



## SHRINE SOUNDINGS Jubilee Family Shrine & Retreat Center

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### The word God loves most is the little word “yes.”

“The Blessed Mother’s mission in these newest times is precisely the same mission—I’ll use a general term—that she had for the old times. As far as the old times are concerned, the Blessed Mother first had to say her “Yes.” Only then did the Word become flesh (cf Jn 1:14). This pertains to the newest times also: Unless the Blessed Mother repeats her ‘Yes,’ repeats her ‘Yes’ in an original way, we may not expect Christ to become incarnate in the newest times.”

Father Joseph Kentenich, Schoenstatt’s Founder, spoke these words at a Conference for Schoenstatt Men on October 21, 1966 (p 29, *With Mary into the New Millennium*). He said:

“By her Fiat the Blessed Mother did not become the Mother of the incarnate Christ only, but also the Mother of the mystical Christ. If a new type of Christian is to be formed for the present time, then we may be unshakably convinced that this will not happen without the Blessed Mother speaking her ‘Yes.’”

As this Lent hurries by, we come to the feast of the Annunciation, celebrated this year on March 26<sup>th</sup>. We want to accomplish something great for the Kingdom of God, we want to use our strength and energy to bring Jesus into our society, into every aspect of our lives. Mary is the one to help us do so. Mary’s “Yes” for today is imperative to form the new type of Christian, leaders for our parishes, society, and nation. Mary will again speak her “Yes” for each one of us. In the covenant of love, Mary



gives

us the strength to say “Yes” to God’s call for instruments to lead our great country back to him. We want to say “Yes” to being pro-God, pro-life, pro-family, pro-Catholic, pro-Marian.

All of our Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary at Schoenstatt on the Lake wish you and your family a **blest and joy-filled Easter Sunday**. May the entire Easter Octave be filled from our Risen Lord with extra prayers, happiness, family visits, and renewed victory over sin in our lives. We remember you in the Jubilee Family Shrine, *Sister Rita-Marie, Sister M Ellen, Sister M Antonia, Sister M Candace, Sister M Deanne, and Sister M Jessica*

## Featured Schoenstatter: Carmelita Jimenez

I immigrated to the United States from the Philippines. An optometrist by profession, I landed doing totally different jobs than what I went to school for in my country. I tried a new venture by earning some credits in accounting at college, not really my forte.

A few years passed, then Schoenstatt came into my life. A good friend of mine met a Schoenstatt Sister of Mary at the University of Minnesota/St Mary's Riverside, and introduced her to us, Sister Juliana Najarro from Cebu City, Philippines. She started having monthly meetings and I found myself in the Familia Ter Admirabilis Group, making my Covenant of Love in 1981.

Then in the early spring of 2007 my life somehow changed. I was diagnosed with stage one breast cancer. My first human reaction of course was anger. The harder I tried to deal with it, the more difficult it seemed to cope with the situation. When I came back to my senses I pulled myself together and next thing I knew, I was on my way to the Jubilee Family Shrine in Sleepy Eye. With open arms the sisters took me in, talked to me with words of encouragement, and all of a sudden my heavy burden felt light.

After tons of prayers to God and the Blessed Mother and countless novenas to Father Kentenich, I have been cancer free now for almost five years. I consider myself fortunate enough because the only treatment they did to me was a low dose of radiation therapy. I still pray faithfully, hoping that its really gone for good. Through this whole ordeal I felt God's presence most in my life.

To me personally, countless novenas to Father Kentenich played a big role throughout this time. I prayed to him to help me pull through this and he did. In return and in gratitude I told him I would personally come and visit his resting place in Schoenstatt, Germany, to thank him. I did this at the Pilgrimage of 2007. Praying to Father gives you that special feeling of connection because of his Covenant of Love we make with the Blessed Mother.

My goal and special mission in life is not an easy task. Living the covenant of love and being faithful to it is not easy. Not easy but not impossible. I also felt that if you pray hard enough to God through the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich, even God may find it a little hard to say no to our persistence.

In closing, it's providential that at the last retreat I had in Sleepy Eye, I wrote these words of wisdom: "Ponder on things that happened in your life and imagine God's impact on it." When trials and tribulations come along our way, let's try to embrace our cross and offer all our hearts and pains to the capital of grace. Hold onto our MTA and never let go!



## Two More Churches with MTA Pictures December 18, 2011, Ida Grove, Iowa:



December 18, 2011, marked the date of the dedication of the church of the Sacred Heart in Ida Grove, Iowa. Bishop Walker Nickless of the Sioux City Diocese was present for the dedication and Mass. The day held many highlights. One of the greatest was the addition of a picture of the MTA, which adorns a meditation space behind the main altar.

