

Schoenstatt Movement

Australia

April 18 2022 | Volume 3, Number 4

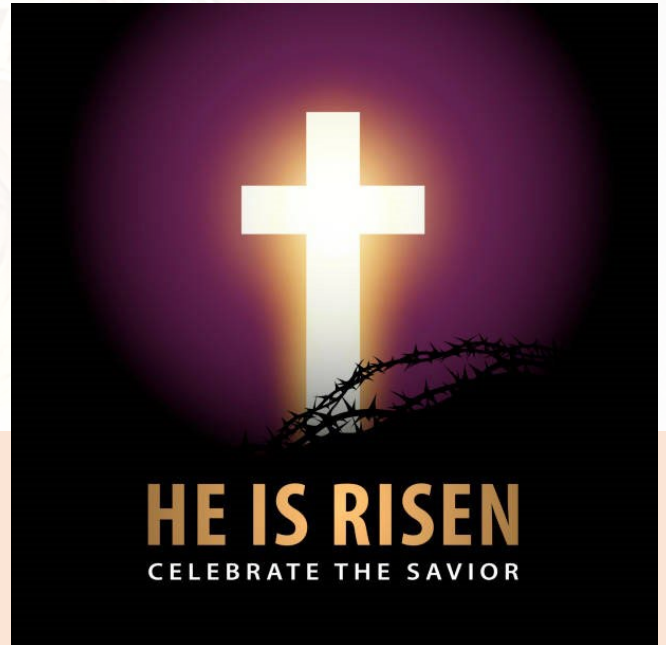
1. COVENANT DAY MESSAGE

Blessings and Greetings from the Shrine on this Covenant Day – 18th April.

This past week we have been celebrating Holy Week, including the Good Friday ceremonies of the Lord's Passion (15th April) and the celebration of the resurrection of Christ yesterday on Easter Sunday (17 April).

In this season of Easter I would like to share with you an extract from a sermon that Father Kentenich gave on Easter Sunday 29 March 1964, in St Michael's Parish church in Milwaukee. He said in part:

".....He has risen, Alleluia, Alleluia! That means not only that Christ has risen from the dead but that through his resurrection and all that he suffered in connection with the resurrection, he has obtained for us the grace that one day our bodies will also rise again and that our souls will have life everlasting.



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And if we would like to know whether we are interiorly disposed and prepared to take part in this rejoicing of the liturgy, then I think we should picture in our minds the reaction of the men and women at the resurrection. They rejoiced at the message of the angel. So we could say - if we have the faith, are as unshakeably faithful as the Mother of God, if we love Christ like St John, and if we make reparation for our sins like St Peter did, then we have the right, every right, today and later to join in the Alleluia, which should never cease in our lives.

If we ponder over Our Lady, is she truly for us an ideal of faith? Did she believe implicitly in all happenings of her life? - Believe in the

coming of the Messiah, in the work of the redemption, believe in the divine Person, in his divine mission? No obstacle was too great for the Mother of God to overcome. It did not matter whether the Saviour had to flee, or for his sake the small children were murdered; or whether she came face to face with his helplessness as an infant as he lay in the manger. All these things did not stop or hinder her believing. She believed. She believed in his divine Person, in the coming of the Messiah and the messianic task of the Only Begotten. Even now, after Christ had been so cruelly mishandled by his enemies, when the faith of the apostles was shaken - she believed, even as she stood at the foot of the Cross.

We know what the Scriptures mean by the word 'Stabat'. She did not merely stand beside the Crucified physically, but she stood faithfully to the Crucified.

What is the meaning of this? What did the Resurrection mean to her? It merely confirmed her unshakeable faith. Hence, exultant joy! We take it

as a matter of course that after her having participated in his measureless suffering, she also shared in his immeasurable joy.

We live in a time when spiritual values are so often doubted. What then has eternal value? How

much do we abandon nowadays that to which we were formerly so faithful? However, if Christ has truly shown and proved his divine character, then we know that what he says is true. Then we bow down to all our Saviour says to us. We acknowledge these values, the character of the Sacraments we receive. Then we know that the Sacraments are not just an outward sign, no, the Sacraments have a symbolic meaning. With every reception of the Sacraments Christ enters our soul. And what is so important for us today? It is that thereby our faith is firmly founded on the fact that we too shall rise again.

