



# A Faithful Family

Among many other things, Father Kentenich tells us the following regarding the grace of faithfulness from the standpoint of the marriage bond.

Because we are redeemed, we are not only *like* Christ, we are in a certain sense "Christs." Christ! It means, what you have done to others, you have done to me. Of course, now we have abundant reasons to examine our conscience. I may ask now: Is my love for my partner, also my love for my children, my love for my friends, a purely natural love, or is it a supernatural love? True, we understand how essential it is: If our love, also our marriage, the marital bond shall and will be faithful (unbreakable), then we depend on it that we love Christ in one another. Of course, that is true not only of us as marriage partners...

We know that faithfulness is a grace flowing from the marriage covenant. We also know that it is a grace that we receive to continue moving forward in our consecration and commitment with the MTA, in our covenant of love with her. Father Kentenich's words from the Monday evening talks remind us of how seriously we should take our call to a life of faithful dedication and covenant loyalty. Our marriage bond maps for us the path to follow God's will. Our covenant with Mary, as husband and wife and as part of the Schoenstatt Family, lays out for us the path to sanctity, to total surrender, and generous dedication to our mission for our times – the mission of our MTA.

United in Mary—on fire we go forward! The fire of our mission puts our covenant loyalty to the test. Contemplating the time that lies ahead, we can only rely on the faithfulness of our covenant partner, Mary, our Mother and Queen. She has proven to be loyal and victorious in all circumstances. Today, more than ever we need her power and kindness to break through in our times, in our homes, and in our hearts.

*Quotes from On Monday Evenings, Vol. 20, 1961*

As a family of families, Schoenstatt provides for us a network of family loyalty, if you will, of faithfulness after the heart of Mary, of steadfast love very much in tune with the heart of Christ. Our unbreakable constancy to our resolutions, amid the often-awkward circumstances we face, can bear rich fruits in a fruitful Schoenstatt Family. The world needs it! The Church needs it!

Why now also the Schoenstatt family? Because we are convinced that the Blessed Mother has chosen this family so that we, in a genuinely human manner, find heart to heart, but then also move together deeply into the heart of the Father-God so that we may be for all eternity at the family table with the eternal Father-God united in a uniquely warm love.

In spirit we want to shake hands, the young generation with the older generation, and we all grasp the hand of our dear Blessed Mother, the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt - and beyond: the picture of the Triune God. And then we repeat the simple statement: It always remains so, we remain *faithful*. And then we also hear it from the mouth of the dear Blessed Mother and the Triune God: It always remains so, we also remain faithful! And when faithfulness meets faithfulness, when love meets love, then life may shake us, brandish us as much as it will; we will reach the goal securely, by way of the capsule, by way of the ark to the goal, into the heart of the Father-God, to the family table where the Father-God presides for all eternity.

When we are finished we will look at each other afterwards, and then perhaps you will feel as I do. It seems to me that all of you wear a veil, wear a little crown on your head. This is the picture which I have seen this evening. Thus, the generation of this evening belongs to the here existing generation (of pioneers). It remains so, we remain faithful! ■