

VISIT #1, THE FIRST PROMISE OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE

“IT WILL PLEASE ME TO DWELL IN YOUR MIDST.”



IN THE SPIRIT OF COVENANT SPIRITUALITY:

(From THE THREE PILLARS pages 22-25):

a. Mary is coming and she will stay with us.

The Blessed Mother wants to live with us and remain among us twenty-four hours a day. She wants to be drawn into every joy and suffering that we experience and into every decision that we make. She wants to be at our side as our mother, our friend and our guide, as the one who knows what is best for us at each moment as well as for our future. She does not come as a guest. She wants to become a part of our family, a part of our life. We are not left alone in our struggles for life's existence, in our decision making, in our daily responsibilities at work, at home, at school. The Blessed Mother is always with us!

b. Mary wants to work for us.

The Blessed Mother wants to live among us and work in our midst. She wants to do that which she did in the house of her cousin Elizabeth. She wants to assist us in our daily needs; she wants to do all that we ourselves cannot accomplish.

She is waiting for work and would do even more if we would allow her to. Which 'jobs' could we offer her? It would be very beneficial for us to actually write up a "work list" for the Blessed Mother each day. She "works" for us in several ways:

- aa. Inspiring us as to how we can accomplish a task.
- bb. Changing our attitude toward a task.
- cc. Interceding graces and strength for us.
- dd. Sending someone to help if needed.

She wishes to "work" for us in the fulfillment of our physical tasks as well as our concerns for others and in our striving for perfection.

SAMPLE WORK LIST FOR OUR MTA

Laundry	Make phone calls
Clean garage	To give the right answers to my neighbor
Patience with the children today	That the new recipe will turn out
Prepare meeting	For a broken relationship

NOTE: I write down what I think needs to be done today. I place the list before the MTA, asking her to please take over and do the "work" and that you are willing to help in any way. You will be amazed at what your covenant partner will do for you! If a task does not get done, perhaps it was not necessary! We surrender our pride by asking for help and we acknowledge that we can do nothing without God's help through the Blessed Mother.

c. Mary wants to intercede for us.

In our home she wants to do that which she did at the wedding feast at Cana when she turned to Our Lord with the petition: "They have no more wine" (Jn.2:3). She expected Christ to perform the miracle and she was not found wanting. How much more will she intercede for us when she lives with us and sees and shares our daily needs! How well could we imagine her turning to Our Lord with the motherly plea: "They do not have a job, they do not have money to pay their bills, they do not have consolation, they do not have peace, they do not have understanding, they do not have health, they do not have faith..."

And then she will beg Christ to perform the miracle just as she did in Cana, for our need is so much greater. Why would Christ refuse her ardent petitions now when something much more existential and crucial than the lack of wine is at stake in our life? All we have to do is to invite the Blessed Mother to come to our home, to stay with us there and partake of our family life. We only have to trustingly turn to her in all our needs. Then we will experience miracles of grace upon miracles of grace in our own life and in our family too.

d. It is a joy for her to dwell in our midst!

With delight she wants to dwell among us. Mary loves us with motherly affection and wants to be our educator. She finds delight in this task; it is a great joy for her to live with us. She is extremely pleased to help us create a joy filled, positive, peaceful, family atmosphere. She wants to fill us with a great vision for the future which overcomes all gloom and sadness in life. What a great opportunity for us! What a great covenant promise!

THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open to our Blessed Mother's promise to dwell in our midst. Let us pray to receive this grace which she is offering to us so that we can grow in **COVENANT SPIRITUALITY** through her motherly education and intercession.

REFLECTION:

Mary has been given to us by Jesus to be our spiritual mother. She is pleased to dwell with us. Prayerfully ponder the lesson and the ways Our Blessed Mother wants to dwell with us. What do you say to her about her promise?

COMMIT:

Try out the following **WORK LIST** asking the Blessed Mother for her help.

Look over **THE THREE PILLARS** book:

- ✚ Read pages 14-21 – Father Kentenich tells us about Mary's role in the plan of salvation.
- ✚ Pages 25-33 offers quotes taken from **Mary, Our Mother and Educator** by Fr. Kentenich, helping us to be newly aware of the greatness of the one who will be with us, work for us, intercede for us – our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.



PRAY:

Spend a few moments thanking Mary for her maternal care. Pray the Hail Mary slowly and carefully, paying attention to the words in light of all we talked about in the above reflection. Invite the Blessed Mother to come to your home, to stay with you there and partake of your family life. Ask for the grace to trustingly turn to her in all your needs.

THE BLESSED MOTHER’S WORK LIST

“Ecce Mater Tua!” Behold your Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen & Victress of Schoenstatt who is delighted and filled with joy to dwell among us. Implementing this work list honors the Blessed Mother’s joy in coming, staying, working, & interceding for us. “She wants to assist us in our daily needs. She ‘works’ for us in several ways: **Inspiring us** as to how we can accomplish a task; **Changing our attitude** toward a task; **Interceding graces and strength** for us; **Sending someone** to help if needed. She wishes to ‘work’ for us in the fulfillment of our physical tasks as well as our concerns for others and in our striving for perfection.” (The Three Pillars pg 23). Consider too that using this work list helps in practicing childlike trust in the Father, for **“I can do all things in Him who strengthens me”** (Phil 4:13).

<u>SHORT TERM</u>	<u>LONG TERM</u>
<u>Physical</u>	<u>Tasks</u>
<u>Concerns</u>	<u>for Others</u>
<u>Striving for</u>	<u>Perfection</u>