1950-2010 History of the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign in the United States of America

She is the great Missionary. She will perform miracles.

St. Vincent Pallotti/Father Joseph Kentenich
Chapter One  John Pozzobon

This April an article penned by George Weigel called “The Catholic Difference” caught my eye as I thumbed through our diocesan paper. “Catholicism means seeing things as they are. Catholicism means finding within the grittiness of reality the path God is taking through history for the salvation of the world” (Catholic Herald, Diocese of Madison, April 1, 2010, p. 13). A writing of history is a good time to be reminded of these truths.

On September 10, 2010, the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign (SRC) celebrated its diamond jubilee. Documenting 60 years is no small feat. An apostolate such as the SRC which is so Catholic and has had such an astonishing growth, commands attention “to find within the grittiness of reality, the path God is taking through history for the salvation of the world.” For tens of thousands in the United States of America, the history of the SRC celebrating its diamond jubilee, commands attention as a vital instrument used in the salvific history of the world.

Our readership is hopefully somewhat acquainted with the Schoenstatt Movement founded by Father Joseph Kentenich on October 18, 1914, at the Original Shrine, near Koblenz, Germany. Historically, approaching the cusp of its first centennial, Schoenstatt has received a place in the Catholic Church as a movement of renewal, a pilgrimage place of grace with an entire, ever-adapting network of shrines, and a unique spirituality which

1. stresses a covenant relationship with God, Mary, and people of all ranks, races, and regions;
2. offers an instrument awareness to reach out and actively (passionately and wholeheartedly) fulfill God’s loving will; and
3. invites us to do our ordinary duties extraordinarily well by integrating faith into all spheres of our work and relaxation, prayer and celebrating, suffering and successes. Thus, the term everyday sanctity takes on the meaning of bringing faith and God’s unconditional love into every moment of our daily lives.

With this quick grasp of the original Schoenstatt Work, we now turn to a key instrument in the hands of Our MTA: Joao Luis Pozzobon (John Pozzobon). With the rosary and prayerful intercession, John gave a one-person response to the concerns of our time. Today, his outreach and methods extend to more than 110 countries and millions of persons. While reading these pages, each reader could pause to reflect on the daring invitation of the Blessed Mother to call forth bold initiatives and plans – and where each of us would fit in today.

John Pozzobon owned a store in Santa María, in South Brazil, to support his family. Something happened on September 10, 1950, which would change his life, as well as the lives of so many others, forever. Sister M. Teresinha, of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, gave him an image of Schoenstatt’s Mother Thrice Admirable (Mater ter Admirabilis) in the form of a shrine, for him to pass around the houses of his neighbors, inviting people to pray the rosary in their homes.

John was greatly surprised when he saw the miracles that the Virgin was working both in his own heart as well as in the hearts of all those she visited. After the October month, he decided to devote more of his time to be, as he himself would put it, the donkey of the Pilgrim MTA of Schoenstatt, taking her wherever he could.

Across fields, streets, rivers, through the woods and across towns, coping with the tropical heat in the south of Brazil, and always wearing suit and tie in honor of his Queen, he walked and carried the image of the Pilgrim Virgin, weighing 22 pounds/11 kilograms, over 87,000 miles/140,000 km for the next 35 years. John took on this formidable apostolate, never disregarding his wife and seven children. He was a model father and husband. His inner growth was also expressed in increasing prayer, social sensitivity, and solidarity.

Being a man of modest means himself, he founded Vila Nobre da Caridade by building quite a number of small wooden houses for those who did not have a dwelling. He visited thousands of homes, prisons, hospitals, and schools. In 1959, in order to reach a larger number of families, he added to the campaign other smaller images, all of a similar size to those reaching schools. In 1984, Father Esteban Uriburu with a group of Argentinians, traveled to Brazil to procure 25 of these images from Deacon John, to be sent to the 25 Schoenstatt countries on the American continent. This is how the Pilgrim Virgin campaign began to spread internationally.

On June 27, 1985, on his way to Mass at the Tabor Shrine in Santa Maria, John was run over by a truck and died. He had written in his will: I offer myself as holocaust in view of the greatness of the mission with which I was entrusted. This
mission was the great Rosary Campaign of the Pilgrim Virgin of Schoenstatt. Today, 25 years later, millions of people receive the Pilgrim Virgin every month. Home after home, the MTA is winning hearts, one after another, without a stop.

For the only published works on his life in English, see Father Uriburu’s book, *A Hero Today Not Tomorrow* and Enrique Soros’ book, *Conquering All Hearts.* Both are excellent sources of research, data, and heart-warming testimonials to Deacon John and his SRC mission.

It is important for each of us to grasp God’s will personally and completely. Life is too short to waste. John began in Schoenstatt by helping the Schoenstatt Sisters to build the first Schoenstatt Shrine in Brazil, which was just down the street from his home. He joined a men’s group, met the Founder on one of his trips to Brazil, and as he wrote in his diary in 1948:

When those retreats and lectures started, I didn’t know Schoenstatt at all; I did not even know it existed. The preachers set about explaining everything to us very clearly. The one really vital thing that I picked up was an understanding of the mission of the founder. Firstly, they explained at length that he had a great devotion to Mary; that he traveled all over the world preaching and building shrines. In this way, he carried the message that had its origin far away in Schoenstatt where the Original Shrine was.

Then I realized that I too had to muster a certain heroism. It is not enough to do one’s duty—we are all obliged to do that. Heroism is required, nothing less; the total heroism of complete self-surrender. From the moment I heard about the founding generation, this thought remained inscribed on my heart. So deep is this impression that the hymn tune of that generation still rings in my head. It was the Noble Guard. I like to listen to it again sometimes as it greatly helps me to conjure up the very life of those heroes who surrendered their lives to Our Lady. Then I too tried to take that road.

In a later conversation with Father Esteban, John continued:

From the moment I heard about it, I always remained united to the original source, never forgetting those heroes and their founder. I felt like a little disciple, following Father Kentenich, the founder, and those gathered around him. This was in spite of the fact that I knew neither the place nor the Original Shrine. But I felt as though I had always been there, like a pupil who had been to that school...I received it all in the shrine, I was so fortunate in understanding the origin.

From our present day perspective and observation of what happened in the case of John and the SRC, we think of the fundamental law in the Kingdom of God, which Father Kentenich coined as such: God is the One who does the greatest things through the smallest people.

In some notes written in 1950 John said: “I am small but I want to do big things.” Later he wrote in his will and testament: “I was big when I felt small.” (Father Uriburu, *Hero Today*, pp. 11-14)

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**1950 in USA**

On the USA scene just months prior to 1950 the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary began in Corpus Christi, Texas, (six sisters) and at Madison, Wisconsin (eight sisters). The establishment of the Schoenstatt Sisters was in fulfillment of promises made by Father Kentenich, during his 1948 visit to America.

On June 21, 1952, Father Kentenich arrived at Holy Cross Parish in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to live out a time of testing by the Church. This exile from his founder duties and from his beloved foundation of the Schoenstatt Work in Europe would end in fall 1965. On September 16, 1965, he flew from Milwaukee to New York and on to Rome.

With the establishment of the first American lay groups in Madison (1951) and Milwaukee (1954) the covenant of love, Schoenstatt’s hallmark and core was accepted into the American heart and soul. Three Pallottine Fathers were largely responsible for physically building the first Schoenstatt Shrines in Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The first Texan shrine was built as a confident gift of thanksgiving and dedicated in 1959 at Lamar.

On October 4, 1953, Father gave a talk on the rosary. He spoke of it as a breviary for families and an armor against Satan and evil forces. October 18 and November 1, 1953, Father again spoke about the rosary. Sisters, priests, and members of the faithful testify that Father prayed the rosary daily.

In 1959 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, Father Kentenich received news from Brazil about the efforts of John Pozzobon with the Rosary Campaign. Speaking to his secretary he said the following:

“Here with the SRC something very valuable is developing. For instance, the Redemptorists have been successful in bringing their Marian devotion to the people. In every parish where they work, they enthrone the picture of “Perpetual Help” in the church and introduce their weekly devotion to the Mother of Perpetual Help. The people gladly...”

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October 7, 2010 Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign
participate in it because it is short, clear, and simple: thanksgiving, consecration, and petition. They also have a specific song. The day and hour of the Devotion to the Mother of Perpetual Help are always kept the same, and the text of the devotion and the song are never changed. The people soon learn both by heart and participation in the Perpetual Help Devotion is no problem.

We should learn from them. Maybe the MTA Rosary Campaign will be our way to make the devotion to the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt popular. All people, with no distinction as to intellectual, economical, or spiritual level, should be capable and allowed to participate in the Schoenstatt devotion to the Blessed Mother. For the Campaign, it is important to have a good, short, clear, and simple prayer and song which appeals to the simple folks and which sinks into the mind and heart easily” (End of Conversation).

In 1964 Father made three walking pilgrimages with the parishioners of St Michaels, his German Congregation in Milwaukee. They prayed the rosary on their way to the construction site of the Waukesha Shrine during their three mile walk from the Meadowbrook Road School.

New postulants were joining the Schoenstatt Sisters; Waukesha retreat center was expanded by 1973; Minnesota and New York Shrines were dedicated 1976 and 1977. The Founder Shrine was put on wheels and moved across the road in October 1979. Each exterior sign of growth was accompanied by inner spiritual striving and fruitfulness as Schoenstatt continued to take hold in the hearts and minds of American souls in Texas, Wisconsin, New York, and Minnesota, spreading to Georgia, Ohio, and Florida.

Historically the growth of Schoenstatt was budding and grew steadily in Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin; Sleepy Eye and Ivanhoe, Minnesota; New York City; and Westfield, Massachusetts. Fifty-four adoration circles were counted, and a total of over 13,000 pilgrims visited the seven shrines and centers in the USA during 1981. (Sisters Newsletter, May 1982, pp. 52-53)

On September 29, 1984, Mariano and Marines Domínquez traveled from Miami, Florida, to Milwaukee, bringing Pilgrim MTA #2505. This precious Pilgrim MTA blessed by Deacon John for the USA found its way via the Sisters to Miguel and Sonia Crespo, who in turn introduced the Pilgrim MTA to the Spanish community.

