

Schoenstatt Movement

Australia

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1. COVENANT DAY MESSAGE

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

Dear Schoenstatt Family Members,

May Our Blessed Mother send you many blessings and graces from her shrine on this covenant day - 18th November.

During the month of November we remember all those who have died. In particular we remember the members of our own family and close friends and we give thanks for the example they left us and all they did for us during their time here on earth. We also remember the members of our Australian Schoenstatt Family who have died, particularly those who have died during these past twelve months.

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 had 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."

Here in Australia we remember those Sisters, Fathers, members from all States and from all branches- the Families, Mothers, Women, Men, Young Men, Young Women, Girls and members of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate who have witnessed to Schoenstatt through their loyalty to their Covenant of Love.

We pray for the repose of their souls. We can best repay them for their contribution to Schoenstatt by remaining loyal to our MTA, to our father and founder and to our Schoenstatt Family. We do this by striving to live our Australian mission:

"One Heart in the Father for the Family of God"

United in our Covenant of Love,
Shirley Hall



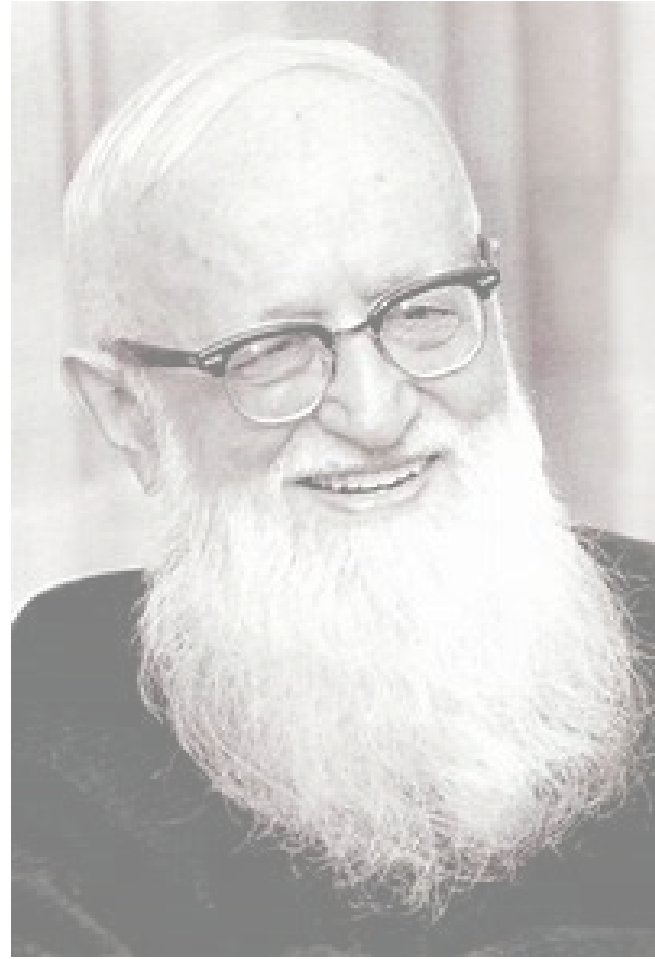
2. TWO SIGNIFICANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

A. Birthday of Father Kentenich

On November 16th we remembered the anniversary of the birth of Father Kentenich (1885).

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.

On his birthday in 1958, Father Kentenich spoke to married couples in Milwaukee saying, "Just as St. Paul had the mission to proclaim the mystery of Christ to the world, so it has become my task to proclaim the mystery of Mary to the world.... I may truly say that all of you, my dear Schoenstatt Family, have been drawn into this mission of mine. It has not only been placed upon my shoulders, but upon the shoulders of all Schoenstatt children.... God has called you also to help me fulfil this great mission. Today each one of you is given by the birthday child the mission, the mission of our Mother and Queen of Schoenstatt. It is comforting that the mission does not rest on my shoulders alone but that all of you want to help me fulfil this tremendous task."



As members of our Schoenstatt Family, we too are called to keep alive Father's "founding spirit" and place ourselves anew on the foundation he laid so that we can answer the present challenges we face in our society and our Church. Above all we want to promise Father Kentenich our availability and loyalty: loyalty to him and his charism, loyalty to his work and his Family, loyalty to his mission for the Church

While we are reminded of our responsibility for realizing his charism and mission for the Church and world, and making it fruitful, we realise that 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.





Today many people joyfully experience that Sister M. Emilie brings light into their life again, 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.

We 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)

May the lives of Father Kentenich and Sr. M. Emilie continue to be witnesses for us of how to live the mission we have been given in Schoenstatt.

B. Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Sr. M. Emilie Engel

On the 20th November we remember the anniversary of the death of Sr. M. Emile in 1955.

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.





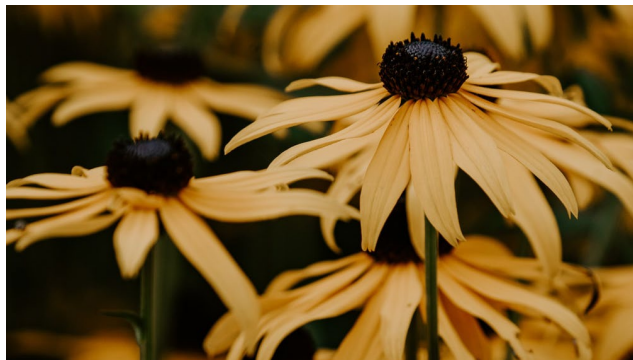
On Sunday November 21 Olivia Lukaszewicz, from Adelaide, South Australia will receive the dress of a Schoenstatt Sister of Mary in Schoenstatt Germany.

Olivia travelled to Germany at the end of 2020 for a period of Candidacy and on May 1 began her postulancy with other young women from various countries. The novitiate, a period of two years which begins with the solemn reception into the community, began on November 1.

The celebration on November 21 will be live-streamed, allowing Olivia's parents and brother to be 'virtually' with her for this special occasion.

3. A New Australian Novice for our Sisters





A very special event of Olivia's time as a postulant was when she entered into the Covenant of Love on Schoenstatt's Foundation Day, 18th October. Together with two other people she was blessed to seal this Covenant in the Original Shrine during the celebration of the German Schoenstatt Family. In the photos we see her receiving the covenant medal and signing the Covenant Book in the Original Shrine. Some of us in NSW braved getting up at 1am on 19 October to be spiritually with Olivia and witness the occasion. Welcome to the Family, Olivia!!

We wish Olivia many and rich graces and blessing for the two-year time of her Novitiate and will look forward to when she can return to Australia and join our sisters here in our service to the Australian Schoenstatt Family.



4. Silver Jubilee

Crowning of the Pilgrim Mother Shrine in the National Shrine



Visitors to our National Shrine in Mulgoa are familiar with the Pilgrim Mother Shrine which stands close to the altar rails in the right-hand corner of the main body of the Shrine. This little Shrine has been part of the Shrine for more than 25 years.

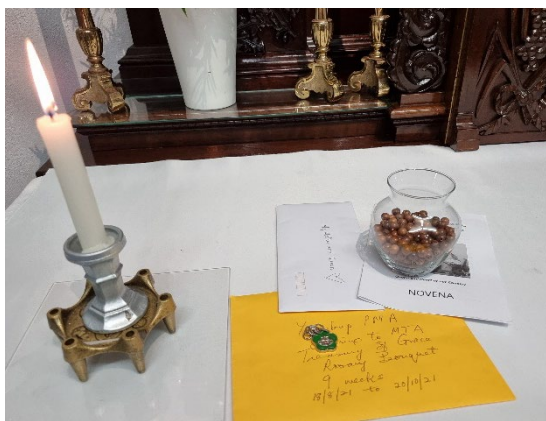
On 21st October 1996, representatives of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate (PMA) coordinating teams in all States where the PMA was active (WA, VIC, NSW, QLD), **crowned this PM Shrine and gave our Lady the title:**

**Queen and Heart
of our Country**

Members of the present PMA teams in the various States prepared for the Silver Jubilee of this crowning by praying a nine-week Novena. They wanted to thank our Blessed Mother for all graces received during these 25 years and to ask her to continue to bless all those whom she visits as the Pilgrim Mother Shrines travel from home to home each month

Because of the lockdown due to the Pandemic, our Jubilee Celebration took place mainly via Zoom. Only the four members of the WA Team could be physically present in the Shrine at Mt Richon. Five were physically present in the Shrine at Mulgoa and all other representatives joined the celebration via Zoom. We were blessed to have at least one representative from QLD, VIC and NSW who had been present 25 years ago.





