

THE GRACE OF BEING AT HOME

PRAYER

BECAUSE WE NEED AND WANT TO BE LOVED, The Blessed Mother intercedes for us **THE GRACE OF BEING AT HOME** with God in His Heart, to be at home with her in her heart. She wants to take care of the needs of all those she encounters just as she did in the home of her cousin Elizabeth. **One of the needs the Blessed Mother wants to take care of is our ability to talk with God and to listen to Him, to what He wants to say to us.**

IN THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER:

Places and persons do not yet make a home just by existing side by side. To make a home, places and persons need to be bound together by great ideals, by values, by firm principles, and by the lasting bond of love.

MARY'S PICTURE OF GRACE IN ITS PLACE OF HONOR creates a CORNER OF HEAVEN in our home where we are drawn to the Blessed Mother and Jesus in a very special way. In this place, there is a loving, tender, and understanding Mother who will listen to us and support us. There is Christ who, out of His love for us, delivers us from the bonds of sin and sets us free. It is an OASIS OF PEACE where we can let go of our anxieties and fears. It is a place where we can be ourselves, feel accepted, loved, forgiven, have a greater sense of self-worth. It is a place where we feel safe, sheltered, and are able to share ideas and longings with kind and understanding Hearts. It is a place where we can form a lasting bond of love with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This is Mary's gift to us in return for the HOSPITALITY we show to her and her Son each time we welcome her PICTURE OF GRACE into our home and give it a PLACE OF HONOR.

PRAYER is the lifting up of our minds and hearts to God, to the Blessed Mother. It is vocal prayer. 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.

THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open and to receive the **GRACE OF BEING AT HOME** which the Blessed Mother wants to intercede for us. Let us continue to be people living the **SPIRIT OF HOSPITALITY**. Let us pray now for the **SPIRIT OF PRAYER**.

THE SHRINE EXPERIENCE:

- 1) Experience feeling at home with your guests in the **PLACE OF HONOR** you provided for them.
- 2) Let yourself be drawn to this corner of heaven and oasis of peace.
- 3) Practice letting go of your anxieties and fears here.
- 4) Here in this **PLACE OF HONOR**, let yourself feel safe, sheltered, accepted, and loved, a place where you are able to share ideas and longings with kind and understanding Hearts.
- 5) Let yourself begin to form a bond of love with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary through vocal prayers, through an exchange of thoughts and ideas from meditations on Scripture or other spiritual reading.

HOW DOES SCHOENSTATT PRAY?

"As a movement of religious and moral renewal, Schoenstatt's spirituality is also deeply attuned to prayer. Schoenstatt does not prescribe particular prayers or forms of prayer, but encourages its members to "pray always" (cf 1 Thess 5,17). In keeping with everyday sanctity one should connect God with one's life, work and mission, using the forms that seem most adequate.

Schoenstatt has always had a deep Eucharistic devotion and appreciation for the Mass and reception of Holy Communion. Its attachment to the liturgy shows in the practice of many of its members to attend daily Mass. From

early on, the Shrine, too, was seen as a place of Eucharistic prayer, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is generally part of the regular schedule of events at all Schoenstatt Shrines. Both the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary and the Schoenstatt Fathers have permanent adoration members who make Eucharistic adoration a central part of their apostolate, and there are adoration circles in many parts of the movement.

Other important accents on prayer come to light in the promotion of pilgrimage to Schoenstatt Shrines and other Shrines, monthly and annual days of renewal of the covenant of love, promotion of the Rosary through the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign, and many other prayer initiatives.” (200 QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOENSTATT)

Vocal Prayer: Schoenstatt Prayers (<http://schhw.net/en/index.htm>)

Meditation: Daily Mass Readings and Meditations (<http://uscgb.org/bible/readings>)

Rosary with Meditations ([YouTube Rosary with Mother Angelica](#))

Rosary of God's Instruments (http://schhw.net/en/chapter_07.htm)

Father Joseph Kentenich, Founder of Schoenstatt, tells us, “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.”

