



November 18 2025 | Volume 6, Number 11

1. Covenant Day Message

United in the Covenant - Pilgrims of Hope

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings from the Shrine on this Covenant Day – 18th November. During this month we remember two significant dates in our Schoenstatt Family history. The first is November 16th – the anniversary of the birth of Father Kentenich (1885).

The second is November 20th – the anniversary of the death of Venerable Sr. M. Emilie Engel (1955).

November is also a time when we remember all those who have died. We remember the members of our own families and close friends, and we give thanks for the example they left us and all they did for us during their time here on earth. We remember the members of our Australian Schoenstatt Family who have died, particularly those who have died during the past twelve months and reflect on the contribution they made to Schoenstatt in Australia.

On the Silver Jubilee of the Ordination of Father Kentenich (8th July 1935, but celebrated on 11th August 1935), he said that he wanted to use the celebration to thank “all Schoenstatt children, the dead, the living and generations to come.”

This address sheds light on the specific originality of Schoenstatt’s spirituality – the interweaving of destinies and the organism of bonding. In this address he said:

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"Our deceased are not dead; they are with us today. The work that has been created here is just as much the work of those who co – operated with me. I am inconceivable without you. My whole work cannot be explained without your most personal and profound co – operation. This applies in the first place to our dead.

Our departed work on through their heroic example; they work on because they embodied, sometimes in a heroic way, what we see today as a great idea in the heavens of our lives. We hope to God, and admit with great gratitude, that they work on through their intercession, through praying for us together with the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt. Yes, the hymns of thanksgiving must rise to a crescendo far more than they have done until now.

The Family has brought forth great people. We want to remain true to them. Faithfulness to them is faithfulness to our MTA, to our shrine, to our ideal.

But we also want to remain true to the coming generation. We have a task to fulfil for the coming generation. We bear responsibility for the coming generation, for our future history.

Yet we also want to swear that we will be faithful to one another..... How much mutual faithfulness we need when we are out in the world! We need faithfulness if our whole Family is to become an organic entity at a time when so many conflicting trends are at large. The less we can live our way of life together, the more we want to swear simple faithfulness to one another. Loyalty for loyalty, love for love!

So let it be, we remain true!"

Here in Australia, we remember those Sisters, Fathers, members from all States and from all branches– the Families, Mothers, Women, Men, Young Men, Young Women, Girls and members of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate, who are no longer with us and who witnessed to Schoenstatt through their loyalty to their Covenant of Love. We give thanks for their faithfulness to Schoenstatt's mission and for their contribution to Schoenstatt in Australia.

"One heart in the Father, for the family of God"

May the lives of Father Kentenich and Sr. M. Emilie continue to be examples for us of the way to live the mission we have been given in Schoenstatt, through our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, and we give thanks for the graces and blessings she showers on us from her shrines.

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall



2. Remembering the anniversary of the birth of Father Kentenich (November 16th 1885)

On the anniversary of the birthday of Father, you might like to offer him the gift of a prayer for his beatification:

We thank you for giving us Father Kentenich as a spiritual father.

Enkindled by the Holy Spirit, he became a father to many, a prophet and a herald of the Gospel for our time.

