

REVIEW – THE GRACE OF BEING AT HOME WITH GOD

Congratulations, you have completed 4 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. We ask 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 Kentenich 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 guides 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?

May God grant us this Grace of Being at Home with Him in His Heart in the Shrine through the intercession of Mary, Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt and Queen of the Three Graces on the Move. Amen.

