

# Schoenstatt Movement

## Australia

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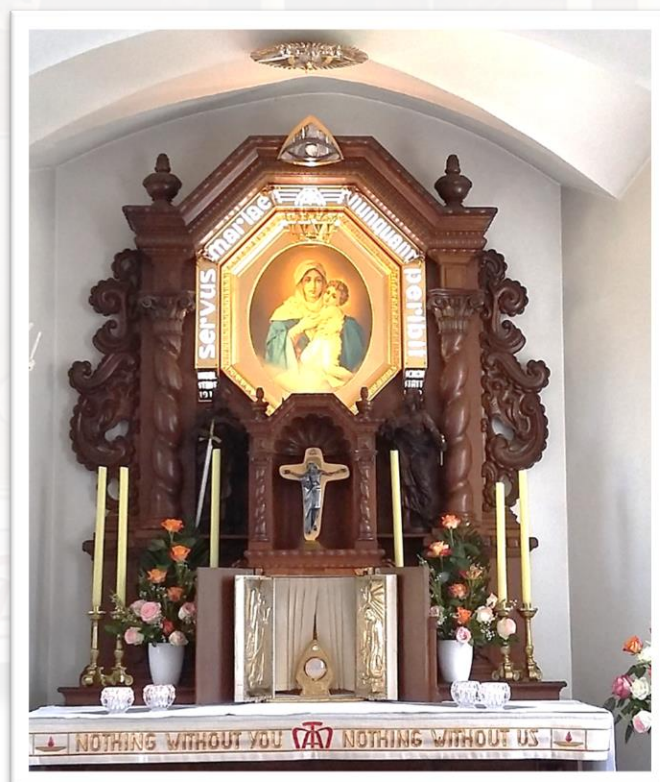
We each made our Covenant of Love with our Blessed Mother in her Shrine and that makes us members of our Schoenstatt Family and it unites us also with our father and founder – Father Kantenich – as well as also with each other.

## 1. Covenant Day Message

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

**D**ear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings on this Covenant Day – 18th July. This month we are blessed to be able to celebrate our Covenant Sunday on the 18th. It is a day when we unite as an Australian Schoenstatt Family to renew and celebrate our Covenant of Love. In these difficult COVID times, it doesn't matter whether we do this together with others at one of our shrines, or via the Zoom gathering at home or in front of our home shrine or Pilgrim Mother Shrine.



On June 20, 1956, during a Conference for couples in Milwaukee, USA, Father Kentenich said:

"It is customary for us to see our shrine as the very place where the Blessed Mother accomplishes in our present time what she accomplished in the past at the places she stayed during her life on earth. Where did the Blessed Mother stay during her lifetime, where was she active and effective? Oh, we just have to mention one or the other place; we think of Nazareth, we think of Bethlehem, we think of Golgotha, we also think of the Cenacle, the Upper Room.....

Well, how does the Blessed Mother appear before us? ...How do we see the Blessed Mother here in our shrine? The way the Scriptures paint her picture. The Child is in her arms. What does the picture remind us of, the Child in her arms? Of Bethlehem. "Your shrine is our Bethlehem." We ponder and remind ourselves that by virtue of the covenant of love, the Blessed Mother gives us her gifts. Exchange of gifts; that's what we called the covenant of love. What then does she give us here in this shrine? The Child in her arms. How often she has given us her Child! How often she has given us her Child in Holy Communion. How often has she given us her Child? As often as we have discovered Christ's countenance in a neighbour."

*(From: "With Mary into the New Millennium", P130, 131)*

In the spirit of unity, could I ask you to please continue to pray for those members of our Schoenstatt Family who are struggling at this time in any way, especially with illness, either themselves or members of their family. May our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, shower on us from her shrines, graces and blessings especially on this Covenant Day and in this coming month.

United in Covenant Loyalty,

Shirley Hall



***A number of people from Sydney indicated that they would have liked to attend Anne Rewhorn's funeral but were unable to do so.***

## **2. A Date for your Diary – Anne Rewhorn Memorial**

The members of the Single Women's Group to which Anne belonged, together with other friends of Anne's are hoping to organise a Memorial Mass and gathering on the Covenant Sunday – **21st November.**

As November is also the month of the holy souls, at this Mass we will not only celebrate our Covenant of Love but also remember Anne and all those from our Schoenstatt Family who have died in the last twelve months. We want to not only celebrate these people, but also recognise their loyalty to Our Lady and the Covenant of Love which they lived loyally throughout their lives. Further details will be available closer to the date. In the meantime, if you know of others who may wish to attend this Mass, please pass on this date to them.



