



## 1. Covenant Day Message

*United in the Covenant - Pilgrims of Hope*

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings for this Covenant Day – the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. The focus of our striving this year reflects our unity in our Covenant of Love as we try to live our apostolate as Pilgrims of Hope.

With this in mind, I would like to share with you some information about how our Schoenstatt consecration came to be called a “Covenant of Love” and why Father Kentenich often spoke of the importance of renewing our Covenant each month, particularly, united as a family.

### **Why is the Schoenstatt consecration called a “Covenant of Love”?**

You may be wondering how the Schoenstatt consecration came to be called a “Covenant of Love?” It was always understood as a mutual covenant between Mary and those who consecrated themselves to her in the Shrine. Theologically, it was understood as a specific way of fulfilling the injunction of Our Lord before He died: “Woman, behold your son... [Son,] behold your Mother” (Jn 19,26f).

As a form of Marian consecration, it was in continuity with the consecration of the Marian Sodality (Schoenstatt’s first community form), and until 1944 it was simply called the “consecration” or “MTA–consecration”.

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Inquiries from the Diocese of Trier in the mid-1930s forced Schoenstatt to come to a clearer grasp of what it meant by “consecration”: it is not a *contractus bilateralis onerosus* (a litigious contract “forcing” Mary to honour our prayers and sacrifices), but rather as a *contractus bilateralis gratuitus*, namely a contract entered into by both parties (the MTA and Schoenstatt) **freely and out of love**.

In 1944, while in Dachau, Fr. Kentenich coined the precise term needed to express this – the “covenant of love”. “Covenant” was a better word than “contract” for it expresses a more generous spirit and a personal act of self-giving, and “love” made it clear that the foundation was not justice or a false self-righteousness but truly love. The term “covenant of love” was quickly adopted by Schoenstatt as the official name for its Marian consecration and it has been used as a keyword in Schoenstatt vocabulary ever since.

(200 Questions about Schoenstatt, Fr. J. Niehaus, P.47)

### **Why do we celebrate the Covenant of Love each month?**

In the time following World War II, millions of displaced people streamed from East to West, travelling through Germany on the way. Father Josef Barton, himself a refugee, was given the task of caring for refugees in the so-called “refugee apostolate”.

In 1947 he held the first retreat course for refugees in Schoenstatt. Many of the participants made their covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, finding in the shrine a home and new strength to bear their heavy cross. During the final discussion, they expressed the need to foster their contact with Schoenstatt. Father Josef Fischer, Movement Leader at that time, suggested making the 18th of every month a “Covenant Day” with a renewal of the covenant of love of 18<sup>th</sup> October 1914. The idea also came up of having a “Covenant Book” in the shrine with the names of all who had made the covenant with the Mother Thrice Admirable.

This idea was passed on to Fr Kentenich, who immediately gave his agreement in writing. On the

next occasion, 18 July 1947, the first “Covenant Mass” was celebrated in the original shrine, and the first pages of the Covenant Book lay on the altar.

Fr Kentenich was in South America at the time and passed on the idea. The individual Schoenstatt Centres took up the idea enthusiastically and the monthly renewal of the covenant became a popular feature. .... As time went by, the Covenant Day united the worldwide Schoenstatt Family ever more strongly.



Here in Australia, we celebrate the Covenant of Love on what we call “Covenant Sunday”, that is, the third Sunday of each month. Regardless of when we celebrate our Covenant of Love as a Schoenstatt Family, whether it be on the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month, or on the Covenant Sunday, the words of Father Kentenich apply equally about the reason why we should celebrate our Covenant of Love together each month as a Schoenstatt Family.

Father Kentenich’s view of the Covenant celebrations was:

“We want to bring our sacrifices to the shrine on the 18th of every month. Why should we do this? Our Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen needs our contributions to her capital of grace. She wants what our Saviour wants. He did not want to die only for me, for only one person; he wanted everyone to be saved. Our Lady needs our prayers and sacrifices to accomplish this.”

(Monday Evening Talks, Vol 1, 20.2.1956)

What does this day remind us of? That we form a community united in love with one another and

with our Lady. What are we renewing today? We are renewing our exchange of love, hearts, and sacrifices. Not just we do this, our dear Mother Thrice Admirable also does so. She exchanges her heart, her love, and her sacrifices with us. We are renewing our exchange of hearts and love.

We on our part say 'Yes, Father; yes, Mother' to this exchange of hearts, love, and sacrifices. Let us not overlook that an exchange of sacrifices is an essential part of this.

.....Schoenstatt members all over the world renew their attitude of love and sacrifice on the 18th of every month. They bring our Lady all their sacrifices on the 18th.