The MTA picture was given in honor of seven parishioners who have been called to eternity. Their lives were marked by a deep Marian devotion. Many Schoenstatt groups have developed in the area. Thank you, Mother and Child, for your presence with us here. Bless us with your love and peace.



## January 1, 2012, Blue Earth, Minnesota:





Children eagerly carry flowers for the opening procession at the occasion of enthroning the Blessed Mother's picture at Sts Peter and Paul Church in Blue Earth on January 1, 2012. Father Leo Koppala, working with the parish council, prepared his parishioners for this new addition, which will stand on an easel at St Joseph's side altar.



The Schoenstatt Mothers of Blue Earth took care of all details from framing the MTA print given by Jim Kasel to serving a dinner prepared by the ladies of the parish for all who came.

## Annual Epiphany Party Adores Jesus



January 8, 2012, was an unusually warm and beautiful winter day filled with lots of excitement and fun as we gathered for the annual Epiphany celebration in Sleepy Eye, with about 80 participants. After rehearsing with Chris Rockers and Theresa Chryst, the children performed a wonderful version of the Epiphany Pageant, complete with costumes and beautiful music by David Baker and his daughter, Christine. The children are always so eager to pick parts for the pageant and get all dressed up in costumes. It is a highlight for the children; and they also love to work together as a family to decorate gingerbread shrines with frosting and lots of colorful candies. "I really like to see how everyone decorates their shrine. They all look so neat," said Hannah Chryst, age 6 1/2. A big thank you to Tim and Gloria Wolf and their family for preparing all the gingerbread pieces and bags of candy ahead of time. Of course we also had a benediction so all could adore Jesus and we blessed the house door: 20 M+C+B 12. The afternoon ended with social time and an assortment of treats for everyone to share and enjoy!

To enjoy more photos of "Baby Jesus & his family" Rick & Becky Helget to our 90-year Verna Joel making gingerbread shrines, visit [www.SchoenstattMN.org](http://www.SchoenstattMN.org).

## In Grateful and Blessed Memory

### Father Jonathan Niehaus (1960-2012)

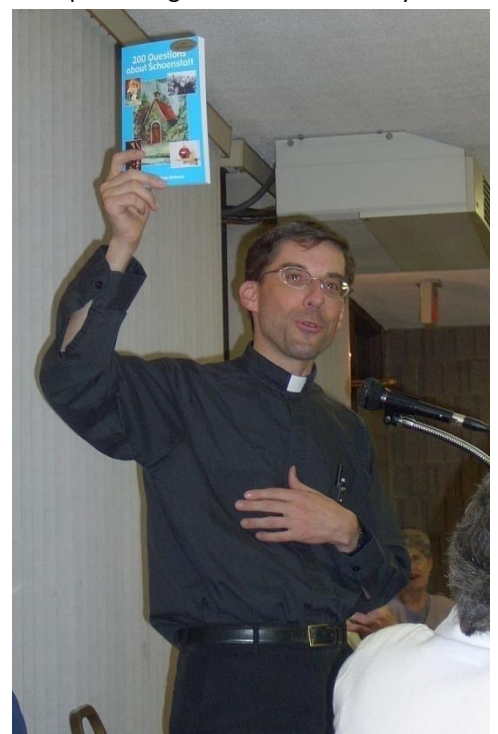
Jonathan James Niehaus was born in Madison, Minnesota on June 5, 1960, the oldest of Melvin and Veronica Niehaus' six children. After his family moved to Ivanhoe in 1966 they came into contact with the Schoenstatt Sisters who ran a small hospital in that town. He made his Covenant of Love with the MTA on April 7, 1974, the same day his family's home shrine was dedicated. During his youth years he participated in numerous activities with the boys and the Minnesota Schoenstatt family, including the search for land and the building of the shrine in Sleepy Eye, MN. He graduated from Ivanhoe High School in 1978 and from Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN in 1982. Then he joined the Schoenstatt Fathers.

After spending a year in Milwaukee, Jonathan moved to Germany to prepare for his novitiate that started in 1984. In the context of the 1985 Centennial of Fr. Kentenich's birth, his course found their ideal—*Pater renatus exoriens* (the Father reborn dawning for all peoples)—making their course consecration on April 12, 1985. After years of study in Muenster, he performed his internship working with the Schoenstatt Youth in the USA in 1987-88.

