

## **Gift of the United States Schoenstatt Family for 2014**

About 230 representatives from 18 States were gathered at the National Leaders' Convention for the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Kentenich's ordination to the priesthood. We began with a festive liturgy presided over by Milwaukee Archbishop J. ListECKI on July 8, 2010 in the shadow of the Exile Shrine. During our convention at the International Center we presented our priestly Father with many gifts for his anniversary and planted a tree in his memory at the Shrine.

The Convention centered around the discussion of the gift of the United States Schoenstatt Family for **2014** when we are going to celebrate the birth of our **covenant of love** in the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt. From among the five suggested areas of our apostolic priorities which were chosen at the Planning Session in Schoenstatt in 2009 (marriage and family, youth, education, Church, Society), we chose **the strengthening of the family** as our striving during the remaining four years till 2014. Then our discussion focused on one of the precious gifts of the Blessed Mother during the exile time, the birth of the Home shrine.

At the Presidium meeting following the closing of the Convention, we decided that in this context our **special gift** from the United States for 2014 would be **our life with and in the HOME SHRINE**.

The Home shrine as our gift could invite us

- to deepen our own covenant life in the Home shrine and
- from the Home shrine to reach out to others and be apostolically active.

“To deepen and to draw”, those were two key words we used to describe our striving to grow deeper in our covenant life in the Home shrine – for the Church and the world.

The aspect of education in the family, the role of fatherhood in the family, the apostolic gift of the Pilgrim MTA, our contact with the Diocesan Clergy, etc. all these dimensions can flow out of our deepened life of the covenant of love from the Home shrine.

As **motto** we chose “Father, give us your light”. It is inspired by the “Shrine of light” in New York as the shrine we want to focus on for 2010/2011. Our apostolic spirit for the Church as an apostolic family, being a light to the nations, may guide us in our efforts to grow during this coming year.

July 16, 2010

Fr. Gerold M. Langsch

Movement Director