

# Schoenstatt Movement Australia

November 2020 | Volume 1, Number 13

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## 1. Covenant Day Message

### *One Heart in the Father for the Family of God*

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant Day  
– 18th November.

During this month we remember two  
significant dates in our Schoenstatt Family  
history. The first occurred recently  
– **16th November** - the anniversary of the  
birth of Father Kentenich (1885).

The second is the **20th November** – the  
anniversary of the death of Venerable Sr. M. Emilie Engel (1955).



During his life, Father Kentenich believed that he and his spiritual family had been given a mission to proclaim the message of a merciful, loving Father to the Church and world. Father himself was a transparency for us of the image of the merciful, loving Father God.

Now, as we look to the future, uncertain of what it might bring, we are called to keep alive Father’s “founding spirit” and place ourselves anew on the foundation he laid, so that we can with confidence and faith, answer the present challenges we face in our society and our Church. Above all we want to promise father our availability and loyalty: loyalty to him and his charism, loyalty to his work and his Family, loyalty to his mission for the Church.

We are reminded of our responsibility for realizing his charism and mission for the Church and world, and making it fruitful. However, it is never separated from him as a person. That is why we now need to work for his canonization so that he and his Schoenstatt work will be recognized by the Church. If we live our personal mission in conjunction with Fr. Kentenich’s mission, then his beatification and canonization by the Church will follow at the appropriate time.

In a letter from the General Presidium for the 50th anniversary of the death of Father Kentenich, Father Juan Pablo Catoggio said:

*“The first thing we would express is our gratitude for the gift God gave us in Fr. Kentenich. We owe him a debt of gratitude for Schoenstatt and all it means for us: the Shrine as a source of grace, a spiritual home and family, the spirituality and its orientation, a purpose and mission. For us Fr. Kentenich is an example, a father, and a founder and prophet. That’s why we are grateful from the bottom of our hearts. As we tell the Blessed Mother, so we can say to him: “Where would we be without you”! (8/7/2018)*

Conscious of these foundations upon which Schoenstatt is built, we want to once again accept the mission we have been given for the Church and society in our present times. Especially now in these uncertain times, we do this consciously, united as one family, and in the strength of the covenant of love we have made with our Blessed Mother, with our father and founder and with one another.

November is also the month in which we remember all those who have died. In particular we remember the members of our own families and close friends who have died and we give thanks for the example they left us and all they did for us during their life.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of Father Kentenich (8th July 1935, but celebrated on 11th August 1935), he said he wanted to use the celebration to thank “all Schoenstatt children, the dead, the living and generations to come.”

*“I thank those who have worked and given their lives for Schoenstatt”, Father Kentenich said. “Our deceased are not dead, they are with us today. The work that has been created here is just as much the work of those who co-operated with me. I am inconceivable without you. My whole work cannot be explained without your most personal and profound co-operation. This applies in the first place to our dead..... We want to be faithful to our deceased..... I know what this loyalty to our dead means to our generation. The Family has brought forth great people. We want to remain true to them. Faithfulness to them is faithfulness to our MTA, to our shrine, to our ideal.*

We could say the same about the many people who were part of the “founding generation” here in Australia. We remember those Sisters, Fathers, Priests, members from all States and from all branches- the Families, Mothers, Single Women, Men, Young Men, Young Women, Girls and members of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate who loyally lived their Covenant of Love and were an example for us all.

We pray for the repose of their souls and can best repay them for their contribution to Schoenstatt by remaining loyal to our MTA, to our father and founder, to our Shrine and to our Schoenstatt Family.

At this time we also remember all those who have died as a result of the Corona Virus and all those who mourn their loss.

United in our Covenant of Love,  
Shirley Hall





## 2. Remembrance Days in November

### Belated Greetings to Father Kentenich

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** was the anniversary of the birth of Father Kentenich. He was born to Katharina Kentenich in his maternal grandparent's home in Gymnich (which is situated 18 kms south west of Cologne). His grandparents were Matthias and Anna Maria Kentenich.

As a belated birthday gift, I invite you to pray that through his beatification, the mission Father Kentenich was given by God, through Our Blessed Mother, may be fulfilled in today's world. We pray:

*Eternal Triune God, for love of you and your holy Church,  
Schoenstatt's founder always strove to do your will  
and win many hearts for you.*

*Through Mary, the Mother Thrice Admirable  
and Queen of Schoenstatt, give him what he asks on my behalf  
and grant that he may soon be raised to the honours of the altar,  
so that he may work even more fruitfully than while on earth for you and  
your kingdom. Amen*

### A Child's discomfort!!

In spite of the unfavourable circumstances, of his birth, Joseph's mother, Katharina Kentenich was so proud of her child that she had his picture taken when he was 2 ½ years old, something that was by no means a given in her poor circumstances.

