



Schoenstatt Family News

A publication of the Madison Schoenstatt family for members, friends, and visitors to the Marian Shrine.

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One in the Father's heart:
Omnibus omnia
(All things to all)



Orientation to God's Fatherhood

"You should be perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect!" (Matthew 5:48) A father, therefore, is the wonderful, indeed the most wonderful, representative of God, the eternal Father, and this directly in as far as *paternitas* (fatherhood) in all its dimensions points to God the Father, even when there are distortions in the likeness. They are also applied to God according to the psychological laws of transference. So it suggests itself that we should examine the tremendous qualities of the eternal Father and then reflect on how these can be applied to the earthly father.

We see God the Father in his absolute **immutability**. You can read this in the Book of Revelation: "A throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne!" (Revelation 4:2). God the Father is the only one who is not in motion. The whole of heaven is constantly on the move. He who is seated on the throne remains there in unchangeable calm. ... So the one who bears the father's authority in the family (and wherever derived fatherly authority is sought and felt), should display a sort of immutability in his principles and decisions. How few fathers today are aware of this metaphysical orientation! How inconsistent they are! ... They are the playthings of the wishes and passions of their own hearts! Where do we find it said that they are the image and likeness of God, the eternal Father?

As the eternal, immutable Father, God is **omnipresent**. So, the earthly father should also be "omnipresent" to his children, either physically or at least spiritually. He keeps them constantly in mind, they are the center of his interest, of his heart. Other interests retreat into the background. He sacrifices himself for his children, to whom he is omnipresent and who are constantly present to him.

God the Father is **omniscient**. So the earthly father should also know everything that affects his children any way. This is not an oppressive knowledge, it is kind, it is an exceedingly uplifting knowledge. His knowledge becomes uplifting when he always believes in the good in his children, even if they have disappointed him thousands of times. He believes in the good. He also believes in the original mission of his child.

God the Father is **all-wise**. Similarly, his image and likeness should also be all-wise. He wisely assesses what his child can bear, he wisely weighs the burdens he places on his child, he is wise in making demands on his child, and he is also wise in choosing the presents he gives his child.

Holy, God the Father is infinitely **holy**. — You fathers should be holy, as your Father in heaven is holy! And who is holy? Whoever centers constantly on God, the eternal Father, and on his wish and will.

God the Father is infinitely **merciful and just**. That it also the ideal of the earthly father — to be inexorably just, truthful, upright! He isn't dishonest in his family. He doesn't allow himself or his law to be bent, instead he is justice in person, he is truthfulness in person. However, God the eternal Father is at the same time infinite mercy and can forgive when the prodigal son returns, even if he has shared the pigs' food elsewhere (cf. Luke 15:11ff), even if he has aimed his lance at his own father's heart... He welcomes the prodigal son again and again with mercy, kindness, and forgiveness, and he restores all the rights of a child to his son. (...)

A true father can say nothing greater or more beautiful about himself than: my picture has become my child's ideal picture of God. I have been allowed through my efforts, through all that I am and do, to impress God's image as Father on my child. As a result my child has a genuine and true concept of God. I can give my child nothing more beautiful for life.

Extract from the Pedagogical Congress, 1950 in Rediscovering the Father, Father J. Kentenich, page 93 and following