After finishing his studies in Muenster in 1993 and serving a year as a deacon at St. Mary's parish in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, Bishop Raymond Lucker ordained Fr. Jonathan on June 4, 1994, in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. He worked at St. James and St. Cecilia's parish in Mequon until in 1996 he began working with the Schoenstatt boys and young men. Dads were recruited to help run the groups and camps. He wrote a whole new program for group material and outlines centered on the "tilma" that the boys earn, creating a simple form of a room shrine for themselves, modeled on the Schoenstatt heroes.

And practically "on the side" he followed an inner inspiration and goal to publishing one or two books a year. He realized how

few books had been published of our Schoenstatt spirituality in English, inspiring him to put much energy into creating new material. He did much precious research into the history of Schoenstatt, particularly the Exile time. At Fr. Dieter's promptings he translated *Heavenwards*



into English; wrote the history and mission of the home shrine; put together texts of Fr. Kentenich on the major aspects of our Schoenstatt spirituality. His book on May 31st has already been translated into various other languages as well as some of his other publications. An immeasurable gift to all of us, we owe him so much for making our spirituality and our Founder accessible in the English language. Because of this he became one of the outstanding experts of the Kentenich studies.

Then in 2005, Fr. Jonathan volunteered to move to Austin, Texas, as part of our new team in Texas. For four years he commuted between Austin and San Marcos where he served as University chaplain for the students at Texas State. It did not take him long to gain the trust of the students, faculty members, and staff. A good relationship unfolded between them, making it hard for him to leave again in 2009.

While in Austin, Fr. Jonathan had already been drawn into the formation process of Schoenstatt Fathers' seminarians in India. In 2009 the community asked him to move to Mount Sion in Schoenstatt to become part of the educators' team for seminarians in their Father studies in Germany, India, Africa, and South America. For over a year he traveled to formation sites giving study seminars on Father Kentenich. As in Waukesha, Fr. Jonathan became a vital part of the House community in the Father House on Mt. Sion.

With the transfer of Fr. Jonathan to Schoenstatt another dream of our community took shape, the beginning of the Sion Institute. In cooperation with the other members he conducted two fruitful seminars with our doctoral candidates on Mt. Sion, the last one centering in on the theme of the Covenant Culture.

While in Burundi, in July for a four-week course with students, he noticed pain in his back and that his voice was getting weaker. By the end of September, he was taken to the tropical disease hospital in Wuerzburg, Germany, where metastasized lung cancer was found. From then on he spent time going from hospitals in Montabaur, Dernbach, Koblenz, and Neuwied. Fr. Jonathan died of lung cancer on January 19, 2012. He was preceded in death by his father Melvin Niehaus and grandparents.

*Schoenstatt-Fathers of the USA-Delegation*



Father Jonathan in Original Shrine on July 2010 Pilgrimage

## Father Jonathan's Covenant Medal

Memorial Masses were held throughout Schoenstatt USA for Father Jonathan. Three years ago Father Jonathan had written in his Last Will and Testament that he wanted his covenant medal to be placed in the basement of the Jubilee Family Shrine "in gratitude for everything which our Mother Thrice Admirable has done for me, especially since April 7, 1974. I request that my covenant medal be returned to the Queen of Minnesota as a small sign of my gratitude and faithfulness. Without her my life would have been empty and void, without her I never would have become a priest, with her I discovered God's plan for me, the joy of priesthood, and great fullness of life."

On Saturday, February 25, 2012, a Memorial Mass was scheduled at St Mary's in Sleepy Eye followed by a "potluck" meal at Schoenstatt on the Lake, ending with the actual placement of the medal in the crawl space below the shrine. Becky Niehaus Hall wrote: "It was incredible to be at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye sitting in the same area as when Jonathan was ordained over 17 years ago but this time celebrating his full life of being a priest. ... There were over 300 people participating in the Mass with Fr. Mark as the main celebrant and Fr. Tom and Fr. Francisco Rojas concelebrating. Fr. Tom gave the homily, sharing that Fr. Jonathan's life was hand-in-hand with the Blessed Mother and Jesus, especially marked by his covenant of love on April 7, 1974. He talked about the significance of the priest's hands in the ordination rite and throughout priesthood, tying them to Fr. Jonathan's life. His covenant medal was placed in a "shadow box" and accompanied us during Mass at the foot of the altar, reminding us of his greatest love."

