

# Schoenstatt Movement

## Australia

April 18 2023

I Volume 4, Number 4

## 1. Covenant Day

**Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,**

YOU ARE OUR LETTER 2 Cor 3:2-3

In this Holy Easter Season, I wish you many Blessings and greetings from the Shrine for this Covenant Day – 18<sup>th</sup> April. I hope that you had a very joy-filled and blessed Easter.

During this year we want to strive to deepen our relationship with Father Kentenich so that we can become more rooted in him and be more fruitful for our movement, the Church, and the world.

However, from the very beginning of Schoenstatt, Father Kentenich never did anything on his own. As he often admitted, he never did anything without the Blessed Mother. But he also never did anything without his Schoenstatt Family. This began already at the beginning of Schoenstatt, when Father Kentenich began working with the boys as their spiritual director.

In what has become known as the Pre-Founding Document (October 27, 1912), Father said:

*“We want to learn. Not only you, but also I. We want to learn from each other. For we are never done learning, especially not the art of self-education, which represents the work, the activity which will absorb our whole lifetime.”*

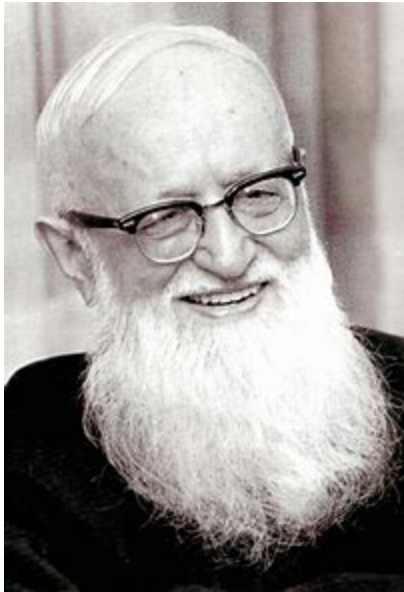
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In 1935 on the occasion of the celebration of Father Kentenich's Silver Jubilee of Ordination, he elaborated further about how much he had seen Schoenstatt in the light of not only his mission, but also the mission of the whole Schoenstatt Family.

Although the celebration was focussed on the founder, at the same time through his words, it testified so strongly to his union with his followers that it shed new light on Schoenstatt's founding process and the specific originality of Schoenstatt's spirituality – the interweaving of destinies and the organism of bonding. The work of grace in others through him, Fr Kentenich, was later expressed in the phrase, "The founder is the third point of contact".

On this occasion Father Kentenich said:



*"The real reason for this celebration: It is a common jubilee of our loyalty to the interweaving of our destinies.*

*My whole work as it has developed is equally your work. I don't know where to begin. Since the whole celebration has more the character of a family celebration, you will not take it amiss if I now speak more in the first person than I usually do.*

*Last night one of our older members reminded me that at that time, when they were in the war, I must have had a warm heart for them. I quietly and unobtrusively got hold of all sorts of clothing – something to protect the head, a warm vest, etc. It is true, I developed a very warm heart for our youth at that time. But this development continued towards all the people God has given me and who have made demands on me.*

*You may tell yourselves – all of you who have made demands on me, sometimes loudly, sometimes quietly; all of you can tell yourselves that without you I personally would not be what I am today. You may not underrate this train of thoughts. Let me repeat, if you want to know the source of the riches of my mind and heart, you have it here! My wish and prayer to God is that he will give all future generations the same possibility to serve human souls quietly in the background as I have had. Great riches then flow back to those who try to place themselves with all their abilities at the service of souls.*

**My whole work as it has developed is equally your work**

*Community implies the harmony of hearts. If you can say that the Family is distinguished by the deep, inner community of the individual members, it means that to a very large extent this is because most of you have contributed your very best to the Family as a whole..... If you want to thank me for anything, it can only be for one thing – that I have tried to take up everything that was developing in you, to open the way for you, and once it had come alive in the community to some extent, to proclaim it as a motto. So, I could tell you who were the main leaders at that time in our Mission Movement. As the master builder I have also built-up things individually, but when I knew that something sound was developing, I withdrew completely, because I knew it would grow without me.*

*I know another person who must be addressed. You know her as well. I think that the gratitude expressed to me in these days, and which I have returned to you, has also to be taken up by the whole Family and directed into the heart of our dear Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt.*

Community implies  
the harmony of hearts

*Our promise of loyalty also applies to our common work. Please don't think that we have already reached the end of our activity! We have a tremendous goal before us. We want to help to create a new type of person such as the Church needs if it is to overcome the severe shocks of our times. We want to help to create a new type of Family, a holy community.... We have to strive for true holiness. Faithfulness to our work, therefore, includes unflinching striving to reach the ideal of our state of life.*

*But we also want to remain true to the coming generation. We have a task to fulfil for the coming generation. We bear responsibility for the coming generation, for our future history. That is why we try to lead youthful people into our family circle.*

(Note: This celebration took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1935, not on 8 July, the actual day of his ordination.)

