

# SCHOENSTATT NEWS

JULY 2020



Churches That  
Meet In  
Homes

International  
Schoenstatt Family  
Concert

Coronation Liturgy  
in Chile





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**Schoenstatt News**  
July 2020

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## Let's Make The Best Of It



**Carolin Strohbahn**  
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**D**ear Schoenstatt Family,

When I started working here in Vallendar less than a year ago, we never thought that a pandemic would slow down the whole world like this. The economy, travel and even private life were completely paralyzed overnight. When we published the first edition of Schoenstatt News in April, one could only guess that the next few months would not be normal. The magazine was finished in the home office; the new one was created with just as much effort at home. We are now getting more certainties every day, easing is being introduced in Germany, but at the same time there are news with new numbers and setbacks every day. Churches were reopened subject to conditions. A few weeks later, it was announced that over 200 people had become infected during a church service in Frankfurt.

While the situation has calmed down somewhat in Europe, the curve of illnesses and deaths has risen sharply in Brazil and Latin America. What they tried to prevent after the effects in Italy in Europe is now badly afflicting the countries: the health system is overloaded; the number of infections rises steeply and the economy is down. We can only look with concern from afar.

The virus still seems unpredictable. Despite all this negative news, which had a significant impact on our everyday life, there was also nice news in the mailbox: namely that people around the world are making the best of the situation. Loneliness at home was overcome by social media, people networked and helped each other. They prayed, sang, and talked to each other regularly. This is why this edition of the Schoenstatt News is supposed to show that although a virus has put stones in the way, people have built new roads out of it. The editorial team has compiled stories from all over the world and they show how the Schoenstatt Family became creative in many countries and how Corona did not restrict their daily and religious life. When churches were closed, they networked at home prayer. When nightlife was restricted, they moved closer together and offered help. When meetings became impossible, meetings were held over the Internet - and more people came together than at a real meeting.

This time Schoenstatt News shows that we go forward even in difficult times and that it is important to be a family, especially in difficult times. This gives you courage and inspiration.

Keep everyone healthy - and let's make the best of it.

Carolin Strohbahn



# Being Reborn In A Storm

BY PATER HEINRICH WALTER

**P**ope Francis walks alone across the poorly lit empty St. Peter's Square. It is a rainy and wet evening. He speaks the blessing on the city and the world, which was actually not planned until Easter. He speaks it now in the middle of the Corona crisis, where the people expect a word. The Pope meditates within himself, as if he not only wants to help us to pray, but also to deepen what he believes. "We are frightened and lost... We realize that we are all in the same boat, all weak and disoriented... we are all called to row together."

Millions of viewers are nodding their heads, yes, they are. The report of the lake storm is the apt biblical story to place humanity at the time of the pandemic. Billions of people around the globe in a boat between stormy waves on the high seas. And intuitively, like the disciples of that time, we all ask the sleeping Jesus: don't you mind? The pope answers only with the words of Jesus: "Why are you so afraid? Have you no faith yet?"

**Now is the time to decide what really matters**

Praying, the Pope leads the audience

into the depths of the decision. Now is the time to decide what really matters and what is only transitory. It is a time of discernment that may lead us to look again at the Lord and to focus on the people. And then he enumerates many of these ordinary people, who in these days are suddenly experiencing a new appreciation, because they are vital for our survival, sys-



temically relevant as we are now told. The second decision concerns the recognition that we are in need of salvation. It motivates us to open ourselves existentially to this reality and to invite Jesus into the boat. Finally, he describes the stage set of the evening as a great promise: From these colonnades that embrace Rome and the world, let God's blessing descend upon you like a comforting embrace.

To become new in the storm on the high seas, to come to oneself more

deeply than God's creatures, to find closer to one another in an indissoluble bond and learn to entrust oneself to God, that was the pre-Easter experience of this memorable evening.

**Now is the time to eliminate inequality**

And now after Pentecost? Everything will be different, we hear everywhere saying. But how will it be? Will we really learn from history? The Pope says clearly at Pentecost: "The pandemic of poverty in the world must be ended." The central lesson of the crisis is: "We are one humanity". Now is the time to eliminate inequality. All the suffering will be useless unless people work together to

build a more just, equal and Christian society, said Pope Francis.

If this is to become a reality, it must begin in the small communities, the families, the neighbourhoods. And it must begin with appreciation, with respect for the dignity of each person. This will not happen by itself, it has to do with a decision and with determination. Nor will it be able to happen forever, but for a certain time, for which we must be born again and again.



# Windows To Heaven Opened For Us



Family Bodó from Hungary took part in the worldwide Corona Mater Celebration during their quarantine in Strasbourg.

Written by Rita and Marcsi Bodó, Strasbourg, France / Budapest, Hungary

“When God closes a door, somewhere he opens a window.” We have heard this quote many times. This window became real for us – a virtual window to heaven – through the crowning via digital screens in unity with many relatives and friends.

