

Schoenstatt Movement

Australia

May 18 2023

I Volume 4, Number 5

1. Covenant Day Message

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant Day – 18th May.

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At all times, but especially during this month we give special thanks to Our Lady for all the gifts and graces she has given us through our Shrines and through our Covenant of Love in being with us in our daily lives.

On each Covenant Day we see on the altar cloth in the shrine, the words, “Nothing without you Nothing without us” These words remind us of Schoenstatt’s dependence on the presence and activity of Mary in the Shrine. The “Nothing without Us” indicates the necessity of our cooperation and striving so that the terms by which Mary was persuaded to come and dwell in Schoenstatt are met.

We refer to our participation as our “contributions to the capital of grace.” In our Covenant of Love with Mary, we actively bring our prayers, sacrifices and striving for sanctity and make the merits of these good works available to the MTA for her mission in the service of Christ.

In the video for the March Covenant Day, Sr. Elizabeth spoke of Joseph Engling and his great love for Our Lady. During the month of May, Joseph particularly wanted to honour his Blessed Mother (or his “Little Mother” as he called her) and bring her his ‘May blossoms.’ So great was his love for his “Little Mother” that even during his time on the battle front, he continued to offer all the hardships and challenges connected with the First World War conditions to his Mother for her capital of grace.

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Father Kentenich said of him, that he was one of the first of the boys to really understand the Covenant of Love and what Fr. Kentenich meant in the Founding Document when he said on behalf of Our Blessed Mother: "Diligently bring me contributions to the capital of grace. By a faithful and most faithful fulfilment of your duties and a life of ardent prayer, earn many merits and place them at my disposal. Undoubtedly, we could not accomplish a greater apostolic deed nor leave our successors a more precious legacy than to urge our Lady and Queen to erect her throne here in a special way, to distribute her treasures, and to work miracles of grace. You gather what I am aiming at: I would like to make this place a place of pilgrimage, a place of grace for our house and for the whole German province, and perhaps even further afield."

In 1933 Father Kentenich re-iterated this when he said: "Our place of grace (the shrine) is the result of the co-operation between God and ourselves, between the Blessed Mother and ourselves.... A constant imperative is Co-operation! Nothing without me! Nothing in Schoenstatt may happen without me, that is to say, the river of grace may not be increased or directed out from here without me. The concept "contributions to the capital of grace" expresses the same truth. We all have this task.....



This is laid down in the Founding Document. Schoenstatt will cease to be a place of pilgrimage, or to carry out its task in the world, unless the capital of grace is increased, or if what is there is used up and nothing new is added....

I am convinced that there are a huge number of very ordinary people in the background without whom Schoenstatt would not exist. The most necessary and most important people are those who constantly care most for the capital of grace, who unite their hearts and bloodstream with the heart and bloodstream of the capital of grace.

Schoenstatt stands or falls with the people who really strive for holiness, and who connect this striving for holiness with our shrine. These are things that have always been there and have always been at work. ..."
(Extracts from "His Mission Our Mission, p.64-68), J. Kentenich; talk during Christmas Conference, Schoenstatt, 28 January 1933

As we continue through this month of May, you might like to reflect on what you can give to our Blessed Mother as your contributions to her capital of grace, so that the Schoenstatt Shrines may continue to be places of grace.

What is my gift to our Blessed Mother during this month of May?

In a spirit of unity through our Covenant of Love, I wish each of you many blessings and graces from the Shrine on this Covenant Day and for the remainder of May, this special month of Our Lady.

