



November 18 2024 | Volume 5, Number 11

1. Covenant Day Message

Walking Together, Loving the Church

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant Day – 18th November. During this month we remember two significant dates in our Schoenstatt Family history. The first is the 16th November – the anniversary of the birth of Father Kentenich (1885). The second is the 20th November – the anniversary of the death of Venerable Sr. M. Emilie Engel (1955)

November is a month in which we remember in a special way all those who have died. In particular we remember the members of our own family and close friends, and we give thanks for the example they left us and all they did for us during their time here on earth.

We also remember in a special way, all those members of our Australian Schoenstatt Family who have died, and who through their lives contributed to the mission of Schoenstatt here in Australia. We pray for the repose of their souls. We can best repay them for their contribution to Schoenstatt by remaining loyal to our MTA, to our father and founder and to our Schoenstatt Family and by striving to live our Australian mission: One Heart in the Father for the Family of God.

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of Father Kentenich (8th July 1935, but celebrated on 11th August 1935), he said he wanted to use the celebration to thank “all Schoenstatt children, the dead, the living and generations to come.”

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"I thank those who had worked and given their lives for Schoenstatt", Father Kentenich said. "Our deceased are not dead, they are with us today. The work that has been created here is just as much the work of those who co-operated with me. I am inconceivable without you. My whole work cannot be explained without your most personal and profound co-operation. This applies in the first place to our dead... We want to be faithful to our deceased... I know what this loyalty to our dead means to our generation. The Family has brought forth great people. We want to remain true to them. Faithfulness to them is faithfulness to our MTA, to our shrine, to our ideal.

Father Kentenich continued:

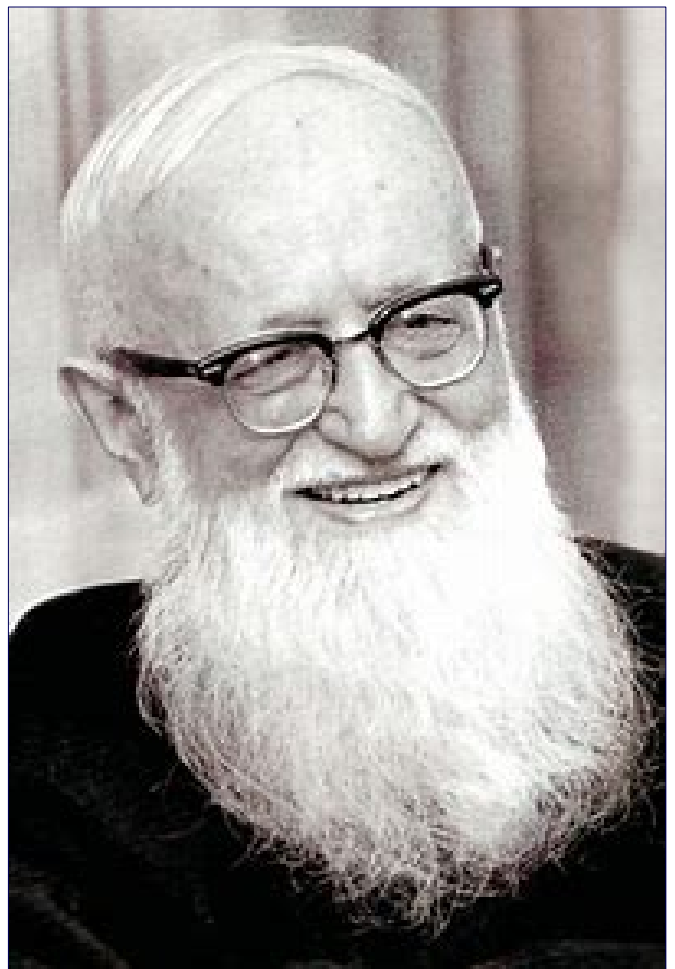
"Our departed work on through their heroic example; they work on because they embodied, sometimes in an heroic way, what we see today as a great idea in the heavens of our lives. We hope to God, and admit with great gratitude, that they work on through their intercession, through praying for us together with the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt. Yes, the hymns of thanksgiving have to rise to a crescendo far more than they have done until now".

On that occasion Father Kentenich especially thanked Our Blessed Mother for all that she has done through Schoenstatt. I think that we can join him when he said:" I think that the gratitude expressed to me in these days, and which I have returned to you, has also to be taken up by the whole Family and directed into the heart of our dear Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt."

On November 16th we remembered the anniversary of the birth of Father Kentenich (1885).

Father Kentenich believed that he and his spiritual family had been given a mission to proclaim the message of a merciful, loving Father to the Church and world. Father himself was a transparency for us of the image of the merciful, loving Father God.

