

Schoenstatt Movement Australia

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1. Schoenstatt's Foundation Day

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends

This month as we celebrate Schoenstatt's Foundation Day – the 18th October - I wish you many blessings, especially from the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt.

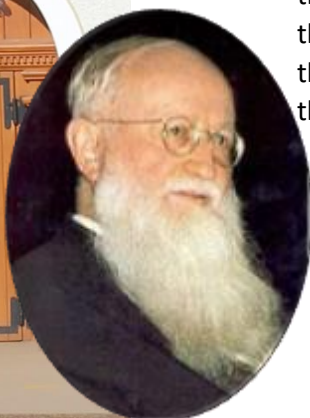
Making this day even more special, we are also celebrating 25 years since the Australian Schoenstatt Family crowned Our Blessed Mother in our National Shrine at Mulgoa as Consors Patris (Helpmate of Christ and the Father) on 21st October, 1995. (See more about this celebration later in this edition of the newsletter)

Today as we celebrate the foundation of Schoenstatt, we read in the Founding Document of the 18th October 1914:

"Do not worry about the fulfilment of your desire. Ego diligentes me diligo. I love those who love me [Prv. 8,17]. Prove to me first that you really love me, that you take your resolution seriously.

Diligently bring me contributions to the capital of grace. By fulfilling your duties faithfully and conscientiously and through an ardent life of prayer, earn many merits and place them at my disposal. Then it will please me to dwell in your midst and dispense gifts and graces in abundance. Then from here I will draw youthful hearts to myself, and I will educate them to become useful instruments in my hand."

On the occasion of Schoenstatt's Silver Jubilee Celebrations on **18th October 1939**, Fr. Kentenich sent a message to the Schoenstatt Family as he was unable to be present for the celebrations. As it was just 6 weeks since the start of World War II, he sent a lengthy message entitled *"Words Befitting the Hour"*. This document is both a text of thanksgiving to the MTA and an affirmation of the Schoenstatt Family in the spirit and mission of October 18, 1914. It so succinctly captured the fundamentals of the Movement and was of such great importance that it soon came to be known as the **Second Founding Document**.



In a stirring litany of blessings Father Kentenich recounted the many ways Mary had shown her love and power in 25 years of history, concluding with:

"Everything which the Founding Document hoped and prayed for has literally come true: Our Blessed Mother has erected her throne of grace here in a special manner, and she has revealed her glories to the world in many ways. She has become our Mother and Queen...."

The document then calls on the Schoenstatt Family to remain faithful to the sources upon which it was built, evoking the memory of Joseph Engling as a radiant example of Schoenstatt's genuine spirit. Father Kentenich outlined three imperatives for Schoenstatt in the battles of the times:

1. *To cultivate the awareness of being instruments of God,*
2. *To maintain Schoenstatt's decidedly Marian character,*
3. *To place new emphasis on the contributions to the capital of grace of the Mother Thrice Admirable.*

Perhaps we could also ponder on these three **'imperatives for Schoenstatt'** and consider how relevant they are for us today in these current difficult times. How can they help us to combat today's 'battles of the times'?

I believe that today there will be some couples making their Covenant of Love at the Shrine in Mt. Richon, W.A. We welcome them to the Schoenstatt Family and wish them and their families many blessings and graces on this day. May our Blessed Mother and her Son be with you all on this special day and continue to be with you into the future.

"No one will be lost who is loyal to his covenant of love" (JK)

And may Our Blessed Mother and her Son send each of you many blessings and graces from the shrine as we strive together, united as one Australian Schoenstatt Family, to live our Covenant of Love, faithfully and fully, as:

"One Heart in the Father, for the Family of God."

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall

**"One Heart in the
Father, for the Family
of God."**





“Allow me to state repeatedly that I would never have had the courage, and I would not have it now, to attempt to carry out our great task unless our shrine, with its intrinsic value and symbolic meaning, had taken on that place in the whole Family which it obviously has according to God’s unmistakable plan. God’s plan and the shrine essentially belong together.”

(13 May, 1952)

2. Beginnings of Schoenstatt

REFLECTION:

We know that Father Kentenich always asked what God had in mind for him in every circumstance. He himself never had any ‘grand plan’ to establish Schoenstatt. It developed according to God’s plan and according to life. Below we hear from our father himself speak about how Schoenstatt came into being.....

