



Message for the Jubilee 2014

During this year, the year of the jubilee, we connect from all continents with the place of our founding, the Shrine of the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt. We bear testimony to the efficacious presence of Mary and look back on 100 years of guidance in our history through Divine Providence. We are thankful for the great fruitfulness out of such small beginnings. And we want to thank the community of the Pallottine Fathers for giving us the Original Shrine as a jubilee gift.

Our Founder, Fr. Joseph Kentenich, listened to the soft voice of God in the midst of the drama of the First World War. During this great historic upheaval he saw that God wanted to begin something new through Mary. In blind trust in this initiative of God he devoted his life totally to it, and the young Pallottine students concurred with this act of faith. That is our founding hour. This insignificant and lonely covenant act of October 18, 1914, is what we call our “Covenant of Love”.

Since this founding hour we have experienced the guidance of the God of life and of history. God has been speaking to us again and again throughout the last century through the developments of the time, events in the Church and inspirations in the hearts of many people. The God of Providence demanded many challenges of us, testing the founder’s faith as well as that of the Schoenstatt family, thus guiding it to greater maturity. Grateful, we remember the life and work of the witnesses of faith of our founding time and of the first 100 years. They are our companions and examples.

The covenant of love is the seed from which everything developed, it is the secure foundation encouraging us to take risks, and, finally, it is our essence that guides our thinking and acting. This covenant leads into the depth of our faith, to an expressed covenant with Christ and a covenant with the Holy Spirit. With special joy, we are now giving the Father Eye Symbol to the Original Shrine. This gift shall express that through our relationship with the Blessed Mother, we are ultimately seeking the relationship with God, our Father.

The covenant of love is our form of faith in terms of the way we listen to God and the way we unite with Mary and follow Christ. Out of this covenant we live our culture of life in everyday life as well as our apostolate. In the processes of transition within Church and society, we go the way of attachments. The vitality of this covenant can be found in four central experiences making the life stream of our movement fruitful:

We live attached to a place we call shrine. Through these places we are inwardly anchored and united with the sacred. We cultivate these attachments on various levels. This creates the security of feeling at home; places become sources of strength.

We trust the fatherly image of Fr. Kentenich, a man of God. The founder’s charism lives in us giving us unity, the spirit of family and a passion for our mission. It is Fr. Kentenich’s charism that provides security amidst the pluralism of opinions.

We cultivate a missionary attitude of living and acting in Church and society. By our testimony in public we keep the apostolic spirit alive.

The inner face of our movement is what we call family. In the multiplicity, we seek common ground causing unity to grow. This is a gift and, simultaneously, a lasting challenge for our being with one another and our cooperation in the apostolate.

With respect to God's guidance during the hundred years of our history, we acknowledge our own weaknesses, omissions and sins. We stand in humility before God and follow the attitude of Mary, she who acknowledged her lowliness and expected everything from God. We confess to God and each other that we didn't come up to our charism. We ask God, full of mercy, to accept us anew. We want to turn back to him and renew our first love.

Today, we reply to the faithful love of God by sealing the covenant of love in worldwide unity. It is our decision to shape life out of the relationship to Mary, as well as living in the commitment to Christ. Mary is the image of the "new person", who confides in God completely. This new person is aware of his dignity and ready to give his life out of inner freedom and strength. It is to the Blessed Mother we entrust our life and mission.

We are committed to a covenant culture which looks for relationship and attachment on all levels and takes responsibility. By the strength of this covenant culture we give a concrete "yes" to the five strategic areas which our commitment is currently focusing on. This commitment is displayed in the projects of the Jubilee Covenant Tents: Youth, families, pedagogy, Church, and society. This covenant culture is our way of coping with the loss of attachments and relationships of a globalized world that is characterized by individualism. It is our perspective on the dialogue between the different denominations of faith, cultures and religions.

With this covenant we make a missionary decision that will renew and transform us so that we can serve the evangelization of today's world in a more effective manner. Love for the Church will overcome the need for acknowledgment and self-preservation. We ask Mary to help us put aside our interests and go to the peripheries of society as our contribution to a more credible form of Church.

In deep gratitude we renew and actualize the Founding Document on October 18, 2014 with our personal signature.

Today, let us reach for the great goals and ideals of the founding time. The young generation inspires us with their inner fire. As weak covenant partners, we entrust everything into the hands of the Blessed Mother. We adopt the words of the Founding Document: "Do not worry... Prove to me first that you really love me."

Schoenstatt, July 18, 2014

For the General Presidium



Fr Heinrich Walter, President