

National Newsletter Schoenstatt Australia



October 18 2025 | Volume 6, Number 10

1. Covenant Day Message

United in the Covenant - Pilgrims of Hope

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

This month we remember and celebrate the foundation of Schoenstatt on 18th October 1914. We pray that Our Blessed Mother will send us many blessings and graces from her Schoenstatt Shrines, and in particular, from the original shrine in Schoenstatt, Germany.

Father Kentenich's desire was always to lead those entrusted to his care to Our Lady, for then he was sure they would come to the Triune God...

He did this, by time and again pointing out that the covenant of love with the Mother of God is an expression, means, and protection of the covenant of love with the Triune God. Everything comes from Him and returns to Him. The Mother of God does not keep anyone for herself but leads everyone to the Triune God.

"The Blessed Mother has given us to each other, and we want to be faithful to each other: in one another, with one another, for one another in the heart of God." (J. Kentenich, 20.8.1947)

"As our Mother, Mary has gone the way before us which each of us must tread without exception. "Ecce Mater tua!" (Behold your Mother). Our Mother is, at the same time, also our Educatorand knows that the insecurity and fear which God has permitted to overshadow modern man is intended to make

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him more quickly similar to the crucified Saviour and both usable and fruitful as seed for a new world. She knows and adheres to the immutable law that the kingdom of heaven endures violence (cf. Mt 11,12), that it therefore cannot be gained by playing games or seeking after pleasure, but only by severe self-discipline.

She cannot and will not give us a dispensation from the decree which God laid down after the first sin, that human life here on earth is to be a strenuous warfare against the inclination towards evil in our hearts Her task as Mother is to preserve us from the many dangers that await body and soul.

Her office as Educator urges her to help us and educate us, so that the tormenting insecurity and fear which has swept inevitably over the nations becomes a way by which we are more quickly freed from all that is not of God, and in Him alone seek and find the lasting tranquillity and peace of a home and a nest.

Above all, she wants to prove and glorify herself as Educator by inspiring us to surrender ourselves unreservedly to her as her instruments in a covenant of love with her. She wants to inspire us into letting ourselves be formed by her into an alter Christus (another Christ) and an altera Maria (another Mary), a little Mary who is able to answer to the distress of modern life and times with a death leap of intellect, heart, and will into the Heart of God the Father and who never wearies of offering self as an instrument for the redemption of the world, just as the Helpmate of the Lord has done before us. “

From: Mary, Mother and Educator, Fr. J. Kentenich (P.114–115)



In gratitude to Father Kentenich, our father and founder, and in union with our Blessed Mother, may we be ever more deeply united in our Covenant of Love and renewed in our mission for Schoenstatt and the Church: “Loyalty for loyalty, heroic loyalty for heroic loyalty”

United in our covenant,
Shirley Hall



2. Celebrating 25 Years of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate in Corpus Christi Parish, St. Ives, NSW

On Sunday 31st August 2025 parishioners and friends of Corpus Christi Parish, St. Ives celebrated the silver jubilee of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate in this parish. The holy Mass was celebrated by Father Greg Chee and was followed by the crowning of the Pilgrim Mother Shrines and the recommissioning of the coordinators. The day's celebrations were attended by the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, Sister M. Elizabeth and Sister M. Rita as well as many Pilgrim Mother members and guests. There are over 70 members of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate in the parish, with seven Pilgrim Mother Shrines visiting homes in St. Ives and in the surrounding areas.

In his homily, Father Greg had reminded everyone that Schoenstatt is an international Catholic lay Marian movement dedicated to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the example and guidance of Mary, the Mother of God. He recalled that the movement was founded on October 18, 1914, by Father Joseph Kentenich in central Germany and continues to inspire people around the world today. At the heart of Schoenstatt's spirituality lies the Covenant of Love with Mary, a unique relationship that binds the individual with the Blessed Mother. It is a mutual commitment expressed in the phrase: "Nothing without you, nothing without us." This covenant reflects a deep trust in Mary's intercession and a desire to let her shape lives in the image of her Son.

The Schoenstatt spirituality highlights "everyday sanctity" or living a life of holiness in daily activities. It places an importance on a practical belief in Divine providence, trusting in God's guiding hand encouraging members to be anchored in God's will by living their faith in



tangible ways. Father Greg emphasised to the congregation that Mary, as Mother of the Son, Daughter of the Father, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit, has a God-given mission: to form others into mature members of the Body of Christ.



