



May 18 2026 Volume 7 Number 5

United in the Covenant Pilgrims of Hope

1. Covenant Day Message

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Blessings and greetings for this Covenant Day – 18th May. The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At all times, but especially during this month we give special thanks to Our Lady for all the gifts and graces she has given us through our Shrines and through our Covenant of Love and for being always with us in our daily lives.

After the first four sisters arrived in Australia, their great desire was always to build a Shrine for Our Blessed Mother. As they could not do this in the early years of their mission in Australia, these four sisters decided to spiritually build the foundation of a Shrine by emphasizing the four corner stones on which the Schoenstatt spirituality is based.

1. The firm belief in Divine Providence,
2. A great, deep love for Mary,
3. The inscriptio spirit, and
4. Schoenstatt mission consciousness.



The Sisters saw the Shrine as a source of this spirit, and they wanted to allow it to inspire them to radiate Mary into our world by their being and actions.

Through their unity with each other and Father Kentenich in the Covenant of Love, they wanted to share in Mary's mission for our present times. In 1966 Father Kentenich said:

“The Blessed Mother entered into a Covenant of Love with Schoenstatt. I say: with Schoenstatt as a place, but also with Schoenstatt as a community. In what did this covenant consist of? If I may express it quite simply and understandably, I have to say: She has transferred her mission for our present times to the place Schoenstatt, and to our community at Schoenstatt: She has transferred her mission in an original way.

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We have firstly to become aware of precisely what her mission is for our present times. It is a mission that ensures that in the transformation taking place in our times, Christ should be born again through her for the image of the Church at the shores of the newest times.

... So, what does Our Lady want to do by virtue of the Covenant of Love? Through a unique Covenant of Love, she wants to commit herself, she wants to feel obliged to carry out her great mission through her shrine and through the Schoenstatt community, in the changing, in the dreadfully confusing and confused changes taking place in our present times.” (JK. *Address to the Schoenstatt Family, 1 May, 1966*)

*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*

We are reminded that on the 19th May 1968, our national Shrine at Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa was blessed and opened. Now in this year of Jubilees, we are proud to have been able to offer as our Jubilee Gift to our Blessed Mother, the naming of our National Shrine. It is now officially our CONSORS PATRIS SHRINE (Helpmate of the Father).

In union with our Blessed Mother Thrice Admirable, may we strive to live our Marian mission in the spirit of Schoenstatt, and in unity with our first founding sisters, through:

A firm belief in Divine Providence,
A great, deep love for Mary,
Living the Inscriptio spirit, and
Conscious of our Schoenstatt Mission.

May our Blessed Mother send you many blessings and graces from the Shrine on this Covenant Day and for the remainder of May, this special month of Mary. I wish you all hope, peace and joy.

United in our covenant,

Shirley Hall



2. Celebrating Schoenstatt's Jubilee in W.A.

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On Easter Monday 6th April, a celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Schoenstatt Sisters arrival in Australia was held at the Queen of Apostles Church in Riverton WA. Holy Mass was concelebrated by Fr Paul Manickathan SAC, Fr Mark Baumgarten, Fr Brennan Sia and Fr Elver Delicano, along with Deacon Bruce Talbot. Four Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary were there for the celebration – Sr M Thomasine, Sr M Helen, Sr M Lisette and Sr M Renee. They were joined by Schoenstatt members together with representatives from the Parish School, and parishioners from Riverton and other parishes. Around 220 people attended altogether.

At the beginning of Holy Mass, the Principal of the school, along with teacher and a group of school children came forward to offer a beautifully prepared Tree of Thanksgiving for the past, and petitions for the future. It was a lovely gesture.

In Fr Paul's homily he said "that the sisters were guided by divine providence. The 75-year history is proof of their tremendous faith, prayers and service, next to learning the language of the people. They continue their work of education with youth and families as well as their social projects with the graces of the Schoenstatt Shrine, their spiritual home. In this solemn moment let us stretch out our hands to one another. We are united by God's faithfulness and love and commit ourselves to enter the new time with love and humility – Here I am Lord, take me, accept me in the Covenant with Jesus and Mary!"



