

Covenant Celebration
Schoenstatt's Foundation Day
18th October

HYMN: My Spirit Rejoiced

Refrain: My spirit rejoiced when they told me: Let's go to the house of the Lord!

Come, let us go in the light of the Lord with you, o Queen in the covenant.

This is the house of the Lord!
The shrine you have chosen in Schoenstatt.

1. Called as the people of the new cov'nant, we stand before the face of God,
Asking for a heart wide open To his grace, his light, his love!
Refrain

2. God grants us prophets, fathers, and teachers leaders to holiness in ev'ry age.
Here he chose our father and founder for the new times as his instrument. *Refrain*

3. Mother, request God's blessing upon us. Let us be bearers of Christ, our Lord,
that his features be imprinted on our world forevermore!
Refrain

ADORATION

Leader: O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine

All: All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we adore you and open our hearts to your presence here at this place of grace. God of love, we adore you in the form of Eucharistic bread. It is your Body given up so that we may have life. Through your suffering and death you have established an everlasting covenant, the covenant of your Blood, which unites us forever with the eternal Father.

All: We thank you Lord for this Covenant of Love.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ! In the sign of bread you are present among us.

All: Eternal Love, you come from the Father and return to the Father, we adore you.

Leader: Lord Jesus, Son of the Father, although we cannot see you, we know that you are present among us:

All: Eternal Love, you have brought salvation and united us with the Father, we adore you.

Leader: Lord Jesus, Incarnate Son of God! You want to draw us into yourself, unite us mysteriously with yourself and take us with you into the Father's heart.
(*Cf JK. 12-24-1967*)

All: Eternal Love, you call us children of God, we adore you.

Leader: Jesus, we thank you with joyful hearts that we are gifted with faith in you... Through Mary our Mother, we have been privileged to find you. She has revealed your image to us and she has given us an experience of your love,

All: Send us the Holy Spirit of childlikeness, so that He may rule in our hearts and we can call out in him: Abba Father.

Leader: You wish to draw us into your intimate union with the Father and you let us recognize ever anew:

All: You are the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through you. (*Cf Jn 14:6*)

Leader: Lord, you alone can still our soul's longing for the Father!

All: Grant us the special grace that your loving dialogue with the Father may increasingly also become *our prayer*; that

your ardent love for the Father will increasingly also become *our love*; that your life in the Father, with the Father and for the Father will increasingly also become *our life*.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we kneel before you and adore you in your risen Divinity and Majesty in the blessed Eucharist. Give us the strength to recognise your will and fulfil it in the rush of our everyday lives: in our homes; with our family; in our work places and in all the people we encounter.

All: All honour to the Father, adoration, through Christ with Mary, glory, exaltation; in God the Holy Spirit joyfully, creation sings his praise eternally.

Pause for silent adoration

HYMN: With heartfelt love

1. With heartfelt love, I thank you Mother dear.
With you to guide me, I need have no fear.
When all around seemed dark and drear' and grey,
you stood as beacon for a brighter day.
2. Your smile illumined ev'ry wakeful hour.
You did uphold me with your gentle pow'r.
Thanks a thousand thanks to you, to God shall be,/:
now and for always for all eternity.

THANKSGIVING TO OUR MOTHER AND QUEEN

Leader: Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, we greet you in the Shrine and unite ourselves spiritually with our international Schoenstatt Family as we celebrate Schoenstatt's Foundation Day. In each Shrine you are expecting us, you are awaiting us with longing, kindness and great love.

All We thank you for having chosen the shrine as your dwelling place on October 18, 1914 in Schoenstatt and for electing and guiding our father and founder to that blessed day when he had the courage to proclaim “his bold idea” and to actually draw you down into the shrine through the Covenant of Love.

Leader: We thank you for the many blessings that flow from all Schoenstatt shrines, for the miracle of finding a spiritual home and a sense of belonging, of transformation and apostolic fruitfulness. The shrine has become a cradle of holiness for countless Schoenstatt children.

All: We thank you for the prophetic words of our father about the shadow of the shrine.
His faith discerned the miracle which is increasingly unfolding before our very eyes. A complex organism of Schoenstatt shrines - daughter shrines, home shrines, pilgrim shrines and heart shrines are continuously nourished - through grace - by the source of the Original Shrine. Whoever is touched by the shadow of the shrine, will be drawn into a divine, into a Marian atmosphere.

