

Schoenstatt Movement

Australia

May 18 2022 | Volume 3, Number 5

1. COVENANT DAY MESSAGE

**“Schoenstatt’s Way:
Authentic Witness to Holiness”**

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings on this Covenant day – 18th May. The month of May is a special time when we celebrate Mary as the Mother of Christ, as the Mother of the Church and as our Mother. During this month we want to give special thanks to Our Blessed Mother for all the gifts and graces she has given us through our Shrines and for leading us through our Covenant of Love to the Heavenly Father.

During this month we will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Opening and Blessing of the Kew Shrine. The actual date is the 11th May, but the celebrations will take place on Saturday 21st May. Therefore I thought it might be fitting to look at an extract from the letter that Fr. Kentenich sent for that occasion.

- 1 Covenant Day Message
- 2 Schoenstatt’s Historical Events in May
- 3 Stations of the Cross at our Centres
- 4 Why is history so important in Schoenstatt?
- 5 Divine Mercy Sunday
- 6 Dads at the Shrine
- 7 Information and Links



"The picture of our dear Mother of God should stand before the minds of people in a splendour of light and colour and be imprinted in their hearts in such a way as has happened only seldom in the past. She goes through the world as the great educator of the people. Everywhere she wants to bring forth Christ again, in order to save the endangered Christian personality, human society and the whole world. Hence she selects places from where she may develop her educative activity in an outstanding way.

Today she solemnly chooses this Shrine to be her favourite place, the place where she offers graces and is especially active. From here she will distribute her treasures, and take in hand the education of the people and their leaders. She does this under the title of Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt..... Wherever she goes she awakens new, fresh, bubbling life. Everywhere she gives to those who honour her the grace of transformation, of a home and of fruitfulness in rich measure. SHE does this; she of whom Blessed Vincent Pallotti said: "She is the great Missionary. She will work miracles!"

Everywhere people find their way to her Shrines. However they do not come with empty hands; they bring rich gifts. They do not grow tired of offering to God's Mother the sacrifices of their serious efforts in self-education which co-operation with grace demands of them in everyday life.



Large numbers of people offer these sacrifices especially on the 18th of each month. From these gatherings they return home enriched in spirit with new incentives and actual graces for the great work of their transformation into Christ.

From today onward, the Mother of God also expects such earnest co-operation with grace from us. She calls upon us in a similar way as she did in 1914 at the Shrine in Schoenstatt: Do not worry about the fulfilment of your wishes. Ego diligentes me diligo... Prove first by your deeds that you love me ..., then I will prove that I love you.



Thus, today, we enter the covenant of love with our dear Mother of God. We entrust to her the destiny of our people and our country. Generously we offer our sacrifices as contribution to her capital of grace. In all situations we will find our way to her Shrine. We go into the future full of confidence and will not grow tired of repeating the words "Mater habebit curam". She will take care of our salvation and of the well-being of our people and country. Of this you may be quite sure, and you may be joyful in this knowledge all the days of your life. Therefore I congratulate you on today's celebration and wish from all my heart that it may leave a deep impression on your heart and mind, and that it may prove to be a milestone in the history of your life and your people."

During the month of May, Joseph particularly wanted to honour his Blessed Mother (or his "Little Mother" as he called her) and bring her his 'May blossoms.' He wanted to prepare a spiritual bouquet of blossoms – these were all the sacrifices he made. Each day he carefully tallied them. They included the difficulties he encountered, time he spent reading about Our Lady, apostolic deeds, striving to improve himself and his relationships with others. Indeed every little sacrifice and gift was tallied and at the end of May 1916 he had tallied up 1712 contributions to the capital of grace that he could offer to his Blessed Mother in a spiritual bouquet of May blossoms.

