



SHRINE SOUNDINGS Jubilee Family Shrine & Retreat Center

Schoenstatt Movement, 27762 County Rd 27, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 www.SchoenstattMN.com 507.794.7727

Plan to attend the **EPIPHANY PARTY** at the SHRINE
Sunday, January 8, 2012, from 1-4:00 pm

All children are invited to participate in the Christmas Pageant, Benediction in the Shrine, Family Project of making Gingerbread Shrines. Bring some Christmas cookies & bars to share!

RSVP by calling 507-794-7727

The beautiful liturgical season of **Advent** prepares us for the Miracle of the Holy Night – the Miracle Birth of Jesus from the Blessed Virgin Mary. This took place in a poor stable in the little town of Bethlehem in the Holy Land. Since Sept. 13, 1993, Bethlehem is located in the country of Palestine.

We have all been preparing our hearts for this special feast of Christmas. Hopefully we have made an extra minute of time to find and set out our **Advent wreaths**. The wreath is important to help our minds and souls notice the ever growing circle of light as we approach December 25th. The pink candle symbolizes a week of JOY. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for “rejoice” because we know Christmas is coming. This reminds us that Jesus is born anew in our world, flesh and blood, human, incarnate like you and me!

December 8th marked the feast of our nation’s patroness, Mary’s **Immaculate Conception**. Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854 that “the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin.” How tenderly God prepared the

womb where his only begotten Son, was incarnate and became man. We are called to be pure of heart and to strive to never choose to sin. Make time for your Christmas **confession!**

Every December 12th **Our Lady of Guadalupe** is celebrated. She is the Patroness of the Americas. In 1531 she appeared to a humble Native American, Juan Diego, at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of present Mexico City. She made a request for a church to be built on the site. When the Bishop hesitated, and requested from her a sign, she sent Juan (in mid-December) to gather an assortment of beautiful roses for the Bishop. She also left an image of herself imprinted miraculously on Juan Diego’s tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 480 years later. The tilma defies all scientific explanations of its origin, or how it reflects in Mary’s eyes what was in front of her in 1531. Yearly, an estimated 20 million pilgrims visit her Basilica, making the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City the most popular Marian shrine, and the most visited Catholic sanctuary, in the whole world.

All of our Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary at Schoenstatt on the Lake wish you and your family a **blessed and joy-filled Christmas**. May the entire Christmas Season be one of extra prayers, happiness, carols, and renewed childlikeness. We remember you at the crib in the shrine, *Sister Rita-Marie, Sister M Ellen, Sister M Alice, Sister M Candace, Sister M Deanne, and Sister M Jessica*

Featured Schoenstatter: Paul Befort



I first discovered Schoenstatt through a Father-Son Retreat at the Jubilee Shrine when I was eleven years old in 2004. I was invited to attend that first camp by Mr. Christopher Gawarecki, who drove me there along with his sons. This first experience with Schoenstatt helped to awaken in me a sense of my own responsibility for my faith journey. Plus I had a blast!

I find Schoenstatt particularly helpful in that it helps me to integrate my faith into everyday life. Schoenstatt provides me virtually limitless inspiration through the depth of the material and the examples of my peers both living and dead. I am thinking now of the boys I know through Schoenstatt who were fasting during most of the Christmas season for their sister's benefit; I am thinking of Joseph Engling's motto: "All things for all men and Mary's very own."

Right now the Schoenstatt boy's branch in the Midwest is having some exciting times! There is getting to be quite a few boy groups in Minnesota (Coon Rapids/Ham Lake, Sauk Center, Rochester, Marshal, and Faribault), and Wisconsin and Illinois continue to hold in there with a new group recently added in Wilson, WI! Then of course there are always the individual Schoenstatt boys who don't have the luxury of group fellowship in their localities.

The biggest challenge facing the boy's branch right now in Minnesota and the surrounding area is that we are so spread out that some of the groups have had absolutely no contact with the rest of the branch. The rest of the groups have had only spotty intergroup communication. Thus my current task as regional leader is to improve our community.

