

**HOMILY**  
**FOR THE CLOSING MASS OF THE 2014 CONFERENCE**  
**(Fr. Heinrich Walter, Schoenstatt, Marienland, 7 February 2009)**

Dear Movement leaders,

In the gospel we have just heard how the disciples were sent out. They did not take anything with them. Only their faith. We are also sent out today. We only have ourselves and this week's experience of having lived a cenacle experience. We ask ourselves: What happened inside of us? What has been given us?

**1) We experienced a transformation in the cenacle.**

We arrived with several questions, worries, fears. Are we really faithful to the founder? Is the founder's entire charism equally important to all of us? Will the others take my experiences seriously? What is happening among the Latin Americans and the Germans? Many of us asked ourselves: How will all of this be possible?

In the first few days there were gentle transformations that could only have come from the Holy Spirit. Trust developed and this created an opening. We felt a deep family spirit from which unity emerged. We call this the Family of the Father. And this was strong enough so that each of us played a role and it made up for the small irritations. We will return to our countries with a deep sense that Mary interceded for us, asking for the spirit of transformation, and we became the Family of the Father.

**2) We experienced a living Schoenstatt.**

Remember how we started with the question: How can our 'federal' way of being with another become more fruitful? A week later we can truly say that much strength and fullness developed among us. We experienced the added value of a federal community structure. How did we achieve this?

We looked at real life and each person with their individual experiences, interests and the fruits of their work. Vitality emerges from individuals, small groups and local projects. We created a space for the life that has developed in the countries and communities. We listened to testimonies with respect and openness. We trusted in what is truly in our hearts. This way, each participant became an integral part of the process. Each person felt that he or she was taken seriously. We had the ability to put aside "what should and must be" and fully trust in the life God gives us. Life, joy, confidence in God's guidance and hope in our path towards the future grew without us even noticing it.

**3) We experienced a missionary Schoenstatt.**

Schoenstatt's goal is not to be self enclosed but to offer itself in missionary service to the Church and society. I do not want to list any of its actions - they are still echoing in our ears. I want to point out the strategy. We already have our strategy if we simply apply what we experienced to the

Church and society. We do this by treating each other with openness and honesty and sharing with each other the things that burn within our hearts. We do this by looking for common tasks among people who have similar concerns. We do not start by thinking how we can get out of something but rather approach the other in full confidence. If we do this among each other as we did here, then we are well on the way towards working together with other apostolic activities within the heart of the Church.

Some of us felt that did not pay enough attention to the signs of the times. My feeling is that, without noticing it, we did exactly this throughout the week. The fact that we are centred on the historical covenant of love which God enacts out through the Blessed Mother is a powerful living response to the modern question of God. Our focus on the father and his authority is directly related to the global crisis of authority. The youth and family “missions” are a living response to questions about secularism.

During this week, we placed all of our trust in our father and founder. We experienced transformation and renewal and now we know with greater certainty that father’s charism lives in us. He sends us back to our countries to show his love for the Church there, where we live. He has no one else except you and me. He only has his family. We can therefore say: his mission continues to live in us in the measure that we become “the living father” among one another in our times.

*Translation: Sarah-Leah Pimentel, South Africa*