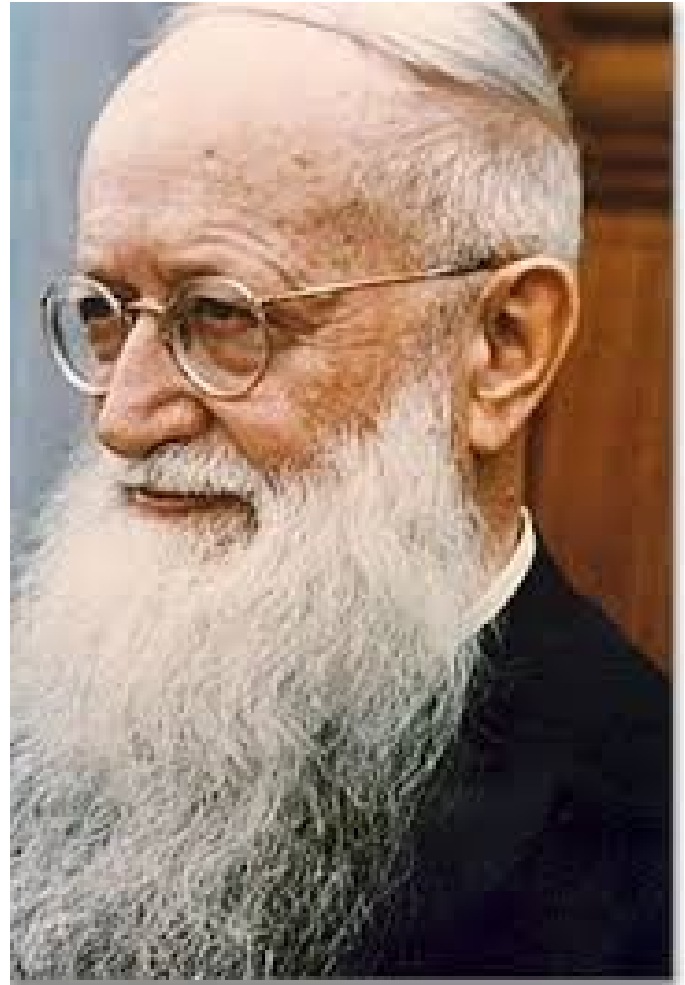
Through his consecration to Mary, in a Covenant of Love, he allowed himself to be formed by her maternal and immaculate heart into the image of your Divine Son.

He sought to fulfil your will at all times and became a witness of your merciful love.

He guided many people to the fullness of life and led all those entrusted to him heavenwards.

May many people continue to encounter him and be inspired to follow in his footsteps.

Let his charism be so alive in us that we can help shape the future of the Church and society through his Schoenstatt mission.



Heavenly Father, we pray that Father Kentenich may soon be numbered among the Saints.

We ask this of You, in union with Mary, our Mother Thrice Admirable and Victress of Schoenstatt, through Christ our Lord. Amen

3 Remembering Venerable Sr M. Emilie

On 20th November we remember Venerable Sister M. Emilie Engel, who died on this day in 1955. Sister M. Emilie came as a young woman to Schoenstatt where she met Father Kentenich. She placed herself at the disposal of Schoenstatt and became a founding member of the community of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary.

Like Father Kentenich, Sr. M. Emilie saw her mission as helping people to discover God in everything, to meet Him, and in faith, to respond to His fatherly guidance with a ready, "Yes Father". She exemplified finding shelter in God in the midst of insecurity and fear. This makes her a wonderful example for us in today's world.

Many people joyfully experience that Sister M. Emilie brings light into their life, a light that radiates God's sheltering and caring nearness and shows the way for us to God, away from darkness and fear

Sr. M. Emilie exemplifies someone who lived a truly Christian and authentic way of life through her commitment to her Covenant of Love and Schoenstatt's mission.

May the lives of
Father Kentenich and
Sr. M. Emilie continue to
witness for us how to live
the mission we have been
given in Schoenstatt.



We continue to pray for her canonization:

"Eternal Father, you led Sr. Emilie along the way of simple childlikeness and unselfish motherliness.

Trusting in Your wise providence, she spoke a loving yes to Your plans and wishes even in the most difficult situations.

She was deeply sheltered in Your fatherly heart and was freed from fear and inner anxiety.

In your love and kindness, you have shown Your power in her.

I ask You for the canonization of Sister Emilie to Your glory, the honour of the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt, and the blessing of all people. Amen

(From: "Lived Faith in Divine Providence: A Light for Many" – Novena to Sr. M. Emilie)

4 Celebrating Schoenstatt's Foundation Day around Australia

4.1 Foundation Day of a Different Kind - Western Australia

It was a unique experience – a 3-day event, giving thanks for all the gifts the Blessed Mother intercedes on our behalf from her shrine here in the West. She works in many different ways to realize her mission, as we read on the cornerstone:

“Build from here a world pleasing to the Father”.

We began our celebrations with Holy Mass in our shrine on 17th October. On the 19th October we renewed our Covenant, after which we watched an inspiring video from Shirley. This was followed by a devotion in the shrine which was attended by many people.

