# Consent Form

**A Study of Men and Women involved in the Schoenstatt Movement**

You are invited to participate in a study of men and women who are involved with the Schoenstatt movement: a movement within the Catholic Church that has an emphasized devotion to the Virgin Mary. My name is Karen Blanchette. I am a student at Texas State University in the Department of Sociology working on a new research study for my master’s thesis. My contact information is: 713-409-7563, or kb1644@txstate.edu.

You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you are actively involved in a LifeGroup in the Schoenstatt movement. You either volunteered for the study because of an announcement made at a Schoenstatt event, an e-mail you responded to or someone you know referred you to me. You will be one of 15 people chosen to participate in this study. If you choose to participate, I will ask you questions about your involvement with the Schoenstatt movement, for example, why did you become involved in this movement, your relationship with Mary, how gender has impacted your spirituality and your thoughts and feelings about the Schoenstatt community as a whole. My goal with this study is to write a thesis paper to complete my master’s degree, produce academic conference papers and possibly academic journal articles.

If you decide to participate, you will take part in a one-on-one in-depth interview with me. The interview will be audio-tape-recorded and should take no more than one hour of your time. It is extremely unlikely that this interview will cause any psychological harm from describing/re-living past events and interactions that may have been negative or damaging. A possible benefit is discussing your spiritual journey through Schoenstatt that you would not have described prior to participating in the study.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain **strictly confidential**. Audio files will be assigned a code number so your name will never be attached to the audio files. Only I, the interviewer will hear your interview on the digital recorder, and I will keep the recorder locked file cabinet until the study is finished. At that time, I will erase the recordings of your interview. When I describe the information obtained an alias or false name will be used in place of your true name or identity and the name of your workplace. I will not transcribe any identifying information. Only my supervising professor and I will read the complete transcripts, which will be kept in a locked file cabinet in my office. Because you know other people involved in this community, there is a small chance that someone might know that you completed an interview. Even so, they will never know what you said unless you decide to tell them. I will not tell anyone your name of that you did an interview but you should be aware of this risk.

If you decide to take part in the interview, you are free to stop the interview at any time. You can withdraw from the study without prejudice or jeopardy to your standing with Texas State University. You don’t have to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable. If you have any questions, please ask me. I will send you a summary of the study upon request. The Texas State Institutional Review Board has approved this study (case#)

You will be offered a copy of this form to keep. If you have questions in the future, please contact me. With questions or concerns about your rights or this research, you may also contact the Institutional Review Board chairperson at Texas State, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413, lasser@txstate.edu) or the Office of Sponsored Projects administrator, Ms. Becky Northcut (512-245-2102). You may also contact my supervising professor, Dr. Patti Giuffre (pg07@txstate.edu, 512-245-8983).

You are making a decision whether or not to participate in this study. Your signature means that you have read the information provided above and have decided to participate. You may withdraw at any time after signing this form should you choose to do so.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Investigator Date