

SCHOENSTATT

PILGRIM MOTHER

for families

SCHOENSTATT
PILGRIM MOTHER
for families

A Schoenstatt Outreach to families:
Bringing the Image of the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother
with Schoenstatt Prayers and
Reflections on Marriage and Family Life
Based on Father Kentenich's Wisdom for Daily Living

Schoenstatt Movement
Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother
Schoenstatt Families USA

SCHOENSTATT
EDITIONS • USA

Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother for Families

Sr. M. Isabel Bracero
Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary.
Copyright 2025.©
Biblical quotatios are from New American Bible, revised ed. ©2010.

Schoenstatt Movement
Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother
Schoenstatt Families USA
W284 N698 Cherry Lane
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53188

Schoenstatt Editions USA
2025.©

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Beautiful **New Beginning in Jesus** 3

Welcome to a Schoenstatt Experience 4

The Pilgrim Mother 5

The Invitation 6

The Vision and Mission 7

The Missionaries 8

The Image 9

The Rotation 10

The Encounters 11

The Prayers 16

The Circle 16

The Contacts 19

The Shrines in the USA 21



A Beautiful NEW BEGINNING in Jesus

The house should be painted, the restroom has to be fixed, the basement needs new flooring, and the fridge has to be changed. If only we could fix these things, life in the house would feel so much better.

You probably can identify with these expressions. A new beginning is something that all of us hope for. Very often we want to see this renewal exteriorly but it actually requires more than utility repairs.

Are you wanting a new beginning to take place in your family? Would you like to learn tidbits that will give your family life a new direction?

Are you interested in finding out how to have a beautiful new beginning that goes beyond things that constantly have to be replaced? Would you open the door of your household to Jesus? Would you welcome Jesus? How would you reply to our Lord if he were to address you as he spoke to Zaccheus: “I mean to stay at your house?” What would you say, what would you offer to him? Wouldn’t it spur you to renovate a few things around the house before Jesus comes? What about renovating the family?

Before our Lord came to earth, God prepared the way and gave humanity a brand new beginning in the person of Mary. By creating her immaculately conceived, God opened a new path for Christ Jesus, a new creation, and gave us the chance of a brand new beginning. For, as St. Paul says: “If someone is in Christ Jesus, then he is a new creation” (2 Cor 5, 17).

With the intention of helping families open the door of their homes and family life to the presence of Jesus, a picture of Mary with the holy child visits homes and families--entering into the sphere of family life, inviting all members of the family to gather, pray, grow in faith and trust in God. This images is sent out from the Schoenstatt Shrine and therefore is called the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother.

By welcoming Jesus and Mary and allowing them to “stay at your house” for a few days, you will open the door to a new beginning in Jesus, through the presence of Mary, and turn your home and family life into a beautiful place.

WELCOME *to a Schoenstatt experience!*

You're invited to bring the presence of Mary into your home, gather your family for prayer, and reflect on the treasures of marriage and family life, as a couple.

Together, these three elements are an effective formula to ensure that our families become what God meant them to be: communities and sanctuaries of life and love*—a beautiful place on earth.

By bringing the presence of Mary into our midst, we increase the blessings and open a wider door to the Holy Spirit's divine action and education.

By gathering around Mary in prayer, we kindle a light of hope in our households but also in our surroundings.

By reflecting on the treasures of marriage and family life, we learn to solve, in the small scale of our families, the great problems of today's world.

With the purpose of accompanying the efforts as well as the sufferings and difficulties of each family, this outreach is an invitation to kindle the light of hope by bringing Mary's presence into your home, gathering in prayer around her image, and meditating on the treasure of marriage and family life.



*St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae, 1995,* 92-94.

THE PILGRIM MOTHER

The Pilgrim Mother of Schoenstatt is part of the Schoenstatt Movement, a Catholic Apostolic Movement with the main objective of evangelizing families and individuals. It reaches out to everyone, promoting Christian values and renewing the life of prayer in homes, schools, and wherever there is a thirst and a search for God.

The chapel-shaped image of Mary with the child has been blessed in the Schoenstatt Shrine closest to you. When this image is blessed and sent out from the shrine, it is similar to Mary who went to visit her relative Elizabeth bringing the presence of Christ with her. Mary carries Christ into our homes, serves our spiritual needs, and works miracles by interceding for us before the throne of God.

In addition to encouraging the praying of the rosary, this apostolate promotes the consecration to Mary through Schoenstatt's covenant of love.

