

OUR MISSION FOR THE SHRINE IN PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Article for Schoenstatt International website

My name is *Guilherme Dias*. I am 26 years old. I belong to the Schoenstatt Boy's Youth Group in Brazil since 2006. Now I am married to *Barbara Lunardelli* who also belonged to the Schoenstatt Girls Youth Group in Brazil. In May this year we departed on a long journey from Brazil to live in *Perth, Western Australia*, where there is also a Schoenstatt Shrine. We chose this city because it has a Shrine. We wanted to continue living in the Covenant and, close to our Mother Thrice Admirable, manage being away from our family and friends as we begin our new lives together. We were aware that this move would not be easy, however we also recognize that Our Mother has prepared many graces for us here.



It takes us around 40 minutes drive by car or an hour on trains and buses to arrive at the Mt Richon Shrine, southwest of Perth. The place is nestled near a national park and is situated in natural bushland and garden. It is something special to have Kangaroos come to the property in the vicinity of the Shrine and the garden. The Schoenstatt Movement here is organized in branches, but some branches still need to develop and both Barbara and I do feel that our Mother Thrice Admirable has prepared a Mission for us here, but we don't understand as yet what she expects of us. The Schoenstatt Movement members here are very happy and active, however we have noticed that the Perth Shrine needs to reach more young people. And so we are trying our best to be part of the activities in the Movement and at the same time, in the Perth Diocese through CYM Perth - Catholic Youth Ministry Perth, to help build a bridge that connects the Shrine with the youth of the Perth Archdiocese.



An interesting episode was that, shortly after we arrived, one of the Sisters asked us to find a way to allow the Perth Diocesan WYD Rio Group to visit the Shrine of Rio de Janeiro, during WYD 2013. We made contact with our brother from the Male Youth of Londrina and Fr. Alfonso for their help and advice. They explained how the Perth pilgrims could get to the Shrine, but told us that it wouldn't be easy as they didn't know their program or where they were accommodated. It so happened that I was invited to speak at a CYM Wednesday Holy Hour the evening before the pilgrims were to fly to Rio. Many of the pilgrims that night were there, and when I shared with them a little about Schoenstatt in Brazil and that there are several Shrines throughout the country just like the one in Perth, many of them, who had never been to a Shrine, were inspired and hoped they could fit a Shrine visit into their program during WYD week. They were open for our Mother to bring them to a Shrine in Brazil, given the opportunity! On their return the entire Perth Group along with Bishop Timothy Costello actually did make a surprise, unplanned trip to the Shrine in Brasilia. Now on their return they can easily be led back to the Shrine here, even if it is just to make sure that all our Shrines do look the same. From there, our Mother can keep working on their hearts through the Shrine pilgrim graces.



Another key factor to our life in the Covenant here has been conquering our Home Shrine. Special friends have given us each one of the symbols that are part of our Home Shrine, having been given them from Shrines all over the world. Here where we live in East Perth, Barbara and I will conquer it and bring it with us anywhere our Mother needs us. And from now on, we are left in our Mother's hands, so she can operate in us and through us for all that God has planned. We are here on Mission!



Word Document article written by Guilherme Dias

Five pictures by Guilherme Dias and used with permission

Submitted on the 30th August with the following pictures:

- 1. Picture DSC00379 – Barbara & Guilherme at the Shrine in Johannesburg, South Africa*
- 2. Picture DSC01090 – Barbara Dias at the entrance of the Schoenstatt Centre, Mt Richon, WA*
- 3. Picture 0064 – Barbara & Guilherme in front of the Mt Richon Shrine, WA*
- 4. Picture 0231 – On Barbara & Guilherme's Wedding Day in the Londrina Shrine, Brazil*
- 5. Picture 0251 – On Barbara & Guilherme's Wedding Day, Londrina Shrine garden, Brazil in front of the Unity Cross made by Guilherme's Schoenstatt Male Youth Group*

Portuguese Translation of the above article:

Meu nome é Guilherme Dias, tenho 26 anos de idade, participando do JUMAS desde 2006. Sou casado com a Bárbara Lunardelli, também da JUFEM, e em Maio deste ano partimos numa longa jornada para viver em outro país. Hoje moramos em Perth, na costa oeste da Austrália, onde há também um Santuário de Schoenstatt. Escolhemos esta cidade pela presença do Santuário, pois queremos continuar vivendo em Aliança e assim, perto da Mãe de Deus, suportar a distância da família e dos amigos, enquanto construímos a nossa história juntos. Sabíamos que não seria fácil, mas preciso reconhecer que a Mãe nos reservou muitas graças neste lugar.

Para ir ao Santuário aqui são 40 minutos de carro ou 1 hora de metrô e ônibus, até uma cidadezinha chamada Armadale, a sudoeste de Perth. O terreno faz divisa com uma reserva florestal, o que traz algo especial ao lugar, pois alguns cangurus vêm até o jardim do Santuário para tomar Sol. O Movimento aqui é organizado, mas ainda há ramos a desenvolver – e sentimos que a Mãe nos preparou uma missão aqui, mas ainda não compreendemos bem o que Ela espera de nós. Os Schoenstattianos daqui são muito felizes

e participativos, mas percebemos que este Santuário precisa alcançar mais jovens, e assim, estamos nos empenhando em participar nas atividades do Movimento e do Ministério Jovem Católico, ao mesmo tempo, para ajudá-los a construir a ponte entre os jovens da Arquidiocese e o Santuário.

Um fato interessante é que, logo que chegamos, uma das irmãs nos pediu para organizar uma peregrinação dos Australianos até o Santuário do Rio, durante a JMJ. Pedimos ajuda aos irmãos do JUMAS Londrina e ao Pe. Afonso, que nos explicaram como chegar lá, o que não seria fácil, pois não sabíamos qual era a programação deles ou onde estariam hospedados. Então, na Hora Santa de Envio, fui convidado para falar sobre Schoenstatt no Brasil e disse que lá havia diversos Santuários iguais aos de Perth, por todo o país. Muitos deles não conheciam o Santuário, e eles ficaram tão inspirados que mudaram sua rota durante a JMJ, deixando que a Mãe os conduzisse até um Santuário brasileiro! Agora, eles serão conduzidos de volta até o Santuário daqui, nem que seja pela simples necessidade de confirmar se são iguais mesmo - e a partir daí, a Mãe continuará operando nos corações deles pelas Graças do Santuário.

Outro fator significativo em nossa Vida em Aliança aqui tem sido a conquista do nosso Santuário-Lar. Pessoas especiais nos presentearam com cada um dos elementos que o compõem, trazidos de vários Santuários no mundo todo. Aqui, o conquistaremos e o levaremos para aonde quer que a Mãe precise de nós. E desde já, nos colocamos nas mãos da Mãe para que Ela faça em nós e por nós o que Deus já planejou - estamos aqui em Missão.