

# SCHOENSTATT NEWS

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**40 Days**

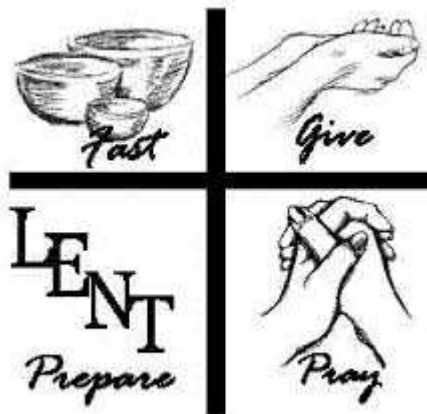
PRAYER  
FASTING  
ALMS  
CHARITY

**“It’s not just about  
what you’re giving up;  
but about who you’re  
giving it up to.”**

**LENT**

From the 2015 Lent Companion  
Available for pre-order  
[LifeTeen.com/store](http://LifeTeen.com/store)

**FEBUARY 2015 EDITION**



## Lent

*Lent is a period of fasting leading up to Easter. It recalls Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness. The Catholic Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends right before the evening Masses of Holy Thursday, although Lenten penance continues through Holy Saturday. In 2015, Lent begins on February 18th*

Many Christians throughout the world observe **Lent**. Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestants benefit from this annual

season of sacrifice and simplicity. For non-Christians, Lent might seem like a mystery, since Christians voluntarily make sacrifices. For some, Lent is a period of going on a diet; for others, it is when Catholic co-workers show up to work with ashes on their heads, and fast-food restaurants start selling fish sandwiches

## So what exactly is Lent and where did it come from?

In basic terms, Lent is the season before Easter, in the West lasting liturgically from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of Holy Thursday exclusive. The evening of Holy Thursday begins the *Easter Triduum*, which lasts to the Evening Prayer of Easter Day. However, Lenten fasting and penance continue until the end of Holy Week, and all of Holy Week is included in the traditional 40 day Lenten fast, despite Lent ending *liturgically* on Holy Thursday.

While Sundays are typically excluded from fasting and abstinence restrictions, and are not numbered in the traditional "40 Days" of Lent, they are still part of the **Lenten season**, as can be seen from their Lenten themes. The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, spiritual growth, conversion, and simplicity. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him. Thus it is fitting that the season of Lent begin with a symbol of repentance: placing ashes mixed with oil on one's head or forehead. However, we must remember that our Lenten disciplines are supposed to ultimately transform our entire person: body, soul, and spirit, and help us



Jesus Prays in the Garden  
John 17:1-26

become more like Christ.

Eastern Christians call this process *theosis*, which St. Athanasius describes as "[becoming by grace what God is by nature.](#)"

There are a few basic tasks that traditionally have been associated with Lent. Many of these have a long history. These are fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. In addition, reading the Scriptures and the Church's Writings can help one grow during the season.

**Fasting:** The Western Rite of the Catholic Church expects its members age 18 to 59 to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, unless a physical condition prevents it. This means only one full meal is permitted in a [fast day](#). The Fridays of Lent are days of [required abstinence](#), meaning meat, and soups or gravies made of meat, are not permitted. Abstinence is required of those aged 14 and older.

**Prayer:** Lent is a perfect time to develop or strengthen a discipline of regular prayer. The [Liturgy of the Hours](#), an ancient practice of praying throughout the day, is a good place to start. A good goal for Lent would be to read Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer everyday. If you already do that, perhaps you could add noon or night prayer.

[Contemplative prayer](#), based around the idea of silence or listening for God, is also well suited to Lent. There are also many excellent forms of prayers that reflect the penitential mood of Lent.

[Theology and liturgy](#) should always be prayer, so a good discipline for Lent would be to make an effort to attend worship services whenever possible. Daily mass would be very rewarding. While Lent is about giving something up (i.e. fasting), it is also about putting something positive in its place. Lent is a good time to examine ways to get involved and to make resolutions to actually do them. Giving alms can be done in more ways than just giving out money to people on the street. It can be done by helping your family, friends, and neighbors out of tight situations



or being more generous to hired help. However, one of the best ways to give alms is by volunteering for a charity. There are many lay religious orders, which devote much of their time to charity. When facing temptation in the desert, Jesus relied on Scripture to counter the wiles of the devil. It is a formidable weapon for us as well.

