

## For Reflection:

- When was the first time that you faced a difficulty as an individual or as a couple?
- Were you able to see God's hand behind it at that time?
- Had you made the covenant of love with the Blessed Mother already?
- If so, how did the covenant with the MTA help you manage the situation?
- When was the last time you had to take a daring step as an individual, as a couple or as a family?
- Did you entrust it to the MTA, in the covenant of love?
- Can you really say that the covenant of love has been *your* source of strength?
- If you would make a list of your claims of love to the MTA, by virtue of the covenant of love with her, what would you list there?
- Take your time now to make a list of things you are grateful for—things that you are convinced are a fruit of your covenant of love with the MTA.
- Take also the time to make a list of your claims of love! Bring it to the shrine before you leave today!

# United in the Source:

# Our Covenant With Mary

...believing in the reality of the covenant of love. Since we still have to love our way still further into it, perhaps we could make it the subject of our discussions next week; that is, we must again lay new foundations. To start with we won't get beyond laying the foundations. We still have time, fortunately, three months! At the moment what matters is to again deepen within ourselves the whole idea of faith in Divine Providence. That is because it is the source, the cause, the source of knowledge. It is not just a source of knowledge, but a source of action: Faith in Divine Providence! These are such fundamental things; we have to assimilate them until they become second nature to us, so that afterwards it is something we take for granted. Faith in the reality of the covenant of love has, on the one hand, always been for me the cause of everything I have done and undertaken, even the most daring things.

I have emphasised this a number of times; I guess I did it also in these days. You need to ponder on how everything meant reaching up to the stars, stars that were endlessly high! Think only of accepting the women's movement, taking women into the family, and then afterwards the foundation of the Sisters, the foundation of the individual Institutes. You have to understand what the times were like when I did it... Also think of how extremely young I was at that time. Again and again the foundation is: Faith in the reality of the covenant of love. That is also the basis for taking over the mammoth idea, as I have liked to call it in the course of the years, a mammoth idea.

*Father J. Kentenich, Thirty-first Talk of the Milwaukee Tertianship, 19 January 1963*

The covenant of love is the source of strength not only for the inner, but also for the outer forms, for the formation of a community.

Which forms has the covenant of love created? They are many and varied. They are also extremely strong and vigorous, and also very original. (...) Here we have solved the problems in principle. You will see this yourselves when you ponder on the whole richness, fullness and depth of the personality that has been formed over time by the covenant of love. You also know that the covenant of love includes not only complete self-abandonment out of love, complete self-surrender out of love, and the passing on of love, but also unlimited claims of love, which are mobilised by heroic trust. Only those who are at home in the supernatural reality can actually undertake, savour, experience and understand the perfect form of the covenant of love.

*Father J. Kentenich, Second Talk, October Week 1947,  
Schoenstatt, 16 October 1947*

## I made my covenant of love with Mary

While we were walking in the cemetery in Milwaukee, I asked him one day whether he really still believed that he would return to Schoenstatt because all signs indicated the opposite, and the decrees from Rome restricted him more and more. He suddenly stood still and said quietly:

“I now reveal to you the great secret of my childlike trust and my sovereign calm: I have made the covenant of love.”

*to Fr. J. Neuenhofer*