When we open the doors of our family life to Mary and to her graces, our homes and hearts become places of grace. When God's presence is experienced in our homes, not only the family is positively impacted but even friends and relatives are positively influenced by our own experience.

*Find information about the rotation of the image on page 19

Starting the rotation* of an image can seem daunting but know that thousands of families on all continents have already welcomed the Pilgrim Mother.

She has been sent from the shrine carrying special graces, so to say. Now the Blessed Mother wants to come to your area, to your parish, into your home. Are you ready to offer her shelter on her journey? Are you willing to be her instrument in bringing Christ's blessings into our world, beginning with your household or circle of friends?

Mary brings Christ! It is that simple. If you have been praying or hoping to find a hands-on practice that could help your family focus on faith without becoming preachy, find a small circle of friends and you can start circulating the image of Mary and soon begin to see miracles of inner transformation.



THE INVITATION

Seventy-five years ago, in September 1950, in Santa Maria, Brazil, Venerable John Pozzobon, a husband and father of a family, was entrusted with the task of bringing a large image of Mary into schools and households with the purpose of evangelizing as many families as possible. This apostolate, known as the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother became international in 1985. Today, we find this apostolate in all parts of the world. In the USA, we find it in all 50 states of our country.

In 1955, Father Joseph Kentenich (1885-1968), the founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, was living in Milwaukee. At that time, he came in contact with couples and families from various parts of the Milwaukee area. Out of pastoral concern for them, he spoke to these families every Monday evening. He responded to their timely questions about faith, education, and family life, presenting the Blessed Mother as a clear answer to the turbulent times they confronted in the 1950s and 60s.

Today, you have the opportunity to benefit from Pozzobon's initiative and from the wisdom of Father Kentenich. Participating in the dynamics of the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Apostolate along with reflections from Father Kentenich's words to the couples, you are invited to:

- bring the presence of Mary into your home,
- gather your family for prayer, and
- reflect on the treasure of marriage and family life, as a couple.



Fr. Joseph Kentenich
1885-1968



D. John Pozzobon
1904 – 1985



International Schoenstatt Center
Waukesha, WI

THE VISION

Schoenstatt
means *beautiful place.*

It is the name of the place where the Schoenstatt Movement was founded on October 18, 1914, as a fruit of a covenant-consecration to Mary.

Each family should be a beautiful place where every member finds safety and learns to grasp the presence of God in daily life.

The indissolubility of marriage, the graces of marriage, the treasure of every human life in the family, and the genuine disposition to go through struggles with the light of faith, can transform the environment of family life into the safest and most beautiful place for any human person.
But we have to learn to create that beautiful place, a *Schoenstatt.*
Find here tools to help your family.

THE MISSION

1. Help one family at a time to come together, like the apostles in the Cenacle, to pray gathered around Mary.*
2. *Connect families* in a network of faith, to inspire hope, and grow in love through regular conversation, discussion, and common spiritual goals.
3. Assist the Holy Spirit in *finding Mary in as many homes as possible,* so that he can more effectively work as the educator of the Christian soul.

*All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers (Acts 1:14).

THE MISSIONARIES

The missionary family is responsible for the circulation of the image, calendar changes, and so on. They should establish contact with the offices in Schoenstatt in order to acquire the image.

1 Create a circle.

If you are interested in creating a group of families to circulate the image and hold encounters, contact four to six families and organize the weekly reception of the image.

Coordinate with other families as ti which day of the week is most convenient to rotate the image.

2 Receive the image.

The bag with the image also contains other items such as flyers, brochures, booklets, novenas, and prayer cards. The material for the *encounters* at the end of each rotation is provided in a binder so that it can be copied or scanned. It can also be downloaded.

> Take this picture of the Blessed Mother
> and give it a place of honor in your home.
> Then your home will become a little shrine
> in which the picture of grace will mediate many
> graces, creating a holy family atmosphere,
> and form holy family members.
>
> *Father Joseph Kentenich (1885-1968), 1948.*



THE IMAGE

Venerated in all Schoenstatt Shrines under the title *Mother Thrice Admirable,* this image reminds us that Mary is Mother of God, Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the redeemed.

This picture of grace is blessed and sent out from the Schoenstatt Shrine as a *sacramental* to "prepare us to receive grace and dispose us to cooperate with it."[cf. *CCC* 1670] All those who open their doors and hearts to the image of Christ and Mary may find in this sacred sign "effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the intercession of the Church,"[*CCC* 1667] to be themselves *at home* in the heart of God, experience *spiritual conversion* and renewal, and reach out to others with *apostolic zeal* and fruitfulness.