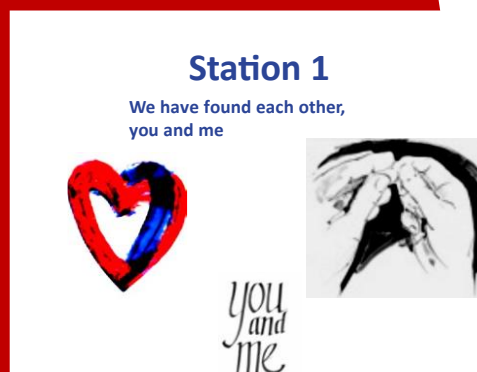


**T**hree couples joined Philomena and David (Family Branch Leaders) for the Marriage Camino on Saturday 12th June. We walked the 15 stations of the Camino on the property at Mt Richon in WA. Our MTA did her part with the weather as it was a glorious day.

Couples listened to reflections by Fr Kentenich and then had time at each station to talk together as a couple using suggested questions in their booklets. We also had some reflection time in the Shrine. They were all very happy with the program and having the time to discuss things together.

During our lunch break, we had a bit of fun taking photos of the couples at the photo booth area. (Fr Kentenich also joined in the fun.)

Philomena and David Theseira



### 3. Marriage Camino – Mount Richon



## 4. From Encounter to Conversion

### An important Encounter

For a long time the image of an unkind and distant God was with me until I met my mentor Fr. Denis Foley who introduced me to a loving Father, full of Mercy and Love. He also introduced me to our MTA. I really had never heard much about Mary until then. My faith journey took a sharp turn to embrace the Schoenstatt idea of Love, Freedom and Respect. When I made my consecration to our MTA I felt for the first time in my life that I would not be abandoned again.

### A further significant Encounter –

It was during the Year of Mercy (2015/2016) at the 24 Hours for the Lord celebration that I had an experience where my whole life ran past me and Our Lord showed me his presence in all the major events of my life. As I reflected on this experience this phrase kept on coming up – “Prove first by your deeds that you really love me”. How could I prove my love to our MTA? Through many prayers and reflections it became clear that I should do a Pilgrimage. This finished up being a Pilgrimage around Australia visiting 14 Holy Doors of Mercy and praying and reflecting on one Station of the Cross at each Door of Mercy. It was at the ninth Station, the third fall where I had a real Encounter with Our Lord.

### Where to from here? –

For years I have been battling to get Schoenstatt Men known on a wider scale with no doors opening to make this happen. I remember very sternly asking our MTA, what was all this for? Nothing seemed to be happening and I said to her if she didn't do something soon I would go somewhere else and be active in Men's Ministry. Well, as they say, be careful what you pray for.

**Doors started to open that previously seemed permanently shut.**

The Sydney Archdiocese seemed ready to talk to us and start being serious about Men's Ministry. Maximus – Men Striving for Greatness was formed and we started planning Breakfast Encounters for men. Up until now four Encounters were held with over 200 participants and three new Men's Groups being established. Although not Schoenstatt, all our activities are in the Spirit of Schoenstatt, our MTA is with us all the way.





## Camino Pilgrimage 2021

Sydney Camino challenge takes 12 hours and 25km

Forty-five men from across Sydney braved cold conditions to take on the challenge to honour the patron saint of fathers and complete the inaugural Camino of St Joseph overnight pilgrimage for men.

Starting at 8pm on 30 April at Holy Family Parish in Menai, the men aged between 18 and 75 walked the 25 kilometres visiting parishes in Sutherland, Miranda, Sans Souci and Kogarah before arriving at Brighton-Le-Sands at 5.30am for Adoration, Mass and a piping hot breakfast.

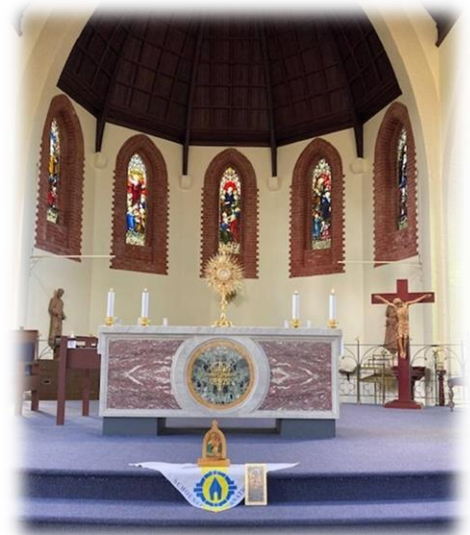
An initiative of the Sydney Archdiocese Life, Marriage and Family Office and held on the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the 12-hour walk was held to honour St Joseph as a model for men while sparking spiritual curiosity.



