



## 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

### VISIT THE DOOR OF MERCY AT THE SHRINE

#### Summer Blessings!

Forty years ago the Schoenstatt Family began building the first Schoenstatt Shrine in Minnesota. It was a journey of following Divine Providence. In this way, the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, who had begun working at the Divine Providence Hospital and Home located in Ivanhoe, Minnesota, would have a throne of grace of Our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt, west of the Mississippi. They wouldn't need to make the long drive to Madison, Wisconsin, to pray in a shrine. The growing Schoenstatt Family of mothers, youth, couples, and families were eager to offer their hearts and support in the covenant of love to Mary and Jesus.

What blessings have come forth from this path of forty years of covenant living! So many lives have been touched by Schoenstatt's spirituality. If we consider all of our young people who have come to visit Our MTA in her shrine via the summer camp weeks, or weekends, or day camp and rally days. Maybe your family first came to Sleepy Eye for one of the family fun days or October founding day celebrations. In whichever way you came, we can be sure of one thing: The Blessed Mother was more happy and generous that you came to visit and pray to her Son, than you were. Heaven waits for us at Schoenstatt on the Lake!

This morning in meditation I was thinking it would be so nice and interesting if you would contact us with one of your favorite experiences over the course of these last forty years "At the Shrine." Please don't be shy – do it right now ☺

**YES, I WANT TO SHARE ONE OF MY  
FAVORITE SHRINE EXPERIENCES  
SINCE 1976.**

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#### Election Day Prayer for November 8, 2016

In less than 100 days we will go to the polls and vote for our national and state leaders. This is a very decisive election on November 8, 2016. As good Catholics we need to

**1) Pray each day for a return to honest morals and virtues in America.** Pray an Our Father, the rosary, your own prayer or the one following – just commit to an extra daily prayer!

Lord Jesus Christ, You told us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God. Enlighten the minds of our people in America. May we choose a President of the United States, and other government officials, according to your Divine Will. Give our citizens the courage to choose leaders of our nation who respect the sanctity of unborn human life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of marital relations, the sanctity of family, and the sanctity of aging. Grant us the wisdom to give You, what belongs to You, our God. If we do this, as a nation, we are confident You will give us an abundance of Your blessings through our elected leaders. Amen.

*-Father John Hardon, S.J.*

**2) Commit yourself to vote on Election Day** and try to bring three like-minded friends or relatives with you. We can't sit silently in the pews, but must speak out boldly and publicly in defense of our faith, including the 10 Commandments. As Cardinal Donald Wuerl of the Archdiocese of Washington urged: "We all need to ask ourselves if we are prepared to stand up for our beliefs and to speak up on behalf of our schools, parishes, and charities. This is a time when we have to deepen our courage not just to hold to what we believe but to be able to speak up on behalf of that faith."

**3) Come to the Shrine and go through the DOOR OF MERCY,** asking God to have mercy on the sins and wrong choices, to grant us mercy, because we are weak and small! Together we strive for holiness in our hearts and families, *Sister M Jessica*

## Featured Schoenstatters: Volkmoth Family from Faribault, MN



Greetings from our Home Shrine, Mary's Fountain of Peaceful Families! We're the Volkmuhs; Gary (Moose - Dad), Jean (Mom), Clare (16), Francis (14), Marie (11), Andrew (8), and Matthew (5). We have been involved in Schoenstatt since we lived in St. Cloud 11 years ago. No matter where we move or what different church groups we are involved in, we always end up back at Schoenstatt. Moose and Jean are now part of the couples group here in Faribault. Jean and Clare help lead and organize the Faribault Schoenstatt Girls' Youth monthly meetings, which Marie is involved in. Clare is also one of the state leaders for the Girls' Youth in Minnesota. There is no boys group around Faribault at this time, so the boys are not part of a group but they enjoy praying in our Home Shrine.



Our Home Shrine is named **Mary's Fountain of Peaceful Families** because we have had many challenges over the past 5 or so years and we needed peace in our family. Also we all find water to be very refreshing and peaceful in our family so we wanted to include that in our Home Shrine.

The girls love to go to different summer camps and weekend retreats in Sleepy Eye. Summer camp is always the highlight of their summer because they get to go spend time at the shrine with girls who share a common faith – and then they often become great friends.

Prayers from our Home Shrine!  
The Volkmuhs



Clare sent this photo from World Youth Day in Poland! She and Gemma Cooper are two of the Schoenstatt girls from Minnesota. Look forward to more reporting in future emails.