We are also reminded that on the 19th May 1968, our national shrine at Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa was blessed and opened and Father Kentenich sent a letter also for that occasion. It read in part:

"The sentiments that deeply move the hearts and minds of our Schoenstatt Family gathered here, can be summed up in the simple phrase: "Today salvation has come to this house" (Lk 19:9), that is, to our little Shrine. Today our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt has made her home in this place in order to educate the people and leaders of Australia and to enable them to carry out the post-conciliar mission of the Church in their own continent as perfectly as possible. She has done this by entering into a significant covenant of love with Schoenstatt as a place and with the Schoenstatt Family. What she did in 1914 in connection with the original Shrine in Germany and later repeated in other countries and continents, according to God's plan, she has done here today.

.....There is no doubt that the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt will loyally fulfil her obligations. She is the 'Virgo Fidelis' (the faithful Virgin). In every country where, up to the present, she has made her home she has proved her loyalty to the covenant in the most wonderful way. She will do this here too. On this we build in trust and confidence. However, as our gift in return she expects us to repay loyalty with loyalty and heroic loyalty with heroic loyalty."



Through our Covenant of Love, Our Blessed Mother asks us to give her our contributions to her capital of grace – our sacrifices, all the frustrations, the anxieties, the struggles, as well as all the many gifts we receive – the smile of a stranger when we are out walking, a kindness unexpected, enjoying a beautiful day. And we know that in return she will shower us with graces from her Shrines.

Joseph Engling (5.1.1898 – 4.10.1918) was one of the founding generation of Schoenstatt. Father Kentenich said of him, that he was one of the first of the boys to really understand the Covenant of Love and what Fr. Kentenich meant in the Founding Document when he said on behalf of Our Blessed Mother:

“Diligently bring me contributions to the Capital of Grace. By a faithful and most faithful fulfilment of your duties and a life of ardent prayer, earn many merits and place them at my disposal. Undoubtedly, we could not accomplish a greater apostolic deed nor leave our successors a more precious legacy than to urge our Lady and Queen to erect her throne here in a special way, to distribute her treasures, and to work miracles of grace. You gather what I am aiming at: I would like to make this place a place of pilgrimage, a place of grace for our house and for the whole German province, and perhaps even further afield.”

During this month of May, you might like to reflect on what you can give to our Blessed Mother as a contribution to her capital of grace, so that our Schoenstatt Shrines may continue to be places of grace.



What is my special gift to our Blessed Mother during this month?

In a spirit of unity through our Covenant of Love, I wish each of you many blessings and graces from our Shrines on this Covenant Day and for the remainder of May, this special month of Our Lady.

I know that you will join me in congratulating our Schoenstatt family in Melbourne on the 70th anniversary of their Kew shrine and pray that from there “She (Our Lady) will continue to work miracles!”

Shirley Hall





2. Schoenstatt's Historical Events in May

20th May 1945 - Father Kantenich returns to Schoenstatt after his time in Dachau.

On Pentecost Sunday, 20th 1945, Father Kantenich returned to Schoenstatt after nearly three and a half years in Dachau concentration camp. Everyone was amazed at how well Father Kantenich appeared after all that he had experienced during his time in the concentration camp.

What had been the secret of Father Kantenich's daring, stamina and heroic love of neighbour in Dachau? He said that it was the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable.

Throughout his life he wanted to pass on the experience that "The Blessed Mother placed her motherly heart at my disposal on October 18, 1914. I belong to her. I owe her everything". Throughout his life this was his secret, his source of strength.

31st May 1949 – Schoenstatt's Third Milestone

This day marks the 3rd Milestone in Schoenstatt's history. On 31st May 1949, Father Kantenich once again accepted his mission through Mary, for Schoenstatt and for the Church. On that day, Father Kantenich was at the newly built shrine at Bellavista, Chile. This shrine was still incomplete. That evening he laid on the altar the first part of what has become known as the "*Epistola perlonga*" (Long letter). This is an important historical document as it mirrors Father Kantenich's inner attitude as he undertook what he called "a death leap" for

himself and his work and which led to fourteen years of exile for him, and brought his work to the verge of being forbidden by the authorities of the Church.

In a talk which he gave to the 20 Schoenstatt Sisters present, he stated his awareness of the risks involved, including to Schoenstatt, but that the danger to Church and world left him no choice but to act. He said:

"Whoever has a mission must fulfil it, even if it leads into the darkest and deepest abyss, even when it requires one death leap after another. A prophet's mission always includes a prophet's fate."



