



March 18 2025 | Volume 6, Number 3

1. Covenant Day Message

United in the Covenant - Pilgrims of Hope

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Wishing you many blessings for this Covenant Day—the 18th March. We are now in the season of Lent, a time for preparing for the great celebration of Easter. During Lent we are asked to give special attention to our prayer life, fasting and good deeds and in this Jubilee Year, to do so in a spirit of hope and joy.

As tomorrow will be the Feast of St. Joseph, I would like to share with you an extract from a sermon given by Fr. Kentenich during a Mass at Mt. Schoenstatt, Germany in honour of St. Joseph on 18th March, 1967.

Fr. Kentenich began by considering what our most fundamental attitude is to God the Father. What does this fundamental attitude look like and how St. Joseph can be an example for us also as a pilgrim of hope.

“To summarize what Sacred Scripture has to say [about St. Joseph] is to admit that little is said in terms of words. We find very little about St. Joseph. In both the Bible and in our souls, he stands before us as the man of action. He doesn't talk much—he acts! And if we would want to put his basic attitude in a nutshell, we would probably have to say that his entire life embodies the petition found in the Our Father, ‘Our Father, ... thy Kingdom come,’ the Kingdom of the Father! ‘Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!’ Your will, the will of the Father!

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Not my will, not the will of the tyrants and dictators, no, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. A brilliant Frenchman once ventured the opinion that the words 'Thy will be done' go beyond all others.

And if we would now ask why they go beyond all others, I think we would have to admit from our own experience: No words are greater in the mouth and heart of a Christian, and no words are greater in the ear of the eternal Father-God. (....)

Turn now to Sacred Scripture. There you will find a few practical hints as to the particulars.... We hear about St. Joseph's great dilemma. ... a single word from heaven is enough to suddenly resolve the difficulty. Dispelled were all his questions about the honour of his bride, all the doubts he struggled with in his heart. The message from above: 'Do not fear to take Mary, your wife, to yourself' (Mt 1,20). What followed? He followed! In other words:

'Yes, Father, yes, your will be ever done, whether joy or pain or sorrow from it come.'

Your will, your fatherly will, should always be done! In the great difficulties of the Holy Family, Joseph always relied on God's word from above: 'Get up, take the Child and his mother, and go to Egypt!' (Mt 2,13).

Here we can sense how clear and yet how difficult it was to carry out this directive. What followed? [He followed! —] 'He got up...' (Mt 2,14). Do you grasp the meaning of this? 'God's will, be still!' 'Nothing is mere coincidence; everything comes from God's providence!'

And when those who wished to kill Our Lord had died, Joseph was told to return to the land of Israel which he had left behind (cf. Mt 2,19-21). What followed? He followed!

What is the meaning of this fundamental attitude of conformity to the will of God as seen in the life of St. Joseph? This is the same as asking what the meaning of the yes is, the joyful, grateful, happy yes to all the things God the eternal Father does and permits in our lives, and to the ways he expresses his wish and will.

'Nothing is mere coincidence; everything comes from God's providence!'

That is our starting point for peering more deeply into the realm of the supernatural life, into the order of salvation. (....)"

(Talk on Mt. Schoenstatt, March 18, 1967 as translated in Schoenstatt's Instrument Spirituality, Chapter 9).

Wishing you many blessings and graces from the Shrine during this Lenten season.

May Our Blessed Mother be with us so that we may prepare worthily for the great blessings of Easter, through our striving in our prayer life, our fasting and our good deeds.

United in our covenant – as Pilgrims of Hope

Shirley Hall



2. March 19 - Name Day of Father Joseph Kentenich

March 19th is also the day on which we remember the name day of our father and founder – Father Joseph Kentenich.

Most of us know something of the life of our father and founder, but it is hoped that these small snippets from his life might help us to gain a better understanding of the person of father through the way he interacted with people during his lifetime.

