



## SHRINE SOUNDINGS Jubilee Family Shrine & Retreat Center

Schoenstatt Movement, 27762 County Rd 27, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 [www.SchoenstattMN.com](http://www.SchoenstattMN.com) 507.794.7727

### BISHOP JOHN LEVOIR OPENS THE DOOR OF MERCY AT THE JUBILEE FAMILY SHRINE



Saturday, December 19, 2015, was a historic moment as Bishop LeVoir officially opened the Door of Mercy at our Schoenstatt Shrine in the Diocese of New Ulm. He was assisted by Deacon Mark Kober and altar servers Nick and Riley Strate and Dallas Bauer, all from Sleepy Eye, MN. Over 65 persons participated in the 4:00 pm holy Mass and the family-like reception supper that followed.

Mark and Chris Rockers, from Winnebago, MN, at the shrine entrance with the sign he designed and attached. →



A group of pilgrims joined us from St Mary's in Willmar. They enjoyed touring Schoenstatt on the Lake and hope to be back with more parishioners. ↓



Bishop LeVoir taught us in his sermon that pilgrimage is an important part of passing through the holy door. This is to show that we pass through to a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. He first explained: what is mercy? Pope John Paul II wrote it is to bring good out of both physical and moral evils. We should look to Jesus as our example on how he helped others. Then secondly, to accept mercy in our life, especially in confession. Thirdly, we are asked to show mercy by doing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Mercy can cure the terrible problems of our world today.



## Featured Schoenstatt Couples Group: Instruments of Hope – Saint Paul Area



Sincere preparation was made during the Schoenstatt Centennial Year and now during the Jubilee Year of Mercy these five couples sealed their Membership Dedication to the Schoenstatt Family League. Bishop John LeVoir, who had worked with three of the families during his time as parish priest in Stillwater, MN, came to the Door of Mercy at the Jubilee Family Shrine to offer holy Mass and to accept their dedications, witness their blank checks, bless their symbols, and witness the renewal of their marriage vows.

### ***Let's answer the question of what the Membership Dedication into the Family League is all about.***

The Schoenstatt Family League is a part of the Schoenstatt Movement. Its task is to educate lay apostles in the spirit of the Church and Schoenstatt. One may belong to the Schoenstatt Family League as an associate member or as a member. As such, members are considered the elite of the family league and work together to offer the spiritual benefits of Schoenstatt and grow in their education and striving.

**The first and most important apostolate of the members is their family.** No one can dispense the couple from this responsibility or take it away from them. The Schoenstatt community formed in their regular group greetings is a great help and bond. Here they work together to implement Schoenstatt spirituality.

**Marian Devotion:** The couples express their readiness to seriously strive for conformity with the will of God through a life out of the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt to the heights of the blank check surrender.

**Ascetical Education:** The members oblige themselves to accept the means of self-education which Father Kentenich suggests as a safeguard for this high calling; namely, the personal ideal, the particular examination, the spiritual daily order and its daily control, regular confession, and if possible, the report in confession about the particular examination and at least one point of the spiritual daily order. The couples strive seriously to realize the ideal of Catholic marriage in their lives. They erect a home shrine in their family and make

great efforts to maintain it according to our founder's idea. They also work hard to keep the weekly Schoenstatt Hour as a means to deepen their Schoenstatt family and married life.

### ***Is it really a blank check or more like an IOU?***

Check # 5025  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pay to the order of: Mother Thrice Admirable \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
DOLLARS  
Memo: Blank Check Dedication  
Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Check # 5025 85122514 10512114 5025

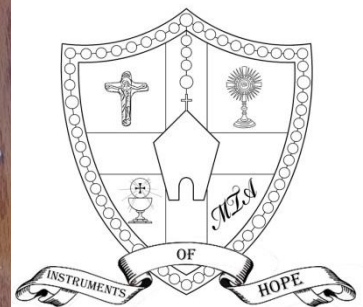
### ***Father Kentenich explained the Blank Check on October 18, 1939:***

“God in his wisdom and kindness has given us the royal gift of our free will. He would like us to return this will to him of our own free choice and volition. He wishes to receive it from us completely and in all its ramifications as a gift in return. Those who make the blank check in the right spirit perfectly respond to the call, wish, and will of the eternal God. They will not want to hold back anything for themselves. From then on they will want to form and bear their lives in complete submission and conformity to the will of God.

The rarity of such an unconditional surrender to Divine Providence and the Eternal Wisdom... Only very few can pray sincerely with Our Lord in the *Our Father*: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

### ***How much is prescribed or is there freedom left to the couples in each particular group?***

Father Kentenich sought the way to have great unity in diversity; to build oneness without losing the uniqueness of the individual. The important thing he knew was to allow for freedom and uniqueness of one's expression in the striving for sanctity. His great philosophy in education was: freedom as much as possible, bonds as few as necessary, but with the highest degree of spiritual formation. This allows the magnanimity of the spirit to flourish, which encourages that all we do in striving is done out of love and not just because we are bound by restrictions.



