

"50 years on air - The WE has FUTURE!"

Jubilee service on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Shrine of the Families on Mount Nazareth, Vallendar-Schoenstatt 18 September 2021

A. Songs to start:

*The songs are mainly from the family songbook "*Growing together*" (miwa).

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|---------------------------------|------------|
| - We are celebrating today | miwa 197 |
| - He's got the whole world | miwa 268 |
| - Our house among the stars | miwa 03 |
| - Kindermutmachlied | miwa 80 |
| - Jesus Christ, you are my life | Song sheet |

B. Welcome

Part 1: Patricia und Pepo Köstner, General Superior Family of the Institute of Schoenstatt families – sp/ger

Welcome - Bienvenidos - Willkommen – Bemvindos - Bienvenue - Srdečné přivítání - to the Golden Birthday Celebration of the Shrine of Families!

On behalf of the entire Family Movement, we welcome you and all of you - both here in front of our Shrine of Families and at home! We are very happy to now celebrate together the 50th birthday of this special shrine.

50 YEARS ON SENDING! This is how the motto for our celebration begins. The *Shrine of Families* in Schoenstatt was built with the united efforts of families of the International Schoenstatt Family Movement and was blessed on **19 September 1971**. Families from the German dioceses and representatives from the former GDR, USA, Chile, Portugal, Austria and Switzerland came to Schoenstatt for this. Fr Alex Menningen blessed the shrine. On the forecourt of the newly built shrine, Father Tick celebrated the festive Mass concelebrated by Father Kulgemeyer, Father Graf, Father Ziegler and Father Stadelmann from Switzerland. Today we may welcome at this place:

- The main celebrant is *Fr Stefan Strecker*, who forms the leadership team of the German Family Movement together with Sr Veronika Riechel and Mr and Mrs Miller. Many may also know him as one of the main organisers of the 2014 Jubilee Year...
- At his side, Fr Michael Hagan, born in South Africa, and spiritual director of the Federation of Schoenstatt Families in Germany since 2012.
- We also welcome the Movement Leader of the German Schoenstatt Movement, Fr Ludwig Gütthlein in our midst! *Looking towards the horizon* - is his perspective for this year.
- At his side, Fr *Angel Strada* from Argentina, who hardly needs to be introduced... On his 80th birthday in 2019, one could read on schoenstatt.org that he was the man "*who certainly knows Fr Kentenich best*" and, so to speak, an "*influencer of Fr Kentenich*". Perhaps we can also welcome in him a special ambassador of our Founder! A warm welcome!

Part 2: Regina und Michael Kulla, Federation of Schoenstatt Families, Members of the „Kuratorium Haus der Familie“ – englisch

Each shrine has its own special message, its own mission. In the Shrine of Families this is presented to us in two original symbols:

- Firstly, in the **wooden sculpture of Mary and Joseph with Jesus in their midst - the Holy Family of Nazareth.**

- On the other hand, in the **network of home shrines**, with which families from all over the world linked themselves anew, especially during the 2014 Jubilee.

Both symbols show us what this shrine stands for. It is a place of closeness to God where married couples can experience: God is the third in our covenant of love. Here we are safe, can come to rest and catch our breath in the course of everyday life. We are not alone with our worries and needs, we get new strength to be able to say with confidence: *Mother of God - you will take care.* Here we are at home. Here we are and our home shrine is woven into the web. This shrine - together with the Family House - is also a place where we as couples and families can experience communion in faith.

Seeking home, finding the centre, giving hope - this is what the mission statement of the house and shrine says.

Part 3: Vanessa und Matthias Franke, Anne und Andreas Haan, Family League, leadership team of the Diocese of Trier - sp/ger

The WE has a FUTURE! This is the second part of the motto. Looking at our time we see many challenges. Therefore, the celebration of the golden jubilee is also connected with the question of how all this can be realised today - 50 years after the inauguration - under the current conditions in church and society. While rummaging through old documents, we found the welcome from 19.9.1971, from which we would like to quote the following:

"In the Schoenstatt Family we are used to looking at history in a way that makes the past present in order to be able to face the future. Today, when the Family Work sets about building a shrine, it makes its own past a visible present, and in this sign it steps into a promising future. With the Founder we repeat the words: "God remains true to himself - what he has begun, he also brings to completion."

In this trust we build on the fact that the Blessed Mother wants to be there for married couples and families from Mount Nazareth, especially now and in the future, to accompany and strengthen them. We are encouraged by the *Year of the Family*, which Pope Francis has proclaimed for 2021.

Thus the long-standing concern to rebuild the shrine at the House of the Family has gained new momentum in the context of the Jubilee. To give the shrine a new chance as an "experience space". To offer people a possibility to feel at home here. To create an important perspective for the future of the house and the shrine. Even if this means change and saying goodbye to the present location. And brings with it unanswered questions.

TRANSMISSION. This word suddenly came up at the first meeting of the preparation team. It was like a spark that ignited. The mission of the shrine continues. It is being transferred - to the shrine in a new place. To our home shrines, ...

With the celebration of the birthday, we link the request to the Blessed Mother: *"Let us recognise what you want from us for the future of the shrine and the family movement!* Of course we also bring gifts to the celebration! Each one of us brings HER our original daily "building work" - on our own marriage and family, on the community, on our own personal "Shrine of the Family".

The WE has a FUTURE!