THE ROTATION

3 Welcome Mary.

The missionary family initiates the rotation and brings Mary into the homes of the families signed up in the circle.
Circulating the image weekly seems best for families, because it ensures having the image over the weekend—when most family members are home.

4 Give her a place of honor.

When you receive the image of Mary, give her a place of honor. Even our Lord recognized the greatness of Mary.** A place of honor means a part of the house where her image can be seen and where everyone would feel comfortable at prayer before her image. If possible light a candle and place flowers by her picture.

5 Pray together as family.

While the image of Mary is in your home, find time to pray together as a family, at least once during the week—if possible, daily. Most recommended is to pray the rosary. If you're not familiar with it, find a guide in the package that comes along with the image. If you do not have enough time to pray the rosary, begin by praying from your heart, expressing your gratitude, your needs, and your intentions.

**But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? (Mt.21:48).
Behold your Mother! (Jn.19:17)

6 Read and reflect.

When the image visits your home, there's a challenge: Find time, as a couple, to read parts of the text provided and reflect on the inspirations you receive by sharing the responses for at least one of the questions. This practice is a great tool for strengthening marriage and family life.

7 Pass on the image.

At the end of the designated days for your family to have the image, please pass it on to the next family. Prayers for welcoming and sending out the image are found in the cream booklet inside the bag. Spontaneus prayers are always welcomed.

8 Schedule an encounter.

At the end of a rotation, that is, after all families on the list have received the image, schedule an encounter with the others. Creating bonds among one another by sharing insights, ideals, possibly struggles and goals, too, is part of making our families a beautiful place. The encounter can be divided into:

1- *Faith*: A moment of prayer
2 - *Formation*: A time to read, reflect, and discuss the material provided
3 - *Focus*: Time to find the practical application and to formulate a resolution
4 - *Fellowship*: Enjoy a snack or remain together to freely share as friends.
5 - *Family*: Foster the living contact among one another, like a family.
Read more about the encounters on the next page.

9 You may repeat the rotation.

If you desire to do so, you may repeat the rotation. The families are invited to circulate the image for an entire year and evaluate the dynamics at the end of this full cycle. At that point, everyone can decide what has worked best and how to continue: to do another rotation in the coming year or split up and open new circles of rotation, or terminate the rotation--in which case the image should be returned to the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Apostolate or to the Schoenstatt Families.

Schoenstatt: A beautiful place comes about as a fruit of the bonding experience with other families.



THE ENCOUNTERS

Each circle of families is free to determine for how long they want to meet and what is the best range of time for their attention and absorption of ideas and insights. Parallel activities for the children are recommended.

I Faith

- **Begin and end** with a prayer. Gather everyone for this moment, even the children may be present both times.

- **To start**, you can read from Scripture, asking volunteers to mention a word that stands out to them, and why.
  - Allow for brief reflections.
  - Add your intentions and petitions as well as gratitude.
  - Create a moment of silence to offer sacrifices and good works quietly, such as work stress and concerns.
  - Sing a song or pray a prayer that everyone can join in.

- **To end,** close with a prayer, where thoughts from the discussion are mentioned.
  - You can allow everyone to write on small slips of paper their intentions and petitions, their good works, and gratitude.
  - Next time you visit a Schoenstatt Shrine or home shrine, be sure to bring these as gifts of love for Mary.

2 Formation

- **Preparation:** Before the meeting or encounter, read through the reflection or material assigned, and identify points of interest personally, as a couple, or as a family.

- **Objective:** At the meeting, begin by mentioning the objective of the topic for the day, as seen on the material.

- **Resolution**: Pause briefly before starting in order to share about the resolution from the previous encounter.

- **Icebreaker:** Start out the conversation, use a question related to the topic--one that anyone can answer easily.

- **Read and Reflect:** Read and share thoughts about the material. Relate to everyone's experience, and share insights, observations, comparisons, and aspirations.

    - **Observe:** Go through the questions, share comments and observations from daily life, in connection to the topic.

    - **Compare:** Draw comparisons between an ideal situation and real life situations.

    - **Apply:** Try to find the kernels of truth that can be brought down to practical life.

