



Towards 2014

December 2012 - Number 13

Quote

"The strategy to carry out the mission is clear and realistic. It is about facing great challenges in the small spaces where we live and share our lives with others. This is where we should take responsibility and where we should multiply the talents we have received. Historic circumstances can facilitate or hinder carrying out that responsibility. But it never eliminates it.

The bearer of the mission should be possessed by the task he has received. But he should also be clear on its content. He must know of what it consists. In the Schoenstatt mission that task has a name and a concrete face: Mary."

Father Ángel Strada, Delegates' Day, Argentina

Editorial

Dear Pilgrims

Advent greetings from the Original Shrine. For me there is nowhere more beautiful to be in Advent than at the Original Shrine - the light of the advent candles, the decoration in preparation for the festivities,... and yes, lots of snow.

In the midst of this winter wonderland team2014 met to pray together in the great "expectation" of 2014. Fr. Stefan had been in several meetings with members of our movement from South America and Europe and I could share of experiences in Africa and India. All over the world there is 2014 "fever" - many initiatives, expectations, hopes... Of course we had to sit and talk of elements of our celebration in 2014 at the Original Shrine, the process, the pricing and much more. It was great to be able to gather with concrete facts, suggestions and challenges and plan steps for our work in the coming months. You really get the feeling of something very special in the making.

I remember moving to the Office 2014 in January - I was alone - that is certainly no longer the case - offices are full, phones are ringing - and the internet is too slow to keep up with us. The hope is becoming real... 2014 is no longer a far distant dream - it is a call to all of us to gather and share the richness of our Founder's Charism.

As we prepare for the miracle of the Holy Night - let us pray for one another that we can be the miracle for the Church and World for 2014.

Wishing you every blessing in your celebrations as we journey together into the Missionary Year, the Year of Faith.

God bless

Fr. Andrew Pastore

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With every step we take on our pilgrim way

At the arch over the door of the Shrine in Kearsley, England, each one who passes by can read in bold letters: Year of Faith – Year of Mission: Porta Fidei (Portal of Faith). “The door of the Shrine lives up to its 'mission' as the welcoming door into faith”, comments one of the Schoenstatt Fathers in charge. It is a beautiful sign for this missionary Advent 2014 and the Advent of our pilgrimage towards 2014 which can truly be seen as “Holy Night”, as a re-birth of Schoenstatt in humility and missionary commitment with Father Kentenich’s charism for the renewal of Church and World.

Missionary Advent: In the attitude of Advent, in the attitude of expectation and preparation, in the attitude of renewal and prophetic proclamation, in a Magnificat attitude, thousands and thousands of missionaries of the Covenant of Love are on pilgrimage towards Bethlehem, where smallness and simplicity are offered to us as a way – the best way – chosen by God to lead us to the plenitude for which he has created and redeemed us: each one of us, the entire Church, Schoenstatt... This Advent 2012 is missionary Advent, Advent in the Year of Faith, Advent in the Year of the Missionary Current, where more and more feel the urgent call to offer the Covenant of Love and its fruits – with joy and humility – as a gift to the Church that searches for ways to bring the Good News, the Gospel, to people of today, from the most sophisticated intellectual to the most simple rural worker, in old and new societies and nations.

During this missionary Advent, thousands of young people from our Schoenstatt Youth are preparing to set out in January for the missions - alone in Argentina, over 1,000 young men and women will go to eight cities; family missions will be held at four places, accompanied by hundreds of people who join in the missionary stream offering prayers and contributions to the capital of grace for the missions – missionary gestures that get them involved and attached to the strongest and most dynamic initiatives within the Schoenstatt Movement.

In Brazil, more than one million men are part of the “Men’s Rosary of the Mother Thrice Admirable”. They are inspired to prayer and social commitment by the saintly and missionary life of John Pozzobon. Recently a Brazilian Bishop called these men one of the greatest hopes for the Church in that country because of the life they create in the parishes.

All great missionary initiatives begin with and depend on the agents of the new evangelization – the individual people. “If something comes from God, one man is enough to change the world”, John Pozzobon said. A man from a small town in Argentina visited his son in Chile and happened to talk to one of the Dawnbreakers there. What he was told about these men’s morning prayer services at the shrines, or in the parishes, set him afire. Back home he called some friends and started a Dawnbreaker’s group there that meets once a month at the wayside shrine, giving an impressive testimony of solid male religiosity.

A small group of young lawyers in Rome – several of them belonging the Schoenstatt Movement and the others inspired by them – organized a two day Advent retreat for their companions. Despite of many obstacles, they did not give up – and were rewarded by a beautiful experience of faith and community.

A new group of the Schoenstatt Boys` Youth in Paraguay wanted to prepare for their Covenant of Love with a social and missionary outreach. They decided to visit a local public hospital that serves the poorest of the poor, bringing them joy and a testimony of faith with their songs, prayers and their time to listen. Although the confrontation with so much suffering, poverty and misery was hard for them, they want to do it again...

A retired teacher from Texas – who came to know Schoenstatt through the Internet - went the extra mile to get a Pilgrim Mother picture and dozens of Holy Cards – after they had been blessed in the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt – to bring to the inmates of a local prison. “I

have been saving them for their Christmas presents and wanted to prepare a nice presentation. My husband has been making some frames for some of the pictures and I thought I would keep those back for inmates to take with them when we see right after they are released..."

