

Schoenstatt Movement

Australia

February 18 2023 | Volume 4, Number 2

1. Covenant Day

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings on this Covenant Day – 18th February. Once again as a Schoenstatt Family we join together around our Blessed Mother and our father and founder, to renew our commitment to our covenant of love and accept once again the mission that Our Blessed Mother gives to each one of us from her shrine.

During the past year we looked at how we can be authentic witnesses to holiness through our Schoenstatt spirituality. An integral part of being able to live our Schoenstatt spirituality is coming to know our father and founder – Father Kentenich.

Whoever studies Fr. Kentenich will notice that from time to time he acknowledged that he had been gripped by a divine mission in a very personal way. He stated that his mission was to proclaim the mission of Mary that he had been given by God, with her specific mission from her Schoenstatt Shrines for today.

But you will also notice that he did not claim this mission for himself alone. He saw it as a mission for the whole Schoenstatt Family. He devoted all his energies to serving this mission which he himself said he would never have taken upon himself for something that was man-made.

1. Covenant Day Message

2. An invitation: 24 Hours for the Lord

3. Dads at the Shrine

4. The Rosary

5. Youth at Mulgoa

6. Information and Links



He was gripped by this mission, and it sustained his commitment. This is true of him as the prophetic leader, but also of the members of his Movement. To uphold our faith in our mission, we have to be also gripped by this mission. In order to do this our founder repeatedly advised us to study and reflect on the history of the Movement in the light of faith in Divine Providence.

He said:

“Our faith is first and foremost founded, as with every Christian, on our Baptism. We also have our faith in Divine Providence which is actually at the disposal of every community. It is the simple and silent way of telling ourselves: God is speaking to us through circumstances. In these days we need to pray a great deal for a profound growth of faith in our mission... and the sense of being gripped by a mission.”

As a community we base ourselves on simple faith in Divine Providence

“From time to time we may ask ourselves, “How is it possible for such a small Family (we might think of us here in Australia) to be given such a mission? And am I, with all my miseries and weaknesses, to be drawn into this great mission? I could say, “I can’t: I am so awkward, so useless”. We may feel weak and useless, and we may tell the Blessed Mother about it time and again, yet we are nevertheless convinced that we have been chosen. And in public life we need to stand there with unshakable faith in our mission. When we are together we need to be aware of having a holy mission and that it is not just my mission, but our mission.

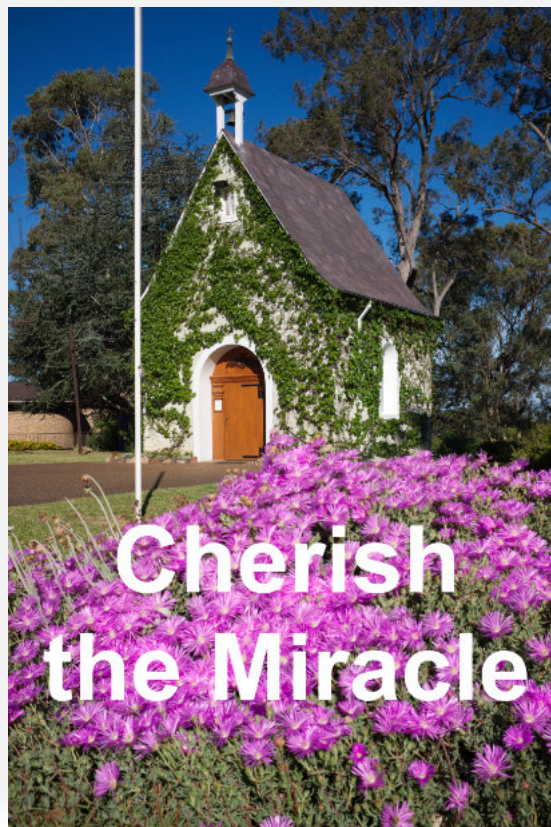
If we beg one grace through the intercession of our Mother Thrice Admirable, it is for the grace to be gripped by our mission, but also for the grace to believe unshakably in Divine Providence and our mission. That has to be the keystone of our entire thinking; our entire lives have to be directed towards it.

(From: His Mission our Mission”, J. Kentenich, Conference for Leaders of Women’s League, December 1945)

I pray that we may all be gripped by our Schoenstatt mission through the graces of Our Blessed Mother that we receive through her Shrines (Daughter Shrines, Home shrines, Pilgrim Mother Shrines and Heart Shrines). May we continue to share the blessings of Schoenstatt with others.