## Ride for St Joseph Pilgrimage 2021

Another initiative we started was a Ride for St Joseph Pilgrimage. Being the year of St Joseph we thought it would be a good idea to do something special. All up five of us, four riders and one driver, set out on a three day Pilgrimage visiting seven St Joseph Churches covering 800 km. Our MTA was with us all the way as we prayed and reflected on her spouse St. Joseph. I had a very personal Encounter at the Church where I was baptised. It occurred to me that on nearly all of our visits we had our MTA, an Image of her spouse St Joseph and Exposition/Adoration, indeed the complete Holy Family. This was an overwhelming experience as I came to realise, that this Family would never abandon me. I truly experienced that - A servant (or child) of Mary shall never perish. How comforting that thought is.

- Jim Jankiewicz





**W**ith wonder, awe and amazement, the Webb family had the privilege of watching the third of their 12 children, Sr Rose Patrick O'Connor (Nancy Webb), profess first vows with the Sisters of Life in June. Although travel restrictions meant participation was via a livestream from the Sacred Heart Parish in Suffern, New York, cheers and a few tears were very real and present. The family watched on from Toowoomba, Brisbane, Canberra and Zurich.



## 5. A Schoenstatt Family Rejoices.

*"The Sisters of Life are women who are in love with Love – Love incarnate, crucified, and Risen – and captivated by the truth of the beauty of every human person, created in God's image and likeness.*

*We believe every person is valuable and sacred. We believe that every person is good, loved, unique and unrepeatable. We believe that every person's life has deep meaning, purpose and worth. In fact, we give our lives for that truth."*

*(<https://sistersoflife.org/who-we-are/who-we-are/>)*



*Webbs who watched the First Vows of the Beloved Dwelling class from Queensland (L to R Thomas, Nathan, Xavier, Isaac, Rebecca, Peter, Paul, Brigid, Fiona, James and Owen). Not photographed are Liam and his wife Holly, Canberra, and David, Zurich. (photo James Webb).*

Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and service to the Sanctity of human life. Those were the vows Nancy Webb, called in religion Sr Rose Patrick O'Connor, made on the 26th June, 2021. Sr Rose and her class have collectively adopted the name "Beloved Dwelling". As with Schoenstatt's personal, couple or group ideals, this name captures the God given, unique and special charism of this group of religious women. *This group has enjoyed watching as people they encounter feel loved and at home. The adopted name reflects their recognition of this grace and their commitment to foster it throughout their lives as Religious.*





Authenticity and Joy were the words Sister of Life Superior Mother Agnus Mary used to describe Sr Rose and her companions as she congratulated them on their first vows and called them to share the mission of the Sisters of Life.

Six hours later in Toowoomba, Bishop Robert McGuckin presided over a celebratory Mass at Sacred Heart Parish in Toowoomba. The order of the Mass was the same as that used in New York, that of religious profession, and after the homily the parish community watched a clip of Sr Rose professing her vows.

Reflecting on the occasion, Sr Rose's parents, Paul and Fiona, explained to fellow parishioners that "it takes a village to raise a child and you (Sacred Heart Parishioners in Toowoomba) are part of that village." So too is the extended family, the broader Church community, and the Schoenstatt Movement in and beyond Australia.

Paul and Fiona made their Covenant of Love in 1998 and many of their children have followed suite. Sr Rose was staying in Mulgoa in 2008 when she met the Sisters of Life at World Youth Day (WYD). The whole WYD experience was one of joy and comradery.

Sr Rose Patrick O'Connor (novitiate entry)







At Mulgoa and at the many venues throughout the wider Sydney joy and encounters with Christ were shared in abundance. In many other pilgrimages to Mulgoa from 1996 onwards, the Webbs have witnessed the Joy of the Gospel and the sense of a home that the Schoenstatt Sisters, Schoenstatt priests and the many lay members have fostered.

*Beloved Dwelling class with Sr Rose second from right (photo from entry into novitiate in 2019). Novitiate photos from <https://sistersoflife.org/news/entrance-to-the-novitiate/>*

Sr Rose made her Covenant of Love in about 2014 and there can be no doubt that this has contributed to Sr Rose's vocation and now to the "Beloved Dwelling" Sisters of Life class.

"The Sisters can give Christ because they have Christ. They have Christ because they love Christ, because they are consecrated to Christ and Christ is consecrated to them." John Cardinal O'Connor, Founder of the Sisters of Life.



## 6. Information and Links

### ➤ Shrine Opening Hours:

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

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW. During Lockdown – closed. With no lockdown: Open daily 7am- 7pm.

Prayer inside the Shrine limited to 10 persons.

Mt Richon / Armadale Shrine, WA. Open daily 7am – 7pm.

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 July Covenant Sunday may be viewed on:

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

Recent videos on this Channel:

Video for June Covenant Sunday – Prayer Life in the Domestic Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kq1R04mpuG8&t=383s>

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)

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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