One way to do this is to make sure that all interested individuals are receiving the Schoenstatt Boys Magazine. The magazine is created by the boys themselves and it covers past and future boy's events in the Midwestern United States with a little more thrown in to boot! Interested? Just email or call.

The best unifier available to the Boys branch right now is the Annual Midwestern Boys Retreat Camp. If you are in high school or older, I would *highly* encourage you to attend the next one on June 27th- July 1st in Madison, Wisconsin. I can't recommend it enough, so it must suffice to say they are the highlight of the summer for the majority of those who attend.

Also, the next Father-Son Camp in Sleepy Eye on March 30 - April 1, 2012, would be worth attending for all guys ages ten and up. Be careful though! A camp like this got me hooked on Schoenstatt! ☺

Please pray for the Schoenstatt Boy's Youth!

God Bless you all, Paul Befort

507-843-5711 pbefort@gmail.com

Women's Retreat at the Shrine



More than 30 women gathered at the Jubilee Family Shrine in Sleepy Eye, MN on November 18th, beginning the annual Women's Retreat. What a grace to be at this shrine which has special pilgrimage graces for the Schoenstatt Family in the United States this year! Father Kasel and Sister Jessica led the participants in deepening prayer and opening our hearts to God. We explored the many layers of our thoughts, feelings and desires and how God wants to speak to the deepest level in our hearts and heal our wounds. It was a joy-filled weekend with holy Masses, and time for confession, fellowship, and reflection.



A great number of mothers and their adult daughters participated in the retreat this year. We left the shrine on Sunday, ready to go and "Build Family Shrines with Love and Life." Christine & Jenny Baker

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Please continue to keep **Father Jonathan Niehaus** in your prayers as he battles cancer. He and Father Dieter Haas are most grateful when we petition only to *Father Kentenich* for their complete physical healing!

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Mark Rockers has designed our year's memento magnet: Come to the Shrine. If you are interested in having his help with a stamp of your home shrine name, or a classic name plate of your choosing to display the name/mission/ideal/task of your home shrine email mcrocks@bevcomm.net.

The Schoenstatt Concept of a HOME SHRINE

The encyclical Mother of the Redeemer teaches that Mary, Mother of the Church and Mother of the Domestic Church is “the Mother of every home. She helps families to really be little Churches. (86)” Schoenstatt home shrines have been contributing to the renewal of Christian living since the early 1960s. Father Kentenich introduced this powerful educational center with families from the Madison and Milwaukee, WI, areas. He said: “This is the meaning of the term home shrine: by establishing and dedicating our home shrine, our home becomes a shrine of the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt, who would like to accomplish the same for our family from here as from the Original Shrine and from daughter shrines” (Dec. 30, 1963).

A Marian atmosphere is essential for a family to become a domestic shrine in which new members are born into the Church and educated and formed into images of Christ. We want to be disposed like Mary to say yes to God and to be ready to fulfill God’s holy will at all times.

Establishing a tangibly Marian and religious atmosphere in the home helps the family members acquire the fundamental attitude of the Blessed Mother. The MTA wants to be a true educator, helping parents in their number one task for their children. The home shrine can become a constant sign of her presence, as well as a continuous invitation to pattern one’s life after hers. She will teach us how to pray, how to offer up any hardship, inconveniences or crosses of the day to Christ through the capital of grace. Mary will intercede the Holy Spirit to bring harmony into one’s heart, home, and family by means of an organic union of our love of God, our work, and our relationships with others. Father Kentenich wants the Blessed Mother to take us by the hand into a deeper unity with the Trinity.

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My Home is your shrine, where you work to the glory of the Father. There he transforms my entire being into the Trinity’s most beloved shrine, where the sanctuary light constantly burns and the glow of love never dies; where the fire of sacrifice upon sacrifice banishes all selfishness from the heart; where roses adorn the altar and lilies never cease to bloom; where paradisaal breezes waft and raise heart and mind to heaven; where the spirit of the world cannot enter as in the eternal city of Sion; where peace reigns and happiness laughs because God’s angel keeps diligent watch; where Christ rules and is triumphant and leads the whole world to the Father.