At the afternoon tea we gave thanks to Sr. M. Luka for her presence and contribution in WA and her many activities in making Schoenstatt known to ever wider circles within the Archdiocese. At the end of October she will leave us to serve our international mission at the headquarters of Schoenstatt in Germany.

For the actual Foundation Day on the 18th October, the Blessed Mother seemed to have reserved a unique gift for us that totally surprised us.

On the morning of the 17th October, a tree company took care of our fallen branches and even a fallen tree. They trimmed bushes and cleared the grounds in preparation for the foundation day events on the following day.

A gift for a gift! Our modest gift in return for these workers and their hard work, are our prayers for each worker and their many intentions. Please help us pray for these generous people.



4.2 Schoenstatt's Foundation Day Family Festival

On Sunday October 19th, over 500 people gathered at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa for the Schoenstatt Foundation Day Family Festival. The celebrations began at 10.15am with a pre-program in the Family Hall. This was led by Thorie Tembo a Schoenstatt Young Woman and Bernard Toutounji a member of the Schoenstatt Family Branch. The pre-program comprised a mix of information about Schoenstatt's spirituality in the form of videos, testimonies and prayers.

During the pre-program Fr. Pawel Barszczewski OP and Fr. Piotr Kruk OP made themselves available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which was gratefully received by many pilgrims.

Before Holy Mass began everyone was invited to write down their gifts of love on a slip of paper which the volunteers then collected. These contributions to the capital of grace were placed into the jar which was beautifully arranged near the Covenant Book at the side of the altar near the Blessed Mother.

Holy Mass began at 11.00am with pilgrims carrying flags from different countries in the procession into the Family Hall. Fr. Pawel OP celebrated holy Mass, assisted by Deacon Jerome D'Rozario. It was great to have many Schoenstatt members present and active during the liturgy as ministers at the altar, lectors, choir members and in the offertory procession.

In his homily Fr. Pawel OP highlighted the importance of the Covenant of Love and how everything we do in our daily life can be offered as a gift to our Mother Thrice Admirable. She in turn takes these gifts and transforms them into the many graces which flow from the Schoenstatt Shrine. He emphasised that Schoenstatt's foundation day is not just about an historical event but a mission for these current times that we are all called to participate in.

At the conclusion of Holy Mass there was a procession to the Schoenstatt Shrine which again was led by bearers of the national flags. The Covenant Jar and the Covenant Book were also carried in the procession. Along the way a decade of the rosary was prayed for Pope Leo's intention for peace and for all the intentions that were placed in the jar and entrusted to the blessed Mother in the Shrine. Upon arrival at the Shrine, we presented our gratitude to the blessed Mother for transforming this place into a place of grace and we renewed our Covenant of Love. At the conclusion Fr. Pawel OP gave the blessing, and sent us out from the Shrine as Pilgrims of Hope. Grace was then prayed, and the food at the food stalls was blessed, opening the afternoon program.

There was a BBQ, international food stalls, dessert stalls and various other stalls available for everyone to enjoy. The little ones very much appreciated the snow cones, the jumping castle and face painting while the adults took the opportunity to visit the market stall, the information stall and plant stall. The raffle tickets were also a very big attraction. The day was filled with a family atmosphere and everywhere you turned there were smiling faces.