As we strive together to be letters of recommendation for Schoenstatt, may our Blessed Mother be with us all. May she lead us and guide us to be true witnesses to the mission given to our father – Fr. Kentenich and which he now passes on to us.

United in our Covenant of Love,

Shirley Hall



**“GRACE is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.”**

— Catechism of the  
Catholic Church, 1996



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## 2. Recrowning of the Mother Thrice Admirable

Corpus Christi Parish, St Ives.



On Saturday 11 March 2023, Pilgrim Mother Apostolate (PMA) members and guests celebrated the renewal of the crowning of the Pilgrim Mother at Corpus Christi Parish, St Ives.

Our Parish Priest, Father Greg Chee blessed the images. Sister Luisa Maria Fabre, PMA Coordinator for NSW, and Edna Aldana, Regional Coordinator in Rydalmere, also attended the celebration.

Sister spoke about the significance of the first crowning including the Capital of Grace and the graces received when the Pilgrim Mother visits our homes.

Whenever you experience difficulties,  
crown the Blessed Mother

The first crowning of Our Lady in the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt, Germany was on 10 December 1939. When Hitler was in power during World War 11, Schoenstatt was in grave danger. Father Joseph Kentenich, the founder joined by the whole Schoenstatt family crowned the picture of the Blessed Mother in the Original Shrine under the title – Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen of Schoenstatt! He entrusted the Schoenstatt Movement including the place of the Original Shrine to her care and protection. Bombs fell around Schoenstatt, but the Shrine remained untouched.





Fr Joseph Kantenich said: 'Whenever you experience difficulties, crown the Blessed Mother'. The crowning is a sign of acknowledging our powerlessness and trust in the power of Mother Mary. We crown and ask her to reign over us as we acknowledge her greatness, her love and motherly care. The crowning not only symbolises an urgent petition, but also thanksgiving and self-surrender.

The Pilgrim Mother was crowned in 2019 by St Ives members and given the title – 'Mother full of love, compassion and Queen of our homes'. At the time, members assured the Blessed Mother that they would bring their offerings and sacrifices to her Capital of Grace. Their petition to her was – In the name of the Triune God protect and lead your family with power and endless motherly love.

### **What is meant by the Capital or Treasury of Grace?**

We offer our prayers, joys and sorrows to Our Lady and she will intercede and distribute graces in return. The Schoenstatt motto is Nothing without you, Nothing without us! Our Lady needs our cooperation for the salvation of everyone. Our role is to help Her bring Christ anew to the world.

### **Graces received when the Pilgrim Mother visits our homes.**

The Mother Thrice Admirable brings graces to our homes from the shrine.

1. The grace of a home – She brings us the grace of a home. In her we feel at home but also in the heart of Jesus. In her presence we feel accepted and loved. We are not alone. She remains with us, and she gives us the gift of her Son.
2. The grace of inner transformation – Our Lady teaches us to be like her. She forms Jesus in us that we may be Christ-like. She teaches us to love God and love our neighbour. She teaches us to accept God's will even in suffering.
3. The grace of apostolic fruitfulness or mission zeal – She gives us the grace to share the message of God's love with everyone we meet. We become evangelisers sharing with others what we experience when she visits our homes. In this way we become her witnesses in words and actions.

Sister Luisa Maria's talk was followed by afternoon tea. Members had the opportunity to speak to her and mix with others. They shared stories about the blessings the Pilgrim Mother brings to their families every time she visits their homes. Everyone wants to evangelize and encourage other parishioners to join the Pilgrim Mother Circle.



### 3. Getting to know the 'Catechism of the Catholic Church'

As a catechist for the RCIA, I have found myself referring to the catechism more recently than ever before and I believe it's because our elect and catechumens for a few years now have been predominantly schoolteachers.

By contrast if I mention the Catechism at my Bible Study Group who are mainly in their mid-80's their replies often centre around "What was wrong with the 'Green Catechism' we grew up with – it served us well enough?" Many older people I believe would say the same thing. They are scared of the new Catechism believing that it is far too complex for them to come to grips with.

This is a shame because in reading Pope John Paul's comments in the introduction (page 3) I believe that this new Catechism is completely misunderstood. As he says, "The principal task entrusted to the Vatican Council was to guard and present better the precious deposit of Christian Doctrine in order to make it more accessible to the Christian faithful and to all people of good will".

