

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Wishing you a very blessed Christmas from our Jubilee Family Shrine! We include you in nine Holy Masses that will be offered this year for you and your intentions.

The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary

May the Christ Child grant the whole Schoenstatt family much growth in heroic childlikeness so that we may always seek to find the kingdom of God. Everything else is of secondary importance...

The miracle of the Holy Night is a miracle of the faithfulness of heaven towards us. 12/1941
-Father Joseph Kentenich



You are all invited to an Epiphany Party!

It will be Sunday, January 7, 2018, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

After dress rehearsal the Christmas Pageant is performed by the children at 2:pm followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the shrine and the three kings blessing at the front door. Next is the family activity of making gingerbread shrines, plus sharing of Christmas goodies. Please bring some treats to share.

All are Welcome! Kindly RSVP 507-794-7727!

Flock Talk

By Steve Ray

My gift to you is a meditation on the season, assembled from many well-known Christmas carols.

O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O Holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, o night when Christ was born!

Silent night, holy night. Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from Heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, "Hallelujah!" Christ the Savior is born.

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding is the great I AM.

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.



Joy to the world. The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room. And heaven and nature sing!

Blessed and Merry Christmas to you all from the Our Lady's Disciples group!
I leave you with a quote from "A Charlie Brown Christmas":

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." **That's what Christmas is all about.**

As always, we welcome feedback and ideas at flocktalkmn@gmail.com.

Resolution: Take some time on Christmas day to sit quietly and welcome Jesus.

Steve Ray is a member of the Our Lady's Disciples couples group in Roseville, MN.

Featured Schoenstatter: Lorie Spear



Lorie Spear is the leader of the Schoenstatt Mothers Group from Waseca, Threads of a Tapestry. Shown above at the Baptism of her first grandchild, she directed over 10 Mothers Conferences held the first Monday of May at Schoenstatt on the Lake.

Our group resolution for November was one of giving thanks to those who have influenced our lives especially to a more holy path.

For me that is my children, for I believe that by their very existence they save souls. They come in their sweet little packages wrapped with their own individual personalities, gifts, and challenges. Scott and I looked at the world differently when our children came. Our story is not terribly different from others, it is one of TRUST and HOPE.

Our Son Kenneth was born February 13, 1981 and returned to God on May 6, 1981. I remember sitting at Sunday Mass three days after the funeral, Mother's Day, just numb but running to the Father and He held and rocked me in His arms all Mass. Ken taught us to cling to the cross and each other in times of trial. We learned we could do things we never thought we were capable of. We then had two miscarriages; one when I was six and a half months along, her name is SchVonne, and she too taught us a valuable lesson of trust in the Father and not ourselves.

For you see I was very angry that I as a nurse could not save my own child (Ken). So when we became pregnant I felt all was good as long as she was inside, I could control her environment by what I did and ate. Not so much.

We then had 10 years of infertility and as often as I said we trusted the Father, I perhaps did not surrender it all. When I finally said I give up, we will stop living to become pregnant! That very month Adreianna was conceived. She taught us total surrender and again trust even when we don't see His hand. Funny how those things are very much a part of each child even today.

Two and a half years later we were blessed with Natasha and she taught us diligence and perseverance as well as the art of functioning with no sleep. For Natasha was defiantly from that land of no sleep!

Five years later we had another blessing of Machaela. She is named after St Michael the Archangel, and defender of truth and justice reigns true with her personality as well.

They all have taught us to see others only as a child of God, free from any attachments we as adults may put on others. They have reminded us again and again to trust and call on the MTA to carry us to the Father. They have stretched our feeble boundaries and pushed us right into unselfish sacrificial love!

In my attempt to thank them for all of this and more, I was also moved to thank a person Natasha was scheduled to work under for one of her internships. This 10 week stay was located in Salt Lake City, Utah. I knew this could be a difficult time not only due to location but time of the year as well. I had been praying for her preceptor when she called and told me that she was so fortunate to have such a great preceptor; he was kind, understanding, had a sense of humor, and a fun family. Natasha has never been shy about her faith and soon they were having some interesting conversations.

Long story short, he said that when he returns to church, it will be to the Catholic faith. He has embraced a journey of understanding and is asking God about his role in leading his family there as well.

When I wrote to him thanking him for being the answer to a prayer, he quickly responded: "No, thank you for sharing your daughter with us here. I'm not sure she came to learn Physical Therapy, maybe to lead me to the Church." Natasha has since completed her stay there and returned home. We both still continue to correspond with the gentleman there.

It became quite clear to me in the end that I would not have traveled down this path of gratitude and thanking my children, as well as conversing with a gentleman from Utah about Catholicism if it had not been for the challenge of our group resolution! Thank You, MTA. . .

