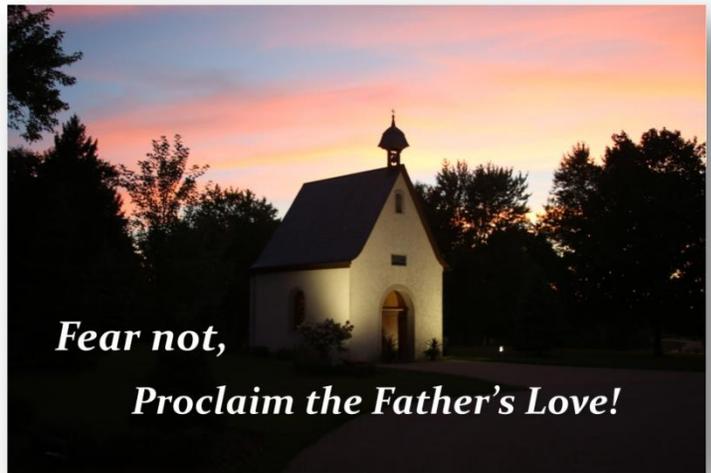


Serving the Schoenstatt Family in the Midwest-2017

## 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



*Fear not,  
Proclaim the Father's Love!*

## ☞ Daily Contributions to the Capital of Grace ☞

The Schoenstatt Family's Year's Motto is "Fear Not, Proclaim the Father's Love!" Christmas is the Feast of the Heavenly Father-God's merciful eternal love. He sent his Son to be one of us in all things but sin, so we could be led back to his heart. One cannot imagine a more loving gift giver.

*Jesus, Little King in the manger, teach us the gift of giving.*

Have you nailed down your New Year's Resolution/s? Or call it a daily contribution to the capital of grace in the shrine. At our last group meeting with the mothers in Edina, we received an article from the treasure box of Marge Kruse. Entitled, A Gift List Anyone Can Afford, it listed original and meaningful gifts for those special people in our lives. Let's turn it into a New Year's Resolution of 12 suggestions for the large of heart and small of purse. These actions won't cost an arm and a leg, but that doesn't mean they won't have value for Jesus. On the contrary, when you give one of these gifts, you give the most priceless gift of all: yourself daring to reach out in self-education to grow in holiness this year day by day!

### THE GIFT OF LISTENING

Psychologists tell us that one of the greatest things we can do for another is to listen. No interrupting, no day-dreaming, no walking away, no planning your response...

### THE GIFT OF SIGNS OF AFFECTION

Take time to give loved ones signs of affection with a hug, kiss, gentle squeezing of the hand, and OK with the fingers. Allow these actions to demonstrate the great love you have inside of you.

### THE GIFT OF A NOTE

Write a note that says "I love you" or a poem, etc. Put this where it will be found: in the lunch bag, purse, socks drawer, car, or fridge. Though the notes may be unexpected, the message will not.

### THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER

Everyone loves to laugh. Clip a cartoon, joke, or riddle to let this gift say, "I love to laugh with you."

### THE GIFT OF A GAME

Most people have at least one game they like to play. Offer to play your loved one's favorite game. Even if you lose,

you'll be the real winner, because together you will have shared an experience.

### THE GIFT OF ADORATION

Go to the King of Love in the tabernacle or adoration chapel. Spend extra minutes offering a petition for your loved one and you will both be richly blessed by Jesus.

### THE GIFT OF DOING A FAVOR

Do favors like help with the dishes, address an envelope, clean out the basement, mow the lawn, run to the store. This gift is made more valuable when it anticipates a request rather than when it responds to one.

### THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION

Go the extra mile to be cheerful as in no complaining, no feeling sorry for yourself, no nasty comments, no pessimistic predictions. What a precious gift this is to everyone in your surroundings. What a smile can give...

### THE GIFT OF BEING ALONE

There are times in our lives when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Become more sensitive to these times in others' lives. Then respond generously by giving them the gift of solitude, of privacy, of "do not disturb," of being left alone.

### THE GIFT OF A SURPRISE

Go all out creative on this gift. It involves knowing the other and thinking about them. Walk a mile in their moccasins and enjoy their awe and wonderment for you.

### THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT

Don't you like to hear, "good supper, honey," or "you look good in blue," or "nice hair"? Plus this could be inestimable value to people who may feel they are being taken for granted.