Pastors and the Christian faithful alike were given directives for a "renewal of thought, action, practices, and moral virtue, of joy and hope, which was the very purpose of the Council" (Paul VI, Discourse at the closing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1965). The Catechism is a reference text, arranged systematically to present, the teaching of sacred scripture; the living Tradition of the Church and the authentic Magisterium, as well as the spiritual heritage of the Fathers, Doctors, and saints of the Church to allow for a better knowledge of the Christian Mystery and for enlivening the faith of the people of God (page 3).

Throughout the introduction the Pope speaks of understanding the doctrinal value of the Catechism and this is where the largest misunderstanding lies because those whom I speak to about this new Catechism see it as a 'law book' where everything in it is dogmatic. There is no understanding of Paragraph 314 of the Catechism which enlightens the problem a little, and it says:

*"We firmly believe that God is master of the world and of its history. But the ways of providence are often unknown to us, Only at the end, when our partial knowledge ceases, when we see God 'face to face' (1 Cor:13:22) will we fully know the ways by which – even through the dramas of evil and sin – God has guided his creation to that definitive Sabbath rest (Gen 2:2) for which he created heaven and earth."*

Do you ever have questions about:

- Did the Father create heaven and earth or did the Trinity? Paragraph 316 answers this;
- Did God alone have any help creating the universe? Paragraph 317 answers this;
- Does Divine Providence have dispositions? See Paragraph 321.

The principal task entrusted to the Vatican Council was to guard and present better the precious deposit of Christian Doctrine in order to make it more accessible to the Christian faithful and to all people of good will.

The catechism in many ways is like a map. Today coming home, I set the car GPS system to guide us to Mudgee via Gulgong from Dubbo. My 'doubting Thomas' other half was doubtful we were going the right way. His doubt sent us off on a strange tour of outer north Dubbo till we came back to the point at which we started. His doubt was not satisfied until picking up and reading an actual paper map that showed that the original GPS knew which way it was going!

... like a map

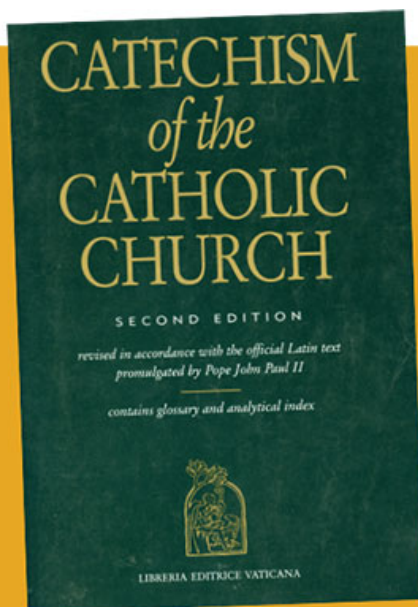
As an analogy that story shows how people need to view the catechism – like a paper map it can answer your questions about Angels, Baptism, Charisms, Death, Euthanasia, Freedom, Grace, Hope, Islam, Journalists, Knowledge, Law, Mary, Neighbours, Obedience, Poverty, Rites, Signs, Truth, Understanding, Vocation, and War. Note Q and Z have no categories. Simply put it is an ABC reference book that can keep you occupied and at the same time show you how much you don't know and how much you do.

So as Pope John Paul states,

*"Some in Christ are as newborn babes, others as adolescents, and others, adults in full command of their powers. Hopefully this is an example of suiting the words to the maturity and understanding of the hearers."*

Time to get referencing!

Angela



**“THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH is ... the doctrinal point of reference for all catechesis.”**

—General Directory for Catechesis, 93



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## 4. Womens Lenten Retreat at Mulgoa

10-12 March 2013

The theme for the retreat was "BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER".

The weekend began on Friday evening with a very small group. But as the saying goes "it's not the quantity but the quality that counts".

We started the evening with an introduction to the weekend given by Sr. Elizabeth. Evening prayers followed in the Shrine of Our Blessed Mother and we finished off with supper and a catch up before retiring for the night.



Our group expanded on Saturday as more ladies joined for the day. Sister suggested that it would be a silent retreat day, and this was welcomed by all.

Our sessions were held in the library where we had a banner displaying the altar in the Shrine, and one of Fr. Kentenich. The smaller room was possible due to the smaller number of ladies, and it certainly helped give us a more intimate atmosphere for our sharing during the sessions.