    - **Condense this into a resolution:** Narrow the concepts down into a common practical resolution, into a point that is tangible, do-able, even accountable. Working with the *resolution* is a very important part of the encounter. It is treated here under *Focus.*

3 Focus

- **Our Starting Points:** From the discussion highlight points of striving that you seem to share in common, experiences that you relate to, common points of interest or of identity: home dynamics, education of children, patience with one another, etc.

- **The simpler the better:** Nothing extraordinary is expected of this resolution. It is not meant to sanctify the couple in one week but to open the door to the Holy Spirit to begin educating the soul.

- **Focus:** Do not worry about climbing from chapter one to chapter two, thinking that going up the ladder in volumes is what secures the path to heaven. Is it better to read a book or to practice what it says? Is it better to read many books or to know one well and practice what it says?

- **Narrow things down:** Try to coin a short phrase that indicates how each individual or couple will put the ideas discussed into practice. For example, a deed, a prayer, a small sacrifice, fostering an attitude, renouncing something in particular, engaging in a specific service, and so on.

- **Resolution:** Articulating the resolution in a short phrase captures what all are willing to do, but it also shows how everyone learns more than just knowledge.

- **Write it down:** Write down on small pieces of paper the resolution that you agree on. Find a place for it at home where you can read it everyday, and be reminded to practice it and to check whether you did it or not.

4 Fellowship

- **Children:** Invite the children to join you after the meeting.
- **Share:** Through hospitality and sharing at table, bonds are strengthened and family atmosphere is extended to everyone in the encounter.
- **Celebrate:** Birthdays, anniversaries, and milestones are worth celebrating as a group.

5 Family

- **Contact:** Foster the continuous contact with the families between meetings. Keeping track of milestones in people's lives is important: birthdays, anniversaries, difficulties, graduations, sickness, etc.
- **Prayer support:** Assure one another of prayers and accompaniment, especially knowing that all are sheltered under the mantle of the Blessed Mother. In this regard, know that you do not have to share details, but if it is beneficial and you choose to do so—it should remain within the group.
- **Plan together:** Planning the next encounter and the rotation is important. Make sure you coordinate:
  - Who will host next time?
  - Who will bring what next time?
  - Who can:
    - Prepare the *opening prayer*
    - Read more carefully and make a nice *summary*
    - *Kick off the discussion* after the questions are shared
    - Make sure all *announcements* are mentioned
    - *Close with a prayer*
    - Keep an eye on the *children* or prepare simple catechesis for them

THE PRAYERS

TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit, with glowing flame
inspire us today.
Unite all souls and form one heart
and show the Father's way.

HOLY SPIRIT,
YOU ARE THE SOUL OF MY SOUL

(Prayed by Father Kentenich during his sermon on Pentecost Sunday, 1965 in the parish of St. Michael, Milwaukee. Cardinal Mercier (1851-1926) is partially quoted.)

Holy Spirit,
you are the soul of my soul.
I humbly adore you.
Enlighten me, strengthen me,
guide me, comfort me.
Reveal your wishes to me
as far as this is in accordance
with the will of the Eternal Father.
Show me what Eternal Love wants of me.
Show me what I should do.
Show me what I should suffer.
Show me what I should humbly and thoughtfully accept, bear and endure.
Holy Spirit, show me your will and the will of the Father, for I want my whole life to be nothing else than a continuous, an everlasting yes to the wishes, to the will of God, the Eternal Father. Amen.

CONSECRATION

My Queen, My Mother,
I give myself entirely to you,
and to show my devotion to you, I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my entire self without reserve.
As I am your own, my good Mother, guard me and defend me as your property and possession. Amen.

CONFIDENCE

I trust your might,
your kindness, Mother dear,
I do believe that you are always near.
Schoenstatt's great Queen,
O Mother mild,
I blindly trust in you and in your Child. (USA)

PRAYERS

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

You know the way for me, you know the time, into your hands I trustingly place mine.
Your plan is perfect, born of perfect love. You know the way for me, that is enough.

CHILDLIKE TRUST

We believe, O Mother, in your great might, Though you be hidden as in darkest night. We believe in your victorious strength Though our desires may find no recompense. We love you, Mother, who so tenderly Love each and all of us unceasingly. We love you, too, when you do not bestow Your endless riches on us here below. Yet in your mercy and benevolence, increase our faith and childlike confidence. O let us always see your loving care that, strong in faith, we do not fear to dare But face the future sure of victory, Looking to you for guidance trustfully. Our love will free us from all earthly ties That, eager and prepared for sacrifice, We offer life and love and loyalty Serving you now and in eternity. Amen.