Father Mark Niehaus continues: "After our meal and some time sharing experience of Fr. Jonathan, it was time to go to the shrine for the placement of the Covenant Medal in its shadow box into the crawl space. The Schoenstatt Boys Youth accompanied me into the basement while the rest of the adults stayed above, singing and praying. With "The Schoenstatt Boys Song," a song that Fr. Jonathan had changed the lyrics for the guys to sing, we sang in the basement to prepare the moment. Then it was just a simple prayer and blessing with the medal box placed on the wall directly under the altar and tabernacle of the shrine. Once the boys had climbed out, most of the other participants also braved the little trap door and ladder to climb down and pay their last respects to the medal Fr. Jonathan had worn so faithfully for nearly 38 years."





## *Three stories of Schoenstatt Life in Action – Mother and Queen, Be Victorious!*

### **Delta Airlines Flight 8961 of 3/24/2011**

*Marge Kruse belongs to the Mothers Group from Edina. One of her six sons took on the task of flying into Japan after the tsunami and nuclear power station disaster a year ago. He captained a flight of mercy which made her very proud. You'll have to read between the lines, since he writes little of the grave danger all were facing. Truly "Our Mother Took Perfect Care."*

Every once in a while we have the opportunity to remember what's really important about airline flying, and I recently had the opportunity to experience this in a most unexpected way. Most of us understand that this job can become somewhat routine as time progresses. So when crew schedules called to ask if I'd like to fly a military charter which they were putting together, I jumped at the chance to do some extra flying.

When I pulled up the online charter package, it showed us ferrying a 767-300ER from Anchorage to Yokota Air Base in Japan. A call to our charter coordinator revealed that this was one of a package of seven charter flights that the Department of Defense had arranged with our company to evacuate military dependents from Japan following the tsunami. We were to deadhead to Anchorage the next morning to pick up the airplane.

The ferry to Yokota was routine. I was paired with two great first officers, Phil and Mike, both ex-USAF fighter pilots, me being a former Navy non - "fast mover" type. I took an immediate liking to both of them however, and we didn't let our denominational differences get in the way. We flight planned to approach Yokota from the west to remain upwind of any radiation from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. After parking on the transient ramp, we bused to the layover hotel in Tachikawa, which is a town adjacent to Yokota Air Base. There, we had our first taste of the aftershocks which were rumbling through Tokyo since the earthquake. I'm from Minnesota and not used to waking up in the middle of the night and seeing the mirror on my dresser swaying back and forth. I was struck, however, by the stoic attitude of the Japanese people and their determination to recover from this tragedy.

Back at Yokota, we flight planned for a 0100 departure for Seattle, where our 211 passengers would connect to their flights home after arrival. At boarding time, the base police formed a cordon for the passengers to pass through from the terminal to our airplane. The first passengers to come to the aircraft were mothers with small children, who we typically board first. As boarding progressed, it became obvious that nearly all of the passengers would be women with small kids. When my preflight duties were complete I went back and spoke with a number of them, learning that they were all

families of Navy servicemen from Yokosuka Naval Station. By the time they boarded, they were already several hours into a very long journey, beginning with the trip with their families from Yokosuka.

We departed at 0200 and settled into the usual trans-Pacific routine of the flight attendants serving a meal, followed by lights out. When my break time came up, Mike slid into the left seat and I went back to my rest seat in the cabin. I was wondering how our passengers were doing, so I walked through the darkened cabin after leaving the flight deck, unprepared for the amazing scene that I found.

Everywhere were children, mothers and infants all sleeping soundly, spread out wherever they could. Most were children under five years old, curled up in makeshift beds on the floor and in their seats. Exhausted mothers were asleep, save for a few nursing their babies. The children, perhaps 150 of them, were all sleeping with stuffed animals, books, action figures and whatever comfort they could find. The flight attendants quietly attended to what needs they had. As I returned to my crew rest chair, the sobering reality of our responsibility hit me. Hundreds of servicemen who've never met me entrusted us with the most precious thing that they have in this world – their wives and children. Returning to the cockpit after my break, I remembered the prayer of the late astronaut Alan Shepard - "Please God, don't let me screw up."

Arriving in Seattle, we didn't know what to expect. Mike and I had previously agreed to stay after we arrived to do whatever we could to help the families get to their connecting flights. We were astonished, however, by the reception that the armed forces had arranged. After we parked, Navy personnel boarded to escort the families to a processing area prepared for the evacuees. Everything that they needed was there, including people to process their travel orders, baby food, diapers, a medical staff, and even a makeshift child care facility where Mike and I ran into many of the kids that we met on the airplane. After about two hours it was clear that we were just in the way, so Mike and I took our leave.

