

Schoenstatt Movement Australia

September 2020 | Volume 1, Number 11

1. Covenant Day Message

2. Celebrating 100 years of Women in Schoenstatt

3. Remembering Joseph Engling

4. Schoenstatt Men's Reflection Morning

5. Information and Links

1. Covenant Day Message

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant day – 18th September.

Just a few days ago on the 15th September we commemorated the anniversary of the death of Father Kentenich in 1968. Two years ago when we commemorated the 50th anniversary of father's death, much was said about the charism / mission he had been given for the Church and our challenge to continue this mission into our current times.

Father Kentenich himself had explained what he saw as his mission / charism when he said in 1958 on the occasion of his 73rd birthday:

"If we asked St. Paul what mission he had, he would tell us: I received the mission to proclaim the mystery of Christ to the world; Christ, the Redeemer, the Mediator, the Head of the Mystical Body.

We immediately ask: What mission did I receive seventy three years ago? With one eye on St. Paul, I may say: It was and is my mission to proclaim the mystery of Mary to the world. It is my task to proclaim the Blessed Mother, to make her known to our time as the permanent Helpmate of our Lord in the entire work of redemption, as the co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix of all graces; [to proclaim] the Blessed Mother- deeply united with our Lord, joined in two-in-oneness – with the specific mission which she has from her Schoenstatt Shrine for today."

(Address in the Exile Shrine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, November 16, 1958 From "In the School of the Apostle Paul, Peter Wolf [ed] P.169-170).

Father Kentenich never believed however that he had received this mission just for himself. Later on this same occasion he said:

My dear Schoenstatt Family— I may say, all of you are drawn into my mission. This mission was not placed on my shoulders alone, but also upon the shoulders of all Schoenstatt children. God has called you to help me fulfil this great mission. Every one of us receives now this great mission — the mission of our dear Mother and Queen of Schoenstatt. It is a consolation to me that it does not rest on my shoulders alone. It is wonderful that you want to help me fulfil my great mission."



Dr. Sr. Elizabet Parodi in her address during the 50th anniversary commemoration of the death of Father Kentenich in speaking about the charism he had been given, said:

“Every spiritual family lives from the strength of its founding charism. It is the original mission that inspires its life, its style and its apostolate. Through this, the charism given to the founder is continued, enriched and actualized. The founder’s charism is the radiant center of a community, its spiritual identity, its innermost destiny, its DNA, so to speak. In its founding charism, this “heritage” continues to work and, through the originality of individuals, generations and peoples, it is given great diversity without losing its specific power. It is not about copying the founder, but of assuming the charism as a personal vocation; to live it according to one’s own personal characteristics, to one’s own history and mission. With this our gaze passes from the charism of the founder to our own vocation.”

In these current difficult times, our Schoenstatt Family here in Australia is trying to reflect on and discern what our mission will look like here in Australia as we move towards a “new normal” in our society, in our parishes and in our families.

“....all of you are drawn into my mission. This mission was not placed on my shoulders alone, but also upon the shoulders of all Schoenstatt children.”

We want to do this in the light of how our Schoenstatt Spirituality and our Covenant of Love help us in these times to live our mission as faithfully as possible.

For Reflection:

1. Am I gripped by Schoenstatt’s Mission? What does it mean for me?
2. How can I now live this mission and pass it on to others?

United with our father and founder, may Our Blessed Mother send us many graces from her Schoenstatt Shrines. May we continue to pray with each other, and for each other and we remember especially those of our Schoenstatt Family who are struggling at this time.

In covenant loyalty, may we remain, as Australian Schoenstatt Family:
“One heart in the Father, for the Family of God”

Shirley Hall



with **YOU**
life is so much more
MARY



"We ask you to help us in these turbulent times to rediscover our womanhood and to live it in a truly Christian and authentic way. Look down upon us with a loving gaze.... Grant us the grace to begin anew in the Covenant of Love, because we know: "Holiness means to have the courage to start everyday anew." J.K.

2. Celebrating 100 Years of Women in Schoenstatt

This is a momentous year in the history of Schoenstatt as we celebrate 100 years since women became part of Schoenstatt. Although the actual date on which Countess Gertraud of Bullion and her cousin, Marie Christmann made their consecration in the Original Shrine, was 8th December 1920, the Single Women's League decided to celebrate this milestone in August (4th – 8th). The plans were to have a Jubilee celebration in Schoenstatt with women from about 20 countries – from different cultures, languages and walks of life - celebrating this milestone with a congress for delegates, followed by general celebrations open to all on the Saturday and Sunday.

During the Jubilee they wanted to crown Our Lady in their home shrines under the title Queen of Women all over the World. The crowning ceremony would take place in the Original Shrine. Each country was asked to send the signatures of the members of their Women's' League groups which were to be placed in a special cover in the tabernacle in the Original Shrine.

From Australia we had planned to have a group of 5 ladies attending these celebrations.

While preparations began early in 2019, the major spiritual preparation was a nine month novena beginning in November last year. During the novena we were inspired by the words of Father Kentenich which he calls out to each of us anew each day: "Be what you are! Be it in the best possible way."

