

# SCHOENSTATT *Movement*



**O Mary , conceived without sin, pray for us to  
have recourse to thee.**

## WA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

**Schoenstatt Shrine Pilgrimage Place**

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## LITURGICAL FOCUS

The month of December is dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**, which is ordinarily celebrated on December 8 but since it falls on a Sunday, the feast has been transferred to December 9. The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as of **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical colour purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the **Christmas** season. The liturgical colour changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence. **All honour to you Mary!! From you arose the Son of justice , Christ our God** The Gospels for the .



### Feasts for December

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of December are

1. [First Sunday of Advent](#), *Sunday* 3. [Francis Xavier](#), *Memorial*
6. [Nicholas](#), *Opt. Mem.* 7. [Ambrose](#), *Memorial* 8. [Second Sunday of Advent](#), *Sunday*
9. [Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#), *Patronal Feastday of the United States of America*, *Solemnity* 11. [Damasus I](#), *Opt. Mem.*
12. [Our Lady of Guadalupe \(USA\)](#), *Feast* 13. [Lucy](#), *Memorial* 14. [John of the Cross](#), *Memorial* 15. [Third Sunday of Advent](#), *Sunday* 21. [Peter Canisius](#), *Opt. Mem.*
22. [Fourth Sunday of Advent](#), *Sunday* 23. [John of Kanty](#), *Opt. Mem.*
25. [Christmas](#), *Solemnity* 26. [Stephen](#), *Feast* 27. [John](#), *Feast* 28. [Holy Innocents](#), *Feast*
29. [Holy Family](#), *Feast* 31. [Sylvester I](#), *Opt. Mem.*

The Gospels for the Sundays in December are taken from St. Matthew and are from Year A, Cycle 2 of the readings.

<b>December 1st</b> - 1st Sunday in Advent	Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.
<b>December 8th</b> -2nd Sunday in Advent	The Gospel is about John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness.
<b>December 15th</b> - 3rd Sunday in Advent	The crowds question St. John the Baptist asking him who he is.
<b>December 22nd</b> - 4th Sunday in Advent	The Gospel is about the revelation to St. Joseph of Mary's virginal conception.
<b>December 29th</b> - Holy Family	This Gospel recounts the Holy Family's flight into Egypt.

### Highlights of the Month

The liturgy of Advent focuses on remembering Christ's first coming at Bethlehem which then directs our mind to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. The readings focus on the people of the Old Testament awaiting the Messiah, John the Baptist, heralding the way for Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary and her maternal preparations.

The main Feasts of Advent are **St. Francis Xavier** (December 3), **St. John Damascene**, (December 4), **St. Nicholas** (December 6), **St. Ambrose** (December 7), **Immaculate Conception** (December 9), **St. Juan Diego** (December 9), **St. Damascus** (December 11), **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (December 12), **St. Lucy** (December 13), **St. John of the Cross** (December 14) and **St. Peter Canisius** (December 21) and **St. John of Kanty** (December 23).

Christmastide begins with the First Vespers (Evening Prayer) of Christmas on December 24th and ends on the Sunday after Epiphany. Christmas and Easter are the only solemnities with octaves attached in the revised calendar. The Christmas octave differs from Easter in that it includes some major feasts: **St. Stephen** (December 26), **St. John the Evangelist** (December 27), the **Holy Innocents** (December 28) and **St. Sylvester I** (December 31). The octave closes on January 1, the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**.

The feast of **St. Thomas Becket** (December 29) is superseded by the Sunday liturgy. The feast of the **Immaculate Conception** (December 8) has been transferred to December 9 because of the Sunday Liturgy.

### **The Reason for the Season**



The month of December is filled with expectation and celebration. Preparation is the key word for the first 24 days of December. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas — shopping and decorating, baking and cleaning. Too often, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the real reason for our activity. Christmas is a Christian feast — and we must reclaim it as such! In the same way that a family eagerly prepares for a baby, so

in Advent should we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. We should keep Advent as a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and of hope and keep our thoughts on the incredible love and humility of our God in taking on the flesh of the Virgin Mary. Let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein our Savior may come to dwell. **The best person we can turn to for help during Advent is Mary**, Christ's and our Mother. She awaited the day of His birth with more eagerness than any other human being.

Her preparation was complete in every respect. Let's crown our preparation and borrow something of Mary's prayerfulness, her purity and whole-hearted submission to God's will.