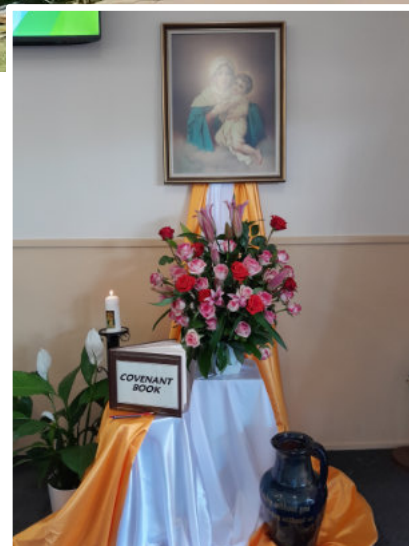
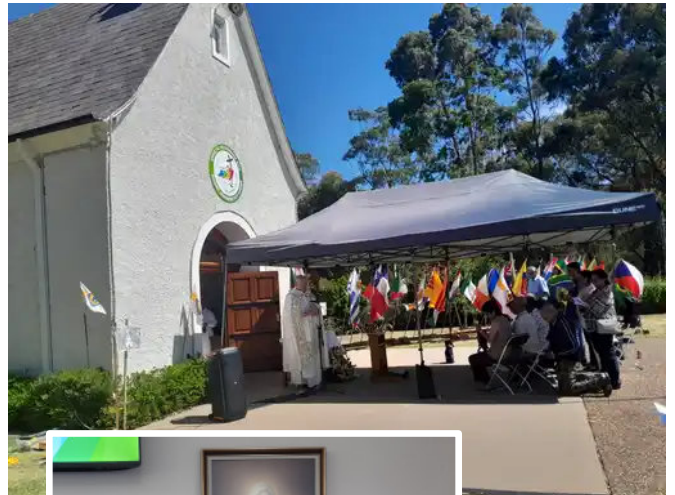
At 1:45, the Shrine bell was rung inviting everyone to the Shrine for a prayer devotion and Benediction. Many people gathered in and around the Shrine, looking for any shade they could find as it was a hot and sunny day. A marquee and an altar were set up outside the Shrine where Fr. Pawel OP led the prayers and Sr. M. Elizabeth Foley accompanied the hymns on the keyboard under the shade of a tree. Under the motto "United in the Covenant – Pilgrims of Hope!", together we gave praise and thanks to our Lord Jesus present in the monstrance. We then turned our gaze to our Mother Thrice Admirable and in gratitude we recognized all the wondrous things she has done over the many years, through the International Schoenstatt Movement, and also in our own personal lives. We also prayed in thanksgiving for our founder Fr. Joseph Kentenich and implored that his process for canonization may soon proceed with a positive outcome. After Benediction Fr. Pawel OP went around with holy water and blessed all the religious items that had been purchased during the day.

Sr. M. Rita Baysari concluded the day with words of thanks. She thanked everyone who contributed in making this day possible, particularly mentioning the planning team who invested much time and effort in setting up and organising the day. She also expressed her gratitude for the many sponsors and stalls holders for their generous donations.

This year's Foundation Day celebrations truly had a family festival character with the Covenant of Love and the Schoenstatt Shrine at the centre of the whole day. What was truly amazing was the wide variety of people from different cultures and ages, as well as varying levels of Schoenstatt knowledge or commitment who took part in the day.

Some people who were in attendance have been part of the Schoenstatt Movement for over fifty years while others only recently visited the Shrine for the first time. We hope that all who attended had a blessed and joyful experience.

Sr. M. Rita Baysari



4.3 Celebrating Foundation Day / Covenant Sunday in Melbourne

For the Schoenstatt family in Melbourne, Foundation Day and Covenant Sunday in October meant a double celebration.

As you may be aware, the Melbourne Schoenstatt Shrine has found a home in the Divine Mercy Chapel at St Luke's Parish in Wantirna.

Coincidentally (or should we rather say, Providentially) the parish celebrates the feast of its Patron Saint – St Luke, on 18 October. Hence, the Schoenstatt family joined the St Luke's Parish community in a double celebration on Sunday the 19th of October.

A solemn High Mass was celebrated, at which symbols of the various ministries in the Parish were brought forward during the entrance procession.

The Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Shrine was also included in the procession and carried by Annerine Pragnasekera and Lidia Dias, as part of the St Luke's parish family.

Following the Mass, the Schoenstatt family gathered in the Chapel to renew the Covenant of Love and serenade the Blessed Mother.

The celebrations then continued with the Parish and School Fete at which some of our Schoenstatt members assisted and others joined in the Fete activities in support of the Parish.

The weather, thank you Blessed Mother, was fair, although rain had been predicted.

It was a great parish/Schoenstatt family celebration.

The Victorian Schoenstatt Committee.