On this feastday of the birth of Father Kentenich, please join me in wishing him a Very Happy Birthday, as we continue to pray for his canonisation:



Eternal Triune God,
for love of you and
your holy Church,
Schoenstatt's founder always strove
to do your will and win
many hearts for you.
Through the intercession of Mary,
the Mother Thrice
Admirable and Queen
of Schoenstatt we pray
that he may soon be
raised to the honours of
the altar so that he may
work even more
fruitfully than while on
earth for you and your kingdom. Amen.

May Our Blessed Mother Thrice Admirable
continue to be with us all to help us in living the
Schoenstatt mission that we have been given from
the Shrine.

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall

2. Remembering

Venerable Sr. M. Emilie

On 20th November we remember Venerable Sister M. Emilie Engel, who died on this day in 1955.

Sister M. Emilie came as a young woman to Schoenstatt where she met Father Kentenich.

She placed herself at the disposal of Schoenstatt and became a founding member of the community of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary.

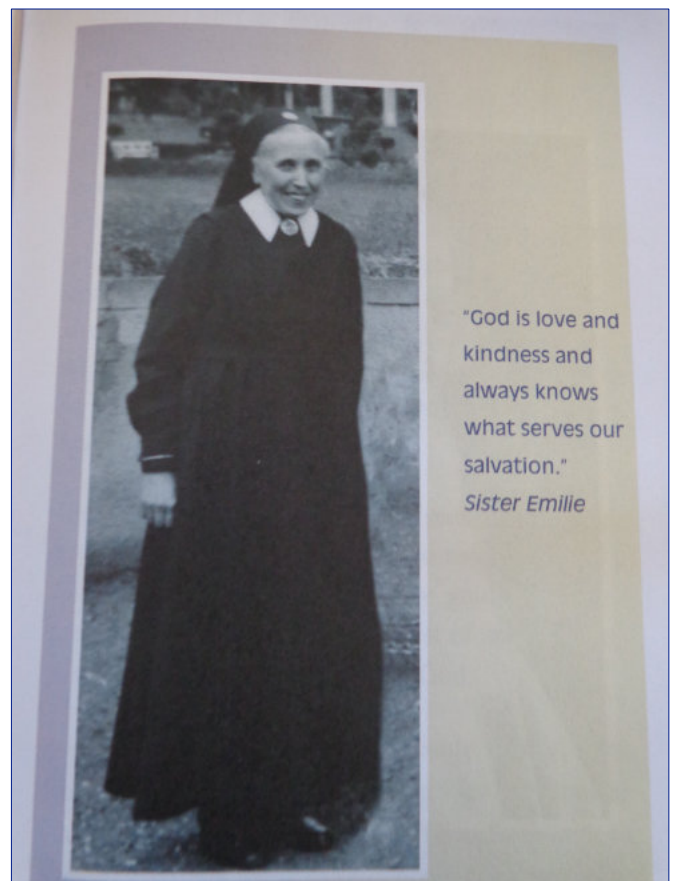
Like Father Kentenich, Sr. M. Emilie saw her mission as helping present-day people to discover God in everything, to meet him, and in faith, to respond to his fatherly guidance with a ready, "Yes Father". She exemplified the reality that, in the midst of insecurity and fear, a person can find shelter in God.

This makes her a wonderful example for us in today's world.

Many people joyfully experience that Sister M. Emilie brings light into their life, a light that radiates God's sheltering and caring nearness and shows the way to him from darkness and fear.

Sr. M. Emilie exemplifies someone who lived a truly Christian and authentic way of life through her commitment to her Covenant of Love and Schoenstatt's mission.

We give thanks for her life and continue to pray for her canonization:



"Eternal Father, you led Sr. Emilie along the way of simple childlikeness and unselfish motherliness. Trusting in your wise providence, she spoke a loving yes to your plans and wishes even in the most difficult situations. She was deeply sheltered in your fatherly heart and was freed from fear and inner anxiety. In your love and kindness you have shown your power in her. I ask you for the canonization of Sister Emilie to your glory, the honour of the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt, and the blessing of all people. Amen"

(From: "Lived Faith in Divine Providence: A Light for Many" – Novena to Sr. M. Emilie)



3. Golden Jubilee of the Crowning of our MTA as Victress.

Fifty years ago a very young Schoenstatt Family in Australia participated in their own way in the first international event – the Crowning of our MTA in the Adoration Church on Mount Schoenstatt, Germany – on 20th October 1974 as Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and VICTRESS of Schoenstatt.

It was the diamond jubilee of Schoenstatt's foundation and only six years since our father and founder, Fr. Joseph Kentenich, had been called home. The Schoenstatt Movement in Australia had only begun to grow in 1966 following our father's return from exile. The Movement Centre close to the Shrine in Mulgoa, NSW, Australia which was blessed in May 1968, had just been completed. In this context, and joining in the international celebrations, the Movement in Australia decided to crown the MTA in the Entrance Hall of the newly completed Movement Centre.

