

# Schoenstatt Movement

## Australia

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### 1. Covenant Day Message

Family, be what you are:  
Domestic Church

**D**ear Schoenstatt Family  
and Friends,

On this very special  
Covenant day when we  
remember and celebrate the

foundation of Schoenstatt on 18th October 1914, we pray that Our Blessed Mother will send us all many blessings and graces from her Schoenstatt Shrines, and in particular, from the original shrine in Schoenstatt, Germany

When we renew our covenant of love today, we hear the words that Father Kentenich spoke on October 23, 1966:

*“We renew our covenant of love, but we renew it with the intention that this covenant of love should become more and more and deeper and deeper, the foundation of our lives, the meaning of our lives, the norm for our lives and the form for our lives.*”



*Practically speaking, this means that the covenant of love with the Blessed Mother – allow me to repeat this again – as the expression of the covenant of love, the safeguard and the means for the covenant of love with our Lord and with the Triune God should become the foundation of our lives more than before, the norm and form for our lives.*

*Indeed, the covenant of love with the Blessed Mother is not something unimportant, something accidental. Whatever is not connected with God, whatever does not proceed from him, whatever does not lead to him, is really meaningless today.”*



*“If you look for me you will find me in the Shrine.”*

When speaking of the great task he undertook, together with that small group of boys on 18th October 1914, 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. (JK 13 May, 1952)*

Father Kentenich often said, *“No one will be lost who is loyal to his covenant of love”* and he also said, *“If you look for me you will find me in the Shrine.”*

On this Covenant Day, may we be united in Covenant loyalty with our Blessed Mother, with our Father and Founder and with each other:

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

Shirley Hall

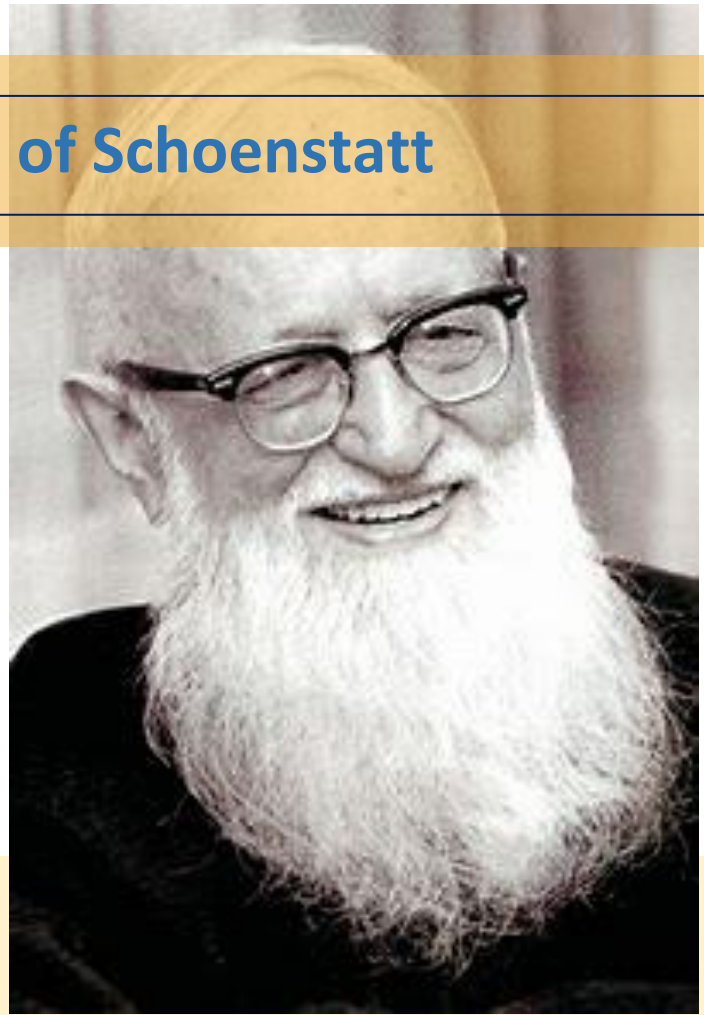


## 2. The Founding of Schoenstatt

At 5pm on Sunday 18th October, 1914, Father Kentenich gave a talk during the first ecclesial (in-chapel) meeting of the Marian Sodality held in the new quarters of the St. Michael's chapel.

