

# 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 from the Shrine for this Covenant day – 18<sup>th</sup> June. The month of June is dedicated to the Feast of The Sacred Heart of Jesus which we celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> June

Father Kentenich believed that love for Mary leads to a profound and warm love for Jesus Christ. He always showed Jesus Christ in his threefold relationship: to the Father in heaven, to Mary and to human beings.

In the following text he speaks of the depth of Jesus' love for each of us:

*"Just as I have loved you," our Lord once told his disciples, "you also should love one another" (Jn. 13, 34). Whoever wants to know in detail how our Lord loves, need only open the Bible, God's letter to his children. They will soon submit joyfully to the generous, sympathetic and heroic love with which our Lord expressed his love so richly in word and deed.*



1. His love is **generous**. That is why he invites us with so much kindness: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11, 28). He called himself the Good Shepherd who searches for the lost lamb, who does not avoid the heat of the desert or the thickets in order to find it, who carries it home on his shoulders, and who is even prepared to give his life for it.
2. That his love is **heartfelt and sympathetic** is shown by the fact that he had the utmost understanding for every form of physical and spiritual suffering he encountered. At one time he restored a child to his weeping mother, at another he healed a withered hand, or he drove out the devil or fed the crowds which had followed him so faithfully for three days. And when they brought him a woman who had been caught in adultery, who was laden with guilt, he looked beyond the filth and suffering of sin to the ground of her soul and discovered a spark of longing for purity and goodness - and did not condemn her. Our Lord went about doing good.
3. Yet his **heroic** love led even further: "He loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2, 20). "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn. 15, 13). If we want to understand our Lord's love to some extent, we must dwell on this point. (...) The workaday saint is moved by all these proofs of the love of the God Man, and never tires of repeating with the apostle Paul: "He loved me and gave himself for me".

*(Study on Workaday Sanctity, 1937 - From: "Christ my Light")*

In covenant unity, I invite you to continue to pray with each other and for each other, and in particular for those in our Schoenstatt Family who are struggling with health or other issues, or are mourning the loss of a loved one.

Wishing you all many blessings and graces from the shrine for this covenant day.

Shirley Hall







## 2. MAY PILGRIMAGE – Mount Richon

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May we were blessed with clear weather in the afternoon to have our annual May Pilgrimage to honour our Blessed Mother at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mt Richon WA, with 135 people attending. Father Mark from St Francis Xavier Parish, Hilbert, led our Rosary Procession along with other people leading each decade of the rosary.

Our theme for the day was “Mary with St Joseph sanctify our Family!” Beautiful reflections about St Joseph, Mary and the Holy Family were also read along with lovely hymns led by two young ladies, a guitarist and an organist. Many people also brought flowers for our Blessed Mother.

Thirteen new Co-ordinators were commissioned into the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate from various parishes, as well as many others being recommissioned to go out with their Pilgrim Mother Shrines to share with their circles. Father Mark blessed all the Shrines. He then followed this with Benediction and a blessing for all.

Afternoon tea was held down at Emilie house during which the skies opened up and the rain came pouring down. Everyone was very happy that the afternoon program was able to happen without any problems and felt truly blessed to be there.

*(Article by Philomena Theseira and photos by Chris Quinn)*







The calendar of our spiritual activities for the year in Melbourne is, as in other states, quite jammed packed, what with a Retreat in February, followed by an event in honour of Our Lady in May, the May pilgrimage to Mulgoa, our annual nine week Novena from June to August leading up to our celebration of the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, our annual dinner dance in September, Foundation Day and our Christmas celebration in December. From this it is evident that our community comes together regularly throughout the year.

All the above ended abruptly in 2020 with the Coronavirus pandemic and the corresponding restrictions imposed, which meant at least three lockdowns in Melbourne. The community was beginning to feel the isolation despite various Zoom meetings and connectedness in this form.

### 3. Schoenstatt Melbourne Reunited

When we commenced discussion about how we would commemorate the anniversary of the blessing of the Kew Shrine, to my surprise, the view by the people was unanimous that we should get together around the shrine, considering what the restrictions allowed us to do. We were aware that only 11 people could be in the Shrine at any one time. People were prepared to have an outdoor celebration which allowed for more people. At this early stage it meant braving the unpredictability of the Melbourne weather and organising an outdoor Mass. In the words of one of our members, "Even if it rains, we can make the sacrifice." Another, "Our Lady will take care as she always does."