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall



2. An Invitation 24 Hours for the Lord

at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa 17-18 March
“God have mercy on me, a sinner.” (Lk 18:13)

Dear Schoenstatt Friends and Family,

Our beloved MTA has called many young hearts to our Shrine here in Mulgoa. Now we are looking for you to engage with the ‘24 Hours for the Lord’ in 2023. This is a great opportunity for all of us to make a contribution to the Capital of Grace, in the spirit of “Nothing without you, nothing without us”.

We begin with Holy Mass at 6 pm on the Friday evening 17th of March followed by Reconciliation and finish with Holy Mass on Saturday the 18th of March at 5 pm.

All the hours in-between run to a standard format. We are looking for Branches or individuals to present one of these ‘Hours’ for our Lord in the presence of our Blessed MTA in our Shrine.

The Hour

To present an ‘Hour’ involves providing a 15 minute reflection on the Lk 18:13 theme followed by your chosen meditative music for the next 15 minutes. Each ‘Hour’ finishes with 30 minutes of sacred silence. You will find ‘Heavenwards’ has some very appropriate prayers to use. The Archdiocese of Sydney also offers resources for 24 Hours:

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/about-us/archdiocesan-events/24-hours-for-the-lord/parish-prayer-resources/>

The Theme

“God have mercy on me, a sinner.” Lk 18:13

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation has proposed that we make the call for forgiveness ‘God have mercy on me, a sinner’ (Luke 18:13) to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration.

Your decision

We would appreciate an early decision to claim an ‘Hour’ so we can finalise the schedule. This does not mean that all your planning is complete by then but only that you claim an ‘Hour’.

In the Covenant,

Paul and Ramani Regis

paulandramani@gmail.com

On behalf of

24 Hours for the Lord - Coordinating Team





SCHOENSTATT
AUSTRALIA

6pm Friday 17th March to
5pm Saturday 18th March



24hr for our lord

"God have mercy on me, a sinner"
(Luke 18:13)

- Reconciliation after Mass on Friday and before Mass on the Saturday.
- Commit to an Hour with our Lord and his mother.
- Tea and coffee/ snacks available to purchase

02 4773 8338

**MT SCHOENSTATT
230 FAIRLIGHT RD
MULGOA**

3. Dads at the Shrine

In May of 2022 a new monthly event began at the national Shrine in Mulgoa, called Dads at the Shrine. The program has been simple enough; an hour of prayer followed by a cup of tea in the Pilgrims Centre.

Why create such an event? As a member of the family groups, we wanted an opportunity for ourselves and other like-minded dads to have a regular opportunity to spend some quality time before the Lord and with His Blessed Mother. Of course, we know the graces of the Shrine, (1) a home (2) transformation and (3) missionary zeal, but for me at least, most of my visits to the Shrine are undertaken with all our children in tow and as such, last no more than a few minutes before someone is 'bored' or needs a toilet. There was thus a desire to come to the Shrine in the cool of the evening, in the quiet, when no one else is around, to just be with our Mother and her Son.



Either Fr Paul or Fr Peter have graciously made themselves available to be present each month to offer a short reflection at the start and expose the Blessed Sacrament before offering confession in the Pilgrim Centre for those who wish. The Sisters have also been most welcoming and supportive. Each month we have 6–10 men attending. There are regulars but there also seems to be a new face each month which is wonderful. The hope is to create something simple but profound which all dads can be invited to and where they feel welcome. It has already proven to provide an opportunity for some dads to encounter

Schoenstatt for the first time (a good number being sent along by their wives). It really is a simple program, we use the same sheet each month with the traditional hymns and prayers of exposition, plus we begin with a portion of the little pilgrims' prayer leaflets always in the Shrine to remind us that we gather not just before the Eucharistic Lord but truly in the dwelling place of our Mother and Queen.

There is something about being at the Shrine in the night that has proven to be an attraction for these dads who have been able to get home from work, have their dinner, put the children to bed and head over to Mulgoa for these moments of solitude. We pray this event will continue for a long time, as a consistent offering to the capital of grace, and as a wellspring of life for the men who attend.

All dads are welcome to attend Dads at the Shrine which is held at the Shrine in Mulgoa on the second Wednesday of each month from 8 to 9pm, followed by a quick cup of tea in the pilgrims' centre. To be put on the monthly mailing list reminder, contact bernard@foolishwisdom.com or phone 0416 106 871. No RSVP is needed, just come along.