After the talk everything remained much as it had previously. The boys were caught up in everyday life and its extraordinary challenges at that time, and no one mentioned this talk again for months. Father Kentenich too kept silent about the talk. One of the main reasons was that he wanted to know whether a source of grace had really broken through on the 18th October. He believed this would become evident through the life that was awakened in the boys, the "creative resultants". There is no doubt that the founder himself was always fully conscious of the importance of the date and the event of 18 October 1914.

It was only in the 1920s that the Schoenstatt Movement gradually became aware of the fact that Schoenstatt had actually been founded on 18 October 1914. Previously this date had not been recognised as the foundation day of Schoenstatt and it seems that the fifteenth anniversary of the foundation (1929) was the first time it was celebrated.



It is thought that 28 boys were present from the senior sodality, although this number could have been 32. However, whether the number of boys attending this founding talk of Schoenstatt was 28 or 32 or 54 boys, it is still amazing to appreciate that from this small beginning, (the smallness of the instruments) we can see "the greatness of the success" - a great world-wide Schoenstatt Movement that has emerged from these humble beginnings. Surely we can say with great confidence that Schoenstatt must truly be a work of the hand of God.



# 3. WA Schoenstatt Family Weekend

**WITNESS . MISSION . PRAYER**

A great opportunity was taken for a Schoenstatt Family weekend with the theme 'Witness, Mission and Prayer' on WA's long weekend from Saturday 25th to Monday 27th September.

Attended by 17 adults and 2 children, with several Schoenstatt family members coming for only a day throughout the weekend, we gathered at the Vincentian Retreat Centre at Karrakup, conveniently around 15 minutes away from our Shrine at Mount Richon.

Sr M Elizabeth presented our first session on 'Evangelization – Schoenstatt's Way' via Zoom, followed by 'Prayer and Witness' presented by Philomena Theseira. That afternoon we travelled to the Shrine for a time of hymns and prayers to our MTA. After a shared 'potluck dinner' everyone joined in a Quiz Night, with some winning bottles of wine.

Ida Stokes gave a morning presentation on Sunday, on 'Witness, Mission, Prayer – A Letter from Pope Francis to the Schoenstatt Youth'. After a group rosary, Fr Joseph Rathnaraj from Maida Vale Parish celebrated Mass for us. During the afternoon we viewed the film 'Seed of a New World' followed by a craft activity where one could make a miniature Shrine to take home. The evening barbeque dinner was followed by a Games Night where the two teams - the Gregorian Tigers and the Sausage Sizzlers – battled to win amid much joy and laughter.

On Monday, Sr M Elizabeth once more presented our final session via Zoom on 'Sharing in the Mission of Christ and Our Lady'. This was a Schoenstatt study session with opportunities to share our perspective on our father texts where we could enrich one another.



After enjoying plenty of food and having a great time, we not only gained new perspectives, but also enjoyed one another as a family. And the ones who came for the first time are now eager to know more about Schoenstatt.



# What did the participants get out of the weekend?

- *In a word, the weekend was 'remembrance' that is, remembering how the Original Shrine and the Shrine came about, and the importance of being open to co-operate with Our Lady in her mission.*
- *We need more weekends like this as we relaxed, learnt and had fun.*
- *One of the new couple participants said: Thank you for working so hard to give us such an enlightening experience. We enjoyed ourselves and came home feeling energised.*
- *As the internet was not available here, we had a good break, free from distractions.*
- *I realize that personal reflection is important to become good evangelists. And to learn to keep the evangelisation simple, for example love for my family members is evangelisation.*
- *I became conscious of more contributions to the capital of grace, that is through our self-education, inviting Our Lady to direct the graces of the Shrine to those in need.*
- *I enjoyed our study session, that is reading father's words and yet we are all involved. It was also nice to simply come together.*



# 4. Congratulations to Sr. M. Isabell

On the feast of the Archangels on 29 September, the Vatican news channel announced the nomination of Sr. M. Isabell as member of

**the International Theological Commission in Rome for five years.**

We congratulate Sr. M. Isabell wholeheartedly and wish her all the best for this important and challenging task.

The nomination was a genuine surprise to Sr. M. Isabell as it is a commission with selected theologians from all continents and backgrounds. The members of this prestigious commission are proposed by the Congregation of the Faith in Rome after consultation with the bishops' conferences and ultimately nominated by the Holy Father.