The response of the people was immediate. This is how Jesus Pagán referred to it: “The spiritual welcome and the inner enthusiasm of the people who receive the Pilgrim MTA in their homes is something extraordinary. Every night, new families sign up and ask to be visited by Her.” (María Laura Sadi, Esteban J. Uriburu, sacerdote y adventurero, Buenos Aires, 2000, p. 126). During the Journey of Love convention in 1994, Miguel presented the original Pilgrim MTA. Now it is in the SRC permanent display in Madison. (SRC Newsletter Vol VI, Issue 3, Summer 1994, p 2).

1985 was a year of Schoenstatt Celebration for the Centennial of the Founder’s Birthday, and an occasion to share Brazil’s traveling Pilgrim MTA Shrines. Giving consideration to Father Kentenich’s masterful gift of creative tension, the young Schoenstatt Family in the USA struggled with growing pains between office and charism. The “office” continued moving forward with the slow steady growth of the movement groups, generally meeting monthly with a Schoenstatt Sister or Father complemented by the “charism” of bubbling life quickly brought forth by the SRC.

Sister M. Juliana Najarro had begun the Apostolate of the Sick in Minnesota. When she heard about the SRC, for her, this was the answer for a general apostolic outreach that could identify with everyone. After being well-instructed by reading materials she personally obtained via Father Uriburu, she systematically set about inviting her Apostolate of the Sick groups to take up the SRC initiatives in summer of 1986. She also looked ahead that the SRC would be a way for her Filipino people, so devoted to Our Lady, to build a Schoenstatt Shrine there.

Once at a day of reflection for priests of the New Ulm Diocese, Sister Juliana’s name was raised as an incredible, selfless witness of the faith reaching the lonely, elderly, and forgotten. Amazing for these Midwestern priests was the fact that Sister Juliana was one of the few dark complexioned persons in southwest Minnesota at the time. She was so “at-home” in herself, that she would tell of the nickname that the founder gave her and other Filipinos: “Father’s Brownies.” [When God asked the angels to “bake people” the first ones weren’t done enough; the second time around, they were overdone; the third time around, they were “just right – golden brown!”]
Father Esteban Uriburu was ordained a Schoenstatt Father in Argentina in 1971. He visited eight American centers to promote his new-found love of the SRC in spring of 1986 at Staten Island, Washington, D.C., Westfield, Massachusetts; Milwaukee and Madison; Minneapolis; Atlanta; and Miami. Learning from Father Kentenich, he admired the North American people, he saw their practical sense, ability to organize and work, efficiency and a sense of the concrete, as well as their technology. At the same time he affirmed we could be “helped” by the contributions the Latin people offered: family spirit, sensitivity to personal attachments, childlikeness before God, and a natural devotion to Mary.

Father Esteban was very musically talented and had a great ability to talk, to make the world of Schoenstatt applicable to every day life. He challenged all to do the ordinary extraordinarily well, with great enthusiasm, hope against rejection, and courage against defeat.

Martha and Victor Bindl were present on October 21, 1986, when Father Esteban addressed the Madison Schoenstatt Family about John Pozzobon and the SRC. In May 1987, Martha and her husband were commissioned to coordinate the SRC in the Madison Diocese. Continuing with creative ideas such as sending off balloons from the shrine for Mother Mary (this practice became an annual Mother’s Day tribute); she started editing the SRC Newsletter; or lighting up Schoenstatt Heights for Christmas (when 1,500 strings of light would be bought and arranged on the evergreens lining the driveway to the Founder Shrine); and so on.

It was Martha’s idea to take the Pilgrim MTA to every parish in the Madison Diocese as a special gift for the Marian Year. So from September 14, 1987, through July 27, 1988, she managed to take the Blessed Mother to the people in the diocese, just as Pozzobon did 37 years before. After receiving permission from Bishop Cletus O’Donnell, Martha and Vic accomplished this feat, with Doris and William Nolan, visiting all 140 parishes, traveling 4,764 miles by car.

By the end of the year there were 35 rosary groups formed with some 500 families reciting the rosary. Over 5,000 MTA cards had been distributed. On August 5, 1988, Bishop O’Donnell crowned the Pilgrim MTA that had visited every parish: “Queen of the Diocese of Madison.” He thanked everyone saying, “You don’t know how many hearts Mary has touched. Our diocese will be blessed for years to come.”

Hopefully every reader is inspired just a little: What are you asking me to do in and for and with my parish, Mother Thrice Admirable?

Sister M. Jean Frisk, who had moved with her family from Upper Michigan to live in Milwaukee in the 50s and 60s, was one of the blessed ones who knew Father Kentenich personally. With a transfer to Germany in 1979, she began serving the English Office at Schoenstatt’s place of origin. It would be her post for the next 11 years, in the so-called Dynamic Province of Schoenstatt Sisters directly responsible for movement work among girls, women, and families. She shares her recollection of meeting Deacon John Pozzobon during his trip to Europe:

In summer of 1979, I attended a gathering in the women’s training center, Marienland, on Mount Schoenstatt. I had heard of John Pozzobon (from fellow classmate, Sister M. Juliana), the spectacular success of his rosary apostolate, and his method of bringing the little traveling shrine to homes and institutions. I was convinced this method—the personal and warm way of the South American peoples—would never work for English-speaking peoples in the “northern ice” of long winters and great distances. I went to hear John for the sake of solidarity as another one of us “foreign visitors,” but did not intend to speak to him personally.

His eyesight was quite poor at the time, but he was attentive to those around him in a reserved, but warm, gentle, and welcoming way. He spoke quietly, calmly, in a factual way. There was nothing dramatic, nothing spectacular, nothing fantastic. His quiet manner had its affect on the small gathering. As reverent as he was toward his audience, so that same reverence was given him in return. He spoke not of himself or the things he had done, but of the founder, the movement, the history in Brazil. He told of the methods used to bring our dear MTA to homes and institutions. He was asked about those methods and clearly noted that there one had to be open to the Spirit to adapt ways and be creative in finding ways to bring Our Lady to the local peoples.

My memory of John was that of a dignified, noble, and fine gentleman, so gentle, so reasonable. He was entirely at ease and at home in this circle of movement leaders, priests, and sisters. I remember thinking: This is what it means to be joined together in the founder’s mission. Each finds one’s own way to share this covenant of love. I left the meeting with great respect for him, still not convinced it would work for us, but would dare to give it a try because of the simple kind integrity he radiated. He was not there to impress anyone. He was a gentle servant and son of the founder—desiring to please him and take up his mission for Our Lady from home to home and heart to heart.
The tremendous help and explosion of the SRC in the USA came via a technology called Mother Angelica and the EWTN Network located in Ironside, Alabama.

Father Esteban Uriburu had heard a cassette of Mother Angelica speaking to a group of youth from the University of Steubenville, Ohio, which impressed him. In 1988, Ana María Brown and Terry Kopp from Minnesota, suggested and organized an encounter with Mother Angelica for 20 minutes. Father expressed the desire for her channel to air a video about the life of John Pozzobon and she agreed. Next she invited him to her program *Mother Angelica Live* for March 14, 1989. Mother was still in Rome, so Father Michael led the interview. When the studio asked for an address, Father Esteban called Waukesha and it was decided that Madison would assume the correspondence and work. As a result of his interview that reached 15 million homes, they already answered several phone calls that night and over 185 letters from 32 states were received requesting information on how to begin a SRC Group. With this, Schoenstatt Heights in Madison, Wisconsin, was officially declared the center for the SRC in the USA.

In April of 1989, Father Esteban returned to Birmingham, invited to be on a program led by Father Michael where the documentary of John Pozzobon was on the air – what a gift! In 1990 Father Esteban taped a program in Spanish about the *Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother*, 13 chapters for a total of five and a half hours, which is still aired at this time. He appeared live with Mother Angelica three times expounding on the subjects of Practical Faith in Divine Providence, the Covenant of Love, and the Mission of a Christian.

The Madison SRC Committee urged the next national director to contact EWTN so the tremendous growth in the campaign could be shared with viewers.

Sister Mary Lestina was asked to appear on EWTN and arrangements were made for July 25, 1990. Father Harold Cohen was the host of the Wednesday program. He began at 7:00 p.m. CST with a Scripture study on John 19:25 “Behold, your Mother.” It was a wonderful introduction to the interview where the Auxiliary Pilgrim MTA was shown. Bill Steltmeier, the President of EWTN, did a Bible study, changing his topic to do it on the Blessed Mother. Then there was a period of call-in questions with all three discussing devotion to the Blessed Mother. Both men who interviewed Sister Mary commented that she made the Blessed Mother present. Sister M. Carol Winkler, superior of the Madison Schoenstatt Sisters, shared, “Sister Mary was an inspiration to all of us who saw the program. It was an asset to the sisters’ community and the Rosary Campaign.” An additional flow of calls and written requests forced the SRC Committee in Madison to draw up letters and print materials to supply coordinators for Our MTA’s mission.

