



SHRINE SOUNDINGS

Serving the Midwest

Spring 2018

**Schoenstatt Jubilee Family Shrine with
Retreat Center at Sleepy Eye, Minnesota**
507-794-7727 www.SchoenstattMN.com

Henry Van Dyke: "The first day of spring is one thing and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

The Depth of Love – what is a sacrifice for me?

Have you ever wondered why God would ask his good friend, Abraham, to offer his only son Isaac as a sacrifice? It is more than harsh or demanding to ask this as a proof of his friendship.

We are relieved, of course, to hear the words, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son" Genesis 22:10-13.

Indeed, a deeper level of the unwritten words is: Now you know how I will feel when I do have to slaughter my son Jesus, my only one, whom I love, in the land of earth... And my Son will offer me his life in his royal freedom of purest love. "No one takes my life from me, I lay it down freely" John 10:18.

Putting our limited human emotions into this Gospel, God could be talking with Abraham: Dear friend, now you know how I will feel in time. This had to be (recorded in the first book of the bible Genesis 22) so you would realize the sacrifice that is required because of the life-draining cruelty of sin. Your son is a miracle of mine to you and your aged wife, Sarah. Because of your hardest ever, heartfelt sacrifice of offering him, I promised you numerous descendants "as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore" in which "all the nations of the earth shall find blessing – all of this because you obeyed my command." Yes, only Jesus, God's only-begotten Son, could repair the breach of sin caused by the original pride of our first parents, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Paradise. Oh, what love can be likened to our Father God of Mercy who never will give up on us!

We are all sinners. We must offer a renewed sacrifice of love to the Eternal Father, who waits so lovingly for each of us on the judgment day of our death. Our death is our call into eternity. We want to be ready with countless sacrifices of love to be with him forever. We want to – in royal freedom – offer little and big sacrifices using our personal free will.

Father Kentenich said,

"Love without sacrifice is self-deceit."

Let us take a moment to ponder the sacrifice of love of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mother-Bride as Father Kentenich says in *Heavenwards*, None 3:00 pm prayer:

The sun silently proceeds on its course of blessing as the Spirit leads us on to Golgotha.

There I see your motherly heart powerfully renounce and courageously annihilate each right as mother. With your only-begotten Son you offer yourself to the Father on the throne for the salvation of the world.

In the shrine you wish to form souls who are always priestly in their life and bearing, standing as deacons at the foot of the cross and going the way of the cross with the Redeemer.

Through my life of sacrifice let me complete – in keeping with eternally valid laws and the spirit of the Inscriptio – whatever fullness is still lacking in the cross and suffering of Christ.

Glory be joyfully given to the Father through Christ with Mary, highly praised, in the Holy Spirit full of splendor from the universe now and in all eternity. Amen.

Let's look at what sacrifices we were asked to give during this past week. Was it anything in comparison to the offering of Abraham and his miracle son? What should I put on my list to do this week? More importantly, what should I write in my heart that I will offer and give back to the Loving Father God? These are the contributions to the capital of grace that give life to our covenant of love with our MTA from the shrine.



May our hearts be filled with love and zeal to fulfill God's will. May we be ready to offer him sacrifices and deeds of love to prepare for the great Easter Miracle.

Sister M Jessica

Featured Schoenstatter: Alicia Hernandez



*Words from the song:
"Immortal, Invisible God" by
Walter Smith strike me as
describing Alicia: unrelenting,
unhasting, and silent as
light.*

*In her own words here is
what Schoenstatt means to
her during these past 40
years:*

Schoenstatt means a lot to me. Schoenstatt brought wonderful things to me. It has given me so many good things in life. If not for Schoenstatt, I wouldn't be who I am now. I can say I'm a changed person. With Schoenstatt I was able to meet lots of people who teach me to be patient, kind, helpful, neighborly, joyful, and let us say, more religious. I didn't grow up in a Catholic school, only entering a Catholic college where I learned some of the things about the Bible.

I think God, through the Blessed Mother, led me to Schoenstatt. When I applied to migrate to the USA, I had no idea where to go. I had been accepted at Emory U in Atlanta, but I didn't know anyone in Georgia; going instead to live with a cousin in MN. Through Sister M Juliana Najarro, a Filipino Sister who knew Father Kentenich, I came to know about Schoenstatt.

