

THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION PERSONALITY FORMATION

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 the Fourth Promise of her Covenant of Love, "I will educate them." From the Shrine, our Blessed Mother wants to educate the youthful of heart who are drawn to follow her to recognize the purpose of their life, their potential, and their responsibilities. She will inspire them to work hard on themselves, to use all their capabilities in a God-pleasing way, and to remove all that hinders the good from shining forth.**

IN THE SPIRIT OF EDUCATION (SELF-EDUCATION):

NEED FOR EDUCATION AND FORMATION: Father Kentenich's great task was to deal with a revolting youth, educate them and lead them to the priesthood. He designed a program of education and presented it to the boys October 27, 1912, "Under the protection of Mary, we want to learn to educate ourselves to become strong, free, priestly personalities."

GROWTH ON A RELIGIOUS LEVEL: Father Kentenich received a Marian Sodality magazine with an article describing three means for fostering the spiritual growth of youth: spiritual guidance, self-education and consecration to Mary. He considered these ideas to be hints from God and suggested to some of the more religiously inclined students that they work toward organizing a Marian Sodality. The boys founded the Marian Sodality on April 19, 1914.

THE CHAPEL OF ST. MICHAEL AS A MEETING ROOM: The boys were allowed to renovate and take over the former cemetery chapel dedicated to St. Michael before their summer vacation of 1914.

POSSIBILITY OF A PILGRIMAGE PLACE: During the summer, Father Kentenich found a newspaper clipping which described the origin of the pilgrimage place in Valle di Pompeii, Italy built in honor of the Blessed Mother. At the end of summer 1914, the devastating First World War broke out. Father Kentenich groped even more intensely for God's will: "Couldn't we, too, create a pilgrimage place of Mary in these distressing times of world war? Could this possibly be intended by God?"

THE FOUNDING HOUR OF SCHOENSTATT: After a long inner struggle Father Kentenich went through the door which was opened just a chink and decided to share his favorite idea with the Marian Sodality at their first meeting in the newly renovated chapel on October 18, 1914: "I would like to make this place a pilgrimage place, a place of grace... and urge our Mother and Queen to erect her throne here in a special way to distribute her treasures and to work miracles of grace." After he sensed that his words had caught fire in the boys' hearts, he proceeded to explain how perhaps it could be done: "This Sodality chapel shall become for us the cradle of sanctity... Our heroic striving for sanctity will draw our heavenly Mother to us by gentle force, making this abode the place of her special activity."

NOTHING WITHOUT YOU, BLESSED MOTHER, NOTHING WITHOUT US: As he continued he expressed that it seemed to him as if the Mother of God were speaking to all of them and had accepted their plea: "I love those who love me. Prove first by your deeds that you really love me... Do not think that in times like these, when momentous decisions are being made, that it is something extraordinary to increase your striving to the highest degree... Diligently bring me contributions to the capital of grace. By fulfilling your

duties faithfully and conscientiously and by praying fervently, earn many merits and place them at my disposal. Then it will please me to dwell in your midst and distribute gifts and graces in abundance. Then from here I will draw youthful hearts to follow me and educate them to become useful instruments in my hands.”

A COVENANT OF LOVE had been struck between our Mother Thrice Admirable and Father Kentenich and the boys. Their heroic striving for sanctity, placed at our heavenly Mother’s disposal, would gently draw her to them to make the Sodality chapel a place of grace and her special activity.

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** filled with the wisdom of **CHILDLIKENESS** before God.

Because our youthful childlike hearts are open and willing to change and eager to learn and conquer the world within us, our Blessed Mother requests that we cooperate with the Grace of Inner Transformation by increasing our efforts to **EDUCATE OURSELVES IN THE WAYS OF HOLINESS**. She also requests that we place this striving at her disposal in exchange for her special activity in the Shrine which includes the Place of Honor we establish in our home for the visits of her Picture of Grace.