Leader: Grant that we may trustingly believe your covenant promises spoken from the lips of our father and founder, *“It will please me to dwell in your midst and dispense gifts and graces in abundance.”*

All: We are all called to give witness to the reality of the Covenant of Love and the graces we receive from the shrine by what we do and say. Help us dear Mother, to be your witnesses through the simple, ordinary things in our daily lives.
Grant that we may never weaken in our readiness to surrender ourselves to you in the Covenant of Love, for the fruitfulness of the shrine, for the overflowing source of grace from the shrine.

Leader: Dear Blessed Mother, when we enter the shrine, we do not come alone. The sacred space of the shrine expands, as it were.

All: We bring with us the people with whom we share our life, with whom we associate and work; the people we are responsible for; the people who have entrusted their intentions to us and asked for our prayers and for all those who are suffering or in need. Let your maternal gaze rest on them and intercede for them grace and blessings from your Shrine.

Leader: Dear Mother and Queen, 25 years ago as Australian Schoenstatt Family we crowned you in our National Shrine as *Consors Patris*. We thank you for the blessings which you have interceded for us during these years as *Helpmate of Christ and the Father*. Today in this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic we want to renew this crowning and ask you to intercede for all who visit your Shrine, either physically or spiritually the graces they need. Together let us now pray an extract from our crowning prayer:

Al: “Dear Mother Thrice admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, great *Consors Patris*... Together with our founder... we offer you the crown anew and with it our hearts and our readiness to let you reign over our lives. We firmly believe that ‘provided both covenant partners loyally fulfil the accepted obligations of the covenant, we may even expect that the history of the entire continent will be thereby essentially influenced’. We trust that you will use us as your instruments and give us the grace and courage to do all in our power to bring Christ back to the people of our country which has become so secularised and distant from God....
Mother and Consors Patris, accept the crown! ‘In the name of the Triune God, reign over and lead your family

with the power of your endless motherly love. Amen.”¹

Leader: Glory be joyfully given to the Father

All: through Christ with Mary, highly praised,
in the Holy Spirit full of splendor
from the universe now and in all eternity. Amen.

HYMN: Nothing without you - Nothing without us

Chorus: Nothing Without You, Without us.

*You challenge us, O Mary and we hear your voice.
(twice)*

1: Cradle of true holiness: this is our Shrine now for us.
Strive to be free, holy too, see that the Spirit leads you.

Chorus

2. Yes, Mother gladly we live, with you in Covenant love.
Be home for us, for all time, transform us, send us
from your Shrine. Chorus

RE-COMMITMENT TO OUR FATHER AND FOUNDER AND HIS MISSION

Leader: Dear Blessed Mother, with joy and gratitude we thank you for having called us to help fulfil Schoenstatt's Mission in Australia, given to us through our father and founder: to become "*One Heart in the Father for the Family of God.*" We want to give you our hearts as a sign of our love and commitment to the Covenant of Love. We accept the legacy that you have given us through our shrines and the challenge to become everyday saints.

¹ Extract from Crowning Prayer 21.10.1995

All: We are united as one family in the heart of our father and founder. With renewed enthusiasm of heart and mind we ask you dear Mother Thrice Admirable, to fill us with zeal for our Schoenstatt mission here in Australia and guide us on our journey as we strive to help take our charism into the Church and nation.

Leader: Dear Father Kentenich, at this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic, we stand at the threshold of a new era, a “new normal”.

Each of us is called to be responsible for Schoenstatt and the world around us. We are called to give witness to the reality of the Covenant of Love and of the graces we receive from the shrine by the way we live our everyday lives. Renew our hearts and minds and fill us with a sense of responsibility and zeal for our Schoenstatt mission.

All: We have all experienced our limitations and weaknesses in ‘growing our movement’.

We ask you, remain present with us as you promised² and be effective in your family. Guide us, renew us, and bless us - on our way into the future.

Leader: Father, spiritually united at the place where the heavenly Father called you home, where heaven touched the earth through your death, we ask you:

All: Re-ignite the fire of your mission in us.
Re-ignite the fire of your heroic faith, your hope and your love.
Enkindle in us the fire of loyalty to you, to Schoenstatt.