Mass was followed by a tour of the Schoenstatt Early Learning Centre at the school, where the Principal, Jesse Yock, gave a wonderful testimony regarding the school's association with the Schoenstatt Sisters and his appreciation of the legacy they left, and their ongoing association. (*Please see separate article*).

Everyone then moved to the Parish Centre for afternoon tea. During this time we had some reflections by Terry Huxtable, the Co-ordinator of the Schoenstatt Movement in WA, and Sr M. Helen who shared some history of the arrival of the first sisters in Australia, their teaching at the Aboriginal Missions in Tardun and Wandering, before being asked to start the school and kindergarten in Riverton. Hence the Early Learning Centre has been dedicated to the Sisters. (Their travel to Australia had come about, when the Pallottine Fathers made a request to Fr Kantenich in Germany for some Schoenstatt Sisters to join them on mission in Australia.)

Sr M. Helen concluded her talk by saying, "Today we are gathered here to give thanks that our Sisters arrived here in Western Australia seventy-five years ago today. No doubt, our founder in responding to the request for sisters, was aware of the strength and vitality of St Vincent Pallotti's charism and our sister's specific contribution.

As I see it, parishioners here in the Riverton parish, experienced an outflow of authentic Gospel faith and commitment, from its early beginning years, in the leadership of their Pallottine Priests, and was then supported by the endeavours of the sisters. Parishioners became more confident and active in their everyday efforts to live the Great Commandment, sharing their faith in Christ and their love for Mary with others - as Pallotti did in his lifetime.”

“Each day is a gift. Life is short. The sisters give thanks for all the blessings, for all who have been part of the parish, and for all who have now passed on. We remember too, that the fulness of the divine life and joy still await us. The time is still to come, when there will be ample time to recall significant happenings and events and together thank God for all the opportunities and graces that have been received.”



There was also a slideshow of photos of many of the Sisters from the early days to more recent times covering events in both WA and NSW. Cathy Forrester (nee Cole) then read a poem about her time at the school in the 1960's, before the four sisters present, cut the anniversary cakes. Each of the Sisters was then presented with a bouquet of flowers from the Schoenstatt Movement.

Sr M Thomasine thanked the organist David Templeman and the choir for enriching the celebration with such fitting music and songs. Everyone was able to join in, helping to create a truly festive and joyful atmosphere!

It was truly a joy filled celebration!

Philomena Theseira



3. Words of Appreciation to the sisters of W.A.

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The following are words of appreciation by the Principal, Jesse Yock, of Queen of Apostles Primary School in Riverton, Western Australia, on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Sisters arriving in Australia.

The sisters founded the school in 1956, five years after their arrival in Australia. It is a great privilege to be here today as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Schoenstatt Sisters – a truly significant milestone in the life of the Church, and in the story of our community at Queen of Apostles. My name is Jesse Yock and I am the current principal.



On behalf of our school, I would like to acknowledge and honour the Schoenstatt Sisters as the founding order of Queen of Apostles Primary School. Your presence, your faith, and your commitment have shaped the very heart of who we are today. The charism of Schoenstatt is not just part of our history – it continues to live and breathe in our school community each and every day. As a Catholic school, we speak often about identity, mission and spirit. For us, these are not abstract ideas - they are grounded in the legacy you have entrusted to us. A

legacy of deep faith, strong relationships, and a commitment to forming young people who know they are loved, valued and called to make a difference in the world.

One of the most visible and meaningful ways we honour this connection is through our Early Learning Centre, proudly named after the Schoenstatt Sisters. It is a place of joy, nurture and belonging – and without question, one of the most special parts of our school. It stands as a daily reminder of your influence and the foundations you laid.



