

Dear Schoenstatt Family,

Below is the first of the short **information ‘snippets’** that I hope to send out to you each week during Lent in preparation for the **visit of the Father Symbol**. Hopefully, the following will help you to gain a better understanding of the meaning of this symbol and help us all to deepen the experience we will share when the symbol is with us in WA from 3rd to 17th April this year. If you have any specific questions about this symbol that you would like me to explain, please let me know.

United in our Covenant,

Shirley Hall

Sr. M. Georgina Heger

(On behalf of the CIT =Central Inspirational Team)

Schoenstatt Father Symbol – Information Snippet No. 1

Introduction: We are currently preparing for the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Schoenstatt on 18th October 2014. As part of our preparation, for this year (beginning 18th October 2012) we will focus on the **mission of Schoenstatt** and our own **personal mission** for Schoenstatt and the Church.

In July 2009 the Father Symbol that was given to Father Kentenich for the original shrine began to journey around the Schoenstatt world. This symbol of God as Father will visit us here in Australia during April – May this year.

Like any symbol, there are many facets and meanings to this symbol, and to help us to gain a deeper understanding of some of the meanings of this symbol, we hope each few weeks, to send out some small ‘snippets’ of information which can help us to have a more meaningful experience when this symbol visits us this year. It will also help us to prepare spiritually for this visit.

What is the meaning of the Father Symbol?

Over the next few weeks we will look at the history of this symbol and also its significance.



The Father Symbol (or Father Eye as it is sometimes called) is a symbol of the all seeing Eye of God and is part of many cultures. You will find this symbol in many churches in Europe. Usually it is fashioned in a diamond shape with the centre, the eye, being of one colour.

It reminds us of living in the presence of God, for he sees us, he loves us, he is personally interested in us.

Spiritual Preparation

You might like to place yourself spiritually in the Shrine or with the Pilgrim Mother and reflect on this picture and scripture quote:

The picture is of God being the creator of heaven and earth.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read: *“If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.”*

Practical Resolution:

I do not know what this day will bring, but I will place myself - as often as I can - in the living presence of God, the Father and speak with him.

Let everything that happens today be a reason for me to love the Father.

We pray together:

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable,

With great joy we are on pilgrimage to your shrine.

The faith of our Father and founder Fr Kentenich inspired you to set up your home in Schoenstatt.

In the shadow of this shrine a family was born, a new spiritual way within the Church, a charisma in the midst of our time. We want to fill the capital of grace with our gifts; with our gratitude and repentance, with our surrender and longing. With every step we take on our pilgrim way we ask you: Enkindle in us anew the fire of love for you, for Father Kentenich and for our family. Mother, give us the strength to spread a covenant culture in our world today and educate us to be your true missionaries for this century.



Your covenant - our mission!