



February 18 2025 | Volume 6, Number 2

1. Covenant Day Message

United in the Covenant - Pilgrims of Hope

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant Day – 18th February. In this Jubilee Year of the Church, we continue to strive to be ‘United in the Covenant’, as “Pilgrims of Hope”.

A week before he died, on 7 September 1968, Father Kentenich wrote a message to the members of the Schoenstatt Family who were taking part in the 82nd German Catholic Congress in Essen.

This message is thus seen within the Schoenstatt Family as a his “last testimony” to the mission he believed he had been given for himself and for his Schoenstatt family. Looking back on Schoenstatt’s history within the context of the times, and in view of the Church, he expressed this conviction. In part he said:

“We take it for granted that we owe the existence and fruitfulness of our family to our covenant of love with our dear Blessed Mother under the title of Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. She has cared for us in the extraordinarily difficult testing of the past years through the authorities of the Church and the harsh Nazi persecution. Now, as then, we therefore revolve around the image of our foundress, leader, and educator, and around her Shrines. We use every opportunity to deepen our love for her in every way and to surrender ourselves willingly to her wise guidance and education.”

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“I firmly believe that no one will be lost who remains faithful to the Covenant of Love!”

*Year after year since 1914 we have committed ourselves increasingly through our covenant of love with the MTA to carrying out the meaning of the motto: **With hope and joy, confident in the victory, we go with Mary into the new era!** Throughout the past years we have directed our gaze unwaveringly to the shores of a new era for the Church and world. This is how all that has been written over the years has to be seen.*

Our covenant of love is an obligation to both partners. We wanted to surrender ourselves completely to Mary and allow her to educate us. And she, the great educator of the people and of peoples, accepted the obligation to draw us to herself from her Shrines in order to educate us to become useful instruments in her hands for the Marian formation of the coming world into Christ to the glory of the Father.

We know how both partners carried out their task. All of us have experienced it for ourselves to a greater or lesser degree. She has shown that she is not only the masterly educator of the elite and the masses from her Shrine; as the great Missionary she has not only worked continuous miracles of helping people to find a spiritual home, transformation and fruitfulness; she has also proved on a small scale in the many and varied formations of our Family that she is the brilliant reformer of human society, and the one who crushes the serpent in the battle for Christ and against all diabolical powers.

*It is not without reason that she is praised as the *terribilis acies bene ordinata* – a terrible army in battle order. Our morning prayer in ‘Heavenwards’ leads us to give thanks with all our hearts for this when it prays:*

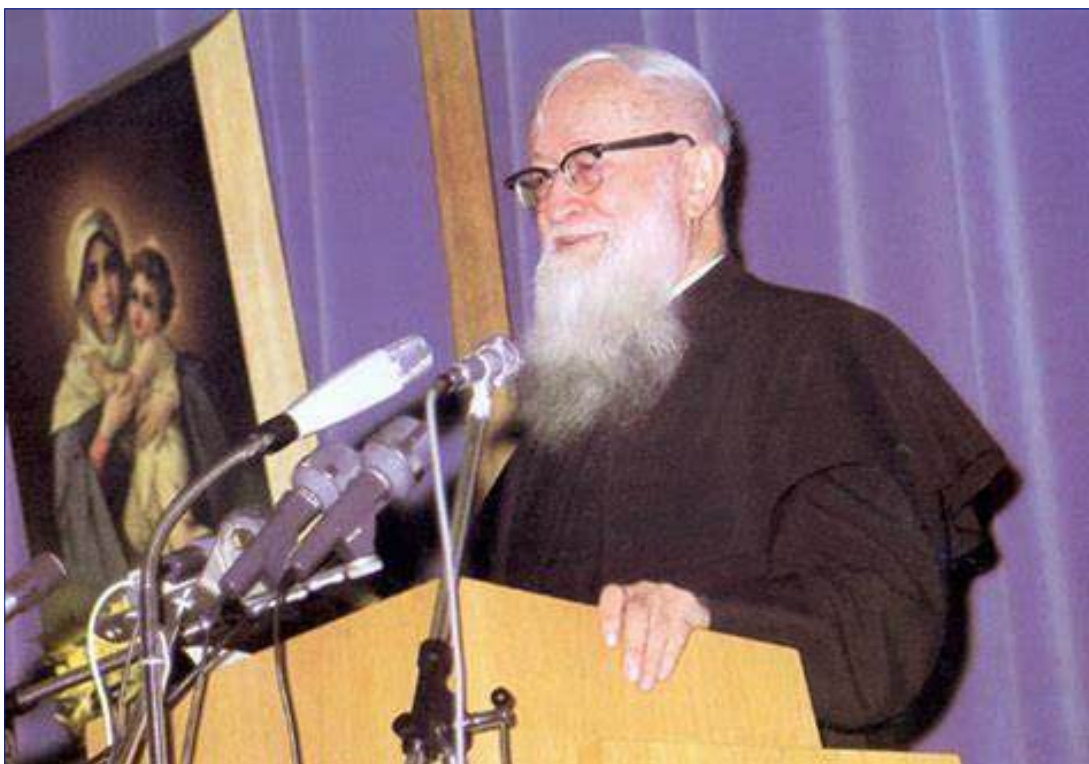
*We give you thanks for all the gifts we have received in such abundance:
for choosing Schoenstatt
as the place of Christ's rebirth
and the place where you radiate into the world
the glories of our Mother,
so that streams of love
may pour forth to warm cold hearts.*

