

Meditations on Living the Requests of the Covenant of Love through The Joyful Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The First Joyful Mystery – The Annunciation



The angel Gabriel announces the Incarnation to Mary and Mary responds with her Fiat, her Blank Check, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to Your word” (Luke 1:38). In her yes to God’s request, **Mary is the great believer**. St. Elizabeth agrees when she declares, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled” (Luke 1:45). The Blessed Mother gives her yes to the Father’s holy will for her because she believes in Him. She has unconditional faith and trust in Him and unconditional love for Him.

The First Request of the Covenant of Love – “Prove first by your deeds that you really love me”

The Blessed Mother wants us to be great believers too and give our yes to the Father’s holy will for our lives. She requests generous deeds of love for God, for her, for others done in the fulfillment of the Father’s holy will. To serve the Father’s holy will, we need to love Him. To love the Father, we need to know about Him, His attributes, His master plan of love for our lives. We need to have faith in His Divine Providence in our lives. We gain a better understanding of God so we too can respond to Him as the Blessed Mother did with unconditional faith, love, trust, and childlike surrender of mind, heart, and will. May God grant us the grace **to be great believers** through the intercession of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt! Amen.

The Second Joyful Mystery – The Visitation



Mary visits Elizabeth. Our faith, our believing God, works itself out through deeds of love of God and love of neighbor. In the Visitation, **Mary is the one who loves**. She loves God with her whole being and her neighbor as herself for the love of God. “We see you, Mother, hastening with the Savior to stay with Elizabeth and serve her. She (Elizabeth) rejoices and is filled with the Holy Spirit, and feels the child sanctified in her womb” (Heavenwards).

The Second Request of the Covenant of Love – “Increase your striving (for high ideals) to the highest degree”

This Covenant Request motivates us to heroic virtue to make great efforts, to work hard for the renewal of Church and world. “The object of our highest striving and greatest efforts is the fulfillment of the Father’s will, the realization of all the values and priorities which are founded in God and upon which He built His kingdom” (The Three Pillars). We search for Truth and live it. We strive to perfect every aspect of life (spiritual, mental, emotional, physical). We persevere in struggles to the end not giving in to discouragement and despair. We fight temptations. We get up again with a positive attitude. We have faith to find God the Father behind all events and circumstances. “Let us, too, devote our strength and time in quiet service to the work of salvation” (Heavenward). May God grant us the grace to be **ones who love** through the intercession of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt! Amen.

The Third Joyful Mystery - The Nativity



Jesus is born in Bethlehem. In the Nativity, **Mary is the humble child** who is so totally united with God that in her miraculous fruitfulness she brings forth the Sun of Righteousness, **the Divine Humble Child of the Father**, thus fulfilling God’s wish with great joy and generosity of heart.

The Third Request of the Covenant of Love - “This sanctification I demand of you”

“Under the protection of Mary, we want to educate ourselves to be firm, free, priestly personalities (Father Kentenich).” We are called to be holy, called to be saints. A saint is a person who is totally united with God, who places God into the center of his/her life and fulfills God’s slightest wish with great joy and generosity of heart. Father Kentenich says, “Holiness is the simplest thing in the world, it is the child’s love for the Father.” Everyday Sanctity, the Simple Way to God says “It can be done! Begin anew now, today!” Let us look at God in faith, speak with God in love, and sacrifice for love of God the efforts we make in our daily living to educate ourselves in becoming holy personalities, humble children of the Father. May God grant us the grace **to become His humble children**, to be faithful and fruitful in the Spirit like Jesus, the Son of the Father, and Mary, His Mother. Blessed Mother, “you have graciously established Schoenstatt so that our times can see the Eternal light. From there you want to go through our dark world as the Christbearer sent by God. Jubilantly place the Lord into my soul anew, so that, like you, I may perfectly resemble Him” (Heavenwards). Amen.

The Fourth Joyful Mystery – The Presentation



Mary and Joseph present Jesus to the Father in the Temple & they offer the prescribed two turtle doves for the sacrifice and worship. **Mary & Joseph are obedient servants of the sacrifice** and to the everyday graces and good deeds offered them by God.

The Fourth Request of the Covenant of Love - “Diligently bring me contributions to the capital of grace”

We too offer our two turtle doves - all our prayers, works, joys, sufferings, sacrifices, and good deeds to our Mother and Queen in the Schoenstatt Shrine in **obedience** to her request. These are signs of our love and a key to release a stream of grace from the shrine for our families, friends, and for all we are praying for. Nothing without you, Blessed Mother, nothing without us. May God grant us the grace to imitate our Mother and Queen and Saint Joseph in uniting our lives to the life of Jesus for the work of salvation. “Like you, the great **servant of the sacrifice**, I give everything I hold most dear for the salvation of souls” (Heavenwards).

The Fifth Request of the Covenant of Love - “Faithfully fulfill your duties”

Mary and Joseph are the faithful ones who fulfill their duty to God’s laws regarding Jesus’ Presentation to the Father in the Temple. We too should do what is necessary and demanded of us with love in regard to morality, God’s laws, our career, and our position. May God grant us the grace **to be faithful ones**, to faithfully fulfill the duties according to our being and nature, our vocation, our profession, as humble children of the Father, as members of the Church, as citizens of our Country as they are a manifestation of His holy will for us. We ask this grace through the intercession of our Mother Thrice Admirable Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt! Amen.



The Fifth Joyful Mystery – The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Mary and Joseph are the great seekers who look for their Son and find Him in the Temple being about His Father’s business.

The Sixth Request of the Covenant of Love - “Pray fervently” motivates us to frequently lift our minds, hearts, and wills to God in moments of prayer. May God grant us the grace to **constantly seek Him**, to secure a life of ardent prayer. “Mother, with eager expectation you took in everything which came from the mouth and heart of the Lord and became a master of contemplation, totally given to God in tender intimacy. In your shrine you wish to form an army of prayer in the midst of a barren world, leading us to love’s highest heights so that in the battle we remain loyally at your side. Help me to learn more and more the spirit of prayer and always lift my heart to the stars of heaven. Let me always look on

Christ, the Sun, and trust in him in all of life’s situations. Glory be joyfully given to the Father through Christ with Mary, highly praised, in the Holy Spirit full of splendor from the universe now and in all eternity. Amen” (Heavenwards).