Although the Schoenstatt Movement was only 8 years old there were 10 different branches (Schoenstatt Fathers, Diocesan Priests, Schoenstatt Sisters, Families, Mothers, Single Women, Adoration Circle, Girls, Senior Boys, and Boys) represented on that significant day, 20th October 1974. Each branch had joined in the international novena which involved prayers at nine different Shrines around the world. In addition, each branch had worked on a symbol which was represented in the crown and the gift they wished to bring to our Mother, Queen and Victress.

Over the past fifty years, the numbers in the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia have fluctuated and our Movement is small but pilgrims to the Shrine have steadily increased. At this point in our growth, it was important for us to recall the activities of Our Lady as the Victress over the years and to celebrate the golden jubilee of this crowning, together with the 110th anniversary of Schoenstatt's Foundation.

A significant part of Our Lady's "victories" during these years is the number of pilgrims she has called to visit her at the National Shrine in Mulgoa.



Daily there are many visitors and on weekends, hundreds of visitors many travelling long distances even coming from interstate. It was vital for our Schoenstatt Family that we try and include these many people, who experience Our Lady's 'presence' in the Shrine and her intercession in their many needs, in our celebrations. We wanted to let them know about the Covenant of Love and how our Blessed Mother wants to be their mother and educator who leads them to her Son and the heavenly Father.



For this reason, there was a family festival on October 20th to celebrate Schoenstatt's Foundation Day and Golden Crowning Jubilee. The pre-programme involved information about the founding of Schoenstatt, testimonies about what the Covenant of Love means to various members of the Schoenstatt Movement, and explanations about the importance of the Capital of Grace. This was offered by texts and some videos. While this took place there was the opportunity for Confession and the priests were not idle. The participants were encouraged to write their offerings to the Capital of Grace together with their petitions and place them in the jar which had a central place below our MTA, together with the Crown which we would offer anew during the afternoon's programme.



The festive Mass began with a procession of flags representing 24 countries and the joyful entrance hymn from the Jubilee Year 2014: "My Spirit rejoiced when they told me, let's go to the house of the Lord". Two priests concelebrated, both of whom belong to different Orders (Dominicans and Somascans), but who have entered into Schoenstatt's Covenant of Love. During the homily, Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP led more than 400 pilgrims and Schoenstatt members into an understanding of the gift of the Covenant of Love

and the importance of the Schoenstatt Shrine. He encouraged the listeners not to be afraid to offer themselves to the Blessed Mother as she is the one who can lead them quickly and surely to Jesus and the heavenly Father. He pointed to the crowning which would be renewed in the afternoon and entrusted all of us to the care of our Mother, Queen and Victress.



Following Holy Mass we went in procession, led by the Unity Processional Cross, the Jar with the Capital of Grace, the Covenant Book and the Crown, to the Shrine where we renewed the Covenant of Love and a new Pilgrim Mother Shrine and coordinator was sent out. The lunch break saw a hive of activities for the families. Apart from various food possibilities, the children thoroughly



enjoyed a jumping castle, face-painting, popcorn and the possibility to make a plant while the adults could learn more about Schoenstatt at the information stall, browse through the Pilgrims' Centre with its piety goods stall or buy plants to help raise money for our mission in the Philippines.

The climax of the day was the afternoon re-coronation of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt in the Entrance Hall of the Joseph Kantenich House. This was exactly 50 years after it originally took place in conjunction with the Crowning of the Victress in the Adoration Church on Mount Schoenstatt. This celebration began with devotions and benediction in the Shrine, followed by a procession led by representatives from the Mothers' Branch carrying the Schoenstatt and Australian flags and a member of the Family Branch who had been present at the original crowning 50 years ago carrying the crown.

The 2014 Jubilee Hymn "Your Covenant our Mission" resounded in the grounds of Mount Schoenstatt until the procession reached the Father Statue where we prayed and pledged anew our loyalty to our father and founder, Fr. Joseph Kantenich. The procession continued to the Entrance of the Joseph Kantenich House singing with full voice, "As I kneel before you.." A beautifully decorated Throne under the MTA picture awaited the arrival of around 150 Schoenstatt members and pilgrims in the Entrance Hall of the Movement Centre.



After praise and thanks were offered to our Blessed Mother, Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP solemnly re-crowned our MTA and all prayed together the crowning prayer.

In grateful remembrance of the event 50 years ago, representatives of the various branches, shared about the gift they had offered to the Blessed Mother back in 1974 and prayed a prayer which was unique for each branch at that time.



It was such a delight that around ten Schoenstatt members who had been present in 1974 were able to be once again at the celebration and joyfully reminisced about the event 50 years ago.

One member of the Women's League who had been present at the crowning in Australia in 1974 was this year present in original Schoenstatt for the celebration in the Adoration Church. We were happy to be represented in original Schoenstatt as we celebrated this milestone.

The day's celebrations would not have been possible without the great team of volunteers who helped with organising, setting up and running the day's activities as well as the many benefactors who supported this event financially.