Our little family, at present, is a far distance from our extended family and friends in Hungary. Living in a small apartment in Strasbourg, we try our best in managing the tightness, home-schooling, and home office. For the renewed crowning of Mary we prepared eagerly with a novena. Concentrating on the really important things and what serves life helped us focus on our preparation, along with knowing that there are many, many families all around the earth preparing beside us. We all gave our best in making the crowning solemn, even in quarantine. Everyone expressed or drew in their way how one wants to crown Mary in our family. We crowned her “Queen of motivational work,” “Queen of the move to our home,” “Queen of rest” (when there is no school), “Queen of friendships,” “Queen of relationships,” and “Queen of a new beginning.” Mary is queen. For us this implies that she is above all our worldly sorrows and fears. Her sight is complete and she knows better what we need than we do. Her wisdom and elegance ensure that she will guide us to find the perfect context, the perfect tasks, the perfect persons, so we can be most fruitful in our lives. Living close to our queen doesn’t mean to live luxuriant all the time, but it leads us to a deeper conviction of her “worthy powers over us.

And what did we experience since the 15th of April?

We try to make the Home Song, from Father Kentenich’s prayer book *Heavenwards*, become real in our home. If that striving was possible for Father Kentenich in Dachau, it should be possible for us in our little provisional home. We try to create many festive moments in our everyday life. Right there, where hearts bear with each other in the joy of sacrifice and the slightest wishes of God are binding and receive in answer a joyful decision.

One additional gift is the opening of many windows through media. Through the social media on our screens, we keep in contact with our family members who live far away and friends. By doing this all are providing a little insight into their homes. In this manner we see our siblings more often now than we were used to in former real times. We met some former groups virtually now: old acquaintances and friends whom we haven’t met in 10-20 years, because everyone is living at different places. But now – thanks to quarantine – we landed on the same media platform at the same time.

The opportunity of going to holy Mass everywhere in the country with just a few clicks enriches us spiritually. It is a refreshing pleasure to experience the brilliant way our priests, religious, and movements are adapting to this extraordinary situation. Truly, windows to heaven were opened for us.



# SCHOENSTATT ON THE MOVE:

## A Pentecost Congress like never before



**T**he second Pentecost Congress, at Pentecost 2020, should have taken place like the first one, five years ago.

Approximately 150 delegates from many countries already had their luggage packed and months before surveys were made to evaluate trends and to prepare a program for the congress. The working groups should have looked at the pressing questions of this present age: Women in church and society; economics/global social inequality; power and participation; spirituality moves: why and whom?; Ecology/future of creation. High-profile speakers within and outside the Schoenstatt movement were on the list. Sails were set so the Holy Spirit could carry the ship of the congress with his breath to those necessary widths for the renewal of the Church. This congress should have been a great cenaculum time.

But it turned out differently. The Corona pandemic changed everything. An international meeting in Schoenstatt was not possible; the Schoenstatt movements within the participating countries were dealing with the problems of the pandemic.

Nevertheless, the Pentecost congress did start. The persons in charge at the international coordination office agreed: If God would thwart the plans, He would prepare something greater. The Holy Spirit wants to be more powerful within the international movement. Not just for a few days; but rather, in a year long process. Not just through some delegates from every country; but rather, through many people who belong to the Schoenstatt movement in every country. He wants those, who did not have the economic and temporal resources for a trip to Schoenstatt, to also take part. Schoenstatt is on the move: it is a new reality we could not have planned.

Thus, the version for a digital Pentecost congress was born. The ideas and plans contain continental conferences, meetings within the same languages, meetings for groups of the same age and the same interests, and some other things the Holy Spirit is going to show us. At three or four international digital one-day-meetings we can discuss the trends together. Following Father Kentenich's method, we want to study the signs of the time in the different situations the countries are experiencing. From there, we want to find the Holy Spirit's plan for Schoenstatt's way into future by comparing and distinguishing. It's about a Schoenstatt that sees itself as a part of the world Church in the present society, or even feels itself called to be the soul of the new world within this church.

Over the coming months the next step is to internationally plan and discuss how this great cenaculum can be realized. But the start was made: On Pentecost Saturday our way started at the Original Shrine. The torch brought to the shrine as a symbol for "Schoenstatt's future" at Jubilee 2014, was lighted anew and at the end of the vigil it was carried out of the shrine by young people. Fr. Heinrich Walter, who is in charge of the international coordination office together with Sr. M. Cacilda Becker, provided input for an interpretation of the situation and he showed baselines for the upcoming work.

The "real" Pentecost Congress, June 16-20, 2021, should be the conclusion of the digital process. It remains to be seen if that's in God's plan. Anyway, we need to experience the Holy Spirit's openhearted action. Fr. Walter brought that to mind by ending his sermon with this verse from the Bible, spoken by Isaiah: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isa. 43,19).

By Sr. M. Nurit Stociek





BY VIVIAN AND DOUGLAS MOSER

# Churches That Meet In Homes

Much has been said about the Domestic Church. It is biblical, it is in the Catechism and in Pontifical Documents.

