

WHEN IS THE CAMINO WALK AROUND MT SCHOENSTATT MULGOA?

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This question is becoming the most asked question of this Novena which is preparing us for the actual **Full Camino Walk** around the property which will take place on the **2ND SUNDAY of ADVENT – DECEMBER 4th 2022**. So far the Novena prayers have broken the 'Top of the Hill' Stations into short walks from the Shrine or the Father Kentenich Statue and have not only highlighted certain people or objects of piety, but have been a source of learning, reverence and understanding about many aspects that define Schoenstatt, not the least being the Australian history of the NSW Shrine.

SO WHAT IS PLANNED FROM SEPTEMBER TO THE FULL CAMINO WALK DAY IN DECEMBER?

SEPTEMBER 4TH : We will read, learn and pray about 'Wayside, Pilgrim and Home Shrines' as well as meditate on 'The Home Shrine' prayer from Heavenwards.

OCTOBER 2ND: We will focus on learning more about St Joseph and his statue at the top of the hill as well as pray some St. Joseph Prayers.

NOVEMBER 6TH: We remain on the top of the hill for the 8th Station of the Novena – the Pilgrim Centre. **FAMILIES PLEASE** bring your children after Mass to **OUTSIDE THE PILGRIM CENTRE** where there will be tables of stars and meaningful Jesse Tree symbols to colour in and place on the Jesse Trees, which we will carry down to the bottom of the property to Sr. Bonitas' Corner the ninth station of the Camino Walk in December. Symbols and colouring pencils will be supplied. There will be a **TAKE AWAY SHEET** giving you and the children information on the **JESSE TREE IDEAL**.

DECEMBER 4TH: JOIN IN OUR CAMINO WALK IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS . We will sing **Christmas Carols**, listen to the **Christmas Bible stories**, pray and move from Station 1 to Station 8 across the 'Top of the Hill' done in a different order to the Novena. The walk down the valley will be the opportunity to chat and get to know each other as we walk carrying our Jesse Trees, stars and what ever else is spiritually meaningful to you e.g. a **Pilgrim Mother 'Wayside Shrine'** down to Sr. Bonitas' Corner where we will finish our meaningful preparation for Christmas at the 9th station – all done in imitation of Sr. Bonitas' Advent Walks around the Tardun Property.

PLEASE PUT DECEMBER 4TH: AT MT SCHOENSTATT IN YOUR DIARIES and plan to bring your kids, grandkids (dress them up as angels if you like) or friends to participate in Mass, share a picnic lunch (you can bring your own) and the Camino Walk around the property after lunch and in preparation pray very much for a Fine Day!

SEPTEMBER CAMINO/NOVENA Station 6: WAYSIDE SHRINES, THE PILGRIM MOTHER SHRINES, THE HOME SHRINE



Pictured above are three of the 'Wayside Shrines' on the Mt Schoenstatt property. The literal first in the pictures above was placed around about October in 1966. The second is the 'Priests Wayside Shrine' formerly in the grounds of the Joseph Engling Centre which, when sold in 2014, was moved to its present position at the exit gate. Finally, there is no definite date for the shrine in Sr. Bonitas' Corner Garden down in the far corner of the property. The picture of the Pilgrim Mother Shrine is a moveable 'Wayside Shrine' and the picture of the 'Home Shrine' serves the purpose of a 'permanent wayside shrine' in the home. All of these shrines share the same thing in common and something that unites them because they stand for ***"... the immense love borne of a Mother's restless heart that wants to be close to her children because she knows they need her"***. <https://www.schoenstatt.org/en/services/pozzobon>

Wayside Shrines ***"...are an expression of Schoenstatt's pastoral attachment to a place of grace"***. The longing for the Shrine, the longing for the experience of Mary's presence and closeness from the Schoenstatt Shrine, is the root of all these wayside shrines. Another reason is that those who belong to the movement that is Schoenstatt want to feel as a family and want to get together as a family around the wayside shrines, to get to know each other, to build up relationships and to share the joys and pains of lives, just as they do around the main Shrine which they may not be able to get to. If the Shrine is many miles away or it is not economically viable or, as in Covid times, practical for people to make a pilgrimage to the main Shrine,

those who belong to the ‘missionaries’ of the Pilgrim Mother or the ‘missionaries of the Home Shrine’ have a strong desire to make “her own a piece of their land” and make it a gift to the “Mater,” as the people love to call the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt, the Mater Ter Admirabilis. We should have our own ‘piece of land’ where people, family, friends can come and give themselves personally to her, where they bring her flowers and contributions to the Capital of Grace, petitions and thanks. In gratitude, and aware of the meaning of this gift, they care for the beauty and order of these places be it the plot the Wayside Shrine is on or at the Home where she is made welcome. In Argentina, where the writer of this article lives, there are some 800 Wayside Shrine sites – nailed to trees or built in elaborate styles each allowing the children of the Mother to come and visit Her. *Ana Echevarría, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 15.09.2017*

My Home, my Schoenstatt Land

A Testimony: Recently I remembered a personal experience from my vacation and travels, an experience that demonstrates how all of us, not only those living by a wayside shrine, feel as a family around the wayside shrines. It’s difficult to express how one feels when traveling to another place – either for work, for apostolate, or vacation – one soon discovers a wayside shrine of the Mater. At once you feel at home, in a family. Even when you don’t know anybody there you feel attached to them because you share the same love, the love for our Mother. Then it begins with looking at each other, followed by smiles, and sooner or later you are speaking and, in the end, we thank our Mother for the meeting and renew our Covenant of Love. It’s especially impressive on the Covenant Days when people from all areas come to the wayside shrine. Spontaneously, I remember the words of Father Kentenich: “This is my home, my Schoenstatt land!” *Monina Crivelli, 2001. English edition: Joan Biemert, New Franken, Wisconsin, USA*

Wayside Shrine. Pilgrim Shrine and Home Shrine Prayer

This place, (this Shrine, this room, my heart) is your shrine where you work to the glory of the Father.

Here you transform my entire being into the Trinity’s most beloved shrine.

Here where the sanctuary light constantly burns and the glow of love never dies.

Here where the fire of sacrifice upon sacrifice banishes all selfishness from the heart.

Here where roses adorn the altar and lilies never cease to bloom.

Here where paradisaal breezes waft and raise heart and mind to heaven.

Here where the spirit of the world cannot enter as in the eternal city of Sion.

Here where peace reigns and happiness laughs because God’s angel keeps diligent watch.

Here where Christ rules and is triumphant and leads the whole world to the Father

Original written by Father Kentenich in Milwaukee, May 1965 and can be found in the ‘Heavenwards Prayer Book, pg. 180. Picture below Joao (John) Pozzobon – Founder of the Pilgrim Shrines in South America, who travelled in 1979 to Schoenstatt in Germany and upon his return to Brazil was inspired to build Wayside Shrines, From this a new current of life emerged. In only 5 years he placed **40 Schoenstatt wayside shrines** “**on the crossroads in strategic points, almost always in remote places, far from parishes where the priest did not go**”.

