

# Schoenstatt Movement

## Australia

June 18 2023

| Volume 4, Number 6

## 1. Covenant Day Message

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant Day – 18<sup>th</sup> June.

On Friday (16<sup>th</sup> of June) we celebrated the Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Last Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, we celebrated the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi).

These two feast days remind us of the great love that Christ has for each of us. Father Kentenich believed that love for Mary leads us to a profound and warm love for Jesus Christ.

According to Fr. Kentenich's thinking, getting to know Christ and the various stages of his life should lead to an ever-greater love and commitment to Christ. His main concern was the reality expressed by St Paul in the words: "It is no longer I that live, Christ lives in me" (Gal 2,20). He believed that Christ should become the goal, the source of strength and the lifestyle of Christians. He alone deserves to be the focal point of our thinking, hearts, and lives.

He believed that a living union with Christ should find expression in a noble, even divine feeling about life as an outflow of the freedom and dignity of being a child of God.

During the time of his separation from his work and exile in Milwaukee (1952–1965), he consciously posed the question as to how the Schoenstatt Movement sees Christ.

1. Covenant Day Message
2. Schoenstatt Annual Marian Pilgrimage
3. The Marian conforming of the world to Christ
4. 29<sup>th</sup> June - the Feasts of Sts Peter and Paul
5. Women's Breakfast
6. Information and Links



He answered this question by pointing to the three dimensions of Schoenstatt's image of Christ and its Christ-oriented spirituality (his relationship to the Father in heaven, to Mary and to human beings).

Father Kentenich believed that every encounter with Christ should draw us more deeply into his task and lead us to share in his responsibility out of a vital solidarity with him.

However, the new flowering of Christianity will not be possible unless many believers place themselves at Christ's disposal as Mary did. Then, like her and with her, they will bear Christ into the world so that he can become the Lord of the new era.

(Extracts from Foreword to: "Christ my Life")

In a retreat for the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in 1950, Father Kentenich said:

"I think that our Lord is the great example for what we say so often: We have to become a child with a single, great love. What is this single, great love? "Yes, Father, yes, may your will be done, no matter whether it brings me joy, or suffering."

Our Lord was faithful. Above all he was faithful to his mission to the extreme. If we apply this to ourselves: Some of us live in the past, some enthuse about the future. What about our Lord? ...He surrendered himself faithfully to God at every moment. Notice how our Lord lived constantly with the father, but also how he always wanted to do his will. He impressed on us: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord', but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (see Mt 7,21) loves me. And at the end of his life: "I have finished the work you gave me to do." (...)

Christ remained true to his love, he loved them even to the extent of consuming all his strength, that is, to an endless degree. Faithful to his task, faithful to his mission, but also faithful to his love. He loved his own to the end, also in duration, indeed even to the end of his life and beyond. In the Old Testament we read: "I have loved you with an everlasting love, and in my mercy, I have drawn you to myself" (Cf. Jer. 31: 3).

We should note two things: We may hold onto this truth: I, too, am the object of our Lord's faithful love. This is all the more true because I have made a covenant of love, and through this bridal covenant of love I have offered him my heart, and he has offered me his heart. This tremendously profound faithfulness is the source of great joy to me because I am the object of this faithfulness. On the other hand, (...) we must see to it that also our own souls are filled with a deep, deep faithfulness.

*"Christ my Life", Selected texts from Fr. Kentenich  
Retreat for Sisters of Mary, 25-27.8.1950, P.22,23*

Till our next Covenant day I wish you many graces and blessings from the shrine through our Covenant of Love with our Blessed Mother. May she continue to help us remember that each of us is the object of our Lord's faithful love.

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall

## 2. Schoenstatt Annual Marian Pilgrimage

Sunday, 21st May 2023

### Empowered by the Spirit –be my Witnesses!

It was a lovely Autumn morning with the bright sun shining and the wind of the Holy Spirit to sustain us.

Sr. Elizabeth Foley's welcome was very inviting to the Pilgrims for the great celebration. The sound of Chris Wilson and his family's music and singing was uplifting.