Sometimes it takes a plane full of kids to remind us of the awesome trust and confidence that the traveling public has placed in us, and the necessity to stay at the top of our game. I'm also reminded of how critically important the flight attendants are to the safety and comfort of our passengers. As usual, they did almost all of the heavy lifting on this flight. Finally, my unbounded gratitude goes to our military families and to the servicemen left behind to do their jobs. Phil and I were marveling at the fact that we never once heard so much as a single complaint from any of our passengers before, during or after a very trying journey for them. "They're in the military. They're used to it," he said. I guess our copilots are pretty smart after all. *Bob Kruse, DAL 757 / 767 CA, 173731*

## Youth will win all America to Pro-Life

Approximately 160 young people from five area Catholic high schools and eight parish youth groups traveled with an archdiocesan group to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life, which was held January 19 to 24, 2012. Katie Ray, a sophomore at Totino-Grace High School in Fridley and member of St. Rose of Lima parish in Roseville offered this reflection on the experience. It was first published in the *Catholic Spirit*, February 2012. Her parents meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in a Schoenstatt Couples Group.

I experienced my first March for Life in Washington, D.C., earlier this month, and I will remember the trip for the rest of my life. As I left Mass at the Cathedral of St. Paul before the trip, **I had great expectations for the march, but what I experienced blew me away.**

Our group from Totino-Grace High School in Fridley traveled with the Convent of the Visitation School group from Mendota Heights. The Students For Life of America National Conference on Jan. 22 was amazing. We heard from Stephanie Gray of the Canadian Center for Bio-Ethical Reform. On the bus ride home, everyone decided that she was our favorite speaker. She talked about how we can defend our beliefs, and every one of us left that room knowing exactly what to say to someone who is pro-abortion. **She proved that an unborn baby is a person**, countering the original arguments that they are not a person based on their environment, development, size and intelligence. She talked about how aborting a baby who was conceived through rape adds to the trauma.



Totino-Grace sophomore Katie Ray, right, traveled to Washington, D.C., with a group from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for the National March for Life Jan. 19 to 24. Make plans to attend this coming January.

The conference was very motivating and **showed that young people can make a difference.** From volunteering at pro-life agencies and sidewalk counseling to supporting a pregnant friend or helping a couple heal after the abortion of their baby, each one of us can make a difference! **Speakers said if each one of us were to help just one person, 2,000 babies would be saved.**

Mary Kellett, a Minnesota mother, and Dr. John Bruchalski said that a shocking 90 percent of babies diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted, and yet these children bring joy to all those around them because, like all children, they are created in the image and likeness of God.



### We are the future

Every college and high school student left that conference knowing that we are the future of the pro-life movement and we can make a difference. We need to bring hope and support to those who think they have no other option and bring healing to those who've had abortions.

On January 23, we got up early and went to the Verizon Center for the Youth Rally and Mass for Life with more than 17,000 other teens. I had never experienced a Mass quite like this before. No one in that stadium could have doubted that this Mass was truly a celebration and that the Holy Spirit was present. Mass began with Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington and hundreds of bishops, priests and deacons processing in while the entire stadium sang the opening song, "Here I Am, Lord." At the beginning, each bishop's name was called. It was awesome to see and hear.

Perhaps one of the neatest parts of the trip for me was running into two friends of mine who live in Maryland. I had not seen them in three years, and yet there we were, all gathered at Mass in our support of life. In a stadium filled with 17,000 youth, who would imagine that we would run into each other!

The march itself was awesome. Although it was a rainy and cold day, **more than half a million people** joined us in the march. As we walked, we listened to many pro-life politicians and their strong beliefs that Roe v. Wade will be overturned soon because of all the people across the country who believe that life is precious and must be protected. We left Washington filled with hope and the will to make it happen.



In St Paul, the Gawarecki Family drove up from Stewartville.



## Kathy Szymanski: Life and a Marathon

I participated in a marathon in December 2011, just shy of my 57<sup>th</sup> birthday. I have cancer of the neck and throat, and have had it for 10 years. I also have a tracheotomy and can't breathe through my nose or mouth. If you'd like to read more of the lessons I learned through doing the marathon, and how it parallels life and a religious journey, see: [itsyourlife-itsyourmarathon.org/LessonsPage.html](http://itsyourlife-itsyourmarathon.org/LessonsPage.html). Here's an excerpt:



*I'm not calling it a race report; it was never my intention to race. My goal was to finish the marathon and enjoy (at least some of) it. Is this not the goal of life? I had written on the back of my marathon shirt: For His Glory. That's why I did it.*

