



CHAPTER 3: A VERY PERSONAL WAY – THE PERSONAL IDEAL

Every person, in the great mosaic of the Kingdom of God, is to occupy and creatively fashion a certain place. This place, the concrete plan of God, is to be discovered: it is the personal goal of life, the mission goal, and the goal of holiness, or the personal ideal. **God speaks: “I know you by name”, your personal ideal, “and I have given you my grace to discover it”.** The Personal Ideal can be my primary educational tool, giving specific direction to my covenant way. Let us search for our image – it is how God sees me in my holiness, wholeness, happiness, & fruitfulness according to His good purpose.

The Formulation of my Personal Ideal

After I examined the fundamental direction of my soul, including the main passion and temperaments, I know a little better in which way I am gifted, and in which direction it points.

The Two Main Passions and Corresponding Temperaments:

- The drive to surrender or to make a gift of ourselves urges us to stay closely connected with someone.
 - ✓ Sanguine Temperament – refreshing and spontaneous, full of life just like the season of spring
 - ✓ Phlegmatic Temperament – poised, calm, relaxed personality like a warm, relaxing summer day
 - ✓ Slogans that focus on the passion of sensuality/love:
Nokia: Connecting People
Toyota: Oh, what a feeling!
McDonalds: We love to see you smile! – Have you had your break today?
 - ✓ Main Fault – primarily directed by subjective feelings. Such a person enjoys all that makes life balanced, harmonious, and shuns obstacles. This type of person finds fulfillment in the longing to enjoy the joys of life in hearing, tasting, seeing and has a tendency toward excess and indulgence.
 - ✓ Moderation as Guide for the Passion of Love – Mary teaches us that moderation is true human greatness! The virtue of moderation is not mediocrity, but concentrated strength which unites the two aspects of love and surrender: renunciation and enjoyment. Father Kentenich summarizes this interplay: to enjoy correctly and renounce correctly; or we could also say: First Renounce and Then Enjoy!
- The drive to conquer or to assert; is attracted by anything that promises prestige, honor, and success
 - ✓ Choleric Temperament – energetic and combative can be likened to the power of autumn storms which sweep away all that is rotten.
 - ✓ Melancholic Temperament – full of mystery and thereby most attractive. This person’s profundity reminds us of a winter landscape.
 - ✓ Slogans that focus on the passion of conquest/pride:
Verizon: Your Signal is Strong – Be Heard and Rule the Air.
Daily Newspaper: Every day counts.
US Army: Be all that you can be.
 - ✓ Main Fault – the basic trend of the achiever: I have to get this done. The desire for greatness and performance is reflected in untiring zest for action. Strong achievers are fighters who get invigorated when facing conflicts and difficulties. For them problems are chances to break the boundaries of former accomplishments. Their desire is not to serve people but to achieve something great for humanity. The strength and limitations of the achiever is his pride. Pride can lead to arrogance and stubbornness.
 - ✓ Courage Enhancing the Passion of Conquest – Father Kentenich speaks of a triple miracle for the brave achiever. He advised: The achiever should not be surprised about his weaknesses. If I’m surprised then it is mostly caused by pride. Therefore, become a miracle of humility. The achiever should not be discouraged: this is the most important thing. We live in a time of discouragement and of discouraged people. Therefore, become a miracle of trust. The achiever should not settle with sin but get up immediately. Therefore, become a miracle of patience, gentleness and kindness.

What appeals to me in a special way:

- It is possible that a sentence which I read in a book or in a letter deeply impresses me & does not let me go.
- Perhaps a word, a formulation I heard in Schoenstatt has given me a hint for my Personal Ideal.
- It can also be instructive to determine which kind of music and literature I prefer; which form of relaxation I choose; which kind of continuing education I seek (courses, seminars). Are they more practical or spiritual and religious in nature?

Meditation, Day 16 - With Mary Through The Day

As the chosen instrument in the hand of the living God, Mary carried out her task as the official and permanent helpmate and associate of the Savior in his entire work of redemption, and in union with him crushed the devil's head, so that in the end the world might again become God's possession and offer him the homage due to him.

In this statement, we see **Mary's Personal Ideal** and **Mission** (Who did God create Mary to be, what task did He give her to do, what is God's purpose?).

Mary's Personal Ideal: the official and permanent helpmate and associate of the Savior in his entire work of redemption.

Mary's Mission: in union with him (Jesus) crushed the devil's head.

God's Purpose: so that in the end the world might again become God's possession and offer him the homage due to him. Schoenstatt's Unity Cross is a beautiful image & symbol of Mary's Personal Ideal and Mission and God's Purpose.



As Mary's Schoenstatt child, can I fill in the above statement with **my own Personal Ideal and Mission & God's Purpose**? Try it!
As the chosen instrument in the hands of the Mother Thrice Admirable Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, I carry out my task for her Schoenstatt Work as _____

and in union with her _____

so that _____

What image or symbol portrays my Personal Ideal and Mission and God's Purpose?

How do I work with the Personal Ideal?

- through concentration, reflection and repetition – I must try to like it. Father Kentenich said in that context, I have to fill it with meaning. It must become more and more a joy for me, to look upon this, “my secret idea”, from all sides, to cultivate it, i.e., to repeat and to examine what all it encompasses and what it means.
- by consciously, deliberately connecting it with my life – Here I try to bring my “secret idea” into everything, whenever and wherever I can. In practical daily living this means: if everything were an expression of my “idea”, how would I present myself – in rising, at meals, in working, in travelling, in relationship with people, in recreation, and during breaks?
- through good intention – the most important thing is that all my doing and acting are relieved of indifference, that also my customary practical doing and acting are taken out of indifference and connected with this central thought and central experience. Then, sooner or later, we see that our whole practical life is a realization, an expansion and a deepening of this central experience.
- through spontaneous actions out of the Personal Ideal (P.I.) – The Personal Ideal is now beginning to work creatively in me. It urges me to deeds which I would not have undertaken without the P.I. The Personal Ideal has made me interiorly free. I have grown into the freedom of the children of God which Father Kentenich called a ripe fruit of the P.I. It is clear that on this level I have outgrown the “You shall” of the Commandments, because the personal love urges me on to make my covenant of love into a covenant of sacrifice. I am now more and more deeply than before, a co-worker for the Work of our founder, for the Work of the Blessed Mother and thereby for the Triune God. I have become a “pillar in the Temple, and in the City of God”, which bears the “new name”, as **Revelation 3:12 expresses it, “Anyone who proves victorious I will make into a pillar in the sanctuary of my God, and it will stay there forever; I will inscribe on it the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem which is coming down from my God in heaven, and my own new name as well.”**