The Flag Procession with its vibrant colours represented the many countries of the world, it was a beautiful scene.

The Melbourne Schoenstatt Family travelled to Sydney to join the pilgrimage in honour of the Blessed Mother Thrice Admirable and was represented by many coordinators and members in their circles.



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. DD Bishop of Parramatta celebrated Holy Mass "Ascension of the Lord", along with Rev. Terence Bell and Rev. Piotr (Peter) Kruk OP co-celebrating. Deacons Rev. Mr. Charles Abela, Rev. Mr. Willy Limjap along with Seminarians of the Seminary of the Holy Spirit served so professionally.

Delmi Carbello and Florida Nugara from Melbourne took up the Offertory gifts.

Bishop Vincent, in his homily, encouraged us to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations" as the apostles were commanded to do before Our Lord ascended into heaven. He continued: "...The

Ascension ... fortified the Church's commitment to be the visible presence of Jesus. It launched the Christian movement as a force to be reckoned with in the world, a force not to dominate but to serve, not to rule but to transform from within. It made them realise that if the world had any chance of a new and better future, they would have to be the witnesses to Jesus, his ministry of healing, his outreach of compassion, his courage in standing with the outcast, his audacity in overcoming entrenched attitudes of exclusion and his work for justice."

The Bishop urged us: "Let us resolve to be the continued presence of Jesus. Let us go out and make disciples of all nations, acting not like a crusaders' army but like gentle leaven in the dough. ... Our task during this time of cleansing and purification is to become what we are meant to be: salt for the earth and light for the world." Finally, Bishop Vincent acknowledged that we were gathered at a Marian place of pilgrimage where our Blessed Mother wants to lead us to her son. She is the one who can help and guide us.







Before the end of Mass Bishop Vincent commissioned two new Coordinators and also re-commissioned the other coordinators. They were sent out with renewed strength and fervour, receiving a blessing, and being sprinkled with Holy Water.

In conclusion, Words of Thanks were shared by Shirley Hall and Bishop Vincent who then gave the Solemn Blessing.

In the afternoon, Fr Pawel Barszczewski OP carried the Monstrance in the Eucharistic/ Rosary procession from the valley. Men from Melbourne and Sydney came together to carry

the canopy during the procession. There was a very prayerful atmosphere as we made our way from the Valley to the Shrine.

An alternative Program: Anointing of the sick was administered by Fr. Terry and Fr. Piotr (Peter) at the Shrine before the procession arrived. We concluded with Benediction and the blessing of religious objects.

I would like to thank Sr. Elizabeth and all the sisters at Mulgoa for the very kind and generous hospitality extended to the Melbourne Schoenstatt Family.

Yvonne Roche, Melbourne



## **The May Pilgrimage from the perspective of a Sydney Regional Coordinator.**

Thank you, Blessed Mother, you did not disappoint us. It was such a glorious, beautiful, and wonderfully blessed day.



The pilgrims came together coming from all over Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne, from all walks of life, young and old, to quench their spiritual thirst and longing to be with our Blessed Mother. It was a lovely expression of public witnesses of our faith and love of our Mother. It was thought that up to 1300 or more attended the celebration. I noted that many of the pilgrims were more in the younger age group with a group of school children/teens also joining. I felt the joy of seeing these children kneeling on the ground, showing reverence. It was also a joy to see the reconnect with each other.

The highlight was the Mass with Bishop Vincent Long as the main celebrant followed by a Eucharistic Procession from the valley and the anointing/healing of the sick in front of the Shrine. Before Mass there was Reconciliation with many people taking advantage of this opportunity.



The food stalls were sufficient with an abundance of delicious food. The volunteers who had worked hard in preparing the stage, the grounds and the setting up of the food stalls were filled with joy when Bishop Vincent came to greet them and visited their food stalls before the start of the Mass.

The following are echoes from several who shared their experiences of the day: “A wonderful experience after Covid”; “happy that we returned to the normal celebration – in front of the Shrine”. “Love it, it was a big plus”, “a good day”; “a joyful and successful day”; “the people were friendly and excited to be back”; “very good,

organised nicely, everything went well”.

