

# Schoenstatt Movement Australia

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### 1. Covenant Day Message

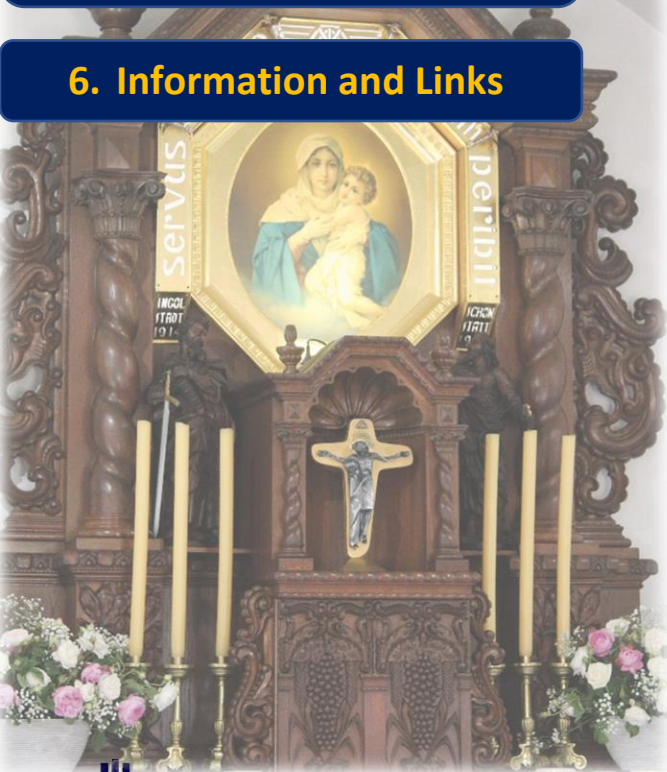
#### Family, be what you are: Domestic Church

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant day – 18th May. The month of May is a special time when we celebrate Mary as the Mother of Christ, as the Mother of the Church and as our Mother. During this month we want to give special thanks to Our Blessed Mother for all the gifts and graces she has given to us through our Shrine and for leading us through our Covenant of Love to the Heavenly Father.

Through our unity with each other in the Covenant of Love we share in Mary's mission for our present times. In speaking about this in 1966, Father Kentenich said:

*"The Blessed Mother entered into a Covenant of Love with Schoenstatt. I say: with Schoenstatt as a place, but also with Schoenstatt as a community. In what did this covenant consist? If I may express it quite simply and understandably, I have to say: She has transferred her mission for our present times to the place Schoenstatt, and to our community at Schoenstatt: she has transferred her mission in an original way."*



We have first of all to become aware of precisely what her mission is for our present times. It is a mission that includes that in the transformation taking place in our times, Christ has to be born again through her for the image of the Church at the shores of the newest times.

... So what does Our Lady want to do by virtue of the Covenant of Love? Through a unique Covenant of Love she wants to commit herself, she wants to feel obliged to carry out her great mission through her shrine and through the Schoenstatt community, in the changing, in the dreadfully confusing and confused changes taking place in our present times."

(JK. Address to the Schoenstatt Family, 1 May, 1966)

*Blessed Mother.....*

*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. Amen*

In a spirit of unity through our Covenant of Love, I wish each of you many blessings and graces from the Shrine on this Covenant Day and for the remainder of May, this special month of Our Lady.

Shirley Hall



**20<sup>th</sup> May 1945 - Father Kentenich returns to Schoenstatt after his time in Dachau.**

## 2. Schoenstatt's Historical Events in May

On Pentecost Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> 1945, Father Kentenich returned to Schoenstatt after nearly three and a half years in Dachau concentration camp. He returned, together with Fr. Dresbach (who had been in Dachau with him) and Fr. Menningen and his brother who had travelled with great difficulty to Ennabeuren to collect Father Kentenich and take him back to Schoenstatt. Everyone was amazed at how well Father Kentenich appeared after all that he had experienced during his time in the concentration camp.

What had been the secret of Father Kentenich's daring, stamina and heroic love of neighbour in Dachau? He said that it was the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable.