Sister M. Jessica Swedzinski was joined by 45 Schoenstatt members from eight states at the live studio audience of 60 people on January 10, 2007. Father Mitch Pacwa, *EWTN Live* host began the 24-minute, fast-paced interview, followed by a short pause before questions were accepted from the audience and call-ins. Thirty callers were accepted during the show with four being aired and a record 1,000 phone attempts recorded from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the studio lines. Live air shows have a charm of their own in our fast-paced society. The most beautiful point was that all the estimated 123 million homes in 144 countries and territories worldwide were blessed by Father Pacwa in the very last seconds with the *Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt*! Due to the studio request for a website, Sister M. Kornelia reported that the German website www.schoenstatt.de had a meltdown, being temporarily knocked out due to over 11,000 visits in the first 24 hours after the show! For the next 20 days Sister Jessica and Alicia Hernandez did literally nothing other than respond to the over 150 emails, calls, and letters inquiring about the SRC.
CHAPTER 3 - Coordinators Serve

Over 123 Million Homes

These appearances on EWTN were a major catalyst for the SRC to grow throughout the USA. Schoenstatt is very grateful to Mother Angelica and her network. Historically seen, the SRC in the Schoenstatt Movement entered a decisive “turning point.” The SRC is the beginning of the “jet era” in our movement. This was the last symbol through which John Pozzobon expressed what he understood of the plans of God. When during his last visit to Buenos Aires Father Esteban asked Deacon John what the meaning of the jet symbol was, he answered: “Speed. After the Centennial Year (1985) Schoenstatt needs a new speed to spread its message to the world.” (Letter written to the participants at the 2nd Leaders Workshop of the SRC by Father Esteban Urriburu, Miami, January 22, 1993)

The far greater steady growth, though, is measured from two more sources; these being “relatives and moving.” The zeal & life from coordinator to coordinator using the hard-to-beat, word-of-mouth campaigning, marketing, and advertising that only coordinator-to-coordinator can do is priceless in our SRC economy. When a person is newly exposed to the graces of the Schoenstatt Shrine flowing through the traveling Pilgrim MTAs, there is gratitude and awe that wells up in the heart. Something so great, so spiritual, so peaceful, so joy-filled, so supportive, so encouraging, so uplifting, so releasing, so energizing—the heart simply must share! People tell relatives and friends that they should receive a visit from the Pilgrim MTA or that they should get in contact with the sisters at the shrine and so on. If there is a move and change of residence, then very often the memory of grace moves within the heart. Conversations come up and suddenly Schoenstatt is a topic of conversation in the new location.

You SRC coordinators are the unsung heroes who have walked the walk and taken upon yourselves the task to bring Mary and Jesus into hearts and homes, families and communities.

Schoenstatt’s founder did not choose his co-workers, he didn’t waste time thinking this person would be well suited for the task: no, what he did do was to pray to the Blessed Mother asking her to send those laborers into the field that she wanted. Father Kentenich had a genius quality of then accepting whomever she sent! He was known to get some of the most diverse personalities working together because he believed with all the power of his wide open heart: She is the great Missionary, she will perform miracles in and through the very people she has sent to be co-founders in Schoenstatt. As founder, Father Kentenich could and did accept each Schoenstatter as a co-founder. This awakened huge confidence and inspired daring steps and bold projects.

A report prepared by Martha Bindl and Sister Mary on March 25, 1990, from the Madison Home Office gives a good look at how the Campaign had developed during the first five years.

Thirty-eight traveling Pilgrim MTAs visited approximately 500 families monthly. Two members of two different groups take the Pilgrim MTAs to the nursing home, weekly, to pray the rosary. Another group includes a doctor who takes her to his office.

Eight of the groups now have home shrines. One group made their covenant of love in their parish church with their pastor officiating. It was a most beautiful spiritually fruitful experience for the people and for the priest. Sixteen groups have made their covenants of love and are continuing with the visitation of the Pilgrim MTAs.

We began publishing a quarterly newsletter (circulation 500) that we thought would keep the Campaign members informed as to the happenings in the Campaign and the activities available to them in the shrine.

More than 200 letters were received from people in 32 states as well as from Canada. We have 22 new groups started across the United States and six waiting to get their list of names. The first of these groups will be preparing for the covenant of love in May.

Sister Mary visited groups in Tampa and Miami, Florida, and reports great interest there. Materials have been requested and sent. We plan to visit groups in Pennsylvania in May and attend their covenant of love celebration while there.

We have a new Covenant of Love ceremony booklet and a new brochure promoting the Campaign. We also are preparing a covenant of love certificate for members participating in this beautiful ceremony.

We are grateful with the development of the SRC across the USA. We are also grateful for the beautiful letters we have received from Africa and Argentina telling us of the progress of the Campaign in these countries. We have also received the blessing from Father Alex Menningen. The Blessed Mother has been working very hard and she also has found many jobs for us to help her with. (End of report)
The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary held a general congress in Schoenstatt, Vallenar, Germany, and also traveled to Rome for the dedication of the first Schoenstatt Shrine there dedicated to Mary, the Heart of the Church. Sister M. Toni, the General Superior, presented Pope John Paul II with a Pilgrim MTA.

Since the Winter of 1990 all coordinators who have registered with the Home Office have their names in the SRC Newsletter. Do allow for human error, coupled with the fact that a good number of coordinators were so eager to begin the monthly journey with their newly forming group, that they forgot to register the Pilgrim MTA number and names.

In Summer of 1991 a coordinator profile was introduced for the quarterly SRC Newsletters. These highlighted the name, town, and city of 45 coordinators as a representation for the more than 10,000 in the USA since 1985.

Everything very great began very small. This natural law could have been written solely for the SRC. In the scope of this history let us look at two more years to get a reflective glimpse into the past twenty-five years of the SRC from the Home Office at Madison, Wisconsin: 2003 and 2010.

The SRC report for the annual meeting of leaders at Waukesha, Wisconsin, in October 2003, read as follows:

Thank you for your interest in our Pilgrim MTA and her journeys. During this Year of the Rosary many doors and hearts have opened wide. Building on past statistics, over 9,000 SRC groups had been formed in the USA, including 1,272 new groups formed since September 11, 2001.

Report briefs continue: An example of the nationwide coronation of all Pilgrim MTAs on Sept 11, 2002, as Queen of the United States of America, was noted at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Lafayette, Indiana, with Father David Douglas.

The Milwaukee SRC Team presented a lay leadership panel on February 13 entitled: It’s Now or Never: SRC.

Organizational details with a mountain of office work 24/7 rose for Sister M. Jessica and the 18 volunteers around Madison. Since Spring of 2003, Alicia Hernandez from Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, volunteers her administrative skills at House Tabor for two-to-three weeks every month.

State highlights of coordinators include: The Mothers of the Desert in Arizona, coordinated by Sally LeRoy have been reaching out in strong evangelization all the way to Belize. Westfield Massachusetts, Patricia and Kennedy Fonseca, welcomes Portuguese groups and priests. Meeting with Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Archbishop Timothy Dolan, Sandy Baum, diocesan coordinator, gave SRC presentation. Michigan groups are effective in many areas - dance diva testimonial of Pauline Lynch and work with Hispanic families by Rafael & Maddalena Relli-Melendez. The Mississippi groups long to send a delegate to the National Convention. A miracle book is kept by Angela & Al Styczenski; and the 10th anniversary was noted with their parish priest in Hattiesburg by Stephanie Land. In Burbank, California, Carolina Lalama works with parish youth program; so does Magdalena Rambeaud in Knoxville, Tennessee. The Dallas Family group at Jackson, Tennessee, is a powerful witness of lay leadership via Lisa Dallas.

Father John Reardon meets Tuesdays with his Rosary group at Flourtown, Pennsylvania; priests in Oregon and Washington acclaim SRC lay leadership involvement of Marge Rolen, Mary Moore, and Irene Esparza.

A listing of deceased coordinators and SRC group members was first printed in the January 2003 SRC Newsletter through the newsletter mailed on August 18, 2010. “From heaven a mission continues” was the heading for this section.

Looking at statistics dated January 1, 2010, Schoenstatt members are actively involved in striving for holiness in over 170 of the 194 USA dioceses. Over 100 covenants of love and home shrines were dedicated in 27 states (which are in addition to the six states hosting our ten Schoenstatt Shrines in the continental United States.) This is a great tribute to all those who have been called by Our MTA to work as coordinators and leaders for her SRC.

The core and heart of John Pozzobon’s work was to bring the Pilgrim MTA everywhere he could. This is what our father and founder, Father Kentenich, so highly praised: “What does Mr. Pozzobon do? He carries the Blessed Mother everywhere he can so that She may operate … indeed this is what, from the very beginning, we have always wanted.” (Marienau/Schoenstatt on April 11, 1968)
Your History Page - *My Schoenstatt Experiences*

**Year - Event in Schoenstatt**

1914 - Founding of Schoenstatt  
1945 - Release from Dachau Camp  
1950 - Rosary Campaign Begins  
1965 - End of Exile in Milwaukee  
1968 - Home Going of Founder  
1985 - Home Going of Deacon Pozzobon before the Centennial of Founder’s Birthday and Meeting Pope John Paul II in Rome  
2004 - Centennial of Deacon Pozzobon’s Birthday  
2010 - Centennial of Founder’s Priestly Ordination  
2014 - Centennial of Schoenstatt’s Covenant of Love Founding

*Schoenstatt is not what I have learned. Schoenstatt is what I am. Schoenstatt is a way of life. We can only successfully give on Schoenstatt if we begin to live it, step by step. Therefore, we must personalize Schoenstatt and say MY SCHOENSTATT. Write your important milestone in how you experienced Schoenstatt on the right, be specific.*

Practice expressing aloud what you like about Schoenstatt. When someone asks you what Schoenstatt is, tell them that which you have experienced. This way you transmit Schoenstatt by life, because you have taken ownership of Schoenstatt. You will speak from life and life always awakens life.

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**Year - Event in My Life Involving Schoenstatt**

*In fall of 1993 Vern Theisen came on board from Madison, Wisconsin, to produce the smaller version of the Pilgrim MTA for schools, nursing homes, prisons, assisted living, and hospital visits. The total he made comes to 3,960 shrines. The shrines are initially cut by laser beam at Routed-4-U in Sun Prairie through the generosity of Tim and JaJay Lothe, a father/daughter team. Vern creatively improved his system which included three coats of high gloss varnish. These shrines have held up to the wear and tear of children without a problem.*
Number of Pilgrim MTA Shrines Made in USA, 1985-2010

To list how many Pilgrim MTAs are presently and have been circulating in the USA requires more detective work. Both national directors were juggling other duties alongside their SRC pride and joy. Sister Mary Lestina from the late 1980s through August 2001 was simultaneously the Schoenstatt Movement coordinator for the Madison Diocese and also for some years, superior of the Schoenstatt Sisters at Schoenstatt Heights. Sister M Jessica Swedzinski who began September 2001, cared for the Schoenstatt Movement through November 2002 and was simultaneously a member of the sisters’ provincial government until November 2009. Both needed more time for filing reports and chronicles, as “people concerns” were their top priorities.