The main task of the International Theological Commission is to study doctrinal questions of major importance and to present the result to the Pope. It meets in plenary session once a year in Rome to present and discuss their studies during the year.

Being a member of this commission is a great honour and privilege for Sr. M. Isabell, who by virtue of her position as President of the Catholic Institute of Sydney, has worked already with various Dicasteries of the Roman Curia and has served for ten years on the Pontifical Council for Culture.

It is also an honour for our community and for the Schoenstatt Family in Australia. For many years we have profited from her expertise not only in theology and but also from her ability to place Schoenstatt's spirituality into the context of the Church and the ever-changing times.



Sr. M. Isabell, be assured of our spiritual support and prayers. We pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten you with his gifts and graces. May our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt take her Covenant obligation toward you seriously. We also entrust you to the guidance of our father and founder who will be with you with his intercession.

**The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary**

## 5. Heartfelt Thanks to John Doherty from the WA Schoenstatt Family

John, when we think of your contribution to Schoenstatt in Western Australia, it brings much warmth to our hearts, and we wish to extend our thanks to you with deepest gratitude.

Your journey, with Joy, in Schoenstatt began with Fr Boes, the Schoenstatt Sisters and the Schoenstatt Community in Mulgoa. Of this time we only know the snippets that you have both shared with us over the years. As such, it is your contribution to Schoenstatt in Western Australia that we are most aware of and wish to acknowledge.

John, your contributions both of time, talent and treasure truly cannot be measured. We have lost count of the many busy bees around the Shrine that you arranged and attended. Also, the many organisations you contacted and visited on behalf of Schoenstatt as well as the many years of service on our Co-ordinators Committee. This together with the many generous and quiet gifts/donations you and Joy have made to Schoenstatt over the years – for this we thank you!



We recall your very regular and faithful Friday visits to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in our Shrine, after which you would check as to what might be needed: a printer, a computer, a desk, a table, etc. Having assessed the need you attended to it as you did with many other matters. Things such as a chat or contact with the local Ranger regarding the kangaroos, a letter/invitation to our Archbishop, other dignitaries or to friends of Schoenstatt, checking out a place or property where the Family branch formation weekends could be held.



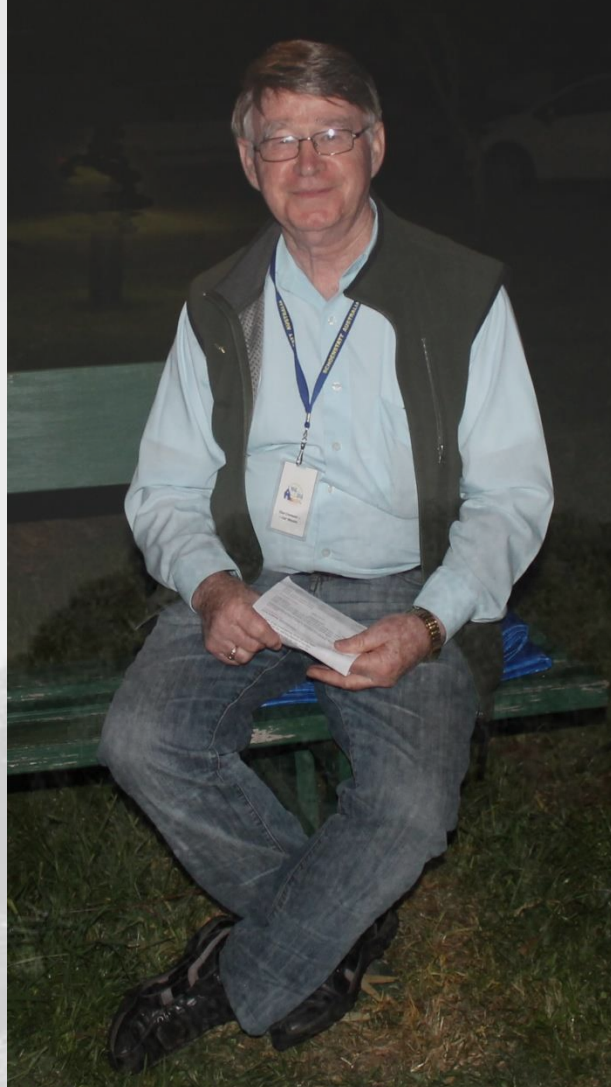
You extended genuine hospitality to all who visited us from within Australia or came from other countries such as South Africa, Brazil or Germany. You opened your heart and home to them.