**Bernard Toutounji is a member of the NSW family groups*



4. The Rosary



Recently my husband and I decided to attend the church which featured much in our children's lives at school for celebrations, graduations and general school masses. We had heard the priest speak before and knew he had the capacity to lift our spirits.

What we didn't know that evening was that not only would he lift our spirits but the voice of the young girl of 14 singing with her parents –one playing guitar and the other the piano lifted our spirits no end.

What has this got to do with the Rosary? Father in his homily that night had us smiling when he facetiously told the story of racing through the Rosary to 'get it over and done with' with little to no connection with the actual spiritual meaning of what one was praying.

This got me to thinking that I was a bit like what he was talking about not so much in the way I raced through praying the Rosary but in some ways ignored it as part of my spiritual daily order. So resolving to do something about this after doing my normal prayers I opened up 'Heavenwards' and started with the first station of the Joyful Mysteries 'The Annunciation'. Having prayed the Our Father and read the Schoenstatt introductions my heart, for lack of a better way to describe it, 'revolted' against just sprouting the 'Hail Mary's' in rote style, as I have been accustomed.

I stopped for a while and reflected and it came to me that perhaps I would be far better off at this point praying 'The Covenant of Love' prayer 10 times over and really reflecting on it. So away I went and really had to concentrate on it because it wasn't normal but ended up being really thought provoking.

I have resolved to do the whole of the four sets of Mysteries this way as a discipline and attention to detail. Am I being sacrilegious doing it this way? I don't think so because Fr. Kentenich would say to me I'm sure:

“Dealing with life means dealing with tensions. Or: Where there is no tension, there is no life. Every person, community and plan of God involves the interaction of many different factors, motives and perspectives. For instance, all life has both a ‘conservative’ side that seeks to preserve itself just as it is, and a ‘progressive’ side that seeks to grow and change and become something greater.” (200 Questions p. 80).

Fr. Kentenich did not try to eliminate tensions but to bring them into creative interaction. He knew and cherished the way tensions can propel life forward in the play of God.

So I leave you with my last prayer from the 5th Joyful Mystery:

“We will remain still when God wants to form us as instruments for the redemption of the world” (Heavenwards p. 95).

Angela



5. Youth at Mulgoa

Schoenstatt Girls and Young Women (SGYW) were very blessed by the two Mission Weeks held in April 2022 and January 2023. The Mission Weeks consist in leadership training, the running of a girls' camp for younger girls and debriefing. Girls aged 14+ were invited to join and become young leaders. In 2022–23, 9 girls have taken up this invitation.



Senior Leaders Covenant of Love 2023

The senior leaders and Sr M Luka facilitated the training program which covers guidelines of being a leader, developmental psychology, personality training and stages of faith of the relevant age groups, composing prayers and leading games. One important feature of the Mission Week is that senior and junior leaders form a leadership team for each of the age-based camp session groups. As part of the training each team engaged in session practice runs. Finally, the various tasks and responsibilities for the camps are divvied out.

In both April 2022 and January 2023 all camp places were taken. So, both junior and senior leaders could test and develop their skills and abilities.

In April 2022, the theme was “Receive the Power from the Holy Spirit” and in January 2023 “Be Love, Live Truth, Reveal Mercy.” As 8 senior leaders made their covenant of love on Easter Monday, 18 April 2022, it was a wonderful blessing at both mission weeks that the leaders shared their enthusiasm about Our Lady and the Shrine with the junior leaders and young girls. 23 girls made their Marian Apostles consecration, a few of which have by now become junior leaders.



Mission Week April 2022



Mission Week 2023





Marian Apostles Dedication 2023



Camp Team Session 2023



Camp January 2023

6. Information and Links

Shrine Opening Hours

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW. Open daily: 8am – 8pm

Mt Richon / Armadale Shrine, WA. Open daily 7am – 7pm.

Please check the websites for updated opening times of the Shrine.

Links

Official Schoenstatt Website	http://www.schoenstatt.com
Schoenstatt Australian Website	http://www.schoenstatt.org.au
Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel	www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
Western Australia Website	http://schoenstattwa.org.au

Videos for Covenant Sundays

February	Fr Denis Foley: A Letter of Recommendation http://bit.ly/3Yamaem
January 2023	Letters of Recommendation https://bit.ly/3XITtAM
December	Father Kentenich: Authentic Witness to Holiness https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgroRmVrDP0
November	Ministries in Evangelisation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF-ftully8w
October	Nothing without you, nothing without us https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkkiArLqA-k&t=11s
September	Holiness in relationship to evangelisation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5G4v7satUQ

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.