We do not come empty-handed to our shrine. Nor do we leave it with empty hands. Our hands are filled with graces. Why do we bring our sacrifices to the shrine? So that they can become a means to sanctify us. We should not ask for this grace for ourselves alone, but also for others, for the whole world. 'I sanctify myself for them' (cf Jn 17,19). We bring our sacrifices and place them on the paten on the altar, so that our Lady can save and sanctify souls. We should renew this attitude every 18<sup>th</sup> for the coming month.

(Monday Evening Talks, vol 1, 18.2.1956)

For the blessing of the Shrine in Kew Father Kentenich wrote something similar:

"Everywhere people find their way to her Shrines.....They do not grow tired of offering to God's Mother the sacrifices of their serious efforts in self-education which co-operation with grace demands of them in everyday life. Large numbers of people offer these sacrifices especially on the



18th of each month. From these gatherings they return home enriched in spirit with new incentives and actual graces for the great work of their transformation into Christ." (11<sup>th</sup> May, 1952)

May we continue to celebrate our Covenant of Love on the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month (or the Covenant Sunday) and bring our contribution to the Capital of Grace, so that united in our Covenant of Love, we may receive rich blessings and graces from our Schoenstatt shrines and from our Blessed Mother for the coming month. May you and your family be richly blessed.

United in covenant loyalty,

Shirley Hall





## 2. Pope Leo XIV Proclaims João Pozzobon as “Venerable”

There was news of great joy for the entire Apostolic Movement of Schoenstatt on Friday, June 20, 2025, when Pope Leo XIV authorized the promulgation of the Decree that declares the Servant of God Deacon João Luiz Pozzobon as VENERABLE.

This means that the Church has concluded its examination of the Servant of God’s life, and for his Beatification, only the recognition of a miracle is now needed. On the eve of the 40th anniversary of Pozzobon’s passing (June 27), this news brings great joy and gratitude to all Schoenstatt members.

It is also fitting that this should occur during this year, when one of the great initiatives of the Schoenstatt Movement at the service of the Church and families – the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate, is celebrating 75 years of its blessings and graces around the world.

Below is the official statement from the Archdiocese of Santa Maria and the National Presidium of the Movement in Brazil:

### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT Archdiocese of Santa Maria National Presidium of the Apostolic Movement of Schoenstatt in Brazil**

With great joy, we announce to the People of God that on June 20, 2025, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, authorized the promulgation of the Decree that recognizes the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Deacon João Luiz Pozzobon of the Archdiocese of Santa Maria (RS), member of the Apostolic Movement of Schoenstatt and initiator of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

With this promulgation, the Church declares João Luiz Pozzobon Venerable, officially recognizing that he lived the Christian virtues in an exemplary and heroic manner. This is a significant step on



the path toward his beatification and canonization.

We give thanks to God for this gift to the Church and express our gratitude to the Holy Father for this recognition. We also thank the members of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, the Postulator of the Cause, Dr. Silvia Correale, the Archbishop of Santa Maria, Mons. Leomar Antônio Brustolin, and all people, communities, and institutions who, over the years, have collaborated with faith and dedication and continue to support the Cause of Canonization of the now Venerable João Luiz Pozzobon.

This recognition fills the entire Church with joy, especially the Archdiocese of Santa Maria and the Schoenstatt Family around the world, who see in it the affirmation of the relevance of his life and mission as a husband, father, permanent deacon, and tireless pilgrim of the Mother and Queen.

Santa Maria, June 20, 2025  
Archdiocese of Santa Maria

National Presidium of the Apostolic Movement of  
Schoenstatt in Brazil  
Translation: Sr. Francine–Marie Cooper

(From: Schoenstatt.com)

# 3 Pilgrim Mother Reflection Day - Mulgoa

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025 a small group of Pilgrim Mother coordinators and members braved the cool temperature and spent the day at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa for the Midyear Reflection Day. The day was very blessed and fruitful, filled with many beautiful interactions and moments of prayer, silence, discussions and laughter.

Fr Pawel OP gave the opening talk for the day and focused on Mary as Mother of Hope. He explained that hope is not simply a theological virtue but a person, Jesus Christ himself. This is why we can be completely confident in the words of Paul in Romans 5:5 "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Hope is Jesus Christ, and Mary, as the mother of hope, will transform and educate us to also be children of hope. Fr Pawel went on to also give practical points on how we should persevere in prayer, trusting that the blessed Mother will intercede for us. God will listen to our prayers and grant what is best for us, he will always give us what we need and care for us like a Father. The talk culminated as Fr Pawel explained how each of the last three popes underlined the position of the blessed Mother and gifted the Church with a further understanding of her role and model in our everyday lives.