## SCHOENSTATT AUSTRALIA

### New Schoenstatt pilgrim shrines to promote prayer in families

*Pilgrims bringing their gifts of flowers to Mary by placing them in front of a large pilgrim shrine image at the annual Mary Pilgrimage at the Schoenstatt Shrine, Mt Richon WA.*

*Photo: Chris Quinn.*



**By Theresia Titus**

The Schoenstatt Movement community in Perth, together with Knights of the Southern Cross, are producing new pilgrim shrines, inviting young families to join the WA Pilgrim Mother Apostolate in WA.

The apostolate was introduced by Deacon John Pozzobon in Santa Maria, Brazil, in 1950 and began in WA in 1986.

Today, the apostolate exists in more than 120 countries.

Speaking to *The eRecord*, Schoenstatt Sister Rebecca Sampang said a "new surge of interest" and the need to repair the images distributed since 1986 called for the production of new pilgrim shrines.

"The WA Pilgrim Mother Apostolate Team decided on the production of one hundred new images, along with accompanying bags marked with an Australian Logo," Sr Rebecca added.

"In this way we want to give the pilgrim shrines an 'updated new look' to promote in parishes in 2020, especially inviting young families to join the apostolate."

*Those who were responsible for their group image renewing their yearly commitment to the apostolate at the **annual May Pilgrimage** at the Schoenstatt Shrine, Mt Richon.*

*Photo: Chris Quinn.* The new production of the shrines, she said, was funded by the Knights of the Southern Cross.



"When members of the Knights of the Southern Cross Cathedral Branch began helping with our fundraising efforts for the new bags, and they heard of the new images being made, learning that the apostolate promotes prayer in families, they were willing to financially fund the project.

"Lindsay Gregory, a member of a Pilgrim Shrine group in [Armadale Parish], along with Vince Ialeggio, who belongs to the Schoenstatt Family Branch , helped supply the wood and once cut, assembled the images.

"Without the generous help and financial support of these people, this project would not have been so speedily completed," she continued.

Knights of the Southern Cross member, Brad Page said the deterioration of the initial images and resurgence of interest in the Apostolate, "provided the opportunity to create new quality images that truly inspire devotion to Our Lady as the Mother Thrice admirable and promote prayer within the home".

"The Knights of the Southern Cross offered to fund the creation of new Pilgrim Mother Shrines, and also volunteered their time to stain, cut images and assemble smaller Shrines which are to be sold," Mr Page added.

"The proceeds of which will fund carry bags that are to accompany the new 100 solid timber oak Pilgrim Mother Shrines."

Sr Rebecca is hoping to have a sample of the new pilgrim shrine bags, by January 2020, and launch the new pilgrim shrines to Perth parishes throughout the year.

The pilgrim shrine is "an image of Our Lady as the Mother Thrice Admirable, who holds her Son and can be seen as a miniature of the Schoenstatt Shrine".

"Some may know of or have visited the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mt Richon," Sr Rebecca stated.

"Those who belong to Schoenstatt believe and have experienced the Shrine as a special place of grace, where Mary generously gives us the pilgrim graces of a home, transformation, and missionary zeal.

"The pilgrim shrine, as a picture of grace, is a miniature version of the Schoenstatt Shrine," she explained.

*New pilgrim shrines are being made, a collaboration project of the Schoenstatt Movement and the Knights of the Southern Cross.*

*Photo: Supplied.*

The shrines are currently circulated among a group of families according to a roster, where a group of four to 10 families welcomes one pilgrim shrine into their home – "so that Mary and her Son visits each family every month".

"Just as Mary brought Jesus into Elizabeth and Zacharia's home when she came to visit, through the pilgrim shrine, Mary wants to distribute the special graces from the Schoenstatt Shrine into homes and work miracles of grace," Sr Rebecca continued.



In 2017, there were 25 pilgrim shrines circulating among 25 groups of families and since 2018, the number has doubled to 50 groups of families.

"When Mary in the pilgrim shrine visits a family home, she invites the family to pray before her image. Every form of prayer is encouraged, especially the rosary."



"There are many testimonies of numerous graces people receive by welcoming Mary into their home."

### **FROM THE PILGRIM MOTHER APOSTOLATE IN WA OCTOBER ROSARY AT THE SHRINE**

Once more in Our Lady's month of October members of the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate gathered in the Shrine to pray and honour our Mother Thrice Admirable in the month of the most holy rosary. The Co-ordinators from Yangebup, Hilbert, Maida Vale and Gosnells



parishes all took turns to lead the rosary each Saturday at 3.00pm. And Saturday after Saturday the numbers who came increased and everyone enjoyed refreshments afterwards. When the Maida Vale Co-ordinators led the rosary a surprise awaited all of us afterwards. We were invited to step outside as Maida Vale parishioners performed a Filipino dance, costumes and all especially for Mother Mary. And Our Lady surely enjoyed this sign of love for her as much as we did!