5. Pope Leo XIV grants the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary a gift of a Plenary Indulgence

In last month's Newsletter we read about the opening of our Centennial Year as Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary. It is with great joy that, this month, we can share the most wonderful gift that Pope Leo XIV has granted our Sisters' Family for this year of celebrations and thanksgiving. The good news is that anyone who visits our Shrines and House Chapels may also receive the gift of the plenary indulgence. The official announcement from www.schoenstatt.com reads as follows:

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, granted the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt—the founding shrine of the community—and all Schoenstatt Shrines, churches, and chapels under the community's responsibility, the gift of a Plenary Indulgence.

This indulgence may be obtained during the period from October 1, 2025, to November 4, 2026.

It applies to “the members of the Institute and all the faithful who, moved by penitence and love, unite themselves with the spiritual aims of the Jubilee Year 2026” (Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, October 1, 2025). All the faithful are invited to make a pilgrimage to one of the mentioned places and spend some time there in spiritual reflection. The indulgence can also be offered as intercession for deceased believers.

The conditions for obtaining a plenary indulgence are sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father (the decree specifies: the Our Father, the Creed, an invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Peace and Mother of Mercy), as well as a work of penance and charity.



Here in Australia the gift of this indulgence for the Jubilee Year may be obtained (see conditions above) at the Schoenstatt Shrines at Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa and Mt. Richon, W.A. as well as in the House Chapels of the Schoenstatt Sisters at Mount Schoenstatt.

For our community, this gift of indulgence in our jubilee year is another invitation from God—through the Church—to a deeper purification of our hearts. We trust that the grace of God will tangibly sustain us at the beginning of a new era in our family.

The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary

6 October Girls Day Out at the Shrine

During the second week of the school holidays, on Tuesday 7th October and Wednesday 8th October, two groups of girls gathered at the Home of Light at Mount Schoenstatt for the “Girls Day out at the Shrine”. Both days were amazing and were filled with much joy, laughter, fun, games, prayers, and song. The first group were mainly 15– and 16–year-olds while the second group was made up of girls between 10–14 years of age. Many of the girls have been to one of these day events before but there were still a few who were at Mount Schoenstatt for the very first time. These young girls were particularly impressed by the Shrine and how much fun they had. They promised to be back with their friends next time.

As October is the month of the Holy Rosary this was the theme of each day. The day started with a few icebreaker games and songs. Sr. M. Rita with the assistance of some young women, delivered the input sessions and facilitated the small group discussions. The girls were invited to look closely at three events in Scripture, from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Annunciation, the Visitation and the Nativity). After some discussion the girls were able to draw out some conclusions on what these passages tell us about who the Blessed Mother was and identify the different qualities that she possessed. From this long list they were then asked to choose three characteristics that they liked about Mary that they want to strive to imitate in their own lives. The next task was to connect all the different mysteries of the Holy Rosary together. The final session was probably the most enjoyable and brought about the most laughter. In pairs the girls were asked to act out one of the mysteries of the Holy Rosary for the others to guess. It was wonderful to experience the girls being so creative and really investing themselves in this roleplaying.

After lunch and some free time, the first group went for a Rosary bushwalk while the second group opted to pray the Rosary indoors as they were too hot and tired after playing a very lively soccer match in their free time.

Next on the schedule was time for craft. Everyone enjoyed the simple task of creating a rosary picture using coloured tissue paper. Again, it was beautiful to see the girls really taking pride in their work and producing wonderful pieces of artwork. Many girls at the end of the day mentioned this as being the highlight of the day as it had given them an opportunity to talk to the leaders or Sr. M. Rita in a relaxed atmosphere and to ask them some questions.

The day ended with prayers and singing in the Shrine. The girls were invited to write a personal letter to the Blessed Mother recalling the characteristics they loved about Mary and asking her to help them to endeavour to imitate her and her virtues.

Once again, the “Girls Day Out at the Shrine” was a very fruitful, blessed and enjoyable time for everyone involved. The girls were able to connect with other like-minded young girls in a welcoming, relaxed and prayerful atmosphere and to learn more about Mary and about themselves at the same time.