The Perez family who came from Cape Town had this to say.

*“It is fitting that we thank both you and Joy for your goodness, openness and warm hospitality towards our family. We were fortunate to meet you, Joy, and Leah in 1981 when we migrated to Australia and became part of the Schoenstatt community in Perth. We are truly blessed to have been a small part of your Schoenstatt journey since then, please know for this we are grateful!! You and Joy are still a much-valued part of our Family Group and for this we thank you!”*

Guilherme and Barbara Dias who came from Brazil to join us in Perth also experienced John’s care and hospitality. In their words:

*“When we arrived in 2013, John was amongst the first people we met at the Shine. He introduced us to Ted and Jan Peters and to Peter De San Miguel. We did not have a car at the time, so John drove us back home and from then onwards he offered to drive us to the Shrine (and Kings Park and so many beautiful places), until we got a car of our own some six months later*



*He taught us amazing things about the Movement and explained so much about the Western Australian Shrine and how it all came about. But above all, he and Joy became family to us, inviting us to celebrate Christmas, birthdays, and even Saint Patrick’s Day with them! If we settled here and could be useful for the Movement much of it would be a result of John’s continuous support of us. God bless him and his family.”*

November 1991 was a huge milestone and blessing for Western Australia, our Shrine in Armadale was blessed. You were part of the planning team John, you rolled up your sleeves and helped others to build our Shrine, Saturday after Saturday after Saturday. Your laughter, your humour and sense of commitment never diminished.







Recently you stepped down from the position as Chairman of the Co-ordinator's Committee, a position you held for many years. The position of Chairman required organising, planning, dialogue and keeping abreast of events with a hand firmly on the pulse of the times. You were not daunted by this or by the many challenges you faced, and there were a few.

Whilst you may have taken a step back, you have continued to diligently produce the monthly Western Australian newsletter with excellent content.

John, you have always believed in and worked for the mission and legacy of our Father and Founder, Father Kentenich and to make our Blessed Mother known. For all your efforts and giving of self over the years, whether acknowledged or not, we most sincerely thank you.

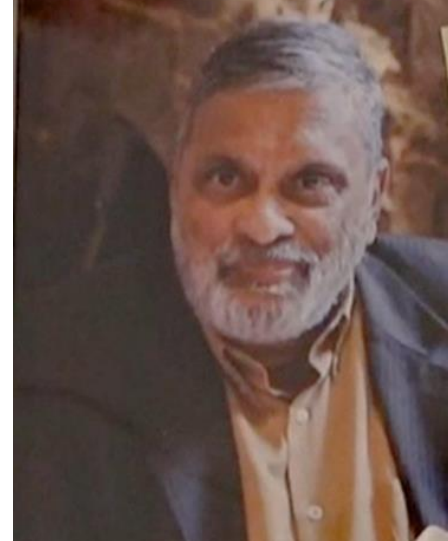
***“May God’s blessing come upon all who have dedicated themselves entirely to Schoenstatt and bring them happiness and salvation here and in eternity. Amen.”***

**United in the Covenant**

**Schoenstatt Family of Western Australia**



## 6. Tribute to Ron Carron from the Victorian Schoenstatt Family



On Tuesday 28 September we farewelled our loyal friend and long-time member of the Schoenstatt Family in Melbourne. God called Ron home on 21 September after a long illness.

It was a fitting and genuine testimony to Ron's authentic, loyal service to Schoenstatt in Melbourne that more than 350 were able to attend the online funeral service.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Ron's beloved wife Tarnia, who was by his side for 50 years of marriage, to his mother and to his family. It was significant that the parish priest gave a special blessing to Tarnia and Ron during the funeral Mass because the couple had been unable to have a Mass to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in June due to the lockdown restrictions.



I speak as a member of the Schoenstatt movement and community in Melbourne and have known Ron for the past 24 years or so, introduced to Ron and his family by my late father, Vince Dawson. Ron was certainly one of the pioneers of our movement in Melbourne and played a leadership role for decades.