### **History**

Lent probably originated with the pre-Easter baptismal rituals of catechumens, although the number of days set aside for fasting varied according to region. However, the number forty, hallowed by the fasts of Moses, Elijah, and especially Jesus, probably influenced the later fixed time of 40 days. The Canons of Nicaea (AD 325) were the first to mention 40 days of fasting.

Initially the forty day Lenten fast began on a Monday, and was intended only for those who were preparing to enter the Church at Easter. Lent still begins on a Monday in many Eastern Churches. Eventually the West began Lent on Ash Wednesday, and soon the whole Church, and not just catechumens, observed the Lenten fast. The East has no equivalent to Ash Wednesday. Certain devotions and liturgies have developed during the Lenten season, including (in the West), the Stations of the Cross.



### **Shirley Hall Letter**

Dear Schoenstatt Family Members

We are aware of the significance of **20th January 1942**, in Schoenstatt's history. This is the day on which Father Kentenich decided not to use any natural means to try to get out of going to the concentration camp. He believed his freedom would be secured if the leaders of the Schoenstatt Family took seriously their commitment to the Blank Cheque and inscriptio.

He put his fate in the hands of his Schoenstatt Family and the Blessed Mother.

However in my reading about this significant event I came across some other information which I found most interesting and which I wish to share with you. Do you know that the **2nd of February 1942** is also considered an important date in Schoenstatt's history? Remember this was not that long after Father Kentenich had made the decision to go to the concentration camp.

During an address given at the Wayside Shrine at Belmonte on 2nd February 1966 Father Kentenich described what happened. "After a relatively brief period—from 20-22 January until 2nd February— the news arrived that all the Leaders of the Family (The Schoenstatt Family) as a whole had carried out the condition. Which condition? The Inscriptio! There upon, in a certain sense the inner certainty, the inner trust: When is the next feast day of Mary? On 2nd February! The condition has been met on 2nd of February the bells of victory will ring out. "The Sisters had already made the Inscriptio (19th October 1941 and the Priests had told me they would make the Inscriptio. But I misunderstood and because I thought that the Priests had already made it the security and confidence grew in me that I would be free and the family would be free". Fr.

Kentenich even composed a hymn of thanksgiving for the expected victory on 2nd February.( the Hymn is in the prayer book Heavenwards ). But when 2nd of February came there were no bells of victory. Why didn't Fr. Kentenich's liberation take place? Because the conditions had not yet been fulfilled. However, Fr. Kentenich was convinced that on 2nd February the die was cast for his liberation. Why? Because on 2nd February 1942 it was decided by a high authority in Berlin — that he would be sent to Dachau and not to another camp like Mauthausen. Mauthausen, was known as "Mordhausen" ( house of murder ) which would have been much worse.

What is the significance of the Feastday of 2 February? On this day we celebrate the light of Christ which continues to shine brightly among us. The candles used in the liturgy remind us that Christ is our light and that we, in turn, are called to reflect this light to all nations. It is the inner conviction that redemption has begun. For Father Kentenich who always saw



everything in relation to God's providence, it was the beginning of the redemption, the beginning of the inner liberation, the liberation of the whole Schoenstatt Family. For indeed, if Father Kentenich had gone to Mauthausen, or "Mordhausen"..... who knows what would have happened to Father Kentenich and the fate of the whole Schoenstatt Family???

You can see how in all situations Father Kentenich believed in Divine Providence and trusted that God cares personally for each one of us. He believed totally in the Covenant of Love with our MTA.



There is also another meaning connected to this date. This became known as the **Candlemas Vision** – that the founder and Schoenstatt would be liberated. After May 1945 when Fr. Kentenich returned to Schoenstatt, not only the founder but also the whole family emerged and the liberation began.