In his apostolic exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis reminds us that, “since the New Testament, it was already spoken of “Churches that meet in homes” where the family’s living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table, a home filled with the presence of God, common prayer and every blessing”. (see AL 15)



**A**nd suddenly, for countless families, these words became more real than ever with the experience of domestic confinement because of the Corona-

virus. The day of the Lord arrived, with masses cancelled, closed shrines and the required dispensations to participate in the celebrations from home. After the initial scare, the people of God met and connected. Priests on one side of the screen, families on the other. And what seemed at first not to work turned out to be a pleasant surprise. Every Sunday, far from the physical Church, many families realized that they were prepared to live, even at a distance, this difficult moment, accepting this new reality for love of Christ and their families, with faith, devotion, sacrifice and an incredible dose of creativity.

Little by little, the atmosphere of the Sunday mass in homes became cozier, as only homes know to be, with candles, flowers, a crucifix or the image of the Blessed Mother that began to accompany the various electronic devices that started to connect us “virtually” to the Eucharistic Christ. Families, from their homes, have also begun to collaborate with readings and songs and again we feel, despite the distance, like a large family, as the Church must be.

A lot of virtual initiatives have emerged throughout the world and Jesus has truly become God with us in our homes, giving us back peace in the midst of so many uncertainties.

With time, many families have been searching for their rosaries, and rescuing the pious habit of praying it, as a couple, as a family or online with relatives or friends, after all, lack of time is no longer an excuse.

Then came Holy Week and with it, the challenge of bringing to our homes all that we have experienced for years in our parishes. Palm Sunday, with its countless bouquets placed at the doors of the houses, announced to the world that Catholics would live a

different, but certainly not indifferent, Holy Week in the year 2020. And so it was!

Holy Thursday arrived and Jesus sat down at the table of countless families and then revealed himself in the humble gesture of the washing of feet, where parents, children and brothers and sisters washed their feet among themselves and carved in their hearts what it means to serve like Jesus. The Passion of Christ entered many homes transforming rooms and corridors into the Lord’s Way of the Cross, and with simple gesture, many families accompanied Jesus in his agony.

Holy Saturday brought the much-desired light of Christ into the homes, which were illuminated by candlelight and announced the victory of life over death. How can we not believe that thousands of homes on this Easter night have become the most beautiful living Cathedral, marvelous in God’s eyes?

Certainly, they were moments of deep spirituality and intimacy that will mark the history of each family.

And what about the immense privilege it is to have a Home Shrine in the painful times of pandemic? Some, probably already half forgotten by the rush of daily life, have again filled with life during these months of confinement. What a wonderful point of contact between heaven and earth it is to have one at home!

For Father Joseph Kentenich, the founder of the Schoenstatt Movement, it was evident that after a holy place like a Church or a simple little chapel like the one we have in Schoenstatt, other worthy places would be the Christian homes, to which the Second Vatican Council gives back this beautiful biblical title of “domestic churches”. Father Kentenich prophetically anticipated one year earlier by proclaiming in Milwaukee, USA, that there were also “Schoenstatt Domestic Shrines”.<sup>1</sup>

And in countless Domestic Shrines, it soon started a strong world trend to crown Our Lady as “Queen of Health”.



.....  
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From this moment on, several actions of solidarity began to emerge in a more intense and organized way, because it is natural that the heart of the family that lives in the blessing of the Lord overflows to the world with its blessings.

And so, week after week, many families have rediscovered or intensified within their homes the presence of God, prayer in common and the blessing of the Lord. They have proved, in practice, that the “Church that meets in homes” has its value and can reveal treasures that only families themselves know how to carve with their unique and original way of being Church.

Father Kentenich used to say that marriage and family spirituality should not be a “patch” of that lived by the religious. May this singular experience that is being lived by families in times of coronavirus bring something valuable to the Church in the new times to come!

We applaud all these blessed families!

<sup>1</sup>The Schoenstatt Evangelizing Proposal, Father Hernán Alessandri Morandé, Nueva Patris









BY GRACE ANN CULPA

Going-out bans and  
severe restrictions ...  
**In the Philippines, the  
economy and the  
existence of individuals  
are threatened**





**T**he Philippines is known to be a sovereign archipelagic state with 7,641 islands spanning more than 300,000 square kilometers of territory. It is divided into three big island groups: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The government of the Philippines imposed an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) that started on March 16, 2020, which limits the movement of the populace on all the islands. There were restrictions such as senior citizens 65 yrs. and above and 18 yrs. and below are strictly to remain in their homes. Only one person per household is given an ECQ pass that is needed to purchase essential goods like food and medicines. Wearing a facial mask is absolute, physical distancing, curfews from 8 pm until 5 am are enforced and stricter measures of closing borders to further combat people disobeying ECQ rules are in effect. Obeying ECQ rules are in effect.

When the ECQ was extended, and people were ordered to stay at home, even more pressure was placed on the most vulnerable families. The elderly, those pregnant, and people who earn less and rely on the informal economy to survive, are in immediate danger of not having any food. All the local government units, and other government agencies gave cash aids and relief food packs and even private businesses and certain individuals have helped in giving emergency relief packs for distribution to the most vulnerable children and families. One food pack-

age can provide a family of five with food security for 10 days. Other local government units had provided 25 kilos or one sack of rice for those who are going hungry. This is what I also experience in Cebu, where I am residing, as my elderly parents received relief food packs and there are a few more Schoenstatt members who benefited from this also.

