



**“Omnia Matri Ecclesiae”
Visiting Belmonte during Pentecost 2006**

Pilgrims responding to the convocation of Pope Benedict XVI by traveling to Rome for Pentecost are cordially invited to Belmonte. The *Matri Ecclesiae Shrine* is open for prayer. If your group is accompanied by a priest, Holy Mass may also be celebrated. It would be most considerate to inform the Abram Family in a timely fashion about the celebration of Holy Mass to allow adequate preparation time.

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How to get to Belmonte:

Via Metro Subway

Take the metro (subway) to Cornelia Station. Locate Cornelia Square (plaza), There is a large bus station at the extreme north. Take bus 905 and travel some 4 km. through Via di Boccea. The road goes under the expressway. The “Casalotti” neighborhood is located some 500 m. after crossing the expressway. Here Bus 905 alternates between continuing on Via de Boccea or turning to the left. But after traveling 1.5 Km the bus returns to Via de Boccea. There is a stop at the Via Celulos and Via di Boccea intersection: Get off here. If necessary ask for: “Angolo Via Celulos/Via di Boccea”

Walking through Via de Boccea, turn on Via Sta. Gemma and continue some 50 m. Via Sta. Gemma is currently under construction. Vehicles (bus) cannot go through, but usually pedestrians can. The grounds can be entered through the new access, despite being unfinished. Looking up from the entrance, the Shrine is already visible.

Note: Until recently, there was a wayside shrine -- erected on December 8, 1965 -- standing at the end of the road. Due to construction, it has been moved to a higher level. The new location is the exact spot where Father Kantenich stood when he visited Belmonte as he celebrated his 80th birthday with some representatives of the Schoenstatt Work. This wayside shrine will return to its original lower location in the future. A memorial for the Founder

will replace it on the upper level. A small scale model -- which was in the wayside shrine until recently -- is presently in Schoenstatt, Germany for complete restoration. We cordially invite you to visit and pray at the wayside shrine.

Via Car

Take Via de Boccea crossing the expressway (Gran raccord annulare) Continue on Via di Boccea some 900 m. The street becomes divided, turn right onto Via di Selva Candida and continue ahead some 900 m. Turn left at Via Del Forno Sarceno and continue driving ca. 1 km. The Piazza del Castello di Porcareccia is located there: Saint Gemma Parish is on the right. On the left stands the barrier that encloses the construction of Via Sta. Gemma. You are at the entrance of the Belmonte grounds. The wayside shrine is visible on the upper level. (see above)

Upon Arrival at Belmonte:

Familiarize yourself with the surroundings -- Proceed to the pilgrim house, called "*Casa dell'Alleanza*" meaning "Covenant House".

- Rest rooms are available for visitors.
- A "*Sala dei Pellegrini*" meaning "Pilgrim Hall" is located on the lower level. Adequate seating is provided for all who wish to sit.
- Although only drinks are sold at the house, a place to eat is available for those who brought food along.
- Information about the history and the mission of Belmonte is depicted on the walls. Visitors may feel free to take the offered brochures. Guides are also available to explain the mission and the history of the Shrine or perhaps someone in your group may be able to do this.
- Of special interest is the display of earthen vessels sent to Belmonte from all over the world for the blessing of the Shrine. The white stones that played an important role in the Shrine dedication are also exhibited in this room.

Conduct the Prayer Celebration offered for your use.

- The song suggestions listed are optional so that each group can feel free to choose songs that they know or have in their song books. The song books at Belmonte are only available in Italian. The Prayer Celebration can be led either by a priest or lay person.
- The texts to be prayed by the leader or "Guide" are marked with a "G". Texts to be read aloud by a "Lector" are marked with an "L". (Note: It is advisable to select one or two lectors before the prayer celebration begins.)

- Make sure that there are enough white stones and black pencils for the number of participants before beginning the prayer celebration. It is not necessary to bring stones along with you: there are enough here.

**PRAYER CELEBRATION
BELMONTE 2006**

G: Let us begin our celebration in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

G: Before us are displayed the vessels that were sent to Belmonte from all over the world for the blessing of the Shrine on September 8, 2004. They remind us of the numerous people who prayed and offered contributions to the capital of grace in daughter shrines and home shrines in order to feel attached to the *Matri Ecclesiae* Shrine and its mission. Here, in this Shrine, many people have experienced a renewed and profound Pentecost, just as we may also do today. The Mother of God has led us here to the “Shrine of us all”. She unites us. She makes us allies. She opens our souls for the action of the Holy Spirit.

L 1: As we begin this celebration, we want to take a moment of silence. We ask ourselves: What, and above all, who have we brought with us to Rome and to Belmonte? Who has entrusted their worries to us? What intentions do we especially want to pray for at this place? What are my personal intentions? With what words can I pray for the graces and strengths of this shrine to be effective for myself, my work and my apostolate?

Moment of silence

Song:

L 2: A reading from the first letter of Peter (1Peter 2,3-7a)
 “...For you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but approved, nonetheless, and precious in the sight of God.. You too are living stones, built into a spiritual house, into a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For Scripture has it: “See, I am laying a stone in Zion, a cornerstone, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in it shall not be put to shame.” The stone is of value for you who have faith. But for those without faith, it is rather, a stone which the builders rejected that became a cornerstone.” (The New American Bible, 1970)

L 1: “You also, like living stones, build yourself up and become a spiritual Temple.” We believe that Jesus Christ has called us to be “living stones” in his Church. Let us build the Church with Him. With him, we long to generate the image of the Church as proclaimed by the second Vatican Council. Our Father and Founder depicted this Church in the following way here in Rome. Let us listen to Fr. Kentenich’s words:

G: **Words of our Father and Founder said in Rome on December 8, 1965**
(English translation titled “Omnia Matri Ecclesiae” edited by the Diocesan Institute of Schoenstatt Priests. Rome. September 8, 2004)

Note to the reader: this text describes in a very deep manner a profile of the image of the Church that our Founder had. The pauses are marked by the paragraphs separated by periods and are separate. The written text could also be given to the pilgrims.