We are also incredibly grateful for the ongoing relationship we share. It is not simply a connection of the past - it is alive and active. We love welcoming Sr Lisette into our classrooms, where she so generously shares her faith, her story and her wisdom with both our students and staff. These moments are powerful - they connect our young people to something bigger than themselves and deepen their understanding of our Catholic identity.

Our connection continues beyond the school. Our students regularly journey to the Schoenstatt Shrine in Armadale for their sacramental retreats - a place of reflection, peace and encounter. It is a sacred space that leaves a lasting impression on our students as they take important steps in their faith journey. And as a staff, we value the opportunity each year to give back in a small way - assisting with cleaning at the Shrine. It is a simple act, but one that reflects our gratitude and our desire to continue this partnership in a spirit of service.

Today, we give thanks. We give thanks for your vision, your courage and your unwavering faith over 75 years. We give thanks for the generations of Sisters who have served, led and inspired. And we give thanks for the enduring relationship we are so fortunate to share.

May God continue to bless the Schoenstatt Sisters as you carry forward your mission. And may we, at Queen of Apostles, continue to honour your legacy through the way we educate, lead, and live out our faith each day. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone.



4. Jubilee Celebrations at Mt. Schoenstatt, Mulgoa

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75 Years of Schoenstatt in Australia; and 60 Years of the Movement in NSW

Easter Monday, 6th April was a very special day for our Schoenstatt Family in Australia.

On this day 75 years earlier, the first four Schoenstatt sisters arrived in Fremantle, in Western Australia. These sisters came to Australia at the invitation of the Pallottine Fathers who wanted them to help on a mission station. These young sisters did not know much about Australia but Father Kentenich's words in his farewell letter to them was on their minds and gave them great confidence:

“Start the journey courageously”.

We are all indebted and grateful for the forward thinking and courage of Father Kentenich, as well as the readiness of the four pioneer sisters to accept this mission. It is only through their efforts and their belief in trusting themselves totally to our Mother Thrice Admirable, that we are here today.

In union with the members of our Schoenstatt family in Western Australia this was a celebration of gratitude for the courage of those first Sisters in coming to Australia and for the Schoenstatt movement that has developed since that time.

For us here in NSW, a second and special joy this day was the opportunity to give thanks for the Schoenstatt apostolate that began here on 18th January 1966 when two Schoenstatt sisters began working in the parish of Mt Druitt, an outer suburb west of Sydney. Here the sisters quickly began establishing groups for mothers, families, young women and girls. The movement quickly spread thanks to the work of these and other sisters who joined them.

This jubilee celebration was a spiritually enriching and rewarding occasion in our Schoenstatt history. It brought together some of those who were part of the earliest groups of the movement as well as those who had joined later or were completely new to Schoenstatt. It was a time to not only give thanks for all that has taken place in our movement here in NSW, but also to share some of the experiences of those who were part of those early years.

Over a hundred people attended and were welcomed by the Provincial Leader of the sisters in Australia and the Philippines, Sr. M. Isabell Nauman.



Family Hall decoration



Testimony from Shirley Hall

Shirley Hall was the facilitator for the afternoon's program.

The sharing by members of the movement of their experiences from those early days, not only provided many fascinating memories, but also gave an insight into the way the movement has grown in depth.



Testimony from Therese Wilson

This not only challenged those who have been part of the Schoenstatt Family for many years but also those who are new or newer to Schoenstatt.

The testimonies began with a video of Sister Inez Strnad who gave a general overview of the work of the sisters from their time of arrival in Western Australia, till they began to work in Mount Druitt. Sister Inez spoke of the many sacrifices they and future sisters accepted in carrying out our father and founder's mission. They had accepted this mission in their new land, far from

home, and all things familiar. This was daring and challenging, but they accepted it because behind all the struggles, through their hard work and dedication, was a deep love for our Blessed Mother and for Father Kentenich. They believed in our father and founder's words: *"You need not fear, our Mother is holding her protecting hand over you"*. This gave them the confidence to embrace all things for the sake of the Schoenstatt mission.