We sent out the invitation and asked for a response of who would be attending. Normally we would get close to 100 people attending. At this time around 30 people responded. When our proposal was put to the Pallottine community, we found that we were able to have up to 35 people in the Pallotti House. It was all coming together, and we therefore had a mass concelebrated by Father Pat Jackson and Fr Joe Butscher. This was preceded by the Rosary, and after Mass we celebrated around the Shrine with flower (roses) and candle offerings to Our Lady, representing our contributions to the Capital of Grace over the long period of isolation.

"Our Lady will take care as she always does."

The joy that was felt by all, including the Pallottines in having us there was undeniable. It became clear that our Schoenstatt community thrives on Community Spirit and togetherness, where we feel strength in our common mission for Our Lady, guided by Our Founder, Fr. Kentenich, and from our spiritual home in the Shrine.

At the time of writing, we are again in lockdown. Our prayer is for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic, so that we may be able to reach out to the community once again and join in unity around our Blessed Mother in the Shrine, from where we gather our strength and courage to face life's journey.

Karin Southgate



## 4. Recommissioning of Pilgrim Mother Coordinators -

This year was the second time that we were not able to hold the Annual Marian Pilgrimage at Mulgoa because of restrictions. However, the Team and regional coordinators of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate decided to have a Holy Mass and recommissioning of coordinators on Sunday 16 May 2021 at 12 noon.

Due to the COVID 2sq.metre rule we could only accommodate 108 people inside the Family Hall. Coordinators from all over Parramatta, Sydney and

Broken Bay dioceses came together to celebrate this event.



Sr Luisa Maria gave a welcome and introduction to all coordinators and thanked them for their unending support to the apostolate helping Our Lady to bring Jesus and the three graces from the shrine into the homes of many.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Pawel Barszczweski, OP. Although congregational singing was not allowed we invited a Choir from Mary Immaculate, Bossley Park whose musician and leader was one of our Coordinators in that area.

Before the final blessing two new coordinators were commissioned: Josephine dela Vega from Ryde and Petty from St Ives parish, Broken Bay diocese. This followed with a Recommissioning of all Pilgrim Mother Coordinators present.

During lunch there were possibilities to catch up with friends. Some of the coordinators commented that it was good to have this kind of event where they could meet other coordinators and hear different testimonies of how Our Lady works miracles of graces when she visits families.