In later years, Father Kentenich explained his unhappy expression in the photo. He did not want to wear the cap, and therefore had cried immediately before the picture was taken.

In addition, he had to sit on an elevated prop without any support and, due to the photographic technology at the time, he had to maintain this uncomfortable posture for some time.

How Joseph felt is expressed in the photo....typically a child showing his displeasure!

*(Sr. M. Hermia Schlichtmann during a conversation with  
Father Kentenich in 1967)*





**Venerable Sister M. Emilie Engel**, came as a young woman to Schoenstatt where she met Father Kentenich. She placed herself at the disposal of Schoenstatt and became a founding member of the community of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary.

Like Father Kentenich, Sr. M. Emilie saw her mission as helping present-day people to discover God in everything, to meet him, and in faith, to respond to his fatherly guidance with a ready, “Yes Father”. She exemplified that in the midst of insecurity and fear, a person can find shelter in God. This makes her a wonderful example for us in today’s world.

Many people today joyfully experience that Sister M. Emilie brings light into their life, a light that radiates God’s sheltering and caring nearness and shows the way to him from darkness and fear. In many countries of the world Sr. M. Emilie has become more and more a light that shines forth in people’s lives.

This year when we are celebrating 100 years of women in Schoenstatt, Sr. M. Emilie exemplifies for us someone who lived her womanhood in a truly Christian and authentic way through her commitment to her Covenant of Love and Schoenstatt’s mission.

We give thanks for her life and continue to pray for her canonization:

*“Eternal Father, you led Sr. Emilie along the way of simple childlikeness and unselfish motherliness. Trusting in your wise providence, she spoke a loving yes to your plans and wishes even in the most difficult situations. She was deeply sheltered in your fatherly heart and was freed from fear and inner anxiety. In your love and kindness you have shown your power in her. I ask you for the canonization of Sister Emilie to your glory, the honour of the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt, and the blessing of all people. Amen*

(From: “Lived Faith in Divine Providence: A Light for Many” – Novena to Sr. M. Emilie)



### 3. Mini National Movement Conference – via Zoom



After several weeks of planning and organising our unique and first National Movement Conference via Zoom took place on Saturday 17th October. This Conference was ‘mini’ because instead of the usual two full days for the Conference we had three hours. With the different time zones we chose morning for WA and afternoon for the Eastern States.

The theme for the Conference was: **The Domestic Church and the Schoenstatt Home Shrine.**

Sr. M. Isabell gave a much-appreciated input in which she led us into a reflection on the Church in miniature – the Domestic Church - and stressed that the family needs to become what it really is: an original and essential cell of society.

She went on to develop the thought that the Schoenstatt Home Shrine should be for us the central place of this Domestic Church. Here, through baptism, the family participates in the life of the Church and, in the strength of the home shrine, in the prophetic, priestly and kingly mission of Jesus Christ and of His Church.

This was followed by a 15-minute video of the Fenelons, a couple from the USA who both experienced Father Kentenich in their childhood. They spoke about the ‘atmosphere’ that the Home Shrine created in their home and its importance in the formation of the family members.

We also viewed 5 testimonies from representatives from the 4 States in Australia where Schoenstatt is present: Paul & Fiona Webb (QLD), Luis Veas (NSW), Sr. M. Rebecca (WA), Cesar Corpus (NSW) and Rose Paynting (VIC). All these testimonies gave a different emphasis on how they live with their home shrine in their particular circumstances and gave inspiration and recognition of the importance of our Home Shrine.





After a short break, the participants were divided into groups and we used the Breakout Rooms function in Zoom to be able to discuss via the internet with just three or four others. In the first report back the following sentences were shared as a result of gathering impressions from the input session and testimonies:

“Make God the centre of our lives.”

“Our Home Shrine is alive and awareness of it accompanies us throughout the whole day. It reminds us that we are children of our Father and our Mother”

“The Home Shrine enriches the home, is the heart of the home, part of the life within the home, enables us to share it with others and is a safe space for all.”

"The Home Shrine is constantly with us wherever we go as Head and Heart Shrine".