Here one sees rich originality for this group as they dug into what an instrument of hope is really all about. Each couple received a rosary handcrafted with the decade colors corresponding to their marriage covenant color birthstones. Their coat of arms expresses symbolically what an instrument of hope in the hands of our dear MTA means to them.



**Saturday, January 23, 2016**



One of the challenges of the Membership Dedication is finding a date when a priest could be available and when all the couples could pilgrimage to the Jubilee Family Shrine. Our MTA will reward you with a perfect solution, so don't give up hope. She will take perfect care.

### **Instruments of Hope**



The Vicente and Amy Cortez family lives in Neillsville, WI, so Skype is used. Maria, Camino al Padre por Jesus is their home shrine.



Marty and Lisa Cassellius and family are now living in Bloomington, MN. Their home shrine is: The Shrine of the Visitation.



Bryan and Carla Lomax and family live in Cottage Grove, MN. They named their home shrine: Mary of the Light.



Courtney and Clarissa Cooper and family moved into the Oakdale, MN, area with their home shrine named: Clarissima Mater.



The Don and Shelly Regep family have grown up in South Saint Paul, MN. Their home shrine is entitled: Gate of Heaven.



## Girls Summer Camp Celebrations

During this 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the Schoenstatt Shrine, Sister Mary Kate and Elaine Wolf (our webmaster) have put the Girls Summer Camp registration online January 31<sup>st</sup>. There is now a waiting list for the five weeks offered for the younger age groups. Day Camp and the high school week are still open for June/July 2016.

Here are the celebrations in the shrine in summer 2015:

**Marian Apostles Dedications:** Antonia Bontjes, Abigail DeZurik, Allyson and Sarah Kahler, Vera Miller, Julia Stich, Isabelle Peach, Laney and Faith Myhre, Sylvia Rabaey, Camille Berns, Rose Larsen, Clare Karels, Abby Maslow, Mary Oberg, Terez Meyer, Michaelann Fonder, Marie Volkmuth, Hope and Faith Beisler, Georgia Rabaey, Natalie Bach, Lila Vanner, Lauren Gibb, and Janina Temple.

### Room Shrine Dedications:

Isabelle Peach, Kaci Callens, Margaret Clarke, Michaelann Fonder, Faith Beisler and Cora Roesch

**The Covenant of Love** was sealed by Katherine Austad

We are so grateful Sister Mary Kate is back serving the Girls Youth and stationed at Schoenstatt on the Lake.

## Father-Son Weekend Tops 40



Father Mark Niehaus led the weekend from November 20-22, 2015, under the theme: From Shrine To Shrine. James Wolf gave a talk and the comment was made: James' enthusiasm was contagious! Don't miss their next weekend on April 22-24, 2016.

## RSVP 507-794-7727 for Spring Events

**Jubilee Year of Mercy Retreat Days on:  
Feb 16, Apr 13, & May 12 from 10 am-3 pm**

**Girls Youth Weekend - Feb 19-21<sup>st</sup>**

**Couples Retreat Weekend - March 4-6<sup>th</sup>**

**Jubilee Year of Mercy Retreat Day - March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Holy Saturday Retreat Day - March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Mother-Daughter Weekend - April 1-3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Father-Son Weekend - April 22-24<sup>th</sup>**

## National Catholic Youth Conference



Almost 25,000 gathered November 19-21, 2015, in Indianapolis for the biannual NCYC event. Four secular institutes were present: Rev. Leo Patalinghug, Voluntas Dei; Terrie Alby, Caritas Christi; Kathy Tierney, DeSales Institute; and Sr. Jessica for the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary.

## Some of Pope Francis' Lenten Thoughts

### 2. *God's covenant with humanity: a history of mercy*

The mystery of divine mercy is revealed in the history of the covenant between God and his people Israel. God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion, especially at those tragic moments when infidelity ruptures the bond of the covenant, which then needs to be ratified more firmly in justice and truth. Here is a true love story, in which God plays the role of the betrayed father and husband, while Israel plays the unfaithful child and bride. These domestic images – as in the case of Hosea (cf. *Hos* 1-2) – show to what extent God wishes to bind himself to his people. ...

3. *The works of mercy* - God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbor and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason, I expressed my hope that "the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy" (*MV*, 15). For in the poor, the flesh of Christ "becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us" (*ibid.*). It is the unprecedented and scandalous mystery of the extension in time of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals (cf. *Ex* 3:5), especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith. ...



## Women's Retreat November 6-8, 2015



A tremendous behind-the-scenes action accompanies every single Schoenstatt event. Here Lorie Spear, Veronica Niehaus, Judy Pipke, and Sr M Ellen prepare picture items for the Gift Shop on Friday. In addition, Lorie took on the cooking with Sr M Faustina's preparation.