However, in next to no time the Candlemas Vision changed to become the great idea, the great

aim: *This centred on Schoenstatt's mission for the future of the Church.* Our founder placed the projected international Schoenstatt shrine and centre in Belmonte in a vast context: From here the Holy Father and the bishops all over the world should come to understand Schoenstatt's mission, so that Schoenstatt might become a blessing to the Church. This a mission which we should pray will come about – that the Holy Father and the Bishops will come to appreciate and understand the mission and spirituality of Schoenstatt.

So on this 2<sup>nd</sup> February, we remember not only that on this day in 1942 Father Kentenich was spared from going to a 'death camp', but also that our great mission as Schoenstatt Family is to be of service to the Church – whatever this may mean for us – in our parishes. We can also express this in the words of our Australian mission for Schoenstatt:

**“ONE HEART IN THE FATHER FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD”**

Wishing you all many covenant blessings, Shirley Hall

**The Father loves an interiorly free and happy child. Therefore I pray, -“Let there be the new person, who conducts himself as**





## Dean Schoenstatt Family, —” Mphc!

There are various points of inspiration on which I could base my in-put this month.

First of all, Lent has begun. Those six weeks are a time for repentance, a time of looking back on our lives in order to take stock, a time of prayer and sacrifice. But it is also a time for looking forward – looking towards Easter, the experience of genuine Easter joy. With Christ we “die”; with Christ we “rise”. In him we live and have our being! Let us also pray for peace in the world, in our own country and families. What we recently experienced in Sydney, France, Belgium, in Africa and the Middle East shall certainly awaken in us the longing for peace so that all peoples and nations can live in harmony without fear or oppression.

During the audience with the Holy Father, Pope Francis said to the Schoenstatt Family, “**Nobody can say ‘Jesus Christ is Lord’ if the Holy Spirit does not inspire them. For that, you must pray. You must recognize that the Holy Spirit is inside of you and that it is the same Holy Spirit that gives you the strength to carry on.**”

**Prayer.** Do not forget about prayer. And prayer to Mary is one of the things that I ask about often when I listen to confessions. How is your relationship with the Blessed Mother?...”

At the very same occasion the Holy Father points out that “**She helps us. Mary is the one who helps to bring Jesus down to us. Bringing Jesus down. She brings him from heaven to live with us. And she is the one who watches, cares, warns. That’s it.**” He continues by saying, “**For as much as we can know Jesus, nobody can say that they are so mature that they do not need Mary. Nobody can do without their Mother.**”

### **Let us go through Lent with Mary!**

On November 21, 2014, on the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple, the Holy Father announced THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE. It began on November 30, 2014 and will conclude on February 2, 2016. Although the emphasis is on Congregations of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life, we, as Schoenstatt Family, can apply this to ourselves. In Schoenstatt, no matter to which Branch or Institute we belong, we are called to be apostolic. Apostolic fruitfulness is one of the gifts we receive from our Shrine. Also our Covenant of Love points to being consecrated to Mary and in her we are taken into the relationship with all persons of the Trinity. We want to always look to the past with gratitude, especially to the Jubilee cele-

-tures. It was a sign of Schoenstatt's apostolic fruitfulness. Let us try to find new initiatives and ways to courageously go forward and bring Schoenstatt's message of the Covenant of Love to as many people as possible.

**The Covenant of Love** on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1914 is like a seed or a root from which a tree has grown and developed and its branches stretch out throughout the world.

Wishing you all a very blessed Lent! With prayers and greetings from our Shrine,

Yours  
Sr. M. Georgina



**BRAZIL**, Sister M. Ivanir Castro. God called home Deacon Ubaldo Alves Pimentel, a faithful companion to Deacon John Luiz Pozzobon on his journey with the Original Pilgrim Mother. Ubaldo was hospitalized several times and on 4 February suffered a stroke and died at the Santa Maria Charity Hospital. His wife, Soeli, who accompa-

nied him throughout, was very attentive to her husband, practically carrying this difficult burden alone as they had no children.

