

Schoenstatt Movement

Australia

July 18 2022 | Volume 3, Number 7

1. COVENANT DAY MESSAGE

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

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

We are now well into the winter season and I send you warm greetings and blessings from the Shrine for this July Covenant day. In our newsletter last month we looked at an excerpt from a talk by Fr. Kentenich in which he spoke about the Covenant of Love with Our Blessed Mother, as a Covenant of Love also with the Triune God.

This month we want to look at how our Covenant of Love helps us to become the “new person” who helps to fulfil Schoenstatt’s mission for the Church and world.

Our Schoenstatt Covenant of Love aims at bringing us into fervent union with the Blessed Mother. She is in the foreground. As her covenant partners, we belong completely to her and should be at home in her as she educates us. “The new person” should be formed in and through this covenant of love.

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However, this fervent union is not an end in itself. It also serves as a task and mission for others, for Schoenstatt, the Church and world. The disciples have to become apostles. So the spirituality and message of the Covenant of Love naturally gives rise to the message of faith in our mission. This, in its turn, means that we should be striving to be authentic witnesses to holiness through our Schoenstatt mission and our Schoenstatt spirituality.



Schoenstatt's Second Founding Document, was written by Father Kantenich from Switzerland as he could not be present for the October celebrations in Schoenstatt that year. Because of the situation at that time, it was published as "Words Befitting the Hour" on 18th October 1939. The following paragraphs from that document are texts that speak of faith in our mission.

52. Take great care to cultivate the awareness that we have a divine mission and are God's instruments!

54. All along it has been a law that we have taken for granted that only those people and communities may exercise a profounder influence in God's kingdom who have been given a distinctive calling and mission. This is proven not only by the priests and prophets of the Old Testament, but also by our Lord, the apostles, the understanding of the Church, and the feeling of Catholic people.

60. Today we are surprised that our young Founder Generation was borne by such a profound awareness of its mission and instrumentality 25 years ago. We are justified in asking for the reasons that induced it to do so. We know them. Many of us would hardly have managed with them at the time. In 1919, at the end of the World War and after five years of existence and fruitfulness, we were better able to understand the argument that confirmed this divine mission. We have heard it and repeated it on countless occasions. It revolves around the well-known statement: the insignificance of the instrument, the magnitude of the difficulties and the magnitude of the success. What we have battled through and achieved since 1919 confirms this argument in a very profound way, and hence also our faith in our mission and awareness that we are instruments. So we have every reason to thank most sincerely all those whom Divine Providence has used to create difficulties for us. Without them we would not stand so steadfastly today in our joyful and victorious faith, hope and love, when so much is collapsing, and the paralysis of discouragement is so widespread.

61. It is now up to us to deepen this faith in our mission through prayer and studying the history of our Family and our times.



62. The more, and the more effectively, we do this, the greater and richer will be the fruits we will harvest. Our awareness of our inner dependence on the living God will grow. Our mistrust of our own strength and purely human means will increase. Our sense of being sheltered and at home, our calm and security in God, will consolidate us and give us sureness of touch. Our trust in the victory of divine forces in the Family and through the Family will become invincible, so that in the end we will be able to say with utter conviction: If God is with us, who can be against us?

63. All who are deeply filled and gripped by the Blank Cheque they have given, will live with all their soul from this faith that they have been given a divine mission, and the awareness of their instrumentality. It would be absurd to invest all the abilities of body and soul, all our intellectual and material goods, indeed our entire lives, in a work that promises absolutely no earthly benefits, unless this faith existed as a major power in the background. In order to intensify it, let us examine the life of our Josef Engling in detail and open ourselves to its influence. Without this divine element his life and work would simply be incomprehensible and inconceivable.

(Kentenich Reader, Volume II, Pp203-206)

The Covenant of Love with our Mother Thrice Admirable and the Schoenstatt spirituality we have received from our father and founder, help us in striving to be authentic witnesses to holiness in our families, our workplaces and among our community.

We ask our MTA to help us deepen our faith in our Schoenstatt mission through prayer and studying our Schoenstatt spirituality.