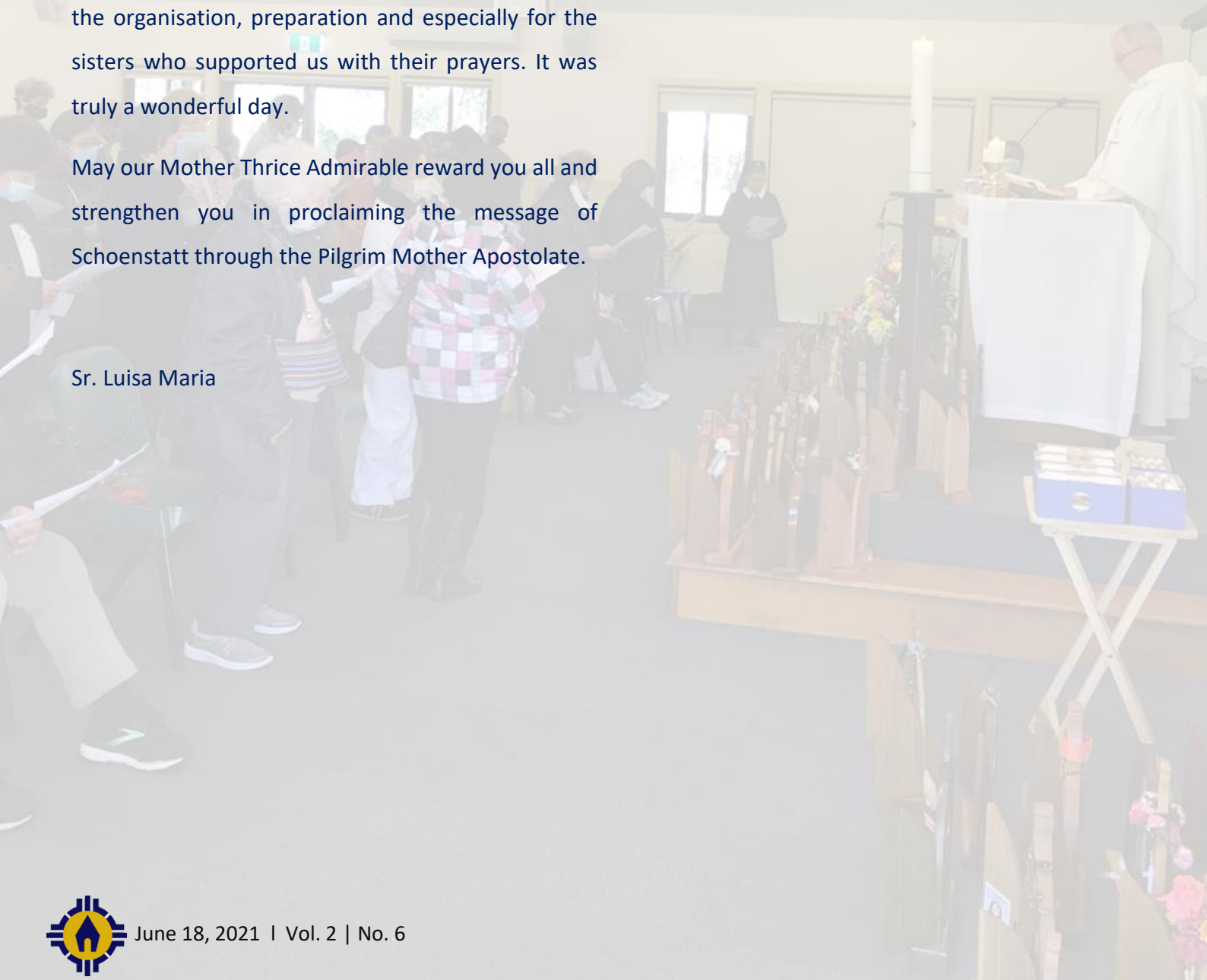
We would have wished to have a longer lunch but Devotion and Benediction in the shrine started at 2.00pm. Many who attended the Mass stayed for that afternoon prayer. So it was beautiful to see people around the shrine for the first time gathered to receive the Eucharistic blessing from our Lord.

The coordinators went home happy and thankful for this beautiful opportunity to be recommissioned from the shrine as an instrument of our Mother Thrice Admirable.

I thank also those generous hands who helped with the organisation, preparation and especially for the sisters who supported us with their prayers. It was truly a wonderful day.

May our Mother Thrice Admirable reward you all and strengthen you in proclaiming the message of Schoenstatt through the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

Sr. Luisa Maria





*The first time we saw Anne was when she was standing in front of the Pilgrim Centre in her cooking apron, at one of the May Pilgrimage events. She looked inspirational and we thought how nice it would be to be like her! Oh, that must be her spirit that transcends to us, not the cooking apron she was wearing! And yet, Mary, our Blessed Mother had another plan for us, to meet Anne. We shared the same vision – love of God and our love for Mary, our Blessed Mother and for Schoenstatt.*



*Anne was most welcoming and warm when we joined the Mothers'/ Single Women's Group. She was passionate in the grace of hospitality. For every Schoenstatt event she readily raised her hand to be in charge of the Barbecue stall. Then of course this was followed by asking us to help... there was no force but in Anne's way we said 'yes'.*

## **5. A Tribute for Anne Rewhorn**

**24 . 6 . 1952 – 12 . 5 . 2021 RIP**

*"You may be gone from our sight but you will never be gone from our heart"*

*Anne's ability to prepare the scrumptious barbecue 'with the works' was done with precision and full of love. She enjoyed surprising the Schoenstatt family and children at our Covenant Sunday celebrations with Easter eggs at Easter time, ice cream, which was the favourite, and Pavlova cake – for the adults. She enjoyed doing this selflessly. She had the gift of making others feel at home with her cooking skills. Yes, she definitely shared in one of the graces of the Shrine, the grace of being at home and the ability to make others feel at home.*