However, along came COVID-19 and all plans were changed. After consultation with women in the various countries it was decided that the Jubilee was too significant to be cancelled altogether, so a modified celebration was planned from 7th – 8th August. Thanks to the hard work of the Jubilee Team in Schoenstatt, each country was able to experience the celebrations with translations of the celebrations in their own language and all the events were transmitted thanks to modern technology.

The celebrations began in the Adoration Church on the Friday evening. As part of these celebrations, a representative from each country processed into the Founder Chapel where they placed into the Tabernacle cover, the signatures of the members of their country and then signed the coronation certification on behalf of all the members of the Women's' League in their country. These signatures are the Jubilee gift of the women and signify their willingness to continue the mission they have been given by our father and founder.

We were very lucky that our newest Schoenstatt Sister from Australia - Sr. M. Rita Baysari – was able to represent Australia and signed the certificate on our behalf.



On the Saturday morning the celebrations continued with a Vigil Mass in the Adoration Church. While it was sad to see so few ladies in the Church (restricted because of the COVID-19), it was still a very solemn and meaningful celebration. Again Sr. M. Rita represented Australia by carrying in the Australian flag and presenting one of the symbols during the Prayers of the Faithful.

The climax of the celebrations was the crowning in the Original Shrine on the Saturday evening. The celebrations began with a bouquet of roses and lilies being presented as a gift from all nations. They also symbolized the various generations of the league as well as all league members who have given their lives for the mission.

The signatures that had been received from around the world - and placed on father's tomb the previous day - were now in the protective cover for the tabernacle - our Crowning gift.

Those present prayed: "We come here today, first of all to give thanks for all the wonderful events and experiences we have had as Women' League over the last 100 years, to give thanks for the streams of love that have flowed from here to our countries, to our shrines, but also to our home shrines.

....We want to consciously strengthen one another and pray with one another, from heart shrine to heart shrine, from country to country. Together we prayed: "Let us walk like you through life, let us mirror you forever, strong and noble, meek and mild, peace and love be our endeavour. Walk in us through our world, make it ready for the Lord." (J.K. "Heavenwards")

During the crowning each lady was asked to hold up her crowning symbol and prayed:

"We ask you to help us in these turbulent times to rediscover our womanhood and to live it in a truly Christian and authentic way. Look down upon us with a loving gaze....Grant us the grace to begin anew in the Covenant of Love, because we know: "Holiness means to have the courage to start everyday anew." J.K. Take us by the hand and form us more and more into your image, Queen of our hearts, Mary. We want to see like you, hear like you, speak like you, understand like you, forgive like you, but above all love like you!

..... Show us ways to be Mary in today's world: at our place of work, within our family and circle of friends, in our parish, with our neighbours, in good and in bad days. Show us, Mother and Queen, where our commitment to you is needed today. We are ready and we dare to start anew, with you today, here and now. "We are united in the shrine, where the flames of our hearts beat for our Mother Thrice Admirable who, through us, wants to build your kingdom." J.K. H.W.

Father Antonio Bracht (a Schoenstatt Father) then placed the protective cover with the signatures in the base of the tabernacle.

The celebrations ended with a ring of loyalty around the Original Shrine.

Love for love, Loyalty for loyalty, Crown for crown

The Jubilee celebrations were a wonderful experience for us here in Australia even though we did not participate in quite the way we had envisaged - we were not in Schoenstatt, we were not part of a large, enthusiastic group of Schoenstatt women gathered in these holy places to celebrate this Jubilee - but we did participate in the celebrations in a different way - via Zoom and live-streaming and connecting with each other via phone messaging.

Taking part in these celebrations gave us an opportunity to give thanks for the spiritual fruitfulness of the Women's League here in Australia since 1966; and for the heritage that we have received from those many women who have gone before us - not only in the Women's League, but also the women in the Sisters' Community, in the Mothers' Branch, the Family Branch and the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. We pray: 'Mary let us be like you, your living Tabernacles'.

Shirley Hall



3. Remembering Joseph Engling



Joseph
Engling

4 - 10 - 1918

We preserve
your heritage.

On 4th October, we commemorate the death of Joseph Engling on the battlefield near Cambrai, France in 1918. His death, coupled with the total offering of his life on 31st May, 1918 for our Mother Thrice Admirable and for her mission, gave the Schoenstatt Movement its first outstanding witness.

Although Joseph was not present in the Shrine on the 18th of October 1914, he entered deeply into the covenant of love with Our Lady and made Schoenstatt his life. This axis of his short life became a living faithfulness to the Mother Thrice Admirable in her shrine and to the founder, which was expressed in offering of the sacrifice of his life to Our Lady, expressly for the Movement founded by his spiritual father – Father Kentenich and for Schoenstatt’s mission. This offering of his life to the Mother Thrice Admirable, has since become known as “The Joseph Engling Act” and God accepted this sacrifice of his life on the evening of 4th October 1918.

It has long been the conviction of the Schoenstatt Family, that Joseph Engling is the most outstanding of Fr. Kentenich’s young co-workers of that earliest period when the Movement was being founded. Joseph had lived the covenant to such a degree that he became, in Father Kentenich’s words, “the classic example of the new man in the new community” whom Schoenstatt wanted to fashion.