-Father Joseph Kentenich, *Heavenwards*, page 180

Our Three Newest Home Shrines in the Midwest



On the Feast of the Visitation, May 31, 2011, Father Tony Przybilla dedicated the home shrine of the Craig & Nicole Goblirsch Family in Lonsdale, MN. They chose the title Mary, Mother of Peace and Joy, Love and Mercy. Within 6 months Our MTA fulfilled the family’s petition for a home in the country; and Dec 1st is moving day!



The Queenship of Mary, August 22, 2011, was the home shrine dedication for the Joe & Laurie Schmitt Family at Spring Valley, WI. Father Kevin Louis offered Mass and blessed their Ora et Labora Shrine at the edge of the kitchen and dining room, where all eyes rest on her before leaving via the front door of the farm house.



The Name Day of Mary was chosen by the Terry and Andrea Deutsch family for their home shrine Mass by Father Cory Rofling of Montgomery, MN. September 12th gave Mary another title as Mary, Mother of virtues, fruits, gifts, grace & mercy, Educate and Sanctify!

HOME SHRINE HOMEWORK!

Michael and Margaret Fenelon from the Schoenstatt Family Institute, living in McHenry, Illinois, have taken on the huge task to try to attain a viable number of all Schoenstatt home shrines which have been dedicated in the USA since the early 1960s. We need your help to make this list as complete as possible.

Alicia Hernandez typed a list of 255 home shrines from Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and western Wisconsin with dates ranging from 1984 to 2001. Since record keeping isn't a high priority with the constant change and work load experienced at our local Schoenstatt centers, we are asking each of our readers to fill out the following questions and to take a picture of your home shrine.

Yes, we hate forms as much as you do, but it will be a wonderful gift of gratitude and love to our MTA for the Golden Jubilee of the Home Shrine which takes place in November of 2013. Then these photo albums of home shrines in the USA will be our unique gift to celebrate a century of Schoenstatt in 2014 at the Original Shrine. **Due date is March 25th**, Mary's Fiat Day.

If you could email your response (in a Word Document) and please take and send a **photo** (in a jpeg or tiff separate attachment of high resolution) it would be the best format to: srjessica@schrsmary.org

Name of our Home Shrine

Names of Persons in Family

Location of City and State

Date of Dedication

A short paragraph sharing the effects of the Home Shrine (for example, peace in the home, favors granted, help in difficulties, conversions...)

Try to include family traditions in the home shrine or any unique custom which has developed. Some families have a special way to commemorate the annual anniversary of the dedication of their home shrine. This is powerful to share and will help to provide our pastors and bishops with some of the rich fullness of life experienced from the Schoenstatt Home Shrines in the USA.

You're invited to the Enthronement of the MTA on Sunday, January 1, 2012, at the Church of St Peter & St Paul in Blue Earth, MN during the 10:00 am Mass with Father Leo
Lunch following
RSVP Chris Rockers 507-893-3729

SHELTER SEEKING CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Many of us may be familiar with the Christmas Novena of SHELTER SEEKING that begins on the evening of December 15th and continues until December 23rd. It is called Herbergssuche in German, Las Posadas in Spanish, and Simbang Gabi in Filipino. Try this with your family, or if you live alone – you can certainly adapt it to your circumstances.

To begin you need to find a **statue of Mary** or a favorite **photo/postcard of Mary**. Next make a list of **nine places in your home or apartment where she can visit** as she searches for a home for her soon-to-be-born child. In addition to the more obvious places like kitchen, dining room, bedroom, utility room, she could visit the car, your work place, or be placed around the TV, microwave, bookshelf, and so on.

