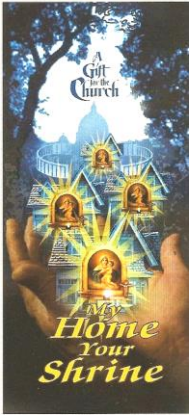


THE HOME SHRINE PRAYER

The Founding Document of the Home Shrine

MY HOME, A SHRINE (pages 58-59, 124-125, 138-140)



The history of each Schoenstatt (daughter) shrine is marked by a founding hour – the moment in which the new stream of grace breaks forth and begins to flow from this shrine. It is the day when the shrine is officially dedicated and the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt is formally invited to come and dwell there and make it a place of her special activity. At that moment the shrine becomes a place of grace just as the Original Shrine did on October 18, 1914, when the covenant of love with Our Lady was sealed for the first time.

Each home shrine also has its specific hour of foundation on the day of its dedication. At that time the family, or at least one member of the family, prays a special, self-composed prayer, a prayer of invitation and of renewed acceptance of the covenant demands. In this prayer we beg the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, to take possession of our home, to erect her throne of grace there and to work miracles of transformation in our family. We can state our particular needs and requests very explicitly – all that we wish the Blessed Mother to do in our home, for each and every family member. We should also express how we intend to fulfill our part of the covenant so that our home shrine becomes more and more a reality in our life. We may also wish to include special petitions and prayers of thanksgiving of all the gifts and guidance we have received. The home shrine prayer also includes the special name and the various symbols which the individual and family members have chosen.

This home shrine prayer is an important document for the family; it is the foundation of a new place of grace, making our home a shrine. It is the founding document of the home shrine.

Suggested Outline for the Home Shrine Prayer

The home shrine prayer should be addressed to the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. It is like a letter of invitation, asking her to please come and dwell in our home and distribute gifts and graces in abundance to anyone who belongs to our home and to all who will enter it.

- Why do you want to invite the Blessed Mother into your home?
- Why did you choose the particular name for your home shrine?
- What do you want the Blessed Mother to do in and from your home shrine?
- What do you wish to offer her?
- How do you want to make the home shrine a reality in your home?
- How do you want to keep it alive?
- Why did you choose your particular symbol(s)?
- What does the symbol mean to you?
- How can the symbol stimulate you in your striving?

The home shrine prayer can be concluded with a special thanksgiving and finally, with any petitions we may wish to include.

THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open and to receive the **GRACE** to have in our homes a **HOME SHRINE, A PLACE OF GRACE** dedicated to our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt from which she, the Mother of God, can intercede for us the three pilgrimage graces of the shrine and all the graces we need to be holy families and holy family members who can fulfill our mission in the Church.

REFLECTION: "FOR HER"

A college student, eager to become a good nurse and to make a go of life! Mother at home, gently encouraging her to pray, to be, to do and to remain good, carefully watching her friends! Mother escapes into her home shrine daily and fervently implores her covenant partner: "Thank you, for my daughter is still good. She could pray a bit more, but all in all, I am happy. Please, please keep your eye on her, preserve her, guide her, protect her, choose her friends..." Mother repeats this prayer in various forms day after day.

The time of 'finals' arrived and her daughter passed with flying colors. State boards needed to be written; the last agony of college years was shared by all the family members. These days also passed and the time of waiting for the results created a certain tension in the home.

Mother waited too, silently watching her daughter. One day as Mother walked up the stairs after a full day's load of trial and work, her glance fell on the home shrine in the far back corner of the living room. Spontaneously she took a second look, something seemed different. She took a closer look and noticed a beautiful red rose, standing straight up in a delicate vase, with its penetrating fragrance concealing a secret. Mother looked up to **HER**; SHE seemed to smile. "Who gave you this rose," she whispered in amazement and yet in reverent joy, cautious not to disturb the secret between **HER** and the rose giver. In a moment's time she thought of her husband, and recalled the names of her four children. Shaking her head in disbelief, but with another grateful glance at **HER**, she made her way up the stairs, ready for the night.

Breakfast time in the morning – it included the usual rush, a commotion everywhere, a hurry. Out of the clear blue, Mother remarked: "I was wondering, did any one of you add a beautiful rose to the home shrine?" The silence taught her that a secret could not be revealed in the morning confusion of a household.

On this day her daughter was the first one home. "Oh, by the way, Mother, do you think I would have passed my nursing exam and my state boards alone? I owe it to **HER**! And should you ever think that you are the only one in your household who goes to our home shrine, you are just slightly mistaken."

The daughter has since taken an apartment near her work place. When Mother visited her for the first time, she could not conceal her tears of joy. There, in an inconspicuous spot in her small apartment was a little home shrine, just **FOR HER**.

COMMIT:

Begin writing your Home Shrine Prayer.

PRAY: PRAYER OF PETITION

Dear Mother of God, we ask you with great trust: From this home shrine show that you are the Thrice Admirable Mother, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. Thrice Admirable Mother, set to work in our family and fill us with the spirit of love, understanding and forgiveness. Unite our hearts in the covenant with you and the Triune God. Thrice Admirable Queen, form our family into a church in miniature. Give us a faith that is strong and true. Thrice Admirable Victress, keep the influence of the evil one far from us. Strengthen us in suffering. Accept our efforts and also our failures. Through your intercession may everything bear fruit for the renewal of families. Amen.

