

Our goal: To be Apostles

Schoenstatt bonds families and creates a family spirit with the goal of building up a renewed Christian world.

We support growth, stability and social acknowledgment of marriage and family, since these are the source of life in society and Church.

Out of our relationship with God we want to foster simple, life-affirming human relationships, respecting the originality of each individual created by God.

If possible we meet at regular intervals in our family groups. For our children we also develop programs according to their age and their interests. We experience these as beneficial for a lively marriage and family life; we gladly pass it on to others in family circles, weekend events, vacation conferences and special topic courses. Marriage preparation and family know-how can be effectively learned in training courses at the different Schoenstatt centers.

Together with the founder of our movement, Father Joseph Kentenich, we love "the pilgrim rock", our Church, which needs responsible and committed lay people.



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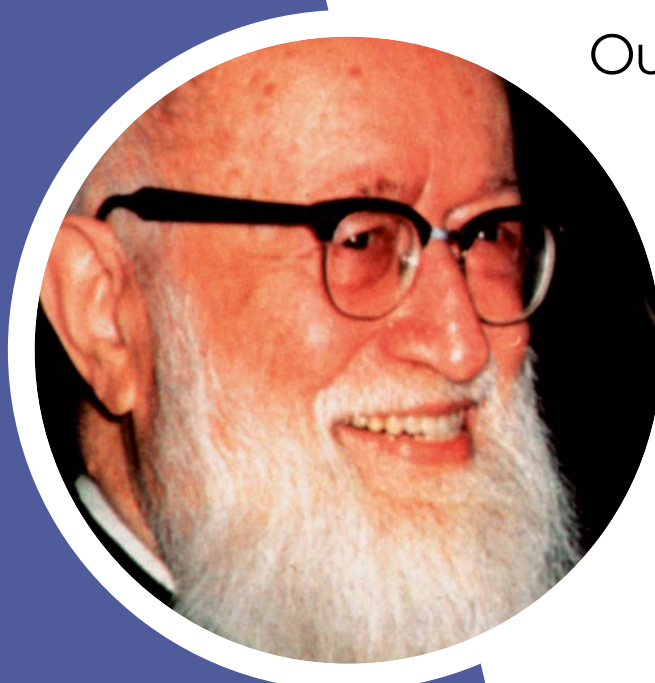
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Our home – A shrine

"Take the picture of Mary with you and give it a place of honor in your homes. Thus, these will become little shrines where the picture of grace proves to be a source of grace, creating a holy family atmosphere and forming holy family members."

Father Joseph Kentenich
Founder of the Schoenstatt Movement



Schoenstatt Family Movement

Marriage and Family for the 3rd Millennium



Families in the Schoenstatt Movement

Marriage and family life is strong, challenging and beautiful. We are families with enthusiasm! At the same time we know the challenges of living today as a Christian family. Therefore, we are connected within a network of like-minded other families in order to mutually strengthen ourselves and courageously build a new world.

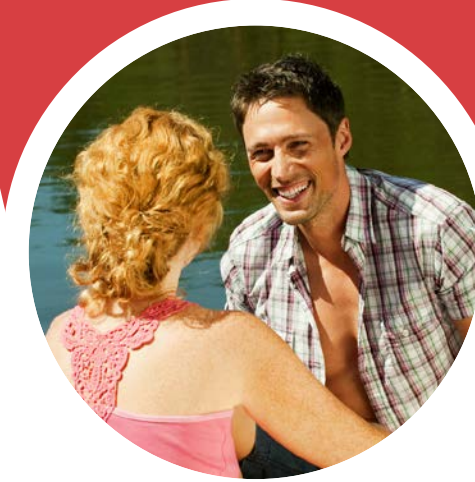
Our ways are as original as each one of us. We have different occupations and bring our respective gifts and desires of the heart into the various fields of society and Church.

Our longing: To serve life

Marriage is a living witness of the presence of God in our world. In our love for each other God wants to become visible for others. We believe God personally leads us as family and gives us a unique task for this world. To discover and utilize this for our family and world gives our marriage strength and meaning.

With both feet on the ground and our hearts in heaven we master life in our family, our surroundings, and our professional life. Aware of our own limitations and those of our fellow men, we strive for a climate of mercy and forgiveness.

We stand up for the dignity of each human person and the protection of life from conception to natural death. Freely and consciously we decide to lead a family life that is alive, attractive and formed by Christian values. Our whole being should radiate into our world.



Our inspiration: Freedom and attachment

Freely we attach ourselves to each other and to God in the sacrament of marriage. We want this covenant to be alive in us so it may help us in our growth; we offer much room for the couple for discussion and meeting together.

We take time for each other, and sharing our mutual growth and development we feel, "how good it is you are here!" It is our great longing to keep the fires of our love burning, of course, in the awareness that crises and dry times are also a normal part of life.

Our children are our biggest treasures. We give them room to express themselves freely and to know they are loved before any achievement and expectation. They should experience the living presence of God in attentive dealings with one another, with co-responsibility for each other, through the experience of forgiveness and lived confidence in God.

In a daily search we try to recognize the signs of the times which the God of life puts in our way in everyday life and to let them touch us - times of wonder and joy, times of questioning and helplessness. This way, families in our society become like an oasis for others: Open for the world and attached to heaven, they are places of a new togetherness and of unconditional love.



Our source of strength: A covenant with Mary

The Holy Family is the model and inspiration for us, particularly Mary, who brought Christ into the world. As she said her yes to the will of God, so we, too, want to give our own yes. Through us, too, the Blessed Mother would like to bring Christ into the world of today. With our hand in hers, we go and look for our way to God the Father.

We invite God and Mary consciously into our homes and dwellings, so that they can become effective from here. Our home shrine is for us a place of special closeness to God and a source of strength in a world shaped by anxiety and stress. We search for the impulses of our heart; here we put our concerns prayerfully into the hands of Jesus and Mary; here we give thanks and find peace and strength for our well-being and actions.

Difficulties and bitterness, joys and grateful experiences of our life we put into God's hands. As Jesus transformed water into wine at Cana, these should be our contributions for those around us and become a blessing for the world.

Together with many thousands of families throughout the whole world we are connected in a network of home shrines, mutually supporting one another.