Each missionary's daily missionary steps count... strengthening and inspiring others, enkindling the missionary fire again and again. On this missionary Advent pilgrimage towards 2014, guided by the signs of the Pilgrim Mother and the Unity Cross, there is a growing awareness of the apostolic projects, fruits of the Covenant of Love, becoming a "common heritage" of the entire Movement and source for enkindling missionary fire, joy and pride in everyone.

Families from Costa Rica bring the Marriage Enrichment Course – a proven apostolic project in the field of Marriage and the Family – to Ecuador. They returned home more excited with the projects than they had already been before.

A Schoenstatt mother in Germany feels part of the Paraguayan Dequeni project as she raises funds for their goal of giving more and more children from poor families a chance to go to school.

A missionary from Brazil reads about the "Stations of Marriage" developed in Hungary and gets so excited that she wants it to become known in her country...

Some men in Germany, longing for a new beginning with the men's movement, get excited with what they hear from the Dawnbreakers in Chile and the Men's Rosary in Brazil... If they can do it, why should it not be possible for us?

Christmas is fast approaching, and so is 2014. Will we be prepared? Will all "construction sites" be completed by 2014 as a sign in Manchester City promises: "Completion 2014"? No. Not even Mary had everything prepared when Jesus was born, because all her plans had been changed... But she was ready for the birth of Jesus when he wanted to come, and she was ready for those who came to see him. Our Shrine is our Bethlehem. We will not have everything done by Christmas, or by October 18, 2014. But the paths are prepared for him to complete everything. Maybe the small plaque with the name of a missionary pilgrim and the motto: Your Covenant our Mission – 2014, which was placed in the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem during this Missionary Advent will be a promise, an occasion and an invitation to pray for every one of the thousands of missionaries in this place. 2014 has already arrived. It has already reached Bethlehem, this place chosen by God to be a sign of his promise to all people of all the generations – the promise of Emmanuel, of God among and God with us – forever.

Letter from Team 2014

"Your hearts have caught fire"

Invitation

International Pilgrimage to Schoenstatt 16-19 October 2014

We will celebrate the Covenant of Love on 18 October 2014, on the same day and in the same place where it all started 100 years ago. The jubilee celebration is a large international pilgrimage. Just like the boys in 1914, today we also place ourselves at the disposal of the Blessed Mother. We renew our Covenant of Love filled with confidence that the graces of the shrine will continue to flow and deepen the central experience of Christian faith in the lives of many people: God, you are here. You love me. You give my life meaning.

Programme in Schoenstatt

Thursday, 16.10.2014

Throughout the day

Countries visit the Original Shrine

In the afternoon

International welcome and Holy Mass in the Pilgrims' Arena

Friday, 17.10.2014

Throughout the day

Celebration of Holy Mass in various languages

In the evening

Night of the shrine

Vigil in the Pilgrims' Arena and the Original Shrine

Night of the youth

Saturday, 18.10.2014

The big Covenant day

Celebrations with representatives and society

In the morning

Holy Mass

In the afternoon at 17.00 – the historical hour

Celebration of the Covenant of Love

In the evening

Feast of the Family

Sunday, 19.10.2014

Throughout the day

Celebration of Mass in various languages

International Meeting of the Sections of the Movement

Every day

Tents of Covenant Culture (youth, families, education, Church, new social order: Presentation of projects from all over the world; forums, meetings, exchanges; children's program, cultural activities)

Pilgrimage to the Original Shrine and prayer

Prayer in the Founder Chapel (Fr. Kentenich's tomb)

Spiritual centre in the Adoration Church: meditation, possibility for confession, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Encounter with the life and history of the Schoenstatt Movement; visiting the historical places

What's new?

■ **Covenant Culture**

In the coming months, as we prepare to get to know the tent responsible for a certain apostolic field in March 2013, there will be new developments and growth of the

Bits & Pieces

Mission Fire

Since 2008, the international Men's Youth has experienced a great current called the

"virtual tents," which can be found on schoenstatt.org. The projects are presented in their original language and at the moment are being translated so that many can experience the life that has sprung from the Covenant of Love: apostolic initiatives that capture – in many countries

- the **Covenant Culture** in daily life.

Tents of a Covenant Culture: These will be places where all the projects from the different fields of apostolate can be presented and experienced. The actual covenant gifts, which each country brings, are their apostolic projects, which have developed through the covenant of love.

(Working Document)

Missionary Generation 2014. Year to year we have centered ourselves on one of the four pillars of this MG, Protagonist, International Unity, Mission Fire, and Covenant Culture. This year we especially want our FIRE TO BURN.

<http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/news/1280/163/Mission-Fire.htm>

Decorating the curved arch above the Shrine door: a contribution to the Year of Faith and Year of Mission

The origins of this very latest innovation go back to the WYD held in Toronto, Canada in July 2002 and the Shrine in Constantia, Cape Town, South Africa.

<http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/news/1275/163/Decorating-the-curved-arch-above-the-Shrine-door-a-contribution-to-the-Year-of-Faith-and-Year-of-Mission.htm>

Original Pilgrim Mother Resumes her Pilgrimage to 2014

João Luiz Pozzobon's Original Pilgrim Mother is unshakeable in her mission. She has been restored, following an accident during her pilgrimage through Brazil, and now resumes her Tabor Pilgrimage, calling her children to join in the Covenant of Love jubilee celebrations.

<http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/news/1286/163/Original-Pilgrim-Mother-Resumes-her-Pilgrimage-to-2014.htm>

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