

VISIT #6, THE SIXTH PROMISE OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE

“IN MY HANDS”

IN THE SPIRIT OF COVENANT SPIRITUALITY:

(From THE THREE PILLARS pages 87-89):



As our loving Mother, the Blessed Mother forms and molds us **in her hands** through her promises into “another-Christ” so that the words of St. Paul become a reality in each of us: “...yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me...” (Gal. 2:20)

In Holy Scripture hands have become the symbol of protection, power, possession, confidence and trust. It is our great longing to be secure in God’s hands, to be well cared for and to leave matters in his hands. As the Mother of God, Mary always offers us her guiding and helping hand whenever we need it. When we are safe in her hand no evil power will harm us, confuse us, or take hold of us. With her hand to guide us we will never stray away from the path of Christ.

What a great promise our covenant partner gives us: to keep us safe in her hands, to place all our worries and concerns into her hands; she will take perfect care. And with her hands she will mold us into true followers of Christ and use us to build his kingdom. Secure in her hands, no ungodly power will lay its hand on us.

FOCUSING ON THE BLESSED MOTHER’S HANDS, I ASK MYSELF:



- Am I attached to them?
- Do I feel protected, guided, molded by them?
- What could be more urgent than constant help and strength for every moment of my life, on my journey homeward to the Father?
- What could be more helpful than to place myself into the powerful, transforming, sheltering hands of our Blessed Mother my covenant partner so that she can educate and use me for the kingdom of God?

REFLECTION:

In the Covenant of Love, the Blessed Mother promises that **(1)** she will be pleased to dwell in our midst **(2)** distributing favors, gifts, and graces in abundance. **(3)** From the Shrine, she will draw youthful hearts to follow her and **(4)** educate them **(5)** to be useful instruments **(6)** in her hands. These Covenant Promises are a great answer to the needs of our time. They offer us a definite means to master our everyday life, to reach the fullest potential of our personality formation (education), to become an important part of God’s kingdom (instruments), and to be of greatest use for the Mother of God.

What could be a greater apostolic deed in the interest of mankind than to make these promises also available to countless many people, to expose them to the stream of special grace and blessing from the Schoenstatt Shrine. What could be more helpful than to place mankind into the powerful, transforming, sheltering hands of our Covenant Partner so that she can educate and use them for the kingdom of God?

COMMIT: The decisive moment of world and Church renewal lies in the renewal of each individual who in turn strengthens each group and community and society.

I ASK MYSELF:

1) Do I allow the Blessed Mother to dwell with me, to work for me, to intercede for my needs? Do I use her WORK LIST to surrender my pride and ask for her help acknowledging that I can do nothing without God's help through her?

2) Do I acknowledge and accept the abundance of favors, gifts and graces that the Blessed Mother wants to give me from God? Have I used the FAVORS, GIFTS, AND GRACES WORKSHEET to discern what these graces might be especially graces to help me with the cross and suffering in my life?

3) Am I A YOUTHFUL HEART AND CHILDLIKE in my trust in God? Jesus came to reveal God as our merciful Father whose children we are. Do I look at God in faith, speak with God in love, sacrifice for love of God the efforts I make in my daily living to educate myself in becoming a holy personality and humble child of the Father?

4) Do I use the SPECIAL RESOLUTION and SPIRITUAL DAILY ORDER to gain clearer self-knowledge? Do I give my striving to the Blessed Mother so she can make her PLACE OF HONOR her SHRINE where she can unfold her special motherly activity?

5) Am I a USEFUL INSTRUMENT as light as a feather in God's hands? Do I freely choose one small sacrifice, act of self-discipline, or good deed every day to tame the lower animal nature in me, strengthen my will, and enlighten my mind and offer it to the Blessed Mother's Capital of Grace?

6) Am I ATTACHED TO THE BLESSED MOTHER'S HANDS? Do I allow her to protect me, guide me, mold me?

PRAY:

Dear Blessed Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt and Queen of the Three Graces on the Move, please help me to dare to reach out and beg that your covenant promises be fulfilled in my life? Remove all that hinders me from moving toward them and embracing them.

My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you, and to show my devotion to you, I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my entire self without reserve. As I am your own my good Mother, guard me and defend me as your property and possession. Amen.