgrimage leaves from *September 5-19, 2014*. The actual Centennial Day Pilgrimage is for all language groups from *October 15-29, 2014*. At present we have 20 from Minnesota who are interested in visiting the Original Shrine and so much more in June 2014. Can you join with them? Call Sister Jessica 612-618-9334 for info.

Remembering Father Jonathan Niehaus

AGAPE (Poem contributed by Texan Students)

Jesus, my heart was pierced,
Looking on your cross, cold nails, sharp thorn,
In overwhelming grief... the fountains
Of my soul, exposed, did mourn.

Sweet Jesus! My heart's desire!
They beat and mock you, fail to see
How deep and tender your sweet love
For each dear child of humanity.

The Fountains burst as I recall
How you long intensely, soul and heart,
To share with us the Paschal Meal,
To sup with us and never part.

Sweet Jesus! No! We turn away;
We fill our hearts with other food;
We tear friends down to build self up;
We refuse to love you, our greatest good!

Then Mary's gentle hand came near
In Aves said with youthful zeal
To raise me up again and know:
The victory of your love is real.

-Father Jonathan Niehaus – written March 5, 2009
Born June 5, 1960 - Born into eternal life January 19, 2012.

Wish List / Needed Items at Schoenstatt

We were encouraged to begin a corner like this from our readers. One Mom wrote: "I can squirrel away a few grocery items for you sisters when I do my weekly shopping if I know what you can really use. This I can get to work, but it is a bit overwhelming to say I can write out a check each month." Or a Dad who looks forward to his retirement and jotted in the Christmas card: "Anything you need done out there?"

Paper & Office Supplies needed include:

- pop-up post-it notes, magic markers, pens
- reams of different colors (for our monthly resolutions ☺)
- two smoke detectors and an automatic stapler

Specialty Services

- anyone willing to photograph, list and sell items on E-bay
- make calls for home shrine listing updates for missed years
- making items for Country Store for Original Shrine Upkeep
- mending or re-hemming of house linens

Spring Work

- anyone up to trimming bushes and washing windows with the sisters?

Helpers for the 2nd Annual BARN SALE before and during Aug 8-10, 2013, at Dave & Jenny Baker's Farm: 651-278-6633.

Beloved Squash & Apple Casserole

Topping – Layer III

- 4 tsp sugar
- 3 cups cornflakes, coarsely crumbled
- ¼ cup pecans, chopped
- 4 Tbsp butter, melted

Apple Mixture – Layer I

- 2 ½ Tbsp butter
- 6 large cooking apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
- 4 tsp sugar

Squash Mixture – Layer II

- 6 cups (fresh or frozen) cubed butternut squash, *boiled until tender*
- 4 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- ¼ tsp salt

-Preheat oven to 350. Mix topping ingredients in bowl; set aside.

-Prepare apples: Heat butter in skillet over medium heat; add apples and sauté about 3 minutes or until tender. Stir in granulated sugar. Transfer to a glass or ceramic 9x13" baking pan, spreading apples evenly.

-Prepare squash: In a bowl, mash cooked squash with butter, brown sugar & salt. Spread squash evenly over apples. Sprinkle topping on.

-Bake for 20 minutes or until topping is golden brown and crunchy.

Easy Oven Carmel French Toast

Simmer ½ cup of butter with 1 cup of brown sugar until syrupy. You could also add some nuts to this if desired. Pour into 9x13" glass dish. Next place French Bread slices over syrup mixture. Then beat 5 eggs in bowl; adding 1½ cup milk, 1 tsp vanilla, ¼ tsp salt and 2 Tbsp sugar. Pour over the bread, cover and refrigerate overnight.

Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes and enjoy.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Spring 2013

February 2, 2013: Don't miss this one – the Schoenstatt Dinner Dance complete with door prizes and much more! At Holy Spirit Church, 1406 Randolph Ave in St Paul; 4:30 pm Mass begins followed by dinner, dancing and meeting friends.

March 1-3, 2013: Couples Retreat begins Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm with Father Francisco Rojas-\$120 per couple.

March 2, 2013: Lenten Retreat Day from 10 am to 3 pm with talks, Mass, Confession, meal and Way of the Cross-\$20.

March 30, 2013: Traditional Filipino Holy Saturday Shrine Pilgrimage to accompany Our Lady this day via the rosary, stations, talk, potluck lunch, and activities from 10 am - 3 pm.

April 5-7, 2013: Mother-Daughter Weekend begins Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm. *Register Early* as space is limited. \$60 per person.

YOUTH EVENTS AT THE SHRINE include:

February 15-17, 2013: Girls Youth Weekend

March 22-24, 2013: Father/Son Weekend