During these trying times, the Schoenstatt Movement from Iligan, Mindanao has actively participated and collaborated with the other church groups extending their hands giving food relief packs to the vulnerable and depressed areas in Iligan. The Schoenstatt Movement in Cebu, where the Cradle of Sanctity Shrine is located with the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, organized a live streaming rosary and adoration in the shrine every night at 7:15 pm as an avenue for 17,000+ members of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate nationwide. In this way we can come together, to pray, and offer all our petitions for the health of the sick, those infected by the coronavirus, and for the wellbeing of health workers and front liners. This is much needed since churches are closed and holy Masses are only online.

We also participated in the Corona Mater event spearheaded by Schoenstatt International on April 15, 2020. After that celebration, we were motivated to creatively make our own crowns for the Blessed Mother. So, across our country, in their room and home shrines, each MTA image was named and crowned according to their







individual strivings. We consecrated the nation, our families, and the whole world, entrusting it to her motherly protection, as we Filipinos call her "Mama Mary." This coronation and her new crown remind us that she is with us on this journey of faith, leading us to her Son amidst the Covid-19. This May, our fear, helplessness, frustrations, anxiety, hopelessness, and longing to physically receive the Holy Eucharist, are offered as May Blossoms. We filled our jars in our

home shrines each day with spiritual gifts as our contributions to the capital of grace in collaboration with our Blessed Mother in fulfilling her mission in the shrine. The Philippines has been grappling with COVID-19 for months now, and it has since evolved into a second outbreak as communities face rising infections. The ECQ was again extended until May 31 but only at selected places which are considered high-risk areas – especially in Cebu and Mandaue City. The rest of the country has low-

risk to moderate-risk areas placed under general community quarantine, being a less strict quarantine. Because of these "new norms" the Schoenstatt Movement is exploring possibilities online to continue our monthly spiritual meetings and other events in times of the physical restrictions. May God bring comfort and cheer in the midst of darkness. We hope to remain faithful in this difficult time. Our Mother takes perfect care!





ENRIQUE SOROS

# International Schoenstatt Family Concert

37 countries participated in an afternoon  
of integration of peoples and cultures





Over the course of a month, the international concert was prepared online. The idea was to take advantage of all the strength that the international crowning gave, from the Original Shrine and the home shrines of the world, to unite the Schoenstatt Family in an afternoon of music. The concert took place on Sunday, May 24th, but a technical problem caused it to be interrupted 40 minutes after it began.

The complete concert took place on Wednesday, May 27th. Ana Cristina Barragán, from Mexico, and Matías Koch, from Germany, were in charge of enlivening the musical encounter alternating Spanish, English, and German.

Thirty-seven countries surprised the virtual assistants with a lot of creativity, from India, Nigeria, Germany, Congo, Brazil, Spain, Burundi and Portugal, Colombia and Australia, and many more countries. The musical production was of superlative value, because it was a challenge to put together the ensembles online, including the instruments and voices, in a relatively short time.

The event was broadcast on Facebook and Youtube. On both networks, messages rained down referring to the unity as an international family, and the emotion caused by knowing that people in the most distant parts of the world, with unrecognizable languages and radically different cultures, profess exactly the same love for the Blessed Mother, for her Shrine, for the profound spirit of Schoenstatt.

### May Flowers

The concert included three spoken moments, which ran through the afternoon with motivation and information. One of them was about the May Flowers, a tradition in Schoenstatt that comes from Joseph Engling, who gave Mary, in his month, May, flowers of love, which meant sacrifices and prayers.

### Social initiative

A second moment was to present the social action that Schoenstatt International organizes. There are countless Schoenstatt institutions throughout the world that provide social assistance to the most vulnerable: homeless children, “disposables”, as they are called in Bolivia; children and families in great need; abandoned, exploited, and recovered girls, etc. In all these homes they are given love, dignity, and the possibility of reinserting themselves into society with tools to be good people.

Since in this time of coronavirus the needs are pressing, Schoenstatt International has organized an initiative from which it invites everyone to feel part by supporting one of the institutions with an offering. The amount does not matter. What transcends is that with this support to those on the front lines, those who participate, they build the new social order that Father Kentenich foresaw and which he invites us to promote. This initiative can be accessed through this [link](#).

### The official website of the Movement

Finally, Father Heinrich Walter, Sister M. Cacilda Becker, international coordinators of the Movement, and Miguel Ramos, international communication advisor, presented the official web page of the Movement: [www.schoenstatt.com](http://www.schoenstatt.com).