The process of his beatification began on 4th October 1952 and the documentation for his beatification was submitted to the Holy See on 7th October 1964.



Remembrances of Joseph Engling in Schoenstatt...

1. Memorial Stone with the Joseph Engling Plaque

Just beyond the Marienau Shrine (Shrine of the Diocesan Priests Apostolic Union) is a memorial stone which marks the place to which Father Kentenich usually accompanied the sodalists after their visits to Schoenstatt when they had to return to their barracks or travel to the battlefield.

It was to this point that Fr. Kentenich accompanied Joseph on his last visit to Schoenstatt.

The date on the memorial stone is 30th July, 1918 – the date of Joseph’s last visit to Schoenstatt,

2. The heroes’ graves, and the monument to Joseph Engling behind the Original Shrine remind us that “Schoenstatt stands and falls with people who really strive for holiness and who bring this striving for holiness into connection with our shrine.” (J. Kentenich)

The lamp on the Joseph Engling stone is a symbol for all those who offer their lives for Schoenstatt. The written motto says: “We hold on to your inheritance.”

These are all symbols of the special feature of this pilgrimage place in Schoenstatt that ‘it will cease to be a place of grace if each generation does not become a founding generation, if each generation does not newly found the Capital of Grace’. (J. Kentenich)

3. The Joseph Engling Memorial Stone at Mount Schoenstatt, Australia

Beside the Shrine at Mount Schoenstatt we also have a memorial to Joseph Engling.

The Young Men and Senior Boys’ Youth gave this memorial stone and the inscription “We preserve your heritage” as a crowning gift to the Blessed Mother in 1974 when she was crowned as Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt in the Entrance Hall of the Joseph Kentenich House. They offered themselves to the Blessed Mother and prayed that the Joseph Engling Memorial Stone would always remind them of their wish and striving to be loyal to their Mother and Queen.

Many will remember that the Boys’ Training Centre, owned by the Schoenstatt Fathers and situated adjacent to Mount Schoenstatt, was known as the “Joseph Engling Centre”.

It was important for our youth, both boys and girls, to remember the spiritual legacy left by Joseph Engling. In Fr. Kentenich’s own words, Joseph Engling was the “lived founding document”.



4. Schoenstatt Men's Reflection Morning

Schoenstatt Men gathered via Zoom on 30 August, 9am – 1pm, to reflect on where the Lord is calling us in these times of individualism and secularism. We viewed a number of presentations from the national Catholic Men's Gathering on 15 August from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and then reflected on what had touched us in each talk.

Steve Lawrence from Altum Leadership Group in 'Marked Men of Character' spoke on how leading means to go against the prevailing currents and be ready to take whatever knock-backs come. He reflected on the problems men bring to others when he said "wounded people wound people, yes but also healed people heal people." He issued the challenge of transforming the wounds in our lives to become avenues of service.

Jude Hennessy is the long serving head of Evangelisation in the Diocese of Wollongong and includes the needs of men in the Church as part of his work. He issued a challenge for re-engaging Catholic men in the life of the Church. In Schoenstatt as well as in the wider Church we see very few men involved yet also see many men in our society in difficulty from low self-esteem, addiction, and lack of meaning in life.

Jude emphasized the fruitfulness of Catholic men gathering in small groups, which affirmed the Schoenstatt approach. He emphasized that men can have their lives impacted deeply by being with other men in a faith-sharing group, and growing into a realization of being "sons of 'the father' and a missional Church." His session presented a number of 'witness' statements by men on how their small groups had made a great difference in their lives. Jude sees that for men to participate in Church they need to connect with a sense of mission by the Church providing avenues for this through specific jobs and tasks in their faith communities.

Deacon Peter Pellican leads Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. He used the book of Nehemiah to contrast rebuilding a broken Israel after its military defeat to the task in front of us in the Church in Australia. He took us through five steps Nehemiah took to rebuild and applied them to our current Church, starting with surveying how men are largely absent from our Church.

Pervading themes were the fatherhood of men – how central that is for a family and a Church – and who each person is called to be and become – right in the territory of the Personal Ideal.



5. Information and Links

Shrine Opening Hours:

Please check the websites for updated opening times of the Shrine.

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW

<https://schoenstatt.org.au>

Mt Richon / Armadale Shrine, WA

<https://schoenstattwa.org.au>

The Kew Shrine, Melbourne, VIC

is closed.

Links:

Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

Schoenstatt Australian Website

www.schoenstatt.org.au

Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBRI6fXivUauklFAg0AKQvg>

Recent videos on this Channel

Our Lady's birthday, 8th September

Mother of Sorrows, 15th September which is Fr. Kentenich's death anniversary.

The September Covenant Sunday.

More videos for October:

Joseph Engling – 4th October

Schoenstatt's Foundation Day – 18th October

The Covenant Renewal Prayers from April are valid each Covenant Day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k19yxZB2nml>.

The Sisters singing the consecration prayer may be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O29tXet2DQQ>

