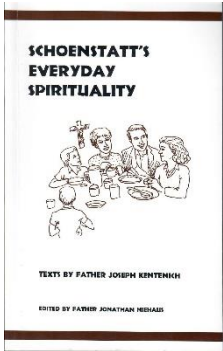


THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION EVERYDAY SANCTITY

BECAUSE WE NEED AND WANT TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO STRONG PERSONALITIES AND EVERYDAY SAINTS, the



Blessed Mother intercedes for us **THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION** of mind, heart, and will so we will become the **NEW PERSON**, the renewed person, an image and **INTENTIONAL DISCIPLE** of Jesus her Son. **Our Thrice Admirable Mother says to us in her Covenant of Love, "This sanctification I demand of you... Diligently bring me contributions to the capital of grace. By fulfilling your duties faithfully and conscientiously and through an ardent life of prayer, earn many merits and place them at my disposal" (The Founding Document). From the Shrine, our Blessed Mother desires for each of us to learn to become an everyday saint – the person who strives to make each day holy by performing the ordinary, everyday duties in a sacrificial way and offering up all our joys and sorrows as a gift to her.**

IN THE SPIRIT OF EVERYDAY SANCTITY:

Faith and life often seem far apart, even opposed to one another. But Jesus' call to sanctity in the Gospel tells us that holiness is not just for a privileged few, but is within the reach of all who strive to connect their daily lives to God.

Schoenstatt has long stressed this integration of faith and life, calling it "**Everyday Sanctity.**" As the word "everyday" implies, this sanctity is not confined to Sundays or a few prayer times, but must give shape to every aspect of life... Schoenstatt's founder, Father Joseph Kentenich (1885-1968), in his rich and insightful teaching, talks about what **everyday sanctity** is, how it relates to God, work, created things and others, and what difference it can make in our lives.

Everyday Sanctity has roots going back to Schoenstatt's earliest days. In fact, the integration of faith and everyday life can already be found in the pre-founding era of 1912-14. The program which

Father Kentenich proposed in the "Pre-founding Document" of October 27, 1912 sets the tone: "***Under the protection of Mary we want to learn to educate ourselves to become firm, free, priestly personalities.***" In particular, the word "**priestly**" signals the integration of faith and life, for just as the mission of every priest is to build the bridge from God to man, **the mission of every Christian is to build the bridge from faith to daily life.** And the accent on self-education signals that theory is useless unless faith rolls up its sleeves and works to realize the Christian ideal.

Father Kentenich's favorite and most detailed definition of **Everyday Sanctity is: the God-pleasing harmony between wholehearted attachment to God, work and fellow man in every circumstance of life.**

God-pleasing (or Magnanimous): It pleases God most when we do things because we *may*, not because we *must*, following God's wishes and counsels (not just his commands). Did not Christ himself always do what was pleasing to God? After all, his life's program was the will of the Father. He could say of himself, "I always do what pleases him" (John 8:29).

Harmonious: Harmony must govern how our attachments to God, work, and fellow man interact. Balance among the attachments secures harmony and helps each to contribute its value to everyday sanctity. Harmony and balance prevent any one attachment to be disruptive to the others.

Wholehearted: Committed, excited, convinced and convincing – not just an idea in our mind. Our attachment to God, work, and fellow man must gain a real foothold in our will and emotions to the extent that we love each in our hearts.

In Every Circumstance of Life: that is, constant, even in life's most mundane activities.

THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open. Let us pray to receive the **GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION** which the Blessed Mother wants to intercede for us from the Holy Spirit so we become **NEW PERSONS** with **YOUTHFUL HEARTS** that are filled with the wisdom of **CHILDLIKENESS** before God; New Persons who are striving to **EDUCATE OUR PERSONALITIES** in the ways of holiness; New Persons engaged in **EVERYDAY SANCTITY** building the bridge from faith to daily life.

1) Is my attachment to God and the Blessed Mother secured? This attachment is the useful foundation and constant inspiration for the other attachments. Am I living the Spirit of Hospitality, Prayer, Practical Faith in Divine Providence, Covenant Spirituality, Childlikeness before God? Here are a few acts, for example:

Morning Prayer/ Greeting Mary and Jesus especially when the Picture of Grace is visiting
Grace before meals / Spiritual reading / Prayer for the family / Night prayer / Rosary
Extra weekday Holy Mass / Adoration / Visit the Shrine (Place of Honor) / Blessing of children

2) Is my attachment with myself secured? Here I look for the key points of my personality that I need to secure, to feel good about myself, to secure my development and organic growth. Here are a few acts, for example:

I need to sleep a certain number of hours / Weekly participation in sports / Healthy and moderate diet / Daily reading / Daily or weekly meditation time / Striving in educating my personality turning chief faults into chief virtues

3) Is my attachment with others secured?

This refers to the relationships that I want to strengthen with my family, my spouse, my friends, neighbors, group members, my community, my country, and I stress getting closer to the Lord's favorites - the poor and those who suffer.

Here are a few acts, for example:

Expression of affection to my spouse / Play with the children for 20 minutes / Visit someone who is ill, lonely, depressed, fearful / Call a group member / Listen patiently to one who is suffering / Acts of mercy (visit a prisoner, visit the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome whoever comes to my home) / Pray for my country

4) Is my attachment to work, nature, and things secured?

I look for some concrete acts that will help me to be responsible and creative with work, nature, and the use of the goods the Lord has placed at my disposal. Here are a few acts, for example:

Arrive at work punctually / Offer my work at the start of the day / Spend 5 minutes to organize my desk / Turn in work that is well done / I fulfill my study schedule / I encourage work well done / I appreciate services rendered to me / I do not overspend / I do not buy unnecessary things / I treat material goods with reverence and care / I take care of the plants / I try to care for the environment in ways that I know

5) On the Spiritual Daily Order sheet provided, bring balance to your Everyday Sanctity:

- ✓ Enter 1 act from each of the categories above - **check** it daily for a month
- ✓ Pray the Morning Prayer offering your efforts to our Blessed Mother's Capital of Grace
- ✓ Pray the Meditation on Nazareth written by Father Kentenich in Dachau

