

SCHÖENSTATT NEWS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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Pope Benedict announced to resign by end of the month



red. Pope Benedict

XVI is to resign at the end of this month after nearly eight years as the head of the Catholic Church. "After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry", the Holy Father said today. In gratitude, we entrust him and all of us, the pilgrim church, as well as the one to be elected to be the future Pope, to the Mother Thrice Admirable and to our prayers and capital of grace on our pilgrimage towards 2014.

Dear Brothers,

I have convoked you to this Consistory, not only for the three canonizations, but also to communicate to you a decision of great importance for the life of the Church. After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate

exercise of the Petrine ministry. I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less **with prayer and suffering. However, in today's world,** subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the barque of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me. For this reason, and well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a Conclave to elect the new Supreme Pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is.

Dear Brothers, I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the Holy Church to the care of Our Supreme Pastor, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the Cardinal Fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new Supreme Pontiff. With regard to myself, I wish to also devotedly serve the Holy Church of God in the future through a life dedicated to prayer.

From the Vatican, 10 February 2013

BENEDICTUS PP XVI

(taken from Schoenstatt website)

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 Kentenich 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 Kentenich 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 Kentenich found in him, a man who was always concerned, always available and always kind to all who met him. Father Kentenich 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 Kentenich 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!

A Belated but still heartfelt THANK YOU from Philomena

A huge thank you goes out to Mary McLean, Maryann Bailey and all the wonderful helpers that made our Spring Fair a success, with almost \$5000 being raised.

A big thank also to Sr Georgina and Sr Rebecca for their PowerPoint presentations in October. They were very informative.

Thought for the week

..... at times we are asked to make the very best lemonade with the lemons life presents us withare we able to do this???

Ahhhhh, God bless the babies!

Ralph and I have very recently returned from Melbourne, a trip made to meet our newest granddaughter and to spend some wonderful time with her older sister. They have a cousin - these 3 are our delightful beloved grandchildren.

Since October 2012, I have had the very good fortune to be introduced to so many newborns - Krishna, Olivia & Chloe, children of work colleagues, Elijah born to our niece, the little son of my cousin, a little boy born to our nephew and his wife and of course our granddaughter.

Upon contemplation - how very precious these little ones are, what dreams and hopes these young parents hold for their children ...what courage and strength these parents show, through their babies, a sign that they walk with hope and faith in their heartsquestions then came to my mindIf we truly believe in a Kind, Merciful, Magnanimous God, the Omnipotent Omniscient Father who holds all things lovingly in His Hand -

Why then are our **words** and **actions** so very contrary to this??
Do we not believe that our world is in fact **unfolding exactly as it should?**
Have we no confidence that God would once again **bless us and provide us with “the wonders he has done in every age?”**

Please understand, I am not saying be helpless bystanders in everyday lifewhen situations arise that we think needs to be changed then perhaps Ghandi has a lesson for us “Be the change you want to see” ...and if we cannot change it, instead of criticising and blaming, perhaps say a prayer for all involved, bless them and move on. New, and even not so new, parents need our encouragement, they need to feel our love, they need us to laugh, be happy, a sign and witness that we trust in our God. They really, really need us to show that there is much hope and goodness in our world just as it is!

In this newsletter Sr Georgina (thank you Sister!) invites us to ponder ‘God’s Merciful Love’ this week. In April Fr Prabhu brings to WA the Father symbol, so as we prepare, as we **PAUSE REFLECT REFRESH TRANSFORM** may we say ‘begone doom and gloom!!!’ and shout in one huge happy voiceahhhhh God Bless the Babies!

Monica Perez.