Clare was one of the faithful camp counselors this summer



## Graces from Our Mother in the Shrine



Marshall Holy Redeemer Students pilgrimaged on April 19th



Tom & Kaye Hilpisch, with daughter Mary, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 5<sup>th</sup> at St Agnes, St Paul, where they were wed!



Plainview Women and St John the Evangelist Parish from Rochester came May 21<sup>st</sup> with Lola, Michelle & organizer, Melissa Schmid.



Dan & Linda Simones and John & Mary Lou Hubly with 17 of their children sealed the covenant of love in the shrine on April 6, 1991. At the Simones Home Shrine, Queen and Mother of All Saints, Webster, MN, on May 29<sup>th</sup> their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated.



Jeanne LeBon with Deacon Stalboerger brought 55 persons on June 16 to the shrine from Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Spicer, MN.



A vocation weekend on July 1-3<sup>rd</sup> was offered to 11 girls by seven postulants of the Schoenstatt Sisters presently at Waukesha, WI. These women come from Poland, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Nebraska, Texas and Wisconsin. They will receive the dress of the sisters at the Solemn Clothing Rite on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Bishop John LeVoir visited the camp girls and offered Holy Mass for them. Archbishop Bernard Hebda was installed May 13<sup>th</sup> in St Paul.

## MERCY Experiences in Everyday Life

Jenny and I went to a Mercy and Mary Retreat June 10-12, 2016. Father Michael Gaitley has a strong message. I was surprised at the parallels to Schoenstatt, so I wanted to share. (Schoenstatt is second, in italics.)

"Mercy is where God's Love intersects with the needs / spiritual poverty of our times"  
*Father Kentenich saw our times clearly and prepares us to be firm, free, priestly personalities.*

"Joy is when we fulfill our God given mission." *Schoenstatt's Personal Ideal!*

St. Louis de Montfort: Consecration to Mary is the fastest way to Jesus' infinite mercy.  
*We make the Covenant of Love with Mary.*

St. Therese of Lisieux's 3 points:

1. Stay little. *Schoenstatt educates toward childlikeness.*
2. Keep trying to be merciful and forgive.  
*Instrument spirituality and everyday sanctity*
3. Keep trusting. *Divine Providence*

**Schoenstatt is indeed a movement for our times, if we concentrate on the important things.**

Dave Baker



*The classic Shakespearian definition your grandparents most probably had to memorize in school:*

The quality of mercy is not strained. It drops as the gentle rain from heaven. Upon the place beneath: it is twice blessed. It blesses he that gives it and he that receives it.



**Zenit is a Catholic news service** that brings daily or weekly web news. Along with the regular Pope and Church news, here are two examples of other features.

**I)** Excerpt from a reflection by Larry Peterson of the Catholic Writers Guild. It was reprinted from the guild's **blog** by Zenit May 11, 2016:

He began by stating ten years ago, NASA's Horizon Spacecraft left Earth, traveling 3 billion-plus miles to pass Pluto, the furthest planet from our sun. As I read further, I was humbled and drawn to thank the creative mercies of God! Following his explanation: The speed of light is 186,000 miles per second and in one minute light travels 11+ million miles. That would be almost 16 billion miles in one day. Multiply that number by years. The light from our own sun takes eight minutes to reach Earth. Now scientists have found an "exoplanet" which is more than a thousand **light** years away and they have figured out that it revolves around its sun in 385 days vs our 365 days. Whew!

NASA's **Kepler Space Telescope**, launched in 2009, has identified close to 5000 exoplanets since it started scanning the deepest parts of space. Kepler 452b, at one thousand and four light years away, is the first one that could be just like Earth. Our closest star system is **Alpha Centauri**, a mere 4.3

light years away. That means our closest star system is trillions of miles from our solar system and would take us tens of thousands of years to get there. Kepler 452b is 200 times further than that. My question is—how can we know these things? As the big bang theory of creation is presented as acceptable, sorry, we know: Perfection does not come from chaos. Perfection can only come from someone who is PERFECT. Our merciful God shares his creation with us from a sunrise, a blooming rose, a home-cooked meal, snowflakes, to a newborn baby. **Our God of Mercies waits for each one of us to join him eternally in HEAVEN!**

**2)** Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, wrote about pornography in our culture, published by Zenit April 20, 2016. Go to [www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org), read his two pages and subscribe for home and office.



**Adrianna Spear** was elected to give the students' address at the Pinning Ceremony on June 16, 2016, at Rasmussen College, Rosemount, MN. Here are four of her seven points which deal with mercy personified in a care giver.

