

PRESENTATION 3
WHY / HOW CAN OUR HOME BECOME A HOME SHRINE?

The transformation of our home into a shrine, a Marian Pilgrimage Place requires more than simply arranging an MTA picture and a crucifix in a nicely decorated corner of our home. It is dependent on the condition that we live out of our covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. If we live out at least one of the Demands at a time, we will experience the Blessed Mother fulfilling her part of the covenant. These covenant demands are contained in the Founding Document, the words which were spoken when the first covenant was made on October 18, 1914. The realization of these demands transformed the chapel in Schoenstatt into a place of grace; the same power will also transform our house into a place of grace.

The Six Demands of the Covenant

1) Prove first by your deeds that you really love me

Do God's will
Have faith in Divine Providence, in God's master plan of love

2) Increase your striving to the highest degree

Perfect every aspect of life (spiritual, mental, emotional, physical)
Search for truth and live it
Persevere in struggles to the end – not giving in to discouragement and despair.
Fight temptations – get up again (positive attitude)
Faith to find God behind all events (voice of time)

3) This Sanctification I demand of you

Call to become holy
Make God center of life
Fulfill God's wish and will
Everyday sanctity today! Begin anew now, today!
Perform ordinary duties extra-ordinarily well

4) Diligently bring me contributions to the Capital of Grace

Offer everything to the Blessed Mother in return for her graces.
Morning Offering

5) Fulfill your duties faithfully

Manifestation of God's will
Vocation, Member of the Church, Citizen of your Country, Profession, Child of God, others....

6) Pray fervently

Secure a life of ardent prayer

Five Laws that show God and Blessed Mother want to take possession of our home:

- 1) God is absolutely free in His choice of places from where He wants to be especially active (pg 53).
- 2) If God attaches Himself to a certain place, He always demands that people strive for holiness in connection with this place (pg 55).
- 3) If the people who are now gathered around the shrine cease to strive for sanctity, we may expect God to terminate His special connection with the place (pg 56).
- 4) If we really try by our earnest striving for sanctity to confirm the choice of God and Our Lady, they will, so to say, fill the whole house with grace after grace in endlessly rich measure (pg 57).
- 5) A place of grace belong not only to the people dwelling there, but to all those who in any way come to it in faith (pg 57).

The Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, will do great things in our family, in and through us, if we take our home shrine seriously and strive to keep Our Lady present and active in our home.

The home shrine prayer – a founding document (pgs 58, 59)