



With trust in Divine Providence, we give thanks to our Queen!

Only an attentive and grateful heart can learn to trust in Divine Providence, as we see it in the following text from the Second Founding Document.

A review of the past twenty-five years gives us occasion to warmly repeat the words of the Psalmist, "I will praise the mercies of God for all eternity!" (Ps 89,2). All the great and valuable things which we have received in this holy place over the years can be directly traced to our Mother and Queen of Schoenstatt...

All that has come about from here is her work!

In our ranks She has enkindled a heroic living and striving for sanctity through her intercession.

To her we owe a delicate sense of purity and intactness, a sense for the development of noble, creative fatherliness and motherliness, and the longing for a burning love of God and souls.

She has given us the monumental structure of our ascetical and educational system, which can be so perfectly adapted to the God-given uniqueness of each individual and community. She helped us find our personal and community ideals.

She has created all the branches of our family in accordance with the needs of our times, and has implored and gain for them many and qualified vocations.

She was always there, in spite of the many times we failed, and gave us the courage again and again to reach for the stars.

All the houses which we have built or been able to acquire, both at home and abroad are her property.

She has seen to it that we always looked on all our present difficulties as tasks that must be courageously undertaken for our time.

She has opened our eyes to the great law on which our family is built: As a child of war we can only grow and prosper through battle and strife, through trials and persecution.

To her we also owe the great grace that all the mighty stones which were meant for our destruction became a powerful stairway which led us safely to God and into the world of our mission and task.

Without her we would never have been able to steer a prudent course or preserved our clear views in the midst of the differences of opinion in the Catholic world; nor could we have pursued our course so calmly and perseveringly.

She has formed and educated us as a family and as individuals into what we are, and has conquered and secured for us the place in the Church which we hold today.

So it is that the words of Vincent Pallotti have been realized in us, "She has truly proven herself as the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt - admirable in her power, admirable in her kindness, and admirable in her faithfulness, as Mother of God, Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the redeemed. Everything which the Founding Document hoped and prayed for has literally come true: Our Blessed Mother has erected her throne of grace here in a special manner, and she has revealed her glories to the world in many ways. She has become our Mother and Queen... (Second Founding Document, 10.18.1939).



Our Lord: A Teacher of Gratitude

When we come look back at the last months and see what God has accomplish through the trials and difficulties, let us not fall short in showing our gratitude for the graces we have received.

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (16-21):

As he continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met [him]. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!"

And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed.

And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Reflection:

Following the prompting of our Lord, with gratitude we return to the throne of our Heavenly Father to give thanks for the many gifts we have received.

- ❖ Invite your family and children to write down in a piece of paper the event or experience of this past year that they are most grateful for.

The words from the Second Founding Document inspire us to be attentive to the simple and small ways in which God and the Blessed Mother are actively guiding our lives.

- ❖ Take some time before Thanksgiving Day to write down a "litany" of gratitude, and make a long list of small things that each member of the family is grateful for.