We hope that we shall hear the answer of our partner in the covenant: This is the instrument I have chosen. I swear to God, I will never desert it! This oath applies to the whole family, but also to each member of the family. Let us go out with this attitude into the dark future. We do so with the motto, “With hope and joy, confident in the victory, we go with Mary into the new era!”

I firmly believe that no one will be lost who remains faithful to the covenant of love!
(Kentenich Reader Vol.1: Essen Talk, P283–286)

May we continue to strive to live faithfully our Covenant of Love, filled with hope and secure in the certainty that Our Blessed Mother will always remain with us, supporting us in all we do.

Shirley Hall



2 Advent Afternoon for Girls WA

Inspired by the Jubilee Year of Hope, the theme for the Advent afternoon for girls, aged 8–11 was “Hope in my Heart.” During the morning, the junior leaders and young women, learnt about the jubilee year theme and logo, as well as the Christian virtue of hope. They also prepared the various activities for the afternoon.

From 1.30–4.30pm, the twelve participants enjoyed ice breakers, learning about Jesus and Mary as their light and hope, as well as being together on a journey as pilgrims of hope.

During an Advent prayer session, handmade Advent candles were exchanged with the intention to pray for another girl until Christmas. Decorated ‘hope’ tea lights and heart ornaments could be taken home afterwards. The Junior leaders were assisted by adult helpers and together they led fun games, skits, a then a final prayer in the Shrine before everyone shared a delicious afternoon tea.

Many thanks to the young women leaders and mums who helped on the day.



3 New Year's Retreat for Women's Faith Club, Perth

After the experience of last year, our young women in the Women's Faith Club were keen to organise a get-away retreat for members and friends. We were blessed to be able to use a house in Ledge Point, about one hour North of the City centre which proved ideal for our group.

Our theme was: "Bringing Hope, that Does not Disappoint". During our journeys both to and from our retreat venue, we visited jubilee sites of the Archdiocese of Perth.

On the first evening, we stopped and prayed the Stations of the Cross in Perth's newest St John Paul II church in Banksia Grove and received a blessing by Fr Philip.

During the introduction to the retreat and the morning sessions we read about the jubilee year, the theme of conversion and striving for holiness which is at the heart of the jubilee indulgences. We also spoke about how we can imitate Mary as her living crowns.



During the afternoons and in the evenings, we took a rosary walk, and had discussion groups in the beautiful surroundings. We were also able to relax and go for a swim as well as decorate ornamental frames for MTA pictures.

We joined the local Catholics for the vigil Mass at the Yanchep Beach Primary School, and on the Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we attended Mass at Lancelin.



We were delighted that Fr Thomas Zureich, the local priest, was able to join us after the Mass for a time with the Eucharistic Lord for a time of adoration and the sacrament of penance in our chapel area of the house.

During the final evening, each participant wrote a prayer about how they want to be a living crown of Mary and in return received a replica crown.