SO WHERE DO WE START WITH OUR SELF-EDUCATION IN THE WAYS OF HOLINESS?

1) “Under the protection of Mary, we want to learn to educate ourselves to become strong, free, priestly PERSONALITIES.” Our personality is a gift from God. The capabilities given us by way of our personality are gifts that help us recognize and accomplish the purpose of our life, to realize and reach our potential. However, unless we are already saints, we struggle daily with the faults and weaknesses of our given personality.

And so it was with the boys Father Kentenich was put in charge of. With his spiritual guidance, the boys were educated in understanding themselves and the special gifts God gave each of them in their personality. With this education, they had some idea as to what they needed to strive for to realize their potential and their life’s work in the priesthood. This striving they put at the disposal of the Mother Thrice Admirable so she would make their Sodality chapel a place of grace and her special activity.

2) Attached is a paper, **“GET TO KNOW YOUR TEMPERAMENT”** which shows the CHIEF VIRTUES of each temperament. Also shown are the CHIEF FAULTS and suggestions as WHAT TO STRIVE FOR. With a youthful heart and childlike spirit, prayerfully look over the paper and pick something to **STRIVE FOR** during the next month.

An option can be to choose a fruit of the Holy Spirit to strive for. So far we have looked at love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, and gentleness. This month, we include the last four: faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. Does one of these speak to your heart, something you need in your life? As always, we pray, **Holy Spirit come and mark my life with the fruits of your love.**

3) Give your heroic striving to the Blessed Mother in your Shrine, your Place of Honor, so she can make it a place of grace and her special activity:

a) Write your resolution on paper and each day renewing it in the Shrine.

- b)** Ask the Blessed Mother for her help and to intercede the grace you need to keep your resolution.
- c)** Each evening give her the result of your heroic striving - whether you succeeded or failed.

NOTE: You can use a physical symbol for your offering (ie. a bowl with special beads)

- d)** Offer your heroic striving:

- 1) for your own self-education and maturity in the ways of holiness;
- 2) to intercede for someone who needs your prayers and sacrifices;
- 3) for Our Lady's Capital of Grace

NOTHING WITHOUT YOU, BLESSED MOTHER, NOTHING WITHOUT US!



GET TO KNOW YOUR TEMPERAMENT

Study the following chart - you can even do it as a kind of family game - and try to find out your own temperament and that of the members of your family.

	CHOLERIC	SANGUINE	MELANCHOLIC	PHLEGMATIC
TYPE	energetic	cheerful	serious	calm
EMOTIONS	deep enduring quick externalised easily re- vived	light brief quick externalised short-lived	deep enduring slow internal easily revived	light brief slow internal seldom re- vived
CHIEF VIRTUES	strong will- power courage perseverance enthusiasm ambition nobility energy leadership thoroughness ideals	cheerfulness friendship energy popularity generosity kindness humour optimism compassion	loyalty concentration zeal understanding gentleness perseverance study dedication	patience caution wisdom prudence neatness temperance reliability efficiency wit
CHIEF FAULTS	pride arrogance cruelty anger selfishness revenge sarcasm	gluttony vanity irresponsi- bility lack of per- severance thoughtless- ness lust	pessimism envy pride scrupulosity despondency sensitivity moodiness greed sadness revengefulness	indecision stubbornness sloth conservatism mediocrity negligence timidity omissions laziness
WHAT TO STRIVE FOR	humility meekness tolerance self-control charity consideration forgiveness God's glory	prudence thoroughness moderation perseverance study serious read- ing mental prayer purity self disci- pline	forgiveness cheerfulness friendliness trust in God humility hobbies exercise	self-denial zeal co-operation ambition obedience schedule order prayer interest in others
POSSIBLE CAREERS	Leadership management organisation exploring research building medicine teaching	sales entertainment social work popular art journalism travel-agent broadcasting	fine arts research science education writing librarianship architecture nursing, medi- cine	counselling routine work personnel work business