The day was full of the graces which flowed from the Shrine to us who were present. We started with morning prayer in the shrine, and this was followed by a session with Sister Elizabeth. Father Terry Bell, the Schoenstatt Moderator for the Mothers' Branch, then addressed us. He touched on what influences us in today's world and used the Dove ad. on television as an example of the influences on the young girl, leading us to ponder how we are influenced by Mary's example. Father was then available for reconciliation before he celebrated Holy Mass in the Shrine. After a further session with Sr. Elizabeth, we walked the stations of the cross outside. It was really a moving time to walk the way of the cross with our Blessed Mother.

We 'broke' our silence at dinner and it was nice to be able to share what the day was like for us and if the silence helped with our reflection and time with ourselves and our Blessed Mother. All agreed that it was so good to have the time of silence.

Our day finished with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and night prayer in the Shrine. It was a very rewarding day. The silence had really added an element of detachment from our everyday life. Sister gave a session on how Our Blessed Mother is always ready to help us and be with us no matter what.

Sunday morning started with morning prayer in the Shrine. Again, we were joined by several day participants. We were also encouraged to participate in the Eucharistic celebration with a Marian attitude. As the official companion and helpmate of Christ in the entire work of redemption, Mary "represents active participation in the order of salvation, and consequently in the bloody and unbloody sacrifice of the cross"(J.K). Thus we may believe that Mary will help us to actively participate in each Eucharistic celebration.





Then before Mass we met in the Father Room to pray the Rosary. We were given an extra joy as we prayed when two children came in and knelt before the statue of Fr. Kentenich. This childlike expression emphasised for us the importance of being children before God, just as Our Lady was.

The afternoon session focused on THE UNITY CROSS and was a form of summary of the weekend. When we look at the cross, we see Mary, our Blessed Mother beside her Son as he dies for us. She is holding the chalice to receive his precious Blood, the price of our redemption. They suffered together and while we can see Jesus' physical broken body, Mary's suffering is hidden. It was most appropriate to finish our Lenten Retreat with this reflection. Jesus's words from the Cross: "Behold your Mother" had become filled with meaning for us.

Sister's presentations were all in reference to our Blessed Mother, the role she played in our redemption and how she educates us to be Christlike and to do all for the glory of God. Her Fiat "Your will be done" is always a good starting point when we start learning and wanting to be like our Blessed Mother. Sister referred frequently to the Lenten Retreat, given by Father Joseph Kentenich, and published in the book "Mary, Our Mother and Educator".

My own personal experience of the weekend is, that with Mary as my Mother and educator, I can't go wrong. She is always ready to give me the graces I need in whatever situation I might be in. The abundance of grace she will intercede for us is there for the asking. I am now more mindful of my Blessed Mother when I go to Mass, and her part in the Eucharist.

Carmel



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# 5. Lenten Reflection Day

## Mt Richon

He looked at ME.

Many people followed the Sisters' invitation on 11 March for a reflection day: members of the PMA, people from various parishes, friends who were invited by apostolic persons, a youth group that decided in the last minute to attend the day etc.

A very large group of people with a variety of ages, cultures, talents needed for the crafts' projects, and food which people shared with each other. All of them came with an open heart and mind and the desire to spend this day on their journey through Lent at the Shrine.

Sr. M. Lisette had planned the program together with Sr. M. Thomasine.

### ... Signs of God's mercy

The morning meditation on God's mercy invited the people to recall some of the signs of God's mercy in their lives.

During the following craft's project – decoration of an Easter candle – they could share their artistic talents with each other.

For the program in the afternoon two groups of people were formed to alternatively spend their time in the shrine while the other group enjoyed their Lenten project.

The meditation on the Unity Cross and the opportunity to hold this cross in their hands for a few seconds and then pass it to the next person moved their heart and mind to think of their own cross(es) in life and how they could bear it like Mary did under the cross.

**'Me' was the spontaneous answer of a lady to the question: Whom did Jesus look at before he died?**







'Me' was the spontaneous answer of a lady to the question: Whom did Jesus look at before he died? 'Me' because Jesus did not only entrust John to his Mother but in John also Me, to everyone. With his glance resting also on Me I can bear my cross: Be it the cross of loneliness, misunderstandings, dealing with the demands of others, with an alcoholic family member, not finding a job, not liking myself etc weighs heavily upon so many.

But Jesus' encouraging glance and Mary's sublime sacrifice of love under the cross helps Me to fill my own chalice of suffering and offer it in the shrine.



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## 6. Vale Mary Mallett

18.9.1930 – 23.2.2023



On March 8<sup>th</sup> at St. Aidan's Rooty Hill we farewelled a long-time faithful member of our Schoenstatt Family. Mary had been in an aged care facility for several years and had not been well since before Christmas.