SNIPPETS FROM THE LIFE OF FATHER KENTENICH

1. HIS EARLY YEARS

The Church Tower Caper



One of the things that Joseph was part of was a caper at the local church: Joseph, Peter (his cousin), and the son of the sacristan decided it would make a fine adventure to climb up through the onion shaped church tower of St. Cunibert's Church. They noticed that there was a little door on top of the church that would let them climb out on the copper roof. In the midst of their prank,

the parish priest spotted the three daredevils. He quietly locked the door behind them and went to get the sacristan! While he was gone, the three boys realized that they had been trapped and were in trouble, so they looked for another way down– and quickly! They found a place where they could slip into the church through an opening in the ceiling near the altar. From there they could jump and slide down the pillars to safety. By the time the pastor returned with the sacristan, the boys had made their escape, and the good priest was left to wonder how they had gotten away.

Priest- or Engineer?

From early on, Joseph showed an interest in becoming a priest. But as a boy he liked to take things apart and reassemble them. One time, absorbed in such a mechanical task, he told his cousin Mathias Peters that he would like to be an engineer. While this did not turn out to be his vocation, he always maintained a great respect for laymen in all lines of work, including those (like Gilbert Schimmel of Milwaukee) who were mechanically inclined. (From: Brushstrokes of a Father, Vol. 1, Fr. Jonathan Niehaus)

2. SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR IN SCHOENSTATT

Like a Mother

The following example, told many years later by one of the boys who later became a priest, shows something of his (Father Kentenich's) "motherly" touch: A small shy boy stood in the hallway with bandaged hands. He had a kind of eczema. Because of this his classmates avoided him. It was understandable that he was especially homesick for his mother. Father observed the little guy whom he had not yet met, stopped and asked



what was on his hands. The boy answered and let Father unbandage and look at his hands. At this very moment the homesickness vanished from the boy's soul. The other boys even envied his hands. Until today the mature priest gladly and gratefully looks back on the fatherly-motherly concern shown him at that time.

The Blanket

During the same years, Fr. Kentenich often had to turn his fatherly attention to the physical needs of the boys in the seminary. The deprivation was often extreme.

A relatively minor hardship- at first - was having to leave their well-heated school on the hill (it became a military hospital) and move into the "Old House" across from the Shrine. This old building was not well insulated against the cold, and as coal began to be rationed, the winters became a time of much suffering from cold. One source tells us: Things got especially harsh in the bitter winter of 1916-17- the winter when the Rhine froze over.

Boarding schools like the one in Schoenstatt were especially hard hit. Shortages of fuel and clothing added to the misery. During this time the spiritual director was truly a mother to his boys. They sought refuge in his room, and he let them warm themselves.

They could weep over the things that hurt them, and angrily denounce the injustices, to which he listened in silence. It often happened that he asked who was suffering most from hunger (if the gauntness of the face did not give it away from the start).

He would make sure this boy received an extra slice of bread with something on it, saved from his own meagre rations. In this horribly cold winter, he learned that one boy was especially suffering from the bitter cold. Through one of the sodality leaders he sent him his own blanket, with the request that he return it in the spring.

(From: Brushstrokes of a Father, Vol. 2, Fr. Jonathan Niehaus)



3. DACHAU

He Listened to Me

Fr. Heinz Dresbach who was in Dachau with Father Kentenich relates:

I had already met Fr. Kentenich before I came to Dachau. I took part in one of his retreats for priests in 1940.

When Father came to Dachau, he was in the admissions block for seven months. In October 1942 he finally came to us in Block 26, the German priests' block. I tried to meet with him. The easiest way to do this was to ask to go to confession with him.

I will never forget the special way he listened to me - it was the first time that I came just a little closer in personal contact with anyone. It was an unforgettable event and experience for me.

I asked myself for a long time, "Why is this so different from anything else I've experienced?" The way he listened almost caught me off guard inside. I tried to find ways to formulate it for

myself, so that I could get a better grip on it. For instance, I said to myself that I have never had such a “listening session” in my life, where someone listened with such interest that he practically took in everything I said, causing me to reveal still more.....

