

# Schoenstatt Movement

## Australia

October 18 2023 | Volume 4, Number 10

### 1 Covenant Day Message

**“You are our Letter” 2 Cor 3:2-3**

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings on this very special Covenant Day when we remember and celebrate the foundation of Schoenstatt on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1914.

Today, we pray especially that Our Blessed Mother will send us many blessings and graces from her Schoenstatt Shrines, and in particular, from the original shrine in Schoenstatt, Germany.

Today we celebrate not only Schoenstatt’s founding but also the Covenant of Love which inspires its entire spirituality.

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The original Shrine at the time of the founding of Schoenstatt

Time and again Father Kantenich pointed out that the Covenant of Love with the Mother of God is an expression, means, and protection of the Covenant of Love with the Triune God. Everything comes from Him and returns to Him.

The Mother of God does not keep anyone for herself but leads all to the Triune God.

Already in 1933 Father Kantenich had said:

*"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. ..."*

Still today, the fruitfulness of the Schoenstatt apostolate and the shrine as a place of grace and pilgrimage, continue to depend on the constant striving for holiness of those committed to Schoenstatt and our Mother Thrice Admirable in the shrine.

For us, "in one another, with one another, for one another in the heart of God", in the Covenant of Love, expresses the mission that Father Kantenich gave us here in Australia. We define this mission as: "One Heart in the Father for the Family of God."

On this Foundation Day we not only give special thanks to our Blessed Mother for all the gifts and graces she continues to give us from her shrines, but we also give thanks for our Father and Founder and for his deep trust in God and the mission he was given.

May we be even more closely united in our Covenant of Love as we renew our mission for Schoenstatt and the Church: "Loyalty for loyalty, heroic loyalty for heroic loyalty"

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall



*"The Blessed Mother has given us to each other, and we want to be faithful to each other: in one another, with one another, for one another in the heart of God"*

J. Kantenich, 20.8.1947



# 2 The Glasses of the Covenant

*Do you wear the "glasses of the Covenant" to contemplate the world?*

Like Fr. Kentenich, we are invited to contemplate reality by seeking the signs of God in our daily lives.

Changes in the world's society are moving faster than seasonal changes, affecting all facets of our lives.

With the development of artificial intelligence, and many other technologies, we are surprised by the speed of information. And we can ask ourselves: how are we interpreting the situations and messages of our time? Are we using "Glasses of the Covenant" to look at the world and reality? Today's society seems to lack the basic skills of compassion and communication with reality, looking for answers without a human touch, a mechanistic approach. Many experience no human initiative, organic thinking, living, or loving. How does one respond to this behaviour?

## **The Covenant of Love is our answer!**

Through our faith and loyalty in renewing our **Covenant of Love** and through **practical faith in Divine Providence**, we live our mission in our encounter with Mary by bringing her contributions to the **Capital of Grace**.

*She has chosen us because we are important to her; she chose us as her own on covenant day.*



Drawn to the Shrine, one fosters a strong attachment and everything it implies. In doing so, we grasp the profound message of Schoenstatt, and the graces of the covenant will allow the inner transformation of heart and soul to go deeper in our faithful call to Mary. In that dynamic of the covenant, our heart embraces to hear the voice of God.

## **Fr. Kentenich sought God's signs in everyday life, even reading a newspaper**

Let us recall how the voice of God inspired Father Kentenich. World War I was on the verge of outbreak, and during this time, an article on the Shrine of Pompeii found its way into the hands of our founder.

Father Kentenich asked himself: Is God telling me we can do this too? He wrestled with what God was saying through these outward indications. In the end, it was a leap of faith. Today ...

*"This little chapel belongs to our small sodality family, guided by our heavenly Mother. It belongs completely to us and only to us"*

(Founding Document.)



**Start seeing God in our life today, whether it's in conversations with friends, or during a meal...**

Through the challenges of today's reality as a Schoenstatt family, we, too, have an awareness of community spirit just as the young sodalists and our Founder embraced the pulse of the time through the voice of God.



Photo by [Hannah Busing](#) on [Unsplash](#)

We experience God in many ways during our day. May these thoughts inspire us to build community and invite others to our Shrine so they may experience all the graces; get excited and share this wonderful gift of joy. We can become a beacon of hope in our parish and Church.