We chose the actual day, 21st October 2021, to renew the crowning and were happy to be spiritually united around the country for this special Jubilee. Fr. Paweł Barszczewski OP led us in prayer in the Shrine in Mulgoa and the echoes were very positive concerning the prayerful atmosphere for those present via Zoom. We thanked our MTA, Queen and Heart of our Country, for the many blessings received during the past 25 years - our Blessed Mother has visited thousands of homes during these years, bringing her Son and the graces from the Shrine to all those who received her image with faith. We prayed for the coordinators and circle members as well as those suffering from the consequences of the Pandemic. Lastly, we prayed that the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate will continue to grow in Australia and provide a firm base for an increase in numbers for the Schoenstatt Movement. Visnja Turner, who brought the first Pilgrim Mother Shrine to Australia, was remembered for her tireless work in spreading this apostolate, together with her husband, Fred.

The WA PMA Team gathered at the Mt Richon Shrine at 5.30pm, just as the celebration in Mulgoa was coming to an end. Spiritually united with all the National Pilgrim Mother leaders they prayed the same crowning celebration, joyfully bringing their spiritual gifts to the Queen and Heart of our Country. Along with their gifts which they placed on the altar was the 'future' crown for a Pilgrim Mother Shrine in the Mt Richon Shrine.





Sr. M. Rebecca shared her experience in WA: “The atmosphere was special as we sensed the presence of our Queen, who filled our hearts with much joy. We remained in the Shrine to sing songs to honour Our Lady as Queen before gathering in the Meeting Room for a celebration dinner. Sitting down to a festively decorated table, we enjoyed a homemade meal, each member of the team bringing a scrumptious contribution. Before going home each one received a rose from the garden to bring back to our dear MTA in our Home Shrine or Pilgrim Shrine in memory of this special event.”

An extract from the crowning prayer may inspire our readers to join in trusting in the intercession of our Mother and Queen:

The privilege and task of a Queen has always been to care for the needs of her people and to strengthen them in their faith. Our time is in great need of a new evangelisation. Therefore, with confidence we ask you to help us as a national team to remain loyal to the spirit which inspired John Pozzobon to build up the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. May we be the guarantee that this Apostolate continues to grow in Australia, thereby encouraging many people to respond in true freedom to your mission from the Shrine. May Fr. Kentenich come to us “from heaven” as he promised, to help us in this task.

Anyone interested in the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate is invited to contact movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au for more information.



5. Fifth Crowning Anniversary of the MTA

IN RYDALMERE

Mother Thrice Admirable,

Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, Mother of Mercy
and Queen of the Family

It had been hoped that the 5th Crowning Anniversary of our Mother would be a big celebration but due to the ongoing pandemic lockdown, it was not possible. We are grateful to the technology of the Zoom platform which gave us a chance to celebrate this event virtually. The celebration was held on Sunday 12 September - the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary.

In preparation for this event, the regional coordinators and circle members offered their strivings for the Capital of Grace – our joys, weaknesses, difficulties and prayers - in addition to a 9-day Novena 'Courage of Faith' with Fr. Kentenich. In this challenging time, we hoped that our novena would inspire us and challenge our faith, and ultimately give us courage and strength to pass through this pandemic.



At 2.00pm we started the program. There were about 35 participants mostly from the region and a few invited guests. Sr Luisa Maria gave an input on the theme: "Why do we crown our Mother?" The following is a summary of the inspiration she gave us.



She referred to Fr. Kentenich's sermon at the crowning in the original Shrine on 10th December 1939: *"Every consecration, be it the little dedication in the morning and evening, be it in a course or a family consecration is nothing else but a renewed and deepened election of the Blessed Mother as a Queen of our lives..."*

Speaking to the Blessed Mother, Fr. Kentenich said: *"You shall take the sceptre into your hands... You shall lead, direct and guide our family ... We will give you this right... you shall be our Queen. By virtue of this original right of election you shall govern us, lead us and steer the little vessel of each individual life and that of the whole family."*

Furthermore, Father Kentenich added that the Blessed Mother is Queen by right of inheritance, Queen by right of conquest and Queen by right of election. From the beginning, God already chose Mary as a 'Queen by right of inheritance'. Christ is the King and so Mary became the Queen. She inherited this title from God, and it is secured by the eternal, infinite plan of God. ... 'We crown the Blessed Mother because the Eternal God crowned her ... through her election as Mother of God and Bride of God'.

Our Blessed Mother is 'Queen by right of conquest' because she cooperated in the work of our salvation. Through her work as the Saviour's constant companion and helpmate in the whole work of salvation, our Blessed Mother is 'Queen by right of election'.

We choose to crown her, and she has the right to have the crown. Whenever we crown our Mother, it is an act of recognition and gratitude that the Blessed Mother has shown herself to be truly generous in the realm of our family (15/5/1941). Lastly, what are we doing when we give our Mother the crown? We recognise and profess anew that our future and the future of our family is completely dependent on her love, her protection, her favour, her intercessory power at the throne of her Son, the throne of the Triune God."



