



Schoenstatt Family News

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

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Schoenstatt Heights
5901 Cottage Grove Road
Madison, WI 53718
(608) 222-7208
schoenstattmadison.com
schoenstattheights@schrsmary.org



Fear not, Proclaim
the Father's Love!



Dear Madison Schoenstatt Family,

We would like to thank you for the wonderful participation at our planning meeting last September 15. Many have requested a summary and action plan from this meeting, and we are happy to provide the beginning of that plan in this first newsletter of 2017.

Reflections from the September 15 Madison Schoenstatt Family Movement Meeting:

- There is a desire to promote and deepen Schoenstatt and the Covenant of Love.
- There is a desire to be formed and educated at Covenant Sundays and through group meetings.
- There is a vision to bring people to the Shrine and therefore to the Blessed Mother.
- Personal contact and invitations are what brought many to the September 15 meeting and to Schoenstatt.
- There is a desire to reach out to the young adults and teens.
- We profusely love and appreciate our Mother and Queen.
- The ultimate question that needs to be addressed is why do we desire to bring people to Schoenstatt? Our purpose can never be even remotely self-serving or born of a fear of extinction. Our longing must be pure. It must be united with the Blessed Mother's longing to bring souls to her son's heart. That longing should not revolve around what the Blessed Mother will do for us, but what we will do for her.

A common theme included genuine **gratitude** for all we have received from the Blessed Mother in the Shrine for ourselves and our families. There is a longing to **share** this with others, so they may experience the same. Many would like to **reach out** to their parishes and invite people to know the MTA in the shrine. As we move forward, we want to focus on offering **activities with formation and prayer opportunities** – without forgetting the natural joys that can and should accompany these. Catholics are hungry for living faith, and we want to offer them what we have here in our shrine, with our unique spirituality, which is a gift for the Church and a “spiritual powerhouse” for the Diocese of Madison.

Our next Madison Schoenstatt Family meeting is scheduled for **February 16**. We will provide an update based on the input provided at the September 15 meeting and look forward to the year ahead. We will also ask for volunteers to help plan the formation activities and to invite people to encounter Schoenstatt. For each new activity, we will need additional volunteers willing to work with our leadership team to make it happen. 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 the February 16 meeting. We continue to uplift you in prayer in our Founder Shrine and our home shrines.

Your Madison Diocesan Leaders' Team,
Jeff and Barb Brochtrup, Bob and Nancy Arntz, Father Francisco Rojas, Sister M. Catherine Ditto

Calendar of Events

Jan. 5	7:00 p.m.	Marian Devotions and Benediction at St. Dennis Parish
Jan. 7	8:00 a.m.	Morning with Mary Meditation: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;"
Jan. 8	1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Christmas Party Holy Mass in the Family Room, Covenant Renewal, Potluck Lunch, and children's Christmas play.
Jan. 15	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Sion Circle Prayer for priestly vocations in the Founder Shrine.
Jan. 18	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration in the Founder Shrine
Jan. 22	9:30 a.m.	Covenant Sunday Theme: American Saint – Fear Not
Feb. 2	7:00 p.m.	Marian Devotions and Benediction at St. Dennis Parish
Feb. 4	8:00 a.m.	Morning with Mary Meditation: "for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant."
Feb. 11		Valentine Dinner Watch for more details available soon.
Feb. 12	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Sion Circle Prayer for priestly vocations in the Founder Shrine.
Feb. 16	7:00 p.m.	Madison Schoenstatt Family Movement Meeting We will begin with prayer in the Founder Shrine.
Feb. 18	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration in the Founder Shrine
Feb. 26	9:30 a.m.	Covenant Sunday Theme: American Saint – Proclaim

- We keep in prayer all those in our Schoenstatt family who have requested prayers due to illness, surgery, or other intentions.

Penny Power Project

The Madison Schoenstatt Family is participating in the **Penny Power Project**. Your pennies will help the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary serve the people of the Dominican Republic, a poor island country in the Caribbean Sea. You may pick up a Penny Bank the next time you visit Schoenstatt Heights. The penny bank network will 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

Please return the bank to Schoenstatt Heights when it is full. You can use this as a gift to the baby Jesus for Christmas or consider it a sacrificial gift for Lent.