As an International Schoenstatt Family, let us come together, and assist each other as a family, not just as a community, fostering new friendships and forming bonds. With our ear on the heart of God and our hand on the pulse of the time, we can become the new person in the new community. Can we once again become afire for this mission? To save our Shrines, our communities, and our families?

*... inspire us to build  
community and invite  
others to our Shrine so they  
may experience  
all the graces*

In the covenant, Mary showers us with unconditional love. Using the elements of brotherly love, sisterly love, compassion, forgiveness, openness to listen, without fear of languages, and sharing new initiatives, all give hope for new traditions.

Perhaps you have more thoughts. Can you start a conversation at your dinner table to listen to one another, or in your groups or among your friends, and find ways to grow and build a covenant culture, creating a stronger, united movement in the Covenant of Love with Mary?

Kathleen Colunga, International Leader  
International Apostolic Schoenstatt  
Mothers' Federation, July 2023





# 3 October - Praying for Peace

Pope Francis has invited Christians to dedicate October to praying for peace and reconciliation in Ukraine. He said that there is “a need for more prayer, for conversion and an end to the conflict” in this war-torn country.

Pope Francis “expressed his desire that during the month of October, especially in [Marian] Shrines, the Rosary be dedicated to peace and reconciliation in Ukraine”. Source: Vatican News.



As members of our International Schoenstatt Family, we are invited to join in praying the Rosary in our Shrines, and in front of our Home Shrines and Pilgrim Mother Shrines.

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## 4 Reflection Day for Women

*“You have been entrusted with something Precious”*

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 50 women gathered at the Family Hall at Mt. Schoenstatt where Sr. Mary Louise led us in a day of prayer and reflection. The day included Reconciliation, Mass, personal prayer time, sharing with other women and shopping in the Holy Shop.

The day was introduced with a reflection based on 2 Timothy 1:1–14: Paul writing to Timothy: “Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us”.

As Christians we have something worth protecting: our faith in Jesus Christ. As Catholics we have a tradition and the deposit of faith from the Apostles and the Church. In our Baptism we become a life-long disciple of Jesus. Our faith is a precious gift, too valuable to lose. We need days like this to nurture our faith and our relationship with Jesus.



We reflected on three parables: The “Lost coin”, “the lost sheep” and “the prodigal son”, highlighting how much God loves us, beyond our human understanding. Our relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is precious, and we need time to nurture our faith, as we do with all our relationships.

### The Annunciation

With Mary as our mother, model, and educator, we reflected on a modern-day icon depicting the Annunciation. (Unfortunately, due to copyright we cannot include a photo.) The artist is a young Ukrainian woman, Ivanka Demchuk. (If you wish to view the icon or learn more about the artist, put Ivanka’s name in Google.)

The Annunciation is the most significant moment in human history. It is when the light of Christ entered the world. Mary is depicted in humility, open in prayer, with a listening heart. Mary's Fiat resulted in her carrying the most precious gift: our Saviour. As Little Mary's we share in the gift of carrying Christ into our modern world.

### Quiet time

Having quiet time in the shrine and the surroundings of Mt. Schoenstatt gave us an opportunity to reflect on the gift of our baptism, and for those belonging to Schoenstatt, time to reflect on our Covenant of love, another precious gift we have received.



Sr. Mary Louise is very practical and always gives us practical ways of living our faith in a world that has many pressures. She shared with us ...

### Tips to strengthen our faith

1. **TRUST:** lean on Jesus – intentionally place our trust in Jesus
2. **PRAYER:** Talk to God as with another person, share our daily life, invite God into our daily life. Start each day in silence, as God deserves our undivided attention. In this way we develop a listening heart like our Lady.
3. **READ** the Scriptures: “we know what we love, and we love what we know”. The Word of God gives us direction for our lives. It is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Reflect on the inspirational people in scripture.
4. **BE** the **LIGHT:** We have the precious gift of knowing Jesus. We should be joyful people, leading others to Christ by our love, joy, gratitude, thankfulness, and the way we forgive others.

As a parting gift we were invited to select a scripture passage to take home, which we shared with the people around us. We were sorry the end of the day came so quickly. We were all so grateful to be given this opportunity to put aside some time for ourselves and our relationship with Jesus and Mary.