Sr. M. Angrit Bergmann spoke of her experiences in helping to build up Schoenstatt groups, particularly Mothers' groups. Sister shared how just before she left for Australia, she was able to have a personal meeting with our father and founder. Among other things she asked our father what special task he would give her to do in Australia? His answer was that I should take up the responsibility for building up the Schoenstatt Movement in Australia. When she expressed her fear that - with her make up - she didn't think she was able to do this, Father Kentenich said that divine providence would guide her through all situations. And then he said that his wish for her was most of all the heroism of trust that a higher power would carry her victoriously through all situations.



A gift for the sisters from Tessie & Cesar

She related how some parish priests were very positive towards Schoenstatt and so she was able to start groups in various parishes. Besides the groups in Mt Druitt and Lurnea, she could also build up groups in Warragamba, St. Marys, Kingswood, Windsor, Richmond, Blacktown, Glenbrook, Springwood, Merrylands, Menai and even on the North Shore.

Sister Angrit related that after 40 years she finished her active involvement in the movement work and in all these years she had experienced what Father Kentenich had said to her at her farewell encounter with him that "a higher power will carry you through all situations." Our Father - who died 3 months after she left Germany - was always close to her. Mphc! Our Mother will take perfect care!

The testimonies of lay members representing the different Branches were also inspiring and again challenged all those present to see how the fruit of their courage is something worth all of us emulating.

It was also wonderful to note that many of those who were part of the Movement in those earlier days, are still active members of the different Branches, such as the Men's Branch, Family Groups, Single Women and Mothers.

At the end of this section of the program Sr. M. Elizabeth spoke briefly about the meaning of Consors Patris and why we are going to name our Shrine, the Consors Patris Shrine.

After Sr. M. Elizabeth spoke, all gathered to share and enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea. There was a wonderful atmosphere of joy and conviviality as some people reconnected after many years. But of course, the celebration was not complete without the official cutting of the Jubilee Cake. This was done by Sr. M. Isabell, together with Sr. M. Elizabeth and members of the Movement who were part of those earlier days. Afterwards, Sr M Elizabeth assisted by Sr M Rita and Shirley served slices of the Jubilee cake to all.



Cutting the Jubilee Cake

These Jubilee Celebrations seemed the perfect time for our Schoenstatt family to give our Mother Thrice Admirable our Jubilee Gifts: the naming of the Shrine and a plaque to commemorate these occasions. These gifts are an expression of our gratitude for the many gifts and graces Our Lady has showered on us during the past 75 years since our sisters first arrived in Australia, and 60 years since the sisters began their Schoenstatt apostolate here New South Wales. These gifts formed part of the devotions which took place in our National Shrine following the afternoon tea. It was the climax of the afternoon's celebrations.



Devotion at the Shrine

It was with great joy that the name for our shrine was proclaimed. The shrine had originally been opened and blessed on the 19th May, 1968, and until now has usually just been called, "the Mulgoa Shrine" (name of the suburb). It was an expression of our gratitude to the Blessed Mother that her shrine now has an official name.

Our "National Shrine" was proclaimed as the CONSORS PATRIS SHRINE (Helpmate of the Father Shrine).

We see Our Lady, the Consors Patris, as the one who is a seed of hope for our everyday lives. Just as Mary always faithfully fulfilled the wishes of the heavenly Father, and thus was his Consors, so we too want to learn from her example as one who gives HOPE.

Following the blessing of the plaque, the Devotions ended with Benediction, and then all processed to the Father Statue where we formed a ring of loyalty, hand in hand around our Father's statue. Here we

expressed our unity and solidarity with our father and founder, as one Schoenstatt Family. We gave thanks for our father, who had promised to “be with us from heaven” and we believe is always with us. With our father’s blessing and knowing that we are always united with and in our Blessed Mother, we were sent out anew into the world.

Before leaving, each person was invited to take along a gift and memento of this very special day. Each person was invited to take a Jubilee pen, as well as a Jubilee prayer card on which is written three of the verses of our new Consors Patris Hymn.