### From Sister Lisette

Preparations for re-living the jubilee have started the high school and Uni students have created a wonderful display on the stained glass window and how it was created.

We have a contribution from the torch bearers who carried a torch from Pompeii to Schoenstatt as part of their contribution to the celebrations of the jubilee. They sent a calendar and a special candle with their emblem as well as a video from the journey.

Our chart depicting the 15.000 km walk from our Armadale Shrine to Schoenstatt Germany, is displayed with a special contribution of the footprints of our very own Archbishop Timothy Costello

Ray and Margaret Cole shared 16 gig photos and videos with me from which I have been able to make a DVD for the schools to see what happened to their **10.000 footprints and a copy of the stained glass window** which was taken along to Schoenstatt Germany. I can't wait for the children, teachers and parents to come and be part of the new Schoenstatt centenary, all will receive a little **'folding Shrine and 'treasury of Grace contribution card'** to take home so





I would like to finish this report by saying a special and heartfelt thank you for all the effort the Schoenstatt family have made to make the jubilee celebrations so special and so meaningful. The help and contributions especially in creating the lasting memory of the jubilee through the stained glass window has been out of this world. Many prayers and Rosary's were offered up for each one of you. The Prayer: **For all your gifts I thank you Mother dear...** I prayed for your intentions.

The part: ...What would have happened if **YOU** had not cared.... I put your names there.



With special Covenant greetings  
Yours Sr. M. Lisette

## Things we should know about

### Schoenstatt on Kilimanjaro

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**KENYA/GERMANY**, On 11 January Christoph Behmüller and Andreas Gerner, from Southern Germany, fulfilled their great dream. At 8 a.m. in radiant sunshine they stood at the highest point in Africa, the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro at 5895 m. There they unfurled the Schoenstatt flag they had taken with them. Christoph,

who is a member of the Schoenstatt Young Men, had carried with him his home shrine, and so they renewed their covenant of love and prayed in particular for the Schoenstatt Family in Africa.



**Our Ideal shall shine before us**

**And form our entire lives JK**



### **POPE FRANCIS - The Father's Presence**

VATICAN, mda. A positive and conclusive profile of the father figure was Pope Francis' chosen theme for his catechesis during his Wednesday general audiences in the Pope Paul VI Hall. "His catechesis on pater- nity - from the audiences on 28 January and 4 February - is a gift from God and confirms Fr. Kentenich's charism," commented Fr. José María García. The Holy Father provides, encourages fathers, to be present in the family, in the first person. In order to be a good father, the first thing is to be "present in the family". That he be close to his wife, to share everything, joy and sorrow, hope and hardship. And that he be close to his children as they grow: when they play and when they strive, when they are carefree and when they are distressed, when they are talkative and when they are silent, when they are daring and when they are afraid, when they take a wrong step and when they find their path again; a father who is always present. To say 'present' is not the same as "controlling"! Fathers who are too controlling cancel out their children, they don't let them develop."

### **"Almighty God also Bless my Enemies"**

GERMANY, mda. **"Almighty God, also bless my enemies"**. Suddenly the people at the postal counter who had been queuing impatiently, were drawn into a conversation about injury and reconciliation, enmity at work and at home, and the strength it requires even to think about someone who has done us an injustice or harmed us, without talking negatively about them or even worse.



"Please give me ten more", the young woman said who had started the conversation. "I have never seen such a stamp before". Behind her someone remarked, "I think I will put one on my desk." "Almighty God, also bless my enemies." The special stamp to mark the hundredth birthday of the priest, Karl Leisner, was released this week. It moves people with its simplicity and the power of the quotation from the last diary entry (on 25 July 1945) of this young man from the Lower Rhine who died of TB shortly after the liberation of the concentration camp at Dachau.



## .OUR MISSION FOR THE SHRINE IN PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

My name is *Guilherme Dias*. I am 27 years old. I belonged 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 2013 we departed on a long journey from Bra-

zil 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 of Love** 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