We trust that our Mother Thrice Admirable will truly prove herself victorious in all the present-day concerns and worries in the society and Church, but in particular in questions regarding the way we wish to bring Schoenstatt to our local Church and the many visitors to our Shrine.

4. Reflections on Covenant Celebrations In Schoenstatt

I was very privileged to be able to visit the original Schoenstatt again this October. This visit came about at the suggestion of another of my fellow 'pilgrims' who had made her membership consecration in Schoenstatt in 2014 and wanted to renew it now 10 years later in Schoenstatt. As Edna and Agnes Aldana and myself had also made our life membership consecration at that time, we were invited to go along.

It was originally planned that we would not only renew our commitment to our membership consecration on the 15th October, but also stay in Schoenstatt for the celebrations on the Foundation Day – 18th October and the celebrations of the Jubilee of the Crowning in the Adoration Church on 20th October. However, as it turned out, only Zenny Custodio (Mothers branch), her husband Gil and myself were able to stay for these celebrations.

What follows is my reflections on these celebrations and what this meant for me personally.

Firstly, let me share with you my joy when I found out that the house I was staying in (along with my fellow pilgrims) was Schulungsheim – the house 'on the mountain' where Father Kentenich lived from his return from exile on 24th December 1965 till his death on 15th September 1968. It was also a blessing for us that we further found out that Sr. M. Olivia, our 'newest' Australian Schoenstatt Sister was working in the guests dining room and also in this house was Sr. M. Emilyn, Sr. Charito Maria and Sr. M Emmylou, our Filipino Sisters. So it was truly a bit of our Australian/Filipino Province here in this house.

The celebrations for the Foundation Day – 18th October, began with a solemn Mass in the Pilgrims



Church and Sr. M. Emilyn had organized a car for us to go to the celebrations. This was also a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the centenary of the Covenant of Love in 2014, which had been a moment of great importance for Schoenstatt and the whole Church, and you could feel that sense of excitement from all those who had been in Schoenstatt in 2014.

The sisters responsible for the pilgrims are much more aware these days of the language difficulties for those who don't speak German, so we were quickly given headphones by Sr. Miriam (the sister responsible for the English speaking pilgrims) so that we could hear a translation, especially of the homily.

During the Mass, the celebrant, Father Lothar Herter, recalled the 75th anniversary of the "31st



of May”, a “milestone in Schoenstatt’s history”. Among other things, he recalled that Schoenstatt’s founder, Father Joseph Kentenich, had made a point to offer Schoenstatt’s spirituality at that time as a response to the essential needs of the times, which are also very relevant today. “If the sacred is missing in our world, people lose their home and their centre,” Fr. Herter said.

It was a real blessing for me to realise that I was actually in Schoenstatt on this day, 10 years after celebrating the Centenary of Schoenstatt here in 2014 and it made me think about all that has happened in our Schoenstatt family since that time, and also the impact those celebrations had on me.

The church was beautifully decorated with many Pilgrim Mothers on display. During the Mass, the First Reading was read in English by one of the Filipino ladies we had previously met at the English Mass in the Shrine on the Tuesday evening. She also read the Prayer of the Faithful along with another lady who read in German.

After the Mass we joined our Filipino Sisters, along with some of the Filipino community that we had met on the Tuesday evening at the English Mass (another great experience having Mass in English in the Original Shrine and for me to be able to do the Reading during the Mass. Zenny read the Prayer of the Faithful, so these Filipino people were very generous to us).

One of the great joys is the people you meet unexpectedly and the experiences they share. For example, while in the line for lunch in the Pilgrims House, a lady heard us speaking English and the first question we were normally asked is, where do you come from?”. People were always amazed when we said from Australia – “you came all that way” was the usual amazed response. This lady told us she had been in Milwaukee during her university days and had stayed in Waukesha. She shared some of her experiences with us.

It gives you a real feeling of ‘being at home’ when people – whether they can understand you or not, do their best to make you feel welcome and included.

In the afternoon there was the International Covenant Hour which again took place in the Pilgrims Church. It was great that again, Sr. Miriam had provided us with the headphones so that we could hear all this in English and really feel included in the celebrations.

Fr. Ignacio Camacho, who conducted the Covenant Celebration program, mentioned the “110 years of the Covenant of Love” on this day, bringing to mind the great jubilee of 2014 and the jubilee “75 years of May 31, 1949” as important events this year. The date May 31, 1949, recalls Father Kentenich’s efforts to draw the attention of the German bishops of that time to the dangers of mechanistic thinking. His proposal to overcome it through “organic thinking, living and loving” was not understood by the Church at the time.

The three-day celebrations at the Bellavista/Chile shrine in the spring of 2024, with 1500 participants and the commemoration of May 31, 1949, were shown by means of a video recording, as well as a witnessing of one of the sisters who had participated in these celebrations. She shared her insights from these days.

