

JULY 2022 – FOURTH STATION OF NINE MONTHLY (CAMINO - NOVENA) MEDITATIVE SHORT WALKS FR. STATUE AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS WALK:



Fr. Joseph Kantenich is Schoenstatt's Founder, who was born in 1885 in the town of Gymnich, Germany. In 1904 he joined the Pallotine Community as a novice and was ordained a priest on the 8th July, 1910. Appointed spiritual director of the Minor Seminary in 1912, this became the starting point for Schoenstatt through his work with young seminarians, and he was allowed by the Pallotine Order to begin what came to be known as 'The Schoenstatt Movement' in 1919. Vatican 2 endorsed the spirit of movement founders saying "...the spirit and aims of each founder should be faithfully accepted and retained, as indeed should each institute's sound traditions". (*Perfectae Caritatis*,2)

Father's method was to endorse leadership in many co-workers. He came under the scrutiny of the Nazi's in the 1940's and became a prisoner in the Dachau Concentration Camp. Over the years his work was tested by the Church and it was only in his final years that he could guide 'hands on' what had become a vast and international movement. He is seen as one of three contact points for life in the movement –known as the three 'H's' he is the Head, the Heart is the Mother Thrice Admirable and the Shrine is the Home.

From the very beginning Father recognised that pilgrims to the Shrine were drawn to it by its three graces. Schoenstatt does not have a miraculous base as do other places such as Lourdes or Fatima. Its drawcard is the fact that people say they "feel like they have come home" which comes from the first grace "Grace of a Home". For many they experience a 'change of heart' be it sadness to happiness, anxious to confident, angry to patient, lacking in spiritual education to being fulfilled in it and wanting to learn more helped by the "Grace of Inner Transformation". The third grace is the longest to come to fruition as it requires a deep commitment on the part of the recipient to realise that they are being asked to care about sharing Christ and Mary with others so they need the "Grace of Apostolic Zeal or fruitfulness".

Father Kantenich saw that the Covenant played a central role in Schoenstatt. The Covenants of the Old and New testaments are the very core of God's revelation about how he saves us and draws us to himself. The Schoenstatt Covenant of Love with Mary is key to Schoenstatt's distinct identity and its manifold forms of life. We love Mary and we know she loves us in return and knowing this helps us in our own lives on the most human level and strengthens and/or heals all these basic attachments. Fr Kantenich believed it is the "fundamental purpose, form, strength and norm of our life" (Fr. Kantenich 1952) and longed for it to become the way for all Christians in the world today.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS WALK - From Behind the Shrine to the Graveyard

There is not much written historically about this walk that has been hewn out of the ground on the side of the hill behind the Shrine but it is well known that most Shrines incorporate such a walk into their grounds. The practical hands that used the shovels and built the path, the hands that molded the pictures on the metal and more are silent partners in the building of these icons to aid traditional Catholic devotion.

Devotion isn't the stations only message. Interpreting them to apply to our own life and story is another aspect.. The personal story of any pilgrim or a person who is committed to Schoenstatt 's group be it a men's group, a mother's group, a single women's group, a girls group or a family group is extremely important to Mary especially when that story has a sad aspect to it. As a Schoenstatt Mother I draw to mind a day when Mary and the Holy Spirit joined me on this walk. Not alone, I had two children with me and it was one on them that reminded me that the phrase 'Out of the mouths of babes' has great meaning when one's heart is buried in grief. A little voice while I was praying called out "Come on, come on let's find rabbits" and one little three year old led me and his sister running down along that walk not to the graveyard but down the hill to the very bottom corner of the property where I and those two little children discovered a place I'd never been before "Sr. Bonitas' Corner". We sat there and watched the kangaroos – never saw any rabbits, them being forgotten when the kangaroos appeared. The moral of the story – in that walk with Mary and the Holy Spirit following 'the child Jesus' I walked my way out of depression and found not only a devotion to a Sister who also suffered very much as we found in Station 1, but the path to educating myself in the Schoenstatt spirituality. My hope is for you to find the many paths that the Station's can lead to. P.T.O. and join us in prayer along the "Stations Walk".

Walk to 1st Station behind the Shrine: Prayers taken from 'Heavenwards' – A Schoenstatt Prayer Book which can be found online at : <http://schhw.net/en/index.htm>

Opening Prayer: Father at the side of our Mother let me accompany the Savior of the world and see in his struggle of life and death, the powers standing behind all world events. He is the Lord <http://schhw.net/en/index.htm> who you have commissioned in love to help me who stands between the two great powers that oppose each other in eternal battle. In complete freedom I renew my decision for Christ now and forever Amen.

