



*Video Message
Movement Leaders' Conference in Schoenstatt*

Dear Participants of the Movement Leaders' Conference,

I am very pleased that during these exciting days for our Movement, I am able to be present at your Conference with the help of modern technology and warmly greet all of you! United in the bond of our Covenant of Love, our hearts beat as one and I sense our togetherness! At the same time, I am grateful for the strong commitment that you have brought along with you to Schoenstatt!

It is impressive to see what has globally developed from the time of Schoenstatt's founding. So much has been given to us. Time and again, we could set into motion valuable streams of life! Soon there will be 200 Shrines worldwide, building a network of love around the globe, which powerfully moves people's hearts! We may express our immense awe and joy, as we now move with great strides toward the approaching Jubilee that we will celebrate in 2014! However, one hundred years of the Schoenstatt Movement also offers us some challenging questions! In many countries, especially here in Germany, our Movement is no longer under construction, but established and anchored.

As such, this makes it possible for us to exert all our efforts to advance on a broad scale. And yet – as part of a natural process – this also includes the risk of becoming inflexible and leaving everything just as it is. How greatly this would stand in contrast to what our Father and Founder instructed us to do from the very beginning! Time and again the prophetic spirit that seeks to detect the will of God in the voice of the time must be reawakened and, without other securities, follow a practical faith in Divine Providence. Looking toward the future is crucial!

In truth, we are not only standing before a Jubilee, but before crucial questions for our Movement itself! Clearly, a movement of renewal that turns one hundred cannot be restricted to referencing old forms or wordplay alone. Renewal means to continue asking what the present-day demands, to inquire where we should go from here and how we can form our time and our society! This basic directive of our Founder needs to be newly communicated in a valid way. He gave us his example in word and deed; we may carry on his mission today. What an honorable task!

One aspect in this regard greatly attracts my attention. On the Sarcophagus of our father are written the words - taken from the letter to the Ephesians (Eph 5:25) - "*Dilexit Ecclesiam*". "He loved the Church!" We know that this love was put to a hard test and that Father Kentenich faithfully upheld this love in spite of everything. And we have been allowed to be witnesses as to how this love has found an echo - right up to this very moment when, in the near future, the process of his beatification can be concluded in the Diocese of Trier and the documents will then be transferred to Rome. We clearly take notice: Schoenstatt's way leads into the Church, progresses toward the heart of Rome, as the International Center in Rome-Belmonte also attests! As a Movement the question that arises before us now, becomes more and more the following: What do we offer to the Church; what worldwide contribution can we render to the Church?

Many are awaiting a response and the upcoming jubilee challenges us to move forward and to extend what we have received into the Church. We live out of a practical Faith in Divine Providence and day-by-day are "searching the traces" of God's activity and learning to interpret the signs of the time. In the Covenant of Love, we live our daily lives as covenant partners of God and the Blessed Mother and may experience how we are united in and live out of a covenant network. Let us expand this network far and wide and invite others to join it, thus allowing them to also be connected into this network by the Mother Thrice Admirable, our "Covenant Link".

If we want to continue to bring our Founder's prophetic vision and strength of renewal into the Church, if we do not want to simply become one among many other historical Movements from the 20th century, then a dynamic willingness to get underway is required. The doors open for us! We are invited to enter full of hope into the future and in so doing, perform a significant service for the Church. 100 years after the founding, the time is ripe for us to perceive how we can bring about new life -- a new momentum -- into the Church as well as renew ourselves in order to respond to the challenges of our time. Many are waiting to see what happens next; I know so from numerous conversations. How to respond to their interest, is up to us. It lies in our hands!