In reflecting on the Jubilee of 2014, we saw another short video and a former 2014 volunteer from Paraguay, recounted how she experienced her nine months of volunteering, during which she was able to help prepare for the Jubilee in Schoenstatt together with 20 other volunteers from 10 different countries. The main experience for her was the feeling of belonging to an international family. Even today, the volunteers from this time maintain a “close contact” with each other.

When she thinks of the jubilee, the first thing she remembers are the many beaming faces and the joy of those who had longed to come to the



Original Shrine for so long and had finally arrived. "We, the generation of 2014, still carry this fire within us, this privilege of having been here, in Schoenstatt." But from this also comes the responsibility to spread the fire. I think all of us who had been at the 2014 Jubilee celebrations could relate to what she said and consider for ourselves what those experiences meant for us, both then and now. I know that whenever I hear the hymn, "Your Covenant Our Mission –We are your Family", it recalls to my mind the experiences that we shared with so many people during those days of blessing in 2014.

At the end of this International Covenant Hour, we then processed to the Original Shrine to renew the Covenant of Love and to ask for the Holy Spirit for the whole world. Sr. Emilyn suggested we grab the Australian Flag, but someone had already taken it, so we just went along with the crown, glad that at least Australia was represented.

As it was raining lightly, many had their umbrellas up, but we had not been forward thinking, so hadn't brought our umbrellas. I had "lost" Zenny, Gil and Sr. Emilyn along the way and so was standing alone at the side of the shrine when one of the sisters whom I had gotten to know during my last few visits to Schoenstatt, came over and offered to share her umbrella with me. At the end of the celebrations, there was the usual burning of the contributions to the Capital of Grace which for me encapsulated the symbolism of what the Covenant of Love is all about – "nothing without you, nothing without us".



As we were staying 'up on the mountain', Sr. Emily was trying to arrange lifts for us to get 'home'.

In the meantime, I had met another sister that I



aware of where I was staying. She offered me a lift in her car so our problem of transport was solved.

For me, this had been a great way to conclude this day of Covenant celebrations – a day of sharing experiences, of sharing friendship (both new and older), sharing an umbrella with someone I know, and being offered a lift from another person I had gotten to know over the years. This not only made me feel that I was indeed part of the Schoenstatt family, but that I actually had people that I could call by name in this family. This symbolised for me that Schoenstatt is not only a family, but that like all 'extended' families, some people we know better than others, but all are part of the family.

The next day, Saturday, was the eve of the 20th October, the day, when in 1974, the Schoenstatt



Family celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Schoenstatt's foundation (1914–1974) and crowned our Mother Thrice Admirable in the Adoration Church as Queen and VICTRESS of Schoenstatt. At that time, our MTA was given the new title of Victress of Schoenstatt, expressing the victory of Our Lady in bringing our father home from the 14 years he spent in exile.

As a prelude to these celebrations, on this Saturday evening, we were invited to a Cantate in the Adoration Church in front of the Crowned picture of our MTA. This was a program of songs and hymns of praise to Our Lady sung in various languages and with different accompaniments.

For me, (I might have been a bit bias), but the most moving was the Magnificat hymn to the Immaculata sung in Vietnamese by the sisters in Sister Olivia's course (which includes 2 Vietnamese sisters, a Brazilian, an Austrian and an Aussie). Although I had no idea what they were singing, the harmonies were wonderful and quite different from all the other songs.

At the end of the evening, Father Bernd Biberger, Director General of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary and member of the General Presidium, spoke a few words and then gave his priestly blessing. The evening ended with a singing of our consecration prayer, in ENGLISH, which again for me, was a symbol of the awareness of the universality of our Schoenstatt Family.



As Sr. Emilyn and Sr. Charito Maria were officially on holidays, it was suggested that when we got back to Schulungsheim, that we needed to do something to continue the celebrations. We

decided to "celebrate" with ice cream – which we did! Thus, the day ended fittingly with joy, laughter and friendship, and we know that 'grace builds on nature'.

The Sunday morning we were out bright and early to attend the Holy Mass in the Adoration Church where Father Biberger was the celebrant. As there was also a Holy Mass in the Pilgrims Centre later that morning for those attending the Movement Conference, there were probably not as many people as might otherwise have been at this Mass.

During his homily Fr. Biberger spoke of the importance of the crowning in 1974, and again referred to some of what Bishop Tenhumberg had said at that time and also the relevance of this crowning for us today. I have to admit that although Sr. Miriam had again been very thoughtful in bringing us the earphones so that we could hear all that was said in English, I don't really remember much of what Fr. Biberger said. I was caught up in the whole celebration and its impact on me rather than taking in words.

I was once again caught up in the grandeur and size of this Church. If you have been to the Adoration Church, then I am sure you will know what I mean. It tends to remind me that God is not only a loving and generous Father, but He is also a God of might and power and majesty. However, I still feel comforted within this Church as if it guards and protects you.