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PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

We know that in many parts of the world people are not able to rejoice and celebrate this Easter Season because of war and conflicts.

We ask you to please continue to join us in praying for peace in our world.

My dear listeners, am I then correct when I say: If we also believe as the Mother of God did, then we may rejoice with the Church at Easter. We may take part in her rejoicing. In this spirit we wish each other a blessed and joyful Easter. That means, we wish each other first and foremost a growth of an all-embracing and living faith.

Once more, if we really have tried and continue to try, to the best of our ability, to give our hearts to Our Lord, so too we shall take part in the joy of Easter. Therefore, when we wish each other a happy and joyful Easter it means we wish each other a greater love towards Our Saviour.”

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad

(Psalm 117)

Wishing you and your family, many blessing and joys for this Easter Season.

United in our Covenant of Love,

Shirley Hall

Pope Francis' consecration of Russia and Ukraine – See No. 6 Information and Links

SCHOENSTATT HELPING REFUGEES FROM THE UKRAINE.

On the official Schoenstatt Website www.schoenstatt.com there are articles sharing how the Schoenstatt Fathers, Schoenstatt Sisters and various initiatives by the Schoenstatt Movement in Poland and Germany are helping refugees from the Ukraine.

Anyone wishing to help our Schoenstatt Family as they reach out to support the many refugees will find donation possibilities in these articles.





2. Women's Lenten Reflection Day

After many Zoom meetings, we were excited to be meeting face to face in the beautiful setting of Mt. Schoenstatt for the Lenten Reflection Day on 12 March.

Beginning with a prayer, Sister Mary Louise then moved into explaining to us the Joy of Lent. Despite all that has occurred in the last few years including bushfires, the pandemic, and more recently flooding, we were encouraged to look for and encounter Christ in the present moment. Every day of our lives is a step towards holiness. We need to start each day as a new journey in our own personal desert with Jesus.

The need to fast and abstain is important but also are the ten thinking points we learnt about and received a sheet on at the end of our first session. Each point had been given in a Lenten message or homily by Pope Francis. On studying these points, we find simple and practical ways to grow in our faith and prepare for Easter. It was importantly noted that there is no Easter without Lent.

We also had the opportunity for Reconciliation and silent prayer in the Shrine. There was a communal Rosary and a wonderful Mass, with singing, celebrated by Father Giovanni, the parish priest of Luddenham/Warragamba.



Lunch provided the opportunity to reconnect in our own Groups as well as with friends old and new we have missed seeing due to lockdowns.

Our final session was a fun exercise which involved picking from a choice of many a card that spoke to us. We were again blessed with the insight of Pope Francis. Our creative step was to place a magnet on the back to keep our card safely on our refrigerator.

Our closing prayer commenced and then paused to allow us to collect a small pendant of Mary & Jesus which we will keep with us or within our personal Shrines.

Sister Mary Louise told us it was never too late to start our preparation for Easter even if it was starting that day.

May this season of Lent, help us to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Let us reflect on the way that our Blessed Mother was his first true disciple and follow in her footsteps.

Fiona & Ann



3. Covenant of Love Celebrations



19 MARCH

On Saturday the 19th March, the feast day of St Joseph and Fr Kentenich, Karen Green, Fiona O'Neill, Ann Panitz, Carmel Gauci and Czarina Ira were called to enter into a Covenant of Love with our Blessed Mother as co-operators of our Mothers' League and Schoenstatt family.

After being together for over 2 years and only meeting over Zoom, with a few delays our special day arrived and it was just perfect.

The ceremony ran a little later than scheduled and pleasingly so, as we got to sit outside in the beautiful fresh air a little longer singing hymns of praise. Our Group was blessed to have the support of members of the Women's and Mothers' Leagues. Sr Elizabeth brought out a little booklet of "Mosaic Stones" and explained that it was put together with many testimonies of how Fr Kentenich had touched peoples' lives with his kind gestures, teachings, prayers and presence.

When Fr Terry Bell arrived, some of us managed to receive the sacrament of penance and felt a little more ready for our celebration and covenant of love.