Blessing of Plaque by Fr. Sheldon



Some experiences from the early days of the Schoenstatt Movement in NSW

During the afternoon’s program, a few people from the different branches of the movement shared their experiences of those early years of Schoenstatt in NSW. Below are some extracts from some of those presentations:

CLARE MASTERSON Coenaculum Family Group

The family is the core of society. The foundation of the way we live. When John and I joined a family group, we had recently arrived in Mount Druitt with 4 children under 5. Our group came together with Fr. Carl Boes (a Schoenstatt Father) and we were all seeking guidance in raising our families with love and strong basic values. We met in our homes with Fr. Boes who celebrated Mass with us before our meeting. This was a unique privilege and an intimate way of getting to know Fr. Boes and one another, helping to form a friendship that grew over time into a spiritually connected family.



Prayer at Father Statue before the Ring of Loyalty

JOHN MALLET (As a youth in Schoenstatt and now a member of the Family Branch)

I've been involved in Schoenstatt my whole life—it's always been a central part of who I am. My parents were part of a family group here in Sydney, so from the beginning, I was immersed in that community and spirit.

A particularly important moment for me was making my Covenant of Love, which really deepened my personal commitment and relationship within Schoenstatt.

For me, Schoenstatt isn't just something I've been part of – it has shaped who I am, how I see faith, and how I live out relationships and community. It's given me a sense of purpose, belonging, and direction through every stage of life. What started as something passed down from my parents has become something deeply personal - something I now carry forward into my own family. And that, to me, is what makes this journey so meaningful: it's not just my story, but something I'm now helping to continue for the next generation.

Shirley Hall (Former member of Girls Youth, and now a member of the Single Women's Group)

I have been a part of Schoenstatt for the past 60 years, since the sisters first came to Mount Druitt. I feel very blessed that God led me to Schoenstatt as Schoenstatt and the shrine have always been a very special part of my life. I am especially grateful to the sisters who each in their own way, has always supported me and helped me to grow in my faith through their sharing but most of all by their example. Schoenstatt has given a spiritual depth to my life that I never would have had otherwise. I also feel blessed to have been part of the Single Women's Group and for the many women who have over the years been part of this group. Together we have shared our striving and formation as well as our struggles, but especially our friendship.



DAPHNE LOUGHLIN (Nazareth Family Group)

In 1969 Peter and I together with Theresa and Bernadette our two daughters at the time, moved to Emerton, Mount Druitt. We got to know Schoenstatt through Father Carl Boes (Schoenstatt Father working in Mount Druitt)

Being a member of Schoenstatt has given me a greater sense of family and of myself and my home shrine. Together with so many other home shrines, it is the centre and heart of my home. I truly believe Mary is caring for us all and I must try by my striving diligently to bring more contributions to the Capital of Grace. Nothing without you Nothing without us.

ANNE WALSH (Mother of Comfort Mothers Group) In May 1976 I was at the 6pm Mass when I noticed this lady dressed all in dark navy and wondered who she was. After Mass I asked her, "What community do you belong to?". She answered that she was a Sister of the Schoenstatt Movement.

I said, "What was that?" It was Sr Mary Agnes and after hearing that the Movement was about our Blessed Mother, I was hooked and wanted to know all about it. This was the beginning of my involvement in Schoenstatt

Through Sr Mary Agnes I also met Sr M Aloise. I loved the connection with our Blessed Mother and saw Her through new eyes, I felt I had come HOME.

ANNE TOUTOUNJI (Family Branch)

In 1979, a friend from our parish of Sacred Heart, South Mt Druitt, invited my husband Paul and I to attend a family day at Schoenstatt, saying it was a special place of Our Lady.... This simple invitation that was extended to us has enriched me and my family.