While it was again a celebration of the Jubilee of the Crowning of Our Lady in the Adoration Church, as Queen and VICTRESS of Schoenstatt, it was I think rather 'low-key' because of the National Movement celebrations that were also taking place at this time. However, as I couldn't be at our Jubilee celebrations in Mulgoa (which I had initially attended in 1974), I was pleased to have been here in the Adoration Church 50 years later to join in these celebrations.

As Zenny and her husband Gil were leaving after the Mass, I had the afternoon to myself. I was leaving the following afternoon so took a walk down to the Original Shrine one more time. As there was Adoration in the Shrine, I thought this was a fitting way for me to conclude my time at

these Covenant weekend celebrations, and to give thanks to Our Blessed Mother, to our father and to all those who had helped make my time here in Schoenstatt so blessed and special.

Original Schoenstatt will always have a special place in my heart as I will always think of it, not only for the many places of grace, especially the Original Shrine, the Founder Chapel, the Adoration Church and the many other places in and around Schoenstatt. But for me, it is not just the places, it is also the events that I have been very privileged to take part in over the years, and especially the many people I have met and in some cases have come to know personally. It is truly for me a home, a place of grace and a place of blessing, which I hope I can share with others.

I would like to conclude with a special 'thank you' to Sr. Elizabeth who through Divine Providence, was in Schoenstatt during part of our time here. She was able to take a week's holiday to be with

us. She also organized some special things for us, such as having the chalice that was our Women's Group gift for the 2014 Jubilee Celebrations, used at the English Mass in the Original Shrine on the Tuesday evening; having us invited to attend a Mass at Mount Moriah (the home of the Diocesan Priests Institute – to which Fr. Denis belonged). This Mass was special in that it was celebrated at the Dachau altar – the same altar that the priests used in Dachau. Sister Elizabeth also organized for us to visit Metternich – the home of Sr. Emilie and the Mariengarten. And she managed to get us transport to these events which made things so much easier.

I can only conclude with the words, which I feel appropriate: "Loyalty for loyalty, love for love" Adsum.

Shirley Hall
Women's Branch



Our "Pilgrims" with Sr. Elizabeth and Fr. Biberger

5. Pilgrimages to Rome and Schoenstatt For the Holy Year 2025

Earlier this month I received a letter from the International Schoenstatt Coordination team, Fr. Arkadiusz Sosna and Sr. M. Cacilda Becker, regarding the possibilities of Schoenstatt pilgrimages to the two Shrines in Rome during the Jubilee Year 2025, which has the theme: "Pilgrims of Hope". They sent warm greetings as we prepare for the Jubilee Year and among other things wrote:

"Many Schoenstatters will want to go on pilgrimage to Rome, ... There are many events that we can participate in. You can find all the events in the Jubilee calendar at: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va>.

Registration is already open at: <https://register.iubilaeum2025.va>.

There will also be the opportunity to visit our two Schoenstatt Shrines. As an international Schoenstatt family, we are looking forward to the coronation of the Blessed Mother in the Belmonte Shrine and we are preparing intensively."

Fr. Arkadiusz and Sr. M. Cacilda also mentioned that the Jubilee Year is indeed "a unique opportunity for our Schoenstatt Family to renew our commitment and to gather in gratitude and prayer."

There are five events in particular that the International Schoenstatt Coordination Team will be supporting and coordinating:

1. Jubilee of Families, Grandparents and the Elderly (30.05. – 01.06.25)
2. Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities (07.– 08.06.25)
3. Coronation of the Mother of God in Belmonte (09.06.25)
4. Jubilee of Youth (28.07. – 03.08.25)
5. Jubileo de Espiritualidad Mariana (11. – 12.10.25)



The hope was expressed „that each event will deepen our journey with the Blessed Mother and strengthen our unity as an international Schoenstatt family. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and remember to register your groups so that we can support you in every way possible."

If you are interested in a pilgrimage or would like to receive further information, please contact any member of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) or write to movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au

With many greetings from our National Shrine,

Sr. M. Elizabeth

*the Jubilee Year ... a
unique opportunity for
our Schoenstatt Family
to renew our commitment
and to gather in
gratitude and prayer*



6. Faith and Fun

Everything came together for a lovely afternoon of Faith and Fun on 4th November 2024 at Mount Richon. 10 families registered their attendance and our theme for the day was 'All Saints and All Souls'.

The afternoon began with an introduction followed by an icebreaker game. Two teams had to work out the pathway to the other side of the stepping stones by helping their teammates work out the pattern (also known as the pathway of life game). After the game we practiced a song called "To Be a Saint" with hand actions to be sung in the Shrine later. The games, including 'pin the halo on the saint' and song were a lot of fun for all the families who participated.