Whenever he suggested something, it was always with a great respect for my freedom. It might be a good thing if you would especially work on this in the coming time.

This could help you in this or that way, could have this or that advantage, etc. He would nudge me a little in a certain direction. And the way he spoke and worded things and how he stressed things, was so positive that one never had the impression of being criticized on even the smallest point. Quite the opposite. His interest was palpable.

(From: Brushstrokes of a Father, Vol.3)

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(From: Brushstrokes of a Father, Vol.3)

4. MILWAUKEE

Father and the Soup

The Schimmels had a cabin on a beautiful lake in central Wisconsin. One time they were able to invite Fr. Kentenich to visit this special place in their lives. Another priest was along to visit the



Schimmels as well. Mrs. Schimmel remembered a little episode that meant a great deal to her. She had made a soup for everyone to eat and served it in the cabin. But she did not feel worthy to eat with such exalted guests, so she served the priests and men and then went to the kitchen to eat by herself.

At this Fr. Kentenich told Gilbert he should get his wife; she should eat with the guests, too. But she didn't want too. Finally, Father had Gilbert relay the message: “Father is not going to start eating until you come out and join us.” So, she came out and joined the group. She greatly appreciated this sign of respect from Father.

Receiving with one hand, giving with the other Story from Joanna Schimmel)

There was Father's great love for giving that not only impressed us but deeply touched us. On one occasion I presented a gift to him. He accepted it so graciously with one hand. Then he reached over and gave it to another person who was in the room.

At first this tendency to give was hard to understand, but gradually I comprehended. It made me happy to know that I gave him the opportunity to be able to give a gift to someone else. This is what really made him happy. Another idea that came to my mind was: “Father has nothing of his own, and yet his hands are always filled so that he can give to others.”

A little incident happened in regard to a birthday cake that one of my daughters made for him. It really was a very pretty cake because she had decorated it so nicely. We were very proud to give something so nice to him. That same evening one of the other couples also met with him. The lady called and said, “We went to visit Father and what do you think we got?”

“Could it be a cake?” I asked, “Oh no!” she said.

This told the entire story. He received from one and gave to the other.

(From: “Brushstrokes of a Father”. Vol.5)

3 Women's Lenten Retreat on Prayer

In preparation for the liturgical season of Lent, a women's retreat was held at the Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, at Mulgoa, New South Wales.

The theme of "Prayer" was aptly chosen, as it is one of the 3 pillars to focus on during Lent. The other 2 pillars are fasting and alms giving. About 40 women from in and around Sydney attended the retreat that was held from the 21st to the 23rd of March.

The retreat was conducted by Sr. M. Elizabeth, along with women from the Single Women's Group and Mothers' Groups. Sr. Olivia graced us with her presence and insight at different times through the retreat.

Some of the women attending have had association with the Schoenstatt Movement for several decades and some were very new to the Schoenstatt spirituality. This allowed for interest and curiosity from some and beautiful sharing and welcoming from the others.



The Introduction was given by Sr. M. Elizabeth who gently guided the participants towards examining and building on their individual "Biography of Prayer". Focus was drawn to the three attitudes that needed to be reflected on in prayer- persistence, patience and humility. Prayer and the importance of prayer was well facilitated throughout the retreat, through talks, panel discussions, community morning and night prayers, hymns, opportunity for confession,

personal prayer, Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Adoration and the recitation of the Holy Rosary. The women who were new to the Schoenstatt spirituality learned some beautiful Schoenstatt Hymns, prayed the Schoenstatt prayers, learned about the Mother Thrice Admirable, about Father Kentenich and about the Covenant of Love.



Shirley Hall gave a talk titled "What is Prayer?" Her talk reflected what was expressed by Pope Francis in his General Audience on the 20th of May, 2020. The message was especially relevant in this Jubilee Year of Hope. "I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. There is hope, but I open the door with my prayer."