The climax of the celebration came with the crowning of six Pilgrim Mother Shrines and the recrowning of one. This symbolic act expressed the community's love, trust, and surrender to Mary, recognising her as Queen and intercessor in their lives and the one who strengthens them for their mission. Following this, the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators were recommissioned, renewing their commitment to bring the Pilgrim Mother

Shrine into homes and to families. Together, everyone then prayed the consecration prayer, once again entrusting themselves to Mary to use them as her instruments in leading others to Jesus. The liturgy concluded with the final blessing.



The day's celebration continued with a joyful afternoon tea in the parish hall, where friendships were renewed and stories shared. During this time, Sister M. Rita offered a thoughtful reflection on the meaning of the crowning, and the significance of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate helping those present to deepen their understanding of this gesture of faith and devotion.

The tradition of crowning the Blessed Mother in Schoenstatt has a rich and profound meaning. It began on December 10, 1939, when Father Kentenich, offered the blessed Mother Thrice Admirable a crown in the Original Shrine in Germany. In the midst of the dark days of Hitler's rule, this crowning was a plea for Mary's protection over Schoenstatt and a sign of trust in her intercession.



When we crown the Blessed Mother today, we continue this act of faith. It is a way of acknowledging anew that our lives, our families, and our community are entrusted to her maternal love, protection, and powerful intercession before the throne of God. Through this gesture, we declare that our future rests in her hands, as we allow her to guide us ever closer to Christ.



Sister M. Rita shared the story of John Pozzobon, a small businessman from Brazil who began what is now the international Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. The initiative began on September 10th, 1950, as a spiritual preparation for the proclamation of the dogma of the Assumption by the Church which was to be on November 1st that same year. John Pozzobon carried an image of the Blessed Mother from home to home, fostering prayer and faith among families.

His dedication grew into what is now a worldwide apostolate. Just recently on July 20, 2025, Deacon Pozzobon was declared Venerable by Pope Leo XIV – a recognition of his heroic faith and example.

The Pilgrim Mother Apostolate continues to be a vital outreach and form of evangelisation today. Each month, the image of our Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt visits families on a regular basis.

In this way, Mary herself goes out from the shrine to meet her children, bringing Christ and the graces of the Shrine into their homes. These graces are threefold: the grace of feeling at home with God and the Blessed Mother; the grace of inner transformation, helping us to live our Baptismal Covenant anew each day; and the grace of apostolic fruitfulness, inspiring us to share the gift of faith with others.

There were a couple of testimonies from members. The first, from a member who believed the Pilgrim Mother was instrumental in finding a job for her husband as it coincided with the Pilgrim Mother's visit. The other testimony was from someone who visited the Original Shrine in Germany with her cousin from Holland and as a result of this pilgrimage both have now developed a deeper spiritual relationship with Mary.

*the grace of feeling at home,
the grace of inner transformation,
the grace of apostolic fruitfulness*

Sister M. Rita's talk, together with the testimonies, left many inspired to live out the Covenant of Love more faithfully in their daily lives.

The day closed with hearts full of gratitude and joy—for the gift of Schoenstatt, for the presence of Mary in the Pilgrim Mother, and for the renewal of our commitment to carry Christ and Mary into homes and communities.

The day's celebration can be summarised in the words of Father Kentenich', "Mother takes perfect care".

Crystal D'Souza



3 The first 100 years – Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary open their jubilee year

The [Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary](#), will celebrate their first 100 years in 2026—a whole century – from their humble beginnings to their vibrant present. To reach the age of 100 as an international secular institute means to be a witness to countless stories that God has written for them:

- with generations of sisters who dedicated their lives to the service of God and humanity;
- through challenges that he entrusted to them;
- in moments of grace that continually strengthened them: it is God who guides them
- in the Holy Spirit, through Mary, through our founder, Father Joseph Kentenich. In solidarity with many people on all continents.

A single anniversary day is not enough to exhaust this richness.

On October 1, 2025, the International Schoenstatt Sisters community opened their anniversary year worldwide.

It will be a year of remembrance, gratitude, and reorientation to how God wants to lead them in the coming hundred years. There are around 1,500 Sisters of Mary from 42 nations.



