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1. Covenant Day Message

Walking Together, Loving the Church

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

On this very special Covenant Day when we remember and celebrate the foundation of Schoenstatt on 18th October 1914, we pray that Our Blessed Mother will send us all many blessings and graces from her Schoenstatt Shrines, and in particular, from the original shrine in Schoenstatt, Germany.

When we renew our Covenant of Love today, we hear the words that Father Kentenich spoke on October 23, 1966:

"We renew our Covenant of Love, but we renew it with the intention that this Covenant of Love should become more and more and deeper and deeper, the foundation of our lives, the meaning of our lives, the norm for our lives and the form for our lives.

Practically speaking, this means that the Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother – allow me to repeat this again – as the expression of the Covenant of Love, the safeguard and the means for the Covenant of Love with our Lord and with the Triune God – should become the foundation of our lives more than before, the norm and form for our lives.

Indeed, the Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother is not something unimportant, something accidental. Whatever is not connected with God, whatever does not proceed from him, whatever does not lead to him, is meaningless today."

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the expression of the Covenant of Love, the safeguard and the means for the Covenant of Love with our Lord and with the Triune God

When speaking of the great task he undertook, together with that small group of boys on 18th October 1914, Father Kentenich said:

“Allow me to state repeatedly that I would never have had the courage, and I would not have it now, to attempt to carry out our great task unless our shrine, with its intrinsic value and symbolic meaning, had taken on that place in the whole Family which it obviously has according to God’s unmistakable plan. God’s plan and the shrine essentially belong together. (JK 13 May, 1952)

Father Kentenich often said,

“No one will be lost who is loyal to his Covenant of Love” and he also said, “If you look for me you will find me in the Shrine.”

On this Covenant Day, may we all be united in Covenant loyalty with our Blessed Mother in her Shrine, with our Father and Founder and with each other:

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

2. Schoenstatt Movement National Conference

*“The Mission of Mary, an answer to
the confusion of the world”*

Our Schoenstatt National Conference this year took place at the Schoenstatt Shrine in Mulgoa, Sydney, from September 20th – 22nd. A beautiful weekend was had by all. Relationships were kindled, stories were shared, and personal insights were given. Along with that, much food and laughter was around every corner.

Our weekend began with Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr Terry Bell. The opening session which followed, was presented by Sr Elizabeth who set the scene for what was to be a very real and thought provoking theme; “The Mission of Mary, an answer to the confusion of the world.” We discussed the Schoenstatt Milestone of May 31st, 1949.

This event involved Fr Kentenich placing on the altar in the Schoenstatt Shrine of Bellavista, Santiago, the first part of a letter which was addressed to the Bishop of Trier, in response to the report of the episcopal visitation which had taken place in Schoenstatt in February 1949.

In this letter Fr Kentenich described the Church at that time as an “institution, incapable of understanding the human soul in its depths.” He proposed his vision of an ‘integrating Church’ where its members have a personal relationship with a God who is Father.



A Church in which Mary accompanies as Mother and Educator. A Church which helps to form ‘Free Personalities’. A Church which has its hands on ‘the pulse of the times’.

Sr Elizabeth addressed the issue of Mechanistic Thinking and how it involves separating God from Life. Its effects are the lack of real, personal relationships that can lead us to the Father.

It is so important for the natural to be integrated with the supernatural. This is what we refer to as Organic thinking, living, and loving. It gave us much to think about on a personal and wider community



level. The solution was to think about how we can bring God back into our personal, everyday lives and relationships. Fr Kentenich believed, "Schoenstatt should become the heart of the Church."

On Saturday we began the day with Holy Mass and then, via zoom from Perth, Sr Thomasine led us into more of a discussion on the 31st of May, the Third Milestone in our Schoenstatt history, and how we can overcome Mechanistic thinking. How do we integrate the natural with the supernatural? To worship and adore God in each moment of life, in each person, in all created things. "Life needs to be personalised; the heart needs to speak!" And, "All created things are a way for us to connect to God. They are a bridge to Our Father!"

Schoenstatt, through the Covenant of Love with Mary, offers us unique guidelines for life, Nothing without you, Nothing without us. Sr Thomasine explained how God loves each one of us personally, we are "the apple of His eye" (Psalm 17:8). God is the first cause who wants us to cooperate with Him, as loving Father, for the redemption of ourselves and the world, to become transparent so that others can see Christ through us, to experience love and understanding on a natural level so that we can get an inkling of how much greater God's love is for us on a supernatural level.