It has become understood that toward the end of the meeting and discussion, Sister Jessica will reach into her bag and pull out the little box with the monthly colored "Resolution Slips." It is not easy to come up with a clear practical point that everyone can agree upon as a help in our striving for holiness during the coming month. But think back to some of your favorite ones, where you were stretched, where it cost you something to accomplish it every day! At a newly re-grouped couples meeting, everyone started writing their point of conquest and then shared what it was. This also worked well and gave much food for thought.

Happy New Year's resolution writing to all!

10th Anniversary of the Cor Mariae Shrine



On a clear, windy, and cold day, hearts were warmed in prayer:
Come down from the heights of heaven into our shrine,
 the Cenacle of our Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen.
 Fill us and penetrate us with your divine light and eternal love!
 Come down – and unite us heart and soul as family...
 Come down on our Apostolic Movement and make it into a leaven
 for the Church! Come down on the world and re-create it! ...
*(Taken from prayer as Schoenstatt Diocesan Priests first enthroned
 the Holy Spirit Symbol in the Original Shrine on October 4, 1946)*



Bishop Conley inspired the Schoenstatt Family to stay open to the workings of the Holy Spirit, as we begin **our next decade of service** through the three shrine pilgrimage graces to all who come to pray.



After the Holy Mass at 11:00 am all were served a hot luncheon in the tent.

Dorothy Urbanowski made the beautiful anniversary cake elaborated with a Holy Spirit Symbol.

The Shrine is 25 miles southwest of Lincoln, NE, and is open during daylight hours. Call 402-826-3346.

With Special Thanksgiving to God and in the Heart of Mary, our Mother Thrice Admirable, We Enthroned the Holy Spirit Symbol . . .



On Saturday, November 18, 2017, 300 people gathered at Crete, NE, for a very special covenant celebration with Bishop James D. Conley. He attached the **Holy Spirit Symbol** in the *Cor Mariae* - Heart of Mary Shrine.



Red Hat Ladies Enjoy the Shrine & Center



On October 11, 2017, the local **Red Hat Ladies** came to enjoy Sister M Sara's cooking, along with the peace of the shrine. **Ursula Broich** from Sleepy Eye organized the event.

Again Deep Gratitude for Hurricane Relief



On Friday, August 25, 2017, at 10:00 pm the eye of **Hurricane Harvey** came on shore near our **Confidentia Shrine and Center at Lamar, TX**. Wind gusts were as much as 130 mph. The second part of the storm blew with even more fierce winds. It felt as if one was in a blender for hours. Our MTA protected life in the area, but extensive damage was done to the buildings and trees. Sister M Heidi Infante sent this photo of the shrine roof repair and two volunteers at right.

Newest Marian Apostles from Faribault



During the Schoenstatt Girls Youth Advent Weekend the following girls made their **Marian Apostles Dedication**: Front, left to right: **Grace Brazil, Zelie Cooper (from Oakdale) and Anne Azelton**. Back: **Father Andy Michels, Rosemary Azelton, Charlotte Keller, Sister M Faustina and Nell Gibbs**.

Schoenstatt on the Lake



Ever wonder who keeps the home fires burning? Dinner was served on November 9 for **Leonard & Marge Seidl, Jr, Mary Catherine Bauer, Dennis & Mildred Rosenhammer, Sara Heinrichs and her family, Katie Rockers, and the sisters**. We want you to know and feel that Schoenstatt on the Lake in the shadow of the shrine is your home. You are always welcome! *Photo courtesy of Katie.*

Donations Given for Texas & Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico was devastated by **Hurricane Maria**, another Category 4 storm, on September 20, 2017. This is the strongest storm to make landfall in the Caribbean in 85 years. With sustained winds of 155 mph, it knocked out power to the entire island, flooding and destroying homes and trees. **Our Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary are most grateful for your support and help during this very tiring time.** Electricity is slowly becoming available in certain areas.

Drawing Winners from Founding Sunday

♥♥♥ Heartfelt thanks to all who supported our fundraiser! Grand prize donated by Dave & Jenny Baker was a Week on Lake Superior at their Chateau LeVeaux – Mike Kisrow
 25# of ground beef from Tom & Mary Portner – Samantha Kisrow
 25# of ground beef from Tom & Mary Portner – Delores Spaeth
 25# of ground beef from Dennis & Mildred Rosenhammer-Bob Boyum
 Couples or Women's Weekend – Milagros Reyes
 Schoenstatt Girls Camp Week – Jim Larsen
 Father/Son or Mother/Daughter Weekend – Judy Pipke
 \$50 Gift Shop Certificate – Patrick Larsen
 Filipino Meal from Alicia Hernandez – Bob Boyum ♥♥♥
 ☞ There will be a Mothers' Leaders Weekend May 26-28, 2018 at Waukesha; as well as the October 12-14, 2018, Leaders Weekend
 ☞ The two talks presented by Sister M Carol Winkler on October 21, 2012, are now available on DVD. Call 612-618-9334 for your copy.
 ☞ TBA: A pilgrimage is in the making to Omaha & Crete, NE, for the 60th anniversary of Father Kentenich's visit dated August 3-4, 1948.