Throughout his life he wanted to pass on the experience that "The Blessed Mother placed her motherly heart at my disposal on October 18, 1914. I belong to her. I owe her everything". Throughout his life this was his secret, his source of strength.





## 31<sup>st</sup> May 1949 – Schoenstatt's Third Milestone

This day we mark the 3<sup>rd</sup> Milestone in Schoenstatt's history. On 31<sup>st</sup> May in 1949, Father Kentenich once again accepted his mission through Mary, for Schoenstatt and for the Church. He placed on the altar of the newly built Schoenstatt Shrine in Bella Vista, Santiago, Chile the first part of a lengthy document which he had written in response to some of the findings from the visitation that had taken place in Schoenstatt in February that year.

In a talk which he gave to the 20 Schoenstatt Sisters present, he stated his awareness of the risks involved, including to Schoenstatt, but that the danger to Church and world left him no choice but to act. He said:

*"Whoever has a mission must fulfil it, even if it leads into the darkest and deepest abyss, even when it requires one death leap after another. A prophet's mission always includes a prophet's fate."*

This address is an important historical document. It addresses the whole subject of the Third Milestone, mirroring Fr. Kentenich's inner attitude as he understood this "death leap" for himself and his work. As he saw it, this milestone required such a death leap and it led to fourteen years of exile for him, and brought his work to the verge of being forbidden by the authorities of the Church.



Father Kentenich characterised the inner meaning of May 31<sup>st</sup> as "*standing in divine power*" or "*an act of heroic love*". In this sense the third milestone in Schoenstatt's history is an important reminder that the entire vigour of heroic faith shown on January 20, 1942 is not disconnected from a mission and a responsibility for the Church. That Father Kentenich was willing to risk everything for the well-being of the Church signals to his followers that they must love the Church, even heroically.

Because of May 31<sup>st</sup> and its consequences, Schoenstatt also became more conscious of its calling to help build an organic Church, culture and society, where the natural and supernatural, faith and life, culture and religion, etc. are not separated but integrated.

*(Above includes extracts from "200 Questions about Schoenstatt", by Fr. Jonathan Niehaus)*

We pray that the spirit of the 31<sup>st</sup> May will continue to inspire us as a Schoenstatt Family here in Australia so that we too may strive to love the Church as heroically as did Father Kentenich.

**"ONE HEART IN THE FATHER FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD"**



### 3. An Encounter At The Shrine

*"Not unbelieving but believing be"*



In April, our Mother's Group met for our meeting starting as it always does with "Our Mother's Ten Minutes" at the Shrine. While waiting for three of the mothers to turn up, standing outside the Shrine, I turned to the sound of child laughter to see two children, a little boy and girl running around Father's Statue having a lovely time with each other. I walked up to meet the four parents and asked them if the little ones were brother and sister, and they replied "Friends".

As the rest of our group turned up we chatted to them about where they were from, and I asked the children's names. This one they replied is "Joseph" and this one is "Amelia". I broke out into laughter and explained to them that 'Joseph' was the Founder of the place and movement they were at, and that Amelia was the name of the woman who started the Sisters.