The parents then went up to the top meeting room to listen to some readings from Pope Francis and Fr Kentenich, followed by a 'Couples Listening and Discernment Session', looking at the question, "How can I and my family become holy in everyday life?" Each couple needed to come up with two concrete steps to take going forward. One of the suggestions, which came from 'Pope Francis on Discernment and Prayer of the Hello' (General Audience 28 September 2022), was just to say 'hello' to Jesus at various times during the day and know that He is here with us all the time.

The children remained in the meeting room at Emilie House and did lots of fun activities including making a halo for their heads with saints on; doing a Know the Saints Quiz, as well as various crossword and word search sheets about Saints.



The toddlers were ably looked after in the side room with toys to play with. Both groups of children were well looked after by some young adults and older children, along with Sr M Luka.



All the families came together again. We had another practice of the song "To Be A Saint" and everyone was given a paper heart to write down the names of loved ones who had passed away. Then, to conclude the day, we all walked up to the Shrine where we sang some songs, placed the hearts with the names of our deceased loved ones in the jar in the Shrine, and prayed for all saints and all souls together. Afterwards we all enjoyed afternoon tea back down at Emilie House. It was a blessed and enjoyable afternoon for the families.

Philomena Theseira
Schoenstatt WA



7 Our New Motto: United in the Covenant of Love – Pilgrims of Hope

The 2024 Australian Schoenstatt Movement National Conference culminated in the finding of the Motto to guide us in the coming year: “United in the Covenant – Pilgrims of Hope”. In our Conference we opened ourselves up to each other by practicing the Synodal process – deep, respectful and unhurried listening as we came together as the Australian Schoenstatt Family.

There is so much depth and layers of meaning in this motto. As with all mottos the purpose is not conformity but to guide our striving individually in the light of our personal ideal, as a group with our group ideals and discussions, as a branch, as a united Schoenstatt Movement in Australia and with what is happening in the wider Schoenstatt movement, church and world.

Each of us in reflecting on this motto will be touched and challenged in various ways. This can be part of our sharing in the coming year.

I invite you to sit with this motto and discern what it is saying to you. How is it calling you to grow and act as a Christian, how as a Baptised Christian does it challenge me, how as a person united in the Covenant of Love with our Lady – our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt is it calling me?

As baptised Christians we are all pilgrims, we are journeying through this life, with its joys, sorrows and sufferings, with the hope of being united with God in Heaven, with all the saints and our loved one's for all eternity, in joy and love. As followers of Christ, we share a unity by being brothers and sisters on this pilgrimage together.

As a Schoenstatt Movement and Family we are journeying together in the spirit of living out our Covenant of Love and in the spirit of our father and founder, Fr. Kentenich. For each of us, whilst we share all these things, being a baptised Christian, being a member of Schoenstatt and



living out our Covenant of Love with our MTA and each other, our life experiences, our call to mission (our vocation), will call us to live out this motto differently and that is how we will find its fullness for ourselves, the movement, the church and the world.

The 2025 Jubilee, called by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, was the focus of one of our sessions. What can the Australian Schoenstatt Movement do to participate? How can I participate as a member of my parish? As a member of a Schoenstatt group belonging to a branch?

The first answer to these questions was to participate in Jubilee functions in our parishes, witness to how the Covenant of Love helps me to live my baptismal calling in daily life...

*we are all pilgrims, we are
journeying through this
life, with its joys, sorrows
and sufferings, with the
hope of being united with
God in Heaven*

What is a Holy Year? For the Catholic Church and world, it is a special year of Grace. The theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”. The Holy Father has proclaimed 2025 as a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. We walk as

pilgrims of hope towards the Holy Year, because in the rediscovery of our own vocation and by “putting into effect the different gifts of the Spirit, we can be bearers and witnesses of Jesus' dream: to form a single family, united in the love of God and held together in bonds of charity, sharing and brotherhood” (Pope Francis).

In our National Motto for this year, we state ... United in the Covenant. The Schoenstatt Covenant of Love is for us a deepening of our Baptismal Covenant. As Pilgrims of Hope, united in this Covenant of Love, we are united as a movement with the universal church.

Fr. Kentenich called us to love the Church as he did: “Dilexit Ecclesiam”. He called his family to be a positive influence on and within the church and to show our love for the church. Personally, I see the Holy Spirit leading us in growing not only as individuals into our faith but as a movement in being a positive influence in our parishes, in showing our love for the church... Our motto unites us as a movement and with the Church – the Holy Spirit is alive and active when we gather and share with open hearts and minds.

I see the church as maturing over the pontificate of Pope Francis. Our vision and understanding of being Christian and being part of the family of God and members of the world is leading us to maturity. We cannot be Christian in isolation.

If we look at the strength of Pope Francis' pontificate we see highlights in the Apostolic Exhortation “**Evangelii Gaudium**”: “The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. As Christians the word of God brings us joy.”