Behold Your Mother ... the beginning of Schoenstatt’s history

In 1966, Fr. Kentenich gave this reflection on his early years as an educator:

“After God placed the responsibility for the youth in my hands [in 1912], it was naturally my main interest to see to it that the boys fulfilled the purpose of their life in every circumstance, especially since they were preparing to be priests. This was my question: How can I see to it that God is the most central thing for all of them until the end of their life? How can I see to it that they always strive to grow, always give themselves to God, and always fulfil their mission, even when they are no longer under my influence? It was of no use to bind them to myself; they would only stay the course as long as they were in connection with me. I found no better means than to take seriously the last will and testament of Our Lord. He said to John, “Son, behold your Mother!” John – this is us. To give the youth to Our Lady, to the extent that this was in my power back then, meant to place into their hands the surest means to fulfilling their purpose in life. That is the beginning of our history.

(From: Brushstrokes 2, Fr. J. Niehaus – P.41-42 - Talk for Schoenstatt Mothers and pilgrims, May 19, 1966: Uns gesagt, Vol. 1, p. 139; cited in Schönstattmutter 1985, No. 1, p. 20.)

In 1952 Father Kentenich said:

“Allow me to state repeatedly that I would never have had the courage, and I would not have it now, to attempt to carry out our great task unless our shrine, with its intrinsic value and symbolic meaning, had taken on that place in the whole Family which it obviously has according to God’s unmistakable plan. God’s plan and the shrine essentially belong together.
(13 May, 1952)

The seeds of Schoenstatt – sown already in 1912

Background: Only two years after being ordained as a Pallottine Priest, Fr. Kentenich was appointed spiritual director of the Pallottine Minor Seminary in Schoenstatt on the October 25, 1912. Two days later he introduced himself to the students with a talk which has since become known as **Schoenstatt’s Pre-founding Document**. Father Kentenich was aware that the students were in a state of rebellion over the strict house rules and he needed to do something to help them.



Firstly, he took in the situation within the Minor Seminary and the feelings of the boys towards the strict rules that had been imposed on them. He firstly offered the boys his service and his heart: He said: *"I now place myself entirely at your disposal with all that I am and have, my knowledge and ignorance, my ability and inability, but above all, my heart."* We know that in later years Father Kentenich often said that he had **never done anything without his family**. For example, in 1958 he said: *"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."*

His appointment as Spiritual Director had come about entirely without Fr Kentenich's doing. Therefore in the Pre-Founding Document he said: *"Hence, it must be God's will. I am resigned to it, and I am determined to fulfil my duties to all of you... as perfectly as possible"* These words reveal the seed of Schoenstatt's **practical faith in Divine Providence**, a faith in God our Father who speaks to us through the law of the open door, revealing to us his plan of love and mercy.

He translated the students' search for freedom into a program that would engage the young men in a positive way: He said, *"What is our aim then? (....) Under the protection of Mary we want to learn to educate ourselves to become firm, free, priestly personalities."*

This is none other than Schoenstatt's ideal of the **'New person in the new community.'** Among one of Father Kentenich's definitions is: 'the new person is the person who puts heart and soul into whatever he or she does, who is motivated by love. The new community is a community that is wholehearted in its commitment so that its members live spiritually in, with and for one another.' This became a central goal of Schoenstatt's entire pedagogy of education and a central part of Schoenstatt's mission for the Church and society.

He also said: *"We want to **learn**, not merely in **theory**, no, we must also learn in **practice**. We must put our hand to the plough every day, every hour. How did we learn to walk? No one gave us a theory lesson on it – no, someone took us by the hand and we started. Therefore we must learn to educate ourselves through constant practice in **self-education**."*

How much did Father Kentenich stress self-education? He said "Self-education is an imperative for our time. One does not need much knowledge of the world to realize that our time, with all its discoveries, cannot remove our inner emptiness." Although he said this in 1912, how relevant is it still for us today? Perhaps even more so?

He had put the whole talk under the title (motto) of " *'Under the protection of Mary we want to learn to educate ourselves to become firm, free, priestly personalities'* This not only speaks of the 'new person in the new community' as mentioned above, but for Father Kentenich it was one of the principles of Schoenstatt's spirituality - "the **education** towards being **firm, free personalities**". He exemplified this "freedom" in his own life and we have many examples of how he was able to remain free regardless of where he was. Whether in the Dachau concentration camp, or in exile in Milwaukee, he was able to say that he was always "free" – free to say 'yes' to God's will at all times.

We can also see that the ultimate focus of this whole program, and of all that developed in Schoenstatt, was "under the protection of Mary....." Therein lies the seed of father's belief in the Mother Thrice Admirable as the great **Mother and Educator**.