Father Pawel, OP, who ministers to the Schoenstatt Family at Mulgoa spoke on the inspiring topic, "The Prayer of Jesus". Explaining how and what Jesus prayed, to his Father, as His Son, True God and True Man in the Holy Spirit, we were reminded of the need to pray to the Father, through Jesus, in the Holy Spirit. When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are encouraged to pause for a moment to be in the presence of the Triune God whom we have invoked. Speaking on what, when and where to pray, Father Pawel encouraged the participants to pray for God's will always and everywhere.



A panel sharing by Angela, Michelle, Carmel, Edna and Sister M. Elizabeth left the participants with valuable insights on morning prayer, meditation, prayers of petition, adoration and evening prayer.



Ann Panitz spoke on the Schoenstatt Daily Consecration Prayer, and this was a very valuable and eye-opening session to participants who are new to Schoenstatt. We were encouraged to offer ourselves and our “Yes” to God along with our Blessed Mother, remembering that we are treasure bearers and a reflection of God’s being, just as our Blessed Mother was.

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Agnes Aldana ran a session titled, “Prayer in Community”. The importance and value of community prayer was summed up beautifully, with a reminder that “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Sr. M. Elizabeth concluded the retreat with an explanation of the Covenant of Love and gave guidance for times when we struggle to pray. The Covenant of Love with Mother Mary is an extension and an opportunity to live out our baptismal covenant with the Holy Trinity, just as our Blessed Mother did.

The retreat participants returned home spiritually renewed, and, with God's blessing, the retreat will contribute to the Schoenstatt Family's growth in both spirit and numbers.

Maria Corera



4. Tributes to Anton Jansz.

(8 April 1942 – 19 February 2025)

The following are two tributes given at the rosary vigil of Anton's funeral. The first is from Karin Southgate, the president of the Victorian Schoenstatt Family and the second is from Sr. M Elizabeth who providentially was in Melbourne at the time of the funeral.

Karin shared:

We have joined together to farewell and honour Anton Jansz, who is husband, father, grandfather, friend, and leader in our Schoenstatt movement.

I have known Anton and Jean for the last 30 years or thereabouts, and in all this time, have known Anton to be a friend of absolute loyalty: Loyalty to Our Blessed Mother of Schoenstatt and the Schoenstatt movement. Anton, together with Jean, have given generously of their time and efforts in preserving the Schoenstatt movement in Melbourne.

Anton did an amazing job, particularly in consulting with, and advocating on our behalf with the Pallottine Community at Kew, to ensure that we could have a place there to honour our Lady in the Kew Shrine. Anton was instrumental in negotiating to have the signage with the Schoenstatt name raised at the Pallotti Centre at Kew. Anton also initiated the minor renovations of the Kew Shrine, such as having the floor tiled and the picture of Our Lady restored.

However, my greatest memory of Anton was when he attended the bedside of my father, Vince Dawson, when he promised in 1999, when my father had taken ill, to continue working for the Schoenstatt movement, to carry on the work that Dad had started. He kept true to his promise. In fact, even in his time of illness and frailty, he attended our Schoenstatt Christmas celebration in December 2024, just gone.

Over the years, Anton worked diligently to reach out to people, Pilgrim Mother Coordinators far and near. He would travel distances as part of his job,



but during these travels he would not fail to proclaim Schoenstatt and the Blessed Mother, even introducing the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate and Shrine in a place like Lindenow, where he encouraged a lady to become a Pilgrim Mother coordinator. Many would not have heard of Lindenow. It is town near Bairnsdale in country Victoria. On his many travels for work, Anton would approach various wineries and obtain donations of bottles of wine for our annual dinner dance. At our many dinner dances Anton would be the friendly face at the entrance, welcoming patrons.

