



August 18 2025 | Volume 6, Number 8

1. Covenant Day Message

United in the Covenant - Pilgrims of Hope

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings from our Schoenstatt Shrines for this Covenant Day – 18th August. On Friday we commemorated the Solemnity of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This Feast Day should be a sign of great hope and joy for us because it is a reminder that God not only showed his merciful love for Mary throughout her life, but he also shows His merciful love for us during our life.

It is an affirmation of the dignity of all human life and a sign of hope for us during our pilgrimage on earth.

We see this dignity reflected especially in the life of Our Lady and in the way in which she always responded to the will of God with a joyful “yes”.

It is Mary’s wholehearted willingness to participate in God’s purpose that makes her bodily assumption into heaven a beacon of hope for everyone.

In fulfilling the mission given to Our Blessed Mother by the Heavenly Father, Mary became a perfect and authentic witness to holiness.

The Church looks at the Blessed Mother as a sign of true hope and comfort for the pilgrim people of God.

1. Covenant Day Message
2. Mother’s Miracles in the Mundane Moments
3. Girls’ Day Out at the Shrine
4. Thanksgiving celebrations for the Life and work of Deacon João Pozzobon
5. The Schoenstatt Youth of Argentina Meet Pope Leo XIV
6. Information and Links



In speaking about Mary's role for mankind, Father Kentenich said in 1954:

"When we now ask Our Lord why He draws His Mother so closely to Himself, why He united her so intimately with His own Person and His work – all in all, why He places her so much in the foreground that He would give her to us from the cross as His last will and testament, then He will answer very clearly and certainly: It is the plan of the Eternal Father.

God created human society in the image of the Triune God. Just as the Blessed Trinity is bound together in the manner of a family, human society should also be a family. In this family Mary is the Mother. Mary is not like a signpost on the road which points the direction but then stays behind without accompanying the hiker.

Just as a mother in the natural order takes her children with her to God, so does the heavenly Mother. The more we are at home in her heart, the more quickly and surely will she find us a home with herself in God.

God could also draw us directly to Himself without a magnet, which means He could give us graces without Mary. But since He has decided it differently, we must follow the law which He has given.

St. Bernard tells us: God simply determined that all graces should come to us through Mary. And Leo XIII points out that graces flow from the heart of Mary. God gives us the graces, Our Lord has merited them for us, and the Blessed Virgin intercedes them for us. Because God has decided it should be that way, we are simply dependent on her and her love for us, and our love for her cannot be great enough..... It is always God who gives us grace; it is always the God-Man who has merited the graces for us; and it is the Blessed Mother who intercedes for us and who, in a certain sense, has even co-merited them for us under the cross. Therefore, whoever gives and consecrates himself to Our Lady and who prays to her gives a wholehearted yes to the complete plan of God and may consequently expect an immense divine blessing."

(From: "Mary, Our Mother and Educator", P.39–40)

During this coming month may our Blessed Mother take us more deeply into the Covenant of Love with her, and help us to see God as a loving, merciful Father who only wants what is best for each one of us in all situations.

As Pilgrims of hope, let us pray:

Blessed Mother.....

Let us walk like you
through life,
let us mirror you forever,
strong and noble,
meek and mild,
peace and love
be our endeavour.

Walk in us through our world,
make it ready for the Lord.
Amen

United in our covenant,

Shirley Hall



2. Mary's miracles in the Mundane Moments

Maria Corera

Maria came into contact with Schoenstatt at the Women's Retreat in February this year. In the following article she shares with us her experience of how our MTA can work in souls and allow them to share in the fruitfulness of the Shrine. She writes:

It was a day like any other, marked by the rhythm of work and routine—until grace subtly intervened. As I boarded my usual train to work, I decided, in a simple shift of habit, to forgo scrolling through my phone.

Instead, I opened a booklet I had received from the shrine—a quiet moment of spiritual reflection that would come to shape my day.

Later, after a day's work, I returned to the station to head home. However, moments after boarding the train a small wave of panic set in: Had I remembered to tap my Opal card at the platform post? Unlike ticket barriers, those discrete readers on the platform can easily go unnoticed.

I decided to get off at the next station, knowing that that was the right thing to do, to tap on properly, and rejoin the train.

As I stepped back on, I saw something astounding—an entire team of ticket inspectors checking passengers' cards. It was the first time I had ever seen them on my commute home, and this was the time I had forgotten to tap on, but eventually did.

My heart whispered what my eyes confirmed: I had narrowly avoided an embarrassing situation and a fine, yes—but more profoundly, I had witnessed Divine Providence.

In that moment, I could not help but recall one of the most beautiful truths of Schoenstatt spirituality: "Nothing Without You, Nothing Without Us."



The Blessed Mother does 99%, but she invites us into the mystery of co-responsibility. She urges us to do our 1%—to choose rightly, act faithfully, and listen gently for God's nudges.

That small decision to act, —my morning's spiritual reading and getting off the train to tap my card—was my 1%. What followed was Her loving 99%.

This encounter left me not only grateful but renewed in the conviction that when we invite God into our ordinary days, the extraordinary becomes possible.

