



September 18 2024 | Volume 5, Number 9

1. Covenant Day Message

Walking Together, Loving the Church

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Last Sunday, 15th September we not only celebrated together our Covenant, but we also commemorated the anniversary of the death of Father Kentenich on 15th September 1968.

As members of the Schoenstatt family, we are challenged especially on this day, to keep Father's "founding spirit" alive and visible in the Church and society. In accepting this mission, we might ask ourselves how we might live this mission and pass it on to others.

Father Kentenich understood "mission" as sharing in the mission of Jesus Christ. This explains his deep understanding of our apostolate. It highlights not just the apostolic action, or the valuable service of proclamation and administering the sacrament of baptism; it emphasises the living witness and influence of the apostle based on his or her Christlikeness. What matters is making Christ increasingly present in our modern world.

This also explains the emphasis he placed on formation and self-education in the Movement. According to our Founder, the grace of apostolic fruitfulness that Schoenstatt expects relates to the Blessed Mother's education and formation of the members in the Shrine, which remains the source of life for the apostolate. During a Conference in Rome (17 November 1965), Father Kentenich said:

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"Today people say: The most important thing is to make Christ present in the world. How are we to make Christ present? First of all, through the way we are, through bearing the divine life within ourselves.... We Catholics today have to do more to exemplify and demonstrate this complete way of making Christ present, than just talking about it.

That is why we do not try as in the past to drag others to join us. We have far more respect for each person. So how can we describe the apostolate? It is, as was often said in the past, the apostolate of exemplifying the fullness of religion.

Everything has to be exemplified! I can no longer remember the definition of the apostolate in "Everyday Sanctity" in detail, but it is the overflow of divine life from an inner fullness. So, I have to live. I must pass on my life. I may do so through what I say, but the most important thing is the apostolate of what we are.

(Quotes from: "His Mission, Our Mission", ed. Peter Wolf).

FOR REFLECTION: Can I say of myself that God has given me a great mission in Christ and through the Blessed Mother? Must I not also learn to say of myself, must I not also educate myself in such a way that I can honestly and truthfully say with full and clear knowledge: I have chosen the better part, I have accepted this mission?

May Our Blessed Mother continue to be with each of us and help us to fulfil the mission we have been given for Schoenstatt, and for the Church. In covenant loyalty, we remain, as Australian Schoenstatt Family:

One Heart in the Father for the Family of God.
Shirley Hall

2. Joseph Engling. WITNESS FOR SCHOENSTATT'S MISSION

On 4th October 1918 Joseph Engling died on the battlefield near Cambrai, France. His death, coupled with the total offering of his life on 31st May 1918 for our Mother Thrice Admirable and for her mission, gave the Schoenstatt Movement its first outstanding witness of our Schoenstatt mission. We can learn much from the short life of Joseph and the seriousness with which he accepted the mission he had been given.

The axis of his life was a living faithfulness to the Mother Thrice Admirable in her shrine and to the founder. In the relationship of Joseph to his spiritual father it was evident that one could only enter wholly into Schoenstatt, in the way God had designed, by being united with the founder. The offer of the sacrifice of his life to Our Lady, was offered expressly for the Movement founded by his spiritual father.

Joseph Engling had entered deeply into the covenant of love with Our Lady. He had lived the covenant to such a degree that he became, in Father Kentenich's words, "the classic example of the new person in the new community" whom Schoenstatt wanted to fashion. The offering of his life to the Mother Thrice Admirable, has since become known as "The Joseph Engling Act" and



God accepted this sacrifice of his life on the evening of 4th October 1918.

The prayer in which Joseph had offered his life to the Mother Thrice Admirable for the work of his spiritual father, (Fr. Kentenich) read:

"I give myself to you anew as your sacrifice. I offer you everything I am and have, my body and my soul with all its abilities, all my possessions and goods, my freedom, my will. I want to be totally yours. I am yours. Use me and whatever is mine entirely as pleases you. But if it can be reconciled with your plans, let me be a sacrifice for the aims which you have assigned to our sodality. In humility, your unworthy servant, Joseph Engling'

In Joseph Engling we have a worthy witness of one who lived his Schoenstatt mission through his deep devotion to our Mother Thrice Admirable, who continually offered his contributions to the Capital of Grace so that Schoenstatt would flourish, and the founder's mission would be fulfilled through his Schoenstatt Family.

3. Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Melbourne

On August 18th the Schoenstatt Family in Melbourne celebrated 25 years since they invited our MTA to once more take possession of the Shrine at Kew. This “reconquering” of the Shrine was preceded by a 9-week novena which has continued each year over these 25 years – even the last two years when the Kew Shrine no longer existed! The day was then also celebrated as “25 years novena” and those who attended were given a candle marking this occasion. The loyalty of our people is simply wonderful. This year’s novena saw an average of 20 –25 people each week. Each week another family or coordinator took responsibility for conducting the novena but, to see the support of others, is so encouraging.



The celebration on the 18th began with a rosary procession at St. Luke’s Wantirna, the new home of our MTA which was decorated with 25 red roses. The Schoenstatt Family gathered in the Divine Mercy Chapel and then proceeded to process outside around the Church praying the Rosary.

Holy Mass followed with Fr. Joseph, the parish priest, welcoming the Schoenstatt Family to this regular parish Mass. Throughout Holy Mass in



several prayers he prayed for the Schoenstatt Family. We really felt welcomed and at home. Before the end of Mass the PMA Coordinators were invited to stand and renew their commitment for another 12 months. It was a genuine witness in the regular parish Mass.

Following the Mass, we moved to the Divine Mercy Chapel for the Covenant of Love celebration of four new members, a couple joining the family branch and two women who entered the Covenant as pilgrims (one is vision impaired). It was a joyful celebration and Fr. Joseph generously obliged in leading the celebration. The next highpoint was to pray our prayer of thanksgiving and commitment to our Mother Thrice Admirable for the future – see below.

A serenade to the Blessed Mother had been planned but as it was time for lunch we simply sang “With Heartfelt Love we thank you Mother dear...” to bring together our gratitude for all that our MTA has done for us over these past 25 years.

A festive shared lunch and the AGM completed the programme.

The other events during the visit of Sr. M. Elizabeth to Melbourne all went well.

We had a formation day on Saturday 17th with 22 attendees sharing about the topic “instrumentality”.

There was a meeting in one region in the East of Melbourne on the Monday with 16 participants, one of whom has been visiting the Shrine in Mulgoa, at least annually for the past 38 years and who didn’t know anything about Schoenstatt.

There was a meeting in the West of Melbourne with 12 participants who at the end decided they want to form a monthly women’s group and finally one evening a small group of Spanish speaking members gathered together and could share their hopes and dreams.

All in all, the week of activities with Sr. M. Elizabeth was very blessed. We thank our Blessed Mother for her continued support into the next 25 years.



Some Echoes from this special celebration:

It is with immense gratitude to Our Blessed Mother for journeying with us over the last 25 years and look forward to her graces and blessings for the future. She has been with us through the difficult times and showed us the way forward at every hurdle.

The Feast of the Assumption which we celebrated on Sunday, August 18, 2024 was a glorious day and there were over 70 pilgrims participating. The day commenced with a Rosary Procession around St Luke's Church, Wantirna with the Unity Cross, Fr Kentenich's hand, many Pilgrim Mother Pictures and flags, followed by Holy Mass. Subsequently, in the Divine Mercy Chapel we had four people making their Covenant of Love, which was a great milestone on the 25th Anniversary of the Schoenstatt Novena. Serenading to our Blessed Mother and burning of the petitions took place followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Many thanks to Fr Joseph Amal and Sister Elizabeth for their induction to the Covenant of Love. Our sincere thanks to Our Blessed Mother for the great weather and making this special day fruitful with many members attending this celebration.

After experiencing much uncertainty in Melbourne after the Kew Shrine no longer is in existence, the Schoenstatt Family and the Picture of Grace has found its home. This year it truly feels like a home, as we continued to conduct our nine-week Novena leading up to the celebration of the Feast of the Assumption. During the nine weeks it was interesting to note the loyalty of the people, some of whom travelled a considerable distance to attend week after week to honour Our Blessed Mother. There were on average 25 people each week.

We celebrated 25 years since the first Novena and Feast celebration in 1999. The day was marked with many blessings as four people made their Covenant of Love, amidst much joy and jubilation experienced by all who attended.

We were privileged to have Sr. M Elizabeth from Mulgoa, and the parish priest, Fr. Joseph Amal in attendance, to lead us through the celebrations. We continue to pray and offer up our contributions to the Capital of Grace so that Our Lady may guide us and show us the way forward.

Annerine

Karin



PRAYER FOR SILVER JUBILEE OF "RECONQUERING" THE KEW SHRINE.

