

Shrine Soundings

Jubilee Family Shrine and Retreat Center *March/April*

Schoenstatt on the Lake, 27762 County Rd 27, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 507-794-7727 www.schoenstattmn.com

Make Time for a Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 26, 2011, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm at Schoenstatt on the Lake, Sleepy Eye, MN.

Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. A day with holy Mass, adoration, and talks with Lenten topics of human dignity, likeness to Christ, and suffering.

Free-will offering. Please RSVP and call 507-794-7727 or email schoenstattonthelake@schsrsmary.org.

- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:15 Talk on Human Dignity
- 11:00 Holy Mass
- 12:00 Meditation on Suffering
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Adoration – prayer time
- 2:00 Talk on Likeness to Christ
- 2:45 Coffee break
- 3:10 Benediction



Presenter will be Sister M Candace Fier. She is the Director of Family Life Education and Safe Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of New Ulm.

Check our Website

This Lent, Jenny Baker and Kathy Szymanski are teaming up to present a viable, up-to-date website for our Schoenstatt Family in Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas. There will be a **daily Lenten Resolution**, which you can find at the top of the left hand column of info blocks. Tab it as a favorite: www.schoenstattmn.com

The Power of a Blessing

There is much that goes wrong today in our society and world. My grandma would tell me: It's something to pray about! The season of Lent is like a *natural* season to pray a bit more. We hear at Sunday Mass about the three traditional motives of renewing our hearts, souls and lives for Easter via: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

One victorious element of prayer is a blessing. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2626 states that blessing expresses the basic movement of Christian prayer: It is an encounter between God and man. In blessing, God's gift and man's acceptance of it are united in dialogue with each other. The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing.

Have we ever considered that "from the beginning until the end of time the whole of God's work is a blessing... From the very beginning God blessed all living beings, especially man and woman." #1079-80 CCC. He continues this blessing in the covenant he extends throughout the Old and New Testaments into the Schoenstatt covenant of love. "In the Church's liturgy, the works of the Holy Trinity, the divine blessing is fully revealed and communicated." #1082 CCC.

We can choose during these Lenten and Easter seasons to be a blessing or a curse for each other. It is not just the more familiar blessings (such as religious objects at a pilgrimage place, holy water, the Pope's Christmas and Easter blessing from the Vatican), but the power of a parent blessing a child, a family or professional blessing a home or office shrine, a husband blessing his wife in the evening, that draws down blessings beyond our comprehension.

Schoenstatt's founder began the First Founding Document with a blessing in Latin: *Nos cum prole pia, benedicat Virgo Maria!* Mother with your Blessed Son, bless us each and every one!

We wish you an Easter Season filled with blessings from the Resurrected Savior, *Sister M Jessica*



Home Shrine Dedication

The Mother Thrice Admirable received a new home! A Home Shrine was dedicated on Sunday, January 9th at the home of Robert and Beth Plante in Coon

Rapids. Front is Nathan and Brandon; back is Collin, Beth, Robert, and Leesha Plante. Father Randal Kasel began the rite of blessing at 3:00 pm in the presence of 45 relatives and friends. Their home shrine title is **Ein Karem** (Hebrew meaning: fountain in the vineyard), which is the site of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary to the home of her cousins Elizabeth and Zachariah near Jerusalem. As the Blessed Virgin Mary transformed the home of Elizabeth and Zachariah at Ein Karem, it is the Plante family's prayer that the Blessed Mother, through this shrine, will become a source of transformation for all those who come to visit.

Heart Shrine Dedication



Valentine Gift to Our Lord and MTA by Chris Rockers

As a group of four ladies from Winnebago, left to right: Mary Franta, Chris Rockers, Sue Rath, and Annette Stauffer, dedicated our hearts to Our Lord and the MTA on February 5, 2011. Amidst winter storms, struggles, powers, and other events we were blessed that day. Our faces, hearts, and souls were glowing that wintery afternoon, as we felt a closeness to heaven.

Father Andy Michels from Sleepy Eye offered Mass, accepting our heart shrine dedication after the homily. Sister Jessica spoke of Father Kentenich's German word, "gemuet." From now on we want to digest what comes into our heart and soul as well as what comes in

through the five senses. We gave our heart to God that day, we surrendered to Him, and we want to try hard to stay focused in our new lifestyle.

Please visit our website for this complete article. If you would like to prepare your heart to be a shrine, check out the book *My Heart, Your Shrine*, from your local Schoenstatt center's bookshelf.

1st Annual Sweetheart Dinner & Dance



The First Annual Schoenstatt Sweetheart Dinner and Dance on Saturday, February 12 was a huge success! It was a time to celebrate marriage and to dine & dance with our sweetheart! There was a marriage blessing, reflections on this relationship, and memories shared by the couples. The Italian food was wonderful in the setting with twinkling white and red lights. The dancing was a lot of fun! Interspersed between songs, Fr. Daniel Haugan shared funny stories and drew winners for door prizes (which included a beautiful handmade quilt, a bird feeder, tickets to the Minnesota Wild, and games).



Fifty-six people from all over the state came. To check up on the dance list and more, visit our website for the complete article. Special thanks to all who helped make this possible, especially to Dave and Jenny Baker, Dan and Linda Hagan from Farmington, and Dave DuPaul from Holy Spirit Church in St Paul - God bless you! We hope to make this an annual event, so save the date of Saturday, **February 11, 2012**, for the 2nd Dinner Dance.