**“Thirty-seven countries surprised the virtual assistants with a lot of creativity, from India, Nigeria, Germany, Congo, Brazil, Spain, Burundi and Portugal, Colombia and Australia, and many more countries.”**



It already has four languages: English, German and Spanish and Portuguese. This news comes after great expectation, since the need for Schoenstatt to have a communications office and an official website comes from the Pentecost Congress of 2015. Today both are a happy reality. Those in charge invite all the Schoenstatt Family to collaborate with it, be it from writing, translating, or from other tasks.

The international concert can be accessed through this [link](#).

# EUROPEAN FORUM ON NEW PATHS

## UNITED EUROPE ONLINE

**S**choenstatt families, fathers, sisters from different European countries traditionally meet annually in Schoenstatt or at other Schoenstatt shrines for the European Forum for families. The initiative focuses on inspiring each other, learning from each other, getting to know each other better, enjoying common ground and being amazed at the differences.

So it was planned for May 2020. Seven countries were registered with their representatives and then came "Corona" and the consideration to cancel this meeting. We then decided to network via a web platform instead.

The 13 countries Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, England, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Austria,

represented by eight sisters, 13 priests and 24 families met at a zoom meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2020. That was much more than would have been possible at a real meeting. New countries were present like Belgium, Slovakia, Portugal, Italy and Romania, but also countries that had not participated for a long time.

Ingeborg and Richard Sickinger, Movement leaders from Schoenstatt Austria, gave a very motivating impulse to the current situation with its opportunities and apostolic possibilities. Then there was a lively exchange about the situation in the individual countries. There was a wide range: difficulties and suffering, dealing with the challenging situation, what opportunities are used, how community and how personal closeness is possible in order to counteract

loneliness and to strengthen hope. Although we all come from Europe and are actually so close together locally, this virus had very different effects in different countries, depending on which measures were taken by governments at what time.

Italy and Spain were hardest hit, suffering and need, medically, socially and financially. This is hard to imagine in such highly developed countries. There was disappointment and even bitterness, because people felt let down by politics.

The Schoenstatt families did not stop at the criticism, however, but assumed responsibility, did what was possible under these conditions: social services, shopping for others, distribution of food to the homeless, conscious, regular telephone calls that counteract the loneliness of the elderly





were organized and much more.

Church at home has become the focus in all countries, lively liturgy in families, in home shrines, thus, the time around Easter became a very special experience for many.

Inspirations about the new media, Holy Masses, covenant celebrations, planned weekends of the Academy for Family Pedagogy or the Family Federation, preparation courses for marriages, house talks, etc. None of this was canceled, but modified with a lot of commitment and ingenuity.

The great wealth, the noticeable care and responsibility, but also the creativity and the strong sense of mission have left us speechless and encouraged to continue on this path and to hear God's call to us behind all the difficult things, and to recognize better and

better where we are now in concrete demand.

For us as a responsible team, this European Forum 2020 was a great gift and what was possible in terms of exchange and the result was much more and much larger than we had hoped.

We are strengthening our path, everyone in his country, in his place, and we are all the more pleased about the opportunity to inspire each other, to enjoy our diversity, to make contacts that remain, to make Europe our home in which we are on the way together as brothers and sisters.

By Toni und Maria Lilek

The impulse for listening can be found [here](#).

.....  
**“Although we all come from Europe and are actually so close together locally, this virus had very different effects in different countries, depending on which measures were taken by governments at what time.”**





# A new Youtube-Channel and weekly newsletter in Australia

## Creativity in times of COVID – 19 at the National Shrine

by Sr. M. Elizabeth Foley

Australia is considered the continent that has Corona well under control. Around 6,700 cases have been confirmed; more than six million people have downloaded the corona app, which in the event of an infection informs all those who have been near the person affected.

But despite the low numbers compared to Europe, Asia, and America, Australia is also affected by restrictions. The Schoenstatt family must also comply with government regulations. For example, Australia's National Shrine at Mulgoa, in the state of New South Wales, one hour away by car from Sydney, has been closed to the public since March 22, 2020.

Sister M. Elizabeth reports how the community is dealing with COVID-19.

Despite the closure of the shrine, visitors still come to pray on site. Since the Blessed Mother draws hundreds of pilgrims to her shrine each week, we naturally reflected on how we could bring the shrine and the three shrine graces close to them. The first thing was to video a greeting from the shrine with the promise of the prayers of our sisters. Each day the sisters are having a special adoration hour in the house chapel praying for all affected by the pandemic. This greeting was posted on a newly opened YouTube channel for this specific purpose: YouTube Schoenstatt Australia.

Then, as Holy Week and Easter were fast approaching, the idea was born to offer words of our father as reflections for each day during Holy Week. In this way the new [YouTube Channel](#)

became an apostolic instrument to offer spiritual nourishment to our Australian Schoenstatt family and friends.

The week after Easter was Covenant Day and so we were able to video a renewal of the covenant in the shrine with an input on the merciful Father as the Covenant Sunday coincided with Divine Mercy Sunday. Reflections each week for the month of May have followed.

For the month of May another new idea was born, and friends are now posting their favourite shrine picture on the Schoenstatt Movement [Australia Facebook page](#). We see this as a way for our many pilgrims to share their love for the shrine at a time when they are

unable to visit. This also keeps alive the contributions to the capital of grace.