Thank you to our Pilgrim Mother Parish Co-ordinators Sandra Vas of Yangebup Parish, Maria Filamor of Maida Vale Parish and Antoinette Donegan of Hilbert Parish as well as Co-ordinator Maureen Labouchardiere of Gosnells Parish for their efforts and co-ordination.

### **NOVEMBER 1 ALL SAINTS DAY**

The Shrine wrapped in scaffolding and the forecast of wind, rain and storm did not deter the 'heavenly visitors' who came for Holy Mass at 10.00 am. The saints, literally came marching in one by one, filling up the pews and making their



strong presence felt by all the pilgrims who were also there to attend Holy Mass. Fr Mark Baumgarten, parish priest at Hilbert gave them all a very special welcome. This is the fourth year that Home school families gather at the Shrine to celebrate All Saints Day. Co-ordinated by Antoinette Donegan, the children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite saint. Congratulations to all the mums who needed to dress more than one saint for the day. It is the youngest St Anthony the

Abbot I have ever met because he could be seen on occasion sucking his thumb. Fr Mark was so impressed with the blessed gathering that he was eager to have his photo taken with the entire litany at the Shrine door. After attending Holy Mass everyone was invited for an All Saints Party in Emilie House. Refreshments made many of these saints happy before



each family was invited to come forward to tell everyone which saints they were dressed as.



With the introductions over, I gave them a talk on the life of one of these saints and this year I chose St Therese of Lisieux, in preparation for the visit of her relics to Perth next year. After the short talk we all said a prayer to St Therese before each one was invited to venerate a second class

relic of St Therese – a piece of her Carmelite habit. Some fun and games follow before the saints happily return home.

Contributed by Sr M Rebecca

**Candles for Christmas**

Perfect for Carols by Candlelight and any other Christmas events.

Purchase candles at the Schoenstatt Shrine

\$5.00 each (batteries included).

*"We are not on earth to guard a museum, but to nurture a Garden, that blooms with life and is meant for a more beautiful future"* Pope John xx111



### Fr Angel Strada: 80th Birthday of "the one who surely knows Fr Kentenich best"

Maria Fischer •

On 18 November, our Covenant Day and for a long time the day on which we celebrated Fr Kentenich's birthday, Fr Angel L. Strada celebrated eighty years of his life, most of which was spent in serving Fr Kentenich and his work, and his beatification process. By no means less important was the process of getting to know and understand our Father and Prophet. "He is our big brother who captured us with his warmth and cordiality, his love for the Blessed Mother, his peace, his joy, but above all his vital picture of Fr Kentenich's fatherhood", commented Carlos Ricciardi, who got to know him in the 1970s in Argentina. "We see him and we see our Father. His gestures, his smile, his simplicity, his upright and fitting words, are some of the attributes God gave him. They served to conquer our hearts in Argentina, and, in particular the Schoenstatters of La Plata, where he worked at the start of his priestly service."

#### Fr Kentenich's influencer

Just as Pope Francis can speak of Mary as God's influencer, we are justified in talking about Fr Angel Strada as Fr Kentenich's influencer. "Fr Angel Strada must be the person who best knew our Father and Founder because of all the research he did and lived as Postulator. In addition, he is one of the last generation of Schoenstatt Fathers who personally got to know Fr Kentenich", Carlos Ricciardi said. What comes to my mind when I think of Fr Angel is his search for the "genuine Fr Kentenich" He was persistent in no longer hiding the conditions of Fr Kentenich's childhood as the son of a single mother, as well as the confrontation with parts of his difficult writings, and the human facets of a person who had to fight to follow his path, his mission and his sanctity.

"For the beatification process of Fr Kentenich, I told myself that we have to give up a picture of our founder in which everything is perfect, so that his holiness was there right from the beginning. This Kentenich never existed", he said during an interview in December 2016 shortly before he handed over his office as Postulator to his successor. "Many have said that showing the human features of our Father and Founder has helped them to appreciate him more. It is an obstacle to them if we create a myth about this founder. A one-sided emphasis on his heroic virtues and blameless life can sometimes be an obstacle to people and prevent them from identifying with him."

## COMING EVENTS

**Fridays** Shrine 10.00 am **HOLY MASS**  
11.00am to 8.15pm **Silent Eucharistic Adoration**

**Sunday**  
**17th NOV.** 1.30pm — 2'45pm **Formation**  
**Covenant Sunday Devotion 3.00 pm**

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE NOTE!

Please forward any contributions to  
Joy and John Doherty for the next Edition of  
"Schoenstatt News" by 16 November 2019  
We look forward to your input.  
Email us to [joy@jaysbus.com.au](mailto:joy@jaysbus.com.au)

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