GRATITUDE

WITH HEARTFELT LOVE

With heartfelt love, I thank you, Mother dear, with you to guide me I need have no fear. When all around seemed dark and drear and gray, you stood as beacon for a brighter day. Your smile illumined every wakeful hour, you did uphold me with your gentle power. Thanks, a thousand thanks to you, to God shall be now and for all eternity. Amen.

O MOTHER, IN YOUR HOLY HEART

O Mother, in your holy heart
deeply inscribe each name
And as a sign that we are yours
write it with blood and flame.
In love and childlike gratitude
your name shall also be
Deeply inscribed within my heart
for all eternity.

PRAYERS

HAIL MARY, FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PURITY

(written by Father Kentenich in his youth)

Hail Mary, for the sake of your purity keep me pure
in body and soul.
Open wide to me your heart
and the heart of your Son.
Implore for me deep self-knowledge and the grace to persevere and remain faithful until death.
Give me souls;
keep all else for yourself.
Amen.

APOSTOLATE

Mother Thrice Admirable,
Mother of grace, Teach us to fight your foes, grant us deep faith.
Never regarding their number and might, we spread your love over the earth's dark night, so that the world, through you transformed, will pay due homage to your Son.
Mother with your Child divine,
Make our country wholly yours.
Help that it will never cease
To follow you and gain God's peace.
Mother and Child, united in love,
Will restore it in grace from above.

IMITATION OF MARY

(alternate version of the fourth verse of the Hymn of the Instruments, p. 163)

LET US WALK LIKE YOU THROUGH LIFE

Let us walk like you through life, let us mirror you forever, strong and noble, meek and mild, peace and love be our endeavor. Walk in us through our world, make it ready for the Lord.

THINK IN ME, O MOTHER

Think in me, O Mother,
That my thoughts be clear and bright; speak in me, O Mother, that my speech be true and right; work in me, O Mother,
My work is then well done;
Then holy is my labor,
My rest a holy one.
You penetrate my being,
Fill every part of me,
That all your ways and conduct
In me each one can see.

THE CIRCLE

Name	Contact Information	Dates

THE CONTACTS

SCHOENSTATT FAMILIES, USA

schoenstattfamiliesusa.org
dome@schoenstattfamiliesusa.org

INTERNATIONAL SCHOENSTATT CENTER

W284 N698 Cherry Lane, Waukesha, WI
262-522-4300
internationalschoenstattcenter.us
schoenstatt-wisconsin.us
info.schoenstattcenter@gmail.com
schoenstatt.wi.ill@gmail.com

Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Apostolate

W284N698 Cherry Lane
Waukesha, WI 53188
(262) 522-4326
(262) 522-4352
schoenstatt-pilgrimmother.us
pilgrim.mta.usa@gmail.com

Important Additional Contacts

THE SHRINES IN THE USA

Founder Shrine
5901 Cottage Grove Road
Madison WI 53718-1397
(608) 222-7208
schoenstattheights@schsrsmary.org

International Shrine of the Father Kingdom
W284 N698 Cherry Lane
Waukesha Wisconsin 53188
(262) 522-4300
intlcenter@schsrsmary.org

Milwaukee Shrine & Movement House
5310 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee WI 53208-3061
(414) 774-3536
movementhouse@att.net

Confidentia Shrine
134 Front Street
Rockport Texas 78382-7800
361-729-2019
houseschoenstattlamar@gmail.com

Schoenstatt on the Lake
27762 County Road 27
Sleepy Eye Minnesota 56085-9801
(507) 794-7727
schoenstattonthelake@schsrsmary.org

Cor Mariae Schoenstatt Center
340 State Highway 103
Crete Nebraska 68333
(420) 826-3346
cor.mariae.crete@gmail.com

Schoenstatt Shrine of Light
337 Cary Avenue
Staten Island New York 10310-2041
(718) 727-8005
shrineny@schsrsmary.org

Bethlehem – Cradle of Sanctity
225 Addie Roy Rd
Austin Texas 78733
(512) 330-0602
info@schoenstatt.us

Mount Schoenstatt
17071 Low Road
Helotes Texas 78023-3501
(210) 695-1400

Light and Way to the Merciful Father
22800 SW 187th Ave
Miami Florida 33170-5302
(305) 248-4800
schoenstattmiami@gmail.com



YOUR JOURNEY HAS BEGUN