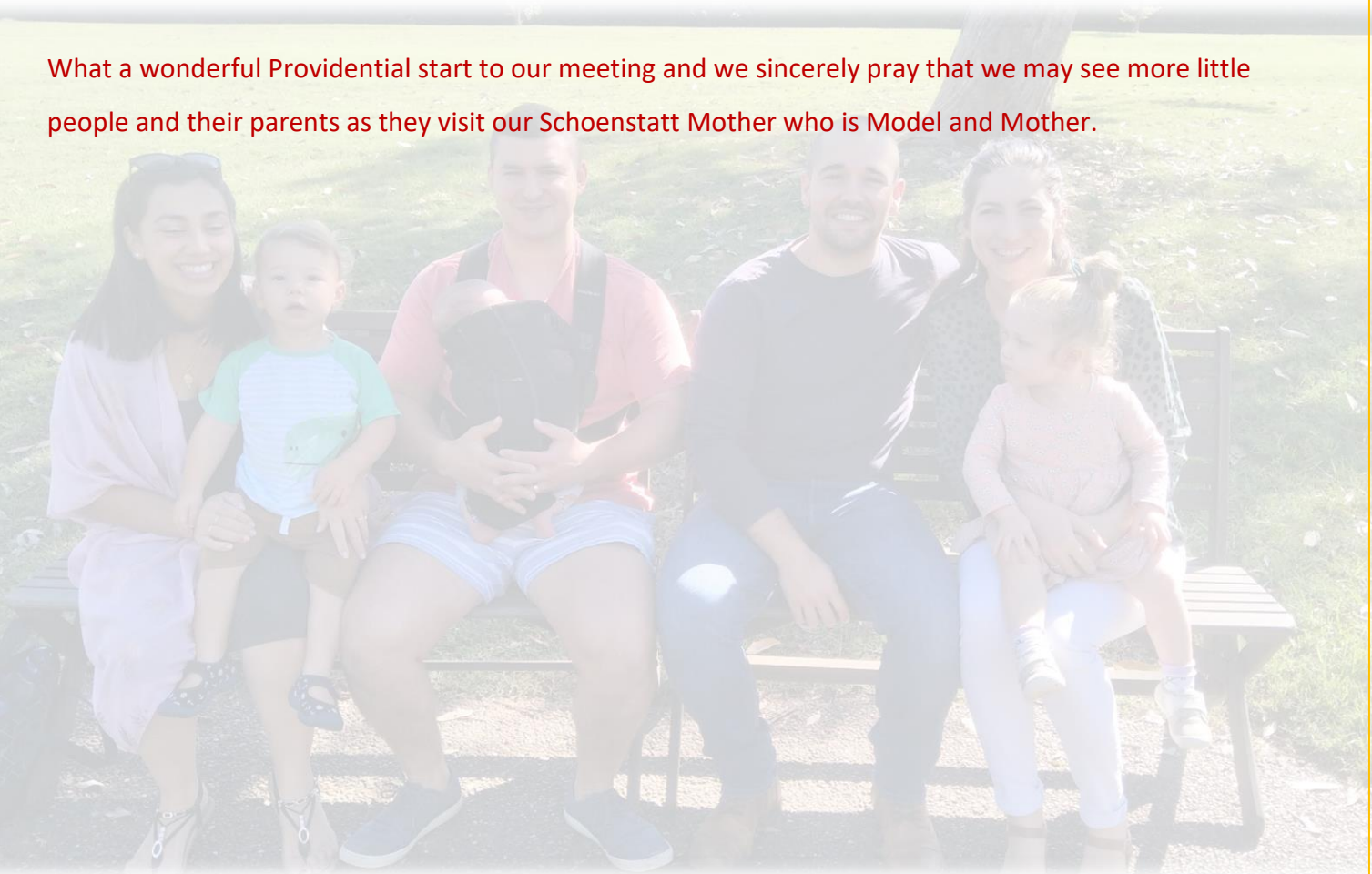




A Providential 'nudge' pushed me to ask if they would mind if I took their photo and they happily replied 'Yes', and after getting the mother of Joseph's phone number I took it and sent it to her. I heard them laughing with surprise in their voices, and I asked them 'Why'. The mother looked up at me and said: "While you were taking the photo, Joseph said, 'I love Mary and Jesus'" and he promptly looked at me and repeated it. I will carry the look of love on that child's face to my grave. I can only wish that more parents would, like these four parents, teach their children those poignant and meaningful words. I was 'nudged' again to think about putting this encounter into the newsletter.

This story did not complete itself until during Mass in the Evening at our own church I realized that the 'Gospel' reading was St John's writing about Thomas and his doubtful understanding of Christ's wounds and way. By way of explanation of the connection - if you look closely, there is a third child, 'a baby' in the photo held by his Dad, and his name is 'Thomas'.

What a wonderful Providential start to our meeting and we sincerely pray that we may see more little people and their parents as they visit our Schoenstatt Mother who is Model and Mother.



From Monday, May 10 to Saturday, May 15 a “Week for the Original Shrine” with the motto “Light for the World” took place.

## 4. A WEEK FOR THE ORIGINAL SHRINE

The Original Shrine is the place where Schoenstatt was born and from which the Blessed Mother sends us to conquer our hearts and the world for Jesus.