As always, the time and effort Sr. Mary Louise put into her reflections, the environment of the prayer space, the photos in the reflections and the music really elevated the spirit of the day.

For those women interested, our next reflection day will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, to help us prepare ourselves for Advent.

Michelle (Women's League)



Photo by [Ben White](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**NEXT REFLECTION DAY –  
SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER,  
TO HELP US PREPARE  
OURSELVES FOR ADVENT**

# 5 National Conference Invitation

Schoenstatt Movement

21-22 October 2023

‘Walking Together – Loving the Church’

**You are invited!!**

Each year the Australian Schoenstatt Movement holds a national conference to impart information and create discussion about a particular theme through the lens of the Schoenstatt spirituality. This year the conference theme is Walking Together – Loving the Church. To facilitate as many people as may like to attend, the conference will be held in hybrid mode; online and in-person for those who can make it.

The desire this year is to make the conference available not only to members of Schoenstatt but also to those who may be only lightly connected to Schoenstatt but who are interested in knowing more.

Since the Conference will be taking place while the Synod on Synodality is in session in Rome, our theme will hopefully help us to understand more the direction the Church is moving towards and, at the same time, to explore Fr. Kentenich’s vision for the Church of the future.

Our National Mission – One Heart in the Father for the Family of God – reflects quite succinctly the theme chosen for our Conference. This should help to heighten our sense of responsibility for the “Church on the New Shore”, the expression often used by our father and founder.

- To register please contact Shirley at [movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au) as soon as possible, at the latest by 15<sup>th</sup> October, for a registration form.
- Proposed pre-reading material for the Conference is Chapters 1 & 2 of the Constitution of the Church “[Lumen Gentium](#)” from the Second Vatican Council.



## Saturday 21 October

### Session 1

Pope Francis’ view of a renewed Church

Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP

AEDT 11.30am – 1.00pm

AWST 8.30am – 10.00am

### Session 2

Fr. J. Kentenich’s view of a renewed Church

Fr. Ivanhoe Allies

AEDT 2.00pm – 3.30pm

AWST 11.00am – 12.30am

### Session 3

Aspects of synodality in the history, structure, and spirituality of Schoenstatt

Sr. M. Thomasine Treese

AEDT 4.00pm – 5.30pm

AWST 1.00pm – 2.30pm

## Sunday 22 October

### Session 4

Towards the Church on the New Shore Testimonies.

C/- Bernard Toutounji & Terry Huxtable

AEDT 3.00pm – 4.30pm

AWST 12.00pm – 1.30pm

### Summary & Sending Out

Sr. M. Elizabeth Foley

AEDT 5.00pm – 6.00pm

AWST 2.00pm – 3.00pm

*... vision for the Church  
of the future*



# 6. Young Schoenstatt Sisters

## *The return of young Schoenstatt Sisters*

In the past few weeks, we have seen two of our young sisters return from Germany – one for a short visit, the other permanently.

### **Sr. M. Olivia**

Sr. M. Olivia, from South Australia, and now a novice with the Schoenstatt Sisters in Germany was with us over the weekend 9– 11 September. It was a great joy for her, her family and not least the Sisters in Mulgoa to be part of the celebration of the Ordination of Sr. M. Olivia's brother, Fr. Matthew Lukaszewicz.

At the ordination Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on 9<sup>th</sup> September, Sr. M. Olivia read the first reading and her parents carried the vestment for their newly ordained son. This vestment was especially made in Germany by one of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. Depictions of the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious mysteries of the rosary were beautifully stitched on the vestment and Sr. M. Olivia helped to stitch the mysteries of light on the stole, a beautiful gift from sister to brother.



Sr Olivia with Fr Matthew and parents in the Sacred Heart Church, Mosman



Schoenstatt Sisters with Sr Olivia (centre back row) in front of the National Shrine, Mulgoa, NSW

Four Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary joined Sr. M. Olivia and her family for this celebration and in the evening for a celebratory dinner. It was a joyful occasion with priests, seminarians, a few friends from Adelaide and the Mosman parish.