*I DID IT! The first 10 miles were definitely enjoyable and very nice. I recall more than one moment when I thought to myself, "This is really wonderful. This is beautiful." Hawaii in December when you're from Minnesota? A no-brainer! Sunshine, fresh warm breezes, birds chirping, surf churning.*

*Wake up call at 1:30 am marathon day. (Am I nuts? Yes!) Sometimes in your spiritual life do you have to do things you don't normally do, things you don't like to do, maybe even things you can't imagine yourself doing-like getting up at 1:30 am to get in place to walk 26.2 miles.... They put the fastest runners first, slower turtles later. Your actual time doesn't start until you cross the start line (I was 12 minutes back). There were 23,000 for the marathon. We had driven the route the day before, and had a pretty good idea of where John might be able to meet up with me. I met him first at 9 miles (he had things like chocolate, drinks, etc.) They had aid stations and passed out water and Gatorade, but no food, and I knew I'd need to eat. I was doing GOOD, walking pretty much the speed I had planned. And truly enjoying it! Does God sometimes place very special people in your life who will help you along the way? Have you thanked Him for those people? Have you thanked THEM for being there?*

*At mile 7 you go by the finish line and the next 7 miles or so follow the "return route." It was a bit unsettling when I got there and realized a fair number of the top runners were already done! And the farther I went, the more the "pack" was close to home. And I wasn't even halfway yet!*

*It was very windy (the wind against you the first half, with you-pushing you-on the way back). Things were getting tougher. I was tired and had sore feet. I did lots of praying. My mental plan wasn't working. My walks at home, I did "writing" in my head. Easily. Figured I'd do that. But I couldn't concentrate at all on that. So when it got hard, I prayed. I tried doing rosaries, that didn't work, keeping track. So I just did Hail Mary's and Our Fathers. LOTS. And every time I felt bad I drank (dehydration can make you more tired and sore).*

*The thought of quitting never entered my mind. I knew to get to the finish it involved one step after another. Repeat. I knew Mile 23 had a long hill (100' total elevation). I handled that okay, and was able to enjoy again looking at the beautiful ocean view from high up. It was all downhill from here. I stopped checking my time about halfway through. I didn't care about time. How often do we concern ourselves with things that aren't important-like time? Do we rush? Does it really make any difference what our "time" is?*

*John surprised me, meeting me a bit later (maybe mile 24-5?) to walk to the finish with me (he had parked at the finish and hiked up-it was uphill for him). That was nice. Bottom of the hill, into the park, on the finish road... There were a few spectators cheering us on at the end. I had expected to be emotional. All my energy the last 3-4 hours was in getting to the finish line. And when I did, there was no energy left for emotions. I wasn't "dead on my feet," but plenty tired. ONE step before the finish line (a timing mat you walk over), I stopped. Intentionally. I looked at it. For about 30 seconds. Then I STOMPED over it in triumph. That moment, at the finish line, WAS momentous, and something told me to stop and imprint it into my mind. And I did.*

*I WAS surprised looking today at the results that there were almost 150 behind me that finished and that there were several thousand that dropped out.*

*What about training? The months I spent training were as much a part of my marathon as the day itself. Many lessons learned with that. It was the training that allowed me to finish, and achieve my goal. My coach set up a training schedule for me, based on where I was at and what the goal was. Every day (there were rest days, also) it was walk this far in this time. The Church does this for us-sets up a training schedule. Go to Mass each Sunday. Go to Confession (ideally a few times/month). Read the Bible every day. Pray. And so on. We have a spiritual "training" schedule. If we follow it, we will be in much better shape to follow the will of God in life.*

*The key for me was commitment. I mean true, serious commitment. Think about something. Is getting to heaven your goal? How committed are you, TRULY, to get to that goal? Are you willing to put in long hours, many days, weeks, months, years, decades to achieve it? Even when you're tired, sore, and it's cold outside? When you're called to do things that are hard, when you'd rather be doing something else? In a way, doing this marathon was like a vocation for me. Follow His call, wherever it leads you.*

*Oldest From of wireless communication – NEVER a dropped call!*



## News & Happenings

☆On October 11, 2011, with the Apostolic Letter *Porta fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI declared a **Year of Faith** beginning October 11, 2012, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council. It will conclude on November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King. The twentieth anniversary of the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, given to the faithful by Blessed Pope John Paul II on October 11, 1992, will also be celebrated.

