

**AUGUST – FIFTH STATION OF NINE MONTHLY (CAMINO -NOVENA) MEDITATIVE SHORT WALKS –
THE JOSEPH KENTENICH HOUSE**

This House set with the beautiful rose garden out the front, along with the Magnolia about to bloom has much information about it on the Schoenstatt website. That said there is more to this house than meets the eye. Ever since it's opening in 1974, it has been a place which creates and carries memories just like our homes. In its early years it saw the first Covenant Celebrations for the Mother's Branch and it has been the place of early morning weekly prayer and Mass in the Chapel for the Sisters and the general public and the brothers from another property down the valley. It has seen many Movement celebrations and much education and formation of people has taken place in it over it's now 48 years of existence. It was extended in 1983 to better accommodate Retreats for Movement people and also the wider public. However it always exists as a place of formation alongside the Shrine. More recently as the Sisters have grown older it has become a place of restful support and part of the house was dedicated for this purpose. Finally we must acknowledge that it is the Sisters home and respect their hospitality when we are there. If you've joined a group, or come on Retreat as one from your parish or work, the pictures below may seem familiar to you. If you're reading this and have never availed yourself of the facilities consider doing a private retreat or bringing another group you belong to, to these beautiful facilities. Alongside the Shrine it is a place of peace and we could say another place of distribution of the first grace of the Shrine, the "Grace of a Home".



OUR AUSTRALIAN SISTERS OF MARY: see 2000 Conference Booklet for information that follows....

While many of the Sisters who reside here pray and work for the Schoenstatt movement were originally born in Germany or the Philippines to name a couple of places, all of the Sisters are our own 'Australian Sisters'. Many who are part of the custodianship and running of the Shrine and the House and other buildings on the property have brought their own particular 'charism' to the beauty on many levels that is Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. There are still Sisters alive here today whose start in this country was not in Sydney, they like the four original Sisters, started 'Shrine less' in WA and in the words of one of those sisters here in residence, Sr. Inez, "had to fight for a living...as Father Kentenich never wanted them to be dependent on others." Sr. Anita who was known to many and who died three years ago wrote, "In 1960 we bought a house in Ashfield ...and...soon after we had moved in we had a white Wayside Shrine placed at the King St side of the House". In Sr. Inez' words "The works of God come from nothing".

Sr. Renee, known to many here, in an article for the Sisters 50th Jubilee in Australia tells of how she prayed to Our Lady, "Mother, you can't send me to Australia if they don't have a shrine. If you really want me in Australia, please make sure there's a shrine." She arrived here in 1968 from Germany only a few days after the Shrine was opened. (Catholic Weekly article by Catherine Sheehan, April 18th 2018)

Sr Inez writes about Father's wish that some of the sisters would strive for a higher education. Here in Australia several Sisters have used this gift to help the wider Church, Sr. Luka with Campion College, presently Sr Mary Louise for the Parramatta Diocese, and Sr. Isabell with the Catholic Institute of Sydney and Notre Dame University. Taking the principle of "Dignity' as starting point, Sr. Isabell states (no matter what you're called to do) *"...a woman cannot be defined by her role as wife nor by her role as mother, friend, partner, colleague, competitor, or even as cheap labour...She transcends all these roles. Her value does not depend on whether she fits into one or several of these roles and does justice to them. Her value is determined by the God from whom she comes and for whom she exists"*. (Brackets mine) (100 years of Women - online). Sr. Elizabeth and other Sisters work for the Movement and use their talents to foster gifts in others. For those who visit the Shrine there are Sisters familiar to us wandering around or working in the Pilgrim Centre - I speak of Sr. Myrna and Sr. Jeanette and oft times Sr. Luisa Maria one of our Philippine born sisters who looks after the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate which takes the picture of Mary out into people's homes. Say 'Hi' to any of the Sisters – ask them for a bit of their story and if they have time to listen, share a bit of yours with them – they truly are 'Mary's Handmaids' as we should aspire to be also. **P.T.O for Meditation**



Our meditation for August is Venerable Sister. Emilie's Dispositions (1893-1955): Fr. Kentenich said of her: *"It is her mission to lead people out of the prison of fear and anxiety and to give them a home in the father heart of God". We want to let Sister Emilie take us by the hand and guide us briefly along the path which she took and which gave her a home in God's father heart".* Reflect:-



1. Faith in Divine Providence The good God is often unfathomable in his guidance and ordinances. He is love and kindness and always knows what is for our salvation-for us this must do. Can you like Sr. Emilie say, *"I know you are my Father, I feel secure in your protection"*. Reflect:-

2. Childlikeness You are my Father and I am your child. Can you like Sr. Emilie say, *"Let us become children totally"* Reflect:-

3 Trust Can I fearlessly entrust myself to you God? Even in the suffering, that hurts me? Often I can no longer trust. Can you like Sr. Emilie say *"I want to become a miracle of trust"*. Reflect:-

4. Courage God, where are you? I have no more strength, and you are silent. I am helpless. I would really prefer to just let everything go. Can you like Sr. Emilie say *"I must hold out until the end, no matter what the cost"*. Reflect:-

5. Kindness God, where are you? Where is your kindness? If you are love, why do you allow suffering? Why does it affect me in particular? Can you like Sr. Emilie say *"God is all love and he illustrates his love through people, it means that we too must be love"*. Reflect:-

6. Calm God, where are you? Where can I find you in this confusion? My plans have been crossed out, and I have to let go of what has become dear to me. I am rebelling. If only I could let be and fall into you! Can you say like Sr. Emilie *"A childlike certainty of being sheltered in the heart of the father and mother helps me to endure all my weakness with peaceful calm"*. Reflect

7. Prayer God, what do you expect of me? I am enveloped by darkness and have turned away from prayer. Do I even know how to pray? Sometimes God, I long to be able to speak to you, like a child with its father. Are you waiting for me to set out and go to you? Can you say like Sr. Emilie *"Our childlike, trusting, humble and persevering prayer has irresistible power over the heart of God"*.

8. Apostolate God, what do you expect of me? My appointment calendar is totally booked. How should I take time to worry about others! Am I co responsible for others? Do you want me to help with the work of redemption? Can you say like Sr. Emilie *"If I dedicate myself completely to our Schoenstatt Mother, she will surely use me as an instrument, even if I have to be exteriorly inactive"*. Reflect:-

9. To be a path God, what do you expect of me? What is the meaning of my life? Often I simply cannot find the road. Are you the only one who can ultimately give meaning to anything because you have called me? Would you show me the path on which I will reach my goal? Can you say like Sr. Emilie *"God calls and attracts us. A free 'Ita Pater' (Yes Father) must be the human response; we must courageously and energetically take the path shown by God"*.

Prayer : *Heavenly Father, give me an alert heart so that I can hear your call in the little things of everyday life and give you my answer of love. Let me take this simple path with Sister Emilie and through her intercession so that I too will be led out of fear and distress and be deeply at home in your father heart. Amen.*

