

Mercy and Schoenstatt

➤ *The image of God the Father as a father of merciful love*

Fr. Kentenich's farewell words in the Exile shrine, Sept. 15, 1965:

Child, do not forget your mother!

Child, do not forget the mercies of the Eternal Father God... and the mercy of the Blessed Mother!

Child, do not forget your misery." "Do not forget to utilize your miseries in order to grow deeper into the heart of the Eternal Father God." (Exile Legacy Book, pg. 94f)

The image of God the Father: a father of love and of mercy. "What is new to us, however, is the **extraordinary magnitude of this divine merciful love.**" (Ibid. pg. 128)

➤ *The image of the child accepting his state of "misery", acknowledging his weaknesses*

"Everyday Sanctity puts it this way: The recognized and **acknowledged weakness** of the child is the child's power and the Father's powerlessness." (Ibid. pg. 129)

➤ *The shrine as the cradle of mercy where we experience the motherly, merciful love of Mary*

Mary, Mother of Mercy: Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. (# 24)

➤ *Mercy is a fruit of self-education, striving for holiness: the shrine graces of inner transformation*

Forgiveness, compassion, kindness, merciful love presuppose serious striving on our part, and God's grace of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to aspire to the heights of holiness.