For several years our Victorian Schoenstatt movement would travel twice a year to Mulgoa, Sydney to our National Shrine. This would be in May and October. Anton was there. In May it would be on a coach together and in October, we would drive to Mulgoa, where on many occasions, Anton would lead the way in his car and me following in mine. They were wonderful spiritual, but also fun times. Throughout this time Anton continued to be an important leader, together with a core group of faithful members, in our Schoenstatt community. We thank Anton for his generosity in giving of himself, and for the significant role he played in forming and maintaining the Schoenstatt community of Victoria. Anton will be greatly missed and may his dear soul Rest in Peace.

Sr. Elizabeth shared:

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Anton. He has been a very loyal friend and member of Schoenstatt over many years.

Thirty-five years ago, I met Anton for the first time. He and Jean, on the recommendation of friends in Sydney, requested a Pilgrim Mother Shrine for Melbourne. As this was the first Shrine to be sent out from the Shrine in Mulgoa to Melbourne, I was at first a little hesitant, wondering how it would be possible to keep up the contact and the formation of the people whom Our Lady would be visiting through the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate each month. However, the Blessed Mother urged me to trust, and Jean and Anton took the first Pilgrim Mother Shrine to Melbourne. This was in 1990.

Four years later, in 1994, it was possible to contact Jean and Anton again. In the following year, 1995, Anton began to enthusiastically organise meetings with those in the various Pilgrim Mother circles who received the Pilgrim Mother Shrine of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt. These meetings offered formation for members of the PMA Circles with the support of the Schoenstatt Sisters and Fathers who had begun making regular visits to Melbourne. I was able to meet Anton and Jean in their home on several occasions and many times enjoyed their generous hospitality.

In 1999, when we invited the Blessed Mother to once more take possession of the Schoenstatt Shrine in Kew on 15th August, it was Anton and Jean who entered into the Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother on this significant day in the history of Schoenstatt in Melbourne. Just a month earlier I was privileged to be the witness when Anton promised Vince Dawson, the then leader of the Schoenstatt Family in Melbourne who had only weeks to live, to take care of Schoenstatt in Melbourne. This promise Anton has faithfully kept despite some times of struggle. With the help of the Blessed Mother, Anton and Jean weathered all “storms” and found their way into a much deeper relationship with each other and with God and the Blessed Mother. Anton loved Jean and their children. This was obvious in the way that he

spoke of Jean as “his angel” and how he was proud of all his children.

In 2014 Anton spearheaded the renovation of the Shrine in Kew as a gift for the Blessed Mother in the centennial year of Schoenstatt. No task was too great for him and together with the helpers he gathered around him, the Shrine had a face-lift. He also worked hard with Fr. Evans, a Schoenstatt Father from Melbourne, and other loyal helpers, to bring into existence the Incorporated Body of the Victorian Schoenstatt Family.

There are so many other contributions Anton made in building up the Schoenstatt Family in Melbourne – those who live in Melbourne are better suited to recount the loyalty with which he carried out anything he saw as being necessary for the growth of Schoenstatt. One invaluable service to Schoenstatt in Melbourne was his loyal contact with the Pallottine Fathers and Community in Kew. The friendship he fostered there helped us to find our home at the Shrine in Kew. There is so much for which we give thanks today, but we especially thank God for the gift of Anton, for his friendship and loyalty.

It is only left to us now to express our gratitude to Anton by including him in our prayers and trusting in the merciful Love of the Father. May he rest in peace and may Jean, their children and grandchildren find peace in the knowledge of the wonderful contribution he has made to Schoenstatt in Melbourne.



The Funeral

The Funeral, held on Thursday, 27th February was a wonderful send off for Anton, a truly prayerful celebration. It seemed that Anton brought the Schoenstatt Family in Melbourne together.

At the beginning of the celebration Jean placed on a remembrance table the first Pilgrim Mother sent to Melbourne along with other mementos of Anton: a house representing his love of real estate; gardening scissors representing his passion for gardening and a plane, a symbol of his love for travelling and exploring this beautiful world. Two of Anton's grandchildren played beautiful music at Communion, one playing the clarinet (*My heart will go on*) and the other played the Ave Maria with the viola. All twelve grandchildren gave tribute to their grandfather whom they obviously loved dearly.