A weekly newsletter, website and posts on our Facebook pages have helped to alert our people to the various initiatives and the response has been one of gratitude.

For the first week of closure, pilgrims still visited the shrine and even brought flowers for the Blessed Mother, which they placed in front of the shrine door. Shortly afterwards, our whole property was closed – but some pilgrims still made their pilgrimage to the shrine and prayed at the fence.

We pray and trust that soon our National Shrine in Mulgoa will be open for all once again. MPHCEV!







# Brazil faces the pandemic as a family and with safety

By Karen Bueno

Father Kentenich taught his family to be bold, united and confident in the Mother of God. This is the way the Brazilian family lives the pandemic. With an eye to reality and blindly trusting in divine Providence, the Movement finds ways and puts its creativity at the service of Covenant life, as we can see in these examples:



## **M** EETING THE NEEDIEST

In southern Brazil, more than a ton of cleaning products and foods were collected and distributed by the Schoenstatt family in Santa Maria, “Rio Grande del Sur”. “Because of unemployment, children no longer have access to their daily nourishment, which is a reason of concern for parents. That is why we intensified attention to the families, to provide food that they would receive from us”, says Sister Mathilde Mang, manager of a social center maintained by the Sisters of Mary.

Northeast of the country, in Olinda, Pernambuco, a similar work is done. “In this period of pandemic, together with the Children’s Ministry, we are distributing, with due precautions, hygiene materials and non-perishable food, for different registered families, especially the most vulnerable, owing to health and economic situations. During a visit it was very impressive that some people, upon seeing the distribution of the packages, spontaneously delivered some products to be distributed to their neediest neighbors”, says Fr. Vitor Hugo Possetti, from the Institute of the Schoenstatt Fathers. The project “Mother, Queen of Mercy” also prepares lunches for those who live on the street, distributing food to those who need it most.

## **S** TRENGTHENING TIES

Digital platforms have become allies of the Movement branches and groups. Various activities take place in the digital environment: cantatas, eucharistic adorations, the school of leaders and even education for children.

Graziany Botelho, from Curitiba, in

the state of Paraná, relates: “The meetings of the Schoenstatt Family Branch and of all the groups, are held through the Zoom application and they have gone very well; they have been very productive. Along with that, in Curitiba we have a pilot project, which is a children’s apostolate. We created a group made up of some parents from the branch, with the aim of caring for the little ones. When the adults are holding their meetings, their children receive online training based on Schoenstatt pedagogy through the use of applications.”

## **C** OMMUNION IN THE CAR

For most Catholics in Brazil, sacramental communion became impossible due to isolation. However, in Curitiba, those who wanted to, could go to the Shrine to receive communion. With the authorization of the Archdiocese, the priest and the ministers distribute the Eucharist in the cars. “We have Mass online, at 8:30, and the possibility of communion on the condition that people have participated in the transmission of the Mass. They arrive in their car, after the celebration, and we organize ourselves in the parking lot so that no one leaves their cars. It is nice to see the faith and devotion with which people receive communion. At the end of the week we had 500 consecrated hosts and they were all distributed”, Sr. Doralice de Souza, the advisor explained.

The priest of the Shrine, Fr. Marcelo de Souza, testifies: “When people come to receive the Eucharist, I cannot avoid being moved by the emotion of all of them. Many cry, speak of longing for the Shrine, of the Masses, appreciate what we are doing, etc. I, in particular, can only say: “How good that we are here! And we are going to continue





collaborating so that Maria (the Blessed Mother?) continues her mission of - sheltering, transforming and sending”.

## **V**IRTUAL PILGRIMAGES

The Shrine of Atibaia, in São Paulo, gathers approximately three thousand pilgrims on weekends, for the diocesan pilgrimages, which bring a crowd to the Blessed Mother's home. Currently, because of social isolation, visits to the Shrine are suspended; that does not prevent pilgrimages from being done in a different way. The Sisters of Mary and the priest of the Shrine prepare a “virtual pilgrimage”, with a “live” at the microphone, a procession, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and - the pilgrims participate through the internet, as if they were physically together.

The pilgrims from São Pedro's city, accompanied the diocesan pilgrimage online and they went further: “Since the Masses are suspended and our pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Atibaia in São Paulo was canceled, we needed

to do something. So the idea came up to collect food for needy families. We created 37 basic baskets and personal hygiene kits. Some elements were even left over and we are gathering more to form new pantries, offering that to the Capital of Grace, in favor of our pilgrimage”, the coordinator of the Pilgrim Mother Campaign, Tânia Maria Vacaria Segantini, said.

## **H**OPE

The situation with different infections by Coronavirus, in Brazil, is challenging; however, with the ear on the heart of God, the Schoenstatt family looks for creative ways to open paths, in order that the Graces of the Shrine reach people, being instruments of transformation and hope, because we believe that the new world will come, through the work of the MTA and our dedication to our Founder's charism.