Mary and her husband Ted moved to Mount Druitt a couple of years before the Schoenstatt Sisters and Fathers began working there in 1966. This brought them into contact with Schoenstatt and they became loyal members of one of the first family groups in Mount Druitt.



Their commitment to this group – the Coenaculum Group – gave them the opportunity to bring up their four children in the spirit of Schoenstatt. As they grew the children belonged to the boys and girls groups respectively. Now adults they have since remained in contact with Schoenstatt with some of them, over the years being actively involved in the family branch or helping out with boys' camps etc.

This dedication of the children and their love for Schoenstatt they learned from their mother, who, after Ted's death in 1985, remained a faithful member of the Family Group, but also joined a mothers' group and was active as a PMA coordinator. Mary was also active in the parish and was a catechist.

As we farewelled Mary, Fr. Terry Bell, the Moderator of the Schoenstatt Mothers' League, was able to pray the final prayers for Mary. He had concelebrated the Funeral Mass with three other priests in the presence of Mary's family, along with members of our Schoenstatt Family and other family friends and parishioners.

We give thanks to God for Mary and her long fruitful life in his service. May she rest in peace.





The Cenaculum Family Group with Fr Boes



Mary and Ted

## 7. 24 Hours for the Lord

17-18 March 2023

Mount Schoenstatt once more held 24 hours for the Lord in answer to the Pontifical Council's theme of forgiveness. Themed around Luke 18:13 "God have mercy on me a sinner" we sent the call to the four dioceses surrounding the National Shrine. The event was facilitated by Paul and Ramani, members the NSW Family Branch.

The event began with Holy Mass. It was the feast day of St Patrick which added an extra solemnity, followed by benediction and reconciliation until 10pm .

Members of the Women's branch, Family branch and members of the surrounding parishes supervised an hour over the following 24 hour period with readings, prayers and music.

On the Saturday, the Shrine welcomed pilgrims as normal, except that they could be in the company of the Blessed Sacrament that was exposed throughout the day. The event concluded with Mass starting at 5pm on Saturday, with Reconciliation held at various slots throughout the weekend.



In addition, we sold tea, coffee, drinks and cake to the pilgrims which was well appreciated.

The event was well attended, with pilgrims praying both inside and outside the Shrine. Even the middle of the night and early hours of Saturday proved surprisingly popular.

Unlike last year, this time the temperature in Sydney soared while people gathered to pray. Even so, the grace of quiet prayer was easy to discern and we relied not on words but on silence and listening.

We continue to invite connection with God, the source and ground of our being, and of discovering our true self, which is often hidden by the noise and distractions of our daily life.

Paul



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## 8. Stations of the Cross at Mulgoa

Hundreds of People braved the rain to honour Our Lord on Good Friday as they prayed the Stations of the Cross at Mount Schoenstatt.

Starting in the Valley the long procession wound its way up the hill to the Shrine. Different participants took turns to carry the cross. A prayerful atmosphere amongst the crowd despite the rain, added to the solemnity of this event.

Before Fr. Paul gave a final blessing at the Shrine, thanks were expressed to the organisers, the readers, and volunteers, and particularly to the family who generously provided the sound system. There was then a steady stream of visitors to the Shrine – people waited patiently for their turn to spend some time with Our Lord and his blessed Mother on this important day in our liturgical calendar.





## 9. Information and Links

### Shrine Opening Hours

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW. Open daily: 7am – 7.30pm

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

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

### Links

Official Schoenstatt Website	<a href="http://www.schoenstatt.com">http://www.schoenstatt.com</a>
Schoenstatt Australian Website	<a href="http://www.schoenstatt.org.au">http://www.schoenstatt.org.au</a>
Our YouTube Channel	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a>
Western Australia Website	<a href="http://schoenstattwa.org.au">http://schoenstattwa.org.au</a>

### Videos for Covenant Sundays

April	Gertraud von Bullion: A Letter of Recommendation <a href="http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a>
March	Joseph Engling: A Letter of Recommendation <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPzhyWgv7r0">www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPzhyWgv7r0</a>
February	Fr Denis Foley: A Letter of Recommendation <a href="http://bit.ly/3YAmam">http://bit.ly/3YAmam</a>
January 2023	Letters of Recommendation <a href="https://bit.ly/3XITtAM">https://bit.ly/3XITtAM</a>
December	Father Kentenich: Authentic Witness to Holiness <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgroRmVrDP0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgroRmVrDP0</a>
November	Ministries in Evangelisation <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF-ftully8w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iF-ftully8w</a>
October	Nothing without you, nothing without us <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkkiArLqA-k&amp;t=11s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkkiArLqA-k&amp;t=11s</a>

**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](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au) by the beginning of each month.