Calendar of Events

Feb. 1	7:00 p.m.	Marian Devotions and Benediction at St. Dennis Parish
Feb. 3	8:00 a.m.	Morning with Mary Meditation: The Presentation of the Child Jesus
Feb. 11	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Sion Circle Prayer for priestly vocations in the Founder Shrine.
Feb. 15	7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Madison Schoenstatt Family Movement Meeting We will take time to remember the events of 2017 and then consider our striving for 2018 and this Father Kentenich Year. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We will start with prayer in the Founder Shrine at 7:00 p.m. We would be grateful for your presence at this meeting.
Feb. 18	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration in the Founder Shrine
Feb. 24	9:30 a.m.	Men's Group Meeting The meeting starts with prayer in the Shrine.
Feb. 24	10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Girls' Youth Rally Day The Schoenstatt Girls' Youth invites girls ages 6 to 12 to come to a Lent Rally Day. The cost is \$15. Please contact Sister María José at (262) 522-4323 for more information.
Feb. 25	9:30 a.m.	Covenant Sunday Theme: "the Father's Heart"
Feb. 26	6:30 p.m.	Festival Meeting We will meet in the Family Room.
Mar. 1	7:00 p.m.	Marian Devotions and Benediction at St. Dennis Parish
Mar. 3	8:00 a.m.	Morning with Mary Meditation: The Crowning with Thorns
Mar. 11	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Sion Circle Prayer for priestly vocations in the Founder Shrine.
Mar. 18	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration in the Founder Shrine
Mar. 24	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Women's Day of Reflection Mary's noble heart - An image for women today Cost is \$30 and includes lunch and snacks. Attendance is limited to 35. Please register by March 19. Call the Sisters at (608) 222-7208 or send an email to schoenstatttheights@schrsmary.org.
Mar. 24	9:30 a.m.	Men's Group Meeting The meeting starts with prayer in the Shrine.

Valentine Dinner in Waukesha – February 18, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

All married couples are invited. The cost is \$40 per couple. RSVP by calling (262) 522-4300 before February 10. Complete details of the event are available at schoenstattwisconsin.org.

Family Retreat in Waukesha – March 2-4, 2018

All families are encouraged to attend the Family Retreat being held at the International Retreat Center in Waukesha the weekend of March 2-4. The Family Retreat would be a perfect opportunity to spend time together with other Schoenstatt families. The weekend begins with Holy Mass at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and ends at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. The cost is \$85 per adult, \$40 for the first child, and \$20 for each additional child. Children 5 and under are free. Please register in advance by calling (262) 522-4300.

Lent Striving – Penny Power Project

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Omnibus omnia (All things to all)

Our prayers to open the Father Kantenich Year included the following:

“Pope Saint John Paul II encouraged us in 1985: “You canonize him!” We know that we are called to canonize you, Father! With great seriousness we wish to accept the invitation to do this in a two-fold way:

We ask you, Triune God, we ask you Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt to guide us in our striving for holiness so that we can be his letter of recommendation,* showing that Schoenstatt forms saints.

We pledge ourselves to faithfully write our petitions to you, Father, and to record all the answered petitions. In this way our holy Church will see that we believe that you are a saint and that we long for you to be fully recognized by the Church you loved. May the number of answers to petitions from Milwaukee, where you spent fourteen years, reach way into the thousands so our flight will reach to Rome by September 15, 2018.

With this in mind, we encourage everyone to write petitions to Father Kantenich each day of Lent. If you stop at Schoenstatt Heights before Ash Wednesday, you can pick up a packet of 40 petition sheets and answers to petitions sheets.

We also invite everyone to continue supporting the Penny Power Project. Place a penny power bank in your home shrine and add pennies or other change as you make sacrifices during the season of Lent. You will help to fill the “Capital of Grace” along with serving the needs of the people of the Dominican Republic, a poor island country in the Caribbean Sea. The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary use the funds from the penny power banks to help:



- Serve the children at the nutrition center
- Build shelters for families
- Educate the poor, so that they may help themselves
- Train the dedicated young women who wish to serve the people as Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
- Fulfill God's commandment to love one another

You may bring your petitions to the Father Room during Lent and return the bank to Schoenstatt Heights when it is full.

* *Dilexit Ecclesiam*

Pilgrimage to Schoenstatt, Germany, and Cambrai, France

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary and 100th anniversary of the death of Father Joseph Kantenich and Joseph Engling, respectively, we are planning pilgrimages next year to learn about their lives and experience the places where they lived and died. Pilgrimage options: **July 24 to August 8, 2018**, (English); **September 6 to September 21, 2018**, with two separate groups (Spanish, English); or **September 13-20, 2018**, (young women age 15 and up). Please call Sister M. Catherine at (608) 222-7208 if you are interested in additional information. **The deadlines to register for these pilgrimages are coming up soon. The July deadline was extended to March 1, and the September pilgrimage deadlines are also March 1.**