To allow God's love to penetrate our entire being so that it shines forth and radiates through our being and acting. We had time to reflect on all of this and think about questions that Sr Thomasine put forward:

- How can we link others to God in a very realistic, human, everyday way?
- How do we experience God's greatness through His creation?
- How does/did God spoil me even in small things?
- What does God, the Blessed Mother, need me for?

After quiet reflection time, we came together for a shared morning tea where the conversation continued on the topic of being/seeing God in our everyday lives.



Michelle Davis then led us into the next session where we delved deeper into how we experience Mechanistic thinking in our daily lives. She presented us with the idea that; "If St Paul were alive today, I fear we would be receiving another letter!!! What would he say to the world? What would he remind the Church?"

"More importantly, what would he say to me about my lifestyle and relationship with Christ?" These questions were very thought provoking and we had time to reflect on and share various elements: Our personal mission given to us by God; living out the Schoenstatt spirituality in everyday life; Gospels/Parables that resonate with us; how being a member of Schoenstatt has helped us in the challenges we face. We learnt so much from each other through this sharing and questioning.



The afternoon opened up for us something a bit different. A Plenary session led by Terry Huxtable and Michelle Davis.

This involved being in small groups and practicing the idea of 'active listening' where we 'listen to understand, rather than listen to respond'. We invited the Holy Spirit to speak to us during this time of thinking, questioning and sharing. We each had a turn in our groups to share on the topics of:

- What in today's world and society is mechanistic? Why?
- How do I experience Mechanistic thinking in my own life?

We discussed the importance of and how to practically put our faith into action and be a witness of Christ to others. Love needs to be seen in action, knowledge alone is not enough. Our faith needs to move from our head to our heart.



We then moved into a room decorated for a party, with a table full of party food. We celebrated some important Jubilee milestones.



Fr Terry Bell last year celebrated 60 years of ordination, Sr Renee last year celebrated 60 years of Incorporation into the Sisters' Community. This year Sr Inez celebrated 60 years of Incorporation along with Sr Marilena who celebrated 70 years!



What an achievement and inspiration these people are for our times! I'm sure they have many stories to tell and wisdom to share.

With full stomachs we moved into our next session with Paul and Ramani Regis. Another very practical and thought-provoking session where we were asked the question, "What is the Schoenstatt family doing in relation to the Jubilee year?" Each group had a different question to think about and apply to our everyday lives. To ask ourselves in what practical ways can we become more integrated as a people and a Church.



Moving on we enjoyed a night of more amazing food and a family games night where there was much laughter and 'revision' of the days thinking. Led by Sr Rita, we all had time to relax, and come together as a family.

Sunday brought with it more beautiful weather and we continued exploring our theme. Fr Terry led us into a discussion about the importance of the milestone of the 31st May for the Church, and why this was such an important step. He revisited



what occurred on this occasion and what it means for us today.

With the help of Terry Huxtable and Angela Benson we were then able to discuss and share the practical applications of living the 31st of May in our everyday lives. Terry explained the ideal of being whole and living wholistically. Angela discussed an analogy of the 'Tree of Life'. How we are all like a tree that needs to grow but can only do so if we have the 'sap' of Grace flowing through us.

We discussed what it is in our own lives that prevents this flow of grace. Is it being too busy? Too many distractions? Fear? Anxiety? Sin? A disconnection between our Body, Mind and Spirit? We also talked about how the Covenant of Love can bring us closer to Christ and closer to an interior integration of self. This very personal sharing of our stories brought with it more bonding and connectedness as a Schoenstatt Family.



Throughout the weekend it was lovely to be joined with people on Zoom from many different parts around Australia. This positive use of technology helped us to be connected to those in our Schoenstatt family, far away.



The final session, led by Sr Elizabeth, was a great summary of everything discussed over the weekend. From the importance of organic thinking, loving, and living and how this leads us to become more our true selves, a Free Personality.

The power of childlikeness and becoming a child before God, our Father. The task of the Blessed Mother, her mission from the Shrine as the official and permanent helpmate of our Lord. Our Blessed Mother wants to fulfil her mission from the Shrine, through us, her faithful instruments! We can place ourselves at her disposal so that through us she can imprint Christ into our modern age; "I shall draw youthful hearts to myself and educate them to become useful instruments." In saying that, as we approach the Jubilee year, we all decided on a motto to inspire and lead us into the Jubilee Year:

United in the Covenant – Pilgrims of Hope!