The following day, Fr. Matthew offered his first Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Church Mosman, where he had been on pastoral placement as a Deacon. This was another special celebration where, once again four Schoenstatt Sisters could share the joy with Sr. M. Olivia and her family.

The highlight however was the following day when Sr. M. Olivia and her family could spend the day at Mount Schoenstatt.



Fr. Matthew concelebrated Mass in the Shrine with Fr. Peter Zwaans, Lukaszewicz's former parish priest



Fr Matthew afterwards gave his priestly blessing to us all. The Mass text was of Our Lady of the Rosary and, in his homily, Fr. Matthew shared how important the rosary was for him, a definite reason why he had chosen to have the decades of the rosary on his ordination vestment.

After lunch, Sr. M. Olivia was able to spend a couple of hours with the Sisters. She inspired the Sisters' community with her apostolic enthusiasm and her genuine longing to soon be back in Australia to work with us for Schoenstatt.



She shared her experiences in Schoenstatt and at WYD, where she spent quite some time at the Vocations Tent. Since many of the young people had spoken English, she was kept quite busy.



Following our time together Sr. M. Olivia returned with her family to Mosman and flew to Adelaide the next day to spend a few days with family and friends before returning to Schoenstatt where on 3<sup>rd</sup> November she will be officially incorporated in our Sisters' community. Please keep her in your prayers.

*... she inspired the Sisters' community with her apostolic enthusiasm*

## Sr. M. Rita

The next joy for our Australian Schoenstatt Sisters' family was to welcome Sr. M. Rita home after 9½ years in Schoenstatt. Sr. M. Rita was home for holidays in 2019 but now her return is to begin work with our sisters at Mount Schoenstatt.

Sr. M. Rita is from Merrylands and was a science teacher before entering our community. After holidays with her family Sr. M. Rita will be welcomed by our Schoenstatt Movement at the Foundation Day celebrations on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Sr. M. Rita will use this opportunity to share with us her experiences in Schoenstatt and her 'dreams' for Schoenstatt in Australia. You are all most welcome to attend. We wish Sr. M. Rita much joy as she settles back in Australia and many blessings for her work here in Sydney.

## Sr. M. Elizabeth

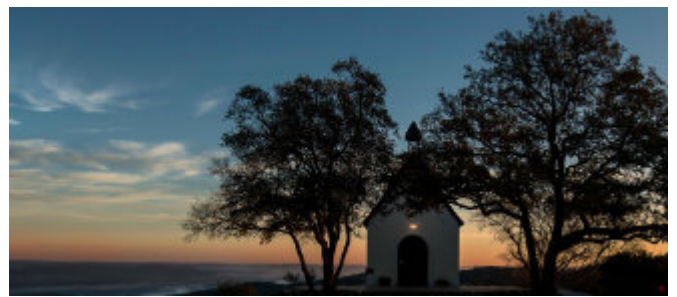


# 7 Educating the Child in me

The above title was the topic for what was a wonderful getting together of women from all over Sydney for the second of our 'Women's Breakfasts' run by the women of the Movement. **Sr. Lydia Allen RSM PhD**, the guest speaker, did a wonderful job of combining the psychological ego discipline of 'Transactional Analysis' with the spiritual discipline of being a 'child of God'.

Michelle from the single Women's Branch replied with a Schoenstatt perspective of what 'to educate the child in me' meant to her as a young girl growing up in the Movement through to a full adult understanding of what this means to her now. Many women were surprised at how the idea of the childhood aspect of ourselves still has a profound impact on how we act and respond as adults and parents.

Attendees at the Women's Breakfast were very grateful to our two speakers for new or reinforced insights and returned home conscious that we need to be aware of the different ego states of being a child, adult and parent interacting within us and in particular that we need to strive to allow our intellect and will to be more in control of our



emotions if we want to grow to mature womanhood. I would like to add a few thoughts from our father and founder, Fr. Kentenich, that can further our understanding of the need to educate the child within us.

## Fr. Kentenich on educating the child in me

Fr. Kentenich spoke of the "Tree of Womanhood" – mentioned by Michelle – where the roots are childlikeness, the trunk, selfless motherliness and the fruit, intuitive wisdom. Just as it is important for the roots of a tree to be sound, this implies that, as women, (this also applies for men) we need to be safe and secure in the knowledge and experience that we are, through Baptism, children of God, and will always remain so.