Sister was introduced to a Filipino friend at St Mary's Hospital where the Caretakers of Mary were employed. It didn't take Sr Juliana long to hold a first meeting at the Parayno's in Anoka. Since then I've been dedicated to Schoenstatt. Learning more about Schoenstatt's goals and education, I met many nice people. In fact, Schoenstatt has taken the "Minnesota Nice" to a whole new level! I met my adoptive parents, Gene and Rose Deutsch, who took me under their wing.

At Schoenstatt I learned how to talk with people, to do the best I can to help others, and grow in my love for God. I retired early to use my talents in helping the sisters at the shrine and the hospital in Ivanhoe with office and kitchen work, chauffeuring, fundraising, and offering lodgings – in all four seasons of Minnesota weather.

One of my greatest joys was to be present at the dedication of our first Shrine in Cebu City in the Philippines in July 2003. That was also when I gave full time energy to the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign, headquartered at House Tabor near the Founder Shrine in Madison, WI, until it was closed in October of 2010.

In Schoenstatt everything is quiet and peaceful. I learn to trust that God is everywhere. Often I "shrine sat" for the sisters, went on pilgrimages, and could help all of the Schoenstatt Fathers who worked in MN.

Schoenstatt gave me the chance to seal my covenant of love with the Blessed Mother in our original group of seven families called Familia Ter Admirabilis in 1981. I went on to my membership dedication, heart shrine, and life consecration in the professional women. My Home Shrine is Cause of our Joy, developing into Golgotha. Father Dieter Haas officiated then and at the crowning of the MTA as Queen of Martyrs.

Until now, I am still doing the best I can for Schoenstatt and still going strong and healthy through the help of God and his chosen instrument of Schoenstatt.

This editor never ceases to be astonished at Alicia's "walking encyclopedic knowledge" and one of her jokes is: A Filipino president was interviewed and asked what his favorite flower is. He answered, a chrysanthemum. At the next question, he was asked to spell it and he quickly replied: Make it a rose.

Jesus Loves Me!

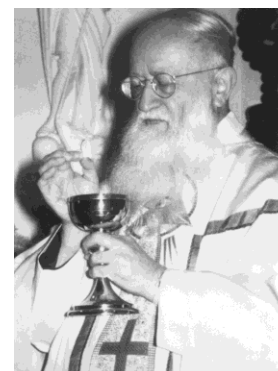
The God of life is the God of loving providence... We have the task to look back at our family life and our personal life again and again to find vaguely the lines, to see whether the confusing threads have already become a wonderful picture...

We are put together beautifully! Part of bliss consists in savoring that interiorly anew; if we also notice in our own life; the good God has treated me like the apple of his eye. You may never overlook that this is of greatest importance. Dilexit me! Me! – He loved me! Me!

Formerly we often heard: All saints have started to walk the way of holiness at the moment when they were convinced that the good God loved them personally like the apple of his eye. It is a task deserving of thanks to study God's guidance in our history.

The old Romans said: If you want to be loved, you first have to love. Love effusively! When I realize how the good God has loved me, then the imperative is clear to me: I have to respond to his love, his immeasurable love, with great love in reply... A tender love arises in my heart when I become aware of God, when I notice that this God cares for my life; that not even a little hair falls from my head if it is not in the plan. We cannot even imagine it. Listen to this: He takes care of me, and of my being and of my life, of the smallest trifle! My whole life is held by the hand of the Father; it is guided and accompanied by the hand of the Father in and out of immeasurable love. Thus: Dilexit me!

-Father Joseph Kentenich in Rome on November 26, 1965



I have the goal every Lent to watch *The Passion of the Christ*. The visual and musical beauty of the film contrast so starkly with the brutality of the Passion, bringing me to tears at least once each time that I watch it.

There have been many scenes that have moved me over the years, such as Mary running to the fallen Jesus, the evolution of Simon of Cyrene to the point that he wants to help Jesus carry the cross, and the driving of the nails (which is a cameo by the film's director). This year, it was the Pieta scene at the end of the movie. This scene has struck me in past years; however, this time, it struck me in a new and unexpected way.

The scene takes place after Jesus' body is lowered from the cross. Mary takes him in her arms for one last, tearful embrace. In Michelangelo's *Pieta*, Mary holds Jesus across her lap, looking down at him. The scene is cut from marble, making the entire scene clean and uniform in color. In contrast, the Pieta in *The Passion of the Christ* is full of color, much of it red from the blood of Jesus. Mary partially holds Jesus, but he also lays in front of her and in front of John and Mary Magdalene.