May we all continue to walk with open hearts, trusting that Providence is never far behind—especially in those quiet, faithful decisions that no one sees.



3 Girls Day Out at the Shrine

The “Girls Day Out at the Shrine” at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa was held once again this year on the 15th & 16th July during the winter school holidays. The schedule and content of both days were essentially the same but tailored to the different age groups. The day’s program was filled with a variety of activities such as games, singing, a bushwalk, rosary, group discussions, craft activities and prayer time in the shrine.

Both days were unique with a very different group dynamic, experiences and highlights each time. But what was common for both days was that all the girls enjoyed themselves and had an amazing time learning more about the faith whilst making deep and lasting friendships.

The theme of the day revolved around the topic of royalty. The group discussions and inputs helped the girls discover what it means to be a royal child. We looked more closely at Jesus and Mary as being the perfect examples of royal children. The girls realized how Mary can lead and teach each one of us to also become more of what we already are since our baptism, that is a royal child of the eternal Father! The very popular and easy to learn theme song accompanied both days. At the end of both days, the girls managed to sing it in the shrine as a canon even though many had just learnt it for the first time. Here is the text of the song:

You are royal – so am I!
As children of our Queen
we’re called to be like her
in all we do and think and say!

Do you dare to learn,
to learn to be
a royal child
of our Admirable Queen!

My Queen, help me live a royal life
Lead me always close to Jesus Christ!
With you I live in Him
and dare to build His kingdom!”



What was particularly special is that three of the girls who attended the first day decided to stay overnight and assist as junior leaders for the younger girls on the second day. This truly was beautiful to see how each of them really grew to the challenge and were able to run the small group discussions and games independently.

Apart from the food, some other highlights that were mentioned at the end of the day were the craft activity, the bushwalk when we also saw the kangaroos and the singing in the shrine.

The next “Girls Day Out at the Shrine” are scheduled for the next school holidays on 7th and 8th October. More details closer to the date will be available on the website.

By Sr. M. Rita Baysari





4. Thanksgiving celebrations for the life and work of Deacon João Pozzobon

By Agnes Aldana and Sr. M. Rita Baysari

The third Sunday of each month, better known as 'Covenant Sunday', has been a constant and yet growing tradition over many years at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. It is a special day where we gather as a Schoenstatt Family to renew the Covenant of Love with our Mother Thrice Admirable in the Shrine. Last month's Covenant Sunday, which fell on 20th July 2025, was especially remarkable. On this day we celebrated and gave thanks that on June 20th Pope Leo XIV declared Deacon João Pozzobon, the initiator of the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Apostolate, as 'Venerable'.

The title 'Venerable' is given to individuals by the Church to indicate that they have lived a life of heroic virtue and have exhibited extraordinary faith, virtue, and sanctity during their lifetime.

It is the final step before beatification for which a miracle is needed. We can see this as a special jubilee gift from Pope Leo to the International Schoenstatt Family, as this year marks the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

The day's beautiful celebrations began with the Covenant Sunday Mass at 11am which was celebrated by Father Peter Kruk O.P. Before Holy Mass began many pilgrims had the opportunity to place their contributions to the capital of grace into the jar.

The jar was placed in front of the altar along with the covenant book and the Auxilliary Pilgrim Mother Shrine. The Auxilliary is a replica of the original 12kg large Pilgrim Mother image that Deacon Pozzobon carried on his shoulder as he began the now worldwide initiative.



Holy Mass was very well attended with over 300 people present. Many of those in attendance were members from the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate who came especially to bring their thanks for the life and service of Deacon João Pozzobon. They were invited to bring along their Pilgrim Mother Shrines to also provide witness, just like João Pozzobon, of the love and loyalty of the Blessed Mother. They placed their small Pilgrim Mother Shrines near the large Pilgrim Mother in front of the altar.



What a coincidence or more like Divine Providence, that the Gospel Reading of the day was about our Lord, visiting Martha and Mary in Bethany. Martha with her famous recitation of the words, “Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving all to me to do the serving all by myself.” But the Lord answered: “Martha, Martha, you worry and fret about so many things and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; ...” (Lk 10:38–42)

We believe that Deacon João Pozzobon had ‘chosen the better part’. He chose to have a deep personal relationship with Mary and joyfully accepted the mission given to him by God. From the Schoenstatt Shrine in Brazil in 1950, he assumed the responsibility to take the blessed Mother in the form of the large Pilgrim Mother image and visit and pray with families daily. He saw it as his personal life’s task to take the image of Mary and to bring God’s blessing directly into homes and families. This was the small and humble beginning of the now wide-reaching international Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

Pozzobon personally walked over 140,000km and considered himself as “Mary’s little donkey”. With the blessed Mother he visited many thousands of people in homes, schools, hospitals and prisons. Never did he lose his true motivation, his loyalty and faithfulness to the Mother Thrice Admirable. Though he worked tirelessly he was never distracted and experienced love and joy in suffering.

In these current times, being a coordinator or member of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate, we too can be distracted and fret unnecessarily with our daily duties and responsibilities. In a sense there is a bit of both Martha and Mary within all of us!

