

## THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION

### THE NEW PERSON

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 of Schoenstatt offers us a second gift, a second grace: the formation which only a wise Mother can give, and help towards our personal spiritual renewal in becoming the NEW PERSON. She intercedes for us the Holy Spirit who affects this transformation in us.**

### IN THE SPIRIT OF PERSONAL SPIRITUAL RENEWAL – THE NEW PERSON:

(SCHOENSTATT An Introduction): Already in 1912, at the outset of Schoenstatt, the founder, Father Joseph Kentenich, proclaimed that the formation of a new type of person was the goal of Schoenstatt. He placed the formation of this new person and community under Mary's protection.

### **UNDER THE PROTECTION OF MARY WE WANT TO LEARN TO EDUCATE OURSELVES TO BECOME FIRM, FREE, PRIESTLY PERSONALITIES**

He described the **NEW PERSON** as:

- a free person, free for God, for his wishes and plans, well-formed conscience and able to carry them out in a responsible manner;
- a divinized person, one with God, living in God's will and guided by his commands, formed and molded in his likeness, and able to see God's hand at work in the events of life;
- a supernatural person shaped and formed in the Holy Spirit with a renewed heart and mind;
- a daring person who learns to see things through God's eyes and who lives by the courage of faith;
- a victorious person who is confident in God's victory because of unshakable trust in God;
- a generous person, serving God and building his kingdom with unconditional love;
- a spirit-filled person who walks the way of love inwardly free, imprinting Christ's image upon our world.
- a person who, by virtue of the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, is capable of a total and permanent commitment to God and to Schoenstatt without strong juridical obligations, rules or regulations.

Mary is the prototype of this **NEW PERSON**. She is also our educator. With her help and protection, and through her intercession, we hope to be transformed and changed into the **new person**.

Pope Saint John Paul II said to the Schoenstatt Family on September 20, 1985: *"If you live this covenant loyally and generously you will be brought to the fullness of your Christian vocation....Mary, indeed, has received the task from God to be an example and a motherly educator of the "new person" in Christ Jesus (Col 3: 9-10). Love for her should lead you to integrate and reflect the example of her life in your own life.*

**Pope Saint John Paul II in the Schoenstatt**



**Shrine - Koszalin, Poland - June 1, 1991**

**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 so we become the **NEW PERSON**, a renewed person, an image and **INTENTIONAL DISCIPLE** of Jesus her Son:

**1) Transformation of our mind – free personality:** Our mind must keep our emotional life in order so that our actions spontaneously flow from the harmony within us. Our mind must be strengthened to aspire toward the heroism of an everyday life of faith, hope, and charity.

**Nourish your mind with Prayer and Spiritual Reading especially the Word of God.**

**2) Transformation of our will – firm personality:** Our will also needs to be transformed so that it becomes more and more attuned to God's will, seeking to fulfill even his slightest wish. The Blessed Mother helps us in our decision-making and strengthens our will, enabling us to stand firm in our principles and to be independent of the opinion of others.

**Mary, my Mother, please pray for me and help me be firm in my principles.**

**3) Transformation of our heart – priestly personality:** Mary also transforms our hearts so that our power to love is constantly nourished by God, who is the source and essence of all love, who is Love itself.

**Nurture your relationship with Jesus who is our High Priest.**

**4) The Fruits of the Holy Spirit** mark the life of the **NEW PERSON**. **Love, joy, peace, patience** are the first four on the list of the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. Let us ask: **Holy Spirit come and mark my life with your love, joy, peace, and patience this week. Amen.**

**5) Today when I experience** my own personal limitations, at least once I will turn to the Holy Spirit and ask him to come live in me and sanctify me.

#### **NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT – COME, HOLY SPIRIT**

**1<sup>st</sup> Day: Life in the Holy Spirit - Words of Father Kentenich:**

"Our purely natural thinking, our purely natural willing, our purely natural loving will be uplifted through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts enable us to stand in divine light, in divine confidence and in divine strength in all situations of life... We see that we cannot reach out for such an ideal with purely human means, even if we all were little heroes. Therefore, what is presupposed? ... The Holy Spirit's immense power and strength of transformation is presupposed."

#### **Prayer**

"Veni Sancte Spiritus! So come, do come, Holy Spirit! We know that it is relatively easy for you to transform us completely, to bring all the good drives and powers lying hidden within us to their victorious completion. O Come! Fill the hearts that you have created with the power of your grace." (Fr. Kentenich, Mary and the Holy Spirit, p. 8)