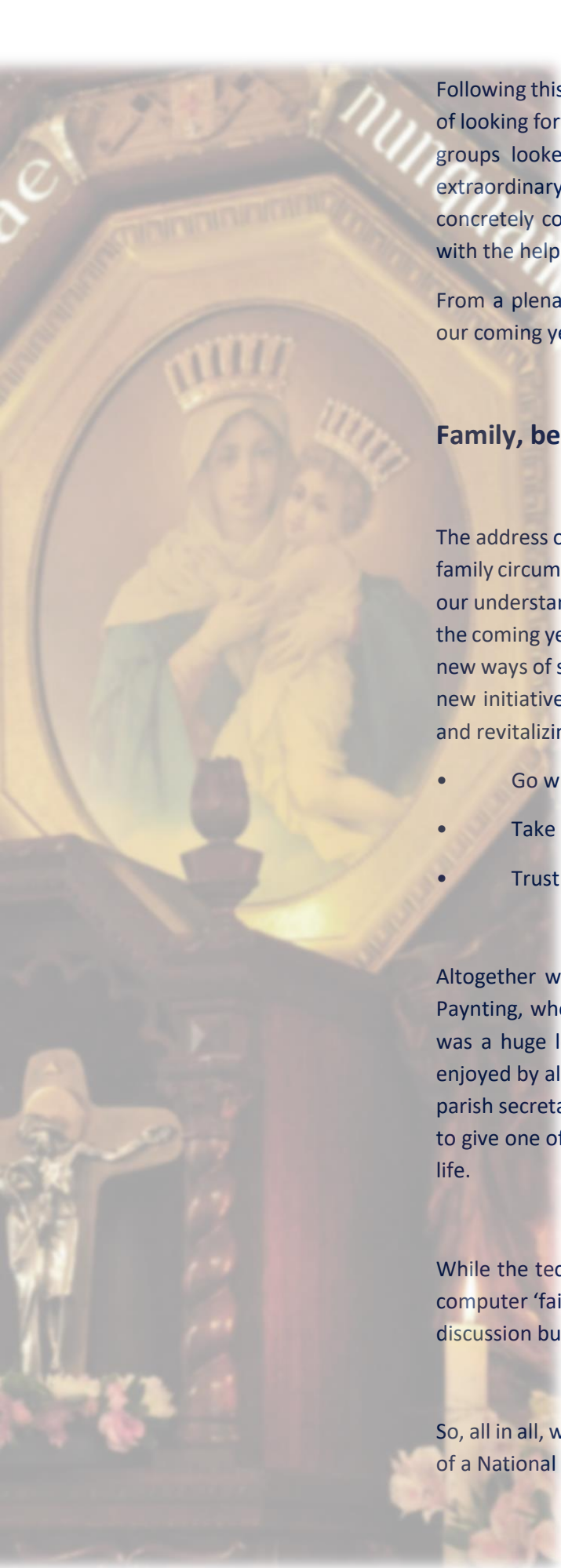
*“Our Home Shrine is alive and awareness of it accompanies us throughout the whole day. It reminds us that we are children of our Father and our Mother ”*



“Creating a sacred atmosphere, where the living faith can be experienced and where Christ’s presence is felt and taken to all.”

“Create a sacred space in our homes with Home Shrines, and from there reach out to family, fellow Schoenstatt members and everyone we meet.”





Following this feedback, we once again divided into groups with the specific aim of looking forward to see where the Holy Spirit is guiding us into the future. The groups looked for the ‘open doors’ which are being offered to us in this extraordinary time of the Pandemic and how individuals or groups can concretely contribute to an understanding and living of the Domestic Church with the help of our Schoenstatt Home Shrine.

From a plenary session which followed we discerned the following motto for our coming year’s work:

### **Family, be what you are: Domestic Church.**

The address of “family” may include not just the natural family or our particular family circumstances at the moment but also our Schoenstatt Family. To deepen our understanding of the Domestic Church is now the challenge ahead of us for the coming year. It also became clear in the plenary session that we need to find new ways of sharing the richness of Schoenstatt and not be fearful about taking new initiatives. We should work on developing a deeper sense of community and revitalizing our Home Shrines. We want to:

- Go where we are needed
- Take Our Lady with us and
- Trust blindly in Divine Providence.

Altogether we had 45 participants using 29 computers. For some, like Rose Paynting, who at 86 was participating for the first time in a Zoom meeting, it was a huge learning experience regarding the technology, but none-the-less enjoyed by all. Rose was so keen to join the Conference that she had asked the parish secretary to help her. Because of this we had also been able to invite her to give one of the testimonies about the importance of the Home Shrine in her life.

While the technology worked for most, unfortunately one of the participant’s computer ‘failed’ soon after Sr. M. Isabell’s talk and another missed out on one discussion but was able to join again for the plenary.