Nevertheless, Venerable Pozzobon gives us the example of how we can serve our mission and take Mary as our model, guide and educator. Through his life and service, he encourages us to have a relationship with the blessed Mother and always call on her with childlike trust because she truly is our own personal Mother.



After the Holy Mass there was a procession to the Shrine for the renewal of the Covenant of Love. As usual the Australian and Schoenstatt flags led the procession followed by the covenant book and jar. The special addition this month was that the Auxiliary (the large Pilgrim Shrine) as well as the small Pilgrim Mother Shrines were also carried in the procession.

Following this encounter with the Blessed Mother in the Shrine everyone was invited for a barbecue lunch which was prepared and served by the Family Branch and some volunteers. It was such a joy to see so many pilgrims, visitors, families, all together happy around the Shrine and enjoying each other’s company. Even in the long line to get a sausage there was such a positive and joyful atmosphere.

At 1:30pm everyone gathered for thanksgiving prayers and devotion in the Shrine. With approximately 80 people taking part it was clear that not everyone would fit inside the Shrine, but thankfully the blessed Mother graced the afternoon with beautiful sunny weather. After the blessed Sacrament was exposed, the Jubilee Year of Hope candle was ignited with the petition that God will ignite the flame of hope within our hearts as well as those who receive the Pilgrim Mother Shrine. The prayers reflected tremendous joy and thanksgiving.

The final joy of the day was the sending out of the members and coordinators of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate anew. Everyone was revived with new

motivation to continue to be instruments of the Blessed Mother by taking her image from the Shrine so that she can travel from home to home to visit many families, the sick and the elderly.

The exemplary life of Venerable Deacon João Pozzobon is a testament to our Schoenstatt Covenant of Love. This should make us all proud! But saints are not the property of their spiritual family; they are a gift of God to the Church, a testimony that holiness is accessible to all. May the life, work and message of Venerable Deacon João Pozzobon be a light that enlightens others.



5. The Schoenstatt Youth of Argentina Meet Pope Leo XIV

(from schoenstatt.com)

The Schoenstatt Youth of Argentina had a very special opportunity on Wednesday, August 6, 2025. During the general audience, they met with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

On this occasion, Father Juan María Molina presented him with the image of the Pilgrim MTA.

The group consisted of 45 young people from the Youth of Buenos Aires and their moderators, Fathers Juan María Molina and Francisco Bosch. They had recently participated in the Youth Jubilee in Rome.

This encounter was made possible thanks to the intermediation of the former secretary of Pope Francis, an Argentinian priest, who enabled them to access the area reserved for the audience.



How was the encounter?

Father Juan Molina shares more details about this exceptional experience:

The encounter was more of a greeting at the end of the audience. Some groups that had been previously designated came forward to greet him, and we did the same. I was part of this group and was able to greet him. We took a photo and, well, I found it meaningful that, as a group of the Schoenstatt Youth, we could give a gift to the Pope. What represents us most as Schoenstatt youth is the mission—bringing the Pilgrim Mother, who has many missions and gathers many people. That's why I thought it was significant to give him the image of the Pilgrim Mother.



We gave him this gift, promising our prayers for him, for his papacy, for his ministry, and for his life, and also entrusting him to the Blessed Mother so that she may keep him close and that he may walk with her.

He was thankful, received it, and recognized the image.

I also remembered Pope Francis; we are from Buenos Aires, the land of Pope Francis. We knew that at the beginning of his pontificate, Francis had received a Pilgrim Mother image through Father Alexandre Awi and had kept it until the end of his days.

That's why, with that memory, I thought it was fitting for him to receive the Pilgrim image, regardless of what he ended up doing with it.

For all of us, it was a grand finale to the days of the youth jubilee, days of renewal in faith, encounter, celebration, and joy.

It was also a very concrete expression of our incorporation, of our sense of belonging to the Church, and of our roots, which we want to see present there.

Thank God, the youth experience this very naturally and feel deeply involved with the universal Church, but also with the local Church, participating actively in parishes and contributing from there as well.

Schoenstatt does not want to be an ideology in the Church but rather a grace—the grace of sharing the Blessed Mother, who allows us and gives us a unique way of walking with her.

I like to think that when I gave him the Pilgrim MTA and asked permission to hug him, in that hug there were also the 45 million Argentinians, the Schoenstatt members of the world, and the people of faith who accompany, love, support, and trust him.



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

- 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://schoenstatt-men-australia.mailchimpsites.com

Videos for Covenant Days - 18th of the Month 7 - 8pm AEDT

Video for August 2025	A pilgrim's journey in this year of hope. http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
Video for July 2025	Schoenstatt's "Educational Tools" give hope for our lives. https://youtu.be/iNkM9w7CN9U
Video for June 2025	Pilgrimage of Hope – a new Pentecost for the Church. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57lk0DFkR1A
Video for May 2025	Christ's Love, our Hope https://youtu.be/rZqwWBp9eW8?si=zgXyIW1sBeDB6tRL
Video for April 2025	Jesus and Mary give us hope https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAswD5pe-q8&t=8s

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

ISSN 2652-6875