*Anne was kind with a generous spirit, and what a blessing she was with her unselfish ways! 'Father Encounter' – this was the theme of the Covenant Presentations we prepared together with Anne, to celebrate Covenant Sundays for at least 3 years prior to COVID times. Anne had the ability to give her all which was quite evident the very first time we prepared a Presentation. She was not the Presenter, but preferred to be with the people, to serve them with a delicious meal and the Apple Strudel she prepared.*





*She made 'Father Encounter – Covenant Presentations' her apostolate that became more fruitful as those who attended learnt more about our father and founder through the witnessing of the different Presenters. During the three years of the 'Father Encounter Covenant Presentations' the number of attendees grew, whilst the knowledge about our father and founder, Father Kentenich also broadened.*

*Thanks Anne!*



*Anne's caring nature was evident when we drove to Blayney to visit her in hospital during her last weeks. The trip was quite dangerous because it was continuously pouring rain combined with thick fog and poor visibility going over the mountains.*

*At this time she had trouble breathing and was quite unwell, which made it difficult for her to speak, but she did not hesitate to ring us and advise us to be extra careful and if necessary to stop and wait until the weather settled down. Yes, she still found time to warn us. Anne, our friend and sister in Christ, was caring and thoughtful as was shown in this gesture of kindness. We paused a minute and reflected on Anne's loyalty and commitment to her Covenant of love and to Schoenstatt's Spirituality. We thought of all the years she drove from her home in Carcoar to Mulgoa every month. She inspired us.*

*Anne was also a great listener with time for us. Often she gave us an update on her mother Kath's health. She spoke about her mother so caringly and lovingly and you could tell she was close to her heart and she became our mother as well.*

*Anne, there are words of happiness about the treasured times we had together, albeit too brief and words of beauty to describe you. We have memories that makes us laugh out loud. You inspired us as you faced life – and death - with courage, strength, joy and hope and true love, an internal peace and interiorly transformed as you remained an ever loyal instrument of our Covenant Partner – our Blessed Mother.*

*We have wonderful memories always whenever we think of you.*

*Edna & Agnes Aldana*



## 6. Apostolic from the Kitchen – Sr Mary

For more than 72 years Sr. Mary Jockenhoevel was a Schoenstatt Sister of Mary who worked mainly in the kitchen. People testify to her organizing skills, her “good meals” but they also remember the prayerful, happy person, the ‘beautiful soul’ who always had a smile and was ready to serve wherever needed. God called her home on May 14 just after she had finished the evening meal and prayed with the Sisters in their dining room in Mulgoa. Adjacent to this dining room is a kitchenette where Sr. Mary had worked till just a few days before she had a heart attack which so suddenly took her to her eternal home. She was surrounded by her sisters whom she had faithfully served over so many years.

Sr. Mary was born in Germany in 1925, entered the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in 1948 and came to Australia with the third group of sisters in 1956.

Already in Germany she was working in the kitchen in the “Covenant Home” where Fr. Kentenich lived and offered retreats. In this way, Sr. Mary got to know Fr. Kentenich and her encounters with him rooted her deeply in her faith in God and Schoenstatt’s mission. Her relationship with Fr. Kentenich gave her security and marked her whole life of service.



Sr. Mary’s first years in Australia were spent in Missions for indigenous children at Tardun and Wandering, WA. In both mission stations she worked mainly in the kitchen where she was responsible for the care of more than 100 people with completely different means than she was used to. She wrote about her first experiences in Australia: “Everything was new, Tardun - in the midst of nowhere, like a desert with plenty of heat, wind and flies; a beautiful sky, magnificent stars. And yet, life was lonely. I had to prepare sheep for dinner and had never done anything like that before. But all of us managed. We were young, enthusiastic, and trusted in God that he would supply what we could not do.



In 1968 Sr. Mary was transferred to Sydney and spent six years working as a cook in public institutions to help financially in the building up of the sisters' community. She worked in the kitchens of a hospital, an old people's home and a hotel. These were very difficult years for her, but she succeeded with God's help, as she herself said.

Finally, in 1974, she assumed responsibility for the kitchen in the sisters' new provincial retreat house. In this position she worked skilfully and prudently for almost 30 years. Since 2007 she took care of the sisters' dining room and kitchenette.