Looking back: An exciting history full of adventures

When, a few years after the Schoenstatt Movement was founded, more and more women joined this new movement and Father Joseph Kentenich sought full-time female collaborators. His concern was to create “an autonomous and independent women’s movement” in which women would “take the reins into their own hands.” On October 1, 1926, 18 young women made themselves available for this task. Despite the uncertainty of the post-war period, they gave up their professions. They started in extreme poverty, but with the enthusiasm and idealism of being the beginning of a new kind of community. In their vocation as a lay movement in Schoenstatt, they sought to lead a life consecrated to God, similar to that of religious orders, yet in the rhythm and spirituality of lay people. There was no room for this type of community in the Church as yet, and there was no guarantee that the venture would succeed. Their idealism spread. Just two weeks after its founding, the first filiation outside Schoenstatt was established.

By 1928, the community already had 110 sisters, and a year later, 179 members in 25 filiations. Five years after its founding, in 1931, the Sisters of Mary were already active in about 40 locations in Germany. The community existed for around 20 years without canonical recognition until 1947, when the form of life of “secular institutes” was recognized by Pope Pius XII. The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary were the first German secular institute.



Another adventurous chapter from the early years

In 1933, Hitler came to power in Germany. This posed an acute threat to the existence of the still young Schoenstatt Movement and the community of sisters. Father Kentenich decided to take the bold step of sending Schoenstatt missionaries abroad. The sisters, who were all young, often lacked the necessary qualifications and experience, and the community did not even have statutes as yet. But time was pressing. Already in December 1933, the first sisters were sent to South Africa, followed by other groups to Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. The new beginnings involved great sacrifices, but they were blessed: the Schoenstatt Movement spread internationally and in 1951 the first four sisters arrived in Australia, invited by the Pallottine Fathers to help them in their work with First Nations people.

Looking back, we can see a wealth of such ventures that exceeded human strength and always anew, with the experience that the covenant of love with Mary carried them. This filled them with great gratitude and hope for the future. Today, the institute is spread across all continents. It has branches in 32 countries and works in other nations from these locations.

Being Mary – in as many cultures and areas of life as possible

Through their encounter with Mary, they experience Christianity as a way of life in which people flourish and bonds grow because the love

of Christ shines into the smallest everyday moments. As Sisters of the Mother of God – Sisters of Mary – they want to make Christ present in their being and in their work, just as she does. To be present in as many cultures and areas of life as possible, the spectrum of their ways of life is broad: The institute has members who live alone in the world and others who maintain a family life either full-time or part-time; members who wear the sister's dress and others who work in lay clothes. Sisters of Mary are individually active in a wide variety of professions. Others work as a team in the institute's institutions, such as schools, hospitals, and social welfare facilities. Their shared identity gives this diversity its unique character: to be Mary today. Not only as individuals, but also in the profile of their common work.

In the service of Schoenstatt

The entire commitment as Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary serves the mission of Schoenstatt. The founding impulse – direct work for Schoenstatt – has special significance in this regard. Sisters from the community work in an inspirational way in many of the approximately 200 Schoenstatt shrines; they are responsible for 80 Schoenstatt centres with shrines. These spiritual centres have become an integral part of many local churches. In various countries, approximately 250 Sisters of Mary work full-time for the Schoenstatt Movement, especially for the youth, women, and families, as well as for the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate, through which Christ is brought to the peripheries of society.



God's leadership style

Like other church communities, they are currently undergoing an exciting process of transition, partly because they are also experiencing a general decline in new vocations. The approximately 1,500 Sisters of Mary who belong to the institute here on earth are joined by around 2,200 members who support their mission from eternity. At the same time, there are hopeful new beginnings in several countries, e.g., Kenya, Vietnam, and Romania. Their Superior General, Sister M. Joanna Buckley, sums it up:

"At the beginning of this new century, we face challenges that demand all our strength and trust. But challenges are part of God's leadership style. He constantly surprises us with new possibilities that we had not previously considered."

Therefore, the Sisters enter this jubilee year with joy and expect as a special grace, the closeness and inspiration of the Holy Spirit through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. They summarize the experience of their first 100 years and their confidence for the future in their jubilee motto: **"Mary, Light of our Hope."**

All are invited to join the Sisters in celebrating their anniversary year... Starting October 1, they will launch a series of portraits entitled "Faces of Hope" on their website:

<https://www.s-ms.org/>. On the first day of each month, a video portrait of a Sister of Mary will be published, showcasing individuals from diverse cultures, generations, and professions. You will also find the anniversary trailer and a calendar of all anniversary events worldwide on our website. The calendar will be updated continuously.