For more details check the SRC History Book. This is the first listing which welcomes your suggestions and corrections.

Pilgrim MTA Shrine Carpenters

100 Richard Andrzejek cut the Pilgrim MTAs; finished by Evelyn Guza and crew for Sister Juliana in the summer of 1986, Ivanhoe, MN
150 Victor Bindl made the first Pilgrim MTAs in the Madison Diocese, including the slightly larger one used for the Marian Year pilgrimage to each parish.
500 Richard Butler made more Pilgrim MTAs in Madison
200 Charles Muller worked from his Waukesha home
325 A gentleman built Pilgrim MTAs for Nina Stackpole, New Orleans, LA
200 Joe Rodriguez made the first Pilgrim MTA Shrines, Corpus Christi, TX
60 Inocencio Cruz from Rockport and Victor Alegria from Georgetown both helped

make shrines for Texas State Team.

2,500 Zeke Garza from Santa Rosa in the Brownsville Diocese worked from his farm shop
250 Anthony Scamardo in Dallas continues making Pilgrim MTAs (as well as numerous sizes from a few inches up to eight feet)
12 Joe Rizzi made shrines at his place of carpentry, O & R Custom Cabinetry, Los Angeles, CA, in the 1990s
200 Ron Gerlip built Pilgrim MTAs for Linda Gerlip, Westfield, MA
4,132 Ken Theisen volunteered four hours daily to make over 200 shrines annually since 1992 in Madison.

Of the 1,000 Pilgrim MTA numbers (all 3,000s numbers) made available for shrine makers outside of Madison to be registered at the national home office:

50 From May 2003 to 2005 Enrique Burgos from Milwaukee built and sent out #3000 through #3050 in the Milwaukee Area.
10 Ann & Stephen Kolb in Greenville, OH, made 10 large Pilgrim MTAs numbering them #3990 through #3999. Also 5 of the smaller Pilgrim MTAs were assigned the #1418 through 1422, 2006.
10 Spanish #3250 through 3259 for traveling shrines that Deacon Felix Marrero made, 2007
1,000 Pilgrim MTA Shrines which were re-sent to classes, homes, hospitals…

9,704 Total of the Pilgrim MTA Shrines sent out in the USA

3,425 Pilgrim MTAs were sent through August 1995 and over 3,000 Pilgrim MTAs were sent out from 2001-2010, from Madison.

Small Pilgrim MTA Shrines

200 Shrinest made by the Schoenstatt Sisters on October 4 & 5, 1993
500 Anthony Scamardo fashioned these in Dallas
3960 Vern Theisen fabricated the small Pilgrim Shrines, of these #1951 was the last number sent out from Madison before 9/1/10
100 Since fall of 2009 Doug Brower from Waunakee, Wisconsin, is making small Pilgrim MTAs
10 Margaret Fenelon asked for University-Edition smaller Pilgrim MTAs that Don Murphy and George Prihoda perfected

2,650 Total of Small Pilgrim MTA Shrines sent out in the USA

Spanish Pilgrim MTA Shrines

Over 700 Pilgrim MTA Shrines in Spanish (regular and small size) have been sent from the Home Office in Madison, Wisconsin. The last numbered Spanish Pilgrim MTA Shrine built by Ken Theisen was #5080.

Area Coordinators requesting materials in Spanish include Sara Ycaya from Miami, FL; Papo Concepcion from Atlanta, Georgia; Sister M. Iraida Guerra and Sister M. Ligia Andiarena from Staten Island, New York; Carmen Ruiz from Los Angeles, California; Enrique Soros, Bethesda, Maryland; Glenda Puente, Weston, Florida; Irene Esparza, Hermiston, Oregon; Gina Cevallos, Metairie, Louisiana; and Leticia Martinez, Kennewick, Washington.

Of the 5,843 traveling shrines listed in the data base in 2010, less than 2,000 have a Pilgrim MTA Shrine number registered.
Every moment in human emotions seems to be captured in the SRC Newsletter history. The newsletters began as a way to keep in touch, first penned by Martha Bindl. They were rich in a personal way with love of the Blessed Mother and her Son. Volume 1, Issue 1 was printed for summer of 1989, by Country Press in Lodi, Wisconsin. The donation stood at $2 for one year (4 issues).

By the first issue of 1990 there was a colored shell with the logo and MTA being printed in gold and blue. By 1991, when subscriptions were over 500, Bill and Doris Nolan decided to be editors.

The first coordinator profile, featuring Father Elmer Burwinkel from Madison, Indiana, was printed in summer 1991. Testimonials, national news, church and liturgy features, and letters to the editor were spiced with many photos from around the country. Jim and Donna Tooley were an indispensable part of bringing the SRC into the modern printing era which saved pennies.

The newsletter subscriptions were never in ratio to the traveling shrines. Roemer Printing, Inc. printed 2,400 copies for the Spring 2002 Issue. Costs for 12 pages ran over $600 and the U.S. Post Office needed 15.7 cents to mail each of the 2,005 sent via bulk mailing. It would take the SRC Team of retired couples from 1 to 7 pm to collate and fold, prepare and sort for mailing—until a mailing company was employed in spring 2003. The newsletters arrive earlier at their destinations due to the barcoding with typical delivery time between two to 18 days.

Another welcomed financial landmark was that by October 2003 bulk mailing returns were down from 23% to a mere 2%. The post office usually forwards the mail three months after an address has changed. This was another time factor that pressed for four “on-time” newsletters when Return Service Requested is used.

Hurricane Katrina took over 450 off our fall 2005 mail list. Sister Jessica got to know the postmasters quite well before clearance was given for bulk mailing region by region.

The Winter 2005 Issue on Schoenstatt Evangelization marked first-ever 24 pages and the first color photos appeared in the Winter 2006 Issue. Four thousand copies were reached with the Summer 2007 Issue that shared the text for the first four meetings of the Schoenstatt Covenant of Love DVD Series.

The next newsletter landmark was full pages of color on the inside. With bleeding to the edges, Peter Liethen was able to give a whole new look on glossy paper for Our MTA. Special thanks go to Pat Joyce, Sister M. Jean Frisk, Cathy Johnson, Sister M. Marcia Vinje, and Alicia Hernandez for proof reading issues, usually in pressure situations.

Tom Coster was mailing specialist between the national directors. It was Tom who mastered the constantly changing details of bulk mailing so that these newsletters could reach you across America. His rule #66 of life stated: You are to laugh once an hour whether you want to or not, and Dick Butler supplied jokes to be included in each newsletter. For example:

Wit the Fourth Time Around
When high school kids wear rags today, they call it self-expression.
When I was young and dressed that way, we called it ‘The Depression.’

An older brother was trying to scare his little brother so he asked him to imagine that they were trapped alone in a haunted house full of ghosts.
When he asked him what he would do, the little boy calmly replied: “I’ll just stop imagining!” (National Federation of the Blind, 1998: Baltimore, MD)

Louisiana Cajun
After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year, New York scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet, and shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: “California archaeologists findings of 200 year old copper wire, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers.”

One week later a local newspaper in Louisiana reported the following: “After digging as deep as 30 feet in his pasture near Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, Boudreaux, a Cajun who is a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Boudreaux has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Louisiana had already gone wireless.”
Sister M. Juliana received the first Pilgrim MTAs for Minnesota from the Philippines in spring 1986. Father Esteban visited Minnesota in October 1986. His first EWTN interview was on March 14, 1989.


Miguel Crespo coordinated the original Pilgrim MTA from Deacon John in Milwaukee.

Brigitte Allen from California and Fran Martin from Michigan.

Journey of Love conventions were held in Waukesha, WI, June 24-27, 1993, June 23-26, 1994, and June 23-25, 1995.

Wayside shrine at Kenner, LA, OLPH Parish. Indiana brings delegates every convention.
The national convention themes prepared for the great Holy Year Jubilee of 2000 with the countdown years of 1997 - Christ
1998 - Holy Spirit, and
1999 - God the Father

Sister Juliana died on June 19, 1995. Each convention begins at the cemetery of the sisters to pray for all deceased coordinators and group members of the SRC.

1997 - Year of Christ

Pope John Paul II visited Rome Shrine, Heart of the Church, on December 29, 2000

1998 - Children Covenants

1999 - Year of God the Father

2000 - SRC Store was busy tool of evangelization all weekend long. Deep Gratitude is expressed to the many hearts who volunteered generously for the 18 Conventions during the Diamond Jubilee of the SRC in USA.

1999 - Workshops

1998 - Workshops

2002 - Pilgrimage to Madison Founder Shrine

2003 - Youth Camp in Oregon for 120

2004 - Visits to 14 home shrines

Magnificat was the theme August 24-27, 2000, for 75 delegates, increased to 120 for the SRC Golden Jubilee Saturday. Frank Shakespeare, former ambassador to the Vatican, spoke about the Magnificat as the song of Pope John Paul II's pontificate and 13 covenants were sealed.
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1998 - Children Covenants

Texas Schoenstatt Family hosted the 2005 gathering in the shadow of the Confidentia Shrine, complete with pilgrimage and fireworks.

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2006 - Noah’s Ark cake brought from Missouri

2007 - Sandy Baum takes care of all decorating

2008 - Year of St. Paul Procession

Wayside shrine at Kenner, LA, OLPH Parish

2009 - Learning Father Kentenich’s Legacy

Slidell, LA, coordinators

Indiana brings delegates every convention

2010 - SRC Diamond Jubilee Europe Pilgrimage

Women’s Retreat in Mississippi

Coordinators from CA, NE, TN, & VA
CHAPTER 7- Organization of the SRC

Deacon John Pozzobon as the initiator of the SRC, always considered himself a loyal disciple, a little student of Schoenstatt’s founder. His genuine deep love for the Blessed Virgin carried him through severe trials of exile by the Church (where the Blessed Sacrament was removed from the shrine for some years and the bishop tried to persuade him to change the picture of Mary) to rejection by Schoenstatt leaders (What you are doing is not Schoenstatt and all 100 in his men’s branch left the movement). John prayed to the MTA: If this is not Schoensatt, then what is Schoenstatt?