The good food, shared with others and prepared by her to provide for the material needs at many spiritual days or retreats around the Shrine at Mulgoa is remembered by all. Even people who delivered food to the kitchen remember Sr. Mary as a friendly, grateful and always smiling sister, even ready for a little chat at times. Many felt "touched by her *loving work of service*". When asked what made her happy, Sr. Mary replied: "It just makes me happy to work for others and make them feel at home. Besides, I also received a lot of praise because of my good meals."

Sr. Mary was *prayerful* and went each day to the shrine and prayed for all the intentions the people entrusted to the Blessed Mother. However, she was very *reserved* about religious matters and would never tell anyone what to do. Once in a while, however, she spontaneously gave some good advice. Someone confirmed that when she told Sr. Mary about her weak health, she received the advice: "*Trust in God*, that also helps me again and again."

And once, after a person had told her about her experiences in the Holy Land which had put her on fire she replied: "*Make sure to keep that fire always in your heart.*"

Often times Sr. Mary was given the office as superior of the sisters next to her practical work. She was a *good superior* attentive to the needs of others, giving a good example, for what she demanded of others she practiced herself.

*"It just makes me happy to work for others and make them feel at home. Besides, I also received a lot of praise because of my good meals."*

Sr. Mary was a *splendid organizer* with an eye for detail. Someone said of her: "Her expectations for sisters and working girls were high and were to be met. However, there was also a *warm side* to her, a caring attitude for each one's wellbeing and reaching out for people in their dire need."







That is why quite a few people still kept in contact with her, never forgetting her genuine concern when they needed it most. Likewise, she never forgot people who assisted her in manifold ways and was loyal in her prayers for them.

Sr. Mary was immensely *grateful for her calling to the sisters' family* and considered it *the greatest gift and grace from God that he led her to Schoenstatt*. For this undeserved gift she could never thank him enough. And we thank God for the gift of Sr. Mary, for her faithful and ever-ready selfless service, for her genuinely apostolic life, lived for the most part in the kitchen.





## 7. Schoenstatt Men's Reflection Day on St. Joseph

In the universal Church's Year of St Joseph, Schoenstatt Men, Sydney, are offering a series of days on 'Joseph, the new person in the new community', so named after the central idea of Schoenstatt's spiritual way.

Last Saturday, 29 May, was the first event, a reflection day on the theme 'Joseph, Man of Decision' examining the challenges St Joseph faced in his life, the difficult decisions he made, and how he discerned God's will in making those decisions.

The day was attended by almost all the members of Schoenstatt Men, Sydney, with many others from all over Sydney, a total of 23 men of all ages and backgrounds.



Fr. Pawel OP, a Dominican priest who is part of our Schoenstatt Family, led us in our reflection as well as in prayer. Father is a great communicator and emphasised that discerning God's will is not just something for one or two major decisions in life, but also in the everyday.

We encountered the Lord and his Mother in the Schoenstatt Shrine, as well as more intimately with Mass celebrated in the forest at the Wayside Shrine. The men found our venue to be a beautiful place to have a retreat. The day's schedule and surrounds allowed enough time for quiet reflection and renewal amid presentations and group discussion.

The men appreciated the welcome they received as well as meeting and sharing with other men of faith. The joy of a face-to-face gathering was refreshing and promoted a strong feeling of fellowship.

The next in this series on St Joseph will be on Saturday 14 August and will reflect on St Joseph as an original and independent personality, an image of the ideal modern man. We will finish with a 20,21 November weekend retreat on St Joseph as husband and father, forming with Mary and Jesus the first domestic Church.

Each event has an optional follow-up Zoom meeting a week later: after having had time to slowly digest the reflection day, an opportunity to share on how the reflection day went for each person, "how it has changed me".

Email: [mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:mensbranch@schoenstatt.org.au) to join the mailing list.





## 8. 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.**

If you wish to participate in the Zoom meeting on Covenant Sundays (3-4pm AEST) please register at [movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au)

### ➤ Links:

#### Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

#### Schoenstatt Australian Website

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

#### Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel

Video for June Covenant Sunday may be viewed on:

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

#### Recent videos on this Channel:

Video for May Covenant Sunday - The Domestic Church and Education II – religious support

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kefc6XoxCE>

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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