

REVIEW - THE GRACE OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS

"The covenant of love inspires us to become holy for the sake of those entrusted to us, to live exemplary lives, and to share with others the spiritual riches we possess. In the Shrine we receive new strength for the mission and new apostolic zeal to fulfill our baptismal commitment... We have responsibilities to fulfill for the kingdom of God on earth, to reach out to the person next to us." (SCHOENSTATT An Introduction)

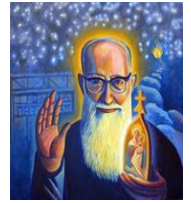
1) IN THE SPIRIT OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS –

MODELS OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS:

FATHER JOSEPH KENTENICH, the Founder of a Great Work – Schoenstatt
DEACON JOHN POZZOBON, History of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate



"The true goal of the apostolate (the work of the Church directed to serving and evangelizing the world) refers to the activity of an apostle, the one who is sent forth endowed with a special mission. During his life Christ entrusted a great mission to his apostles: to baptize, to proclaim the Good News, to expand the kingdom of God, and to unite all into one fold under the one, true shepherd, Christ. They were to lead all people to eternal salvation. This is the goal and purpose of all apostolic activity: to draw as many people as possible into the fullness of divine life and to help bring the divine life to maturity and perfection, securing a life of eternal salvation for all." (The Three Pillars)



2) IN THE SPIRIT OF BEING INSTRUMENTS IN MARY'S HANDS

"Essential to Schoenstatt's spirituality is the cultivation of our attitude and life as *instruments of God*. This is what is called '*instrument piety*' or the spirit of '*instrumentality*'... In reality, it is a very simple thing: in the covenant of love (with the MTA), I express my willingness and desire to be an instrument of God. Through my apostolate (work for the Church) and service to family, friends, Church and world, I cultivate a lifestyle of actively building up the kingdom." (200 Questions about Schoenstatt)

3) IN THE SPIRIT OF BEING INSTRUMENTS OF THE THREE GRACES OF THE SHRINE

From the Shrine, our Mother Thrice Admirable becomes a Pilgrim Mother who goes out on a Journey of Love to bring Jesus and His message anew to the world. She brings the Shrine and the Three Pilgrimage Graces of the Shrine to support religious and moral renewal of individuals, families, family life. Our Pilgrim Mother needs willing and capable instruments to help her with her Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

4) IN THE SPIRIT OF BEING FRUITFUL FOR THE CHURCH – TO SERVE AND EVANGELIZE

From the Shrine, our Mother Thrice Admirable calls apostles, educates apostles, uses and sends apostles. Through her we become persons who radiate something, radiating (God's life) into our environment.

I ASK MYSELF:

Have I made use of the **Courage of Faith and A Hero Today Novenas** to acquaint myself with **Father Joseph Kentenich**, the founder of Schoenstatt, and **Deacon John Pozzobon**, initiator of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate within Schoenstatt?

Has the Spirit of being an **INSTRUMENT IN MARY'S HANDS** grown in me and started producing the six characteristics of a useful instrument: Are my self-will, drives, and instincts in proper balance? Am I rooted in prayer and the reception of the sacraments? Am I ready to be sent out to be used by God to win over souls? Do I live in God's world and am I in communion with Him? Do I live as a child of God? Am I resting securely in God's hands and have faith in His Providence in my life? Do I desire to make room and allow room to be made for God and God's fruitfulness in my life?

Has the Spirit of being an **INSTRUMENT OF THE THREE GRACES OF THE SHRINE** grown in me? Do I dispose myself to receive and reap the benefits of the graces and blessings that our Pilgrim Mother and her Son bring and do I experience feeling at home in the Shrine, my Place of Honor? Do I cooperate and remain open to the Holy Spirit's work in me during the visits of the Pilgrim Mother and do I open myself to experience the transforming power of the Shrine? Do I support and pray for the intentions of the other members in the group? Do I realize the importance of sharing the Pilgrim Mother with others? Would I consider becoming a Missionary of the Pilgrim Mother myself?

Has the Spirit of being **FRUITFUL FOR THE CHURCH – TO SERVE AND EVANGELIZE** grown in me over the past 12 months? I am called to be an apostle – What can I do especially well? How can I put this talent to use to benefit others? Do I experience that I belong to the family of God? What can I contribute to the Church being experienced as family? I am formed and educated to be an apostle – Schoenstatt urges me to share what I have received. I am used and sent as an apostle in my state of life and immediate surroundings – it is there that I must work.



May God grant us this Grace of Apostolic Fruitfulness through the intercession of Mary, Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt and Queen of the Three Graces on the Move so we can fulfill our baptismal commitment and our responsibilities for the kingdom of God on earth, to reach out to the person next to us. Amen.