The opening talk was then followed by silent prayer, reflection and adoration before the blessed sacrament in the Family Hall. During this time Fr Pawel was also available for the sacrament of reconciliation. Holy Mass was next on the schedule and the votive mass of Mary Mother of Hope was used. Through the mass texts and readings, the important role that the blessed Mother plays in forming, educating and being our model of hope was again highlighted.

After lunch the participants were invited to bring all their personal petitions as well as petitions for the



church and world forward as we prayed the rosary together lighting a candle for each Hail Mary and Our Father. This was not only visually beautiful but also spiritually as it connected each one of us in prayer.

Sr. M. Rita then summarised the day and provided insights on how the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate can be a way that leads us to become Pilgrims of Hope. She stressed that only by going back to the roots and the foundation of the initiative can we continue to move forward into the future with hope and joy.

Sr. M. Rita outlined that the three graces that we receive from the blessed Mother in the shrine, that is, of being at home, inner transformation and apostolic fruitfulness are also available from the pilgrim mother shrines. In fact, in the form of the pilgrim mother shrine the blessed Mother comes out of the shrine and goes to visit the people just as she visited her cousin Elizabeth. This is one of the biblical foundations of the initiatives which were discussed in the afternoon.



The day concluded with a devotion in the Shrine. The Shrine was completely full, with many people also standing outside as some other pilgrims joined in with the prayers. Despite the large number of people, a very deep and prayerful atmosphere was noticeable particularly when Agnes lit the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee candle. After benediction everyone received a tealight candle with a quote which summarised the day: "With hope and joy, confident in the victory, we go with Mary..." Fr. Joseph Kentenich.

Sr. M. Rita Baysari





## 4. Marriage Camino WA

We had a cold day but fine weather for our Marriage Camino at Mt Richon WA on Saturday 14 June. This has been an annual event now for a few years and we were happy to welcome three couples for the day. One couple from the Ocean Reef Parish, one couple from the Clarkson Parish and one couple from the Applecross Parish. Three other couples were unable to attend due to illness, but would like to be contacted for next year.

The three attending couples eagerly joined Philomena & David Theseira from the Family Branch, on a pilgrimage journey around the property visiting 15 Pillars over the course of the day.

At each of these pillars there was an opportunity to reflect on some aspect of married life e.g. we create a home; loving with body and soul; we strengthen our children for life; together we are

stronger; we remain faithful; young and old – we are there for each other.

Following each reflection there was time to discuss questions privately as a couple using a booklet that the couples receive to guide their journey.

We had a break for lunch and then had a fun activity. Each couple dressed up – the husband in a suit jacket and tie, and the wife with a veil and posey of flowers. They each had their photo taken as a remembrance of their wedding day. They all thought this was a great idea. And enjoyed the fun.

After our fifteen stations, we went into the Shrine for some quiet reflection time, followed by prayers and a hymn to Our Blessed Mother. Spending such a day to reflect on one's marriage journey is very fulfilling and can be recommended to anyone who is open for deepening their relationship.

Philomena Theseira





# 5. Corpus Christi Procession – Sydney

A record number of participants at the annual Corpus Christi procession through the streets of Sydney was not without Schoenstatt members being present, especially from the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. There was an estimated 20,000 people and, although we may have been few in comparison to this large number which represented people from all three dioceses in the Sydney area, we could definitely be recognised by our Schoenstatt International Flag and several Pilgrim Mother Images, including a large one, the size of the auxiliary.

Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Coordinators and members of circles felt very privileged to share in carrying the PMA banner, the flag and the various Pilgrim Mother Shrines and images. So many people came up to the group which included four Sisters of Mary, who could easily be recognised.

These were people who are receiving the Pilgrim Mother or who when seeing the image were interested in knowing more. There eventuated a genuine apostolic action as we were able to invite people to visit the Shrine and also share information about events at Mount Schoenstatt.





# 6. Family Weekend - Mulgoa

From 4<sup>th</sup> of July –6<sup>th</sup> July, 11 families with 22 adults and 34 children gathered at Mulgoa to take part in our annual Family Weekend. The highlight of the weekend was that 2 families made their Covenant of Love. This beautiful ceremony was blessed by Fr. Pawel OP, with the support of Sister Elizabeth and Sister Olivia, in the presence of the other families attending the weekend.

Insightful sessions were held during the weekend. There were education and discussion sessions, group prayers at the shrine, opportunity for reconciliation and Holy Mass. The children had their own programme during the mornings, including a “pilgrimage” to the Sr. Bonitas Wayside Shrine on the property. On Saturday afternoon, the families became creative as each family designed and painted their own family shield. It was amazing what talent was forthcoming.

