

YEAR 1 REVIEW – THE THREE PILGRIMAGE GRACES OF THE SHRINE



CONGRATULATIONS! You have completed 12 visits with the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother inviting her into your home to bring Jesus, the Three Pilgrimage Graces of the Shrine, and the Schoenstatt Shrine Experience to you and to your family.

The task and mission of our Pilgrim Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt and Queen of the Three Graces on the Move is to be Mother and Educator of our spiritual lives. This past year we asked her to educate us about the Three Pilgrimage Graces of the Shrine – what they are and how they help us mature in the spiritual life.

THE GRACE OF BEING AT HOME

“It is a special grace that in the shrine we can truly feel at home with God, a sense of security and rest in him in the midst of our hectic lives. In the atmosphere of the shrine, Mary offers us a home in her motherly heart and leads us into communion with Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Father.” (SCHOENSTATT, An Introduction)

1) IN THE SPIRIT OF HOSPITALITY

Father Kntenich said, “Take this picture of the Blessed Mother and give it a place of honor in your home. Then your home will become a little shrine in which the picture of grace will mediate many graces, create a holy family atmosphere, and form holy family members.”

2) IN THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

Prayer is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God, to the Blessed Mother. It is an exchange of thoughts and ideas with God, with the Blessed Mother through meditations on Scripture or other spiritual reading. It is the resting of our hearts in the Heart of God, in the Heart of the Blessed Mother.

3) IN THE SPIRIT OF PRACTICAL FAITH IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE - “You know the way for me, you know the time, into your hands I trustingly place mine. Your plan is perfect, born of perfect love. You know the way for me, that is enough. (Divine Providence Prayer)

4) IN THE SPIRIT OF COVENANT

A covenant is an agreement made between two parties who freely promise loyalty to each other and loyalty to all that the agreement includes. Common interests, shared tasks, mutual responsibilities and benefits unite the covenant partners.

I ASK MYSELF:

- ✚ Has the Spirit of **HOSPITALITY** grown in me as a result of offering shelter to Jesus and Mary these past months? Did I greet Jesus and Mary with open arms as Elizabeth did and did I make them feel at home by offering them a Place of Honor?
- ✚ Has the Spirit of **PRAYER** grown in me as a result of the time I spent with Jesus and Mary during their monthly visits? Did I experience the Place of Honor as a Corner of Heaven and an Oasis of Peace? Did I have a Shrine Experience in my Place of Honor: the experience of feeling at home with my Guests, of letting myself be drawn there, of letting go of anxieties and fears there? Did I bond with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as represented in the Shrine Picture?
- ✚ Has the Spirit of **PRACTICAL FAITH IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE** grown in me as a result of the visits of the Pilgrim Mother and her Son? Have I thought about my life and how God has guided me through Open and Closed Doors?
- ✚ Has the Spirit of **COVENANT** grown in me during the visits of the Pilgrim Mother and her Son? Do I feel part of God’s Covenant People? Have I increased my striving to faithfully live my Baptismal Promises? Do I feel more open to God as His trusting child at home with Him in His Heart?

THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION

“We ask the Blessed Mother to lead us to true inner freedom, to heal our hearts, and to fill us with faith, hope, and love. We implore her to transform us into firm personalities who can master everyday life and into God’s children who please him by fulfilling his every wish.” (SCHOENSTATT, An Introduction)

1) IN THE SPIRIT OF THE NEW PERSON

Father Kntenich described the New Person as a free person, free for God; a divinized person, one with God; a supernatural person shaped and formed in the Holy Spirit; a daring person who sees things through God’s eyes; a victorious person, confident in God’s victory; a generous person, serving God and His Kingdom; a person committed to God.

2) IN THE SPIRIT OF CHILDLIKENESS BEFORE GOD

Our Thrice Admirable Mother says to us in the Third Promise of her Covenant of Love, “I will draw from here YOUTHFUL HEARTS to follow me”. In this Promise, we find “hidden” the great world of CHILDLIKENESS which unfolds into daily life the words of Jesus: “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 18:3)

3) IN THE SPIRIT OF EDUCATION (SELF-EDUCATION)

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.

4) 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 longed 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 EVERYDAY SANCTITY)

I ASK MYSELF:

- ✦ Has the Spirit of the **NEW PERSON** grown in me as a result of our Pilgrim Mother's visits to me and her intercession with Jesus for me? Have I nourished my mind with Prayer and Spiritual Reading? Has the Grace of Inner Transformation strengthened my will enabling me to stand firm in my Catholic principles? Have I nurtured my relationship with Jesus?
- ✦ Has the Spirit of **CHILDLIKENESS BEFORE GOD** increased in me as a result of welcoming the Pilgrim Mother and her Son into my home? Am I Young at Heart in my ways, thinking, and doing? Am I open to change, eager to learn, and ready to conquer the world within me? Do I have a daring spirit, a victorious spirit, a trusting spirit, a humble spirit because I know I am loved by my Heavenly Father?
- ✦ Has the Spirit of **SELF-EDUCATION** grown in me? Has our Mother and Educator convinced me to learn about myself, my personality, my Temperament so I can understand and appreciate the special gifts God has given me? Have I begun the work of striving to become a firm, free, priestly personality? Have I put that striving at the disposal of our Pilgrim Mother and her Son so she can make my Place of Honor a place of grace and her special activity?
- ✦ Has the Spirit of **EVERYDAY SANCTITY** grown in me over the months as a result of the Pilgrim Mother's visits? Do I work to bring balance and sanctity to my Everyday Life by securing the attachments in my life: attachments to God and the Blessed Mother, to Myself, to Others, to Work, Nature, and Things?