That Fr. Kentenich was willing to risk everything for the wellbeing of the Church signals to us that we too should love the Church, even heroically.

His great love for the Church which he demonstrated on 31st May 1949 is a challenge for us to continue his mission and be his witnesses for Schoenstatt and for the Church.

We pray that the spirit of the 31st May will continue to inspire us as a Schoenstatt Family here in Australia so that we too may strive to love the Church as heroically as did Father Kentenich and to live our Australian Schoenstatt mission:

**“ONE HEART IN THE FATHER FOR THE FAMILY
OF GOD”**



3. Stations of the Cross at our Centres

In both our Schoenstatt Centres – at Mulgoa, NSW and Mount Richon, WA – we experienced wonderful gatherings of peoples who came to honour Our Lord’s passion by praying the Stations of the Cross. After two years of Covid and restrictions which made gathering together impossible, it was a sign of great love and gratitude to our God and Saviour that we had almost 2,000 people at Mulgoa and close to 300 at Mount Richon.



At Mulgoa the prayerful atmosphere was greatly appreciated throughout the long procession from the Valley to the Shrine. Between each Station, when we reflected on Our Lady’s participation in the suffering of her divine Son, we prayed many times the Hail Mary and so greeted Our Lady as we remembered her sorrowful hour on Golgotha.



At Mount Richon, parishioners from the local parish had prepared the Stations and acted out the various scenes in their special roles of Jesus, Pilate, Mary, Simon, Veronica, women at the wayside, thieves etc. Each station was marked by a special colourful cloth or symbol, and there were prayers, songs and a great prayerful atmosphere.

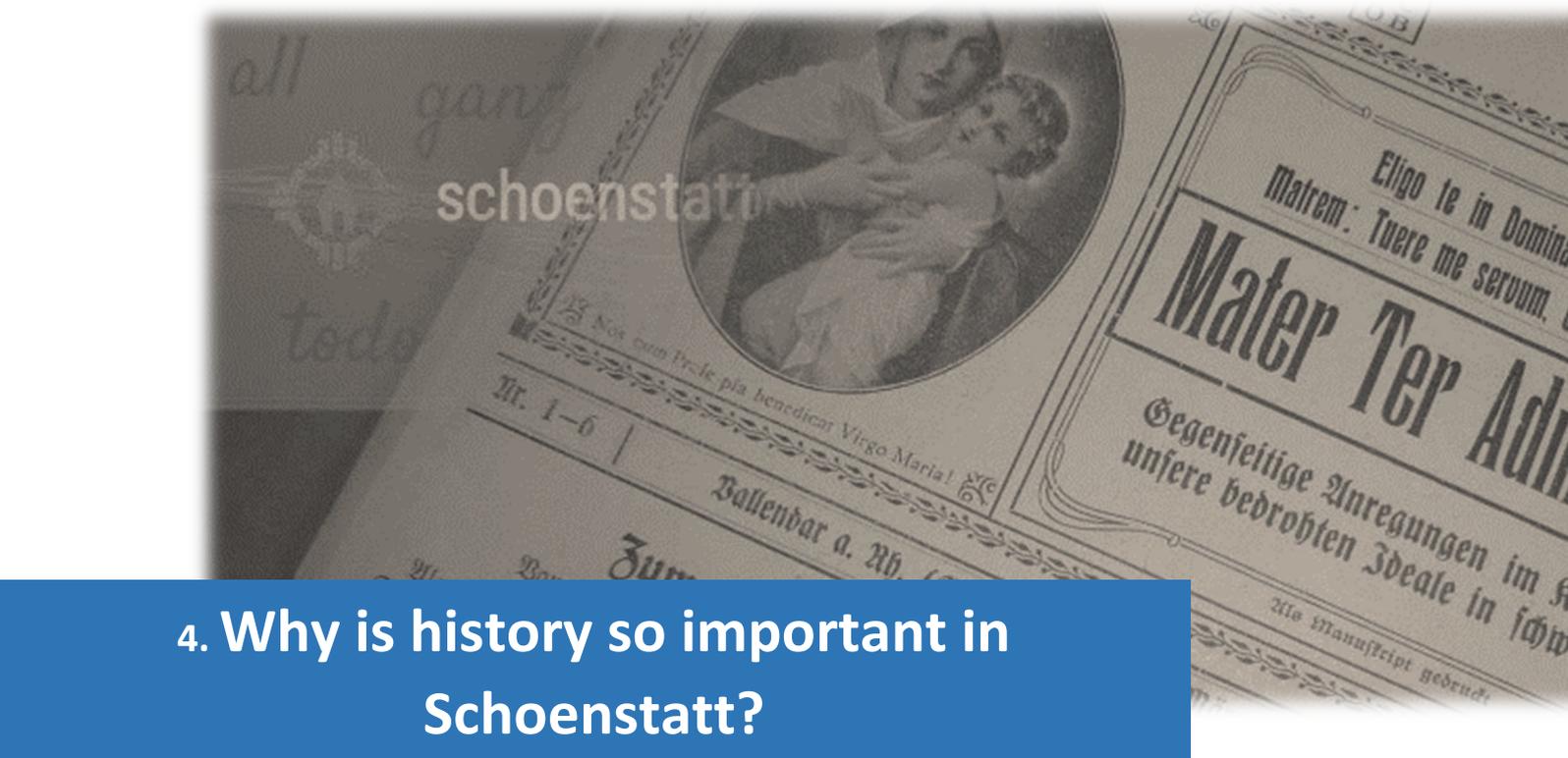
The grounds had been prepared by parishioners and members of our Schoenstatt Family – we thank them for their dedication and support.