It was a beautiful ceremony, especially the blessing of medals and candles, symbols to remind us of our consecration to our Blessed Mother.

We were all granted the opportunity to visit the Father Room where we could choose a card with words that spoke to us in our newly consecrated role as members of the Schoenstatt family. This is the start of a new journey in our spiritual growth.

After the ceremony, Sr Elizabeth presented each of us with a yellow rose, which when I left I placed into Fr Kentenich's hands. Today I had learnt that Fr Kentenich would accept gifts and then pass them on, so it only felt fitting that I did the same.

Karen



20 MARCH



On the following day five mothers from the Bossley Park Group also entered into the Covenant of Love. They had prepared for this day over many months last year but because of COVID were only able to come together in the Shrine for the celebration on this Sunday. It was the longing of the group to be able to seal their Covenant of Love in the Shrine and our MTA cared for a beautiful day.



Another twelve mothers from the group joined them and renewed their Covenant as Co-operators of the Mothers' Branch. It was happy day for all.

After attending the 11am Mass the Covenant of Love celebration took place in the Shrine around 12.15pm. As representative of the Schoenstatt Family Fr. Paul Barszczewski OP accepted the consecrations. Other members of the Mothers' and Women's Branches were present to share the joy. The group joined the monthly renewal of the Covenant via Zoom in the Joseph Kantenich House and then had a lively afternoon tea together to celebrate their special day. One of the group had prepared a beautiful cake to mark the day.



We entrust all these mothers and their intentions to the Blessed Mother and Fr. Kantenich as they become officially part of our Schoenstatt Family.





4. 24 Hours for the Lord, 25 - 26 March

Begun as an initiative of Pope Francis during Lent in the 2016 Jubilee Year of Mercy, 24 Hours for the Lord is held each year internationally with the support of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelisation. Mt Schoenstatt in Sydney has joined in this evangelising movement since that first year, interrupted only by the restrictions of the last couple of COVID years.

This year people from the Men's Branch, the Family Branch, and the Sisters organised and supervised the event. The Shrine was open for all the 24 Hours with someone there each hour of the night and many more coming at the other hours. We started and finished with Mass with Fr Pawel who also offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Half-way through Lent each year, 'Seeing again' is really what the 24 Hours is about: "To see again, because our sins have made us lose sight of all that is good, and have robbed us of the beauty of our calling, leading us instead far away from our journey's end." The 'seeing' is realised in both the silence of prayer and contemplation, as well as in the Mass and Reconciliation. There has always been an emphasis on Reconciliation at the 24 Hours. Pope Francis in 2016 said: "We must certainly not water down the demands of the Gospel, but we cannot risk frustrating the desire of the sinner to be reconciled with the Father. For what the Father awaits more than anything is for his sons and daughters to return home (cf. Lk 15:20-32)."

24 Hours is normally offered in Cathedrals and parish Churches. When the NSW State Team gave its support again to this year's 24 Hours it appreciated how central this is to the apostolate around the Shrine by simply bringing Schoenstatt members and friends there to enable our Mother Mary and her Son to work miracles of the heart.



5. Why a 'Camino Walk' at Mt Schoenstatt?

Do you have friends who rave about and can't wait to do again one of the Camino Walks offered overseas in Spain, Portugal or France? Most of these walks centre on spending many days walking hundreds of kilometres and coming home having made many friends, seen numerous Cathedrals and spent a lot of time eating strange food, sleeping in strange beds and having spent a bundle of money!

Well, the only thing the idea of a 'Camino Walk' around Mt Schoenstatt, planned for the first Sunday of Advent in December, has in common with these overseas grand journeys is that a Camino Walk is meant to elevate and enhance your appreciation and wonder at the power and love of God and in doing so deepen your spirituality!

The initial idea came from 'wandering around the property' in my dream state and waking up standing beside Sr. Bonitas' Grave, with my mind having focused on the question, 'Why not have a mini-Camino right here in Australia at Mt Schoenstatt to enhance our spirituality?' While thinking about places on the property, I realized that another reason people travel the overseas routes, is for the history.



Mt Schoenstatt has an amazing history, having begun with four Sisters arriving in WA in 1951 right through to today when we are able to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Mt Schoenstatt itself.

