



April 18 2026 Volume 7 Number 4

## *United in the Covenant – Pilgrims of Hope*

### Covenant Day Message

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

As we are still in the holy Easter Season, I wish you many Blessings and greetings from the Shrine for this Covenant Day – 18<sup>th</sup> April and hope that you had a very joy-filled and blessed Easter.

In our novena for vocations to the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary internationally, and specifically in Australia and the Philippines, we focus this month on the courage of the sisters and their achievements over the past 75 years.



We think of the outreach to Toowoomba, and the courage it took to send sisters to a new field of work when there were so few sisters to accomplish the work here 'at home' (in Sydney). It also took courage to listen to the voice of God when in 1993, it was decided to recall the Sisters to Sydney.

Earlier it had taken courage for Sr. M Loretta and Sr. Mariwarda to go back to WA in the late 1970s when they were needed to help in the east of the country. However, with these two enthusiastic Sisters, life in W.A. continued to grow and in 1991 a Shrine was built. We could say that in these outreaches the sisters were courageous in serving the Schoenstatt mission in the spirit of Father Kentenich.

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For Father Kentenich perhaps the greatness of his life is to be found in that he had the courage to risk all – the courage to stake everything for God and his cause. Father Kentenich had the courage to try to discover constantly: What does God want? Then having recognized God's will in the light of faith, he had the courage to do it. He took no notice of the objections raised by human reasoning, nor was he influenced by the agreement or disagreement of the people around him.

He was admired for the atmosphere of calmness and security that always surrounded him, even in the concentration camp and during his fourteen years of exile. We must not forget that at neither of these periods did he have any human guarantee of his return. His only security was the certainty of faith. This is always a lonely certainty and requires *the courage to risk all in faith.....*

In the life of Father Kentenich, the courage to risk all is inseparable from the chapel of grace – the Schoenstatt Shrine. This was where he felt at home. Here the transforming power of grace was revealed to him. Here he repeatedly received the mission of drawing the world, the people of our day, with Mary and Christ, in the Holy Spirit, home to the Eternal Father.

Just as our sisters would have looked to Father Kentenich when they went to spread Schoenstatt further in W.A., and in Toowoomba, let us also ask Our Lady for his courage to risk all in faith – in order to bear witness to the reality of the living God in our world.

*(adapted from "The Courage of Faith" Novena – introduction)*

I wish you all many blessings and graces from our shrines as we continue in the joy of the Easter season. United in our Covenant of Love, our Blessed Mother, and with our father and founder, may this holy season bring us all hope, peace and joy.

Shirley Hall



## **JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THANKSGIVING**

*The 6<sup>th</sup> April this year marked 75 years since the arrival of the first four Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in Fremantle, W.A.*

*To mark this day, the sisters and Schoenstatt Family in W.A. held a celebration of thanksgiving at Queen of Apostles, Riverton. The venue was chosen because it was the Centre for our Schoenstatt family in the early years before the Shrine was built at Mount Richon.*

*At the same time, at Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa there was a celebration of thanksgiving for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in Australia and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Schoenstatt Movement in NSW.*

*In our May issue of the newsletter, we look forward to sharing with you some of the joys and highlights of both these celebrations.*

## 24 Hours for the Lord

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Mount Schoenstatt was blessed to have once again the 24 Hours for the Lord from March 13-14. Around 55 people attended the opening mass on Friday night which was celebrated by Fr. Pawal OP. Following the Mass Fr. Pawal was available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with many taking the opportunity to receive the Sacrament.



While some remained in adoration, several people gathered in the Pilgrim Centre afterwards for fellowship, especially those who had committed to cover an hour of adoration later in the evening.

This year, every hour of the roster was filled with our different Schoenstatt branches becoming involved. There also seemed to be more interest shown from those in neighbouring parishes as well as several regular pilgrims.

By 4pm on the Saturday the Shrine was already full, with many people arriving early for the 5.30 vigil Mass and to go to confession. Fr Pawal even continued hearing confessions after Mass for another hour as there was such a great demand.



The Saturday vigil mass at 5.30pm was a solemn and beautiful closing for these 24 hours of adoration and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. There were around 90 people to share this final Mass.



Thanks go to Fr. Pawel and all who were involved in the preparation, as well as those faithful people who covered the times of adoration throughout the night and early morning hours.



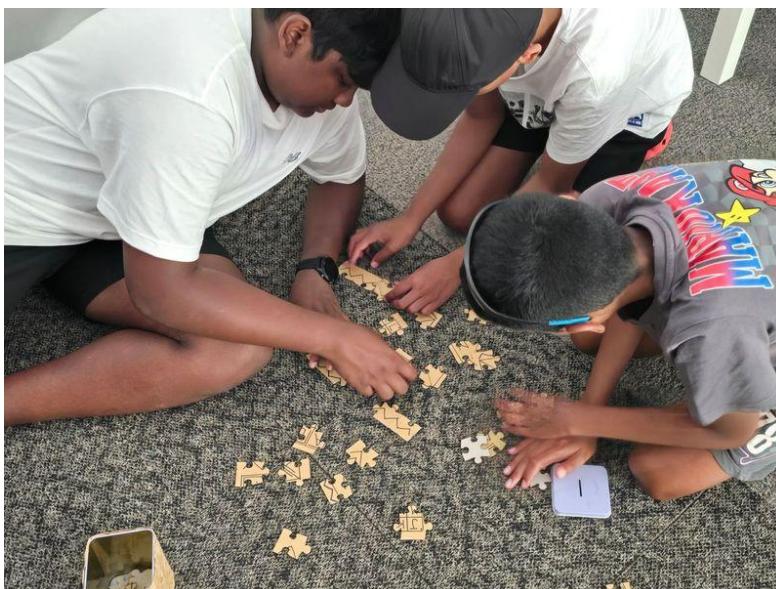
## Boys' Camp Report

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The boys' camp returned to Mount Schoenstatt in January, after an absence of several decades.

