

Towards 2014..... In this Year of Mission

Dear Schoenstatt Family,

Below is the next instalment of our information 'snippets' about the meaning and relevance of the Father Symbol for us as members of our Schoenstatt Family. The Incarnation of the second person of the Trinity is the beginning of our redemption and the sign of God's fatherly love to us. I think that this Scripture passage and reflection is most appropriate.

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall

Sr. M. Georgina Heger

(On behalf of the CIT)

Schoenstatt Father Symbol – Information Snippet No. 3

Introduction:

The Father Symbol has many aspects. One aspect is that it is a sign of a loving, caring Father-God who loves us so much that he gave His Son to us as our Redeemer, who leads us to the heavenly Father. We can look at the Father Symbol as a sign of:

“God’s gift to us - Jesus”

Spiritual Preparation

You might like to sit spiritually in the Shrine or with the Pilgrim Mother and reflect on this scripture quote:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” John 3:16

Reflection:

This love of God for us is shown by the many gifts God has given to us. The greatest of these gifts is Jesus who shows us the way to eternal life.

Fr Kentenich often said “every gift is a task”. In preparing for the visit of the Father Symbol it is worth reflecting on the gifts God has given to each of us and to our Schoenstatt Family here in Australia and what task this gift means for me.



Dear God our Heavenly Father, we ask for the grace through the Shrine of growing deeper in our relationship with you and with your Son. As Mary helped Jesus with the work of redemption, we want to serve the Church through our involvement in Schoenstatt.

We thank you for the gifts you have given us to help us fulfil the special mission you give to each of us.

Practical Resolution:

Today I would like to appreciate and thank for the gift I have received **from the Father, Jesus, HIS Son.**

I want to remind myself – as often as I can – that Jesus gave his life for ME.

What do I want to give in return?

Perhaps I can try to see the little crosses and burdens of my daily life as an opportunity to return Jesus' love.

I also want to thank you for the gift of Father Kentenich who strove throughout his life to lead others through Mary and in Jesus home to our Heavenly Father.

We pray together:

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable,

With great joy we are on pilgrimage to your shrine.

The faith of our Father and founder Fr Kentenich

Inspired you to set up your home in Schoenstatt.

In the shadow of this shrine a family was born, a new spiritual way within the Church, a charisma in the midst of our time.

We want to fill the capital of grace with our gifts; with our gratitude and repentance, with our surrender and longing.

With every step we take on our pilgrim way we ask you:

Enkindle in us anew the fire of love for you, for Father Kentenich and for our family. Mother, give us the strength to spread a covenant culture in our world today and educate us to be your true missionaries for this century.



Your covenant - our mission!