

Schoenstatt Begins A Jubilee Year

The international Schoenstatt Movement finds itself at the beginning of a Jubilee Year after three years of intensive preparation. On Friday October 18, the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mt Richon, Armadale was one of the first of the 200 Shrines all over the world to begin its Jubilee celebrations. A crowd of over 200 braved a chilly evening and slight drizzle to attend an outdoor Holy Mass celebrated by Father Peter Whitley, the Vicar General at the Shrine's forecourt. Among those present were Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary; Schoenstatt couples; mothers and families; regular pilgrims from a number of local parishes, Schoenstatt friends and supporters.

From October 18, 2013 till October 18, 2014 the Schoenstatt Movement is celebrating 100 years of its founding. At the heart of their jubilee celebration is the renewal of the Covenant of Love with the Mother Thrice Admirable Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, the founder Father Joseph Kentenich, in the Original Shrine. This Covenant of Love with Mary is an expression, medium and safeguard of our Baptismal Covenant with the Triune God.

Priests Father Kazimierz Stuglik; Father Andrew Lotton; Father Emmanuel Tv Dimobi, Father Ken Asaba and Father Cyprian Shikokoti came to concelebrate with the Vicar General. These priests frequent the Shrine either to celebrate a Pilgrims' Holy Mass on Fridays or assist with the monthly event Shrine Time Holy Hour for young adults.

After Father Peter's homily Fiona Nottle, parishioner at St Francis Xavier Parish, Hilbert sealed her Covenant of Love, after praying a hand written consecration prayer. Mrs Nottle has had a great devotion to Our Lady since she was eight years old and said she felt called to the Covenant of Love especially on this day.

"More people need to come to the Shrine," Mrs Nottle said.

"It is a very special place of grace and my life has truly been blessed by it."

Philomena Theseira, from the Schoenstatt families said:

'It was a wonderful night. Schoenstatt's Jubilee Year is about celebrating 100 years of the Covenant of Love, so one of the true highlights for me was to see someone make their Covenant of Love with Our Lady tonight.'

Local fireworks went off at the end of the celebration and added to the joy.

Peter de San Miguel from the Schoenstatt families said:

'It was unbelievable! It seemed like they went off on que!'

At the close of Holy Mass, Father Peter announced the news that Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence to all members of the Schoenstatt Movement and to the faithful who participate in any of the Schoenstatt Jubilee Year celebrations or come to visit any of the Shrines throughout the world, to which the crowd joyfully applauded. The plenary Indulgence can be obtained from October 18, 2013 until October 26, 2014.