One spiritual experience we heard: “It seemed there was a presence of the Holy Spirit that came down on the celebrations so that they went smoothly, everything was in place, it felt like we were all one, in a unified way.” “The experience was inspiring and prayerful”; “An amazing and blessed experience”; “Most spiritual rewarding experience”. “It felt my pains had gone at that time of the celebration. Normally I get pains whilst sitting in one position.”

One person mentioned that it worked well having the Coordinators keep their Pilgrim Mother Shrines with them during the celebration and only bringing them forward for the re-commissioning. Another person said: “the pilgrimage is a reminder for me to reflect on the power of intercessory prayer that draws me closer to the Blessed Mother, that leads me into deeper union with Christ Jesus. My faith becomes stronger to reach out and offer help and support to the unfortunate families and communities that I serve.”

Finally, I share a reflection from someone who is suffering with cancer: “I am so grateful to witness this beautiful Marian celebration which drew me closer to the Blessed Mother and to Jesus”. She was guided by Mama Mary to be able to attend the pilgrimage the first time. She was brought to Mount Schoenstatt by a friend without knowing that the pilgrimage was taking place.

Edna Aldana.





### 3. The Marian conforming of the World to Christ

In the Year 2000, (haven't the years flown by) Fr. Ivanhoe Allies a Schoenstatt Father who was with us at Mt Schoenstatt at that time, wrote a paper for the October Conference called *"In the Shadow of the Shrine...Vision and Hope in a time of re-orientation for us"*. I'm not going to parrot his talk but rather take a passage of Fr. Kentenich's, from that talk that seems very relevant for today. Father Kentenich states:  
"Be aware, therefore, that also today, in this revolutionary time there must be powerful incentives for your task, for your task as well as (be) relevant for your time.

May the land, the way, be free for Schoenstatt.....Yes, new tasks, new life from...Is that really so? Yes, what is the newness of the great task which the Great Triune God has given us? Well, right from the inception of Schoenstatt we wanted to renew the world. Marian, conforming into the image of Christ, how this word has become dear and familiar to us!

..... "Marian" is for us not only the means (i.e. with the help of Mary) but an organic and not a mechanical partial aim. Also our method is "Marian". And in this sense our Blessed Mother appears before us as the incarnation and guarantor of the law of the organic harmonious development of nature and grace" (Letter to Aloise Wurm, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1933).

I find these words very pertinent to Pope Francis' requests for all 'Marian Shrines' around the world to pray on the 31<sup>st</sup> May, the last day of the month dedicated to Mary, for the "16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops", a discussion on the "Synod on Synodality".

His words asking for a Marian awareness, echo Fr. Kentenich's and are pertinent for us, finishing his address with the words:

"Holy Mary, who was the first to be filled with the Holy Spirit, intercede for us. The words prior being "...Because a New Pentecost can drive away the fears that assail us and rekindle the fire of God's love".



Can we in this present age say with Fr. Kentenich, "I see it as my life task to intervene for a sound theologically and psychologically oriented Marian education in order to render an essential service to the conforming of the world into Christ as the divinisation of life"? (ibid)

Will your answer look at the way you contribute to the Church in a Marian Way? Recently a singer in my Vigil Mass group for Mass emailed me and said "I love the hymns you choose for us". I can say all hymns I pick while true to the movement of the Mass reflect heavily on Christ's love for us (formed in him by his Mother) and one hymn in this vein is my favourite: It goes:  
"Love is his word, Love is his way, feasting with friends, fasting alone, living and dying, rising again. Love only love is his way. Richer than gold is the love of my Lord, better than splendour or wealth.

*"Love is his name, love is his law. Hear his command, all you who are his. Love one another, I have loved you, Love only love is his law"*. (Luke Connaughton, McCrimmon Publishing. U.K)

Leading a Parish music group, challenging a Parish Bible Study Group to study the Catechism, printing up booklets for the 'Women in Faith' event at Schoenstatt in June that give 'visitors' a chance to learn something about Schoenstatt, Mary and the Shrine, all answer Father's call I'm sure. We too can all pray for Mary to intercede and guide the drive toward a Synodal Church. As Father said at the start we have to have "powerful incentives for (y)our task, for (y)our task as well as it be relevant for (y)our, time.

