Leadership

- 1. *Educated educators:* These Christian personalities who are deeply rooted in their faith, come forth from a love and trust in God the Father that enables them to read in the voices of soul, of time, and of being, the best way to guide, protect, and educate those entrusted to their care.
- 2. With *priestly character, they are fatherly and motherly personalities*, who recognize the need for further formation, orientation, and clarity of their branch, group, or diocesan family, and therefore provide the means to attain it.
- 3. In *imitation of the Good Shepherd*, the Schoenstatt leaders are always willing to give their time, strength, and lives for the sheep.
- 4. As *living images of the Blessed Mother*, they are instruments in the hands of God. To the best of their abilities, they help others discover and embrace their mission, foster independence through orientation and renunciation, and when necessary step back and stand under the cross of those they have guided.

The following quotes expand each of the points. The numbers correspond with the description above.

1. Educated Educator

There is hardly anything more beautiful than being an educator. If you are a true educator your task forms you much more than you form others. Educating is a mutual procreative act. That is the secret of education, of the process of education. If I stand there like the lord whose followers can paw the floor, I may be holding class, but I am not educating. If I am not open to the value of my followers, they will not be open for mine.³

2. Priestly Fatherliness and Motherliness

Purity of morals and simple reverence are experiences that must precede, a person must see them lived out. Unless I educate myself and my following on the ethical level to the point of penetrating the world of reverence and purity, the organ [of faith] will not be sufficiently prepared for the divine. By experiential prior experience we mean the experience mediated by those who live exemplary lives. For example, to lead someone to my community, the best propaganda is someone who lives the ideal. As a Catholic I must lead a Catholic life, as a priest a priestly life. Then I can educate. ⁴

3. The Good Shepherd

Our Lord characterized himself as the good shepherd from the point of view of a shepherd's faithfulness. "The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep" (Jn. 10; 10). If you want to think over the thoughts from the point of view indicated, you will have to see our Lord's entire life – in as far as it illustrates his sacrificial love for his followers – from the point of view of love.⁵

4. Like Mary, Mother and Educator

The modern person is so worn – like a piece of wood that one puts down here, there, and that's the end of it. All along the line we must see these things in a new light. How beautiful it is, then, if I may be a father or a mother! If, as a mature person, I have returned to a sound way of thinking, all my strength and love belongs to my following. Then I never grow weary, for educators are lovers who never cease loving. Every sign of growth in those entrusted to my care is my greatest bliss. I am not here for myself but for others. The educator must be a person of detail work, of gentle devotedness. Educators must selflessly give themselves. ⁶

³ Fr. J. Kentenich, Forming the New Person, 1951.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ ibid

⁶ Ibid.