After the input we had a Silent Adoration 'on line' for about 10 minutes – the Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the altar in the Joseph Kentenich House Chapel. This was followed by the renewal of the crowning of our MTA as "Mother of Mercy and Queen of the Family". After the renewal we presented our intentions to our Queen. It was such a beautiful gathering and everyone experienced the great joy of meeting and seeing each other through the Zoom platform. We fostered such a sense of belonging and connectedness.

Edna Aldana

I would like to include some of the comments and reflections from participants:



- *It was really good. It makes me closer to Mama Mary. She is our Queen and we are her little queens. Everything I do, I do with Mama Mary. Let me know if you have another session for spiritual growth.*

- *It was lovely. A beautiful gift for me. Fantastic! A step closer to pray together. Thank you.*

- *That was a very moving service. Sr Luisa Maria explained the crowning very well. God bless you for all you do to bring us closer to Jesus through his mother.*

- *What a wonderful and memorable event ... Mary is truly our Mother and Queen for she knows in her heart when to gather her children at the right time, when everyone is longing to be with each other in person, amidst lockdown and restrictions due to pandemic. O, Mother, as you are ever faithful to us, may we be faithful to you always.*

- *Thank you for organising the event via Zoom. It was moving. My mum participated and it was lovely to see you all. I was at the actual celebration 5 years ago.*

- *It was great to see everyone. I felt very comfortable to be there. I think it is just so important to have celebrations like this during this time of isolation. Thank you for the efforts to get everyone there. Many thanks to Sister for the work on the day.*



6. Pilgrim Mother Apostolate Reflection Day

“Like Mary – Called and Sent!”

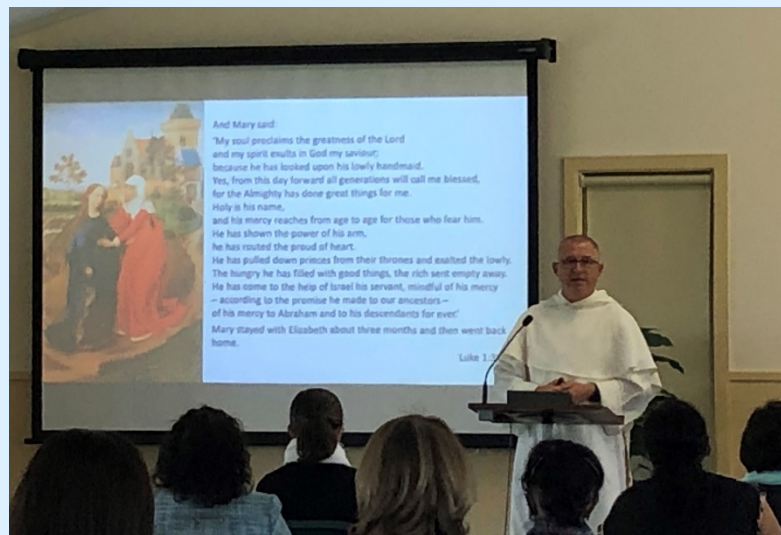
We are very grateful that we dared to pursue the PMA Reflection Day this year. This was supposed to be an Annual Pilgrims' retreat weekend but because of the strict restrictions due to COVID we decided to offer just one day. The uncertainty whether the Centre would reopen for bookings after almost four months lockdown delayed all the preparations. However, with the help of our Blessed Mother and of the organising team, we could gather together on Saturday 30 October.

Forty-one PMA coordinators and circle members, all fully vaccinated according to regulations, came including the family members of those who would seal their Covenant of Love.



Following the registration and welcome, Fr Paul (Fr Pawel Barszczewski OP) gave a very enriching talk using our theme for the day: *“Like Mary - Called and Sent!.”* He unfolded ways in which we can become like our Blessed Mother. He started with the question: “WHO ARE YOU?” Reflecting on this he then answered all the questions: WHO AM I? Knowing one’s personality is not based on knowing our names, etc. but on our own identity as the person who we really are.