Here in Australia, we also invite you to join our Sisters in celebrating this joyous centenary. The Sisters began their celebrations on 3rd October in Perth and on 5th October in Mulgoa with special celebrations. (See separate articles) This coming year should be an exciting year for our Schoenstatt Family here in Australia as we not only join with the Sisters in celebrating their centenary, but we will also be celebrating three other special events:

75 years since the first four Sisters arrived in Fremantle, Western Australia


60 years since the first two Sisters began working for the Schoenstatt apostolate in NSW

40 years of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate here in Australia.

Details relating to other important celebrations during the coming year will be announced shortly



3A "My privilege to celebrate the beginning of the Centennial Year."

"Lord Jesus Christ, bless  this candle, a sign of gratitude to the Triune God for your loving and ever faithful guidance throughout the 100 years of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary." This blessing right at the beginning of Holy Mass opened the Centennial of our Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary at the shrine in Armadale, WA.



"It is my privilege", our assistant priest Fr. Grant told us, "to be asked to celebrate the opening of the Centennial. It has been a great blessing to have Schoenstatt here in Perth", he continued, "to have the shrine and the

sisters in our parish. I remember my first visit to this shrine, 25 years ago."

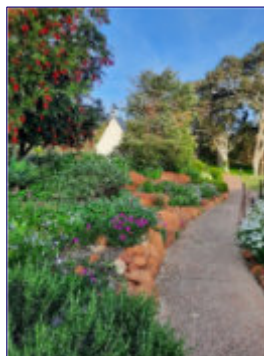
And then he told us about his recent experience when he prepared a couple for marriage. The young man asked him about the little church somewhere that he remembered when he was there preparing for the sacrament of confirmation under the guidance of Sr. M. Lisette. Fr. Grant showed him the photo and the young man recognized the shrine at once and his great experience at that time.

A privilege to be at the shrine, a blessing to have the shrine and the sisters in the parish, the longing of a person to go back to the shrine that had impressed him as a young boy.



perfect disciple of Christ is a shining light for all to see.

Everyone was invited to the meeting room for fellowship and a brief Video of our sisters around the globe to welcome the beginning of the Centennial of our community. Next to the large number of sisters, languages, shrines, the people admired the beautiful nature surrounding them and their joy of being there at the beginning of the Centennial.



A little flyer was available to them with various websites and a QR to remain informed about the various activities around the Centennial of our international family during the year.



<https://www.s-ms.org/en/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SchoenstattSistersofMary>
www.schoenstatt.org.au
www.schoenstattwa.org.au



3B Opening of the Sisters' Centennial Year at Mount Schoenstatt Mulgoa

The Sisters at Mulgoa gave praise and thanks to the Triune God and the Mother Thrice Admirable at the opening of their Centennial Year with over 200 members, friends and benefactors of Schoenstatt. God blessed them with a glorious sunny day, which saw the Jubilee Banner and the International Schoenstatt Flag flying high in the gentle breeze.

Immediately preceding the Holy Mass at 11am, there was a short introduction about the meaning of this Centennial Year for the sisters – when they were founded, how they expanded internationally and the present situation. This was followed by a three-minute trailer about the Sisters Community, which you can view on the [website](#).

The solemn Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP, who spoke of “our beloved Schoenstatt Sisters”, and gave thanks for their presence at Mount Schoenstatt and the work that they do in the society and Church, as well as for the Schoenstatt Movement. Before the final blessing, Fr. Pawel blessed the Jubilee Candle and small candles that came with the jubilee symbol, which were later given to all families present as a memento, together with a “Save the Date” card. Sr. M. Isabell, the Provincial Superior of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in Australia and the Philippines, then solemnly lit the Candle.



A solemn procession to the Shrine followed Holy Mass where the Jubilee Candle was solemnly placed inside whilst the bell rang resoundingly in joy to mark its entrance and the occasion. The congregation then sang the Magnificat in praise and thanksgiving to the Triune God. Sr. M. Isabell then expressed her thanks on behalf of the sisters to the Triune God, the Mother Thrice Admirable, our founder, Fr. Kentenich, and to all present in a prayer prayed from her heart. She then invited the sisters to pray their Jubilee Prayer, which was followed by a prayer of thanksgiving by all who were present.



As the final hymn was intoned, everyone was invited to come forward to the door of the Shrine where they received the blessed candle, as well as a “Save the Date” card as a memento of this special occasion. During the light refreshments that followed, so many expressed their gratitude and congratulations to the sisters, as well as their joy to be able to celebrate in this opening of their Centennial Year. The Save the Date to put into your calendars is Sunday, 13th September, 2026, where the Centennial will be celebrated at Mount Schoenstatt with Archbishop Anthony Fisher of the Archdiocese of Sydney.