After an inspiring morning of talks by **Father Randal Kasel** to prepare us for the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the footsteps of newly canonized Zelig & Louis Martin, the afternoon brought **Lorraine Schroeffer** teaching two artistic expressions for some of the 40 participants.



**Gathering at the family table** brings a unique joy and communion. Saturday brought even more women during this season of Thanksgiving. "Transform us, Mother, too, into children of a constant divine smile and into a victim of God's merciful love."  
-Father Joseph Kentenich

## Finally, We Have An Epiphany Party



It was great to see so many young actors. The weather couldn't have been more perfect on Sunday, January 3, 2016. After a three-year drought, the Schoenstatt Family could really celebrate Baby Jesus and the great event of his Incarnation into our time and world.



Gloria and Tim Wolf prepared **15 gingerbread shrine kits** which gave lots of joy and creativity. Elaine Haala and Sr. M Ellen worked with Dan and Linda Simones from Webster (not shown) for this jewel.



**Before their drive back to Ham Lake** the Steve and Lisa Willems family pilgrimaged again to the DOOR OF MERCY. Samuel, Sophie, and Emma make the long trip for the Mother Thrice Admirable's three shrine graces as often as they can.

# *Flock Talk*

By Our Lady's Disciples

Welcome to Flock Talk! This column will be thoughts from the Our Lady's Disciples couples group in Roseville/White Bear Lake, MN. We will wrap up each column with a resolution. We welcome feedback and ideas at flocktalkmn@gmail.com.

Our first column includes the prayer that we wrote for our Membership Dedication, which will take place in 2016.

## WE SEE YOUR HAND

Dear Blessed Mother, as we look back upon our lives, we see your hand at work throughout our entire lives. We see your hand in our families as we grew up, when our faiths were formed and nurtured.

We see your hand as we received the sacraments instituted by your Son: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation.

We see your hand as we entered adulthood, when our faiths grew in new and exciting ways.

We see your hand bringing us together as couples, leading us to the altar of your Son, to be joined in marriage.

We see your hand as we started our own families, teaching us how to share our faith with our loved ones.

We see your hand as we came together to form our Schoenstatt group, guiding us into a renewed relationship with you.

We see your hand as we made our covenant of love, affirming our dedication to you.

And now, as we prepare to make our Schoenstatt membership dedication, we see your hand guiding us onto a path for an ever-deepening relationship with you.

Inspired by the confidence that your hand continues to help us, we present our petitions to you.

We ask for your hand to protect and uphold family life throughout the world.

We ask for your hand to strengthen Schoenstatt, your Schoenstatt priests and sisters, groups and families, during this Year of Consecrated Life.

We ask for your hand to be with our Schoenstatt group as we make this membership dedication and beyond, that Schoenstatt will always be a means of our ongoing sanctification.

We ask for your hand to help us as we grow as couples and to draw us deeper into the covenant of love with you.

We ask for your hand to lead each of us on our path to everyday sanctity, that we may see others as you see them, that we may listen always to the cries of the

needy, and that we may be the face of your Son to others.

We ask for your hand to rid us of habits that do not lead to your Son and to give us the wisdom to use your gifts wisely and properly.

We ask for your hand to guide our children on the journey that Jesus has prepared for each of them, that they may be strong when tempted, be loving when they don't want to be, and be determined to follow the examples of the Holy Family.

We ask for your hand to lead those who have gone before us into the presence of Jesus and that, upon our deaths, we may join them and you at the Eternal Banquet of the Lamb.

As a sign of our devotion to you in this membership dedication, we place ourselves in your hands.

We place in your hands our blank check, confident that you will use us in the service of your Son.

We place in your hands our personal ideal and particular examination, for you to use in sanctifying us.

We place in your hands our spiritual daily order, as a tangible sign of our journey to everyday sanctity.

We place in your hands our entire selves, as a sign of our complete acceptance of the covenant of love, knowing that we cannot out-give your generosity.

Our Queen, Our Mother, Our Victress of Schoenstatt, we ask you to accept this prayer and to accept us into the Schoenstatt family league membership. We ask this in the name of your divine Son. Amen.

**Discussion:** During this Year of Consecrated Life as Pope Francis and the Church focus on mercy, we think it helpful as Schoenstatt members to continue to be the faces of Mary and Jesus by enacting mercy in our daily lives. At our most recent meeting, our group talked about the following definition of mercy:

**Mercy is undeserved, unmerited forgiveness, compassion, salvation, and love.**

**Group Resolution:** On a daily basis:

1. Meditate on the above definition of mercy, and
2. Demonstrate an act of mercy to someone, by providing:
  - a. Forgiveness
  - b. Compassion
  - c. Love

- That "someone" may be an individual you know or a total stranger, and may change daily or be the same person for the entire striving quarter if you wish.

- Even though you might not regularly interact with that "someone," consider a simple act of compassion, and/or prayer for forgiveness and/or salvation for that individual.