Fr. Kentenich once said: *"Keep your place in the heart of Our Lady (in the shrine). You belong there whatever happens. There you will find peace, security and confidence in the victory in every circumstance and in every instance. Do good whenever the opportunity arises and see a kind Father-hand in everything. He guides your destiny according to His wise plan of love."*

The following are some seeds which can be discovered in the Pre-Founding Document:

Practical faith in Divine Providence; the ideal of the New Person in the New Community; serious striving for Everyday Sanctity and Self Education which allow the stream of grace to flow from our Shrines through our contributions to the Capital of Grace; the Education of the Free Personality and the Mother Thrice Admirable as our Mother and Educator.

Over one hundred years later these seeds have developed into a mighty tree and we can only marvel at the wonderful way in which Schoenstatt's history and spirituality has grown and how the covenant of love has taken root around the world. Today the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt has been replicated in the many daughter shrines around the world (in more than over 30 countries) as well as the countless wayside shrines, home shrines, heart shrines and pilgrim shrines.



3. Silver Jubilee of the Crowning in the Shrine

21. 10. 1995 – 21.10.2020

In 1995, after a year of preparation during which the crown for our Blessed Mother travelled through the different States and to the various groups, representatives from WA, VIC, QLD and NSW crowned the Blessed Mother in the Shrine at Mulgoa as Consors Patris (Helpmate of the Father) during the Annual National Movement Conference.

As the crown travelled through our country, we could experience how our Mother and Queen united the hearts of all members of our Australian Schoenstatt Family. Several members sealed their Covenant of Love or made the Blank Cheque Consecration as their personal crowning gift to the Blessed Mother.

The Crown had first been offered to our MTA by the Sisters in 1958 in Riverton WA during a very difficult period of our history. The sisters' great petitions connected with this crowning were the freedom of Fr. Kentenich from exile in America and for the possibility to build a Shrine replica in Australia. Within time, both these petitions were answered and in 1968 the crowned picture was installed in the newly built Shrine at Mulgoa. Thus, the crowning renewal 25 years ago was an opportunity for members of the National Schoenstatt Movement to give thanks for the many blessings received since the crown had first been offered.

On 21st October 1995, the vigil of the 30th anniversary of the day when our founder was officially freed from all decrees which brought about his exile, the year of preparation for this coronation in the Shrine reached its climax as the Australia Schoenstatt Family offered our Mother Thrice Admirable, the great Consors Patris, the crown anew.

We may ask what effect a coronation has. In Schoenstatt's history the practice of crowning the Mother Thrice Admirable as Queen has brought wonderful and mysterious results. Not only does the Blessed Mother accept the self-offering of her children and act on their behalf, as Fr. Kentenich liked to say, she always gives "a crown for a crown". Thus, in return for visible crowns, Our Lady of Schoenstatt places invisible crowns on the heads of her children, making them "royal children" of a royal Mother. The psychological effect of an act of coronation is typically a deeper sense of self-worth, of human dignity, of personal value; a deeper awareness of being loved by God and others. This affirmation, in turn, leads to greater magnanimity and selfless service. Thus, the offering of a crown to Mary not only helps to petition for her assistance in the multiple needs of our lives, it also answers the central underlying human need to love and to be loved.



In the words of Fr. Kentenich, “all love crowns”, all true love sees and honours what is good and beautiful in another person. To crown the Blessed Mother, to honour her wonderful greatness as a Queen, opens us more and more to see her image and the features of Christ in ourselves and others. Therefore, crowning is not an isolated act. It expresses and increases the longing to belong to Mary and to resemble her in our being and acting: “Mother, you are beautiful. Gladly my heart turns to you. My greatest joy shall ever be to form your image within me, until your features, one by one are reflected in my being...”

So after 25 years we want to offer the crown anew to our Mother and Consors Patris Queen and renew our petition to her to “educate the people and leaders of Australia and enable them to carry out the post-conciliar mission of the Church on (this) continent as perfectly as possible.”¹ As we move towards the Plenary Council next year, let us entrust the realisation of our Australian mission: “One Heart in the Father for the Family of God” to our Consors Patris Queen.



¹ Crowning Prayer 21.10.1995, taken from Fr. Kentenich’s letter for the blessing of the Shrine at “Mount Schoenstatt”, Mulgoa. 19.5. 1968.