### THE GIFT OF A SHORT PRAYER

Most immaterial yet valuable gift of all. Remember a prayer for others can be done anywhere, anytime, 24/7!

With this list we won't be heading into any "winter blues" for we will be shaking those covers off, anxious to bring extra contributions to our MTA in her network of shrines! Blessings on this new year to all, *Sister M Jessica*

## Featured Schoenstatters: Six New Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary



**Father Paul Hartmann with Sister Maria Gracia on December 3, 2016, at the Father Kentenich Hall, International Schoenstatt Center, Waukesha, Wisconsin.**

*We have received permission to share this article by Father Paul Hartmann, President of Catholic Memorial High School. It was published by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Herald of Hope, December 22, 2016.*

Shortly after I came to Catholic Memorial High School nine years ago, I used a 3 x 5 note card to write down a series of goals. These were goals which I had for myself and for the school. In truth, I just listed, in descending order, a series of numbers. For a long time that card was inside the cover of a journal I use each day to remember people in need of prayers. The numbers descend from very large—a dollar goal for the school's endowment; through the reasonable—enrollment goals; right down to the number "1." Every day I pray that each year from among CMH's graduating class or recent alumni, there will be at least one person who responds to the inner call of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

The school has often been blessed with vocations in its history. From my own class of 1984, I eventually entered the seminary, and a classmate became a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Charity. Among our 64 graduating classes, there have been several priests and religious sisters or brothers.

A few days ago, we were again blessed. Abby Dedinsky, an outstanding woman from our Class of 2016, became Sr. Maria Gracia. Along with five other young women from throughout the hemisphere, Abby was solemnly received into the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary.

It was a beautiful celebration at the community's retreat center in Delafield. To begin to grasp the radical nature of following a vocation, it is worth noting that before graduation Abby had received, and then set aside, college acceptances to Boston College, Georgetown, Loyola, Marquette and Notre Dame.

The ceremony for reception was a very intentional blend of the nature of the community. Know that the Schoenstatt movement we experience in Milwaukee is German in origin,

very Hispanic in spirit, and classically American in its apostolate. Furthermore, the ritual was both timely in its reflection of a global church, and timeless in its imagery and its expressed priorities.

Before the procession into Mass, I had a moment to congratulate Abby and to thank her for responding to her vocation. Just like each of the women in her group, her smile radiated joy.

They all wore white gowns and veils as they were now to be brides, entering a very special bond with Christ, his church and their community. They were clearly excited, but never giddy. They were genuine reflections of joy for the present and future of the Schoenstatt Sisters. They are tangible reflections of a faith, vibrancy and zeal which should speak to all of us in our own faith lives. How rare indeed it is to see a ceremony such as this. Rare also is the disposition which these women so graciously offer.

When the novices are asked of their intentions and desires, they make a statement of their undivided self-surrender. This level of commitment to Christ, his Mother, and the work of the church is nothing short of a show of courage rarely seen in the world. At the heart of the ceremony, each bride comes forward and receives the dress and garb which will outwardly be signs that they are Schoenstatt Sisters. Their commitments are not hidden, but rather are punctuated by the visible belt, veil and medal. After receiving these, and bearing a candle which represents their willingness to follow the sacrificial love and eternal light of Christ, the women departed from the congregation for a time.

While the giving of the dress and other symbols might be the heart of the ceremony, the lump in your throat, the mothers' (and fathers') crying moment, was when the six new sisters returned dressed in their deep blue habits and veils. A transformation, a self-surrender, had clearly occurred.

After Mass ended, the novices led a procession to the small Schoenstatt Shrine. There, after just having offered themselves in self-surrender, after setting aside so much of what the world's secular standards prefer—big-time colleges, lucrative careers, families, and life's comforts—they collectively offered a prayer thanking God for the grace of their vocations. They offered thanks for being able to sacrifice so much. They offered thanks for the privilege to have made such a radical statement with the fullness of their lives.

I need not try to list all of the social, cultural, political and seasonal examples of things to which these six women have responded to so faithfully and so fully to reject. I need only point out that if any of us can emulate even a small part of their example, and reject even a small part of that which separates us each from Christ, then they, these newest Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, have been true heralds of hope.