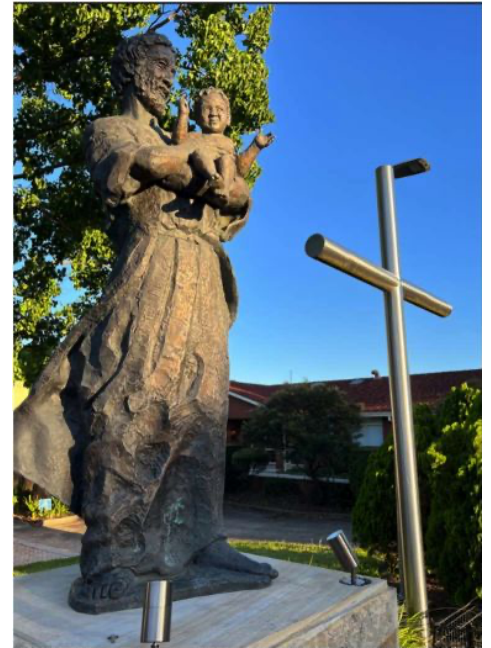
Shirley Hall

2. St Joseph Motorcycle Pilgrimage

A Reflection by Branko Poljak, Jim Jankiewicz and Steve Buhagiar

It is just after 9pm on Sunday March 19th, and today is technically the feast of St Joseph, but given it is the 4th Sunday of Lent, it will be celebrated tomorrow. I am home, cleaned up and ready to get some much needed rest. But as I look into the golden amber of the whisky I just poured myself, my thoughts go back to the camaraderie shared over the last couple of nights, with a whisky in hand and deep discussions around our faith.

Jim asked that we each share a reflection on the St Joseph Motorcycle pilgrimage we just finished. To be honest, I feel quite empty of words these days, but the question keeps returning, why do people go on pilgrimages? Some thoughts that come to mind are the grand and holy reasons, full of charity, humility, piety, fasting, and religious observance. I guess though, God is asking me, why did I go, not everyone else, but me? You see, I have come to understand that God is not interested in everyone, rather he is deeply passionate and sent His only Son, because of every single "me" in the world. All the unique and stand alone "me's" are FAR, FAR more important than 'everyone'.



Honestly, with everything that is going on in my life right now, the last few months of getting things ready for the ride, have been a burden. My joy was sapped out of these activities, which I completed with great excitement in prior years. I am grateful for people like Jim, his desire for punctuality and precision (I guess that's the German in him), is counterbalanced perfectly with his ability to completely let go and rely on "divine providence", as he often instructs me in a completely non-judgemental manner. His beautifully simple response to the question of why this pilgrimage, was "Being on a Bike and on Pilgrimage is always a special experience for me. I feel totally immersed in God's creation with the wind all around me and feeling the temperature drop when going down into Megalong Valley. I feel His presence in that besides, being with other men of like mind searching for wholeness and meaning and having meaningful conversation during Fellowship, completes my experience."

Steve Buhagiar reflected with great encouragement, "I must say that it further reinforces in my mind that this is in fact a 'pilgrimage'¹ and not just an excuse to get out on the bike for a few days with a group of like-minded men. It is real, and it takes planning and perseverance, and generosity."

Despite the wisdom of my brothers in Christ and fellow biking enthusiasts, the question still remains for me, why a pilgrimage on this 3rd occasion? Speaking frankly, I did not know, until we came to the last station of our journey, which was St Josephs at Enfield where Fr Mirko Integlia celebrated Mass. Mass was beautiful, the readings seemed to be specifically for me, the homily thought provoking, his singing, inspiring, and then he prayed a "spontaneous" prayer of the faithful, "Let us pray for the St Joseph Riders, that they may share their faith as they follow their passion for speed." I think this summed it up in one simple sentence.

In the end we are called to be disciples and to evangelise, that is, to "share our faith". I wonder what others thought as a group of men gather around a table in a pub, strip off their helmets and jackets and pray before a meal, hands together and heads bowed down, or what passers-by thought of the open air Mass that Fr Suresh celebrated at Lake Canobolas (now Lake Galilee as Fr Suresh referred to it). It was a beautiful end to a great (albeit tiring) day. We had a cake stand that became an altar, a new white tablecloth to ensure it was spotless, and Fr Suresh's brand new, unused till date Mass Kit, this was its "maiden voyage". A very intimate Mass, a priest and 4 men.



Also, what rider does not enjoy opening up the throttle to feel the rush of adrenaline as the motor winds up turning the rumbling of a V-Twin cruising at 3000rpm, to a high pitched metallic drone at 7-8000rpm, dropping your bike into a corner and relying on a small patch of rubber, a stretch of clean road and your weight distribution to keep you fixed to the road. There is a myriad of things that could go wrong all ending up with you sliding out or worse, high siding.