Following both Stations of the Cross the participants were able to greet Our Lord and his Blessed Mother in the Shrines bringing their intentions and gratitude that it was once more possible to gather in larger numbers.





4. Why is history so important in Schoenstatt?

For Christians the relationship with God is kept alive by thinking about the moments of his special intervention with us and with the activity of our daily lives lived in consciousness of Him. It is important then to be attuned to the 'inbreak of the divine' as God unfolds his Covenant with the Church.

Last month we looked at the question "Why a Camino around the Schoenstatt property" here at the Mulgoa Shrine. When moments of God's special intervention are remembered especially in tune with Mary's identity and mission they draw into focus, God's Divine Providence, Mary's intercession and an understanding in ourselves that we are being called to remember the amazing love Christ and his Mother have for us.

In the Old Testament, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David are historical figures who all understood the importance of Covenant history and God's love for them through the Covenant. Having had the privilege of singing the Exultet at the Easter Vigil there are many acts of God and his love that are sung of in this liturgy:

- This is the night you lead our forebears....from slavery in Egypt...and made them pass dry shod through the Red Sea.
- This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.
- This is the night thatsets Christian believers apart from worldly vices... the gloom of sin, leading (us) to grace and to his holy ones.



Continuing with the verses from the New Testament we are reminded that:

- The truly necessary sin of Adam (is) destroyed completely by the death of Christ
- This night: restores innocence to the fallen and joy to mourners
- Things of heaven are wed to those of earth and divine to the human.

Schoenstatt's history "is seen in light of a practical faith in Divine Providence". The idea of calling to mind the people that have had much to do with our own Australian history and recalling what happened to them and how they understood their identity and mission is exactly the same as recalling the moments in the Old and New Testaments when the well-known greats of the testaments truly understood God's Providence in their lives.

Fr. Kentenich himself understood that certain documents and central events had come together and these came to be important moments in Schoenstatt's early history. They are found in the "Founding Documents" which record 'four significant milestones' of history that need to be remembered. These documents keep Schoenstatt's Covenant Spirituality true to the concrete history of the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable and this has been for many, and can be for others, "a school" (of thought) that helps us grow in the covenant with God.

So far our "Camino History Short Meditative Walks" have brought us into contact with Sr. Bonitas, Joseph Engling, and Father Carl Boes an ordained priest and Schoenstatt Father. They are educational figures of our Australian Schoenstatt History and by June we will have included Father John Evans, our first Australian Schoenstatt Father.