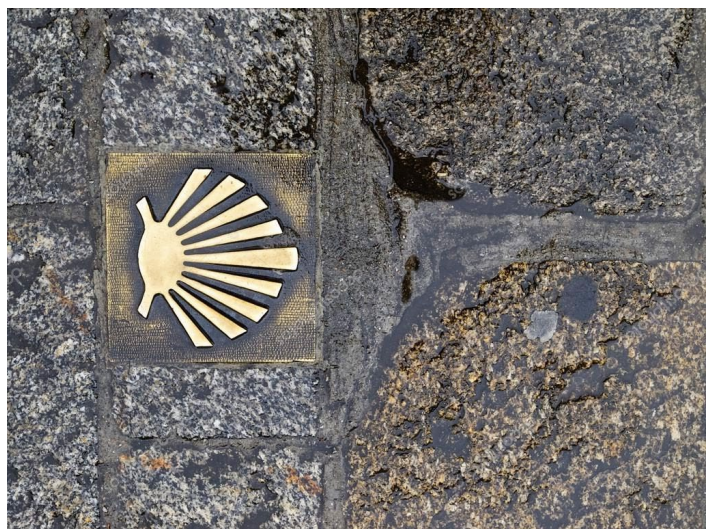
So, after much discussion with the other mothers of the 'Mary and Martha' Mothers' Group, we decided on the idea of building devotion to both the Shrine and nine other places on the property that point to the history of Schoenstatt here in Australia. If you think about it, "How much do you really know" about the Sisters who came from Germany? - Joseph Engling; Fr. Evans (the first Australian Schoenstatt Father) and Fr. Boes; Fr. Kentenich himself; the Wayside Shrine; the Father Room; the St Joseph Statue; the Home of Light, and Sr. Bonitas' corner. Then how much do you know about the Unity Cross and the Father Eye symbols in the Shrine, these being among many to be tied to the nine stations?



‘Simplicity’ became the keyword. We decided that information could be presented in a way that those who know nothing of the history or the different symbols could understand, and give those who are dedicated to the Movement a ‘refresher course’. We would present one of the nine places each month and have people do a short walk to a nominated place ‘Station’ (e.g., Sr. Bonitas’ grave as the first one) and focus on one symbol in the Shrine. These would then build up to a full ‘Camino Walk’ in December using all the nine Stations and we would hope that, like the first Sisters, we would get many people and families to join us to re-create here, Sr. Bonitas’ favourite pastime in Advent (a ‘Shelter Seeking’ exercise walk around the Tardun, WA, property), so that “Christmas ‘becomes’ meaningful to (all and) to give them all the love and care which Christ brought to us at the first Christmas” (Taken from “Sr. Bonitas, A Life for Schoenstatt, by Shirley Hall).

See you at the Shrine or enjoy, a ‘meditative’ virtual walk available on the Schoenstatt website at: www.schoenstatt.org.au

Angela



6. Information and Links

➤ Shrine Opening Hours:

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

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW. Open daily: 8 am – 7 pm

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

The Kew Shrine, Melbourne, VIC open for individual visits 9 am – 5 pm

➤ Covenant Days in 2022

During this year we will continue to offer an online celebration for the renewal of the Covenant of Love, **every 3rd Sunday of the month, 1.30 – 2.30pm AEDT**. Please note the **change in time**. Those who wish to renew the Covenant in person will be welcome to do so at our Shrines at the same time. The videos for these celebrations will follow the theme: **“Schoenstatt’s Way – Authentic Witness to Holiness”**. If you are not yet on the data base to receive the link each month and wish to participate, please register at movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au

➤ Links:

Pope Francis’ Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-03/pope-francis-prayer-act-consecration-russia-ukaine-mary.html>

Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

See Articles – Schoenstatt helping refugees from the Ukraine.

Schoenstatt Australian Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.org>

Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia

Video for April Covenant Sunday –

<http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia>

- Our Ecclesial Movement proclaiming Christ

Video for March Covenant Sunday –

www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia - ‘Slow’ evangelisation.

Recent videos on this Channel:

Video for February Covenant Sunday – Baptism, our Call to Evangelisation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F628pW_M45k

Video for January Covenant Sunday- Apostolic Fruitfulness from our Shrines

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GMOwCh6BJU>

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.

