



Day 3

A Symbol from the Original Shrine:
CROSS OF UNITY



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She stand by her Son under the cross: Mary, the brave woman who knows that the hour has come for him to go from this world to the Father. A sword pierces her soul and at the same time she is full of confidence that this death on the cross does not have the last word. The Lord entrusts her with a new task amid her pain. At this moment, in John, the beloved disciple of Jesus, Mary accepts all his disciples as her children - including us ... for all time.

Why did the Blessed Mother settle in this small shrine in our time? So that she can also take part in my world, in my joys and my sorrows. When she is with me, I can face the challenges courageously. Her presence strengthens me so that I can courageously accept suffering. Her motherly love gives me strength and hope.

Standing under the cross can also mean: We are getting used to being “settled near Vesuvius”. A word that Father once coined. Schoenstatt is located at Mont Vesuvius, that is, near world-historical shifts that bring great uncertainties with them... at Vesuvius of a gigantic shift of humanity so that we can help shape it. Even today, the shifts are so profound that, humanly speaking, it is a question of the existence and non-existence of Christian values. During the October-Week

1967, Father Kentenich spoke of “the manipulated person”: *“I just want to broaden our perspective and contrast all this with God’s plan for us: Building and expanding a distinctly Marian kingdom of God! If we can achieve that, we will have protection across the board, come what may”* (p.126).

And – that’s the crucial point: The house that stands at Mount Vesuvius is our shrine. Through the attachment to the shrine, a different, a Christian value perspective slowly grows within us.

An Impulse from Life

“The greatest experience for me during the conference was the shrine. I could have knelt there and prayed for hours. I felt that the Blessed Mother was there. All the restlessness that overcame me during difficulties at home fell away from me. Here, the heaviness suddenly became lighter. I gained courage, even strength, to face the difficulties. With Our Lady’s help, I wanted to approach them courageously and try to overcome them. I knew she was going along with me. That made me very calm, yes, serene.” (From Marienland News)

(M)y Contribution Today

Today I want to go spiritually into the shrine and hand over to HER, my Mother, the concerns of those entrusted to me. Like her, I want to be there empathising, consoling, strengthening, so that her *gift for people* can bear fruit.

With the prayer that our father wrote in Dachau, I want to pray:

“I ask you, Thrice Admirable Lady, to let me look deeply into our Savior’s heart and in the midst of an ocean of brimming hate to let me stand at his side with the warmth of your love.” Amen

Prayer (at the conclusion of the Novena)



Daily Prayer at the conclusion

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

In the shadow of the shrine our worldwide family was born.

With our Founder, Father Kentenich, we believe that you settled here in a special way on 18 October 1914 and work miracles of grace.

In the Covenant of Love we know ourselves united



across countries and continents and place ourselves at your service.

“All those who come here to pray shall experience the glory of Mary and confess: ‘It is good for us to be here. Here we will build our tents, here our favorite place.’ (...) Whoever knows the history of our sodality will have no trouble believing that Divine Providence has something special in store for it.” (Founding Document)

Together we want to pass on your gift to people.

Together we want to use every opportunity to properly evaluate the challenges of the great processes of major change in world and Church.

Together we consciously put our contributions into the capital of grace today and commend to you all the people we hold in our hearts.

Together and gathered around you, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in all questions so that your gift bears fruit in the manifold needs of our time.

Let all Schoenstatt shrines be places of divine grace. Give us a home, bring about change and send us.

So we place ourselves at your disposal once again in the little consecration in preparation for Covenant Day on 18 October:

My Queen, my Mother ...