But the moment that captures me is when Mary looks into the camera. She looks through the camera and into every person watching the movie. And her look always struck me as her way of telling me that Jesus died for my sins. Jesus had to die to take on the punishment for my sins, but he also died *for* me, out of love for me.

But this time, the look was different. As Mary looked at me from the Pieta, I also saw Mary looking at me as the Mother Thrice Admirable. The message was not only one of "look what Jesus has done for you," but also one of "I present Jesus to you." In the MTA, Mary is behind the clouds, but Jesus is in front, with Mary presenting him to us. The two images bookend Jesus' life on earth: the MTA presents to us the child Jesus, and the Pieta has Mary presenting the crucified Jesus to us.

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

Resolution:

Just as Jesus suffered for us out of no reason other than love, we have the opportunity to offer our sufferings as sacrifices out of love, thanksgiving, and for reparation of all the wrongs against God.



Each day take note of one wrong being done in the world through what you see or hear in the media, or through your interactions with others. Deliberately choose to continue Jesus' work of redemption and show your love for God by offering a special gift of sacrifice to him each day in reparation for that wrong.

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

Pray and Work for Vocations

On February 21, 2018, **Father Bob Goblirsch** celebrated his 58th Anniversary of Ordination in Sleepy Eye. He reflected on nurturing points of his vocation which are as timely today as then:

Growing up, after meals my Dad would kneel down and pray. I never forgot that! My Mom told me when she got pregnant with me she prayed for a priest or a sister. "And I got both," she told me as I took care of my Mom till death.

On the way home from Mass in town, my parents would talk about the vocation of us kids. Ma said: Bob would make a good priest, and my Dad answered: He's too "stumm" in German – Gene would do better. But my brother never did.

In 5th grade we had a retreat at St Mary's (Sleepy Eye) with an OMI priest who gave a talk to all of the boys about priesthood. This is very important – and something we should do more of today. A classmate told me: If you become a priest, I will too. But he didn't and years later his brother told me: Dad bought a new tractor and he wanted to run that☺.

A sister teaching Typing class had the foresight to tell me: Since you type 80 words a minute, I am waiving you in this class. I want you to take Debate this hour so you can practice preaching. In seminary I was asked by Msgr McCarthy that I shouldn't go on because I was wasting my Mom's money. Well, my Mom told me: Don't quit unless they make you quit. So I stayed an extra year. In fact, when I complained of spending an extra year to my spiritual director he exclaimed: When you're 45 you won't even remember it, so don't think of it as a *whole* year!

I love my priesthood! I couldn't wait to get up and say Mass and work as a priest. What I regret today is that I can't do it anymore. I apologize for my bluntness (Ma would say after some sermons: Bob you can't say it that way, you are a priest!) and I thank you for your prayers for me.

Mary, Queen of Priests, obtain for us many and holy priests to serve your Son here and into eternity!

BRUSHSTROKES OF A FATHER

by Father Jonathan Niehaus

Excerpts from Volume 3: Tested by Fire
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What Does God Want?

On March 11-13, 1942, Father Joseph Kentenich was transported to the Dachau concentration camp near Munich. The sacrifices of our founder lay the foundation for our covenant life and should urge us to grow into his spirit of Divine Providence more and more...

Father Kentenich's time in the admissions block was much longer than for most prisoners. The SS worried that he would exert a subversive influence on his fellow priests. Father Kentenich did not let that stop him. According to Father Fischer (on pages 117-118):

Here is a little example of Fr. Kentenich's faith in Divine Providence. He had to wait seven months until he could move to the priests' block. This was hard. He asked what God wanted and again discovered in these circumstances a deeper hidden purpose. He sometimes told me in the camp, "We must ask ourselves the question again and again. What does God want with this and that event? And we often find that God not only has one intention, but several." To determine God's intention and to act accordingly was his favorite activity.

He said: "It could be that the Gestapo in Berlin intend some chicanery by holding me in the admissions block. It is also true that staying here prevents me from attending Holy Mass, a great sorrow; but see, by being in the admissions block, isn't it easier for me to be apostolically active than in the priests' block?" After all, the priests' block was also isolated, and any pastoral work outside the block with laity was strictly prohibited. Father looked on this as a reason for his stay in the admissions block. (...) During Father's time in the admissions block, camp policy changed to integrate prisoners more and more into work details.