☆While October 31, 2011, found some circles worried over the birth that day of the **7 billionth person on earth** (according to United Nations calculations), Vatican spokesman Father Lombardi had a different message for the child: You are unique and special, you are a wonderful gift, you are a miracle, and so you are welcome. Thanks to Zenit.org.

☆During his fourth consistory, Pope Benedict XVI elevated 22 archbishops to the Sacred College of Cardinals on February 18, 2012. They come from 13 countries bringing the number of the College of Cardinals to 213 (125 of whom are under the age of 80 and, therefore, eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new Pope). **Cardinal Timothy Dolan from New York City** is very supportive of Schoenstatt. He was chosen to deliver the main address on evangelization to the Cardinals. "In all things, Pope Benedict said, "the new cardinals are entrusted with the service of love: love for God, love for his Church, and absolute and unconditional love for his brothers and sisters, even unto shedding their blood, if necessary," a fact underlined by the red color of their three-cornered biretta and robes," wrote Robert Moynihan, p 17, *Inside the Vatican*, 3/12



☆**Seven couples**, from newlyweds to those married over 50 years, had the joy and honor of being led in a **couples retreat** by Father Francisco from Waukesha March 2-4, 2012. A *good* retreat is one led by the Holy Spirit; the retreat master is simply a guide. Father told us this retreat is about OUR lives. The theme was the Ideal of Man and Woman with the Challenge to Love Accordingly.

Father did an excellent job, providing us with questions to ponder during times of couple sharing and silence to pray and meditate. He also provided plenty for us to think ABOUT. For example, we reviewed events of the past year in our lives and asked ourselves things such as, "What is God telling me

through this?" Father covered the characteristics of man and woman in detail, helping us to see our roles as husband and wife and how we can help and support one another's roles.

Some of the Mysteries of the Rosary and how they relate to our daily lives were covered on Saturday when about two dozen day retreatants joined us. We had Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, good food and fellowship. Even a special version of the Newlywed Game Saturday night for fun.

I strongly encourage couples to take time out of their busy lives to try to do an annual retreat together. It says to God (and others, such as your children and extended family) that you are committed to each other. You are willing to take time to invest in your marriage. No relationship will thrive without time and energy invested in it. Your marriage is well worth it. And when the marriage is good, so much else will fall into place in your families and lives.

At a retreat you will reconnect with each other in new and old ways. You'll share deep thoughts and feelings that sometimes get passed by with our busy lives. There is a chance to pay close attention to the Holy Spirit and discern what he wants you to be doing in your lives. If you come with an open heart and mind, God will bless you abundantly and yield great fruit in your lives and family. In today's world, the faithful, solid Catholic family may be lonely. Few may share your ideals or lifestyle. At the retreat I overheard someone ask someone else how many kids they had. The reply was five. The questioner commented, "Oh, that's a good start!" Where else but at a Catholic retreat are you likely to get that kind of support? You will make new friends with similar values and probably renew some old friendships.

Thanks Father, Sister Jessica, and all the sisters and those who helped make the weekend a reality for your prayers and work; and especially thank you, Holy Spirit, for being present with us. *Kathy Szymanski, Alden, MN*



☆The popular **Mother/Daughter Weekend** took place from March 16-18, 2012. Thirteen mothers with 17 daughters looked at inner freedom from Father Kentenich's opening talk to the young seminarians in 1912. Mass, stations, skits, and a leprechaun hunt helped round out the retreat days, which were blessed with perfect spring weather by the shrine.

☆**The best vitamin** for a Christian is *B1*.

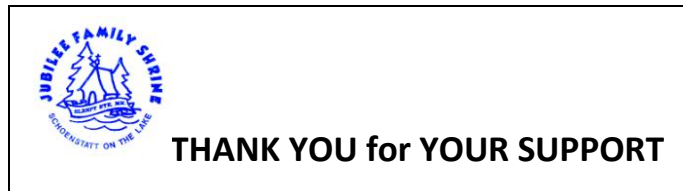


★**Christ's Seamless Robe** will be on display in Germany at the Trier Cathedral from April 13 to May 13, 2012. According to tradition, it is the seamless tunic worn by Jesus before the crucifixion which was taken by the Roman soldiers who cast lots for it (John 19:23-24). Its presence in Trier goes back to the time of Constantine. The emperor's mother, Saint Helena, brought it from the Holy Land, and gave it to the fifth bishop of the city, Saint Agrizius. The first official pilgrimage was held in 1512. Pope Benedict will send the Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops for the opening of this exposition marking the 5<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the first pilgrimage. The last exposition was held in 1996. Thanks to [www.Zenit.org](http://www.Zenit.org).