Let all of us remember that Father Kentenich began present day Schoenstatt spirituality with the question "What is our aim?" and formulated the 'program/process' of "Under the protection of Mary we want to learn to educate ourselves to become firm, free priestly personalities". Using the history being presented through the short walks and concentration on our Australian founding figures as inspiration along with the meditative symbols in the Shrine is a 'Way' to grow in knowledge of Schoenstatt and what makes a Schoenstatt person tick.

The above reflection has drawn partly from Question 162 in Fr. Jonathan Niehaus's Book "200 Questions about Schoenstatt".

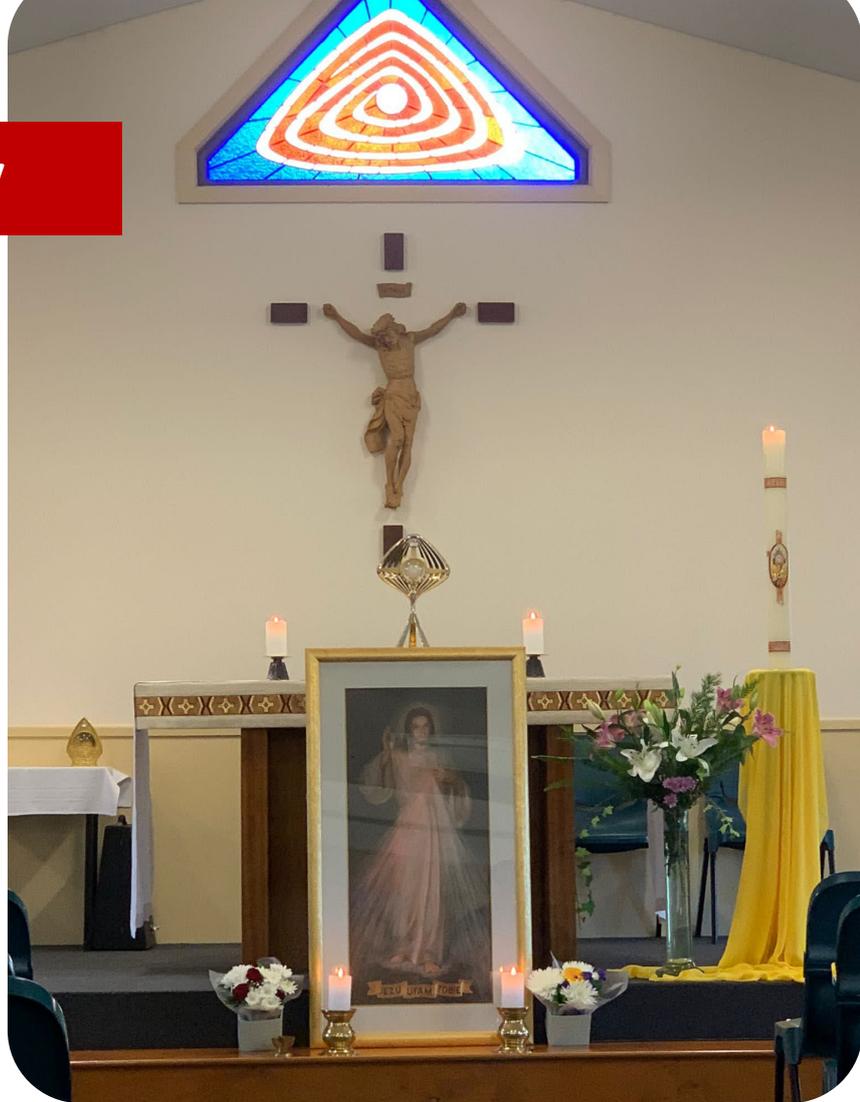


5. Divine Mercy Sunday

On Divine Mercy Sunday we, at Mount Schoenstatt, were grateful and privileged to have the seminarians from the Parramatta Diocese join the regular Pilgrims' Mass at Mulgoa for the first time, together with Father Paul Marshall the newly appointed Rector of the seminary. Father Pawel "Paul" Barczweski OP, the Spiritual Director of Holy Spirit Seminary, has been using Mount Schoenstatt for the seminarian's regular monthly recollection for some time now. We see this as a great opportunity for our future priests to be exposed to our pilgrimage place and to be drawn to our Mother Thrice Admirable in the shrine.