Why did we join a group?? We wanted to be involved with other like-minded families and individuals endeavouring to grow spiritually and refusing to 'go with the flow' in our secular environment. Swimming against the flow was tiring. But oh, today there are so many more challenges that were not present a generation ago. Trust in Mother Mary and discussion with member families provided ideas, comfort and strength. As a couple we understood our role was to help each other up the ladder to Heaven.

SR. M. RITA BAYSARI

I have been a sister now for just over 10 years believe it or not and I honestly can say that I am a fruit of the prayers, suffering and efforts of the sisters here. I came to know Schoenstatt through my parish priest, Fr Rod Bray, in Merrylands and only after his passing did I come to visit the Shrine. I had a real encounter with the blessed Mother, and she continued to draw at my heart strings so that I eventually worked up the courage to speak to a sister about my vocation.

I announced my going to Germany to start my formation to become a Schoenstatt Sister of Mary at the Annual May Pilgrimage Day in 2014. At this point I really experienced the Schoenstatt Movement as a family. Everyone rejoiced with me and promised me many prayers and support which I know carried me through many difficult times particularly at the beginning and the challenge of learning a new language.

We sisters are called to be the soul of the Schoenstatt Movement, and this is what I strive to be. In working with the girls, young adults and in the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate I believe my task is to help prepare the way to the Covenant of Love and, to all I encounter, unlock the beauty of Schoenstatt's spirituality, particularly the three contact points, the blessed Mother in the Shrine and our Father and founder.

It is only through the courage, dedication and trust as well as the many contributions to the capital of grace of not only the pioneer sisters but of all the sisters before me as well as the Movement that I am able to stand here. As Sister M. Inez mentioned, it is not about the numbers. Yes, we are a small Schoenstatt Movement and there are only a few sisters, but Jesus started with just 12 apostles and built up the church. Father Kentenich started with a small group of boys in a rundown old chapel and now Schoenstatt is a world-wide apostolic community encompassing all continents. It is up to us to keep the fire burning and to carrying on the legacy that has been entrusted to us. But we remain children of the blessed Mother and she can use us as her instruments.

Zenny Custodio, Shirley Hall



5. Pilgrimage to Tardun – Western Australian Family Group. *A collections of reflections from those who made the journey.*

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Members of the Western Australian, United Hearts for Grace, Family Group, journeyed to Tardun, reflecting on the place where the first Schoenstatt Sisters began their mission in Australia. Below are some of the personal impressions and experiences from those who took part.

First Impressions of Tardun

Brad

On arrival at the Pallottine mission after a two day, 450km drive, it felt like a very special and peaceful place. Especially in the chapel, the monastery, accommodation and workshops.

I am sure our Lady was there with us.

Standing in the hot sun and dust, it was daunting to think of the magnificent contributions to the capital of grace, the sisters offered in their mission work during the 1950s. Their devotion to Our Lady paved the way for Schoenstatt here in Australia.



Philomena

I found the place interesting but very remote. The Sisters must have learnt to be resilient and must have had great faith that God and the Blessed Mother would take care of them. I don't think they could have left even if they wanted to.