So, all in all, we can thank God, our MTA and our father that this first experience of a National Zoom meeting was as fruitful as it was.



### 3. 100 Years Women in Schoenstatt

On the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception, the Women's Groupings in Schoenstatt are celebrating 100 years of Women in the Schoenstatt Movement. In recognition of all those who have been part of the Schoenstatt journey throughout these years, Holy Mass will be offered on 8<sup>th</sup> December at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa.

Due to Covid-19 the planned celebrations for this centennial are not able to go ahead. However, because this is such an important occasion, the Single Women and Mothers' Groups have taken the initiative to offer an "E-Celebration". You will be asking how this E-celebration will take place and how it can become a memorable and fruitful one...

From the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 until the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, the organizing team is inviting any woman who has ever been involved in a Schoenstatt Group to look through photo albums or on iPhones and to scan and upload photos from the past onto the Schoenstatt Movement Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/SchoenstattAustralia/>) to revive memories and allow sharing to begin. You are invited to share photos of your Schoenstatt experiences, girl's camps, retreats, social events, fetes and a brief description of when it was and what it meant to you. Hopefully, writes Michelle Davis, who is coordinating the celebrations, "we can take a trip down memory lane together, read each other's comments and maybe reconnect with a friend or two." Michelle also asks that the news of this centennial event be passed on to any women you may know who were ever involved in Schoenstatt.

For those interested in history and the life of a strong Woman.

#### Gertraud Von Bullion (1891 – 1930)

Gertraud was the seed for the whole Women's Movement in Schoenstatt. Father Kentenich (the founder of the Schoenstatt Movement) called her a "**very great woman**", he also stated the Women's Movement gifted Schoenstatt "**with sheer, endless fruitfulness.**"

Gertraud came from a noble heritage, however, no task or job was too menial for her – her motto was "to serve". She stated her two passions in life were "one to help all people, each one where it is needed, the other, to see to it, that God is honoured everywhere."





As a Red Cross volunteer she worked in a hospital in Cambrai France (1915-1917), then in Mons, Belgium (1917-1918). It was in these two places that she came into contact with the young Schoenstatt Sodalists.

At that time they were young boys belonging to a minor seminary to be educated and become priests. Fr. Kentenich's role there was to be the Spiritual Director of the young boys. The way the young men talked about the Mother of God, their goals and their attachment to the Shrine and Fr. Kentenich inspired Gertraud.

Gertraud needed to repeat her request to Fr. Kentenich to belong to Schoenstatt; it took her three years before her perseverance paid off.

But Father Kentenich was a Spiritual Director in a minor seminary; and it was then no wonder that Fr. Kentenich took time to understand fully Gertraud's request and see it as God opening a door for Schoenstatt to expand beyond the young boys in the minor seminary.

Gertraud and her cousin made their consecration to the Mother Thrice Admirable on December 8th 1920. This is known in the Schoenstatt history as the Foundation Day of Women in Schoenstatt. Gertraud became a blessing for Schoenstatt and her service was exemplary. She lived the Schoenstatt mission in a feminine way. With Fr. Kentenich she developed a lay spirituality and way to holiness.

In January 1921 Gertraud became ill. It is thought she had contracted TB in Mons. This illness claimed her life 9 years later. Through these years she was bed ridden and hospitalized for weeks and months at a time. Even through this illness, pain and suffering she could recognize God's love and gifts to her.

She reflected and could see the ***"inexhaustible mercy of our good heavenly Father. He constantly surrounded me."*** She died on June 11th, 1930, the feast of Pentecost that year. She was buried on 13th June, and at the funeral she was celebrated as a heroine.

When Gertraud made her consecration in the Marian Sodality of Schoenstatt, she had the word ***"Servium"*** engraved on her medal; this reflected her life and mission. This was not a submissive phrase for Gertraud but a phrase of true freedom, courage, initiative and an inner strength that carried her through really difficult times of war and illness.

Gertraud was a woman whose personality and faith was ahead of her time. She personified what Vatican II proclaimed many years later as a lay spirituality and ascetism. I want to call her a trail blazer.



## 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> (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**

[www.schoenstatt.org.au](http://www.schoenstatt.org.au)

**Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel:**

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

**Video for November Covenant Sunday:**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzoR7e\\_ozAE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzoR7e_ozAE)

Recent videos on this Channel

- Joseph Engling – 4 October
- Testimonies from Schoenstatt Members who have made the Covenant of Love

The Sisters singing the consecration prayer may be viewed at:

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

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