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt,

With grateful hearts we come to you today to thank you for your loyalty over the past 25 years.

On 15th August 1999, you heard our plea to take up your abode once more in the Shrine at Kew.

This Shrine, blessed on 11th May 1952, spent 30 years without our cooperation in the Covenant of Love and thus without bearing fruit in these years, but once we recognized our responsibility to bring you our contributions as our part in the Covenant, you have not been outdone in loyalty.

Throughout these past 25 years you have blessed us with rich graces and drawn many hearts to yourself.

Our father and founder, in his letter for the blessing of the Shrine told us then that you "expect ... earnest co-operation with grace from us."

Do not worry about the fulfilment of your wishes. I love those who love me.

Prove first by your deeds that you love me ..., then I will prove that I love you.

She calls upon us in a similar way as she did in 1914 at the Shrine in Schoenstatt: Do not worry about the fulfilment of your wishes. Ego diligentes me diligo...(I love those who love me). Prove first by your deeds that you love me ..., then I will prove that I love you."

Although we are saddened that the physical Shrine no longer exists, we are truly grateful that your Picture of Grace has found a new home in St. Luke's Wantirna.

Thank you that you live among us, intercede many graces for us, continue to educate us and lead us to your Son and the heavenly Father.

Today we promise that we will do everything to ensure that you will always remain with us.

As our father did in 1952 "we entrust to the Blessed Mother the destiny of our people and our country.

Generously we offer our sacrifices as contributions to the capital of grace. In all situations we will find our way to the Shrine.

We go into the future full of confidence and will not grow tired of repeating the words of St. Vincent Pallotti: 'Mater habebit curam'. (Mother takes care.) She will take care of our salvation and of the well-being of our people and country."

And so, we offer to you our prayers, sacrifices, joys and limitations as our contributions to the Capital of Grace.

Above all we offer you our hearts and ask you to draw "many youthful hearts" to yourself so that one day we will again have a Shrine here in Melbourne.

We continue to trust as our father did that the picture of the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt, now enthroned here in the Divine Mercy Chapel, may "prove itself worthy of the title of honour: "Madona Populi Australiensis" (Mother of the Australian people).

We thank you, Mother, may our thanks not end. Take us, our love and life into your hands. Amen.



4. Come and See at the 'Shrine On the Hill'

On Sunday 25th August 2024 at Mt Richon in Western Australia (WA) we held our second 'Come & See' afternoon.

This is an initiative of the Schoenstatt Movement in WA to invite people to come and see the 'Shrine on the Hill' and learn more about Schoenstatt, it's founder and what it has to offer people.

We are very pleased to say we doubled the number of people from last year, as this year we had around 50 people in attendance (including children).

There was an introduction to Schoenstatt in the Meeting Room presented by Terry; an explanation of the Shrine and its symbols, in the Shrine, presented by Ann-Maree; craft and activities in the gazebo area run by Sharne, Philomena, Lily, Cynthia and Gerome; a treasure hunt organised by Sr M Luka and run by Tristan; and a Bush Walk for older teenagers and young adults organised by Sr M Luka.

This concluded with Prayers, a Reflection and hymn singing in the Shrine, followed by afternoon tea in front of the meeting room.

A couple of floral posters were offered to Our Blessed Mother and Her Divine Son in the Shrine.

It was really nice to see all the younger adults coming to assist in the activities, thanks to Sr M Luka's invitation.

A few of the families were interested in their daughters joining the girls meetings at the Shrine every 2 months (The Girls Faith Club).

Also talk between a group of young families about forming a new Family Group was very encouraging. We pray these all come to fruition.

The weather was a bit overcast, and we did have a couple of light showers, but it didn't hamper the enthusiasm of all in attendance. All in all, it was a great day. Many thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with the set up and packing away.





5. Golden Jubilee of the crowning of our MTA

This year on October 20th, when we celebrate our Foundation Day, we will also celebrate the golden jubilee of the crowning of our MTA in the Entrance Hall of the Joseph Kentenich House. Most of our readers will not have been present on that day 50 years ago but we have some who were and we hope that they may be able to be present to help us give thanks for these 50 years during which our Mother, Queen and Victress has shown her love and care to all who come to our Movement Centre in Mulgoa.

Fifty years ago the movement work in Australia was only 8 years old so it is a credit to the enthusiastic work of our Schoenstatt Fathers and Sisters of Mary to support Our Lady's mission here in Australia that so many groups were actively involved in the crowning.