Angela.

On the note of the 'Catechism' Course Lesson 2 on "Man and the purpose of His creation" is now available: email me at [angandrickbenson@gmail.com](mailto:angandrickbenson@gmail.com) if you want to receive it.

## 4. The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul 29<sup>th</sup> June

In each of the Schoenstatt Shrines we see the wooden carved statues of St. Peter and St. Paul on either side of the altar, just below the picture of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Have you ever wondered how they came to be in the Shrine? They were placed in the original shrine in 1935 for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St. Vincent Pallotti's Catholic Apostolate and are a reminder that Mary is the Queen of Apostles and that the Shrine is a new Cenacle. These statues are also a reminder that Schoenstatt is an apostolic movement and that we are called to serve the Church with our unique, individual gifts and talents. (*Adapted from: "200 Questions about Schoenstatt", by Fr. Jonathan Niehaus, Question 56*)

"Because Peter was to hold more power than the others, he is also asked to have a higher degree of love." (JK)



The Apostle Paul understood very well that "love is the fundamental law of the world!" (JK)

## 5. Women's Breakfast

After months of planning by a dedicated and talented team, the morning arrived for a new kind of women's gathering: a "Women's Breakfast" with the Theme: "Become the Best Version of Me". Fifty women accepted the invitation. Our senses and spirits were nurtured with a visual display in the way the family hall at Mt. Schoenstatt was set up and decorated, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and a lovely selection of breakfast delights.



Getting a group of women together from different age groups, walks of life, nationalities, and experiences, always brings joy and a vibrancy. The chatter and sharing began with the first greetings and good mornings.

After an initial welcome and breakfast, Elizabeth LeBreton was introduced. She had used the covid lockdowns to reflect on her life. Having space and time she trained as a life coach, after 30 years as a teacher, and started a business "Balancing Life" to help others thrive and become their best selves. Elizabeth shared "the most fulfilling part of my role is in witnessing personal growth, the

achievement of a goal and the challenge of the next step".

The presentation was interactive and the energy level in the room went up a few notches as we worked on our personal "wheel of life", a tool of self-reflection gaining insights into our strengths and vulnerabilities. After sharing with those on our tables we had ideas about what our items to action would be to help us find balance in our lives.



Many in attendance were from the Schoenstatt Mothers and Single Women's Branches and from the PMA as well as several new faces. For me, coming from a Schoenstatt lens it reinforced how blessed we are with Schoenstatt's method of self-education: the discovery of our personal ideal, spiritual daily order and particular examination.

Angela gave a reflection after Elizabeth's presentation using Our Lady as the balanced personality, our mother, model, and educator in a very practical way. An example Angela gave was if the wheel of





your bike has spokes missing, you won't get very far and with what Elizabeth shared we can see that our life needs to be balanced, having a goal to guide us, steps to "unlearn what does not suit any longer" and steps to take action. In our Schoenstatt school of life: Personal ideal (God's image of me), P.E (Particular Examination – overcoming what makes my life out of balance) and S.D.O (spiritual daily order – steps to action) help us in achieving a balanced life.

We left today wanting more, and asking when the next breakfast will be. Many women spoke to Elizabeth after the event and many of us shared with one another. We all left happy and challenged to become the best version of me. Elizabeth was grateful to be trusted to be the speaker at Schoenstatt's first Women's Breakfast at Mulgoa.

Michelle



## 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.

### 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

June	Documentary: Father Joseph Kentenich, A Prophetic Vision <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdTDGLtcJSU">www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdTDGLtcJSU</a>
May	31st May, 1949. Father's daring action: A Letter of Recommendation. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/NFFWJqPgTj4">https://youtu.be/NFFWJqPgTj4</a>
April	Gertraud von Bullion: A Letter of Recommendation <a href="https://youtu.be/AiyZytmileM">https://youtu.be/AiyZytmileM</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.