1. Remember to remain diligent. You will be asked to work long hours, take on difficult patients and to hold space during some of the most challenging times in strangers lives. Balance your lives so as to have the energy to go home and enjoy your family and friends. These people will reenergize you to return and care for others another day, allow them to do so.
2. Never forget to be compassionate. You will care for people who have made some rotten decisions in their life, some who have been dealt a bad hand and others that you outright disagree with their actions. Though we may have not experienced their same circumstances, remember to be respectful in understanding and provide assistance and comfort. Take the time to check your own biases at the door and to compassionately care for others in all walks of life.
3. Respect the dignity of life. We will be witnesses to both the best and worst parts of people's journeys, experiencing the entry and exit into this world. Remember to understand and appreciate the true important aspects of life. We have a duty to our patients to upload a sense of hope in the face of all hopelessness.
4. Remain humble and always be willing to lend a helping hand. This plays into our strong sense of pride in saying, "I am a nurse!" This pinning ceremony represents something powerful and I propose that nursing is a calling rather than just a profession.



**Adrianna, 3<sup>rd</sup>** from left, with her Grandmother and younger sisters.

## Opening the Floodgates of Divine Mercy

For some years now, the Schoenstatt Family has published a book with excerpts from Father Kentenich's talks, prayers, and letters dealing with a pertinent Church theme. The General Director of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Diocesan Priests, Father Peter Wolf, edits these books and writes a forward. Following are two pages from *Under the Eyes of the Merciful, Loving Father* for your meditation. Books are available at the gift shop.

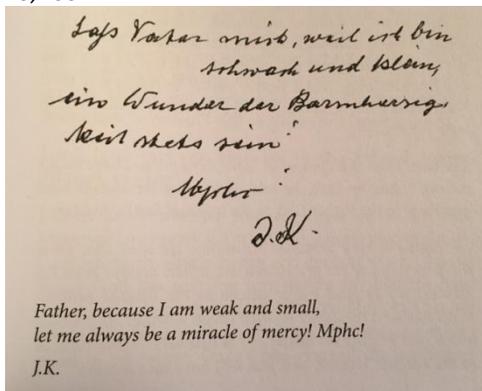
What is a prerequisite for us human beings ( the ability and the need of complementation) is also true of God, but under a different viewpoint: God is not in need of complementation. This would be a weakness. He *wants* to be complemented. In psychological terms, this is what the Scriptures call *humility*. "*Et exaltavit humiles.*" Psychologically expressed, it means: "God loves me. God's joy in being generous is awakened by my recognized and acknowledged smallness." This is the masterpiece.

Therefore I may say: "God loves me *because* I am small." I am small. For this reason I am especially entitled to receiving the mercy and the love of God. These seemingly unimportant things are of decisive importance for people today. To a great extent, the human person is sick today because he or she is unable to cope with this miserableness, this feeling of isolation. What does it mean to cope with one's endless miserableness?

It means to use my smallness in order to become more open for the riches of God, in order to open the floodgates of God's mercy. The recognized and acknowledged flaws of my nature open up these floodgates. My helplessness and miserableness, recognized and acknowledged, is the reason that God becomes powerless and the child all-powerful (cf. "*Everyday Sanctity*"). We have to hear these truths as though they were the only medicine which will help us cope right now. I savor it. -Father Joseph Kentenich, *Four Week Retreat for Priests*, July 23, 1951

Has the concept of "merciful love" become clearer? It is love that I give to someone who does not deserve it. Thereby the imperative is the same for me: If the living God has a merciful heart, I too must have a merciful heart. If I really want to become holy according to God's idea [of holiness] and his idea of perfection, the basic chord of my heart must be merciful love towards those who do not deserve my love.

-Father Joseph Kentenich, *Talks for families*, Milwaukee, WI, February 25, 1957



## Camp = A Treasured Shrine Experience



Erin Butler, second on right side of table, came from New Glarius, WI, for three weeks to help with the campers. Thanks for coming.



Sister Eva Marie, surrounded here by a camp team of cookie bakers, did a great job at the retreat center kitchen from January 9 through June 24. She came into the cold of our northern state and just when we were getting "Puerto Rican heat" she had to leave to Waukesha to take on the kitchen at the sisters' provincial house.



We welcome Sister M Mayrelis to the kitchen. She came June 22 with Sister M Faustina, who we welcome to help with the Schoenstatt Girls Youth. Both sisters are helping with the final evening of the Fiesta de Maria week sponsored by the high school camp for the Hispanic children of the area.