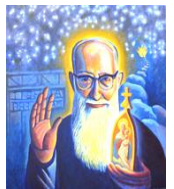
THE GRACE OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS

"The covenant of love inspires us to become holy for the sake of those entrusted to us, to live exemplary lives, and to share with others the spiritual riches we possess. In the Shrine we receive new strength for the mission and new apostolic zeal to fulfill our baptismal commitment... We have responsibilities to fulfill for the kingdom of God on earth, to reach out to the person next to us." (SCHOENSTATT An Introduction)

1) IN THE SPIRIT OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS - MODELS OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS: FATHER JOSEPH KENTENICH, the Founder of a Great Work – Schoenstatt and DEACON JOHN POZZOBON, History of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate within Schoenstatt



"The true goal of the apostolate (the work of the Church directed to serving and evangelizing the world) refers to the activity of an apostle, the one who is sent forth endowed with a special mission. During his life Christ entrusted a great mission to his apostles: to baptize, to proclaim the Good News, to expand the kingdom of God, and to unite all into one fold under the one, true shepherd, Christ. They were to lead all people to eternal salvation. This is the goal and purpose of all apostolic activity: to draw as many people as possible into the fullness of divine life and to help bring the divine life to maturity and perfection, securing a life of eternal salvation for all." (The Three Pillars)



2) IN THE SPIRIT OF BEING INSTRUMENTS IN MARY'S HANDS

"Essential to Schoenstatt's spirituality is the cultivation of our attitude and life as *instruments of God*. This is what is called '*instrument piety*' or the spirit of '*instrumentality*'... In reality, it is a very simple thing: in the covenant of love (with the MTA), I express my willingness and desire to be an instrument of God. Through my apostolate (work for the Church) and service to family, friends, Church and world, I cultivate a lifestyle of actively building up the kingdom." (200 Questions about Schoenstatt)

3) IN THE SPIRIT OF BEING INSTRUMENTS OF THE THREE GRACES OF THE SHRINE

From the Shrine, our Mother Thrice Admirable becomes a Pilgrim Mother who goes out on a Journey of Love to bring Jesus and His message anew to the world. She brings the Shrine and the Three Pilgrimage Graces of the Shrine to support religious and moral renewal of individuals, families, family life. Our Pilgrim Mother needs willing and capable instruments to help her with her Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

4) IN THE SPIRIT OF BEING FRUITFUL FOR THE CHURCH – TO SERVE AND EVANGELIZE

From the Shrine, our Mother Thrice Admirable calls apostles, educates apostles, uses and sends apostles. Through her we become persons who radiate something, radiating (God's life) into our environment.

I ASK MYSELF:

- ✦ Have I made use of the Courage of Faith and A Hero Today Novenas to acquaint myself with **FATHER JOSEPH KENTENICH**, the founder of Schoenstatt, and **DEACON JOHN POZZOBON**, initiator of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate within Schoenstatt?
- ✦ Has the Spirit of being an **INSTRUMENT IN MARY'S HANDS** grown in me and started producing the six characteristics of a useful instrument: Are my self-will, drives, and instincts in proper balance? Am I rooted in prayer and the reception of the sacraments? Am I ready to be sent out to be used by God to win over souls? Do I live in God's world and am I in communion with Him? Do I live as a child of God? Am I resting securely in God's hands and have faith in His Providence in my life? Do I desire to make room and allow room to be made for God and God's fruitfulness in my life?
- ✦ Has the Spirit of being an **INSTRUMENT OF THE THREE GRACES OF THE SHRINE** grown in me? Do I dispose myself to receive and reap the benefits of the graces and blessings that our Pilgrim Mother and her Son bring and do I experience feeling at home in the Shrine, my Place of Honor? Do I cooperate and remain open to the Holy Spirit's work in me during the visits of the Pilgrim Mother and do I open myself to experience the transforming power of the Shrine? Do I support and pray for the intentions of the other members in the group? Do I realize the importance of sharing the Pilgrim Mother with others? Would I consider becoming a Missionary of the Pilgrim Mother myself?
- ✦ Has the Spirit of being **FRUITFUL FOR THE CHURCH – TO SERVE AND EVANGELIZE** grown in me over the past 12 months? I am called to be an apostle – What can I do especially well? How can I put this talent to use to benefit others? Do I experience that I belong to the family of God? What can I contribute to the Church being experienced as family? I am formed and educated to be an apostle – Schoenstatt urges me to share what I have received. I am used and sent as an apostle in my state of life and immediate surroundings – it is there that I must work.