Each evening you **accompany Mary to the place on your list**. Prepare her a simple "altar" there in that place. This could include a flower, doily, candle, scarf or evergreen sprig, hand-drawn welcome poster and so on. Each evening say a **short prayer of welcome** to that particular place. An example is: Dear Blessed Mother, welcome to our kitchen. Here we try to prepare meals and foods that are nourishing for our bodies. Let this room be the heart of the home so all feel welcome and invited. Thank you for all the food and fellowship which is enjoyed here in the kitchen. Come, stay with us!

Then pray the **Consecration Prayer**: My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you and to show my devotion to you, I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my entire self without reserve. As I am your own, my good Mother, guard me and defend me as your property and possession. Amen.

If you like, close your Shelter Seeking daily novena with an **advent song or poem or petition**. The important thing is that we take some time (carve it out of your day!) to prepare for Baby Jesus. This will make your Christmas the most meaningful ever.

You can add and embellish this, be creative in all directions! At the Founder Shrine in Madison, WI, the Schoenstatt Family has a great tradition for these nine days. They begin at 7:00 pm with holy Mass in the shrine offered by nine different priests from the area, enact the shelter seeking with a couple dressed as Mary and Joseph (in 1986 there was even a live donkey when the Holy Couple knocked on the shrine door!), and then proceed to the family room for a potluck Filipino supper and fellowship enjoyed by all. Some families have made it a point to attend all nine Masses!



Mariengarten Story

Some of our Schoenstatt groups have heard about the Mariengarten story from Sister Jessica. It is the 70th anniversary of this very special event in our Schoenstatt history. As the Second World War was raging, Father Kentenich was a prisoner of the Gestapo in Koblenz, Germany. Across town, at the St Joseph Hospital, a young Schoenstatt Sister had helped present a Christmas Party for the wounded military soldiers and staff. She noticed the stark contrast between their beautiful Christmas gathering and Father Kentenich's prison cell & realized she hadn't written her Christ Child letter yet. The date was December 22, 1941.

She wrote in a simple child's language that she would gladly go without any of the beautiful things He brings every year to good children if only Father would come back. "...Couldn't you arrange it so that an angel would come to Father, filling his cell with light and say: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. Tonight the Savior is born in Schoenstatt." She tells the Christ Child she trusts completely that he will fulfill her wish and signs her name, Mariengard (meaning Mary's Garden).

The letter is smuggled into Father's cell and he answers: I will fulfill your wish when your heart and the heart of the entire family becomes a blossoming Mariengarten... The fulfillment of your petition, the "Miracle of the Holy Night," rests in your hands and in the hands of all Schoenstatt Children. Hurry, lest it be too late. I have great plans for which I need Father...

As the 55 Schoenstatt Sisters at the hospital read this answer "of the Christ Child" their hearts were kindled. They immediately began "to work for a beautiful Garden of Mary; that means being very faithful in doing what we are suppose to be doing." They looked over the soil, got rid of weeds and bugs, competing with one another to let each flower grow perfectly.

Their Mariengarten Striving encouraged Father Kentenich to offer his life and freedom to the MTA on January 20, 1942. Heaven accepted, and the Founder returned from the Dachau concentration camp on May 20, 1945, to Schoenstatt...

You are invited to write a letter to the Christ Child. Do it before December 22nd offering your striving and good behavior, asking Him for what you would like, trusting it can be done. Tuck it under the manger/crèche and read it again after 25th ...

A Family Christmas Celebration with Opening of Gifts

Explain to the children that we exchange gifts at Christmas to remind us that God our Father has given us the greatest gifts of all when He gave us His son, Jesus. The receiving of gifts reminds us of how we receive the love of God in Jesus. The youngest member could carry the Baby Jesus figure to the Christmas Crib. Make a procession with everyone singing "Silent Night."

Christmas Gospel is Read from the Family Bible

Prayer

Leader: Father in heaven, on the first Christmas day we received the best gifts of all; your Son, Jesus. In his name we share our love with one another through the sign of these presents. May we always remember to be more grateful for the giver than the gift we receive, and spend these days of Christmas with a thankful heart. Amen.