One beautiful element of the retreat was that each one took a turn in the preparation of the meals. This created a true atmosphere of serving others and doing the ordinary things extraordinary well (and deliciously).

On the final day, after cleaning and leaving our accommodation we went to the midday Mass at St Patrick's Basilica, Fremantle. Afterwards we joined the Carmelite sisters for their midday prayer and had lunch in the convent visitor area.

It was very special to find the jubilee year door open at St Mary's Cathedral and we were able to conclude our jubilee churches pilgrimages. Upon returning to our Schoenstatt Shrine, we offered sacrifices for the jubilee, as well as entrusting the intentions we collected during the retreat to our Blessed Mother.



*Bringing Hope,
that Does not Disappoint*



4 Girls Faith Club & Mums Family holiday activity at Matilda Bay

Our Girls Faith Club, as well as the Mother-Daughter group together with their families, gathered for a holiday activity at the Swan River on Thursday 16th January 2025 for an evening of Painting & BBQ at Matilda Bay. Even though it was one of the first hot days this year, it didn't hinder our program which worked out well for everyone attending.

We started at 4.30pm, and those coming early were treated to a dolphin viewing. After some time getting to know each other through an ice breaker, the children could go for a swim and/or play games.

Following shortly after, Laura's uncle Ian, a local artist, gave painting instructions which were heartfelt and easy to follow, referencing the Scriptures and attuning us to the beauty of God's creation. Everyone looked for what they wanted to paint, and for a good spot to do it. It taught us to focus on our beautiful surroundings and limit ourselves to a few objects for the painting to make an impact.

The work of both younger and older artists was admired later when we started the next part of the program. We each wrote our offerings and intentions for the jubilee year and placed them onto a tree. We then reflected on Scripture and the beauty of God's creation, as well as listening to reflections about how we can be signs of hope in this world.

In a time of quiet reflection, each one decided on one point they wanted to begin striving for and then we prayed the jubilee year prayer. Afterwards we had our BBQ dinner, followed by another swim and being able to watch the beautiful sky at dusk.





5 Theology of the Body Immersion Course

From 19 – 24 January, the Theology of the Body Institute delivered an immersion course on the writings of St John Paul II on the topic of Gender, Marriage and Family at the Benedict XVI Retreat Centre in Sydney. Sr M. Rebecca, Sr M. Rita and I were very blessed to attend the course, together with around 65 other participants, most of whom were young adults coming from various states across Australia. Presented by Bill Donaghy who came out from the United States to deliver the course, participants were led through four documents written by St John Paul II during his pontificate: *Familiaris Consortio* (The Fellowship of the Family, 1981), *Mulieris Dignitatem* (The Dignity of a Woman, 1988), Letter to Families (1994), and Letter to Women (1995).

On many occasions throughout the sessions, Bill used art and media to draw out the point of discussion. Various images, songs and short videos were applied to keep participants engaged, often drawing upon the beauty of God’s creation to illustrate how men and women have been made in the image and likeness of God. In addition to the sessions themselves, which altogether comprised of around 27 hours of learning, the program included sufficient opportunity for spiritual nourishment provided by way of daily Holy Mass, rosary, adoration and occasions for the sacrament of reconciliation.



We all agreed that these opportunities of prayer connected us deeper with God, allowed us to better digest our daily learning, and created for a retreat-like atmosphere rather than an ordinary course.

What’s more were the ample opportunities participants received to interact with each other over meal and recreation times, which often led to wholesome discussions and, by the end, turned us all into a community of people reenergised and ready to take our learning back into our various ministries and daily lives.

Sr M. Olivia



6 Write your name on the Bellavista Shrine

Schoenstatt International began 2025 from the Bellavista Shrine (the Cenacle Shrine), the Shrine of the 31st of May, in uniting our Schoenstatt Family in a new crusade. It is a campaign called, 'Give Mary a roof tile,' a new current that brings us closer to the place of grace and to give new life to this historic Shrine.

The challenge is for each and every one of us, whether individually, as a group, as a family, among friends, to contribute to the acquisition of the 3,360 tiles that will allow us to restore the roof and enclosure of the Shrine after the terrible damage caused by the storm on August 2nd, 2024.

