

Dear pilgrims to the Shrine of the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt - Original Shrine!

Since there are already cases of the corona virus in Vallendar, we as the team of the Original Shrine, have made the following preventive decisions with a view above all to the common good and health care:

- All masses held from Wednesday, March 11 to the 24<sup>th</sup> will be suspended. These will all be celebrated at the usual times in the pilgrim house. This also includes masses, which are organized by pilgrim groups or specific communities.
- The evening blessing will not be held during this time. The Rector of the Shrine will give the Schoenstatt Family private blessings each night, spiritually united with the Original Shrine.
- \*The opening hours of the shrine will be reduced on these days from 9 am to 7:00 pm.
- \*In the area of the sanctuary, a window is always kept open, so fresh air can circulate.
- Worship will be normally maintained as it does not have many persons assembled at a time.
- We remind everyone that communion should be given in the hand
- There will be no holy water
- The doorknob at the entrance to the shrine is regularly disinfected.

We believe that these measures are necessary to act together preventively in the care of pilgrims. Due to the development of the virus, it will be evaluated in due course if it extends beyond March 24<sup>th</sup>.

We place this extreme situation in the hands of the Blessed Mother Mary to accompany the sick infected with this virus, and at the same time we pray for the health of the nurses and doctors who care for and nurse the persons and scientists searching for an effective vaccine against the virus.

Fr. Pablo Javier Pol

Rector – Vallendar/ Schoenstatt 09.03.2020

*Original: German. Translation: Lindsay Burger, Ohio, USA @schoenstatt.org*