## *Flock Talk*

By Our Lady's Disciples

At our recent Schoenstatt Couples meeting, we talked about ideas for this quarter's *Flock Talk*. We had been discussing God's mercy and the Year of Mercy during the meeting, and we thought that the column could be on that topic. One of our group noted that God's mercy is infinitely deep and there is so much for us to learn, through Our Lord's messages to St. Faustina, through St. John Paul II, and through Schoenstatt and Fr. Kentenich, just to name a few.

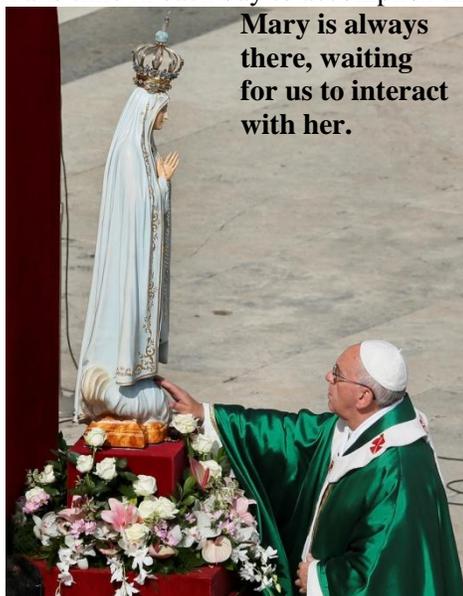
The group wondered why we are limited to a Year of Mercy, and why it can't be a **Decade of Mercy**. Certainly, each of us can ask our priests, bishops, and even the Vatican to consider stressing mercy for the next decade.

I wrote down "Decade of Mercy" as a reminder to myself for this column. But when I saw the words on the paper, my scribbled printing looking up at me, an interesting thought came to mind. We can spend a decade of years contemplating God's mercy – but what about a decade of the Rosary? What if we were to plan a little time of self-retreat to contemplate God's Mercy – our very own "Decade of Mercy"? We could, every month, or week, or maybe even day, take 15 minutes out of our day, read a passage on God's Mercy, and pray a decade to Our Lady, that she leads us to greater understanding of God's Mercy.

As always, we welcome feedback and ideas at [flocktalkmn@gmail.com](mailto:flocktalkmn@gmail.com).

### **Resolution:**

Say 1 decade of the Rosary daily, meditating on developing a greater understanding of God's mercy. This can be easily accomplished while sitting in traffic on the way to/from work, or while running errands. Other opportunities include getting ready in the morning, settling in at night, waiting in line for something, or just make time in each day to accomplish this.



**Mary is always there, waiting for us to interact with her.**

Pope Francis entrusts his Papacy to Mary and touches the original Fatima Statue brought to St Peter's Square on October 13, 2013. May 13, 2016, began the Fatima Centennial Year!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2016**  
**10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE SHRINE AT  
SLEEPY EYE, MN**

**SISTER M JEAN & SR M ELIZABETH  
WILL SHARE MEMORIES  
MASS AT 2:30 PM – FR RANDAL KASEL  
PLENARY INDULGENCE DOOR OF MERCY  
COVENANT RENEWAL – CHILD CARE**

### **Don't Miss These Fall 2016 Events!**

**3 More Jubilee Year of Mercy Retreat Days are offered:**

**Monday, September 26**

**Tuesday, October 11**

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Wednesday, November 9**

**Girls Youth Weekend on October 28-30 & December 16-18**

**Father-Son Weekend on November 4-6**

**Women's Retreat Weekend on November 18-20**

**Open Women's Retreat Day on Saturday November 19**

**Christmas Holiday-High School & College Women Dec 27-29**



**April 13 and May 12 were the recent Jubilee Year of Mercy Retreat Days. Only in heaven will we fully realize the impact on souls from this Year of Mercy plenary indulgence. Hurry, lest it be too late!**

### **Wish List from Our MTA at the Shrine**

- 1- Organize a pilgrimage from your parish for a shrine visit
- 2- Quality items for Country Store at Founding Day Oct 16
- 3- Monetary Support for a new International Schoenstatt Office located at Belmonte Rome Shrine. Father Heinrich and Sister M Cacilda will be available to organize and lead international Schoenstatt events.
- 4- Leaders and volunteers to attend the Leaders Workshop October 7-9, 2016, in Waukesha, WI
- 5- Pray for healing for Sister M Ellen's broken wrist