After the donation, the person's name will be inscribed on the respective tile for posterity as a spiritual legacy and contribution to the Capital of Grace.

How to donate?

You can donate one or more tiles, alone or in a group, for a value of 15 EUR per tile. The tiles will be inscribed with the contributor's name. The personalized tiles will be installed on the new roof, and the donor will receive a certificate of this contribution.

Those interested in donating can do so below, where the details of the donation and the names to be inscribed on the tiles can be provided.

In divine confidence

During the first weeks of January and after months of intense work and planning, renovation work began on the Cenacle Shrine in the hope that many of us will collaborate in person or from a distance in the restoration and the projection of this holy place into the future, considering the requirements of a 21st-century Shrine, such as sustainability.



As we have done many times before, we believe that God and the Blessed Mother will show us the way, with the certainty that this pastoral place should be available as soon as possible for pilgrimage by the local, national, and international community because of its spiritual and historical value.

On this occasion, we want to tell the Blessed Mother to inscribe our names in her heart again and that, in covenant, we will take charge of reopening the Shrine.

If you wish to donate one or more tiles from countries other than Chile: [click here](#)



7 Prayers for the Cause for Beatification of the Servant of God João Luiz Pozzobon

Fr. Alexandre Awi Mello, President of Schoenstatt's General Presidium has written to share with the International Schoenstatt Family, the great joy of some special news.

The Dicastery for the Causes of Saints has announced that the Cause for Beatification of the Servant of God João Luiz Pozzobon has been placed on the agenda to be discussed by Consulting Theologians on March 4, 2025.

This is standard procedure for a canonization process.

Simply put, the theologians will analyse the life, heroic quality of the virtues, and reputation for holiness of the candidate.

Fr. Mello said that we should give praise to God's Divine Providence for this meaningful step that strengthens our hope during this Jubilee year.

Faced with this decision, we are called to reinvigorate our prayers and contributions to the Capital of Grace so that the Lord may enlighten the theologians tasked with this analysis.

Embracing the suggestion of the Archbishop of Santa Maria, Msgr. Leomar Brustolin, Fr. Mello is inviting us all to include a special request for the beatification of Deacon João Pozzobon in our intentions during this time, building a worldwide network of prayer and communion, in the spirit of the Holy Year.

May this step bring us even closer to Deacon João Pozzobon and renew within us that same missionary spirit that inspired him to heroically live out his vocation as a baptized Christian, in the charism of our Founder, whose "little student" he always aimed to be.

Fr. Mello concluded his letter of invitation by inviting our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and



Victress of Schoenstatt, to intercede from her shrines so that the Church receives the grace of the official recognition of Deacon Pozzobon who dedicated his life's work to evangelizing and building a Covenant culture.

In particular we invite our Schoenstatt Family to join in this "worldwide network of prayer and communion" and encourage our Pilgrim Mother Coordinators to invite the members of their Pilgrim Mother Circles to also join in this prayer.



8 Girls’ Summer Camp, Mount Schoenstatt

The Girls Summer Camp held at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa, was again this year a highlight for many girls during the Christmas school holidays. Many girls reunited with old friends while others were attending for the very first time. But everyone joyfully left feeling very pleased to have participated in the camp.

There were two camps held this year to cater for the different age groups, and both were in nearly full capacity attendance. The first camp which ran from Saturday 11th till Monday 13th January was organised for girls from 14 years old and upwards. The next camp held from Tuesday 14th till Thursday 16th was for girls 10–13 years of age. There were a number of young women who volunteered their time to be leaders as well as four enthusiastic junior leaders who provided support for the second camp.

Both camps took on the theme of what it means to be an apostle of Mary, and each of the input sessions enfolded a section of the Marian Apostle logo. There was a good mix of times for singing, prayer, input and games as well as a good balance of indoor and outdoor activities which included a rosary bushwalk and walks to the Shrine.

The Shrine had a special place during these camps – not only as it is our Schoenstatt home but also as it has been elected to be a place of pilgrimage in the Parramatta Diocese where the Jubilee Indulgences for the Holy Year can be obtained.



Thanks to Fr Sheldon and Fr Pawel each group had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and could celebrate a Mass together in the Shrine. It was beautiful to witness three girls sealing the Marian Apostle Consecration, which is the Covenant of Love (the core of our Schoenstatt spirituality) for the girls of this age group.