4. We are all Schoenstatt

The following joyful news from Fr. Alexandre Awi Mello, the Chairperson of the General Presidium, reached us in the last couple of weeks:

With deep gratitude and joy, we would like to share with the International Schoenstatt Family some news that fills our hearts with joy and gratitude, further strengthening our trust in Divine Providence and our spirit of mission.

A recently deceased lady, C.K., who was connected to the Schoenstatt Family, left a significant inheritance to the “Schoenstatt Work.” After serious and responsible deliberation with the relevant authorities, part of it was allocated to the movement in her country of origin and another part, worth €167,127.88, to the objectives of the “We Are All Schoenstatt” Campaign (see below). In this way, Divine Providence surprised us and brought us even closer to the goal set for this year’s campaign. We will soon report on how these funds have been distributed.

This gesture of love and generosity from a covenant partner of the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt inspires us all to continue building with faith and dedication a united Family that is at the service of the Church and the world. We lift our prayers for the soul of C.K. and thank God for her silent but very eloquent testimony. May her legacy inspire many to trust in Divine Providence and to always collaborate with joy in our common mission.

For those who have missed out on hearing about the campaign “We are all Schoenstatt” we repeat once again the information:

On 18th October last year, the General Presidium of our International Schoenstatt Movement announced an initiative of great importance and global significance for our whole Schoenstatt Family: **WE ARE ALL SCHOENSTATT**”. The intention is to strengthen the bonds of our international family and ensure the future of the mission given to our Father and Founder by the Mother Thrice Admirable.

A Challenge Shared by All

The aim is to inspire the Schoenstatt Family worldwide to participate actively in the preservation and expansion of the work of Schoenstatt. This initiative has a twofold focus: first, to foster a sense of joy and gratitude for belonging to an international family, and second, to create a shared sense of responsibility for maintaining our common home and life, which continues to grow under the action of Divine Providence.

Three Projects, One Aim



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

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

How to Donate

These initiatives cannot continue without the financial support of our whole Schoenstatt Family. Transparency is one of the pillars of this campaign. Donations can be made through various channels, mainly through the [Donorbox](#) platform. Together we are confident that with the help of the Blessed Mother and the cooperation of all, we will achieve our goals and contribute to the continued growth and expansion of Schoenstatt’s mission throughout the world. We are all Schoenstatt! It is time to unite, embrace our origin and spread together our Covenant for the future.

5. Schoenstatt Movement National Conference 2025

From 12–14 September, the Schoenstatt Movement National Conference brought together sisters and lay members from across Australia, both in person and via Zoom, for an enriching weekend. At the close of each session, participants engaged in group discussions—an opportunity to pause, reflect, and share insights drawn from the presentations. These moments of dialogue fostered deeper understanding and spiritual connection. In the spirit of Schoenstatt, the conversations became a living echo of the day's themes, enriching our collective journey and strengthening our commitment to walk together as Pilgrims of Hope.

Fr. Pawel, OP, celebrated Holy Mass on two of the days, offering a profound homily on the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, reminding us of the grace and comfort found in Mary's name. It was a deeply fitting homily, perfectly attuned to the spirit of the moment as we reflected on the forthcoming naming of our National Shrine. Shirley Hall, our dedicated facilitator and a member since 1966, was honoured for six decades of unwavering service to the movement in New South Wales.



Sr. Elizabeth opened the conference with the theme United in the Covenant – Pilgrims of Hope, guiding us through the Jubilee Year and preparing us for significant anniversaries in 2026: the centenary of the international Sisters' Community, 75 years since the first sisters arrived in Australia, and the diamond jubilee of Schoenstatt in New South Wales. She highlighted providential parallels between Father Kentenich's journey to Dachau and the sisters' voyage to Australia, affirming their mission: to be united with Father for his Schoenstatt mission. The four cornerstones of



Schoenstatt's spirituality—firm belief in Divine Providence, deep love for Mary, the inscriptio spirit, and mission consciousness—were powerfully reaffirmed. Plans to name the National Shrine at Mulgoa were discussed, echoing the 1995 crowning of our MTA as **Consors Patris**—Helpmate of the Father.

Day two began with Holy Mass in the House Chapel, celebrated by Father Andrew OP, whose homily illuminated the Gospel with heartfelt insight.