## CHILE

# Coronation Liturgy - The Expression of a Process

BY P. JUAN PABLO ROVEGNO

**T**he Crowning of the Queen of the Cenacle, on May 31, 2020 is the fruit of a process that we as a Schoenstatt family in Chile have been going through.

The journey of the liturgy of the crowning can serve to look at ourselves humbly, before the mission entrusted to us: the smallness of the instruments, the magnitude of the challenges, and above all, the loyalty and generosity of the Blessed Mother, as well as the meaning of the crown that expresses helplessness, confidence and collaboration, because the process is projected toward the future and before so many challenges for a more humane world, a common home, a new social order and a new way of being Church and family. The steps were:

**1.** Recognizing the origin, we made a pilgrimage to the Original Shrine, from where we made a pilgrimage to our Holy Land of Bellavista, our Cenacle, and implored the Holy Spirit. How important it is to recognize that life does not begin with us, that there is a history, that the house is built on the dedication and fidelity of many who preceded us. It is a gesture of humility.

**2.** A grateful heart that expresses gratitude for so much life throughout these 71 years of mission and crowning, because the experience of helplessness can make us believe that nothing has gone right or that we have to change everything, when there is so much and so many people to be thankful for: covenants of love, families, communities, shrines, apostolic projects, dedicated lives service.

**3.** A contrite heart, capable of acknowledging our helplessness, weaknesses, sins and limits. Only then can we open ourselves to the educational power of the Blessed Mother and to an authentic family solidarity overcoming the temptation of pride and self-sufficiency.

This personal and community recognition, helps us to open our hearts to God and to others, because we need each other to respond appropriately to the challenges of our time. Recognition that assumes the crises that we have lived and are living, not as mere observers of reality, but as part of a linked network, of which we are part. The Unity Cross symbolized this moment as a sign of hope.

**4.** A heart confident in God's guidance and the Blessed Mother's victory. The coronation expressed our filial and fraternal trust. We look at the Blessed Mother again with confidence in God's plans, because helplessness cannot discourage us or close us in on ourselves, rather it opens us to a renewed commitment and confidence for the Father's mission.

We crowned with the Founding Father's words of June 5th of 1949, which were joined by ours with the phrase that has accompanied us during the process, made prayer:

Dear Mother, with our Father,  
we want to be a sign of hope,  
because we believe that God guides  
history according to a plan filled with  
love. that our present time demands.  
With you we assume the challenge of  
conversion

We commit to collaborate,  
from what we are and have,  
for the forging of a new world;  
more humane, more in solidarity,  
more fraternal,  
and to be a family in the midst of  
our people.

Dear Mother, accept our crown.  
In it we offer our helplessness,  
our confidence and collaboration.  
In your crown, our conversion for the  
mission.

Queen, grant us conversion to be-  
come your instruments!

**5.** A heart sent: Just as we opened the liturgy of the crowning with the reading from the Cenacle that describes the scene of the Apostles gathered in common prayer with Mary, we culminated it with the reading of Pentecost, to renew and update our mission in the midst of the concrete world, as Church and family at the service of humanity.

The burning of the capital of grace symbolized our collaboration and commitment to the gestation of a new world:

"We belong to the church that is born  
at Pentecost.

We are a charisma within it.

We have a shepherd, Pope Francis,  
who calls us to serve in the midst of  
the world.

Therefore, with humility, we go to the  
encounter with our neighbor.

Our Father seeks allies for the mission.  
Our commitment to him is expressed  
by each of the answers we send from  
all over the world and which we de-  
posit in the vessel of the capital of  
grace". Amen.









## Norbert Martin - a whole life for Schoenstatt



18.  
06.  
2020

Norbert Martin was called to the Father House on June 18th at the age of 83, crowning a life full of hard work and dedication to his family, to Schoenstatt, in particular to the Family Federation, and to the Church. With his wife Renate they had four sons, and two daughters, who nowadays, participate in the Family Federation in Germany.

He joined Schoenstatt as a member of the Youth and participated in the Boys' Youth. After their marriage they participated in the Family League and after the Institute of Families they finally joined the Family Federation where they found their true vocation. Norbert was a professor of sociology at the University of Koblenz. The couple had the grace of meeting our Father and Founder several times. At one of these meetings, where Norbert's work at the University was discussed, our Father asked him to dedicate himself to the study of the family. Since then Norbert has directed his work and research to the field of the sociology of the family, with philosophical and theological approaches. Right at the beginning of the pontificate of St. John Paul II he wrote an article which, by the ways of Providence, ended up on the Pope's desk. He read it and told



the Secretary: We need this man here in the Vatican! From then on, a close relationship was established with the Pope. Norbert and Renate are appointed members of the newly created Pontifical Council for the Family, where they remain for more than 20 years, until the end of Benedict XVI's pontificate. Norbert also becomes a professor at the Pontifical Institute for Marriage and Family, established by Pope John Paul II to train experts, teachers and doctors in this area. A relationship of friendship and trust between the Holy Father and the couple is established, so that they are even invited to spend the holidays with their children at Castel Gandolfo. The couple has published in German the Catecheses of St. John Paul II on marriage and the family, as well as books on family planning, theology of the body... and has given numerous seminars and courses in these areas at universities and for various groups of the Church in various European countries.