“We know how long and how vehemently the Council discussed the features, the new features of this Church. So let us ask ourselves: How can we describe this Church when compared with that of the past?

The answer: It is a Church with a new and original identity.

It is an Church that, on the one hand, is profoundly and wholeheartedly bonded to tradition, on the other hand, it is detached from rigid, traditional forms.

It is a Church that is profoundly united in a fraternal sense, while at the same time being hierarchically governed and directed in a truly fatherly way.

It is a Church that has the mission to become the soul of our present-day and future culture and world. (P 9/10).

We are used to seeing the Church as an inmoveable rock. The Church has been built on a rock. "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church". The Church is a rock still today.

However, we may and must interpret this picture in an essentially different way to the past. After all, the Church itself does it.

In the past, the peoples were invited to seek and find their way to this rock. Today this rock wants to be constantly in motion. If I may use a somewhat unusual picture, I would have to say that this rock is a pilgrim rock. It is on pilgrimage through the nations, it is on pilgrimage through the ages, and it personally looks for people, for souls, indeed it seeks to attract them. That is to say, it does not wait until they come to it on their own." (p.10/11).

A moment of silence

G: Each one of us holds a white stone in his or her hands. It is a symbol of your mission to be a “living stone”. As you write your name on the stone, ask yourself: Where can I, should I, build Christ’s church? Before I return home I need to ask myself: What is my original contribution to my parish, to my community, to my shrine? Your stone will be added to the foundation. There are already many stones deposited there by pilgrims from the entire world. We are united together. In the future, a statute of our Father and Founder will be erected atop this foundation. With this simple act, we give expression to our attachment to Father Kentenich and his image of a renewed Church. We contribute to this renewal through our behavior, our apostolate, and our simple giving of self in each of our families, in our profession, in our parish community, and wherever we are. We now take a moment for reflection.

(In silence, each one is invited to write his or her name on the stone. We will make a procession to the foundation of the statute, in front of the Covenant House. The “foundation” – at the present time - consists of a vertical cylinder penetrating the ground, covered with concrete, approximately one meter in diameter – it stands in the center of the future plaza. An appropriate song may be sung upon arrival there.)

Arrival at the Foundation:

L: We are the “living stones” with which Christ builds his Church in the world today. Like Mary, we want to be completely at His disposal and at the disposal of his plan. We are eager to accomplish this goal in the covenant of love with Mary. “You and me for them”. With these words, the Schoenstatt youth sealed a covenant of love for the youth of the world, on August 10th of last year in the Original Shrine. We can also see our life as a contribution for the Church. All of us, together, want to help bring to fulfillment the image of the Church of our Founder -- an apostolic Church that pilgrims through nations and time, winning people of today for Christ. We now place our stones in the foundation.

(We now process upwards toward the Shrine, either singing or in silence.)

In the Shrine

Verse: “Omnia Matri Ecclesiae” *(or any short verse known by the group)*

G. Beloved Mother, we are in your Shrine. We greet you, Mother of the Church! We believe that you are especially present in this place.

Verse: “Omnia Matri Ecclesiae”

L 1: At this moment, we feel especially attached to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. He was one of the first pilgrims to visit this shrine. He prayed here on

September 29, 2004, a few weeks after the blessing of the Shrine and shortly before his being elected Pope.

Verse: “Omnia Matri Ecclesiae”

L 2: We are also united to our Father and Founder, Father Joseph Kentenich, who entrusted to us the mission of this shrine for the Church and world. In the short time of this shrine’s existence, many experiences of Father’s “new presence” can be perceived. People from the entire world receive strength and inspiration for their apostolic work at this place. For this reason, we can believe that an abundant stream of grace flows from this shrine which encourages and mobilizes our personal apostolic efforts.

Verse: “Omnia Matri Ecclesiae”

L 2: We include the people who have entrusted their worries to us in our prayer. We place them, along with our own intentions, into your capital of grace symbolized in the earthen vessel.

Verse: “Omnia Matri Ecclesiae”

(We pause in a moment of silence as the written petition slips are placed into the earthen vessel.)

G: We present our petitions and needs with the prayer that Jesus taught us:
Our Father...

G: We renew our Covenant of Love with our Mother and Queen in this shrine:
My Queen, My Mother...

Blessing

Final Song: Protect Us with Your Mantle

Protect us with your Mantle
Lady of Victory
Ter Admirabilis Mater
The tower of ivory
You ark of the new dispensation
In storms you remain in view
The ages will see you conquer
We shall never fail with you!

We bear your name undaunted
Mother and Virgin in one
You, purest of all women,
You image of the sun
You beacon to ships in danger
In storms you remain in view
The ages will see you conquer
We shall never fail with you!

If your group wishes to conclude its visit with the celebration of Holy Mass, please notify the Abram Family with this wish, as mentioned previously, **before traveling to**

Rome. Everyone is invited to remain as long as you wish at Belmonte. You are welcome to visit the place where Father Kentenich stood when he visited the proposed site for the Belmonte shrine. This is located toward the upper level, near the wayside shrine, by the entrance to the grounds. A photo exhibit of Fr. Kentenich's visit is available for viewing in the pilgrim hall of the Covenant House.

To each and everyone: Have a blessed stay in Belmonte, at the Matri Ecclesiae Shrine!

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