We also ask Our Blessed Mother to take special care of those in our own families and the Schoenstatt Family, who are struggling at this time with illness or in any other ways.

Wishing you many blessings and graces from our Shrines on this Covenant Day,

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall



2. Marriage Camino – Schoenstatt Shrine, Mt Richon WA

A small but eager group of couples gathered at Emilie House on Saturday 11th June 2022, before heading out on their journey around 15 Pillars, taking part in a Marriage Camino, with readings from the Founder Fr Joseph Kantenich. Then each couple had the opportunity to discuss suggested questions in their booklet privately with each other. The rain held off all morning, and a short downpour happened during the afternoon, but we were able to take shelter under a gazebo, before continuing our journey. During our lunch break a photo opportunity was made for the couples, which was a bit of fun. The afternoon finished with some reflection time and prayers in the Shrine. The couples all appreciated having time together to discuss the circumstances and focus of their lives. The Marriage Camino is a great opportunity for couples to reflect upon at different stages of their lives. Therefore it is worth doing again and again.



Philomena Theseira and photos by Chris Quinn



3. Schoenstatt members “walk with Christ”

Members of our Schoenstatt Family took part in the “Walk with Christ” procession on Corpus Christi Sunday, 19th June. Approximately 13,000 people took part in the procession in Sydney which went from Martin Place to St. Mary’s Cathedral. They took along the large Pilgrim Mother Shrine for the purpose of Evangelising along with a large international Schoenstatt banner which they marched behind. Thanks to God’s providence they had been invited by Mount Carmel Parish to join them for free on their bus into the city.

In the bus our Blessed Mother’s image was allocated two seats. Some parishioners of Mount Carmel admired the beauty of Our Lady and took photos with it. They said that one day they would like to visit our Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa. During the trip we also met a woman from Austria and she very eagerly asked questions about the movement.

While waiting for the start of the procession there was a young couple with a child who approached us asking if this was a Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother shrine? When we said yes it was, they immediately offered a short prayer in front of the image. They said they are active members of Schoenstatt in India and they have been to the original Shrine in Germany so they joined our group for the procession. Along the way many people took photos of our blessed Mother.

We truly believe that our blessed Mother and our Heavenly Father were with us and we praise and give thanks that we had a wonderful day and were able to share our Blessed Mother with so many people.
Cesar & Tess Corpus

Edna Aldana shared her experience of the procession:

It was a very blessed and inspiring experience walking between those towering buildings. It was an awesome feeling which left ‘a tear in my eye’ as I contemplated the wonders of God’s presence and this witnessing of our faith. Our Schoenstatt banner was very prominent because of its colour - white and yellow. One person asked, ‘what banner are you holding’, and we were proud to say, ‘Schoenstatt’.

We had families happily following behind us all the way. At the foot of the Cathedral, we took photos and couldn’t contain the joy and happiness showing on our faces. Two photographers came up and asked to take our photos – with our Mother above and our banner. One of the photographers said ‘one has to do it, to be in it’. Another asked ‘what is the banner, “is it a Filipino thing?”. In unison we said ‘Schoenstatt’.



4. International Pentecost Congress – 8 -12 June, 2022

This Congress, held in Schoenstatt Germany, was an important event for our international Schoenstatt Family. Although no one from Australia was able to participate directly, we were involved in the preparation through our input and will be involved now in the outcome through our study and implementation of the Letter written to the Schoenstatt Family proclaiming the outcome of the Congress: “You are our Letter” (2 Cor 3:2-3), which you can find at the following link. It covers the following main points: Father Kentenich and his cause, Schoenstatt’s charism, and Synodality within Schoenstatt and the Church.

https://schoenstatt.com/wpcontent/uploads/2022/06/20220612_EN_A_fraternal_letter_to_the_international_Schoenstatt_Family.pdf

With 145 delegates from 30 countries the Congress spent four days listening to one another, to the voices of the times, and to the inspirations of the Spirit using Fr. Kentenich’s method of “observe, compare, reduce to principles and apply”.



In his homily at the opening Mass on **Day 1**, Father Juan Pablo Catoggio, the president of the General Presidium, spoke about the need for Pentecost, not only in the Church but also in Schoenstatt.

