

His Holiness
Pope Francis
Vatican City, 00120

Madrid, 9 November 2014

Holy Father,

Respectfully and with humility of feeling, we are your children in the faith, we turn to Your Holiness to tell you of the desire which burns in our hearts.

We are a group of people that are members of the Apostolic Schoenstatt Movement in Spain and from different communities. We have had the honor of celebrating with Your Holiness - along with many others - at the Holy See in the Vatican on 25 October 2014, the first Century Jubilee of the founding of Schoenstatt on 18 October 1914.

Nevertheless beyond this important celebration, in the hearts of those signing this letter, burning for sometime was the idea of **deepening our Covenant of Love sealed with the Blessed Mother, sealing an intimate Covenant with Your Holiness**, as a desire of fidelity to your person and to the Church and as a response to the legacy left to us by our Founder, Father Joseph Kentenich. He wanted to leave as an epitaph on his tomb "Dilexit Ecclesiam." And that was the order he left us, his spiritual children: that we love the Church.

The Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother, sealed by our Father and Founder and the first sodalists in 1914 and to which thousands of people have since united from within and without the Schoenstatt Movement, is the deepest seal of our spirituality. Our Covenant of Love with Mary for us is power and a gift to give life to his Dilexit Ecclesiam. It is what motivates us daily and moves us to want to be the heart of the Church and to give the faith to the entire world.

The Covenant with Your Holiness, as a deepening of the Covenant of Love with Mary, is our best way of adhering in confidence to your mandate as Pope, to go toward the culture of encounter, giving answer to your calling to renew the Church and to pray for Your Holiness in such a difficult, delicate and marvelous task.

We enclose, Holy Father, the prayer with which we have sealed said Covenant with Your Holiness. The reading of this prayer informally took place on 26 October 2014, after the Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Present there was a representation of those who wanted to seal a Covenant with Your Holiness. The official act took place 1 November 2014 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Schoenstatt, Serrano # 97. Madrid 28006.

The prayer of the community was made from the individual contribution that expresses the meaning of the Covenant of each one of us with you, after going through a workshop, which lasted for several months where we prayed, studied, discerned documents, messages, and speeches from Your Holiness.

Holy Father, with this simple but profound act, we want to demonstrate to you our unconditional respect, admiration, and fidelity in the building of the Kingdom of God. We beg Your Holiness to receive and accept this offering that we send to you with great affection.

Your faithful children in the faith,

Father José María García Sepúlveda

María Inés Simionato

Pedro Dubié

Paz Leiva

Miguel Angel Rubio

Rosario Viada

Alvaro Obando

Belén Olleros

María José Martín

Juan Zaforas

Leonor Gil

Miguel Miralles

Soledad Menendez

César Fernandez Quintanilla

María Romero

Dioni Esteban

Pablo Crevillén

Barbara De Franceschi

Eduardo Aymerich

Covenant Prayer with Pope Francis

“Under your protection, Blessed Mother, Mother of the Church, we come today to pray to you for Pope Francis, so that he may receive the fruits of the Covenant of Love which we have sealed with you.

Mother, today we give life to the “Dilexit Ecclesiam” of our Founder, Father Kentenich, and we take his legacy to love the Church as he did very seriously.

Continue guiding us, Mother, from the Shrine, show us where Pope Francis is asking us to go and help us, Mother, to imitate you, going out of our comfort to be able to reach all those in need. Only you can help us say:

“Yes, Father, we go with you”

And today, in your hand, we want to say that “Yes” to Pope Francis:

“Yes, Father, we promise to pray daily for you.

Yes, Father, we will be attentive to your messages and to your testimony, allowing us to self-educate ourselves by the example of your life and as an instrument of Mary.

Yes, Father, we promise to bring abundant contributions to the Treasury of Grace so they can give as fruitfulness your sanctification.

Yes, Father, we make your mission to renew the Church our own.”

Dear Mother, with our Pope Francis we want to fill the Church with life and make her return to the principles with which your Son founded her on the shoulders of St. Peter.

Today we want to help the Pope bear the heavy burden on his shoulders and from the Shrine may the power of the Holy Spirit come forth to be able to renew the Church, mission in Schoenstatt to be the heart of the Church.

Reading of the Covenant Prayer with Pope Francis, St. Peter’s Basilica, Rome, October 26, 2014.

Covenant with Pope Francis, Schoenstatt Shrine, Madrid, November 1, 2014.

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