The Martin couple was responsible for the Family Federation in Germany during two successive mandates. They have devoted much time to the formation of the International Federation of Families. They held several preparatory meetings for the first constitutive chapter with the leaders of the other autonomous territories. They knew very well the thinking and teachings of our Founder about Federation and Schoenstatt, and they struggled a lot to have these teachings and principles integrated into the guidelines that were initially approved by the Chapter in 2005 and that should guide the way of Federation throughout the world. At the end of the chapter they were elected as the first couple to lead the International Federation. Regarding the couple's work, we transcribe the testimony of the International direction, written in the communication of Norbert's death:

"Norbert Martin built, in the spirit of the Founder, the destiny of the Family Federation both in Germany and internationally. His extraordinary contributions and his life testimony fill us with a deep sense of gratitude". Norbert's leaving for eternity is a feeling of sadness for his physical absence, but above all a feeling of gratitude to the Father in Heaven for the life and witness he has given us, which makes him an example and a sure way for all of us who are called to live great ideals and high goals in our marriage and family vocation. Let us pray asking the Blessed Mother to receive him into heaven and to intercede with our Father and his sons in heavenly Schoenstatt for all families, especially the Schoenstatt families, to continue to be "faithful to the origin".

Olindo and Marilene Toaldo – I. Family Federation Course/ Brasil

**“Norbert and Renate Martin are appointed members of the newly created Pontifical Council for the Family, where they remain for more than 20 years. Norbert also becomes a professor at the Pontifical Institute for Marriage and Family, established by Pope John Paul II.”**



# It is a gift

In her free time, Hemma Michaela Strutz is one of the volunteers at Schoenstatt International. The 26-year-old from Altenberg near Linz in Upper Austria works professionally as an assistant to the management of a small supermarket that belongs to her family.

**H**ow did you become acquainted with the Movement?

Through my brother's friend from kindergarten, my family became acquainted with Schoenstatt and my parents started participating in the Family Academy. As a result, I went to the girls' camp twice, but then I lost interest in Schoenstatt.

For my mother's sake I worked as a volunteer in the summer cafeteria in the Schoenstatt Center in Vienna a few years later. At the same time, the October Week was underway. I was impressed by how the Schoenstatt management levels dealt with each other. When they came to the cafeteria during their break, the mood changed for the better, they were joyful. That made me curious. And so I became open again to the invitations to the Schoenstatt Girls' Youth. I wanted to know what was the secret of this joy.

Why did you become a volunteer? And when?

It is important to me to connect Schoenstatt on an international level - across languages. I experienced Schoenstatt as a family when I was in the USA and also in Argentina during my stays abroad. I felt welcome there as I am and also received some support. So I wanted to give back a little bit of this. Before I became a volunteer, I tried to share Schoenstatt songs and sometimes I worked at translating some of them. Music is really such a great treasure! It's just so nice to be able to sing a well-known song together at the Original Shrine, even if you don't speak the same language. The feeling of home swells with the notes. During a visit to Schoenstatt in 2018, I 'coincidentally' met Sr. M. Cacilda in the Pilgrim's House. I

didn't know who she was at the time. When she saw that I spoke fluent Spanish, she asked me if I would like to help her as a volunteer at Schoenstatt International every now and then. And now I'm here. I know I didn't deserve it; for me it's a gift from God to be allowed to work here.

What have you done so far? What made you particularly happy?



So far I have tried to attract volunteers for Schoenstatt International and have helped with the German translations. We are still a very small team. I also had the honor to represent Schoenstatt at the eleventh Youth Forum in Rome in June 2019. It was nice and valuable to deal with the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, which the Pope wrote to young people all over the world. It was simply a gift to see so many young people with joy and enthusiasm for the Church, for Christ worldwide. Later I was actively involved in the organizational team at the #CoronaMater initiative.

You continue your commitment to Schoenstatt International. What are your current activities?

I coordinate the very small German translation team and try to build it up and find new volunteers (if you are interested, I / we would be happy to receive an email from you!). This is not so easy. Many people don't know how well they actually speak a foreign language. There are also aids, so you don't have to speak the foreign language perfectly well. It is important to use Schoenstatt terminology correctly, but we have a dictionary for that. The German site [Schoenstatt.com](http://Schoenstatt.com) is what we did in the small team. I am convinced that the translation team will grow over time, in order to increase the quality and speed of the translations. I appreciate every little help. It's great to be able to share information through translations that would otherwise be inaccessible for some people.

What does it mean for you to work as a volunteer?

It is important to me that people in different countries can identify with Schoenstatt internationally. Specifically for me, this means making the talents, experiences and contacts that God has given me in my life available to the Blessed Mother.

Who would you recommend becoming a volunteer?

Anyone who would like to work for Schoenstatt, who can take a little time, often at short notice, and who generally responds quickly to news. From my experience, I can say that you don't always have a lot to do. Sometimes there is more, and sometimes less in our world of translations.



