

Msgr. Dr. Peter Wolf

Homily for the comissioning of the Father Symbol

Holy Mass in the Original Shrine 8.7.2009

Liebe Schönstattfamilie, queridos hermanos, dear brothers and sisters!

I can still sense how we enjoyed each other's company and how grateful I am for having had such an experience during our 2014 Planning Conference. There were representatives from 33 different nations. Some met for the first time and yet there was a deep inner connection, just like any other relatives or members of a family getting together.

Over a period of four days a certain Pentecost atmosphere developed that we could be compared with the cenacle in Jerusalem. During these days it soon became very clear that we have grown into a large world wide family breaking down barriers and frontiers. We all felt how much our covenant of love with the Blessed Mother determines our way of thinking. We experienced how the shrine has become our home. We also realised that through our father and founder we have become brothers and sisters and want to be his family.

Since then we know that we are now on the way towards 2014 together and that we really do have something to celebrate. As we said our good-byes the need to have a connection between all of us in the near future, could be grasped with one hand. The suggestion that the Father symbol should make a tour was for us the way to unite us all together as well as uniting us with this holy place from where everything started, where by the courage shown on 18th October 1914, our common source began.

This most beautiful symbol reminds us of the love of the all merciful Father and his Divine Providence. It is a very fitting symbol for the maturing covenant of love with the Blessed Mother, to the covenant of love with the Triune God. Whenever this symbol visits our shrines it should reconnect us to this holy place of origin. At the same time it connects us with our father and founder who in various ways gave testimony to the love of God the Father through his own life.

This visit of the father symbol to all shrines world wide, should also be seen as an invitation to look at the fruits which have grown from that courageous moment of daring to build a shrine, and in the spirit of the covenant to make a new foundation. The source from the original shrine has sprung up in many countries anew and for many countries and dioceses has developed in a very unique and fruitful way. This wealth we want to recognise. We want to bring all these fruits together in our centenary year 2014 just like at a huge harvest festival.

Together with Fr. Walter the Chairman of the General Presidium I would like to wish: "That this symbol will help us to grasp the grace of divine

direction, that we become more in touch with each other on a natural level and that a stream of life will develop, which we can be directed towards the Church in our jubilee year.”

I would like to suggest that we bear witness and document the fruits of the original shrine and our covenant of love by making good use of this visit from the father symbol. By rediscovering the originality of our daughter shrines we can refashion our projects and make them more concrete. In this way we also want to pay particular attention to what the Church of today needs and to help pave the way into the future. In this way all that we had planned and discussed at the Planning Conference will become a reality. I would like to suggest that all these documents be brought together and taken to Rome in our Jubilee year and given to the Holy Father as a testimony to what has developed since the founding act almost 100 years ago. I could also imagine that such a documentation or a copy be placed in our MATRI ECCLESIAE shrine in Belmonte. This symbolises the stream flowing from the original shrine to all the daughter shrines in a unique way bringing life and blessing to the Church, just as our father longed for. He was convinced that Schoenstatt would be a blessing for the Church and honour the Mother of the Church: OMNIA MATRI ECCLESIAE

With this in mind let us bring our petitions to the altar and in our solemn offertory procession, what this hour of commissioning means to us and what we all have on our minds and in our hearts. It is the anniversary of our father's ordination and we are at the beginning of the year of priests. Let us celebrate this Eucharist together for our world wide international family. May this tour of the father symbol leave a trail of blessing and fruit behind wherever people accept it, from shrine to shrine, until we all come together as a family for the jubilee 2014 here and in Rome.