

Reflections

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Spirit of Victory

Like the first Christians, Schoenstatt is characterized by a spirit of great victory. That sense of victory emerged, especially, after the deadly struggle during the time of Nazism.

We in Schoenstatt do not base ourselves on the natural level, on human considerations. We believe in the influence of divine forces: “.....where God espouses himself with the weak.....” prays the HOME SONG. On another occasion, Father Kntenich says: In Schoenstatt “*the omnipotence of God is espoused with the impotence of man.*”

And that is the only motive of our victory, of our faith in the triumph of Schoenstatt’s cause.

Mary, sign of victory. For that reason we call the Virgin the great sign of victory. She herself, as a person, is the proof of the triumph over all that is worldly and diabolical. There where She appears, will be a great sign of victory and the victory will accompany our banner. Because She is ‘*the Victress in all God’s battles,*’ that is, through Her, God has always triumphed.

Take her to the battlefield. And we, who are her instruments, what are we to do then? Father Kntenich says: “*We should take the Blessed Virgin to the battlefield!*” Hidden behind it is the conviction: “*the devil celebrates his witchery and sorcery (sabbat) everywhere, and if the crusher of the serpent does not intervene in the battle, we cannot hope to conquer.*” But if She goes with us, we dare to fight and have the victory.

a) We should especially take the Blessed Virgin to the battlefield of one’s own heart. “*Who should help us, therefore, to dominate our inner instincts? Who should give us strength when we have failed? Who should help us rise when we have fallen?.....whether it is about conquering my instincts, whether it is about always being gallant (in economic struggles), or whether it is about always being on the side of those who are my own in whatever failure.....we should always take the Virgin to the battlefield of our heart.*”

It is also the meaning of the Consecration: to proclaim the Virgin as Queen on the throne of our own heart.”

b) We should also take her to the battlefield of our family, of our home. It can be about family problems, lack of communication, lack of understanding, lack of love and freedom, generational difficulties, an over-protective mother, a weak or absent father, etc. It can be about marital problems, difficulties in the education of the children, economic needs.

And what answer does Father Kntenich give to these difficulties? “*I always sleep well because the Blessed Virgin is responsible for me. I have sealed a Covenant of Love with her. She does it all. She is concerned about everything. (Therefore, all the children God gives me, I lead to the Virgin.....If I tell her I give her my child, She accepts the child and is concerned for the child).*”

That, of course, does not mean that we should do nothing. But what we need today is, above everything else, the heroism of a carefree and victorious confidence.

c) A healthy spirituality embraces the entire man, not only in his home, but also, and especially, at work, in his profession. Therefore, we must also take the Virgin to the battlefield of my profession: school, university, office, business..... If we give her the place which corresponds to her, then She will also be victorious in the battlefield of our profession.

Questions for reflection

1. Do I see the Virgin as the Victress?
2. Do I trust in Her in my struggles of daily life?
3. Do I have a picture of the Virgin at my place of work?

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