This week has been a time when, in our hectic lives which are often filled with fears and uncertainties, we were able to connect with JESUS AND MARY in the Original Shrine and reflect on the mission and blessing of this place of grace. As International Schoenstatt Family we gathered together – digitally – in our spiritual home. We were also given the opportunity to “visit” the national Shrines of our Schoenstatt Family throughout the world.

On the final day of this week during the International Marathon for the Original Shrine on May 15 we were able to participate in a small way as Australian Schoenstatt Family.

Shirley Hall, a member of our Schoenstatt Women’s League in Sydney, whom you will all know through her monthly reflections for our Covenant Days, was able to give a testimony about what the Shrine, our National Shrine but also the original Shrine, means for her.

Our young family group in Sydney, on our behalf, greeted the international Schoenstatt family from our National Shrine at Mulgoa. This video could only be 20 seconds, but the families made sure to include the kangaroos – typical of Australia and regular visitors to our Shrine!

The Original Shrine needs our financial support, and since Schoenstatt members throughout the world wanted to help fulfill its mission to be a ‘Light for the World’, this week has given us the opportunity to unite in solidarity to help further our common mission through contributing towards the numerous expenses for the Shrine’s upkeep.

If you missed out on this week, visit our official website: [www.schoenstatt.com](http://www.schoenstatt.com) or tune in to YouTube Schoenstatt International to discover events from the week. Donations for the Original Shrine will surely still be welcome.





## 5. Women's Reflection Day at Mount Schoenstatt

*The second Reflection Day for Women this year was held on Saturday 8th May. The title for the day was MARY - Woman of Hope.*

*We had just over 50 women attend which was wonderful, but with the return of the COVID19, we all had to wear face masks and sit apart from one another.*

*Sr Mary Louise gave a talk based on Luke 10:38-42, the Martha and Mary account of meeting with Jesus at their home. Most of us women would be like Martha, but Jesus said that Mary was doing the right thing, as she sat at the Lord's feet listening to Him. It is important for us to put aside some quiet time during the day to listen with our heart to what God is asking of us. He comes to us best when we are quiet.*

*We were also given leaflets with quotes from John Paul 11 to read and see which one appealed to us eg:*

*"In a noisy world filled with messages of all kinds, Mary's witness enables us to appreciate a spiritually rich silence and fosters a contemplative spirit."*

*As we all live in this noisy world with many distractions, it is a good reminder to stop and listen each day.*

*A craft activity was the final part of our day. We made a desktop reflection card with quotes/sayings that spoke to us.*

*It was a wonderful day catching up with many other Schoenstatt women, some of whom we had not seen for over a year.*

*Anne Walsh*

*Mothers' Branch Leader – Sydney*





## 6. Information and Links

### ➤ Shrine Opening Hours:

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

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW - **Opening times have changed.** (<https://schoenstatt.org.au>)

Mt Richon / Armadale Shrine, WA (<https://schoenstattwa.org.au>)

The Kew Shrine, Melbourne, VIC is open for individual visits from 7am – 5pm daily.

### ➤ Covenant Days in 2021

To enable as many people as possible to participate in the renewal of the Covenant each month, a video (**see link below**) will be made for each Covenant Sunday covering a theme connected with our motto for the year: **Family, be what you are – Domestic Church.**

### ➤ Links:

#### Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

#### Schoenstatt Australian Website

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

#### Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel

**Video for May Covenant Sunday may be viewed on:**

[www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia](http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia)

#### **Recent videos on this Channel:**

**Video for April Covenant Sunday - The Domestic Church and Education**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xVhbKqUn6M>.

**Video for March Covenant Sunday – Family – participating in the mission of Church**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_N2sTCpaW9Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_N2sTCpaW9Y)

**Video for February Covenant Sunday -Centre of Domestic Church, the Home Shrine**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bt7d1-5jRj8&t=3s>

**Video for January Covenant Sunday - The Family- Church in Miniature**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb4rpUPIF4o&t=124s>

**The Sisters singing the consecration prayer may be viewed at:**

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

### ➤ Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome.

Please send to [movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au) before the beginning of each month.

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