Sr. Elizabeth led a compelling session on Our Australian Mission, sharing three pivotal messages from Father Kentenich: his words to the Pallottine priests during exile for the blessing of the first Shrine in Australia, the Shrine at Kew in Melbourne, his response to Sr. Aloise—"from Heaven"—regarding a visit to Australia, and his written blessing for the blessing of the National Shrine, declaring that the MTA has made her home there "to educate the people and leaders of Australia and to enable them to carry out the post-conciliar mission of the Church in their own continent as perfectly as possible."

Terry Huxtable and Ida Stokes' session, *The Historical Aspects of Our Past*, explored the evolving mottos of the Australian Schoenstatt Family, revealing a spiritual continuity rooted in the Covenant of Love, Our Lady in the Shrine, and Father Kentenich—Schoenstatt's core contact points.

Participants were challenged to live and remain loyal to the covenant, with the shrine likened to a spiritual charging station in today's world: "Nothing without you, nothing without us."



Through group reflection, we identified the qualities and gifts needed to grow the movement and become more equipped to carry Father's vision for

the Church into the future.

Building on this momentum, Fr. Pawel, OP delivered a stirring session that invited us to embrace our identity as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year. Drawing from *Spes Non Confundit*, Pope Francis' official proclamation, he reminded us that "Hope does not disappoint," and laid out its spiritual roadmap: pilgrimage, mercy, confession, love, justice, and care for creation. Through rich reflections and inspired commentary, Father urged us to root ourselves in Christ's love, seek reconciliation, and make life choices shaped by hope. We were called to become radiant witnesses—walking with others, discerning God's presence, and renewing our commitment to a lifelong pilgrimage of faith, mercy, and joyful solidarity.



Michelle Davis brought day two's sessions to a powerful close with her presentation, *United in the Covenant of Love – How This Brings Us Hope*, seamlessly building on the themes of mercy and pilgrimage. She invited us to rediscover hope not as a fleeting emotion, but as a divine gift infused by the Holy Spirit—an anchor in turbulent times. With heartfelt conviction, Michelle urged us to be a radiant beacon of mercy, reconciliation, and solidarity in a world often shadowed by despair.

She urged us to embrace the spiritual richness of our Covenant of Love and the Jubilee Year of Hope, not only through physical pilgrimages but by journeying inward—entering the Holy Doors of our own hearts and making grace-filled choices that renew and transform.

Following a serene time of Adoration at the Shrine, the evening unfolded with warmth and joy as Sr. Rita hosted a lively trivia night, delving into the rich history of Schoenstatt and of the saints. The room buzzed with laughter, friendly competition, and learning.

Sunday morning began with prayer at the Shrine, setting a reverent tone for Sr. Elizabeth's final session, *Consorts Patris* and Our National Shrine. With depth and clarity, Sister revisited the 1995 recrowning of the MTA as *Consorts Patris*—Helpmate of the Father—and traced its profound connection to our Australian Mission. As we mark 75 years since the sisters first arrived in Australia, she invited us to consider whether naming the Shrine would be a fitting act of thanksgiving for the countless graces received. More than a title, *Consorts Patris* was presented as a living challenge: to embody our mission daily, united in the heart of the Father, serving the Church through our contributions to the Capital of Grace.

In this way, Sister reminded us, we become true helpmates of the Father—striving always to “do what pleases the Father most.”

Bernard Toutounji conducted the final session, *Call to Action – Living the Mission*, urging us to be pilgrims of hope—just as Mary is our hope, we are her hope for the Church. We were invited to reflect on our role in the National Mission and to start or renew practices that help us grow spiritually. Participants considered personal ideals and paths of self-education, reassessed their time, talent, and treasure, and discerned who they might invite to the Shrine. In a symbolic gesture of commitment, we placed written offerings into a jar—pledges of our contributions to the Capital of Grace.

The conference drew to a reverent close with the celebration of Holy Mass in the Shrine. After Mass, we gathered in the Father Room—a sacred space of memory and mission—where hearts united in gratitude for Father Kentenich's enduring guidance and blessings over the years. As we prepared to return to our daily lives, we did so renewed in spirit and purpose: United in the Covenant, Pilgrims of Hope, Helpmates of the Father—committed to living the mission entirely, devotedly, and without reserve, bringing joy to the Father through every act of love and service.



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 October 2025	Anchored in Hope. http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia
Video September 2025	30 Years Pilgrimage and PMA https://youtu.be/GCVf0lphGjQ
Video for August 2025	Journeys of hope. https://youtu.be/2gn2F1EvVi8

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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