Over two nights, a group of boys aged 12-16 gathered in the Home of Light with a simple goal in mind – to find the hero within. We often think heroism is about something outward, like winning an award or showing off physical strength. Yet we know that despite this being a popular secular message aimed in particular at boys, the reality is that heroism comes in all forms, all shapes and all sizes, and everyone can be a hero.

With that in mind, our spiritual theme was “The Hero Within.” We blended faith with formation to discover that growing closer to God is about the journey of faith and character development together.



Over a few days, we saw sweat, shields, Shrine, swimming, and solidarity. The conditions were challenging, with temperatures pushing 40 degrees in some parts of the day. We timed our activities as we ventured out into the bush to find raw materials for each young man to create and decorate their wooden shield. It served as a reminder that the things we need to draw on, the strengths and the things we need, are often all around us, if only we open our eyes and look.

We built an escape room as well within the Home of Light, a series of puzzles over 45 minutes, without which the boys could not ‘escape’ to lunch! Hunger came in physical form that day—and everyone did escape. But we should channel hunger in other ways too, to drive us to action.

The weekend balanced this action with stillness. Fr Pawel delivered a talk on happiness that gave the boys something to think about, and we continued to draw those threads together during holy mass.

Evenings brought games, films and fellowship. The boys coped remarkably well, despite the oppressive heat. Seeing it come together reminded us why faith matters. While a camp is a great place to gather, to pray, to take action, it is just part of the journey of the everyday striving that we see as part of our lives. Perhaps we plant seeds at the camp, but the flourishing into plants is something that we have to nurture and take pride in every day.

Faith and character are not built over a few days, but rather across a lifetime. Nonetheless, the heroes within made a bold appearance and we are proud of every one of them. Thank you also to our helpers and volunteers for making the camp a success.

Paul Regis



# Pilgrim Mother Consecrations in W.A.

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On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March during our Holy Mass in the Shrine, 7 people made the Covenant of Love with our Mother Thrice Admirable as members of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.

All of them are members of the same parish in Ellenbrook, North of Perth and most of them are also co-ordinators in the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate.



As true pilgrims, our way toward the Covenant of Love was long; it led us on a winding road until we said our yes to the offer of our Blessed Mother to make the covenant with us and we with her.

Everyone was filled with gratitude and joy, with hope and peace. What one lady said was felt by everyone: "I feel truly blessed to be a part of our Schoenstatt family. I hold each and every one of you close to my heart."



# Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Mt Schoenstatt

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The Stations of the Cross at Mount Schoenstatt on Good Friday saw more than 1,500 pilgrims join in prayer and reflection on the way of the Cross of our Lord and Saviour. The journey from valley to Shrine was blessed with beautiful autumn weather.



The reflective texts at each Station helped us view these last hours of Jesus, his passion and death, through Mary's eyes and gave us thoughts to help us see parallels in our own lives. The peace and serenity of the surrounding nature created the ideal atmosphere for meditative prayer.



The large wooden cross which normally stands beside the Shrine was carried by volunteers, who took turns as the sea of people moved from Station to Station up the winding road, till the Cross found its resting place once more at the Shrine.

Fr Peter OP led the congregation in reverent prayer and gave his final priestly blessing at the Shrine. He reminded the pilgrims that they could receive a plenary indulgence and with this in mind prayed for the intentions of the Holy Father.



Hundreds of people then lined up to enter the Shrine, spending a brief moment with the Blessed Mother in prayer before allowing the next person in through the door. Many families and friends also found themselves a nice spot on the grass or around the grounds, enjoying the sunshine and company of each other. Other groups of people prayed their own private stations of the cross throughout the day or simply came to visit our Mother Thrice Admirable in the Shrine. God's blessings on the day were felt by all in super abundance, highlighting evermore the merciful ways in which God loves us infinitely.



## 6. Information and Links

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### 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 – Second Sunday each month 7-8pm Shrine, Mulgoa

#### ➤ Links:

Official Schoenstatt Website	<a href="https://www.schoenstatt.com">https://www.schoenstatt.com</a>
Schoenstatt Australian Website	<a href="http://www.schoenstatt.org.au">http://www.schoenstatt.org.au</a>
Our YouTube Channel	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia">https://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia</a>
Western Australian 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>

- **Zoom Gatherings for Covenant Days** – 18<sup>th</sup> of the Month 7.30 – 8.30 pm AEDT

### Videos

April 2026 – History of Schoenstatt in Queensland – **Zoom Meeting 18 April**

March 2026 - History of Schoenstatt Family in Melbourne <https://youtu.be/a9EAWZ69i0c>

February 2026 - Mary, our Consors Patris Queen <https://youtu.be/447oQFt0yDY>

January 2026 - The Beginning Years in NSW – Early History: Schoenstatt Sisters.  
<https://youtu.be/ELxWG1ROyv0>

December 2025 - Consors Patris – Helpmate of the Father [https://youtu.be/JT4Z\\_5VHaKA](https://youtu.be/JT4Z_5VHaKA)

**Note: These last videos don't upload from Schoenstatt Australia YouTube site**

### DON'T FORGET .....

- **We are all Schoenstatt" - A Challenge Shared by All**

It is time to unite, embrace our origin and spread together our Covenant for the future.

The International Schoenstatt Movement continues to need our support.

#### **How to Donate**

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



- **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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