What lay behind these accusations could be that his method of working was unusual in Schoenstatt, or it was too simple…. It could be disagreement of others with John’s admiration of the founder. Or perhaps in the midst of the disunity and discussion it was necessary to adhere to what was familiar so as to preserve in the Schoenstatt Family what was customary to thereby guarantee faithfulness. On the other hand, it could be that his Schoenstatt apostolate seemed to be somewhat vague. (Sister M. Lubia, Centennial 2004, Brazil)

There are beautiful prayers he wrote to Father Kentenich in the 1950s and 1960s which explain how he mastered life, perfected his pastoral care and became a model of heroic childlikeness. Since the successful launching of the SRC International and the explosion of Schoenstatt graces in over 110 countries, Schoenstatt leaders have apologized for opinions against John and the SRC.

Such is also the shadow and light-filled history of the organization of the SRC in the USA. Father Esteban was the instrument of Our MTA to dare to bring the message of the SRC and John Pozzobon to the USA. The little seeds sprouted in good soil of various states. After the founder had been exonerated in Rome, formal organization started to unfold its beginning stages in Milwaukee in the late 1970s. Group leaders came together each October for a leaders weekend of training, exchange, and finding a motto for the coming year of striving.

It was not understood that Father Esteban who came with his wide angle on Schoenstatt, would fit someplace in this newly organized structure of the movement. His personality, with an ability to accomplish different projects to send the Pilgrim MTA Shrine everywhere, was met with some exasperation. Conflicts of leadership styles came about. Some people are more geared to control and being the final responsibility and others are more geared to delegation and service to originality. The goal was the same: to further the Schoenstatt Marian Father Kingdom in the USA, but who answered to whom was an arena that would take much time, effort, sacrifice, and pain in the young North American Schoenstatt Movement.

Although Father Esteban was one of the first to see the faithfulness of John Pozzobon and his mission for Schoenstatt, Father Esteban’s actions often brought on a “movement in the movement.”

Father Esteban was referred to as a “dreamer with God.” He was present for the first Journey of Love conventions in Waukesha and carried on an extensive phone and letter apostolate in the USA. He was a welcomed guest speaker at the Texas state leaders meetings for the SRC from 1990-1995. His rich wit and leadership, his untiring labor for the MTA, his eight books, and taping at the EWTN Studios definitely shaped the expansion of Schoenstatt’s growth in the entire USA. He continuously emphasized the “building of a network of hearts” and also of striving to be “true leaders as the history of a country is the history of its leaders.” (Victor and Olga Alegria, Texas)

Sister M. Juliana, who had established the Schoenstatt Apostolate of the Sick led her groups to adopt the Pilgrim MTA in Minnesota and returned to the Philippines in 1987; Sister Mary was asked to spearhead the workload to care for the explosion of Schoenstatt and whatever follow up could be managed, since the 1989 EWTN presentations; the set-up in New York and Massachusetts combined movement and SRC into one person, so the sister could direct efforts where they were most effective, etc.

With creative energies on one hand, a tremendous amount of work for the growth of the SRC was accomplished, and on the other hand, a red flag was raised how these pilgrims can come in after receiving a few letters and seal their covenant of love when it took another group, meeting for more than a year of monthly meetings with a Schoenstatt Sister to seal their covenant as associate members of the Family or Mothers Leagues. Tensions mounted and communication lessened under the pressure of working for the Marian Kingdom.

In June 1997 the General Guidelines for the SRC were published, a move was made to House Tabor in Madison, and more interaction was possible via fruitful international conventions in Brazil. After 15 years, needed strategy of future SRC organization was not addressed by leadership. Questions remain: who continues to help people coordinating SRC groups in all 50 of our wide-flung states? Who continues to give the spiritual nourishment so these people who chose can and will continue in the Schoenstatt spirituality? Who tackles the maintenance work so annual reports will reach Santa Maria, Brazil, and movement centers in due course? Who offers answers to those with varied questions reaching through all stratas of American culture?

It is the work of the MTA! She calls able-bodied teams of volunteers in each state to let the grassroots of Schoenstatt continue to grow deeper. Thirty-five persons in Madison; 18 in Texas, five in Milwaukee, persons in every state work on SRC projects along side Schoenstatt movement responsibilities. Thank YOU!

October 7, 2010 Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign 17
The annual national gathering of the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign leaders was held on the third weekend in June at the International Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin, except for 2005 when it was held in Lamar, Texas, in the shadow of the Confidentia Shrine. The three-day convention offered formation, talks and discussions, liturgies and reflection, recreation and sharing in a family-friendly setting in the shadow of the shrine.

When we are praying the rosary, we are telling Our Blessed Mother, I love you, so let’s do it with all of our heart. Father Christian Christensen, Corpus Christi, Texas, 1999

The Journey of Love was so rich and profound that every one of us, I am sure, was filled with the power of God that is going to make us be those flames to fire the world. Carolina Lalama, Burbank, California, 2003
A Pilgrimage Across America . . .
Eight states in focus with history tidbits

The heart and soul of the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign began with Sister M. Juliana Najarro in the farmlands and cities of Minnesota. She was a pharmacist at the Divine Providence Hospital and Home in Ivanhoe and had successfully founded the Apostolate of the Sick in addition to the traditional Schoenstatt Movement groups. Before 1979 she had received information about Deacon John Pozzobon. Quick to pick up on this, she wrote a letter to Father Esteban Uriburu requesting how to receive more Pilgrim MTA Shrines or how to make and number them and whatever other procedures should be observed.

Four or more shrines were brought to Minneapolis by June 4, 1986 by Father Garcia (a Schoenstatt Father from Chile who served in the Philippines). Zana Andrzejek of Ivanhoe made 100 wooden frames with Evelyn Guza and crew taking care of the finishing touches. These Pilgrim MTA Shrines were blessed July 20, 1986, at the Jubilee Family Shrine in Sleepy Eye, MN. The next two decades were marked by faithful traveling and many graces being distributed by Our MTA. For example, Pilgrim MTA #8 continues to this day in Alicia Hernandez’ group. The original 10 families, due to moving away, are now five families receiving her six days a month.

Deacon Sonny and Doctor Connie Laqui worked tirelessly for the SRC until their move to Nevada in 2002. Ana Maria Brown was the one who suggested to Father Esteban about meeting Mother Angelica on EWTN. The national Auxiliary MTA first visited the faithful Minnesota SRC groups in 2003. Twenty Schoenstatt Sisters who have found their vocation are from Minnesota.

Barbara echoes the sentiments of many: The monthly visits bring me a new peace and inner strength. The struggles that were there, somehow don't seem so hopeless or tragic now. My family is more open to sitting in the living room and talking after we pray the rosary together.

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MINNESOTA Land of 10,000 Lakes

It was just over 19 years ago that Mark and I were introduced to Schoenstatt. Another couple and we were very hesitant about attending any more meetings as our lives were already so busy. For me personally, I was already attending three religious meetings a month and had three children. The meeting was an hours drive from our home. My friend and I decided if it worked out that the homeschool convention allowed enough time for us to get to the meeting, we would go. It ended at 4 p.m. and we had enough travel time to get to the 7 p.m. meeting. My friend and I just loved it.

When we got home at midnight, my husband could not believe how on fire we were for Schoenstatt. He readily agreed and wanted to be a part of it.

It could have been at our second monthly meeting that we received the traveling MTA shrine. Oh, how excited I was. It was a wooden shrine with doors that open and close. I so loved the picture of the MTA as we did not have one yet. We let the children peak and look at the MTA that was placed in our living room. For small children this was a fun game and a great way for us to introduce more faith. I recall it was very hard to give the shrine up, but we did. It was about a year later that we made our covenant of love and homeshrine dedication steps.

We are very grateful to the Hublys for introducing us to Schoenstatt. We are so blessed to have the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt living in our home. She has been very active, gracious, and loving in our home and with our family.

Now we are so blessed to have five traveling shrines circulating from our home. One of these is for the sick. Another one is for just our immediate family in which the MTA travels to each one of the seven members of our family. As three of our children are living away from home, my husband thought he would like the MTA to be visiting each one of them on a regular basis. The other three shrines travel to small family groups in our area.

We are very grateful to the sisters and to the man who built this shrine and thank you, dearest Mother.

Mark & Chris Rockers, Winnebago, MN
In October of 1986, I received my special mission, one that would forever change my life. The very first Pilgrim MTA arrived from New York at a crucial time for our family. I was going through a difficult pregnancy (I had lost two previous babies) when a Schoenstatt friend, Bridget Molloy, asked if I could take the picture of our Mother to visit different families. She was having problems with her eyesight and could not drive. When I told her my doctor ordered “bed rest,” she said that Our Lady “had to go back”! That would be a mortal sin I recalled telling her. I immediately welcomed the Pilgrim MTA into our “Lady of the Rainbow” home shrine and prayed that she would show me what to do.

It was easy for me because I knew that God had chosen me for a special reason, just as he had chosen our family in dedicating our home shrine in honor of Father Kentenich’s 100th Birthday. I began slowly, taking our MTA to a different home every two days. Then, I began going into parishes, schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. With God’s strength I began to give talks, conduct workshops and organize as many as three buses of pilgrims traveling to our nearest Schoenstatt Shrine located on Staten Island, New York. Our home shrine became a “powerhouse.” With guidance from the Holy Spirit, we would hold October Conventions in the form of family picnics.

My husband Ron made over 100 Pilgrim MTA’s. Our travels lead us throughout all of the New England States and into Canada! In all, Our Lady touched hundreds of lives calling over 150 coordinators with approximately 200 groups in Massachusetts alone! This led to numerous covenants of love, and home shrine dedications as well as girls and boys youth groups. Unfortunately, my pregnancy ended in losing another child. This being the third miscarriage, I just knew that I had to offer my suffering to our Mother Thrice Admirable and continue to trust and live my covenant of love. Our Lady made me stronger than ever. I did not give up on her nor did she give up on me.