This new motto will help to keep our focus on being pilgrims, journeying together into the future, "One Heart in the Father for the Family of God". The weekend concluded with Holy Mass in the Shrine celebrated by Fr Terry. Coming together as one family, sharing our faith and lives with each other. Going forward, we ask our Blessed Mother to lead us to the Father and to educate us to live Wholistic lives through thinking, living, and loving organically, just as Fr Kentenich did.

After Holy Mass and a final send-out around the Fr Kentenich Statue, we recommitted ourselves to our loyalty to our Father and Founder, and to Our Blessed Mother: "There remains the fact, we will remain Loyal!"

During my visit to the Father room, I received a small message from Fr Kentenich. It read, "Do What you can". We can't be everything for everyone, but we can be something for someone. Blessings from the Shrine to all our Schoenstatt family everywhere.

United in the Covenant!
Antoinette Donegan
Schoenstatt Mothers Branch – WA



3. Girls Day Out At the Shrine

The “Girls Day Out at the Shrine” once again took place in the school holidays in October. The first day Wednesday 9th was directed at girls 15 to 18 years and the second day, Thursday 10th was for 10–14 year olds. Both days were filled with much fun, laughter, singing and food! Five girls enjoyed staying overnight in the Home of Light and were able to assist on the second day as leaders for the younger group. This was very much appreciated by all, and they did an amazing job.

The theme of the day was based on friendship and how we can imitate Mary and radiate her joy in all our relationships. The day was divided into games, input, discussion and singing. One of the games which the girls really enjoyed and was the loudest, was “Walking on Stars.”

Each person was given a star, and they had to work as a team to get from one side of the room to the other as quickly as possible. This introduced the symbol of the star and afterward the girls could discuss who is a star for them, a person who is the shining light and leads them on their faith journey and what qualities do they possess.

For the craft activity in the afternoon, the girls made rosary beads and/or bracelets. Everyone really seemed to enjoy themselves and did not want this session to end.

It was great to observe how the girls were keen to help each other out, giving advice and tips to one another.

After a few more games we went for a short bushwalk and were able to pray the rosaries that we had just made.

The day ended in the shrine. Together as a group we were able to give thanks in prayer and song for this very enjoyable and special Day Out at the Shrine.



Everyone was invited to write down a small gift that they wanted to give to the blessed Mother, as well as a quality from Mary that they wanted to mirror in their relationships as they go back to their everyday life.

The next event for the Schoenstatt girls will be in summer holidays and will be the Girls Camp in January. More details will be released closer to the date. Sr. M. Rita Baysari



4. Golden Jubilee Of the Crowning Of our MTA Part 2

In last month's Newsletter we shared some of the history of the crowning of our MTA in the Entrance Hall of the Joseph Kantenich House at Mulgoa on 20th October 1974. The Joseph Kantenich House had only been recently completed and the movement now laid the future of the movement into Our Lady's hands by presenting her with a crown which symbolically represented all branches of the movement existing at the time. This month we share with you the different gifts which were presented to our Mother and Queen. The original striving of each branch found its expression in these gifts.

The following is taken from a report at that time.



The Schoenstatt Fathers were the first to bring their gift – a beautiful stole. They prayed:

“Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, our coronation gift is a stole. Today we, the Schoenstatt Fathers offer it to you. The stole is a symbol for the priestly office of your dear Son, our Lord and Saviour. As priests we take part in his task as High Priest, Prophet and



Teacher. The stole we give has the letters MTA embroidered on it. They remind us of you and encourage us to proclaim your name and your kingdom from this place. With our father and founder we carry on the particular mission of this Shrine and Centre as he did from the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt. And thus, we give you this stole, symbol of our priestly office, to be used in this House Chapel. Grant that from here, through our service, the kingdom of the Father may come. Mother, Queen and Victress, accept and bless our gift. Amen.”

The Sister's Community had two (2) gifts – the picture of our Mother and Queen that was crowned and as a special gift, the new Movement Centre. The latter was symbolically expressed by the plans for the house which three (3) Sisters brought to the front. The Sisters prayed:

“Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. We, your Sisters wish to pay homage to you and thank you for the many gifts and graces you have bestowed on your Schoenstatt family during the 60 years of our history.

We offer to you our crowning gift, the picture which is now adorned with the crown. May the gold of the crown inspire us to strive for genuine loyalty to you, our Queen and may the picture remind us always of our ideal to become more and more like you – an ‘altera Maria’.