The next event for young girls will be the “Summer Camp”. These are scheduled for:

- Ages 14–17 years: Monday 12th – Wednesday 14th January
- Ages 10–13 years: Thursday 15th – Saturday 17th January

Young women aged 15+ are welcome to stay from Sunday 11th – Sunday 18th January or stay for a few of these days to assist as volunteers or leaders. The flyer will be released soon but in the meantime, you can contact Sr. M. Rita for more details.





7 W.A. Schoenstatt Family Camp

Between 9th and 12th of October this year, a group of 81 people spent some quality time at the Bickley Outdoor Recreation Camp in the Perth Hills – a beautiful spot where buildings with large dormitories were purposely built around Bickley Reservoir. It includes facilities such as a sports court, auditorium, flying foxes and some canoes, providing much adventure and fun for the families.

The program was organised by Sr M Luka, together with Sharne Nagel and a group of volunteers. The 4-day retreat started as a camp program for the Schoenstatt Girls and Young Women with their mothers, that then developed into their extended families (i.e. boys and their fathers too) with activities set in three streams: Girls activities, Boys activities and Parents activities – all of them combining between adventure and camp-related fun with time for reflection, learning and prayer.

We had great music, with a special song called “Mary, Let Me Be a Living Shrine” as our theme song which was developed throughout the days, linking the activities, with all streams growing their attachment to the Shrine and Mary as our Educator. Our Camp Shrine started as a simple room that grew over the days with our offerings to Our Lady, and developing into a rich spiritual place full of meaning.

The Camp started on Thursday afternoon, with one of our first activities being the building of our Camp Shrine and learning about the Capital of Grace and the meaning of our personal contributions.

On Friday, we had sports activities such as bushwalking, canoeing and swimming, whilst in between we kept enriching our Camp Shrine and learning about the Symbols of the Shrine and what they represent. We went to Mass as a group in the

morning at Our Lady of Lourdes church at Lesmurdie. The parish priest was very happy to see so many of us there. In the evening, some people had the opportunity to visit the Perth Observatory nearby while those who stayed behind enjoyed an Outdoor Movie Night under the stars.

Saturday had deeper sessions, where we learnt about the Home Shrine and Heart Shrine while groups of older children and young adults took turns crossing the reservoir on the flying fox. In the afternoon, we were blessed with many priests visiting us so that all groups had an opportunity to go to Confession.

This was followed by a Vigil Mass at Lesmurdie parish. We concluded the day with a special BBQ around the Camp Fire, with a cake to thank Sr Luka for her time here with us here in W.A. and wishing her well in her future work for Schoenstatt in Germany.

The Camp concluded on Sunday morning with a bushwalk through the nearby heritage trail, carrying our Pilgrim Mother in procession while praying a rosary.

All who were present were then invited to visit the Shrine in Armadale for a Jubilee Pilgrimage indulgence.

This was one of the most beautiful and inspiring family events we have participated in, with a special mix of fun activities and reflection, and a great sense of community as well as knowing we belong to and are cared for by Our Blessed Mother.

We are hopeful that Our Mother will create miracles in the hearts of those who were there with us, and that we may have a chance to run this activity again soon.

United in the Covenant,
Guil & Barbara Dias and family



8. 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 November 2025 An outline of the Sisters' history in Australia

<https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia>

Video for October 2025 Anchored in Hope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvvFrFbYUjI>

Video September 2025 30 Years Pilgrimage and PMA

<https://youtu.be/GCVf0lphGjQ>



DON'T FORGET We are all Schoenstatt” – A Challenge Shared by All

The International Schoenstatt Movement continues to need our support to finance these three projects:

Three Projects, One Aim

1. **Maintenance of the Original Shrine:** An emblematic and sacred place for the entire Schoenstatt Family
2. **Support for the International Coordination of the Movement**
3. **Funding of an independent study on the cause of our Father and Founder**

How to Donate

Donations can be made through various channels, mainly through the [Donorbox](#) platform.

We are all Schoenstatt! It is time to unite, embrace our origin and spread together our Covenant for the future.

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome.

Please send to movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au before the beginning of each month

Editorial Team: Sr. M. Elizabeth Foley, Shirley Hall

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