Hugo Guttmann tried to spare Father by assigning him to clean the dormitory. He thus also protected him from some of the other burdens placed on new arrivals. This gave Father a certain privileged status, which the other prisoners did not begrudge him because of his fine demeanor and selfless service. Through this kind of special treatment, it was possible for Father to engage in an intense apostolate. During the day he could receive visitors in the dormitory, including from other blocks and even from the infirmary. Many were

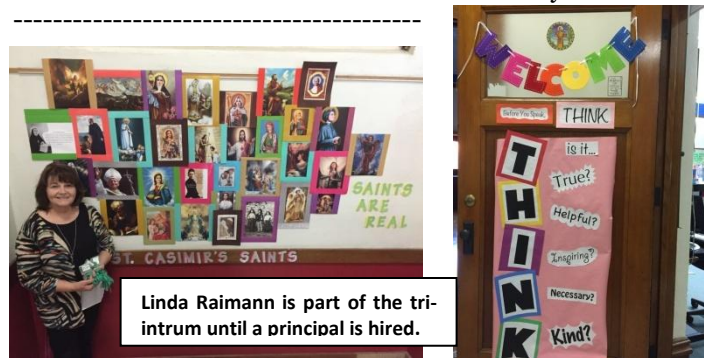
motivated lay men, and he even had Nicodemus conversations with Communists and socialists. Very soon he gathered the priests in the block each evening and gave them ascetical motivation points. It was something the priests themselves asked for. It lifted them from the tumult of camp life and the difficult daily life of an imprisoned priest.

In this way Father was apostolically active practically the whole day. At times it was in the work room, at others the dormitory, at still others on the block street. And it was crowned each night with the points that he gave to the gathered priests. Hence for him there was no boredom, and no wasted or useless hours. (...)

From him the block elder [Guttmann] even allowed the breaking of the admission block's isolation. I was amazed when Father said to me, "You can come to me often; you only need to tell the gatekeeper at the block gate that you want to see Fr. Kentenich and you will be allowed in." And so it truly was. Early on, one had to be quite stealthy to see Fr. Kentenich in the admissions block, but now it was the simplest thing in the world. This made an intense apostolate possible. People could come from any part of the camp and only needed to ask the gatekeeper for Fr. Kentenich. Earlier one had to be led by a deputy of the block personnel, or ask for the room elder, Willy Bader, with whom Fr. Kentenich was close, or give the gatekeeper a few cigarettes to get him to open the door. Now one didn't need to do any of that.

Brushstrokes of a Father #5, the stories from his life in Milwaukee, is being worked on for publication.

The International Media Team worked hard to present a new homepage for our worldwide sisters' family. Please check it out at www.s-ms.org. May it be a good means of "evangelization" for the beauty of our Schoenstatt Sisters and the gift of our chosen vocation. Our own Sister M Faustina has a featured vocation story☺.



Linda Raimann is part of the triumvirum until a principal is hired.

St Casimir School in Wells, MN, dedicated each classroom to the MTA anew on December 8, 2017. Father Kern led the prayers and blessed each student, teacher, and room; and Sister Jessica spoke. The morning ended with Holy Mass and lunch. **Dear Mary, thrice admirable educator, bless St Casimir School.**

Schoenstatt Initiative in NE Minneapolis



Alicia Hernandez, far right, offered the traditional **Shelter Seeking Novena before Christmas** at her Catholic River Village North Center. Each resident brought the statue of the Expecting Blessed Mother on the donkey led by St Joseph into their homes for a day. A booklet of Advent songs and prayers was used. This group also offers a novena of rosaries and litanies for deceased residents and friends.

Epiphany Celebration at the Shrine



At Schoenstatt in Sleepy Eye, the **Nativity Play** is performed each year with carols, narrator, costumes, and dress rehearsal. Try to put this into your 2019 calendar as a way to pilgrimage to the shrine for a celebration of Christmas that takes place on Epiphany Sunday. Our thanks to **Theresa & Chad Chryst and family** for being director and producer, to **Gloria & Tim Wolf** for preparing 20 gingerbread shrine kits, and to **all who help in so many ways to make it possible!**



Partial Indulgence Offer at the Shrine



Father Chris Shofner from LeCenter with **David Kostick** from Ham Lake and **Isaiah Chryst** from Andover return after Benediction on January 7, 2018. The Wise Men Blessing of the front door was next.

