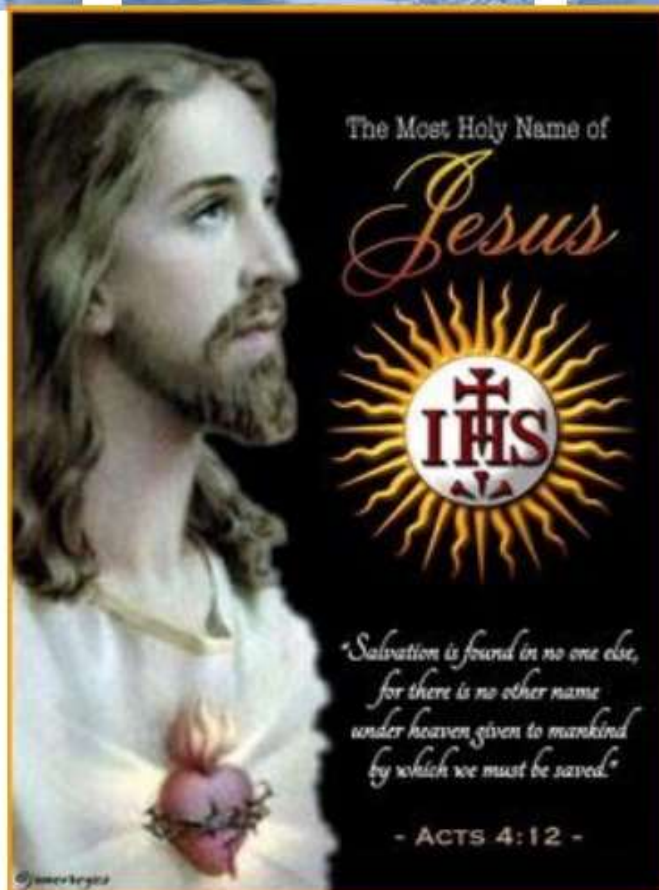


SCHOENSTATT MOVEMENT



The Month of January is Dedicated to The Holy Name of Jesus

WA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

Schoenstatt Shrine a Pilgrimage Place

Address: 9 Talus Drive Mt Richon WA 6112

Opening Hours: Monday – Sunday 7am to 8pm

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The first nine days of January fall during the liturgical season known as **Christmas** which is represented by the liturgical colour white — the colour of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored). The remaining days of January are the beginning of liturgical season known as *Tempus per Annum* or **Ordinary Time** (formerly *Time After Epiphany*), which is represented by the liturgical colour green. Green is a symbol of hope, as it is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in

the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The liturgical colour green is worn during prayer of Offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.

MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis releases his message for the World Day of Peace to be celebrated on 1 January 2023, and recalls that all crises are interconnected and that we must not forget any of them, but work for the good of humanity.

"No one can be saved alone.

Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace." With this as its title, Pope

Francis has presented his message for the 56th World Day of Peace, held annually on 1 January.

Remain steadfast

The Holy Father's message, released on Friday, opens with a quotation from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians (5:1-2).

"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

By Francesca Merlo

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Thus, the Pope recalls that the Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian community to remain steadfast. Likewise he says, "when tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, we are called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path."



Family Feature: The Dias Family

We are Guil and Barbara! We moved to Perth from Brazil in 2013 and now have 2 sons; Gregorio and Benjamin. We have been involved in Schoenstatt since very early. I, Guil, joined the Male Youth in 2016 while Barbara comes from a Schoenstatt family and has been involved in the Movement since



her baptism (her parents are still very active on the Schoenstatt Federation in Brazil). We met in 2016 while in Mission for Schoenstatt in a poor city in the countryside of Brazil (she was in the same group as my sister). We started dating in 2009 and got married in 2013. Today, all 4 of us are proud to be Australian Citizens and feel at home in Perth. I had been planning to move to Australia since before meeting Barbara, and I told her of my plan on our first date. She didn't care much as we were just beginning, but after living 3 months in Germany she accepted the idea. Oh, this actually brings a nice story to mind! We went to World Youth Day (WYD) in Madrid 2011 and the group was going to spend a week in Schoenstatt (Germany) after WYD,

so as Barbara and I were going to the Original Shrine together I thought of proposing to marry her there. But then she decided to stay 3 more months in Schoenstatt in the Girls Volunteering Program, as she once thought of maybe joining the Sisters. I decided to wait for her to come back so then if it was God's plan for us to be together as a vocation we would have to go through this "trial", and I also wanted to respect the possibility of her deciding to join the Sisters. When she came back, I proposed to her at our favourite restaurant. We are about to celebrate 10 years of happy marriage.