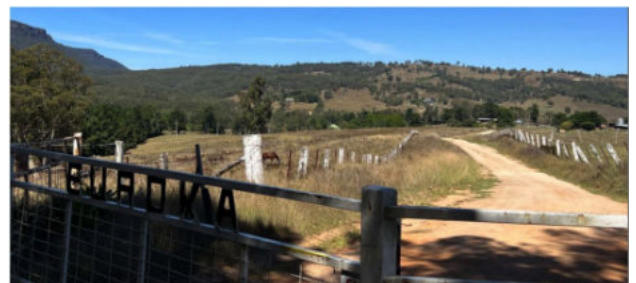
So, riding you need faith in your machine and your skill. A pilgrimage is also about growing in faith.

What did I learn about myself? Well, more reinforce rather than learn. I need more patience, and this was clear when I wanted everyone to keep up, even after telling everyone, you ride at a speed you are comfortable at. For me when I sit on a bike, whilst I enjoy the journey, this sometimes comes secondary to reaching the destination. I need to slow down and "smell the roses" as they say. Soak in the glorious Australian countryside, marvel at the deep blue of the sky on a warm afternoon, when wispy clouds peer over land features and built forms almost like angels following us and keeping us safe.

So I guess for me, a pilgrimage is about, taking time to enjoy the journey, embrace the discomfort, then deeply appreciating the rest at the end of each day. It is about deepening my faith, then sharing it. It is about growing in love, in this case between brothers in Christ. In the end, this is exactly what we did, we grew and shared our faith whilst following our passion for "speed". So how to improve next year's ride? That will be up to you!



Jim, a member of our Schoenstatt Men's Branch, has consciously taken our Mother Thrice Admirable on the St. Josephs' Bike Pilgrimage for all three pilgrimages.



3. Getting to know the Catechism of the Catholic Church Part 2

The links between the Green Catechism and the Catechism of the Catholic Church

There are two life-streams that created the impetus to work with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Green Catechism. The first was a comment in an NCC meeting where Sr. Isabell said, modern man needs to get to know the catechism. The second was a continuous conversation in my Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Bible Group who kept drawing the 'Green Catechism' into conversation and it struck me as a baptised Methodist, confirmed Anglican, and a late comer to the Catholic faith, I had no idea about it at all. One lady, Maria, said to me that she had her daughter's Green Catechism at home and she would bring it in for me – she told me I could keep it.

Looking at the childlike presentation of the faith in the Green Catechism particularly written as a rote learning aid, I thought it would be an uphill battle to just throw these ladies 'under the bus' and work with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Then another creative resultant happened in that I thought about what would the Green Catechism look like if the answers to the questions were put into paragraphs so that they could be read fluently.

Wow, three short paragraphs later, I sat there and thought this method has actually made me understand the first lesson of the Green Catechism really easily. The thought then came to me, 'Where might I find the Green Catechism Lesson in the Catechism of the Catholic Church?' So I did the research and got more and more involved in typing up the paragraphs that pertained to the Green Catechism topics of Lesson 1. 5,400 words later I had found the Green Catechism had been expanded into 183 paragraphs in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Intriguingly I found the 183 paragraphs were mainly based on Scripture. I was also fascinated by the number of encyclicals, writings of Saints, writings of Popes, and Councils that had been used to expand those three paragraphs into 183.

So then I got intrigued, being a Bible Study leader, with the biblical reference footnotes and picking up the Bible and looking at them I thought how wonderful it was that so many verses complemented each other and if I linked them together they told a cohesive story. Imagine my surprise when two and a half, A4 pages later in Calibri 11 font I had put together a very palatable (I thought) 'Footnote Bible Story' of "Creation and the World" – the topic of the three paragraphs of the Green Catechism Lesson 1. I was fascinated to know who all the writers, councils, encyclicals etc. were, mentioned above, so I researched them and typed up another 2 pages of information about them all. All that was left was to have it vetted by my Bible Study Group who have fast become more aware of Theology let alone Scripture. In the back of my mind was the question "Can I present this in a course?"

Well, Wednesday we gathered as usual some 7 of us, – 2 missing including the lady who had given me the Green Catechism, both missing ladies having contracted Covid. When I gave them the sheets they literally said "What"!!!!!! Then in a Father Kentenich manner I asked them to be my 'vetters' and let me know what could be done better or need more explanation. They acquiesced and an hour later having worked through four pages with heaps of questions, and sharing of something that touched them we paused for Prayer as we always do praying the psalm – actually hymn for the day on that day from the Evening Prayer of the Psalter of the Divine Office which summarised what we had been doing quite succinctly.