*.. the roots are childlikeness,  
the trunk, selfless  
motherliness and the fruit,  
intuitive wisdom.*





Fr. Kentenich reminds us that “normally a child should grow up within a holistic organism of attachments. A child should grow up with bonds to places, people and ideas”. He further explains:

*“All the threads of a person’s soul must be bound on the natural level. If they are not bound, or there are insufficient bonds, the soul suffers a terrible break. The normal development of the human person is dependent upon an organism of attachments, the person must be attached to people, places, and ideas”.*

Fr. Kentenich states that in the normal way:

*“Our soul needs more than attachment to ideas; it also needs attachments to places and, before all else, to persons. Man can only take root and grow to spiritual maturity through other persons, through attachment to other persons. A human being without these manifold roots in the lower order, the natural order, shares the fate of a tree without roots. Such a person is quickly uprooted and fails to grow deeply enough into the higher order, the supernatural order.”*

Thus, when the bonds to people, places and values are positively developed in childhood, these relationships make a person self-confident and strong. And we may not forget that even as mature adults we are children of God throughout our whole life.

As a help for our striving to balance the child, adult and parent experiences within us, Michelle pointed out how the Shrine becomes a home for a person when they encounter it. There God and our Mother can take on the parent role, so to say, in a way that can combat former parental influences that may have hurt. The Shrine becomes our ‘common home’.

To become part of the Schoenstatt Movement offers the adoption of new sisters and brothers, who have become stronger and more well developed because of Schoenstatt in their lives. And the most important element of the newly found attachment is the ‘Covenant of Love’ where Mary our Mother promises to guide us in the right way so that we come to the point where we realize there is “Nothing without Her” but also “Nothing without us”.

As Mary intercedes for us the grace of transformation, we strive to ennoble the emotions and limitations we experience within us. We want to reach out to educate the child within us.

We realise that, as Fr. Kentenich said:

*“becoming children means growing in the likeness of the God-man. The God-man, the only begotten Child of God, should take form in us ontologically and form our lives.”*

Fr. Kentenich also posed the question for us:

*“Why will Our Lady lead us to a deep childlikeness toward the Father? It simply lies within her responsibility as the mother in the family of God; as a mother, she knows that this childlikeness is the key to our true happiness. How does she know that? Because she experienced it, because she knows that a true childlike yes to the wish and will of the Father makes for our greatest happiness and bliss.”*

Be it our families, communities, or nationality which have developed attachments and experiences in a myriad of ways, more than ever it is necessary that we cultivate the attachments offered us in Schoenstatt. It is in the Shrine with Mary as our mother and Fr. Kentenich as our spiritual father where we can become a child of God and Mary, and an adult working fully with the Holy Spirit. Through the transforming grace interceded for us in the Shrine, as parents (natural or spiritual) we can lead others to God and higher values. As Fr. Kentenich assures us, natural attachments will help us find genuine supernatural attachments which provide stability and natural / supernatural health.

Angela



# 8 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="https://www.schoenstatt.com">https://www.schoenstatt.com</a>
Schoenstatt Australian Website	<a href="https://www.schoenstatt.org.au">https://www.schoenstatt.org.au</a>
Our YouTube Channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a>
Western Australia Website	<a href="https://schoenstattwa.org.au">https://schoenstattwa.org.au</a>
Schoenstatt Men Website	<a href="https://bit.ly/47x72n1">https://bit.ly/47x72n1</a>

## Videos for Covenant Sundays

October	Fr Carl Boes and Covenant Days <a href="http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a>
September	Fr John Evans and the Melbourne Shrine <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sxvdk-SHHRO">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sxvdk-SHHRO</a>
August	Sr Bonitas – a life for Schoenstatt in Australia <a href="www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEZtgENVKwI">www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEZtgENVKwI</a>
July	Fr. Kentenich, the Priest <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byFwht3W-dw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byFwht3W-dw</a>
June	Documentary: Father Joseph Kentenich, A Prophetic Vision <a href="www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdTDGLtcJSU">www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdTDGLtcJSU</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) before the beginning of each month

ISSN 2652-6875