To move to Australia, we had to go through an endless trail of paperwork in order to obtain our Permanent Residency. In one of these documents, we were supposed to request "sponsorship" from a State open to receive migrants, and we had QLD, WA and SA as options. I asked Barbara to look for a place she would like to live and she chose Perth for 2 reasons: 1 - it has a Schoenstatt Shrine; 2 - you can see the sunset over the ocean. So we went to write our letter requesting sponsorship in WA. In my resume I wrote that we wanted to live in Perth because there is a Schoenstatt Shrine and it would be important for us to build a family near the Shrine and the Movement. Our lawyer got very frustrated, saying that we would be rejected due to requesting Perth instead of Regional WA and that the State could see us as fundamentalist religious people. He asked us to change it. But I stood my ground and said something like "what I have written, I have written" and he unwillingly applied for us. We had 3 months to receive a response, and it was approved in 3 weeks. On our way here, we had a quick stop in Johannesburg (South Africa), where we rushed to see the Bedfordview Shrine and ask Our Lady to keep blessing our way to Australia.



Schoenstatt is very special to us and means a lot for our family. Our Lady has worked wonders in our lives and we feel more and more entrusted to Her, developing our faith in Divine Providence day by day. Our boys are wonderful kids who make us very happy, and we hope to be educating and teaching them to be good human beings, faithful and helpful, trusting in God's assistance.

We are part of the "Young Couples Group", who have been meeting for at least 6 years now, and we all now have kids with similar age, so they are growing together in age and in the faith. We sealed our Covenant of Love in 2020 and blessed our Home Shrines earlier this year, now working towards our Personal Ideal. We feel very blessed to be part of the Schoenstatt Movement in WA and humbly offer ourselves to help whenever we can.



United in the Covenant, Guil, Ba, Greg & Ben

LITURGICAL FOCUS

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Octave Day of Christmas—Day Eight January 1st

The **Gospel of today's feast** is from the *Gospel of Luke 2:21*. This story of the humble shepherds of Bethlehem coming to find Jesus "in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothe" already read at the Dawn Mass on Christmas Day, is repeated today because of the feast we are celebrating, the Divine Motherhood of Mary. It is the feast of Christmas again, the feast of the Incarnation and birth of our Savior,



but it is Mary's part in this wonderful mystery of God's love for men that the Church is stressing today.

Christmas: January 8th The Epiphany of the Lord



Today the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season. — Pius Parsch

January 15th Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Gospel – John 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

³⁰ He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'

³¹ I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel."

³² John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him.

³³ I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the

Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."



January 22nd Third Sunday in Ordinary time

Gospel – Matthew 4:12-17

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.



¹³ He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,
¹⁴ that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,

¹⁶ the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.

¹⁷ From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

January 29th Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time

Gospel – Matthew 5:1-12A

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

² He began to teach them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

⁶ Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown

mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

¹¹ Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. ^{12A} Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."



Schoenstatt Girls and Young Women (SGYW) Leaders and Young Women Day Retreat



The theme of the day was: Journeying with Mary and Joseph ... which allowed the young women to take some time out to focus on the final days of Advent, preparing their hearts for the birth of Jesus. The Planning team did a tremendous job in designing the flyer, leading the program and sharing testimonies during the retreat. The humorous ice breaker seemed to overcome all barriers of location and means of participation in the retreat and united all 18 participants wherever they were located.