Couples Retreat March 4-6, 2011



Seven couples, M/M Szymanski, Wagner, Johnson, Baker, Rockers, Gawarecki, and Wolf, received spiritual food from Father Gerold Langsch during the first weekend in March at the Shrine. Father drove from Waukesha to unfold themes of family, personal ideal, silence, suffering, and equipped us all anew. Give this to your spouse as a Christmas Gift so you can pull away from life's hustle and bustle to a grace-filled couples retreat at Schoenstatt on the Lake in Spring 2012.

Retreat Center News



Sister Rita-Marie's fame goes far and wide. Here she prepared for the priests of the diocese and their Good Shepherds, Good Leaders Workshops. The second weekend of the month is reserved for the Deacon Formation and four area quilter groups love to grow and share here at Schoenstatt on the Lake.

We held a surprise 70th party for Alicia Hernandez, our faithful volunteer who has served with the sisters for decades. Sister M Elizabeth left on March 1st for a year to Miami where she tends many hearts gathering around the newly dedicated Way to the Merciful Father Shrine. She will be missed here! Sister M Antonia is covering until June 1st, when Sister M Alice will be retiring as the head librarian at the New Ulm Catholic Schools. After 34 years of serving every little and big need, she will come to serve the retreat center, and of course we can count on her to brush up our libraries!

Schoenstatt Youth Springing Ahead

On February 1, Sister M Deanne sends out the Summer Camp brochures and by February 14th all 6 weeks were filled this year! She does a great job of fostering love for our MTA and guiding the girls to a noble feminine dignity. There will be another week starting at 1 pm July 5-8th to help with the high numbers on the waiting lists.

Due to more snow fall, the February Girls Weekend was extended into the Presidents' Holiday through Tuesday for nine girls who loved every minute of it in the shadow of the Jubilee Family Shrine.

Father Francisco offers three Father/Son Weekends: April 1-3; July 29-31; and November 4-6, 2011. Build masculine character with experiences of a lifetime.

Bible Versus Cell Phone

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
What if we gave it to our kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?
What if we used it in case of emergency?

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. And no dropped calls!

When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you!
Makes you stop and think: where are my priorities this Lent?

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.



Beatification Set for Pope John Paul II

Pope Benedict XVI signed the document of the miracle needed for the beatification of Pope John Paul II in January and set May 1, (Divine Mercy Sunday) as the date to honor one of the most beloved popes of all times as a model of saintliness. Pope Benedict XVI said in a decree that a French nun, Sister Marie Simon-Pierre's recovery from Parkinson's disease was miraculous, the last step needed for beatification. A second miracle is needed for the Polish-born John Paul to be made a saint. The May 1 beatification, which the Holy Father will celebrate, is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to Rome. Once he is beatified, John Paul will be given the title "blessed" and can be publicly venerated. Pope Benedict put John Paul on the fast track to possible sainthood just weeks after he died in 2005, responding to the chants of "Santo Subito!" or "Sainthood immediately!" that erupted during his funeral. He also waived the typical five-year waiting period before the process could begin, but insisted that the investigation into John Paul's life be thorough so as to not leave any doubts about his virtues. -Published January 14, 2011, Associated Press Fox News, with Vanessa Gera in Warsaw contributing.

Centennial 2014 - Internationally

On October 18, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Father Kentenich sealing the first covenant of love with the MTA in the Original Shrine, the founding date of the international Schoenstatt Work. Since October 2010 we have officially begun the final three year preparation for the jubilee year 2013-2014. The motto that will unite us around the globe and guide us is:

Your Covenant Our Mission!

The hallmark of a Schoenstatter is sealing the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt. We exchange our hearts, goods, and interests with the Blessed Mother. Each one tries to live this covenant as a way to grow holy. This is our mission for society, to provide a culture, an atmosphere of being secure in the heart of our MTA, to give our lives most fully, faithfully and productively to the Father God.

An Irish Blessing: May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face. May the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Centennial 2014 - Nationally

Schoenstatters in the USA are preparing a nine year count-down to emphasis "Our Shrine for the Church." This year we are focusing on the Shrine of Light in Staten Island, New York City (NYC). Divine Providence led the first group from South America, living in NYC, to visit Schoenstatt's founder in Milwaukee at Christmas 1961. Father Kentenich returned their visits and stopped in NYC on September 16, 1965, on his way to Rome.



On December 30, 1976, a former convent was purchased at 337 Cary Avenue and after much prayer it was decided that the MTA would take up apartment living so common in NYC. The interior of the Shrine of Light was dedicated November 5, 1977, and is officially listed as the only such daughter shrine in the world. It is wished that a Minnesota pilgrimage would visit this summer and costs are being investigated.

This fall, from October 3 (the 35th anniversary of our Jubilee Family Shrine) through October 2012, the Shrine at Sleepy Eye will be the focus of striving toward 2014 for the Schoenstatt Family in the USA!

Original Shrine Update

On December 8, 2010, news was given on that the Pallottine Province of Germany and Austria has "cleared the way for an agreement with the Schoenstatt Movement" in regards to the Original Shrine! Details will be worked out on a contract for the use of the Original Shrine, along with the pilgrim place and sacristy in the "Old House" by January 1, 2012. This is a great gift, especially for the many pilgrimages which are being planned from around the world to visit the place of Schoenstatt's origin. The Schoenstatt Fathers, according to the wish of Father Kentenich, shall take over the responsibility. Let us thank the Pallottines for the fruitful dialogue over the past months and for their openness to changes in the use of the Original Shrine.