Another element of the schedule which was very well received was the “Ask me Anything” sessions. The girls were invited to write down any questions that they had, and it was truly amazing to see the depth of the conversations that took place during this time. The fun night under the title of “Schoenstatt’s Got Talent” allowed the girls to really express themselves and their hidden talents. This night particularly was overflowing with plenty of fun and laughter.

Here are some of the girl’s responses when asked regarding their highlights for the camp:

“I liked walking to the Shrine and walking back in the dark with our torches.”

“My favourite thing was singing our camp theme song in the Shrine.”

“I really enjoyed the bedtime story with Thorie.”
“My favourite part of the camp was the bushwalk rosary.”

The junior leaders and some young women stayed on an extra day after the final camp had finished. This was a time for prayer, bonding and reflection. This day was very beautiful and relaxing where the camps could be reviewed but also the growth of each individual as a leader was discovered.

A special moment of the day was saying a thanksgiving rosary overlooking the Nepean River at the Rocks lookout.

The “Girls’ Summer Camp” is held every year in January at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. “Days Out at the Shrine” are held for girls during the school holidays throughout the year for the different age groups. Visit the Schoenstatt website or Facebook page for more information.

Sr. M. Rita



9 Sinulog – Mount Richon WA

Sunday 19th January united us in a special way with the Philippines, especially Cebu where our Sisters are ministering and where, on the third Sunday of January annually, the festival of Santo Nino – the Sinulog – is celebrated.

You may be asking what the Sinulog is and why were we celebrating. The Sinulog Festival is a cultural celebration in the Philippines that honours Santo Niño, the infant Jesus.

The Sinulog is observed as a celebration of the Filipino people's embrace of Christianity, marking a significant moment in the country's religious and cultural history, particularly in Cebu. The festival features dancing, music, and colourful costumes, with the many participants carrying a little statue of Santo Niño

At Mount Richon, in spite of a 40 plus degree temperature, the many Filipinos in Perth filed into Emilie House, placed their Santo Niños on the specially prepared Altar and enjoyed hearing over and over again the History of Santo Niño. This history can be traced back to 1521, when the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan arrived in Cebu. It was during this time that Queen Juana, wife of a local chieftain, Rajah Humabon, was said to have received the iconic image of the Santo Niño (Child Jesus) as a gift from Magellan.

For our celebration, many women came in their traditional costumes and the silken shirts of the men added to the solemnity.

Even angels made it possible to show their presence and to make us aware of the much-loved Child Jesus, to whom everyone uses the greeting "Pit Senyor" during this time of Festival. "Pit Senyor" is a Cebuano phrase that means "a plea to the Señor Santo Niño".



The Holy Mass, readings, songs and homily by Father Benny, the spiritual offerings together with being so squashed in Emilie House because of the many participants, made us feel like we were in the Philippines. The weather did its best to prove this.

After holy Mass we went in procession to the Shrine where everyone was able to give Our Lady a Rose and the children prayed the Consecration Prayer.

At long last, we could start with the Sinulog. Even the sound system was worthy of our Filipino heritage: it came through loud and clear.

Back at Emilie House a monstrous supper was being served and enjoyed by all. So much care had been given to presenting traditional delicacies that not much was left at the end.

The organiser of the Festival, Edna from the Kelmscott Parish, promised in the future to get a cover for the Shrine to make it possible to have our Sinulog dancing in a more elaborate way so we will not have to dance in the heat of the day.

We give thanks for this opportunity to share in the riches of the cultures of those who have come from overseas and have made Australia their home.

Sr. M Lisette



10. 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

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| 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

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| Video for February | The Consecration Prayer https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia |
| Video for January | Meaning and Purpose of the Jubilee Year 2025 https://youtu.be/fkbxsbnZKRE |
| Video for December | They also serve who only stand and wait https://youtu.be/dHsqSvvRoKQ?si=CrRPtvEGnsaaXtJ4 |
| Video for November | Schoenstatt – How is it Synodal? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTC2UMassbA |
| Video for October | The Importance of the Capital of Grace https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ut-le-CQuDs |

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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