In her talk, Sr M Luka focused on the various stages of Mary and Joseph's journey and highlighted how we can learn from them how to live our faith, hope and love on your life's journey to the full: Can we also receive faith as a supernatural gift to believe in that which we cannot see, as well as hope as a gift of perseverance when things are difficult, and learn to love like Jesus, Mary and Joseph, by giving ourselves in such a way that others are blessed through our sacrifices? The SGYW leaders who had made their covenant of love recently shared how their walking with Mary in the covenant, enabled them to react differently when challenges come – to not lose their faith, hope and love,

but rather mature and grow through difficulties. These were also the topics we focused on in the Q&A part of the program.

The retreat finished with an Advent devotion either as part of the online group or in one of the two in person settings, where time of reflection and Advent readings allowed for each one to think about which stage of the journey she is experiencing right now and ask for the faith, hope and love to be renewed.

As the retreat had taken place in the morning hours in WA, the participants there were able to finish the day with a shared lunch. Everyone enjoyed this hybrid event and is looking forward to further experiences like this with SGYW.



These and other questions, as well as images from Mary and Joseph's journey occupied the four different groups in the discussion times.

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Mary Immaculate: Nature and Grace in Harmonious Unity

A very important aspect of Father Kentenich's Mariology is the importance of the Blessed Mother as Immaculate. She appears before us as the "full of grace".



Mary, full of grace – Part 1

Mary, appears before us as the person conceived without original sin, who is "*full of grace*" from the first moment of her existence. She is the human being as God conceived it, the archetype of the human being in whom nature and grace are

harmoniously intertwined. She is completely open to God and his will, completely at home within the divine – and at the same time completely human, completely natural. Mind and will, feeling and spirit – all harmoniously interconnected, she is God's dream of wholeness, of the whole human being.

Father Günther Boll relates: "It was only gradually, **Page 10**

in my encounter with Father Kentenich, that it became clear to me what the Blessed Mother as Immaculate meant to him in concrete terms and what consequences he drew from this for his life and his actions, for his entire pedagogical work. Nowhere else have I encountered such a conscious and consistent taking seriously of the dogma of the Immaculate, nowhere else has a theologian seen the anthropological impact of original sin as clearly as Father Kentenich. He had recognized what it means for our human existence that we are burdened with original sin and summed it up in the words, "A rupture runs through our whole being." We all suffer the inner breakdown, the crumbling of body, mind and soul, of head and heart, of divine and human life. Even as baptized and therefore redeemed Christians, we often suffer the consequences of original sin to the end of our lives. **For Father Kentenich it is true:** if Our Lady was born without original sin, she did not bear the consequences of original sin. She is the only human being that comes from paradise, the human being that God really wanted to create: the perfect human being, the fully supernatural and at the same time fully human creature.

Father Kentenich does not stop at this affirmation but goes one step further: in the Virgin as Immaculate, he does not see above all an unattainable model, but is convinced that she has a very special mission for humanity. He is certain that whoever makes a covenant with her is helped to live in harmony with God and with himself. He insisted repeatedly: We can only develop as complete human beings when grace and nature are in harmony. And in this process of growth, the Virgin Mary plays a great role.

This is where Father Kentenich's fundamental orientation towards pedagogy comes into play. For him, any kind of pedagogy in the end must try to live up to what the beloved God really wanted to bestow on us and fulfilled in the Blessed Mother: that nature and grace work together, that they form a harmonious unity. Thus, he gradually developed an "education by the Immaculate" which was meant to help overcome this inner rupture and, with the help of grace, supported by human nature, to grow very slowly towards a harmonious humanity.

COMING EVENTS

Fridays Shrine 10am **HOLY MASS**
11am to 815pm **Silent Eucharistic Adoration**

Third Sunday of the month
130pm to 245pm **Formation**
3pm **Covenant Sunday Devotion** followed by
social and refreshments

**We have been delighted by the
response to the Schoenstatt WA
family feature, and will continue
this in 2023.**

**Please express your interest to feature your
family, or provide other newsletter
contributions by 16 January 2023 to:**

**Joy and John Doherty
Email: joy@jaysbus.com.au**