All: Glory to God in heaven, and peace to his people on earth!

Talk about what present you are giving Jesus this Christmas. Share a little of the striving you did during Advent.

Song: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Closing Prayer

Leader: Dear Baby Jesus, born of Mary, the presents gathered beneath the tree – sparkling in their foil, colorful with their ribbons – are merely reflections of the great gifts we celebrate this day.

All: We thank you for your incredible love for each of us, for bringing us together as a family, for giving us this season to savor this love and to savor one another. Help us to accept these gifts and take this time for appreciating one another.



You have blessed us with family and friends. You have gifted us with church, homes, freedom, and fellowships. And, miracle of miracles, you have come, yourself, to live among us. Lord Jesus, with your Mother and St Joseph, you have made our house your home. For all of the presents ... and for your presence too ... we thank and praise you throughout the entire Christmas Season. **Amen.**

Looking for that Perfect Christmas Gift?

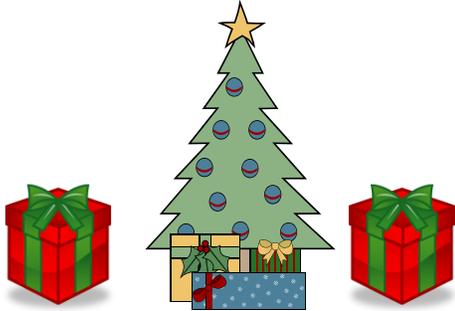
⇒ Order one of our **classic Schoenstatt Books** via Sister M Alice at our Gift Shop at Schoenstatt on the Lake. There are many titles and price ranges to serve any gift list! The newest release is:

The Shrine – Source of Life (\$10)

⇒ Or offer a Gift Coupon for the **Men's Retreat**. A perfect gift redeemable from January 20-22, 2012, at the Shrine and Center in Sleepy Eye. Father Mark Niehaus presents the theme:

"What does God want?" with practical ways for men to discern God's actions in their lives.

⇒ There are also **framed pictures** of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt ready for any room of your home and various **medals and rosaries** too.



The event you have been waiting for –

There will be a **Schoenstatt Garage Sale in Minnesota this August**.

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

It will run concurrent to the Dakota County Fair in Farmington, MN, during the first full week of August at the Baker's Farm.

This is the largest and best attended County Fair in the Gopher State.

Drop off date for items tentatively set for August 2-3rd at 1623 210th Street East, Farmington, MN 55024.

Call Jenny & Dave Baker at 651-460-2778 or email: jenny.baker.mn@gmail.com

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

There are three ways to receive *Shrine Soundings*:

1) To receive the quarterly newsletter delivered by bulk mailing 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 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 and click on Resources, then Newsletter, to view a pdf file of the current newsletter, as well as Archives of our issues starting in January 2010.

We have presently 300 who receive our *Shrine Soundings* via email. On December 16 we plan to send a bulk mailing of 370 envelopes with the Fall and December 2011 issues. As you are now reading this page, let us know your choice as we don't want this to be your "last issue."

SAVE THE DATE!

Dinner Dance Fundraiser

Saturday, February 11th, 2012

Holy Spirit Parish, St Paul, MN

4:30 pm Mass, Dinner, Dancing

FOUR SCHOENSTATT PILGRIMAGES

are scheduled for Germany & Rome in 2014 to celebrate the Centennial of Schoenstatt!

- June 16-30, 2014 English
- July 6-21, 2014 Girls Youth
- September 5-19, 2014 Spanish
- October 15-29, 2014 International

Go to the source of our life and spirituality on an unforgettable 15-day pilgrimage to the Original Shrine along the Rhine River; with a tour of Rome, the heart of the Church, and a leisure ride over the mighty Alps of Europe...

News Flash: *At the Dedication of the new church in Ida Grove, Iowa, on Dec 18th the MTA picture will be in the adoration space!*