**Sisters Mariaclara, M Josephine, Maria Piedad, Maria Gracia, Adelamarie, and M Genessy are now in their two-year Noviciate.**

## What did the YEAR OF MERCY Do?

At the Fall Assembly of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore this November, the question was presented: Did the Year of Mercy end? And spontaneously the bishops present said: No! It continues.

As Americans we often quantify things, there should be a change, a gain, a profit, and so on. Pope Francis had many hopes for the Church and world. One is: "How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God! May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!"

Before we go into a few examples which stand for many of the graces and transformations received via our Jubilee Family Shrine, we hear one aspect of mercy which Schoenstatt's Founder offered: "When we acknowledge our smallness, God draws us into the very depth of his merciful heart." *Game of Love*, June 27, 1965.

It was wonderful to welcome hundreds of people to our DOOR OF MERCY on the shores of Lake Sleepy Eye. With the offer of a plenary indulgence for the participant's soul or for a deceased soul, how happy our Mother Thrice Admirable was to welcome all to her pilgrimage place of grace. Was it by chance the smallest Door of Mercy on the planet? Only our MTA knows what all went on in her little throne of grace.



A group from Easton and Wells came for Mercy Retreat + adoration

People took on little and big sacrifices of a pilgrim to get here, to save for gas money, to bring family members, to offer the indulgence for a deceased friend who is still missed so very much!

Pastors brought parishioners, even a couple of busloads, to experience a life-changing mini retreat. Seven monthly Mercy Days were very well attended. As I first brought the idea to Monsignor Lozinski, he took one look at the list and exclaimed: You're going to give me a heart attack! We want to thank Msgr. Lozinski, Father Andy Michels, and Father Sam Wagner from our St

Mary's Parish who rose to the occasion offering hours of confession and holy Masses with inspiring sermons.

On Christmas Eve one person stood outside the Door of Mercy at the shrine, gazing on it and asked the question: Is there enough mercy in there for me? Being assured there was, later the person entered and knelt in the back pew...

Another person wrote: You will never know how relieved I feel today! Thank you for all the extra work of putting on so many Mercy Retreats for us.

One lady said: I looked right away at your schedule and was so happy to see a Monday. Then I checked my every other work week and it was on a free week, so here I am. It is my first time at the Shrine and I love it all very much. The Sisters, the atmosphere, the graces are special here!

One of the Mothers Groups are also working with the Game of Love book of sermons by Father Kenterich: It took me awhile to see that this game of love is actually all about our miseries and the mercies of God. Thank you for working with us as a great preparation.

One couple asked for 10 of the Mercy Year Books as they couldn't think of a better Christmas Gift this year.

A memory of mercy came from a classmate of mine about Sister M Jean, who spoke at our October 16<sup>th</sup> Founding Sunday: "I don't remember exactly what she talked about, but what I remember was going to the Sisters Convent in Lucan and it being so peaceful. Sister Jean always had a candle lit and it was so calm and reassuring for me. That's what I liked about the girls meetings. I remember that yet now. So when I teach (religious education Wednesday evenings in Tracy), I told the kids about it and that I wanted our class to be the same way. That they would have an experience of peace and prayer, of coming closer to God. That they would want to come, learn, and enjoy it!" This is mercy in another form via our Schoenstatt method of education going back over 40 years ago!



The Karen and Duane Becker Family Band, from Grey Eagle, presented over 50 Christmas Shows to nursing homes throughout the Midwest.



MN Girls at Dec 3rd Reception Rite in WI.

## November Women's Retreat

### *God's Mercy Endures Forever*

Father Randall Kasel led another superb women's weekend retreat in mid-November. On the weekend before Thanksgiving, about 40 ladies were able to enjoy talks he gave on mercy. He spoke on how mercy is an integral devotion of faith and prayer. All of us need mercy. God Himself restores what is broken. A beautiful, detailed talk was given on the image of the MTA picture that was painted in the late 1800s under the title *Refuge of Sinners*. It was inspiring for me to hear that the veil which wraps around the Blessed Mother's head also wraps around Jesus' full body.



We can rely on the Blessed Mother for everything. All problems can be solved through the powerful recitation of the rosary. Mary is at the center of the battles in this world. She is always ready to fight; especially in difficult situations.

Father's second talk was on Receiving Jesus, Mercy Himself. He encouraged us in the ABCs of Divine Mercy: A to ask for Mercy, B to be merciful in word, deeds, and prayers, and C have complete trust. Souls who ask delight Me. This led him to talk about the Divine Mercy image in which Jesus comes out of the darkness. He comes to give light. In order to receive mercy, we must trust him.

