

A Schoenstatt which goes forth

Memorandum - A Way Forward for the International Schoenstatt Movement at the Beginning of the Second Century of its History

At the invitation of the General Presidium, the Schoenstatt International Pentecost Congress took place from 18 – 23 May 2015 with 120 participants from 25 countries. The atmosphere of the Congress was characterized by joy and gratitude for the gift of our great Jubilee. We celebrated our origins as the worldwide Schoenstatt Family, in our countries and together at the central encounters in Schoenstatt and Rome.

We said a new yes to the covenant of love with Mary.

We experienced the Original Shrine as the radiating centre of our worldwide multicultural Movement.

We experienced an international Family in unity and diversity.

A threefold task sends us out into the new times: “We choose the way of holiness. We live authentic and strong attachments. We make a missionary option.”¹

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In the breakthrough of grace during the Jubilee as well as through the difficulties that arose during its preparation and implementation, we recognize – guided by faith in Divine Providence – God’s call and task. A new era of our history has begun. Filled with missionary spirit we offer the covenant of love, as a way and hope, to all people beyond all boundaries – reaching to those on the periphery of society. In this way we cooperate in developing a comprehensive covenant culture. The prophetic charism of our father and founder urges us towards a new founding of Schoenstatt in the midst of the conditions of the present time.

As Congress we see the central tasks and challenges for our common way forward into the future as an International Movement.

We want to face these challenges.

- Schoenstatt for the Church. We serve the **renewal of the Church**.
 - We support Pope Francis’ renewal of the Church.
 - We support a stronger presence of Schoenstatt in the centre of the universal Church, among others through the International Schoenstatt Centre Belmonte.
 - We search for a “togetherness” with other ecclesial communities, charisms and apostolic forces within the Church.
- We recognize in the **person and charism of Father Kentenich** a great gift for the Church and world. It is up to us to **make** his charism **fruitful in a creative way**. Linked to this is also the wish to have him canonized.
- We want to commit ourselves to ensure that the **Original Shrine** lives as the heart of the organism of all shrines. The Original Shrine should be experienced more and more as an **international place of grace**.
- We are convinced that Schoenstatt has a specific **pedagogical charism**. We see the necessity to deepen the research of this pedagogical charism, to bring it into today’s pedagogical discourse and to apply this charism to various other fields of work.

¹ Cf. Fr Heinrich Walter, “Sending-out Words to the International Schoenstatt Movement”, 18.10.2014

² Cf. Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 20-24

- During the Jubilee, projects from all over the world were presented in the **covenant culture tents**. These projects are concrete ways of shaping a covenant culture in the fields of youth, family, pedagogy, Church and society. **Exchange, networking and cooperation** between the initiatives within these fields should further be developed.
- We make an **option for the youth**. This becomes concrete through a conscious fostering and support of our youth communities. We advocate an international presence of youth at the Original Shrine. The dynamic and missionary fire of our youth is an impetus for the entire Schoenstatt Family.
- Major disputes of our times are mirrored within the field of **marriage and the family**. We commit ourselves to the strengthening and renewal of marriage and the family.
- We promote an increase of the exchange of life and of the family spirit within our **International Movement**. For this we also need to create the **appropriate infrastructures**. Concrete steps towards this are:
 - *the establishment of an international co-ordination office,*
 - *the regular conducting of “Pentecost Congresses” which serve the common international orientation,*
 - *international congresses on different topics, leadership training, etc.,*
 - *initiate discussions concerning finance structures and fundraising.*
- The development of a **Communication Plan**, especially a concept regarding the **presence of Schoenstatt in the media**, is something we regard as an urgent task. For this the following is required:
 - *the establishment of an international press office,*
 - *international cooperation in the area of media,*
 - *an official website.*

The undersigned commit themselves to the implementation of the above mentioned tasks within their possibilities.

There are no legal obligations deriving from this Memorandum.

We place this Memorandum, this plan for the future, into the hands of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt and rely on the “nothing without you – nothing without us.”

Your Covenant – Our Mission.

Schoenstatt, Vigil of Pentecost, 2015

The Congress Participants