4. Tribute to Visnja Turner

14.12.1944 – 24.09.2020

The Pilgrim Mother Apostolate in Australia owes its existence to Visnja and Fred Turner. As the heavenly Father has called Visnja to himself, it is fitting that we share the beginnings and dedicated work of Visnja and Fred over the past 35 years.

On 21 September 1985, Visnja and her son, Rick, were in Rome as part of the pilgrimage of Australians to Schoenstatt and Rome for the celebration of the 100th birthday of Fr. Kentenich. Visnja was approached by representatives of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate from Argentina, asking if she would be willing to spread the Apostolate. Together with her son and Fr. Denis Foley the first Pilgrim Mother Shrine was sent out to Australia.

Returning to Australia Visnja shared the great vision for the Apostolate with her husband, Fred, and together they encouraged many to take responsibility for a Pilgrim Mother Shrine and to form circles of people who were willing to welcome the Blessed Mother and her Son into their homes each month. They were able to experience how Our Lady, together with her Son, can help in the renewal of faith and life within families and thus the Church. The fruitfulness of their untiring efforts to spread this apostolate are testified to by the many Coordinators who regularly attend the Annual May Pilgrimage to renew their commitment.

As part of her dedicated work, Visnja was the instrument in sending the first Pilgrim Shrine to WA in 1986 and since then she has travelled to many parts of Sydney and also to Canberra and Melbourne to help support coordinators in their apostolate.



Sending out of first Pilgrim Mother Shrine for Australia



In 2010 we celebrated 25 years of the Apostolate in Australia with Visnja and Fred having selflessly spent their lives during these years for the growth of this means to help families grow in their faith and come closer to Our Lady and the Triune God. It was truly a celebration of joy and thanksgiving for the fruitfulness of Visnja and Fred's dedicated love and service to the Apostolate.

Visnja continued her tireless efforts for the apostolate until a few years ago when her health deteriorated and Visnja's contribution became contributions via the Capital of Grace. Fred was able to continue supporting the work until his health also made it impossible for him to be actively involved.

Visnja and Fred were also part of the Family Branch and served as leaders of the Branch for some time and generously supported couples and their families at formation days and group weekends. As Fr. Kentenich considered the Family Branch to be the "foundation and crown" of the Schoenstatt Movement, recognising the importance of families in faith formation and preparation for good vocations, whether to married, single, priesthood or religious life, we owe much to the work and commitment of Visnja and Fred for Schoenstatt as a whole.

Visnja passed away on 24th September after a long illness. We wish to thank her for her tireless dedication in helping to form more than 600 coordinators who each month take the Pilgrim Mother to between 5 and 10 families. We can only begin to imagine the graces which the Blessed Mother has been able to intercede for all the families visited by her and her Son each month.

May Visnja be rewarded for her selflessness and wonderful Schoenstatt spirit as she persevered in carrying out her promise from 1985. Thank you Visnja!! May you rest in peace in the company of Jesus and Mary whom you so selflessly served.

Fruitful outcome of Visnja & Fred's Apostolic endeavours



5. Information and Links

➤ Celebrating our Foundation Day

- ✓ **Holy Mass** at our National Shrine, Mulgoa – **LIVE-STREAMED**
Sunday 18 October at 6.30pm - Check Website or Facebook for details.
Includes renewal of the Crowning of Our Lady in the Shrine –Silver Jubilee.
- ✓ **Covenant Devotion for 18th October** – see YouTube Channel (available from 18th Oct.)
- ✓ **Testimonies from Schoenstatt Members who have made the Covenant of Love**
see YouTube Channel (available from 18th Oct.)

➤ Shrine Opening Hours:

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

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW <https://schoenstatt.org.au> Opening times have changed.
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](http://www.schoenstatt.org.au)

<http://www.schoenstatt.org.au>

[Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel](http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia) (www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia)

New videos:

- [#OurCovenant 2020 - from the International Schoenstatt Family](#)
- Schoenstatt's Foundation Day – 18th October – Covenant Testimonies (available on the channel from the 18th)
- Covenant Devotion for 18th October (available on the channel from the 18th)
- Holy Mass live streamed from the National Shrine at Mulgoa at 6.30pm 18 October (available on the channel from the 18th)

Recent videos:

- [Joseph Engling – 4 October](#)
- [The Sisters singing the consecration prayer](#)

www.schoenstatt-tv.de 18 October

- English/German holy Mass at 7.30pm AEST - live-streamed from the Pilgrims' Church, Schoenstatt, Germany
- International renewal of the Covenant of Love – livestreamed from the Original Shrine at 1.30am 19th Oct AEST

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