We offer this house to you and ask you to reign as our motherly Queen. Take possession of it and lead from here many people to your Son Jesus Christ, our King, and in and with him to the Father, for the blessing of the Church in our country.”



The gift of the Schoenstatt Diocesan Priests was the Holy Spirit symbol which is now attached in the sanctuary. The three (3) priests prayed together:



"Praise and honour to you, Mary, Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. In union with our father and founder, the Schoenstatt Diocesan Priests and the whole Schoenstatt Family, we, the Schoenstatt Diocesan Priests of Australia offer to you, our Mother and Queen, ourselves, our prayers and our work.

Mindful of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in your life, we wish to renew our resolution to build up our own priestly life by carrying out our duties in obedience and loyalty to our bishop so that we may become more like your Son, Christ, the High Priest.

We offer this symbol of the Holy Spirit as a reminder of the need to be aware of what the presence and action of the Holy Spirit accomplishes in us through the Shrine, Father Kentenich and our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt."

After the priests, two (2) representatives of the Mother's Branch brought as their gift a Monstrance and the custodia to Our Lady. All Mothers present

prayed together:

"Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. We have gathered today to honour and praise you. We thank you for having called us to be your living monstrance. With this gift we give ourselves unreservedly in a renewed Covenant of Love to you, so that Schoenstatt may grow in fruitfulness in order to fulfil your Son's wish of Christian unity. May your light illuminate our lives and shine throughout the world. Asking your help, may we radiate your humility and dignity, as women, wives and mothers, wherever we are."

The Ladies of the Adoration Group brought a special gift – their little home-made crown with which they crowned Our Lady seven (7) weeks before. The ladies prayed for the whole group

"Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, we honour you with our Jubilee Crown, bringing gold and diamonds as symbols for our belief in Christ's true presence in the Eucharist."



The Women's League's gift was the tabernacle. Since it wasn't possible to bring the actual tabernacle, they brought a ciborium veil with the symbols of lily and cross. It was made by one of the members and therefore especially precious. All the members present joined in the prayer:

"Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, we the Women's League, present this gift in homage to you. May it be a symbol of our striving to become living tabernacles, bringing Christ to the world."

The report shared the following anecdote: Now it should have been the Young Men's and the Senior Boy's Groups turn to bring their gifts. Instead, the children who couldn't be kept quiet any longer, made their way to the 'throne of the Queen.' It was a beautiful picture as they marched to the front, holding tightly on to their little gifts till they could hand them to Fr. Boes or one of the other priests who had come to the rescue. Many of the children had prepared for the crowning with their families or mothers, so their gifts weighed as much as those of the adults. After the children had said a little prayer together, they left by the side door.

The Families were alert – 'children and parents belong together!' So the couple chosen to represent the Family Branch joined the procession of the children, carrying the altar stone. All members of the Family Branch present joined in the prayer of homage and surrender:

"Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, we your families, whom our founder called the 'foundation and crown' of the entire Movement, have come to pay our homage to you. We pledge ourselves to you in loyalty, our sovereign Queen. Accept our crowning gift – the altar and the altar stone as a token of our true love built on sacrifices. May the two (2) interlocked hearts on the crown be a constant reminder to us that we belong entirely to you and to each other. May this unity grow stronger by the graces we receive gathered around the altar and our Home Shrines. In this way let our families become a 'light for the world', truly the 'foundation and crown of the new society.' "

The representatives of the Young Men's and the Senior Boy's Groups now came forward. They had waited patiently. Each carried a piece of basalt, which is blue metal. To the Young Men's Group it represented the Joseph Engling memorial – their crowning gift – and to the Senior Boy's Group the plaque which will be attached to the memorial. The Young Men's Group prayed:

"As a Young Men's Group we pledge our loyalty in an attitude of self surrender to you, Mary, our Queen. Our offering gift, the rock, the symbol



of security and strength, we give as our part in the coronation."

All Senior Boys prayed:

"Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, we greet you here in your home. We realise and accept your position as our Queen and wish to show our loyalty to you, this day on the 60th anniversary of the Family you have founded and formed through the hands of Fr. Joseph Kentenich. We realise and accept your superiority over all natural life and respect you accordingly. You have given us the Shrine as a place to honour you as you deserve and this house as an extension of your Shrine for the formation of your Family. For this we are grateful to you and give ourselves entirely to you without reserve. As part of the present generation of your Family we will continue to work by devoting our time and dedication to the expansion of your Family. Accept the plaque on the Joseph Engling Memorial Stone as our crowning gift to you. May it remind us that we give ourselves to you as Joseph Engling did. Amen."