Our “living rainbow” was finally born in 1990. Our son was to be named after our father and founder. Other miracles of healing were felt throughout the Rosary Campaign: families united after long separations; adults who were once “lost” returned to their faith; wounds were healed from the scars of divorce and abuse; healings of diseases such as cancer. In the state of Maine, a mother brought the MTA to her 4-year old daughter who had almost drowned. After having been in a coma for over a year, she and the nursing staff prayed the rosary for several days, and the little girl made a remarkable recovery! My father, David, at the age of 90 also received so many blessings from our Mother, that in thanksgiving he would, as John Pozzobon did, walk every day bringing the MTA to a different home.

Our recent miracle occurred on October 7, 2009, on the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Our “Traveling Rosary Apostolate Family Ministry” went on “live” on the Internet. Our website www.travelingrosaries-ma.com is another testimony of Our Lady’s love for us. Please take a few moments and visit our website which we have dedicated to our MTA. She has full power and control over our lives. All we ever have to do is to speak her fiat. As our recent Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman’s coat of arms states: Cor ad cor loquitur (“Heart speaks to heart”).

Linda Gerlip, Westfield, MA
In July of 1987 the Schoenstatt Family of Texas made a bus pilgrimage to the exile land of our father and founder. Father Kentenich gave us many gifts. Besides the gift of his spiritual closeness as our father, we took with us the footprints of his shoes for our Father Room, we purchased pews from St. Michaels Church, and Sister M. Thomasine offered me a Pilgrim Shrine to take to Texas. Almost everyone on our journey home took great interest in the Pilgrim Shrine.

In August three mothers were commissioned with a Pilgrim MTA Shrine for the Dioceses of Corpus Christi and Brownsville. Mr. Joe Rodriguez in Corpus Christi fabricated the new shrines. In the following years of 1988, 1989 and 1990 we had great years of commissioning Pilgrim Shrines at our annual May and September Pilgrimage Days. On these Pilgrimage Days about 1,200 pilgrims came to the Confidentia Shrine from the Dioceses of Brownsville, San Antonio, Laredo and Corpus Christi.

From 1990-1995 Father Esteban Uriburu visited. He invited Don and Kristine Blan from Dallas, Victor and Olga Alegria from Austin and Celina Garza from Harlingen to form a State Team of leaders to take care of the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign in Texas! In January of 1991 we had the first State Team Workshop with Father Esteban. Father Hector Vega, Father Gerold Langsch, Sister M. Daniela, Sister M. Corelia and for that time Sister Mary Lestina took part in the workshop. The regional directors of the State Team tried to get teams in their own dioceses who helped with the work of the Campaign. Don Blan brought the first Auxiliary Shrine for Texas by plane from Brazil. He also made the first crown by hand for this shrine. Victor Alegria carved from wood the first statue of John Pozzobon for the Center in Lamar.

In the year 2000 we counted 3000 Pilgrim Shrines in seven dioceses. Mr. Joe Rodriguez lovingly made the first 200 Pilgrim Shrines. Mr. Inocencio Cruz from Rockport also made beautiful shrines for some time and so did Victor Alegria. Then Mr. Zeke Garza from Santa Rosa in the Brownsville Diocese took on the task of the Pilgrim Shrines. It truly became his favorite job until God called him home December 7, 2008. Today, the Blessed Mother calls Mr. Anthony Scamardo from Dallas to continue to work on the Pilgrim Shrines.

Every year at the closing holy Mass of the State Team Workshop, we crown our Mother and Queen in our Auxiliary Shrines in the Confidentia Shrine! In thanksgiving and petition we compose a coronation prayer annually so that our Mother and Queen will glorify herself through her instruments.

May our victorious Queen in her Pilgrim Shrines continue to conquer hearts for her Divine Son, not only in South and North Texas but in the whole Lone Star State, in the USA, and the whole world!

Sister M. Corelia Bechold, Lamar, TX
Nina Stackpole first saw Schoenstatt on EWTN. Barbara Hebert drove her to visit people in Harahan to start the first group. This coincides with Lisa Janusa who started her group in August 1990. By summer 1993 Nina had organized 88 SRC groups of 10 members each in LA & MS, which was more than 30% of the total national SRC membership in the USA! Nina maintains constant communication with all of the coordinators and at the end of the year’s commitment helps determine whether group members want to make their covenant, establish a home shrine, or continue in the campaign for another year. She was instrumental in the design and completion of a SRC Banner which accompanies SRC members to religious functions in the New Orleans area. When Nina gave on the state coordinatorship to Cathy Johnson in 1995 there were 235 active groups.

Starting small, with a meeting in her home with Fr. Dieter Haas and Sr. Mary Lestina, Cathy was able to lead many members to seal their COL and in the blessing of their home shrines before Hurricane Katrina flooded her home and necessitated her move to Birmingham. She was instrumental in recruiting and organizing Area Coordinators: Gwen Bordenave and Cindy Hemelt, New Orleans; Paula McElroy and Marian Wellman, River Ridge/Kenner; Kathy Strickland and Barbara Hebert, Metairie; Sally Fradella and Florence Aravelo, West Bank; Lee Tredenari, St. Rose/Norco; Millie Blanchard, Hammond; Melinda Mayeux and MaryLynn Womack, Baton Rouge; Marlene Gonzalzles, Slidell; Camilla Ledet, Thibodaux; Joan Rodrigue, Pierre Part; Michelle Choppe, Alexandria; Wenella Cormier, Lafayette; and Angela Styczenski, Gulfport, MS. Through Cathy’s leadership as State Coordinator, SRC of LA was growing!!

Louisiana was well represented at the Journeys of Love held in Waukesha and Rockport by over 15 members. When we hosted the 2001 state dinner all enjoyed a memorable New Orleans cuisine of red beans and rice, crawfish pies, salad, and a dessert of bread pudding and pralines, complete with a Mardi Gras parade! Through the JoL, we grew in our Schoenstatt spirituality, learning and delving into the lives of Father Kentenich, John Pozzobon, and so much more. We were also blessed by many visits to our state by Father Dieter, Sisters Mary, Jessica, and Diane, and Alicia Hernandez.

In January 2007, we traveled to EWTN to offer support to Sister Jessica as Father Pacwa interviewed her on EWTN Live. Building a wayside shrine at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Kenner was realized in April of 2008, when dedicated by Father Richard Miles (our very supportive pastor).

Gina Cevallos is very active as coordinator of the Hispanic members in New Orleans. She meets weekly with members who are interested in sealing their COL, and on every 18th John and Kathy Strickland, state coordinators since 2005, were able to attend the SRC Europe Pilgrimage in July 2010. They have been working hard verifying SRC groups due to the flooding and dislocation or death of so many of our Schoenstatt members. Nina Stackpole’s MTA picture enshrined at OLPH was crowned in 2006 “Queen of our Recovery and Renewal.”

Kathy & John Strickland, Metairie, LA

Our group started in the early 1990’s when Mary Jochum saw a Schoenstatt pamphlet. She was so drawn to the image that she attended a meeting in Metairie, and began our group. I’ll never forget how during the first month of Our Lady’s visits, each home received a large or small miracle. All went well until Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005.

St. Bernard was completely destroyed, and our group was scattered for hundreds of miles. Unfortunately our Pilgrim MTA had been accidentally left behind during the evacuation and was lost. In the midst of losing everything, our time with Our Lady was missed more than ever! After more than a year of trying to replace our Pilgrim MTA, I was searching the Internet and “accidentally” came across a lady’s name and phone number in Texas.

I called to ask if she could give me any information that would help us to locate the national or Louisiana leaders. After telling her about our group, she decided to donate not one, but two MTAs to help us restart our group. As we discussed delivery arrangements, we realized that she was located just minutes from my parents. After Hurricane Katrina, we had temporarily relocated them to Austin so that my sisters could care for them until they could find a new home in the New Orleans area. As she and I spoke, my brothers had just finished loading the moving truck to bring our parents home. She rushed the Pilgrim MTAs over as they were preparing to leave! What a homecoming to be able to welcome both our parents and Our Lady back into our lives!

Adding new members and losing others, our group began to re-form; our MTAs traveled from Baton Rouge, Hammond, Ponchatoula, Covington, Madisonville, and Mandeville (hundreds of miles). Exchanges were made at halfway points, shopping centers, etc. (wherever we could). As others discovered Schoenstatt, we have added member after member, group after group, and have grown to six groups.

Kathy and John Strickland have been indispensable. In April of 2010, eight of us celebrated our covenant of love.

Millie & Willie Blanchard, Hammond, LA
With the blessing of Our Mother Thrice Admirable, the first Image received in Florida was made in Brazil, where the campaign started under the name of the World Rosary Campaign of Don Joao Pozzobon. It was blessed in Florencio Varela, Argentina. One thousand Hail Mary’s were prayed before the Image was sent to the United States, being brought by Johnny Ortiz, a Schoenstatter from Atlanta who was working for Eastern Airlines.

Aida Rivera and Belkis Amado received the SRC mission from Father Carlos Boskamp on January 20, 1986. In June of 1986 Father Esteban Uribrur gave a meeting at the home of Kathy and Luis Asanza, with Father Carlos in attendance. America Feijoo, a Cuban, also promoted the Pilgrim MTA through a large group of families.

On February 10, 1988, Father Jorge Avila (from Chile) blessed the first eight Pilgrim Pictures made by Mr. Cipriano Hernandez, as a gift to the Blessed Mother for interceding for his daughter who was dying. He made them in the balcony of his house and he did a beautiful job. With a special blessing the following people consecrated themselves to work for the Rosary Campaign; Maria Antonia, Ida Garcia, Isolina Valdes, Aida Rivera at Tampa, Kathy Asanza within her parish, Ramonita Rodriguez, and Maria Menendez (work colleague from Belkis Amado, who still works with the MTA in her St Benito Parish).