In closing his talk, Father Kasel led us on how to interiorly pray in which we each silently reflected on our past, present, and future lives. During this time we each asked God for mercy and trust to do God's will.

Sister Jessica asked us during her talk, "Has this year of mercy made a difference in your life?" Some beautiful reflections were read and discussed from the Year of Mercy book filled with quotations from Father Kentenich. Common prayers and confessions were another important part. On Saturday, the ladies had a bubbly time playing Mercy Bingo and a remembering game.

It certainly was a most enjoyable weekend. Will we see you next year? It's the first weekend in November, scheduled for November 3-5, 2017. —Chris Rockers, Winnebago



Kathy Morse, Iowa,  
Chris Rockers, Megan  
Shinnick, Bayport

## Church Statistics -S.L. Agenzia Fides10/16

On the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World Mission Day, these statistics give a panorama of the missionary Church all over the world. Tables are from "Church's Book of Statistics" published with updated statistics to 31 December 2014.

**World population:** 7.160.739.000 with an increase of 66.941.000 units compared with the previous year. Population growth was registered on every continent above, except Europe: increases were registered above all in Asia (+ 37.349.000) and Africa (+ 23.000.000) followed by America (+ 8.657.000) and Oceania (+ 649.000). Decrease in Europe (- 2.714.000).

**Catholics:** 1,272,281,000 units with an overall increase of 18.355.000 more than the previous year. The increase affects all continents, except Europe. Increases were registered above all in Africa (+8.535.000) and in America (+ 6.642.000) followed by Asia (+ 3.027.000), and Oceania (+ 208.000). Decrease in Europe (- 57.000). The world percentage of Catholics increased by 0.09 %, settling at 17.77%.

**Bishops** in the world increased by 64 units, to 5,237. Contrary to previous years where Diocesan Bishops increased in numbers, while Religious Bishops decreased, this year they both increased. Diocesan Bishops number 3,992 (47 more), while Religious Bishops number 1,245 (17 more).

**Priests increased** by 444 units, to 415.792. The only continents which registered a decrease was again Europe (- 2.564) and a slight decrease in America (-123) and Oceania (- 86), whereas figures grew in Africa (+ 1.089) and Asia (+2.128). Diocesan priests increased by 765 units, reaching a total of 281.297. The number of Religious priests decreased by 321 units to a total 134.495.

**Permanent deacons** in the world increased by 1,371 units to 44.566. The highest increase was registered again in America (+ 965) and in Europe (+ 311) and an increase in Africa (+ 25), Asia (+65) and Oceania (+5).

**Brothers** decreased by 694 units to 54.559. Even this year there is an overall decrease in the number of women religious by 10.846 units to 682.729.

**Members of male secular institutes number** 654 with an overall decrease of 58 units. **Members of female secular institutes** increased this year, by 243 units to a total of 24.198 members. Increase in Asia (+ 44) and Europe (+ 515) while a decrease was registered in Africa (- 7), America (- 306) and Oceania (- 3).

**In the field of education**, the Catholic Church runs 73.580 kindergartens with 7.043.634 pupils; 96.283 primary schools with 33.516.860 pupils; 46.339 secondary schools with 19.760.924 pupils. The Church also cares for 2.477.636 high school pupils, and 2.719.643 university students.

**Charity and healthcare centers run in the world by the Church** include: 5.158 hospitals, most of them in America (1.501) and Africa (1.221); 16.523 dispensaries, mainly in Africa (5.230); America (4.667) and Asia (3.584); 612 Care Homes for people with Leprosy, mainly in Asia (313) and Africa (174); 15.679 Homes for the elderly, or the chronically ill or people with a disability, mainly in Europe (8.304) and America (3.726); 9.492 orphanages, mainly in Asia (3.859); 12.637 creches, mainly in Asia (3.422) and America (3.477); 14.576 marriage counselling centers, mainly in America (5.634) and Europe (5.670); 3.782 social rehabilitation centers and 37.601 other kinds of institutions.

## *Flock Talk*

### By Our Lady's Disciples

At our Schoenstatt Couples meetings, we are working through *The Game of Love*, Father Kentenich's series of talks in 1965. I was struck by the phrase "Game of Love" and how Father Kentenich compared our lives to "a game of hide-and-seek between the eternal God and Father and his child." How wonderful it is that he talked about this idea that is so biblical!