“We need:

The Spirit of holiness who transforms and renews us

The Spirit of love who unites and holds us together in freedom and solidarity

The Spirit of mission that sends us out and makes us fruitful for the world.”

The afternoon was spent introducing the participants and their countries and sharing expectations of the Congress.

Although the representation of youth was small in numbers, they made a huge impact on the whole Congress by their spirit and participation. “Many participants stated how delighted they were to see the maturity and zeal of the youth for their Schoenstatt family.”

On **Day 2** of the Congress the theme was **the state of the cause of Father Kentenich**.

Kayla Doll, from the youth of the USA, shared her impressions from the talks about Father Kentenich. “Schoenstatt and each individual, in order to live the mission, needs to ask the question: who is father (Kentenich) for me?”



This question is important because he is inseparable from Schoenstatt because he is one of the three contact points in the covenant of love. If we don't stand by him, we will fail. He and the Blessed Mother have the answers to the needs of our times; it's just a matter of "conjugating" them into the present tense, into the present time. She was also struck by the greatness of our mission in Schoenstatt. "It's exciting and terrifying and if we try to do it alone, we will fail... But, Mother takes perfect care and is victorious."

Workshops on Day 2 included:

1. Synodality in Schoenstatt
2. Schoenstatt's presence and effectiveness in society
3. Schoenstatt's Pedagogical influence in society
4. Kentenich Intensive Course
5. Synodality in the Movement



This day ended in the Adoration Church with a time of community prayer and adoration. There was a beautiful ceremony of passing the torch of Schoenstatt to the next generation. The older generation passed on literal torches to the youth, but these torches are symbolic of the mission of Schoenstatt. Then the youth sang from the zeal in their hearts and declared, "Here I am."

Day 3 of the Congress focussed on Schoenstatt's Mission within the Church and for the Church.

The workshops in the afternoon explored areas in society where Schoenstatt can be lived, such as Economics; Education / Education / Knowledge / Formation / Pedagogy; Spirituality; Ecology / Future of Creation.

At the end of this day, one of the youth, Silvia Granja, from the youth of Ecuador, "was touched that the youth and older generations shared many similar perspectives on the topics discussed today. Throughout the day, she had many older participants coming up to her to offer support. They were conscious of the struggles of the youth and were putting their trust into the youth being able to make changes for the better. Silvia also mentioned that she "loves that the spirit of the youth at the congress is very strong and she hopes that the youth can exchange more with the older members of the family of Schoenstatt and communicate with each other in ways that leave good impressions. She hopes that the congress will set goals for a clear path for the future. 'I am filled with hope.'"



Day 4 was the opportunity to focus on **Schoenstatt's Charism and Calling.**



It was the youth who first presented. They emphasized the need for representation in decision-making institutions, support from the whole family, and exposure and collaboration with the other branches of the family. They also pledged their strength and zeal to the family and the mission.

Their presentation was followed by an input by Father Awi Mello who began his talk with this question: How can we help the world today as church, and what can we learn from today's church and

world? He stressed the importance of Schoenstatt being part of the Church, helping the world as Church. ... "Without the Church, we do not exist, and only in the Church do we have the 'right to exist.'" The words on Father Kentenich's tomb sum up his stance on this point: *Dilexit Ecclesiam*.

Working as Church, we are called to live our charism as Church in the world. We are called to be living transparencies of God, drawing close to others through humble listening and open dialogue. The laity is called to be active in all areas of society and to transform their daily work through their everyday sanctity; our quiet, daily piety is a powerful tool for evangelization. Finally, he reintroduced the point of Synodality which had been very important in the discussions during the week. Schoenstatt is called to be synodal within itself but also with the Church, being active in the life of the Church. Rooted in the gospel and tradition, Schoenstatt looks towards the future.



The Pentecost Congress closed with Sunday Mass, the celebration of the great feast of the Holy Trinity. Father Heinrich Walter presided, and he gave a homily reflecting on our shared experiences and mission from the Congress. These he expressed using three symbols.



Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit

First, we entered our Pentecost Cenacle out of the swirling troubles of the world, the Church, and our own Schoenstatt family. We found refuge with our founder in the Founder Chapel and drew strength from the Holy Spirit who comes to us anew in this place, as symbolized by the Pentecost window.

Go, and Proclaim the Good News

Second, we are called to Synodality: “dialogue at all levels,” and the “co-creation of the new epoch.” This call is from the Holy Father, Pope Francis, but it also was a part of Father Kentenich’s plan for Schoenstatt from the very beginning. Father Kentenich was rooted in the “new shore,” and we are called to step out of the arc of certainty and follow him toward the future of the Family and the Church. This is the second symbol.

Be the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth

Finally, the torch of the mission was passed on from the oldest generation to the newest. This symbolic gesture truly was an entrustment: they entrusted the future of Schoenstatt to the youth, and the youth accepted the responsibility and pledged themselves for the mission.



This was an outward sign of the true inter-generational cooperation within the Schoenstatt family that has been characteristic of the proceedings of the Congress, as well as for the continuation of this cooperation into the future. It is also a symbol of the mission of Schoenstatt, to carry the light of Christ into the world as Church today.

Let us pray that this Congress will bear fruit in the everyday lives of our Schoenstatt Family in Australia. For more information and witnesses go to www.schoenstatt.com



5. A Promise Fulfilled

Schoenstatt family celebrates the ordination of Fr. Nathan Webb

Mum and dad lifted the fabric and gently tugged it until it came over Nathan's head and rested on his shoulders. They had done this a thousand times before... dressing their baby boy in jumpsuits, pulling on his jumper, combing his hair, tying his shoes...

But this time was different; Today mum and dad were putting a chasuble on newly ordained Father Nathan Webb.

Fr. Nathan, 24, was ordained by Bishop Robert McGuckin alongside Fr.

Brian Redondo in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba on June 25th.

His parents, Paul and Fiona Webb, helped him put on his vestments for the first time as part of the ordination ceremony.



Paul said it was a surreal moment. "I now call my son 'Father'," he said.

The Webb family has been part of the Schoenstatt movement for nearly 25 years since Paul and Fiona made their Covenant of Love in the Family Branch in 1998. Many of the children have since entered into the Covenant themselves.

Fr. Nathan received the first inkling of a call to the priesthood at a young age and often played "priest and religious" dress-ups with his siblings.

Almost all his 11 siblings were able to come to the ordination, including some travelling from overseas.

His brother Br. Isaac OFM Cap. was not able to be present but joined via livestream from the Capuchin novitiate in California.

His sister Sr. Rose Patrick, who professed first vows with the Sisters of Life last year, said she was grateful to be able to attend. "It's one thing to see God working in the lives of people like Abraham, the Apostles, or Mother Teresa, but it's something else to see God working in the life of your own little brother.

"I saw Fr. Nathan celebrate his first Mass and I witnessed God enter concrete reality and keep His loving promise." "I can tell you God is good, and Fr. Nathan is fully alive."

Fr. Nathan celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving at Sacred Heart Parish in Toowoomba the day after his ordination. At the end of Mass, the parish presented him with the travel Mass kit belonging to the late Fr. James Byrne, who was the Parish Priest at Sacred Heart when Fr. Nathan was growing up. Fr. Byrne was a special inspiration and mentor for Fr. Nathan in his vocation.

Fr. Nathan also gave his parents a wooden box hand-carved by Br. Isaac. Inside the box, he placed the stole from his ordination Mass and the manutergium – the cloth used to wipe the excess oil from the priest’s hands during the ordination ceremony. The manutergium is traditionally wrapped around the mother’s hands at her burial, symbolizing the gift she has given back to God.



Fiona said there wasn’t a dry eye in the congregation. “I was crying, but it was happy tears. Each child is a gift and you just want them to flourish and to be the person God created them to be.”

Fr. Nathan will initially continue serving at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. He said he hopes to give back to the communities who inspired and supported his vocation.



“A vocation is not just for one person – it’s for the Church. I am grateful to see this church come alive today.”

Contributed by a few of Fr. Nathan’s siblings.