The Journey and Experience

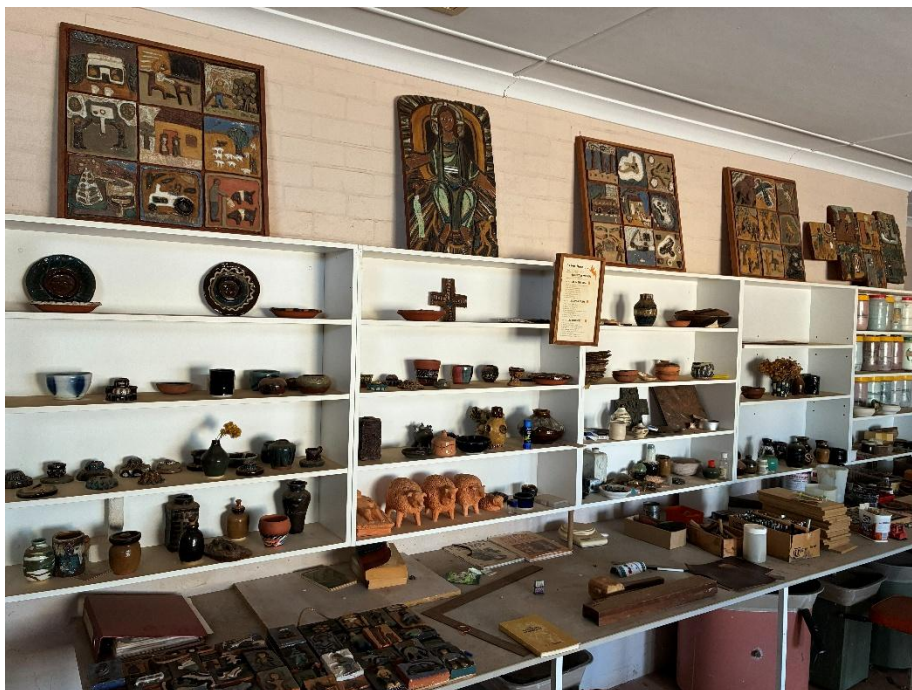
Terry

We were faced with oversized vehicles demanding all of the road and forcing us to wait off the main surface for them to pass; there were numerous roadworks which either slowed us down or stopped us in our tracks momentarily. We spent time together for morning tea and lunch and travelled at our own pace admiring the passing scenery. At each stop, we met various people who provided us with either interesting historical facts or just helpful information regarding the local area.



However, our journey was not complete when we arrived at the Wandalgu Mission site, but the time we then spent having a guided tour around the site itself provided another layer. There is not much left of the original ex-army buildings as a rebuilding program was started in the 1960s, however, we were still able to get a feeling of just how isolated and harsh the settlement must have been. One building which has survived is the Sisters' "convent" which was finished in 1957. And, again, walking in and around this building, although in need of some maintenance, we could certainly see just how the Sisters lived.

The journey, including the 10kms of dirt road, the company, our welcoming hosts, our shared time in prayer, reflection or activity all added to an amazing, but all too brief, pilgrimage. It was a wonderful experience to be at the place where Schoenstatt first put down roots in Australia.



Ann-Maree

The Pallottine Mission known as Wandalgu is still as remote as it was for our original Sisters in 1951. Our journey was in the comfort of modern cars and the last 10kms is still a dirt road and this would have been our Sisters introduction to the Pallottine Mission.

Wayne and Bonnie, the caretakers for Sun City Church, the new owners, took us to many of the buildings still requiring major repairs. One of these buildings will eventually be a museum, basically just a holding room and it was wonderful surprise to see a large photo of Sr. M. Bonitas with a group of indigenous students. Another find by Wayne and Bonnie was all the student art and pottery left behind in 2004. Looking through the vast pottery items, I was excited to find a flat piece of pottery with a raised MTA, forty years after our Sisters left Tardun, certainly Divine Providence.



Places of Encounter

Lina

Arriving at the Wayside Shrine I prayed with my mouth closed for a fly net to magically appear. Funny enough it did from the caretaker Bonnie.

After that experience I was pleased that we went inside St Joseph's Church and was in awe of the most beautiful artwork of Jesus on the Cross.

The Pallottine's monastery has a chapel in it that is shaped like a Schoenstatt shrine.

A great piece of architecture in the middle of nowhere. Just then you see a bright light coming from the sun's rays beaming on the colourful stain glass windows. It's glorious.

In this peaceful place, a flock of birds fly overhead and you can almost hear the sound of children once playing in the school grounds 75 years ago.

This land has a happy feel to it and brings joy to one's heart. Our family group bonded closer together as we cooked, prayed and played around with a few activities.



Terry

For me, one highlight was finding a wayside Marian shrine, which was built in 1952, on the side of the entrance road. Although not an MTA shrine, there was a Madonna and Child relief within the structure indicating that the site was and is under Mary's protection.