Bow - Leader: We adore you Saviour Jesus Christ. Response: Who died for us on the Cross –said before each station

1st Station: Person 1: Pilate, the high priests and the masses who guilty abandon you, the light of the world, often re-sentence you to death with hate and mockery and strident clamor. **Person 2:** As often as I have violated truth, justice and love, I have abandoned you. Let me renounce all self-will and give everything up, even honor and justice.

2nd Station: Person 1: In every age and on many different paths you stagger, scorned and laden with the cross. The persecution the Church endures is the cross once again placed on your shoulders. **Person 2:** May I always joyfully carry the splinter of the cross which the Father sends me through the circumstances of my life. May I prove genuine so that what I am and what I do may give the Father childlike praise.

3rd Station: Person 1: The work which the Father has entrusted to you and to which your Mother could give her yes gives you no rest until it is completed. **Person 2:** When nature's guilt and weight oppress me, and failure and the burden of being a shepherd bow me down, then let me follow in your footsteps Lord, as a beacon of hope.

4th Station: Person 1: The permanent helpmate for the salvation of souls may not fail to be present on your difficult way of the cross. **Person 2:** She is Schoenstatt's most noble blossom, so let us cherish her in the shrine of our hearts and courageously carry her into the world.

5th Station: Person 1: At first Simon helps you against his will. You so effectively imprint your image on him that he is permitted to become your reflection in everything. **Person 2:** I thank you daily that I may give you my shoulders for the cross which bears all life. Mold me in your image and with childlike spirit may I always fulfill the Father's wish.

6th Station: Person 1: Veronica without fear brings you a cloth which you gratefully touch. She is all noble women's example to go through life as a radiant sign of Jesus and Mary. **Person 2:** I thank you for all these other Veronicas, never let them die from our ranks.

7th Station: Person 1: No one can grasp the folly of the cross, causing us to violently go our own separate ways, because we separate ourselves from the cross of Christ. **Person 2:** Do not let your cross fall, we plea like our Mother, lift it up again and let me carry it with you into the world so our nation pays it homage once more.

8th Station: Person 1: The eyes of the weeping women are so blinded that they fail to find true faith. On every side I see millions staggering with blindness. Their self seeking obstructs the light shining in the darkness.

Person 2: May the Father consider the sorrows of our Mother and accept me as a sacrifice of atonement.

9th Station: Person 1: You must fall a third time, because of those led by evil spirits because they did not detach themselves from the world : **Person 2:** Destroy the secret reservations hidden in the corners of our hearts and make us fruitful for the kingdom.

10th Station: Person 1: With serenity you endure the divestment of your garments, and others cannot subside their senses. Yet there are others who see it as honor fame and glory to stand next to you in affliction. **Person 2:** Let me take my bearings from the Father, relinquish my earthly centeredness and travel homewards to see the hands and eyes of my Mother.

11th Station: Person 1: The nails pierce your hands and feet, you accept them as a greeting of love. You gather souls to you who are willing to bind themselves to the Father's wish. **Person 2:** Help me to make the free decision to let my love be guided by obedience alone so the Father's plan for me can be fulfilled in my life.

12th Station: Person 1: You hang between heaven and earth, so there is a new creation of love. In the hour of your death you give us your Mother. Those who overlook Mary do not grasp the fullness of your task . **Person 2:** I want to no longer trust in money and possessions but give myself completely with heart and mind, to you and my Mother.

13th Station: Person 1: You lie limply in the arms of your Mother. The sacrifice she was allowed to make in you sings forever in my soul. **Person 2:** May I always remain a faithful child of her deeply inscribing her name into all hearts.

14th Station: Person 1: The stone on your tomb will cover you for only a short time then you will ascend as victor from the grave. **Person 2:** In sorrow and persecution, teach me to believe that nothing can rob you of the crown of victory. Use Schoenstatt as your chosen instrument to increase the holy ranks of the Church.

Concluding Prayer:

O Holy Cross I fall before you. I want to plant you deeply in my joyous heart. Let me proclaim you both to those around me and let me present the cross and the picture of Mary to the nations as the sign of redemption. May Schoenstatt always be your loyal instrument and in the Holy Spirit the Father's Glory be increased.

Join us again next month in August to learn more about the Sisters and the House. **Coloured versions of this document can be found at schoenstatt.org where you can see the full plan for the Camino Walk in December and at Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre on Facebook.**