Talent was also displayed on Saturday evening when various items from the different families or family members entertained the group. We had children play their musical instruments, others shared jokes or displayed their skills at juggling and solving problems.

The highlight of this night was when one family acted out a song from Snow White. It was a delight to see the five children in this family work together to render this song in action. Needless to say, the evening finished around the bonfire with toasted marshmallows, damper and apples, with a sing-a-long to accompany the high spirits.

For the adult programme, the group viewed a YouTube video where Ida Stokes, who is a member of the Schoenstatt Movement in Western Australia, spoke on the Meaning and the Purpose of the

Jubilee Year. She reminded us of our Schoenstatt motto for this year, “United in the Covenant, Pilgrims of Hope.” Ida, in her inspiring talk reminded us to confidently and joyfully move together towards a new destination.

It was a thought-provoking talk in which she challenged us to reflect on how we can shine Christ’s light in an increasingly secular and cynical world.

Sister Elizabeth tied in the topic of Our Lady’s Mission from the Shrine beautifully by reminding us that Mary’s mission is to be a pilgrim of Hope with us, bringing Christ to us and bringing us to Christ.

We were reminded of the 3 graces we are blessed with in the shrine– a home, transformation, and apostolic zeal. We, as members of the Schoenstatt movement, are encouraged to help fulfill Christ’s mission, just as Mary did, sharing Christ with the rest of the world, bearing Him to all we meet, renewing the world in Christ.



Bernard and Jane Toutounji presented the topic of Schoenstatt's toolbox or pedagogy. Three key themes around the Schoenstatt teaching were identified (1) education and formation (2) self-knowledge and growth and (3) freedom and personal journey. We are called to be Pilgrims of Hope, with willing hearts, moving together towards the eternal destination of our pilgrimage, heaven. The pedagogy of Schoenstatt was compared to a toolbox with so many tools to choose from. We were reminded of the 3 things needed to support our learning and growth (1) The support of a religious community, (2) The support of clear knowledge and (3) The support of outstanding personal example. We were encouraged to draw on all of these and they were likened to the 3 legs of a stool – all 3 are needed to remain balanced and stable.

Finally, Sister Elizabeth presented the topic, Walking with Father Kentenich. We were reminded that Father Kentenich is our guide, our father and our teacher and we were challenged to reflect on the role we play as parents, as guides and teachers to our children. Parents are to take on the role of messengers, ambassadors, and instruments of God, modelling our family life on that of the Holy Family. Couples were given time to read about and share thoughts with their spouses on an excerpt from "On Monday Evenings" written by Father Kentenich, encouraging the married couples to love each other as Christ loved us, giving of our lives to each other.

The weekend concluded with a devotion in the Shrine after which we burnt our offerings to the Capital of Grace, gathered during the weekend and then followed by afternoon tea at The Rock Lookout, a short drive from the shrine. The weather was beautiful, and the sun shone down on us, reminding us of the light Christ is to us, and the light we are called to be – Lights of Hope, Pilgrims of Hope.

Maria Corera









# 7. 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

- 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
- **20th July – Celebrating Deacon João Luiz Pozzobon, proclaimed as VENERABLE at Mulgoa following the Covenant Day Renewal and Lunch.**

## Links

Official Schoenstatt Website	<a href="https://www.schoenstatt.com">https://www.schoenstatt.com</a>
Schoenstatt Australian Website	<a href="https://www.schoenstatt.org.au">https://www.schoenstatt.org.au</a>
Our YouTube Channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a>
Western Australia Website	<a href="https://schoenstattwa.org.au">https://schoenstattwa.org.au</a>
Schoenstatt Men Website	<a href="https://schoenstatt-men-australia.mailchimpsites.com">https://schoenstatt-men-australia.mailchimpsites.com</a>

## Videos for Covenant Days - 18<sup>th</sup> of the Month 7 - 8pm AEDT

Video for July 2025	Schoenstatt's "Educational Tools" give hope for our lives. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a>
Video for June 2025	Pilgrimage of Hope – a new Pentecost for the Church. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57lk0DFkR1A">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57lk0DFkR1A</a>
Video for May 2025	Christ's Love, our Hope <a href="https://youtu.be/rZqwWBp9eW8?si=zgXyIW1sBeDB6tRL">https://youtu.be/rZqwWBp9eW8?si=zgXyIW1sBeDB6tRL</a>
Video for April 2025	Jesus and Mary give us hope <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAswD5pe-q8&amp;t=8s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAswD5pe-q8&amp;t=8s</a>
Video for March 2025	Mary's Fiat in everyday life <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFiNjQXKLLY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFiNjQXKLLY</a>

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](mailto:movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au) before the beginning of each month

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