Yet there is more, they enjoyed it so much they asked almost with one voice to do the pages we hadn't done the next week. Needless to say I looked at Mary present in the Pilgrim Mother (we always have with us) and said 'Who would have thought!' My question now is will it become a fortnightly or monthly task? If you are interested in hearing more please contact me: angandrickbenson@gmail.com

Angela

4. Western Australia May Pilgrimage

Article by Philomena Theseira and photos from Maria Filamor



I am happy to share with you a little about our Annual May Pilgrimage which took place at Mt Richon, WA on Sunday May 7, 2023 to honour Our Blessed Mother. We had a rosary procession and the recommissioning of our Pilgrim Mother Coordinators and despite the cold windy weather, a gathering of around 135 people came – a beautiful expression of our love for the Blessed Mother.

Deacon Errol Lobo from St Francis Xavier Parish, Hilbert, led our Rosary procession. Two

young girls followed the Deacon, scattering flower petals in front of the MTA as she was carried around the rosary path. Everyone followed reciting the rosary and singing “Ave Maria” between each decade.

When everyone had returned to their seats we listened to three Reflections by Fr Kentenich on our theme “Blessed Are You Who Believed,” (Lk 1:45) after which all were invited to bring flowers for Our Blessed Mother.



Two new Pilgrim Mother Co-ordinators were commissioned – Pat Halligan and Philomena Theseira – and Deacon Errol then re-commissioned all the other Co-ordinators in attendance. All the PMA Shrines were blessed and sent out anew. Our celebration concluded with Benediction.



Afternoon tea and fellowship at Emilie House followed and we heard positive echoes from those in attendance. Some co-ordinators had brought members from their circles and they commented that they were so glad they came. It was truly an uplifting and blessed day.



5. 71st Anniversary of the Blessing of the Kew Shrine

As you all know, the Kew Shrine is no longer. However, we have the original MTA picture at a special place offered to the Melbourne Schoenstatt family in the Chapel of the Salesians at Lysterfield. This is a temporary solution but one for which we are extremely grateful. It gives us an opportunity to gather as Schoenstatt Family around our Mother Thrice Admirable and to celebrate together

The actual date of the blessing of the Kew Shrine was 11th May 1952. The commemoration of this 71st anniversary was held on Saturday, 13th May when some 40 people gathered around our MTA picture to honour our Blessed Mother and to offer her our contributions and prayers that she may show us the way forward at this time of uncertainty. We firmly trust that when we celebrate next year we will have a “substitute” Shrine to call our “family home”.

It was a joyful celebration, with a talk delivered by Florida Nugara, and a testimony by Moises Carballo, both sharing their love for the Blessed Mother and how contact with Schoenstatt has helped them to grow. This was followed by the reciting of the Rosary and then fellowship.

Karin Southgate



6. 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.

May Covenant Day in 2023 – Annual Marian Pilgrimage, Mulgoa

9.30 am – Opportunity for Reconciliation

10.30am - Pontifical Mass

2.00pm – Eucharistic Procession & Rosary

May Covenant Day Zoom Meeting.

Due to the annual Marian Pilgrimage at Mount Schoenstatt there will NOT be a zoom meeting to renew the Covenant of Love this month. However, the video for this month: “31st May 1949 – Father’s daring action, a letter of recommendation” will be posted on the Australian YouTube Channel for use in groups or for personal reflection.

10 Years Ownership of the Original Shrine.

A small reminder: on May 22 it will be 10 years since the Pallottine gifted the Schoenstatt Family with the original Shrine. Last week you were sent the information regarding the celebration. Remember that we are 8 hours ahead of German time, which means that many events will be in the middle of our night. However, some may like to join the adoration during the English-speaking time – 7- 8am on 22 May. Just go to the webcam on the official Schoenstatt website:

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

Links

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

Videos for Covenant Sundays

May	31st May, 1949. Father’s daring action: A Letter of Recommendation www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
April	Gertraud von Bullion: A Letter of Recommendation https://youtu.be/AiyZytmileM

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 by the beginning of each month.