Personal Connections

David

As a member of this family group, I was eager to experience, for myself, this isolated mission in mid-west Western Australia.

Although, over time, ownership and physical structures may have changed, I somehow felt connected with these brave Schoenstatt sisters as I watched the same sunrise and sunsets as they did. They were here those many years ago. Now it's my turn.



Ann-Maree

The first wayside Shrine is still standing and built in a style of the Original Shrine, although the MTA has faded over the last 75 years. I think our Sisters must have resided in this part of the property. The Wayside Shrine connected me to our original Sisters and to all our Sisters in our Schoenstatt Community through our MTA. I found this to be an emotional experience.



Gesture of Gratitude

As a parting gift, we presented our hosts with a framed, signed MTA. It is hoped that all who visit and work at the mission will be blessed by seeing our Lady.

These reflections highlight not only the history of Tardun, but the living connection each of us experienced with the mission of the first Sisters.



6. 31st May 1949 – Schoenstatt’s Third Milestone

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*Why is it important for us to remember significant events in Schoenstatt’s history? Father Kentenich often expressed the wish that the members of Schoenstatt should not only know the history of the movement but appreciate the events that have shaped its culture and its spirituality. In the light of this, below are some details of what is called, **Schoenstatt’s Third Milestone**.*

The 31st May 1949 marks the 3rd Milestone in Schoenstatt’s history. On this day Father Kentenich once again accepted his mission through Mary, for Schoenstatt and for the Church.



On that day, Father Kentenich was at the newly built shrine at Bellavista, Chile. The shrine was still incomplete. That evening he took and laid on the altar the first part of what has become known as the “*Epistola perlonga*” (*Long letter*) and offered it to our Blessed Mother. This is an important historical document as it mirrors Father Kentenich’s inner attitude as he undertook what he called “a death leap” for himself and his work.

In the talk that he gave to the 20 Schoenstatt Sisters present, he stated his awareness of the risks involved, including to Schoenstatt, but that the danger to Church and world left him no choice but to act.

He said:

“Whoever has a mission must fulfil it, even if it leads into the darkest and deepest abyss, even when it requires one death leap after another. A prophet’s mission always includes a prophet’s fate.”

The sending of this letter initiated a chain of events that led to his exile by the Church and nearly led to the dissolving of Schoenstatt. But it also initiated a new life stream in Schoenstatt that took up the commitment to overcome the grave dangers facing the Church in our times, especially mechanistic thinking.

Fr. Kentenich characterized the inner meaning of May 31 as “standing in divine power” or an act of heroic love. In this sense, the third milestone is an important reminder that the entire vigour of heroic faith shown in January 20 is not disconnected from a mission and a responsibility for the Church. That Fr. Kentenich was willing to risk everything for the wellbeing of the Church signals to us that we too should love the Church, even heroically.

His great love for the Church which he demonstrated on 31st May 1949 is a challenge for us to continue his mission and be his witnesses for Schoenstatt and for the Church.

(200 Questions about Schoenstatt, P. 136)

We pray that the spirit of the 31st of May will continue to inspire us as a Schoenstatt Family here in Australia so that we too may strive to love the Church as heroically as did Father Kentenich and to faithfully live our Australian Schoenstatt mission:

“ONE HEART IN THE FATHER FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD”

7. 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

<https://www.schoenstatt.com>

Schoenstatt Australian Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.org.au>

Our YouTube Channel

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

Western Australian Website

<https://schoenstattwa.org.au>

Schoenstatt Men Website

<https://schoenstatt-men-australia.mailchimpsites.com>

➤ Zoom Gatherings for Covenant Days

– 18th of the Month 7.30 – 8.30 pm AEDT

Videos

May 2026 - History of our Australian Schoenstatt Shrines – **Zoom Meeting May 18.**

April 2026 – History of Schoenstatt in Queensland – <https://youtu.be/FHXwwNnggvc>

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>

Note: These videos don't upload from the 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 before the beginning of each month

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

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