*husband, father,
grandfather, friend, and
leader in our Schoenstatt
movement*



5. Formation Days in Melbourne – Pilgrims of Hope

Over the weekend 1–2 March, two formation days were held in Melbourne. For the first time these were offered at different locations to better cater for the members of our Schoenstatt Family. Melbourne is a big city, and it was truly a help that one day was held in the West of Melbourne where 17 members attended and one in the East where 12 members were able to attend.

The theme for the days was “Pilgrims of Hope”. This was very appropriate as we have just begun the Jubilee Year which Pope Francis has called a year of hope. We have been encouraged as Christians to seek a time of spiritual renewal, to recover lost hope, to renew the hope that is in our hearts and to sow seeds of hope in today’s often challenging world. These intentions of the Holy Father fit very well to Lent and so the days explored ways in which we can use the time of Lent in this Jubilee Year as a time of renewal, a time to radiate to others the message of hope and a time to sow seeds of hope in our everyday lives: in our families, workplaces, neighbourhood, social activities and so on.



We shared with each other what ‘hope’ means to us and besides the many thoughts about hope, we confirmed that the deepest reason for our hope lies in the mystery of Redemption, the death and resurrection of Jesus which we will celebrate again at the end of Lent: Easter with its tremendous message of HOPE.

Some quotes from Pope Francis helped us connect our pilgrimage of hope with the meaning of Lent, when we are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Pope Francis tells us:

“Prayer is the first strength of hope. You pray and hope grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. There is hope but I open the door with my prayer”

Another quote from Pope Francis is worth keeping in mind:

“Hope is not an empty word or a vague desire of ours that things may turn out for the best. Hope is a certainty because it is founded on God’s fidelity to His promises. The Christian cannot be satisfied with having hope, he or she must also radiate hope, be a Sower of hope. It is the most beautiful gift the Church can give to all of humanity, especially in times in which everything seems to be dragging down the sails.”

On both days we were also able to share experiences with the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

We also deepened our understanding of Schoenstatt as an international movement through the video “Seed of a New World” which depicts, from various aspects, the celebration of the centenary of Schoenstatt.

The longing for a new Shrine in Melbourne has not ceased even though we are grateful for the home we have found for our Blessed Mother in St. Luke’s Church in Wantirna. Regular prayers for this intention – twice a month – have begun and this time of prayer is also enriched with a time of formation on various themes connected with our Schoenstatt spirituality.

Our MTA is surely happy with this initiative. Let us support our Melbourne Family with our prayers!



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/>

➤ Events

- 24 Hours for the Lord – Schoenstatt Shrine Mulgoa 6pm 28 March – 6pm 29 March
- Covenant Sundays – Third Sunday of each month
 - 11am Mulgoa, NSW; 3pm Wantirna, VIC; 3pm Mount Richon, WA
- Men at the Shrine – Second Wednesday each month 8–9pm Shrine, Mulgoa
- Shrine Time – for young adults – Fourth Sunday each month 7–8pm Shrine, Mulgoa

➤ 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

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| Video for March 2025 | Mary's Fiat in everyday life
https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia |
| Video for February 2025 | The Consecration Prayer gives us hope anew each day,
how our Covenant of Love invites us to hope
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGJt4KJMYXU&t=11s |
| Video for January 2025 | Meaning and Purpose of the Jubilee Year 2025
https://youtu.be/fkbxsbnZKRE |
| Video for December 2024 | They also serve who only stand and wait
https://youtu.be/dHsqSvvRoKQ?si=CrRPtvEGnsaaXtJ4 |
| Video for November 2024 | Schoenstatt – How is it Synodal?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTC2UMassbA. |

➤ 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 movtoffice@schoenstatt.org.au before the beginning of each month

ISSN 2652-6875