We also see the benefits of Pope Francis' pontificate in his four encyclicals:

2013: **Lumen Fidei** (‘Light of Faith’);

2015: **Laudato Si** (‘Praise be to you – on care of our common home’);

2022: **Fratelli Tutti** (‘On Fraternity and Social Friendship’);

2024: **Dilexit Nos** (‘On the Human and Divine Love of the sacred Heart of Jesus’ last month).



For me, I see a highlight in what I am called to be: as a Baptised Catholic, to live the gospel joyfully and to lead others to the joy of knowing Christ. To grow in the understanding of my faith, and be able to share the truth with others, to care for our fragile world, both creation and peace with others especially those on the margins, and to open my heart to the mercy offered by Jesus, represented in his Sacred Heart.

I love Schoenstatt, as without the Covenant of Love, I do not think I would fully understand how to live out my Baptism. I love our Lady as my mother and model of being like Christ. She is the one who leads me into a relationship with God, my merciful and loving father.

Some of my musings I wanted to share.

Michelle Davis

“putting into effect the different gifts of the Spirit, we can be bearers and witnesses of Jesus' dream: to form a single family, united in the love of God and held together in bonds of charity, sharing and brotherhood” (Pope Francis).

8. We are all Schoenstatt – from the General Presidium

Within the framework of the Covenant Month, the General Presidium of our International Schoenstatt Movement announced an initiative of great importance and global significance.

After months of planning and coordination, the worldwide campaign “WE ARE ALL SCHOENSTATT” was officially launched. The intention is to strengthen the bonds of our international family and ensure the future of the mission given to our Father and Founder by the Mother Thrice Admirable.

A Challenge Shared by All

The Campaign was officially launched on 18 October 2024, the 110th anniversary of the Movement’s founding and aims to inspire all Schoenstatters worldwide to participate actively in the preservation and expansion of our work. This initiative has a twofold focus:

- first, to foster a sense of joy and gratitude for belonging to an international family, and
- second, to create a shared sense of responsibility for maintaining our common home and life, which continues to grow under the action of Divine Providence.



Three Projects, One Aim

The campaign has three specific goals that need the financial support of the whole family to reach a total of €250,000:

1. **Maintenance of the Original Shrine:** An emblematic and sacred place for the entire Schoenstatt Family.
2. **Support to the International Coordination of the Movement:** This organization, among other things, is responsible for the Schoenstatt Movement’s official communication: it manages the website Schoenstatt.com, operates the social networks, cultivates contact with newborn Schoenstatt Families in new countries, and supports their development.
3. **Funding of an independent study on the cause of our Father and Founder:** An effort to maintain clarity and transparency about his life and mission.

Global Unity and Local Participation

This campaign has been designed so that all Schoenstatt members, wherever they are in the world, can participate freely and voluntarily. Dissemination materials have been prepared in several languages and platforms, such as email, WhatsApp, Instagram, and other social networks, as well as an inspiring motto for this year: “We embrace the origin, we spread the Covenant.”

In addition, ambassadors from different countries have been appointed to lead the dissemination of this initiative, with the task of mobilizing the local family and creating networks of facilitators who can take this message to as many corners as possible.

Training is already being provided in Spanish, German, Portuguese, and English and will soon be available in Polish and Italian to ensure that everyone is prepared to promote this cause.

*“We embrace the origin,
we spread the Covenant.”*

Transparency and Accountability

Transparency is one of the pillars of this campaign. Donations can be made through various channels, mainly through the [Donorbox](#) platform, which allows contributions from multiple countries and in more than 20 currencies. In addition, a donor database with strict confidentiality will be implemented, and regular accountability will be ensured to maintain trust and transparency in the use of funds.

[Link to donate](#)

United for a Sustainable Future

This is a call to the entire Schoenstatt Family to assume responsibility for the sustainability and growth of our Movement at the international level, not only for our immediate projects but also to ensure that **Schoenstatt's mission** continues to

radiate its light for centuries to come. Beyond material contributions, we also seek that each of us, to the extent of our possibilities, offer our abilities, initiatives, and time as a concrete way to strengthen our international unity.

The **Finance Commission**, made up of representatives from different countries and branches of the Movement, as well as the Ambassadors, are available to clarify any doubts or concerns that may arise during the process. Together we are confident that with the help of the Blessed Mother and the cooperation of all, we will achieve our goals and contribute to the continued growth and expansion of Schoenstatt's mission throughout the world.

We are all Schoenstatt! It is time to unite, embrace our origin and spread together our Covenant for the future



We embrace the origin, we spread the Covenant

We need your help to embark on a new path that will make it possible to maintain the **Original Shrine**, to **preserve our founder's legacy** and to help spread the **Covenant of Love** throughout the world.

Make your
donation
here.



schoenstatt.com

9. 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 November	Schoenstatt – How is it Synodal? https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
Video for October	The Importance of the Capital of Grace https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ut-le-CQuDs
Video for September	A Church walking together https://youtu.be/I1dYTE9ktlI
Video for August	A Church that reaches to the margins https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_KLG_dzzLg

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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