Then we looked at our Blessed Mother with a same question: WHO ARE YOU? Fr Paul explained Mary as the model of perfect Woman, Wife and Mother. He based his explanation on letters of St Pope John Paul II and Pope Paul VI. Mary model of perfect Woman called herself the "handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38) putting herself at the *service of love* for God and others. Mary model of perfect Wife is a perfect example of all wives and mothers of families as first educators of their children. Mary model of the perfect Mother accepts and loves her children as she loves her Son whom she carried in her womb. In addition, Fr Paul summarised three aspects of the Blessed Mother using Pope Francis' homily on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 2014. *"Mary is so closely united to Jesus because she received from Him the knowledge of the heart, the knowledge of faith, nourished by her experience as a mother and by her close relationship with her Son...That is why Jesus cannot be understood without Mary!"*



Fr. Paul's explanation of the Visitation scene where Mary with her Son under her heart visited her cousin Elizabeth was also much appreciated. In this Gospel scene our Blessed Mother gave us an example of evangelisation by her presence, action, words and prayer. *"Mary is the first evangelist because she carries within her the presence of Christ. Mary teaches us to evangelize by action. It was the presence of the divine Word within Mary that inspired her to "go in haste" and visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also "with child". Mary gave us an example how to evangelize by words. "What she says comes from a place of humility as she seeks every opportunity to "proclaim the greatness of the Lord." It's not about her glory but God's glory and his kingdom". And lastly, "Mary teaches us the necessity of prayer, through which God gives us the courage to reach the ends of the world and proclaim everywhere the Lord Jesus, Saviour of the world...."*



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed a short break for morning tea. During this time participants had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

For Holy Mass we chose the Mass Formula, the Visitation of Mary, which very much fitted to the theme. In his homily, Fr. Paul emphasized the joy of being called and sent, the joy that can only be fulfilled if we place Jesus in the centre of our lives through our Blessed Mother. He encouraged the participants to be courageous in entering the Covenant of Love and to be apostles bringing Mary and Jesus to others through the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. After the homily was the celebration of the Covenant of Love of seven PMA coordinators. It was for them a moving moment. The text was on the projector so everyone could participate. After the Holy Communion one new PMA coordinator was commissioned.

At lunch we had the opportunity to express our gratitude to Fr Paul for his generous and untiring support to us. We celebrated his birthday in the presence of his superior Fr Andrew. It was a joy for all to participate in the celebration and socialising after a long lockdown and isolation.

Sr Luisa Maria led the session in the afternoon where she mentioned the importance of our calling and our yes to the will of God. Then we watched the history of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate and the life of John Pozzobon which led us to a sharing session discovering how God leads us to become coordinators of the PMA through his divine providence. The day ended with our Devotion prayer and Benediction followed by a small celebration (Afternoon Tea) for those who sealed their Covenant of Love, together with their families.

I thank Edna Aldana for the teamwork: contacting participants, preparing the things needed for the day and organising the two celebrations and the give-aways. Thank you for all who helped on the day and for the sisters who supported us with their prayers.

May our Mother Thrice Admirable continue to win hearts for her divine Son. May we place Jesus at the centre of our lives and be open to say “yes” to our calling as God’s instruments through our Blessed Mother.



You may enjoy a few of the comments from the participants:

"From the talk of Father Paul, it was inspiring to know and made me more conscious that our Presence, Actions, Words and Prayer are of vital importance to our Mission ..."

"Thank you very much for the Reflection Day ...There was so much I learned from the talk of Fr Paul, especially about how I could become more like Our Blessed Mother and be sent forth, as a Living Tabernacle to minister and serve others with the Love and Joy of the Lord Jesus Christ in my life, each day".

"Attending with my dear PM Circle sister, Orpha Rivero and now also a new coordinator for the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate, we found this day to be most enriching in our Spiritual growth and walk of faith together with others in the Schoenstatt Family. May God bless Sr Luisa Maria and all the Sisters of Mary and everyone in the Mt Schoenstatt Community".

"Fr Paul's talk was very enriching to the soul. Teaching us to know more about Mary. I learned a lot about the role of Mary model of perfect Wife, Woman and Mother that I could apply in my personal daily life".



"It was beautiful and I was enlightened on things that I was so confused about before. I was so happy that confession was part of it. The sisters are so helpful and accommodating. It was a lovely day for me and I felt so refreshed after that day".

"We are truly blessed and we must pass that blessing to all. I took my mum with me and she had the most amazing day and was bubbling over with energy as we left the shrine. Thank you Sister for working gently and tirelessly with us. Thank you for all your prayers, your guidance and for making it all happen".

Sr Luisa Maria



7. 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 8 am – 7 pm

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

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

➤ 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

➤ Links:

Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

Schoenstatt Australian Website

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

Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel

Video for November Covenant Sunday – The Domestic Church & Advent Customs

www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia

Recent videos on this Channel:

Video for October Covenant Sunday – The Covenant of Love and the Home Shrine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8n09dT8kxtc>

Video for September Covenant Sunday – Mary's Mission

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

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

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

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 before the beginning of each month.

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