Last of all came the Girl's Branch. Two girls brought the crowning gifts to the Queen – the sanctuary lamp in the form of a lily and the oil –, while all girls joined in the prayer:

"Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, with childlike confidence and great joy we come before you today to present to you this sanctuary light and oil, as a symbol of our loyalty and love.

With this crowning gift, we wish to express the sincere desire to grow more and more in your likeness, so that you may use us as your instruments for the fulfilment of Schoenstatt's mission.



In the symbols of the lily and light we see you, our Mother and Queen, who through your beauty, purity and dignity radiate the love and light of Christ into the world, drawing many people to the Father.

We, your Schoenstatt Girls, pledge ourselves to diligently strive to become noble, firm and dignified young women - Little Marys - through whom your love and light shines, as a light now shines through the lily of our sanctuary light, proclaiming your presence and the presence of your Son to all people.

- Little Marys -

With our founder and the founding generation we say: Not simply the great and greater, but the greatest heights shall be the object of our increased striving."

Once Fr. Boes had crowned our Mother, Queen and Victress we asked our MTA to take possession of our new Movement Centre and to draw many people from here to herself in order to educate them to become true apostles for her realm, which is the realm of Christ the King and the Eternal Father.



"In this time of great change we ask you to reign from here as Queen of Australia. Be our merciful Mother, the powerful Queen and the ever-conquering Victress of our people..."

Use us as your instruments. Glorify yourself in our weakness so that Australia may become more and more a Marian Kingdom of the Father ..."

In gratitude and joy we then sang our praise to the Blessed Trinity: 'O Triune God, Eternally Be Praised'.



O Triune
God,
Eternally Be
Praised

5. Eighth Anniversary of the Crowning of the MTA Picture

On Saturday 7th September the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators and members of the Rydalmer Region celebrated the 8th Anniversary of the Crowning of the MTA picture in Holy Name of Mary parish, Rydalmer.

The celebration started with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a Devotion prayer and Benediction. At 2.00pm Holy Mass was celebrated with the renewal of the crowning. We were privileged to have Father Pawel Barszczewski OP (Fr Paul) to officiate at the Benediction and Holy Mass. The homily of Father gave inspiration to us all. He reminded us that Our Mother and Queen has called us to a mission. She is the one who called us first by her glance, inviting us to come close to her and we responded with our yes to her, to help her in her mission to bring Jesus to the home of many through the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. Father Pawel also thanked the coordinators and members who are committed to this apostolate.

Before the final blessing Father Pawel led those present in the renewal of the crowning which we prayed together: Here are the last few lines from the crowning prayer: "...Mother and Queen, reign in our hearts, rule and lead the hearts of all your children. Mother form our hearts so that they become like your heart. We promise to be loyal to our Covenant of Love with you and generous in offering our daily deeds of love and our sacrifices and prayers to your 'capital of grace'. Mother of Mercy, Queen of the Family, accept the crown! In the name of the Triune God, reign over and lead your family with power and endless motherly love. Amen."

After Mass we proceeded to the meeting room where the Queen was again back on her throne. We enjoyed our Afternoon Tea together. Sr Luisa Maria gave a short speech about how Father Kentenich saw the meaning of the crowning of

every MTA picture. He saw these crownings as an expression of our thanksgiving, self-surrender and petition. Sister again thanked all those who continue to be part of the PMA apostolate and all who attended this celebration. Special thanks was also given to Edna and Agnes Aldana, both regional coordinators of Rydalmer who organised the event.

We were reminded that the first crowning in Rydalmer Region took place on 10th September 2016. Father Peter Lamont, the parish priest at that time, was the main celebrant and crowned the Blessed Mother as Mother Thrice Admirable Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, Mother of Mercy and Queen of the Family. Father Denis Foley was also present as concelebrant, representing Schoenstatt as PMA moderator. Every year since then, the renewal of the crowning and re-commitment of the PMA Coordinators has taken place. Even during the time of lockdown in 2020 the Coordinators gathered together and recrowned the Blessed Mother via Zoom.

Mother and Queen, we trust in you. Glorify yourself and be victorious!

Sr Luisa Maria



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/>



Foundation Day Celebrations at Mount Schoenstatt. Mulgoa– 20th October, 10.15am – 3pm

Golden Jubilee of the Crowning of our MTA in the Entrance Hall of the Joseph Kentenich House.
Please check the Website for more details.

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 October	The Importance of the Capital of Grace https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
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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