Ron was drawn to Schoenstatt by his love for Our Lady and her Son. Together with Tarnia by his side, Ron became a Pilgrim Mother Co-ordinator and ensured that he passed on the Pilgrim Mother Shrine of the Blessed Mother to families in his circle for over 20 years. The Pilgrim Mother Shrine from their circle was on the coffin during the Mass.

Ron was on the committee of Schoenstatt Melbourne for all this time and served as Treasurer. Ron took this role seriously and shared his professional ability by being the Treasurer for many years. He gave of his time to attend committee meetings, celebrations at the Kew Shrine and very importantly, he was the organiser of the Schoenstatt Melbourne annual fundraiser, namely the Dinner Dance. At this event Ron was not only organiser but also chief cook, as the committee members catered for the dinner dance themselves for many years until just in the latter years, when caterers were hired.

Ron worked tirelessly in the background of all spiritual events, ensuring that as soon as Mass was over, people could enjoy refreshments and a cuppa. One would see Ron set up tables and organise for the urn to be turned on, in time for people to enjoy a cuppa after Mass.

Ron was greatly loved by the community and had a sharp sense of humour. Ron's service to the community extended to social gatherings which included hosting members at his home and organising holidays and trips away for his friends, many of whom were also members of the Schoenstatt community. Ron would share his love of music, whilst Tarnia would cook scrumptious treats for their guests. Ron will be deeply missed, and our thoughts and prayers are extended to Tarnia and the family.

A very personal memory I have of Ron was his deep respect and friendship with my late father, Vince Dawson, his loyalty to the Schoenstatt movement in Melbourne, his support of me personally, and his constant enquiry about the well-being of my family. Ron was a family man who shared stories of his children and grandchildren, whom he was so proud of. We will truly miss this important person and member of our Schoenstatt Family in Melbourne.



**Karin Southgate on behalf of the Melbourne Schoenstatt Family.**



# 7. National Movement Conference 2021

Due to the Pandemic this year's National Conference has been held via Zoom over three days: Saturday, Sept. 18; Sunday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Oct. 2.

The theme, SCHOENSTATT'S WAY – WITNESS TO HOLINESS, has encouraged our Schoenstatt Family to be newly aware of our responsibility, as baptised and confirmed Christians, to be formed as integrated personalities as well as to be active in evangelising through our witness in today's life and culture. Using our Schoenstatt educational methods and being conscious that conviviality, or living in, with and for one another is an important part of our Schoenstatt way of life and therefore of evangelisation through our very being.

Various movement members enriched us with their presentations and we hope that the fruit of these sessions will be shared with our wider Schoenstatt Family on Covenant Days in the coming year.

Meeting via Zoom has enabled many more of our Schoenstatt Family to participate in the National Conference (we had up to 50 computers with close to 60 participants) and it was encouraging to see faces from the various States (WA, VIC, QLD & NSW) many of whom we have heard or read about but haven't actually met. The positive side of the lockdown and advances in technology!!

We were grateful to Fr. Terry, a long-time moderator of the Mothers' Branch and present member of the NCC, for having celebrated an "online" Mass for us before the Covenant Celebration on the Sunday.



Thanks to everyone involved – participants and presenters. We look forward to hearing more in the coming months as we strive to 'witness to holiness' through our Schoenstatt Way.



## 8. Information and Links

### ➤ Shrine Opening Hours:

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

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW. Open for private prayer outside the Shrine: From Oct 18 (3-7pm) and  
From Oct 25 (8am-7pm)

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

The Kew Shrine, Melbourne, VIC is closed until further notice.

### ➤ Foundation Day – October Covenant Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Programme: Holy Mass in the Shrine via Zoom – 2pm (AEDT)

Covenant Day Celebration – (3-4pm AEDT)

If you wish to participate in this Foundation Day Zoom Celebration, 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 October Covenant Sunday may be viewed on** – The Covenant of Love and the Home Shrine

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

#### Recent videos on this Channel:

**Video for September Covenant Sunday – Mary’s Mission**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfiT0YX0GII>

**Video for August Covenant Sunday – Marian Attributes for and the Inscriptio Way of Life**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsubmcDWM4>

**Video for July Covenant Sunday - The Domestic Church, a believing and evangelising community**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrhV3VM2NNU&pp=sAQA>

**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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