At St. Barbara Parish on April 1, 1988, Yolanda Camejo received the Pilgrim MTA and became a coordinator. Maritza Maggio (who had been in Santa Maria in 1987 and received two Pilgrim MTAs from Sister M. Regina) and Yolanda traveled to Brazil to the international meeting of the Rosary Campaign in Santa Maria that was held on April 14, 1988. They shared with us their wonderful experiences with people from different countries all united by their love for Mary and their desire to spread the Rosary Campaign throughout the world.

On June 24, 1988, another image was blessed by Father Carlos Boskamp and given to Cipriano and Justa Hernandez. On October 2 of the same year, Maria Teresa Heinert was commissioned. On September 23, 1990, Father Jose Luis Nieto (from Ecuador) blessed 11 Pilgrim MTAs that were given to several coordinators. Belkis Amado and Maritza Maggio

Sara Ycasa first started a youth group to a couples group in Ecuador in 1972; her husband, Marcelo, made the first Images in 1978 at the request of Father Garcia Huidobro. They moved to Miami in 1992 and started the first group in Coral Gables. Sara asked Father Esteban how she would know “when the Mater asks something of me” and he replied, “Sarita, do not worry, She will tell you,” and indeed that was the case. Father Christian Christensen, who was our leader in Ecuador and now visits Miami, asked me to take charge of the SRC after Maritza Maggio, in May 2000. I began to say I......I......, no, Father and when I said no, I saw the figure of Father Esteban telling me, “Do not worry, She will tell you,” and I accepted the responsibility.

We have over 600 Pilgrim MTAs, two for the blind and over 250 of the smaller Pilgrim MTAs for hospital visits. There are over 450 coordinators in Miami, Weston, Hollywood, Hialeah, El Doral, Coral Gables, Homestead, and Florida City, as well as Pilgrim Shrines going to Nicaragua, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, and Bahamas.

For over 15 years we have a general encounter on the eve of Mother’s Day and every three months, Father Christian offers formation. At Thanksgiving time we commission new coordinators. The Pilgrim MTA is the best apostolate, as the missionaries are linked to activities and begin to know Father Kentenich and belong to the Schoenstatt Family!

On Sunday, December 12, 2010
the 10th USA Schoenstatt Shrine
WAY TOWARDS THE MERCIFUL FATHER
will be dedicated at 22800 SW 187th Ave,
Miami, FL 33170, Telephone 954-961-4507.

The Shrine Mission was found on September 15, 2010: As Exile Children loyally united in the covenant of love, we want to be light and the way towards the Merciful Father.

Join with us as the SRC offers the four windows of the shrine. It is as if the MTA's light comes from the illumined shrine through the four windows with the hope of spilling out and illuminating all continents through the work of the Pilgrim MTA.

Standing from left to right are: Kathy Asanza and Liliana Zaldivar, Father Esteban, Nirza Ramos and Belkis Amado, Belkis’ daughter Lilian with her husband and their children in front. Sitting in front on left is Matty Pell and Lourdez Ordaz is on lower right side.
VIRGINIA - Open Your Heart to Our MTA

BEGINNING
On September 15, 1990, Elfi Stitz received the first, small Pilgrim Shrine from Father Widmaier in Klein-Schoenstatt, Germany, for the purpose of beginning Schoenstatt in Virginia. For several years, she made Schoenstatt known to parish priests and individuals as well as among friends, ordering Schoenstatt materials from the Pater Kentenich Sekretariat in Vallendar, Germany.

GOAL FOR SCHOENSTATT IN VIRGINIA
To build a Schoenstatt Shrine, a Retreat Center and a Family Academy for the education and support of holy family leaders and a strong family movement. Elfi Stitz has been leading the Schoenstatt Movement and SRC from 2001-2009 when Enrique Soros took on the responsibility. Both worked closely with a team of 10-15 committed individuals.

COVENANT OF LOVE
On January 4, 1992, 13 persons, including Father Peffley, made the covenant of love at St. Clare in Clifton, VA. These were followed by: 52 persons on September 4, 1993, at St. Andrew the Apostle. 186 children on September 8, 1995 at St. Andrew the Apostle Elementary School. 5 persons on November 24, 1996 at Maria Sazonov’s home. 18 persons in March 1997, 7 in March 1998 and 1 in 1999. 12 in 2000s for a total until 2010 of 108 adults and 186 children.

In addition, there are 237 covenants Marylene Villasis has coordinated in Virginia Beach.

PILGRIM MTA’s
In the early 1990s, when Father Francis Peffley came to St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, we began with Pilgrim MTA circles. He also wrote a song to Our Lady of Schoenstatt.

By 1994 I commissioned SRC coordinators. At that time we required 15 members for each circle. Approximately 150 Pilgrim MTAs were given out here in VA, in DC and MD. Some went as far as Switzerland, one to India, and several to Latin America.

December 6, 1993, nine children MTAs went to each class room at St. Andrew, the Apostle Elementary School, Clifton, Virginia, for circulation among the families of each student.

In 1994 the National Auxiliary Shrine came to the Diocese of Arlington and visited many homes and parishes. The Auxiliary also visited the Basilica of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

Visits were made with the Pilgrim MTA to hospitals, nursing homes, and the Fairfax prison.

HOMESHRINES
The first home shrine in VA, dedicated on December 12, 1992, was at the home of Ken and Elfi Stitz, “HOUSE OF REFUGE.” 31 home shrines have been dedicated in Virginia to our knowledge.

WAYSIDE SHRINES
In 1996, the first wayside shrine in VA was erected in the Stitz garden, for her victory in Virginia, “QUEEN OF CASTLE HILL.”

May 17, 1998, the second wayside shrine was dedicated at the home of Joan and Paul Rinderle, “MARIENGARTEN.”

May 31, 1999, a wayside shrine was dedicated at St. Andrew the Apostle parish grounds in Clifton, VA, “MOTHER OF UNITY.”

September 24, 1999, the fourth wayside shrine came to Holy Family Academy, a Catholic private school, “MOTHER OF THE HOLY FAMILY.”

GROUPS and ACTIVITIES
There are three women’s groups in VA, two English-speaking, one Spanish-speaking. There were at least two annual days of recollection held by Schoenstatt Fathers and/or Sisters. Elfi Stitz, 6/9/2010

Marylene Villasis is an example of a selfless area coordinator, who works in the Chesapeake, VA, area. She has literally brought hundreds of people to seal their covenants and found hundreds of coordinators to bring the Pilgrim MTA on her journey. She works with seven different pastors and has ordered thousands of Schoenstatt books to give on the Schoenstatt spirituality which shapes her life. It was a great experience for her and her husband, Felipe, to go on the July 16-30, 2010, pilgrimage to Europe with the SRC. Marylene has made Schoenstatt her life blood; she is a true apostle for the Schoenstatt mission.
Lis Family builds strong Schoenstatt League

In 1984 a Schoenstatt couple, Carol and Gordon Lis, moved from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Sidney, Ohio. This same year a Schoenstatt Mothers’ group was formed in Sidney and 1 ½ years later they sealed their covenant of love. Then in 1986 a second group formed with people from other small towns. In this way the Schoenstatt Movement gradually grew.

In August of 1986, Sister M. Thomasine gave the Ohio Movement a Pilgrim Rosary Shrine and a Rosary Pilgrimage began in Sidney on September 1 of that year. That pilgrimage has continued until today. The next two Pilgrim Shrines began circulating in Tipp City with one of the new Schoenstatt members. In 1987 one Pilgrim Shrine was given to the Spanish community at Holy Trinity Church in Dayton. Gradually more and more Rosary Shrines began circulating around Ohio as more and more rosary groups were formed. The first rosary shrines for Ohio came from Waukesha.

Sister Petronette, a Franciscan nun who sealed her covenant, began the campaign at Maria Linden Center in Rockford, Illinois. The Pilgrim Shrines went to Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Piqua, Troy, Fort Recovery, Anna, Steubenville, Minster, Wapakoneta, and Lima plus other sites in Ohio. They were also sent to Louisville, Bardstown and Corbin, Kentucky; Unionville, Tennessee; Elmira, New York; Bryant, Indiana; Thurmont, Maryland; and other states. One Pilgrim Shrine was brought with a lay missionary to Quito, Ecuador, where it was carried in procession. Recently several Pilgrim Shrines were sent to Rwanda and Sister Patricia Mukanyonga reports that several of her orphans have been making the Pilgrim MTA’s for the people of the town who are affectionately drawn to our Mother Thrice Admirable.

Over 200 Pilgrim Shrines have made a pilgrimage in Ohio. Many have been sent to other states and even to other countries. Thirteen groups, totaling 109 people from various areas in Ohio, have sealed their covenant of love through the Rosary Campaign.

The smaller Pilgrim Shrines have circulated at St. Gerard’s in Lima; Holy Angels school in Sidney; Christendom College; St. Timothy school in Columbus; St. Mary school, and PSR (Public School Religion) in Greenville; Our Lady of Victory school in Cincinnati, and St. Boniface youth choir in Piqua.

Personal testimonies have been reported regarding the special intercession of our Mother Thrice Admirable in difficult cases through the presence and the graces of the Pilgrim Rosary Shrines. Carol Lis, September 30, 2010

The question is often asked how one finds “lost” Pilgrim MTA Shrines. Curtis Kneblik answers: Sometimes it comes in a simple invitation for people to bring their Pilgrim MTA’s to an event. In the following case, this Pilgrim MTA wasn’t lost, the four people in the group were very aware of her presence. But I who had initiated the Rosary Campaign anew through the Transfiguration Center didn’t know that she was literally in my backyard with Tipp City being five minutes from Ludlow Falls.

So I invited the Schoenstatt Family to bring their Pilgrim MTA’s to our Schoenstatt Adoration which we have each First Friday. We spend nearly three hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on these days. Kathleen Barhorst brought her Pilgrim MTA. I couldn’t believe it was one of the originals that came from the International Schoenstatt Center on October 7, 1987 the Marian Year. She showed me how the cross had broken off the top but could be placed back on once the shrine reached a new home. She showed me the dates on the back and how it had been crowned on June 22, 1996, as Queen of All Hearts during the Rosary Campaign Conference. Kathleen said, “The shrine has meant comfort. When she comes I know everything is going to be okay. When she leaves, things don’t feel as secure.”

