

Reflections

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02 – January 1, 2007

The Light (Lite) Schoenstatter and the Golden Schoenstatter

First a brief description of the light (lite) person who seems very much like the light (lite) products which are in vogue today.

* He/she is a well informed person, but with little humane education. His/her goal is an easy and comfortable life; his/her aspirations are money, success, well-being and pleasure; he/she tries to accomplish them without moral restrictions.

* His/her opinions change constantly; his/her ways of conduct depend on what is in fashion at the present. He/she is a superficial person, frivolous and empty. He/she is a person without serious commitments who lives solely for self.

I would not be surprised if we were contaminated by these abominable tendencies. In that case, we would apply what has been said to the “light (lite) Schoenstatter.” Why do I tell you this? It will allow us to help our children in their difficult battle against these destructive tendencies of the world today.

The contrary is the **Golden Schoenstatter: what characteristics should he/she have?** To better understand the idea, let us see what the Father and Founder, Fr. Joseph Kentenich, thinks about the iron Schoenstatters and the silver Schoenstatters.

The iron Schoenstatter strives to fulfill his/her basic duties but does not have the strength for sacrifice and renunciation. He/she lives in a state of lukewarmness and superficiality. He/she is not guided by reason but by the senses and instincts:

His/her eyes have to see everything. His/her ears have to hear everything.....be aware of the latest rumors.....must eat everything in sight. He/she strives to avoid serious sin, but is in constant danger of falling into the temptations of the world, of the flesh and of the senses.

Thus, the iron Schoenstatter is a close relative to the light (lite) person whose ideal is that of the minimum effort and the maximum comfort. We become aware that we are not so different from this type of person.

The image which describes him/her is the ostrich. He/she is the person so attached to the ground that he/she cannot lift himself/herself to fly to the highest heights.

The silver Schoenstatter is an active person, apostolic, spiritual, committed. The silver Schoenstatter does have the strength for sacrifice and renunciation, but what intimately moves him/her are natural motivations: ambition, vanity, egoism, the desire to be recognized and admired. His/her own self is still in the center.

I think many of us still gravitate in this level of the silver Schoenstatter. It is hard for us to take the final step, to get rid of egoism in our heart and in our life.

The silver person is personified in the chicken. He/she can flutter, rise a little above the ground, aspire now and then to the highest heights.

The golden Schoenstatter is the person from beyond who is totally rooted in the world of God. He/she has surrendered his/her understanding, his/her will and his/her heart totally to God. His/her motto is to do only what pleases the Father. He/she has forgotten self and sees the world with the eyes of God. The golden Schoenstatter wants God to be the helmsman of his/her life. He/she knows only one thought: the will of God, also in pain and in the cross. Therefore, Fr. Kentenich says that the golden Schoenstatter becomes a reality when he/she takes seriously his/her cross.....when he/she begins to experience it in his/her daily life.

The animal which characterizes the golden person is the eagle. It rises above the earth, aspires for the highest heights, is close to God.

Brothers and sisters, we are all on the way. We aspire and we strive for this high ideal. Some day we will be a community of golden Schoenstatters.

Questions for reflection

1. Iron, silver, and gold.....where am I?
2. Are sacrifice and renunciation hard for me?
3. Will I give God the helm of my life?

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