² In 1967, when asked when he would visit Australia, Fr. Kentenich promised that he would come to us “from heaven”. We believe this promise was fulfilled when God called him home on 15 September 1968.

Leader: Father, stay in our midst. Share with us your fire, your founder spirit!

All: We go with you - we stay true to you. Your Mission is our Mission.
Loyalty for loyalty. Heroic loyalty for heroic loyalty.

RENEWAL OF OUR COVENANT OF LOVE

Leader: Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, we are united with you in the shrine where you give us a spiritual home. There you show us your motherly love and care and help us in all our needs and worries.

All: Here you want to lead us deeper into the heart of your Son Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is present there in the tabernacle. There you welcome all who come to you in times of suffering and weakness brought on by life's daily struggles and challenges.

Leader: In all circumstances the shrine is for us a home, a place of grace where our founder and the founding generation entered into the Covenant of Love.

All: United around our Home shrines, our Pilgrim Mother Shrines or Heart Shrines, we feel your presence and we are grateful for the graces of a home, transformation and mission zeal which you intercede for us. In order to guarantee your presence with us we offer you our love. We offer for your Capital of Grace everything since the last Covenant Sunday: our happiness and sacrifices, work and prayers, as well as our faults and negligence, limitations and failures.

Leader: Blessed Mother, accept our humble offerings, and together with these offerings accept our hearts.

All: We pray for our Holy Father, for all bishops and priests and we ask you to awaken many and good vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We ask you to bless our families and protect all those who live alone. Grant peace and prosperity to all nations and enlighten those who govern them.
Unify the world so there will soon be one flock centred on the one true Shepherd, your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Leader: We pray for the beatification of our Father and Founder, Father Joseph Kentenich:

All: God our Father, We thank you for giving us Father Kentenich as a spiritual father. Enkindled by the Holy Spirit, he became a father to many, a prophet and a herald of the Gospel for our time.

Through his consecration to Mary, in a Covenant of Love, he allowed himself to be formed by her maternal and immaculate heart into the image of your Divine Son.

He sought to fulfil your will at all times and became a witness of your merciful love.

He guided many people to the fullness of life and led all those entrusted to him heavenwards.

May many people continue to encounter him and be inspired to follow in his footsteps.

Let his charism be so alive in us that we can help shape the future of the Church and society through his Schoenstatt mission.

Heavenly Father, we pray that Father Kentenich may soon be numbered among the Saints.

We ask this of you, in union with Mary, our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: United with all our Australian Schoenstatt family we renew our Covenant of Love:

All: My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you and to show my devotion to you,
I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, myself without reserve. As I am your own my good Mother, guard and defend me as your property and your possession. Amen.

Leader: Mother in these unprecedented times, send us now, renewed by our encounter with you, into our daily life. We offer you all the hardships and joy that we encounter and offer these for the growth of Christ's Kingdom here on earth:

All: Nothing without you Mother and Queen - Nothing without us.
Love for Love, Loyalty for Loyalty,

Leader: Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt,

All: Protect our country.

Leader: Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt,

All: Bless the whole world. Amen.

HYMN: Your Covenant, Our Mission

1. With childlike hearts we rejoice and give thanks to the Father of mercy.
He drew us into the cov'nant of love, opened springs of grace from above.
With our Queen we lift up a new song of praise, with her we'll set the whole world ablaze!

*REFRAIN: We are your fam'ly, take us, send us anew.
Your cov'nant, our mission, we go with You!*

2. O Queen of Schoenstatt, our great MTA, In your love ever faithful,
You dwell among us, You give us a home.
In your Shrine you reign from your throne.
Take our gift of water and change it to wine.
Pour out your graces, renew our time! *Refrain....*
3. Ark of the cov'nant and Queen of our hearts, we have witnessed your power.
You rise victorious, transforming the world, You work wonders in ev'ry land.
Let us be your voice, your hands and your feet. We're ready, send us, Mother and Queen! *Refrain.....*
4. God's plan of love gave our father to us. Where he leads we will follow.
Through restless waves and the strongest of storms, he will take us to the new shore.
Let us bring his mission, his message to all, his light we carry into the world. *Refrain....*