

## **THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION** **CHILDLIKENESS BEFORE GOD**

### **BECAUSE WE NEED AND WANT TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO STRONG PERSONALITIES AND EVERYDAY**

**SAINTS**, the Blessed Mother intercedes for us **THE GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION** of mind, heart, and will so we will become the **NEW PERSON**, the renewed person, an image and **INTENTIONAL DISCIPLE** of Jesus her Son. **Our Thrice Admirable Mother says to us in the Third Promise of her Covenant of Love, “I will draw from here YOUTHFUL HEARTS to follow me”. In this Promise, we find “hidden” the great world of CHILDLIKENESS which unfolds into daily life the words of Jesus: “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 18:3)**

### **IN THE SPIRIT OF CHILDLIKENESS BEFORE GOD:**

(SCHOENSTATT An Introduction): Father Kentenich describes the **NEW PERSON** as:

- a free person, free for God; a divinized person, one with God
- a supernatural person shaped and formed in the Holy Spirit
- a daring person who learns to see things through God’s eyes and who lives by the courage of faith
- a victorious person who is confident in God’s victory because of unshakable trust in God
- a generous person, serving God and building his kingdom with unconditional love
- a spirit-filled person who walks the way of love inwardly free, imprinting Christ’s image upon our world
- a person who, by virtue of the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, is capable of a total and permanent commitment to God

These are qualities of the **NEW PERSON**, but also of **YOUTHFUL HEARTS**, and the **CHILDLIKE** before God.

(THE THREE PILLARS): Youth and those who are young of heart are open and willing to change, eager to learn and ready to conquer the world – the world within themselves, the world around them, the world at large. If we open ourselves to Our Lady’s influence, she will fill us with the right **youthful, childlike**, spirit – a daring spirit, a victorious spirit, a trusting spirit. As the Blessed Mother draws youthful hearts to herself, she draws them out of the snares of ungodly powers and attracts them to herself and to God. Drawing them to herself, she accompanies them wherever they go, protecting and sheltering them, warding off all dangers and perils of life.

A great promise indeed! especially when we can entrust our youth unto her at a time when their cry for freedom is so strong, when they want to be free from all childhood bonds. She will draw them into the true kind of freedom and bind them to God, to his divine wish and will which alone will make them free.

(GOD MY FATHER): What is true **CHILDLIKENESS**? Our founder speaks to us:

The Apostles had a tremendous drive for greatness. They wanted to become something great...What did Christ tell his Apostles? Whom did he give them as a model? Did he give them great men from Jewish history? What did Christ do? He took a child and stood him in their midst: “Unless you change...” What does that mean? Unless you change your ambitions, unless you direct your ambitions toward a different goal, you will not enter the kingdom of God; you will not enter my kingdom, and even less become its pillars. Unless you – mature men – at the cost of serious ethical striving acquire the noble qualities which a child possesses by nature, you cannot be my instruments (cf. Mt 18:1-5).

“At that time Jesus said in reply, “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the **childlike**. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.” (Mt. 12: 25-27)

**THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER**, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open. Let us pray to receive the **GRACE OF INNER TRANSFORMATION** which the Blessed Mother wants to intercede for us from the Holy Spirit so we become the **NEW PERSON** with a **YOUTHFUL HEART** filled with the wisdom of **CHILDLIKENESS** before God. In as far as this is a gift of the Holy Spirit; we must strive for humility, the spirit of prayer, and confidence:

- 1) **Am I YOUNG OF HEART** or set in my ways, thinking, and doing?
- 2) **Am I open and willing to change** or closed off to any new idea, attitude, way of living?
- 3) **Am I eager to learn and ready to conquer** the world within me, around me, the world at large for God and His Kingdom?
- 4) **Do I have a daring spirit, a victorious spirit, a trusting spirit, a humble spirit** because I know I am loved by my Heavenly Father?
- 5) **Can I identify with the qualities of the NEW PERSON described above?** Work on one of the qualities that you do not identify with at this time. Ask the Blessed Mother to help you.
- 6) **The CHILDLIKE PERSON manifests the fruits of the Holy Spirit in daily life.** This month let us consider the next four fruits of the Holy Spirit: **kindness, goodness, generosity, and gentleness.** **Come, Holy Spirit, manifest these fruits in my life.**
- 7) **God gives the entire riches of his gifts and graces** to those who are pliable, small, and humble. Pray the Third Joyful Mystery of the Rosary for the grace to become the Father’s humble child:

### **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.

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.” 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 and 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)

(Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory be)