Father Pawel brought along a huge Divine Mercy picture and placed it in front of the altar which added a festive atmosphere to the Divine Mercy Mass. The seminarians actively participated as readers, singing the psalm and sequence as well as serving at the altar and as acolytes. Deacon Matthew Dimian who was ordained to the diaconate in our parish, read the Gospel. Father Pawel gave an inspiring homily about the Divine Mercy of the risen Lord in connection with the Gospel reading.

We were also grateful for the presence of members of the Mary Immaculate Bossley Park parish choir, who came especially for the occasion. May Vargas, one of our Pilgrim Mother coordinators, was the musician and led the choir. Girls who were participating in a Schoenstatt Girls' Camp were also present at the Mass.



After Mass the seminarians continued their day of recollection with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Some comments from regular attendees at the Pilgrims' Mass in response to having the seminarians at the Mass:

"Seeing the seminarians who will be future priests gives us the inspiration to pray for them and accompany their journey towards the priesthood."

"It is good to know that there are still vocations to the priesthood in our diocese. I will pray for them."

"It was a solemn Mass, the incense and singing created a beautiful festive atmosphere. Hope to see them here again."

"It is good to have them. It motivates us to pray for more vocations."

Let us continue to pray for our seminarians especially for the grace of loyalty. Let us ask our Mother Thrice Admirable to draw their hearts closer into the heart of our Lord who is the high priest. Let us also pray for all priests especially those who bear responsibilities in educating our future priests.

Sr. Luisa Maria



DADS at THE SHRINE

Monthly Adoration & Fellowship for Dads

All dads are invited to spend an hour before the Lord in the Schoenstatt Shrine Mulgoa, on the second Wednesday of each month from 8-9pm, followed by supper in the Pilgrims' Centre.

Confessions available



Location: Mt Schoenstatt Shrine. 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa.

Questions: Bernard Toutounji, 0416 106 871

11 May

8 Jun

13 Jul

10 Aug

14 Sep

12 Oct

9 Nov

14 Dec

6. Dads at the Shrine

A new initiative begun by fathers belonging the Schoenstatt Family Branch began on Wednesday night 11th May. This was only the beginning and the men who attended are looking forward to seeing others join them during the following months this year.

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month fathers are invited to spend an hour with Lord in the Shrine. It is a wonderful opportunity to take some time out from work and to bring all one's personal and family intentions to the Blessed Mother in our Schoenstatt Shrine. After the prayer time which is from 8-9pm there is a short time for refreshments and fellowship in the Pilgrims' Centre.

One of the father's in the Family Group had the following to say in encouragement: "One of my favourite times at the shrine is late in the day. It's quiet, peaceful and meditative. You don't always feel that in the same way when its busy. With this series, we'll go from cold winter nights all the way to warm summer evenings at the end of the year.'

Please let others who may be interested know about this initiative. All dads are welcome.

11 May

8 Jun

13 Jul

10 Aug

14 Sep

12 Oct



7. 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 – 5pm

➤ May Covenant Day in 2022

Please Note: Due to the annual Marian Pilgrimage at Mount Schoenstatt there will **NOT** be a zoom meeting to renew the Covenant of Love this month. However, the video for this month: “Mary, Star of Evangelisation” will be posted on the Australian YouTube Channel for use in groups or for personal reflection.

➤ Links:

Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

Schoenstatt Australian Website

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

Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia

Video for May Covenant Sunday – Mary, Star of Evangelisation

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

Recent videos on this Channel:

Video for April Covenant Sunday - Our Ecclesial Movement proclaiming Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEiUk7jpSic>

Video for March Covenant Sunday - ‘Slow’ Evangelisation

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

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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