Let's start with Luke 2:41-52, where Jesus stays behind in the Temple, and Mary and Joseph have to come back and look for him. In a way, Jesus said to them, "Come, find me. You know where I am." And Mary and Joseph, prompted by love, search for days to find him. Similarly with Song of Songs 5:2-8, where the groom knocks on the door of the bride's home. She comes to the door, but he has gone, leaving her to go out and find him. Again, God says to us, "Come, find me."

In John 1:37-39, two disciples of John the Baptist followed Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus said, "Come, and you will see." The disciples (who weren't named until John 1:40) can symbolize us all, being invited into the Father's game of hide-and-seek. And near the end of John's gospel (20:1-16), the apostles show by their actions how we are invited to seek the Lord. Mary Magdalene came to them and said that the tomb was empty. Peter and John immediately ran to the tomb, looking for Jesus, answering the call, "Come, find me."

God invites us into this game of hide-and-seek, calling out to us, "Come, find me." And it's a call that he keeps repeating. Sometimes, God calls to us, either in prayer ("come and you will see") or through others (as a knock on the door). Sometimes, it's more subtle, an empty feeling that something is missing. However the invitation comes, there is always great joy in Heaven when we join in the game.

May you each have a very Happy and Blessed New Year.

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

#### **Quarterly Intention:**

The resolution for this flock talk is:

*Seek the Lord daily by praying: Lord I want to see, make me see. Lord I do believe.*

*Also on a daily basis thank the Lord for one instance where you see he has touched your life.*



### **2017 Activities Shrine-Schoenstatt on the Lake** *Parish Pilgrimages & Groups are Welcome!*

#### **Epiphany Party**

Sunday, January 8, 2017 from 1-4 pm. Christmas Pageant, caroling, building gingerbread shrines

**Men's Weekend Retreat:** January 27-29, 2017  
Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm - Fr. Francisco

**Girls Youth Weekends:** Feb 17-19, Oct 27-29 & Dec 1-3, 2017. Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm

**Couples Retreat:** March 3-5, 2017  
Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm – Monsignor Eugene Lozinski & Sister M Jessica Swedzinski

**Lenten Retreat Saturday at the Shrine**  
March 4, 2017 –10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Father/Son Weekends:** Father Mark Niehaus  
March 24-26, Aug 4-6 & Nov 17-19, 2017  
Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm

**Holy Saturday Shrine Pilgrimage**  
Welcome March 15, 2017 from 10 am to 3 pm

**Mother/Daughter Weekend:** Mar 31-April 2,  
Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm. Call now!

**Girls Summer Camp Weeks & Day:** June-July  
Online registration opens at 1:00 pm CST on Feb 5, 2017. Register immediately as weeks fill up.

**Founding Day Celebration at Schoenstatt**  
Sunday, October 22, 2017, 10 to 4 pm. Talks, Holy Mass, Confession, lunch, and activities.

**Women's Weekend Retreat or Saturday**  
**November 3-5, 2017.** Friday at 7 pm to Sunday at 1 pm – Fr. Randal Kasel and Sister M Jessica

**LIVING FAITH Sundays at the Shrine:** 2-5 pm with a talk, prayer and adoration, fellowship, and a light supper.

February 19, 2017

March 19, 2017

April 9, 2017

May 14, 2017

September 17, 2017

November 19, 2017

**For All Events**

**RSVP needed:**

**507-794-7727 or**

**www.SchoenstattMN.com**

*Come & Bring a Friend*



*Make it a Family Tradition*

**Come to the Shrine and  
Celebrate Christmas!**

**Epiphany Sunday Party**

**January 8, 2017**

**from 1:00 – 4:00 pm**

- 1:00 pm Gathering of Children to Prepare for the Pageant or stories and discussion by the fireplace
- 2:00 pm Christmas Pageant by the Children in Conf Hall with Christmas Carols
- 2:30 pm Pilgrimage to the Shrine  
Three Kings Blessing of the Front Door
- 3:00 pm Making Gingerbread Shrines  
Please bring Christmas cookies/bars to share



**Schoenstatt on the Lake, across from Del Monte off Hwy 14**



**Don't Miss this Special Time!**

**RSVP! 507-794-7727**