The day for the crowning was chosen to coincide with the diamond jubilee of Schoenstatt's foundation (1914 - 1974) and the crowning of our MTA in the Adoration Church in Schoenstatt, Germany, as Queen and VICTRESS of Schoenstatt.

Extracts from the report of our festive celebrations here in Australia 50 years ago read:

"The international crowning in Schoenstatt on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee was the main incentive (for the crowning). Training days and group discussions centred around the crowning; the talks, discussions or slide lectures of the monthly covenant days in 1974 covered the content of the crowning - its theological and historical background as well as its implications. The 9 weekly novena united us with the rest of the International Movement.

It was clear right from the start that we would not join the international crowning just in a spiritual way, but that we, as Schoenstatt Family in Australia, would have our own crown. Since the picture in the Shrine had been crowned many years ago by the Sisters' Family, we decided at the



end of 1973 that we would crown the picture of our Mother and Queen in the entrance hall of the new Movement Centre.

An intense driving began. In order that the crown would be really our own, each branch worked out the symbol to represent them on the crown. With these symbols in mind, the crown was designed:

The basic shape of the crown was chosen to represent the Adoration Church in Schoenstatt, the place of the international crowning.

In the two boomerangs and the Australian gemstone the national character finds expression.

The Schoenstatt Diocesan Priests find their ideal in the symbol of the Holy Spirit (silver cross-like shape).

The Families - as foundation and crown of the movement - chose the base of the crown as their symbol with two interlocked hearts engraved.

The Monstrance - formed by the two boomerangs and the gemstone in the centre of the crown - is the symbol for the Schoenstatt Mothers.

Two small diamonds on the base of the crown are the symbol for the Adoration Group.

The Women's League find themselves in the cross on the crown, seeing its centre as a symbol for the Tabernacle.

The gemstone in the centre was chosen by the Young men's and Boys' branch in reference to the Joseph Engling Memorial.

The Lilies on the base of the crown represent the Girls' branch.



Crowning gifts at the altar

Apart from the symbols on the crown, each branch wanted to bring a CROWNING GIFT to their Queen, symbolising the ideal in the striving of the individual branch.

These crowning gifts were very much in the foreground during the time of preparation for the crowning since they were an expression of what was and is alive in the branches and groups....

An extract from Fr. Boes's homily on the occasion:

"... we say to Our Lady, 'Accept the Crown'. This crown is foremost an expression of our childlike self-surrender.

It is only in this spirit of childlike self-surrender that we may dare to offer the crown without having to fear that we will not be able to live up to our promises... one in heart with our father and through him we offer the crown...

'Go into the world and set it on fire' - 'Let the burning fires of our hearts carry the message that the love of Christ will conquer this world, the love of Christ will be victorious and not the hatred of any other conviction...'

Fr. Boes then pointed out strongly that, in order to make this come true, the crowning plays an important part because otherwise we would be too weak on our part. At the same time, however, crowning cannot become effective without our cooperation (contributions to the Capital of Grace).

The Crowning Prayer that was prayed by all:

"Accept this crown and all it includes - our gratitude, our total surrender, our invincible trust - our very selves. Accept this crown from the hands of our father and founder. It is the crown that honours you and makes you known as the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt."

WITH ONLY A MONTH TILL THIS IMPORTANT JUBILEE EACH ONE PERSONALLY OR AS GROUPS MAY WISH TO CONSIDER HOW THEY WOULD LIKE TO PREPARE FOR THIS OCCASION AS WE RENEW THE CROWNING AT OUR FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT MULGOA ON 20TH OCTOBER.



6. INFORMATION AND LINKS

Shrine Opening Hours

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

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

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

Melbourne: St. Luke's, Wantirna, Divine Mercy Chapel

Opening hours: <http://www.stlukeswantirna.net/>



Links

Official Schoenstatt Website	https://www.schoenstatt.com
Schoenstatt Australian Website	https://www.schoenstatt.org.au
Our YouTube Channel	https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
Western Australia Website	https://schoenstattwa.org.au
Schoenstatt Men Website	https://bit.ly/47x72n1

Videos for Covenant Sundays

Video for September	A Church walking together http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
Video for August	A Church that reaches to the margins https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_KLG_dzzLg
Video for July	A Church renewed in Spirit and Prayer (audio only) https://youtu.be/swBzwVZnK0Q
Video for June	Conversation in the Spirit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4XSpqOHrgk

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

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