

## VISIT #2, THE SECOND PROMISE OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE

### **“AND DISTRIBUTE FAVORS, GIFTS AND GRACES IN ABUNDANCE”**



#### IN THE SPIRIT OF COVENANT SPIRITUALITY:

(From THE THREE PILLARS pages 46-48):

When our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt comes to dwell with us, to become in a special way a part of our lives, she does not come with empty hands! She comes with arms full of favors, gifts and graces from God.

#### **1.a. Favors, gifts and graces**

Favors and gifts are precious treasures, signs of friendship, of love and esteem, prepared by those who care for us and know our deepest longing. Gifts are not always items that we are in need of but simple treasures which add to life's happiness. They create a sense of awe and wonder and awaken in us a deep appreciation for the attentiveness and care of the giver. Our covenant partner promises to grant us such favors, to fulfill our secret desires and longings as much as they are in accord with God's holy will.

The gifts of the Blessed Mother may vary in size and shape, and may come when we are waiting for them or when we least expect them. They may come in a fancy wrapping or under a hurting and painful cover. We might accept them with great joy or reject them and push them aside. We should also consider our suffering and misfortune as gifts of grace, given to us with love for our very best. Our Lady's gift of grace will transform us into better persons and make us more like her, a true follower of Christ, whose way leads from the crib to the cross.

#### **1.b. An abundance of gifts**

Our covenant partner will lavishly bestow her gifts of grace upon us. There will be an abundance, much more than we would ever expect or need. We must increase our awareness of her generosity and learn to appreciate the countless favors – big and small – which we constantly receive from her. As our Mother she knows best what we need in the moment and she will always have the best gift ready for us. When we experience the generosity of our covenant partner through her many gifts and favors, we stand in awe and gratitude. She must truly love us and care for us and must want to fulfill a great task through us if she so generously gives of her treasures. This great experience will awaken our longing to love in return; it will strengthen our conviction of being safe with her. Then we can give ourselves to her without fear or reservation. Our gratitude for the gifts we receive will encourage the giver to continue to pour her riches upon us without ceasing.

THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open to our Blessed Mother's promise to dwell in our midst and distribute favors, gifts and graces in abundance. 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 and give to us an abundance of favors, gifts and graces from God. Prayerfully ponder the lesson. Through this Second Promise of the Covenant of Love, our Blessed Mother wants to:

- ✚ help us understand that, as our Mother, she knows best what we need in the moment and will always have the best gift ready for us whether it be for joy or sorrow. Most of all she wants to help us and be with us in our crosses, sufferings, and sorrows.
- ✚ increase our awareness of her generosity, awaken our longing to love her in return, strengthen our conviction of being safe with her so we can give ourselves to her without fear or reservation.
- ✚ help us know that she must truly love us and care for us and must want to fulfill a great task through us if she so generously gives of her treasures.

**What do you say to her about her promise?**

#### **COMMIT:**

From **THE THREE PILLARS** book - Review pages 48-58, The Three Pilgrimage Graces of the Shrine:

- ✚ The Grace of Being at Home with God because we need and want to be loved
- ✚ The Grace of Inner Transformation because we need and want to be transformed into strong personalities
- ✚ The Grace of Apostolic Zeal because we need and want to be used for the kingdom of God

Try out the following **FAVORS, GIFTS AND GRACES WORKSHEET** to discern what favors, gifts and graces the Blessed Mother may be interceding for you in this present moment:

1. Favors, Gifts, Graces You Are **Pleased to Accept** with great joy - those simple treasures wrapped in fancy paper that add to life's happiness:
  - ✚ Various Favors, Gifts, and Graces specific to your life today – List a few in the space available on the Worksheet. Thank the Blessed Mother for interceding.
  - ✚ The Three Pilgrimage Graces of the Shrine – List on the Worksheet how you need each of these Graces working in your life today. Ask the Blessed Mother for her continued help and intercession.
2. Favors, Gifts, Graces You Want to **Push Away** – those crosses wrapped in old dirty newspaper that add to life's difficulties and struggles. Using your Worksheet:



- ✚ Name your **Cross** – Physical pain, illness; Emotional hurt, sadness, despair; Intellectual challenges; Spiritual suffering.
- ✚ What is the **Cause** of your Cross?
- ✚ What is **God's Purpose** in allowing, using, and integrating this suffering into your life?
- ✚ **Seek Healing** for different forms of pain and suffering
- ✚ **Pray** to stay close to God, **Fast** by putting forth effort to grow in holiness, and
- ✚ **Offer** your suffering for a purpose.

#### **PRAY:**

Spend a few moments thanking Mary for her maternal care and intercession. 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 Second Promise of the Covenant of Love**  
**“And distribute favors, gifts, and graces in abundance”**

**Each new day should be unwrapped as a precious gift!**

Our Lady’s gifts of grace will transform us into better persons and make us more like her, a true follower of Christ, whose way leads from the crib to the cross. As our Mother she knows best what we need in the moment and she will always have the best gift ready for us. In her shrine she performs miracles of spiritual healing, of inner transformation, which should bring about an upsurge of new life. She offers us what we need most today in order to live a life of peace, holiness and responsibility for others. (Three Pillars pgs. 47,48)



**Favors, Gifts, Graces You Want to PUSH AWAY**

**NAME** your Cross – that challenging relationship or situation. Is it physical, mental, emotional, spiritual? Is it your own sin, faults, failures, imperfections; other peoples’ actions; natural causes; or evil influences?

**GOD’S PURPOSE:** 1) **Key** is acceptance/offering it for a purpose. 2) **Mature** in attitude/attachment, become more humble, patient, calmer, stronger, tender, Christ-like, spiritual, etc. 3) **Source** of grace, blessing, joy. 4) **Atonement**-joining in Christ’s redemptive suffering, helping Him redeem the world, your family, etc. Jesus’ most precious gifts are given at the foot of the Cross.

**HEALING** for different forms of pain & suffering:

**Physical** - diet, exercise, medical attention.

**Emotional** - forgiveness, reconciliation, re-build relationship.

**Mental** - mature in thinking, judging, attitude.

**Spiritual** - growth in faith, spiritual striving, reconciliation with God.

**PRAY** to stay close to God, to achieve His purpose & healing. Pray for grace and strength needed depending on the form of suffering involved. Offer intercessory prayer for persons and situation involved.

**FASTING** from your own sin, fault, failure, imperfection. Put forth effort to grow in holiness conquering personal sin for “the seed that dies bears much fruit.”

**ALMSGIVING** – Offer the suffering from physical, mental, emotional, spiritual pain and dying to self for persons /situation involved, for your monthly intentions, and as contributions to the MTA’s Capital of Grace. As members of the Body of Christ, we are responsible for each other’s salvation.



**Favors, Gifts, Graces You Are PLEASSED TO ACCEPT**

**Various favors, gifts, graces present in my life today:**

**How do I need each of THE THREE PILGRIMAGE GRACES OF THE SHRINE working in my life today?**

**THE GRACE OF BEING AT HOME (Covenant Spirituality):**

We need and want to be loved – The Blessed Mother intercedes for us The Grace of Being at Home with God, with her in her heart in the Schoenstatt Shrine.

**THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION (Everyday Sanctity):**

We need and want to be transformed into strong personalities – The Blessed Mother intercedes for us The Grace of Inner Transformation of our mind, heart, will so we will be the renewed person.

**THE GRACE OF APOSTOLIC ZEAL (Instrument Spirituality):**

We need and want to be used for the kingdom of God – The Blessed Mother intercedes for us The Grace of Apostolic Zeal so we can fulfill our personal mission in life.