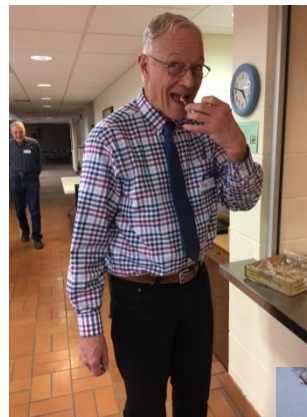
Families Build Gingerbread Shrines



Hazel Helm from Des Moines joins the Christmas Holiday Weekend of the older girls youth. Her mom and sister could join her for the Sunday afternoon party. Sickness kept others away from the celebration which included building and creating a gingerbread shrine to take home and enjoy.

Family Fellowship

Roy Joel was driven to the shrine by his mom, **Verna Joel**. She has been coming for over 4 decades and if there wasn't snow, she may have biked around the lake. What one hears over and over is that we are family, there is such a family atmosphere at the shrine, or it is amazing how no warm-up time is needed!



Home Shrine in Alleman, Iowa



Our MTA received her throne of grace at the **home shrine of Jim & Suzy Aschoff and family** on Wednesday, December 27, 2017. **Father Dan Krettek** from St Mary in Elkhart & Holy Cross at Farrar officiated at 2 pm with the title and mission: **Merciful Mother**. The other mothers in the Schoenstatt Group at Alleman, Iowa, and their families came for the celebration. Yes, it took time, even years to prepare and to schedule a time with busy work and school schedules, but the family was committed to doing it now – exactly when the family needs the supportive in-home service and care of our MTA.

Home Shrine in Elko, Minnesota



Our MTA received her next throne of grace at the home of **Matthew & Lisa Damiani and family** who live in the town of Elko, Minnesota. Their pastor at St Nicholas, Father Patrick Barnes, could manage a Sunday evening. After dinner on January 28, 2018, the family asked Mary to stay with them in their home shrine: **Immaculate Heart of Mary, Refuge of Sinners, Throne of the Trinity**, complete with living shrine symbols.

THANK YOU for all your support given for our Schoenstatt Sisters at Lamar, Texas and Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. May Our MTA and her Son reward you. May she keep you safe.

In mid-September, a group of about 20 young women from the USA will be taking a pilgrimage to Schoenstatt, Germany in honor of the 50th anniversary of Fr. Kentenich's death.

Seven young women will be going from Minnesota: Catherine, Mary and Anna LeBrun, Samantha and Theresa Kisrow, Eleanor Boeser and Willow Miller, and several others are still considering joining them.

In order to make this special pilgrimage possible for these young ladies, we will be having a **Fundraiser Banquet** here at Schoenstatt on the Lake on **Sunday, April 22nd** from **1-5pm**. The event will include a roast beef dinner, silent auction, live dinner music, entertainment, and tours of the Schoenstatt Shrine for those who are interested. Several of the girls who have been to Schoenstatt in the past or who will be attending this pilgrimage will also speak about why the pilgrimage is important for them.

The fundraiser is for anyone who would like to help support this cause! Families are welcome; parents are responsible for their children at all times as there will be no childcare provided. Please feel free to invite friends and relatives. The cost is \$40 per plate.

To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact Sr. M. Faustina 507-794-7727 - schgirlsyouth.mn@schsrsmary.org Thank you for your prayers and support. We hope to see you on Sunday afternoon!



FUTURE EVENTS AT THE SHRINE

There are still places on two other Pilgrimages to Schoenstatt, Germany from July 24-Aug 8 & Sept 6-21 Please call Sister Marie today at 262-522-4300.

Father/Son Weekends on March 23-25 and Aug 3-5

Holy Saturday Shrine Pilgrimage on March 31, 2018
10 am to 3 pm. Accompanying Our Lady by praying the rosary, stations, and Jesus' Seven Last Words. 12:30 pm Filipino Potluck with activities.

Mother/Daughter Weekend is April 6-8. Since there is a waiting list please note we will offer two of these weekends in 2019 from March 8-10 and March 29-31.

May 9th Wednesday Retreat Day at the Shrine from 10 am to 3 pm: talks, confession, Mass, meal, rosary.