Kathleen Barhorst, Tipp City, Ohio

Francie Callahan, Springfield, Ohio: “The image of the Pilgrim Shrine has captivated me. When I look at that image I feel like she is embracing me.”

Alexandra McCabe, Springfield, Ohio: “I just had a spiritual experience that I hadn’t had with anything else. I could feel a true presence. I feel she is with me, she is attached to me. I bring the Pilgrim MTA to the ladies at the nursing home. Most aren’t Catholic but they ask, “Where’s Mary, where’s our baby Jesus?”

Curtis Kneblik, new leader of the Schoenstatt Family in Ohio, stands at the wayside shrine located at the Transfiguration Center in Ludlow Falls, Ohio.
A most influential tool of the MTA for growth and depth in the SRC is to take her children on a pilgrimage. In April 1988 & 1989 leaders of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Paraguay met in Santa Maria producing a “Document of Consensus.”

From May 21-24, 1992, 13 delegates from the USA attended the Encounter of the Americas in Brazil. Ana & Guillermo Echevarría presented a video of the March 1984 trip for the first 25 Pilgrim MTAs for the Americas. They stressed that when the rosary is prayed in the spirit of the covenant of love it is a “BOMB!” Chile reported over 2,000 traveling shrines expanding the movement. Sanctity, missionary impulse, creativity in catechesis, solidarity and communion, and human dignity were panel discussions.

The Auxiliary Shrine, crowned “Queen of the New Evangelization of the Americas” after being commissioned by Father Esteban, was brought to Texas for a year of travel.

It is with a sense of awe, excitement, and anticipation that we return to begin our mission anew. Celina Garza, TX

Eight women left Miami airport on December 7, 1994, to witness the opening process for the beatification of Deacon John Pozzbon. This took place in Santa Maria, Brazil, (in the 100 degree heat of summer) on December 12 which would have been Deacon John’s 90th birthday as well as the great feast of Patroness of the Americas. The stations of the cross, built by John, were prayed in the morning, followed by Mass in the open square. All were invited by John’s two daughters to a celebration in his home. Adoration from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. was followed by the opening rite.

Bishop Ivo Lorscheiter stated that we have a role in Pozzobon’s canonization. We must become holier because of him. We must prove by our lives that he was a saint. The Church will be looking at the fruit of his work, which is us.

Nancy Zeller, WI

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the SRC took place November 2-5, 2000, in Santa Maria, Brazil, with the first international gathering of 147 SRC leaders from 16 countries. The USA delegation included six from Texas, three from Wisconsin, Sara Ycaza from Florida and Brigitte Allen from California. The Schoenstatt language (smiles, open faces, hand shakes, gestures, and the covenant of love) was what united everyone. The themes explored were: The work of the Campaign in relation to the Movement, the Church and Society. Father Carmona, Director of the movement and SRC in Argentina spoke of the Campaign being a new and renewed visitation into our time, an eruption of grace, life, and love. We want to draw people into the whirlpool of Mary. No one is excluded from the visits of the Pilgrim MTA. There is no place where she cannot enter. It is through the Pilgrim MTA that many people find the way to the branches of the Schoenstatt Family. Where the league is diocesan, federation is national and the institutes are international, the SRC is all of the above, and has given a great ecclesial awareness of Schoenstatt. Bishops and priests admire how the SRC helps the Church go places and areas where otherwise she cannot go.” Brigitte Allen, CA

From September 3-7, 2004, an international congress took place in Santa Maria, Brazil, to celebrate Deacon John’s 100th birthday. Nine USA delegates from six states joined with 375 persons from 15 other countries to evangelize anew with the SRC. It was a powerful experience to pray and walk with John, meet his children, experience the Brazilian culture, and be invigorated by the MTA to share the spiritual gifts we received in abundance - Obrigado!

1995 - 30 SRC leaders went to Germany & Switzerland for 10th USA Anniversary

2010 - 45 to Europe for the Diamond Jubilee of SRC & the Centennial of Father Kentenich’s Ordination, July 16-30th

2014 - Centennial of Schoenstatt. Begin a fundraiser and send a group delegate!
The Head - Father Kentenich

Long-awaited news is that the Cause of Canonization for Father Kentenich progresses! This news flash can be viewed on the Schoenstatt International website www.schoenstatt.de.

In the month of July, the Episcopal Delegate, Dr. George Holkenbrink, has been able to dedicate himself intensely to the cause of canonization. All of the judicial requirements established by canon law have been fulfilled. Now lacking are a series of technical tasks, such as photocopying, authentication of the documents, preparation of the indexes, etc. which will require time and labor in the next months. The date for the closing session will be set by the diocesan bishop, Bishop Ackerman. In due time, we will inform the International Family so they may join in the celebration. Along with thanking God for these advances in the cause, it is important to continue praying for the grace of a good continuation and conclusion of the investigation of the cause in the Diocese of Trier and the grace of a miracle worked by intercession of the Father Founder.

Father Angel Lorenzo Strada, Postulator

Man to Man on the Rosary

Over a hundred years ago a university student found himself in a train by the side of a person who seemed to be a well-to-do peasant. He was praying the rosary and moving the beads with his fingers.

“Sir, do you believe in such outdated things?” asked the student of the old man.

“Yes, I do. Do you not?” asked the man.

The student burst out into laughter and said, “I do not believe in such silly things. Take my advice. Throw the Rosary out through this window and learn what science has to say about it.”

“Science? I do not understand this science. Perhaps you can explain it to me,” the man said humbly with some tears in his eyes.

The student saw the man was deeply moved. So to avoid further hurting the feeling of the man, he said. “Please give me your address and I will send you some literature to help you on the matter.” The man fumbled in the inside pocket of his coat and gave the boy his visiting card. On glancing at the card, the student bowed his head in shame and became silent. The card read: “Louis Pasteur, Director of the Institute of Scientific Research, Paris.”

SRC Newsletter, Fall 1989, p. 6

The Heart - MTA Takes Care

I thought about writing something for you about my experiences with our Mother Thrice Admirable, MTA Pilgrim Shrine. Then I thought about my shrine and all the miles MTA has traveled with me. I could never top our dear John Pozzobon, but believe me, my shrine has been many places and traveled many miles. MTA visited my dear friend JoAnn Kayani’s home several times a week for two or more years where our SRC prayer group surrounded JoAnn in prayer and song as she battled Lou Gehrig’s disease. MTA’s next mission was to provide comfort to Jeannice Richards until she was called home after many years of suffering with asthma.

Then, it was time for MTA to accompany me on my many trips to Daytona Beach, FL to comfort my son in his many struggles and battles. MTA sat on the passenger side of my car neatly strapped in place. The trips back and forth from VA to FL were many, and the 900 miles each way took two days to drive, but though it was just the two of us, I never felt alone or afraid. Through the grace of God and my wonderful MTA as a companion, a boldness and a power helped me meet every challenge.

Mother Thrice Admirable was with me when I was told twice by Jeff’s doctors that he would not make it through the surgery that he was about to experience to stop his hemorrhaging. Well, Mother took charge. Following one of Jeff’s many surgeries I was told I could only visit Jeff in the recovery room for 10 minutes every hour. Jeff, in his semi-conscious state pleaded with the nurse to allow me to stay in the recovery room with him. I was so upset at having to leave Jeff I didn’t know what to do. So, with the use of towels, I prepared an altar for MTA in the recovery room and there She sat comforting my son in my absence. Praise God for Schoenstatt & MTA!!!

I also want to thank you for the notice about Jeff being carried away by the angels. As I read that line, it became a permanent reflection that I thank you for. The image softened the memories so nicely.

Joan Rinderle, Fairfax, VA

Alicia Hernandez and I were just speaking about any recent answers to petition received through the intercession of Deacon John Pozzobon. The next morning I picked up Marge Zeier for First Saturday Devotions and she told me: “I have good news. We sold our house and I could sign the papers yesterday on October 1st.” I answered that I was so happy and she said with a little smile: “I prayed to John Pozzobon - but I was in the middle of my sixth novena to him!” Now she can fly in peace on Sunday to Florida. Thank you, Deacon John, for helping!

Sister M. Jessica, WI
The Home - Build a Shrine for Her

On the SRC Pilgrimage to Europe this past July, it was a wonderful site to see the little wayside shrines along our route from Rome to Trier.

Another wayside shrine is posted online at www.RefugeofSinners.org.

Would it not be a great idea if everyone of our readers could prepare some public display of Our MTA? Think of what an encouragement this would be to souls who no longer make time for spiritual values in their lives. This is something many in our country do not realize they lack ...

Charles & Delia Arsuaga, Falfurrias, Texas, built a wayside shrine with nine pews where weary hearts can catch a quiet moment with our heavenly Mother and her Child.

Curtis Kneblik has raised the question: Do any of the Daughter Shrines have a web cam set up? I want to make a visit online. Would there be anyone willing to work on this technology for our dear MTA and her many children in the USA.

Three Butler Brothers, Michael, Brennan, and Patrick are proud to take the Pilgrim MTA to their family federation groups and retreats.

With heartfelt thanks for all that has been and happy expectation for all that is to come!

New Director:
Sister Miriam Lopez
W284 N698 Cherry Lane
Waukesha, WI 53188
rosary@schsrsmary.org
(262) 522-4300

Dear Pilgrim MTA, you enrich our lives, you share in our destinies and give us your motherly love which comforts and gives strength. Longing to open all hearts for God, you take Christ to us as you carried him to Elizabeth. Mother and Queen, we also know that you need our cooperation in order to act through the Pilgrim Shrines. Nothing without you, nothing without us. We accompany you on your pilgrim journey to the people with our contributions to the capital of grace today. Set our hearts afire and send us forth to every state. Amen.