

## **Towards 2014..... In this Year of Mission**

Dear Schoenstatt Family,

Below is the second of the short information 'snippets' that we intend to send out during Lent in preparation for the visit of the Father Symbol. Hopefully, these will help you to gain a better understanding of the meaning of this symbol and also help us to deepen the experience we will share when the symbol is with us in Australia in April-May this year. This symbol has been travelling around the Schoenstatt world since 2009 and is the Father Symbol that was originally given to Father Kntenich to be installed in the original Shrine.

United in our Covenant,  
Shirley Hall  
Sr. Georgina Heger  
(On behalf of the CIT)

### **Schoenstatt Father Symbol – Information Snippet No. 2**

#### **Introduction:**



The Father Symbol (or Father Eye) can be seen in many different ways. One aspect we would like to consider in this “Snippet” is the Father Symbol as a sign of **“God’s merciful love”**

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

***“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.”***

#### **Reflection:**

The Heavenly Father’s love shows itself through his mercy. We are able to see this love of God the Father in the way Father Kntenich showed his love for those whom he met in the many retreats he gave in the early years of his priesthood before he was sent to the concentration camp. And throughout his life, all who came to know Father Kntenich found in him, a man who was always concerned, always available and always kind to all who met him. Father Kntenich became for many, a transparency, a reflection of the loving, merciful Father God.

*Dear God, our Heavenly Father, we ask for the grace through the Shrine of growing deeper in our relationship with you. As Mary helped Jesus with the work of redemption, we thank you for having chosen us to serve the Church through our involvement in Schoenstatt.*

*We are also grateful for the grace of recognising in Father Kntenich a person who strove to educate himself to be an image of God the merciful Father.*

**Practical Resolution:**

Today I would like to recognize God's fatherly love and mercy in the happenings of the day.  
God touches my life daily. I want to see God's Father-love  
    in people who are good to me,  
    in people who need me and  
    in people who might hurt me, or in circumstances which burden me.

**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!**