★PRAYER for our COUNTRY at this Crucial Crossroads:

**Mother Thrice Admirable, Mother of Grace,  
Teach us your enemies bravely to face,  
Never regarding their number and might,  
Spreading your love over the earth's dark night,  
So that the world through you made new  
Pay to your Son his homage due.**

**Mother with your Child from heaven  
Descend upon our nation's plains,  
So that in following your footsteps  
It may find true and lasting peace.  
Mother and Child, united in love –  
Through you alone can our nation be healed.**  
*-Father Joseph Kentenich, 1916*



★We are so grateful for your **GREAT RESPONSE** from our Christmas letter! We will dare to begin the re-shingling of our entire roof at Schoenstatt on the Lake, due to defective shingles. The big project should be underway shortly.

We also want to thank you for the *ongoing support* at our youth meetings, couples and mothers meetings, and weekends and retreats, and for all the donations and gifts we receive. Without each of you, our mission here for Mary and Jesus would be unthinkable!

In our next Shrine Soundings we will share some photos from the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Schoenstatt Family Dinner Dance**. \$1,100 was brought in at this fundraiser in St Paul.

**May you be richly rewarded! Count on our prayers for you and your intentions daily in the Jubilee Family Shrine.**

★**Father Gerold Langsch** will be featured Wednesday, April 25, 2012, on **EWTN LIVE** with Father Mitch Pacwac.

**Help Spread the Shrine News!**  
There are three ways to receive *Shrine Soundings*:

- 1)** To receive the quarterly newsletter delivered to your mailbox send your address and \$5 to help with printing/postage costs to:  
Sister M Jessica  
27762 County Rd 27  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085
- 2)** Send an email address to [srjessica@schrsmmary.org](mailto:srjessica@schrsmmary.org) and you will receive each newsletter hot off the press into the email box/es of your choice.
- 3)** Go to our website at [www.SchoenstattMN.com](http://www.SchoenstattMN.com) and click on Resources, then Newsletter, to view a pdf file of the current newsletter and archives .

**SPRING RETREATS AT SCHOENSTATT**

Five wonderful opportunities to make a pilgrimage to Our Mother Thrice Admirable at her Jubilee Family Shrine are:

**March 30-April 1: Father-Son Weekend, Fr Mark Niehaus**

**Holy Saturday: Shrine Pilgrimage from 10:00 – 3:00 pm**  
Filipino tradition with talk, prayers, and potluck lunch

**May 7: Whispers in a Mother's Heart 8:00 am – 4:30 pm**  
Father Thomas Niehaus, Sister Jessica, Laura Wood \$35.

**May 15: Marian Pilgrimage Day from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm**  
Monsignor Lozinski, Sister Marie Day, Sister Jessica \$20

**May 18-20: May Crowning Family Retreat Weekend at the Shrine with campfire, rosary procession, "barn dancing," etc**  
Families can inquire about camping options \$60 per person

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***There is a summer Schoenstatt Garage Sale!***  
**August 9-11, 2012, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm!**

It will run concurrent to the Dakota County Fair which is the largest and best attended County Fair in the Gopher State. Tell all your friends to go via the Baker's Farm!

*Please consider what contributions and items you will be bringing and when you can help . . .*

Donations accepted from June 15 to August 1<sup>st</sup>  
at 1623 210<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Farmington, MN 55024.  
Call Jenny & Dave Baker at 651-460-2778 or email:  
[jenny.baker.mn@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.baker.mn@gmail.com)

It Depends on Whose Hands It's In...

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.00.  
A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.  
It all depends whose hands it's in.

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.00.  
A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth about \$19 million.  
It all depends whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.  
A tennis racket in Venus Williams' hands is a championship winner.  
It all depends whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.  
A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.  
It all depends whose hands it's in.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.  
A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.  
It all depends whose hands it's in.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in my hands are fish sandwiches.  
Two fish and five loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.  
It all depends whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.  
Nails in Jesus' hands will produce salvation for the entire world.  
It all depends whose hands it's in.

As you see now it depends whose hands it's in.  
So put your concerns, your worries, your fears, your hopes, your dreams,  
your families, and your relationships in God's hands  
because it all depends whose hands it's in.  
*-Milroy MN Community News, 1/12*



*Easter Joy consists in seeing  
THE RISEN LORD  
In our own hearts  
In the hearts of our loved ones,  
In the hearts of those entrusted to us,  
And in the hearts of all Christians.*

*Father Kentenich, Easter Sermon on April 18, 1965,  
at St Michael's Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*