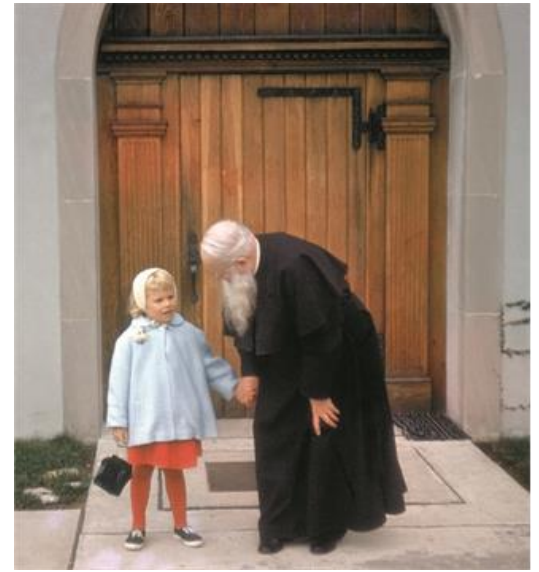
You may also enjoy an Article on 7 News

<https://fb.watch/e0zRFtDHBL/>



6. Childlikeness before God

The title above is actually a whole book presented as a retreat of some 300 pages by Fr. Kentenich on the topic of Childlikeness. Using the principle of 'Lectio Divina' which is a way of saying "Where will I start Lord?" I opened the book at 'The Content of Childlikeness' which begins on p58. To this point, Fr. Kentenich has been laying out two themes - "Childlikeness is the Way to Heaven" and the second discusses the question "What does Childlikeness involve?" He starts from here explaining 'the content of childlikeness' which starts from a central statement by our Lord which can be summarised in his edict that **"Unless you become like little children you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven".**



Father then adds to this that the full statement should include "Unless you change" – convert "and become like little children" you cannot enter the kingdom. Father describes this as a negative and a positive because childlikeness involves being constantly reformed and transformed till we possess, "1. A new, divine, Godlike being of a child. 2. A new, noble, Godlike, attitude of a child." This, he says, is what we need to enter heaven.

Fortunately, because we are born again by water and the Holy Spirit, in other words 'baptised', this places us in the position of having the 'Blessed Trinity' within us and as a result continually imparts to us something of the divine life. St John in 1 John 3,1. states "Now see what love the Father has shown us; for we are not only called children of God, but that is what we are". St Paul in Romans speaks of "God's Spirit bear(ing) witness in our spirit that we are children of God. Father goes on to say, "How noble it makes one feel when I am convinced I am not just another person on the street but rather a child of God!" Fr. Kentenich understood his entire priesthood to be in the light of service to God and others: Throughout his life he was inspired by a single great ideal: God and souls. For him all else was secondary. All else was resolutely ordered and subjected to this great idea of his life.

What is paradise? Walking and talking with God!

Think of the children you know, your children, your grandchildren and ask yourself do they point me toward God? Children often remind us of paradise. What is paradise? Walking and talking with God! What a child possesses in an imperfect manner, we have to acquire in a perfect and lasting manner. Reality is that “Whoever sees me must be drawn to God!” My task to stay this way, is to learn to live constantly close to God, under the principle of “Restriction as much as necessary, freedom as much as possible, but cultivation of the Spirit as much as possible”, because we are all called to be “A Unique Prophet of God”.

Father’s idea of ‘cultivation of the Spirit’ means the cultivation of the spiritual life and the ‘right spirit of community’. To achieve this we need formation and study, common reflection on God’s action in our lives (as in a group meeting), spiritual striving, devotional acts, cultivation of lifestreams and currents, times of grace (such as Covenant Days,) and prayer.

We cannot ignore how sin threatens to cloud all of the above. Father does not neglect this in the 60 page chapter on the topic of becoming childlike and concludes the chapter on how ‘a childlike attitude’ is the key to keeping effective childlike love. He says we need to earnestly avoid sin, to be vigilant of the moments that crop up and catch us unawares, to hold fast to a sense of contrition and keep ourselves on the straight and narrow by having a spirit of penance. We also need to have a profound aversion to sin, fearing nothing more than it, and to realise that nothing is more painful than sin because it cuts us off from the love of God within us. Childlikeness must drive us to constantly implore the Blessed Mother to send us the Holy Spirit to open in us childlikeness in full measure because ‘Unless we change and cultivate a tender, effective childlikeness we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven’.

7. Two “pioneer” Schoenstatters called home.

Recently, two “pioneers” of our Schoenstatt Family, one in Sydney and one in Melbourne, have been called home to the heavenly Father. Each one has made a different contribution but each one has been significant in helping to “grow” Schoenstatt in their respective State. We will miss them and pray they may rest in peace in our “heavenly Schoenstatt”.

Joan Hardie – Menai, Founding Schoenstatt Mother



Joan Hardie and her sister Nancy built a new home in Illawong, Menai after her early retirement in 1988, from an illustrious nursing career. She became the founding member of many initiatives of Father Denis Foley, the newly appointed Schoenstatt Diocesan Parish Priest, who asked her to form the Catechists and the RCIA in Menai, now in their 32nd year of existence, and a Schoenstatt Mother’s Group. Joan had never married but being a child from a large family and having an exceptional nursing career she ably led the Schoenstatt Mother’s Group which is where I first got to know her.

We would meet in several mother’s homes-sharing the load on the young mother’s and Joan was helped by Sr. Angrit who would drive down from Schoenstatt, to try and instil some Schoenstatt spirituality into the mother’s hearts. She held ‘The Magnificat’ group, a diverse collection of women, together for many years until her move from Menai to Mudgee in 2000.

She was a Pilgrim Mother Co-ordinator and proud of the fact she had one of the original Pilgrim Mothers brought back from Germany by Vishna Turner. She and Nancy were familiar faces in the crowd at the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate days in May each year.



She travelled overseas on pilgrimage to Rome and the Original Shrine in Germany in 2000 accompanied by Fr. Denis, Sr. Elizabeth and many parishioners from the parish of Menai. I have a fond memory of Joan, Rose and Emily (Victoria) disappearing off to morning Mass in Bangkok, leaving no note as to their whereabouts and pleading innocence like little children when they found out how concerned we all were that they had ‘disappeared’. She suffered greatly in her later years becoming blind, but she had a deep devotion to Sr. Emilie and like her bore her suffering quietly.

Her funeral held at St John Bosco was attended by many of her Hardie family as well as friends from the parish of Menai. May she rest in peace, safe in ‘The Arms of our Mother’.



Angela, member of the ‘Magnificat’ and ‘Mary and Martha’ Mothers’ Groups.

Tribute to Trudi from the Victorian Schoenstatt Family

Trudi Wijewardene, one of our pioneer members of the Victorian Schoenstatt Family prior to 1999, passed away peacefully on June 26th at 7.20pm.

Trudi played a vital role in our movement in Melbourne, as Pilgrim Mother Coordinator and Leader. She is also remembered for her active role in the annual Novena since 1999, and we have continued the Novena since then. It is recited for nine Sundays leading up to the Feast of the Assumption. She trained the youth how to pray the Novena and brought so many to the Shrine. She was very passionate and devoted much of her time for the movement. She demonstrated her love and devotion to Our Lady through her leadership role in the Movement for decades.

She has left us with a legacy of the Schoenstatt Journal which she documented during her period of time in the movement, which carries great value. She was also musically talented.

Trudi will be greatly missed by the Victorian Schoenstatt Family and our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter, Shyama and her family. Holy Mass was celebrated for Trudi at the Kew Shrine on Sunday 3rd July followed by the annual Novena Prayers. May she rest in peace.

Contributed by Yvonne and Annerine



8. 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

➤ **Links:**

Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

Further information about the International Pentecost Congress can be found at this site.

Schoenstatt Australian Website

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

Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia

Video for July Covenant Sunday

http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia_

Recent videos on this Channel:

Video for June Covenant Sunday – Authentic Evangeliser

<https://youtu.be/97TWrwok2UY>

Video for May Covenant Sunday – Mary, Star of Evangelisation.

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

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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