So now we invite you to celebrate the anniversary service together with us!

At this point, another important note:

We would like to thank the people responsible for Schoenstatt-TV! Thanks to you, many people around the world can connect with us! Unfortunately the internet is not so stable here. If there are disturbances and interruptions - please stay tuned! Normally the connection is restored after a short time. In addition, the celebration will be recorded and can also be watched later on the network.

C. Holy Mass

Move in:	Who is this Lady? (german, spanish, english, portuguese)	miwa 98
Kyrie:	Kyrie, Kyrie, eleison	miwa 203
Gloria:	Alabaré a mi señor	Song sheet

Reading: Rev 21:1-5a

The dwelling of God among men

Reading from the Revelation of John

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven; it was ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 Then I heard a loud voice calling from the throne, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God among men! He will dwell in their midst, and they will be his people; and he, God, will be with them. 4 He will wipe away all tears from their eyes: Death shall be no more, neither sorrow, nor lamentation, nor travail. For what was before is passed away. 5 He that sat on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

Interlude: Dios te salve Maria Song sheet

Hallelujah: Hallelujah (Irish)

Gospel: Lk 1, 26-38

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth 27 to a virgin. She was betrothed to a man named Joseph, who was of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel came to her and said, "Hail, O blessed one, the Lord is with you. 29 She was frightened by the greeting and wondered what it meant. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31 Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and his reign will have no end. 34 Mary said to the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know no man?[2] 35 The angel answered her, Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and power from the Most High shall overshadow you. Therefore also the child will be called holy and Son of God. 36 Behold, even Elisabet, your kinswoman, has conceived a son in her old age; though she is said to be barren, she is already in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible for God. 38 Then said Mary, Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word. Then the angel left her.

Homily: Father Stefan Strecker

Dear couples and families, to all those present!

1. A wonderful gift has been given to us by God. The shrine is HIS gift to the Schoenstatt Movement. He gives it to us once more anew in three ways:

They are small chapels which, from the Original Shrine, form a "covenant net" over the earth. Our shrines are small "dwelling places of God" (Rev 21) among peoples of all languages and cultures. This global connectedness through the shrine is our contribution to the human family. - Today it is this "Shrine of Families" that binds us together and on its 50th anniversary we renew the Covenant of Love together.

The network of our shrines includes "the shrine at home". Our Home Shrines are "birthplaces of the children of God". There we experience that Christ wants to become human through us today. Where

adults, young people and children always feel and express this longing, "God dwells in their midst" (Rev 21). Thus our home becomes a House-Church where Mary brings Christ into the world anew. The network of shrines is formed by all of us who live the covenant of love. Our heart is the symbol of the "inner shrine" that "sanctifies" each person and in which God is always "with us" (Rev 21). Married couples even give each other mutual "right of abode" in their own heart shrine. Together they build a "living shrine". From these "living marriage and family shrines" God creates "a new heaven and a new earth" (Rev 21).

2. "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev 21). Today this word provokes us. God seems to love to create "something new". He also does not stop inviting people to start something new with HIM. He asks Mary if she dares a new beginning with HIM. He asks Fr Kentenich if he wants to follow Christ in a new way. He asked each one of us in a very personal way; otherwise we would surely not be here today. - Whether God, today, is asking us a common question, I don't know. From the biblical texts I would like to put the question into God's mouth: Are you willing to cooperate when "I make all things new" (Rev 21)?

"The new" is often a challenge. In this time of the pandemic, we have already had to learn many new things. The coming years are also filled with great new challenges: Nature and the climate are changing. Our professional and private lives are becoming digital. It is difficult to assess what we should give our children and young people for their future. How long will we work? How high will our pensions be? - And the Church? And we as a Schoenstatt Movement? Will we be attractive and interesting for the next generations?

God asks Mary and she is "frightened" (Luke 1). We humans are often frightened by the new: Mary too! But she does not let herself be paralysed by the new. Mary goes on the offensive. She responds to God's question with the counter-question "how is this to happen?" (Lk 1). She wants to know: what does this mean for me; and what should I do now? Mary's counter-question is for her the key to the "conversation" and the key to her own "doing": she sets out to Elizabeth and talks to her about her questions. She marries Joseph and tries to understand the new with him. Shepherds and the magi become her dialog partners. And Jesus confronts her in the temple with the question: why are you doing this? - Communication with others and independent action: that is Mary's way. This is how she deals with the new and tries to understand it in this way.

3. From his exile in the USA, Fr Kentenich writes a long letter to Alex Menningen in view of Schoenstatt's 40th anniversary. In it he explains to his disciple, who consecrated this "Shrine of Families" in 1971, how important it is for Schoenstatt to be continually "re-found". Re-founding, according to Fr Kentenich, is - quote - "not just a renewal of the original spirit". It is about "a real rebuilding of the whole work, so that the word 'founding generation' is to be taken and savoured in the full sense of the word" - end quote.

Many questions arise as we gather at the "Shrine of Families" on this Covenant Day: When should we dismantle this shrine? Where will we rebuild it at the House of Families? What will it cost? Will more couples and families really connect their lives to this shrine? Will this shrine unite us as a family movement?

But perhaps, today, is not primarily about the questions we have just asked about the Shrine of Families. Let us accept the invitation of Covenant Day and fill this shrine - here on site and via the screens - on its jubilee day: with the real issues of our time, and with all the new things that "frighten" us; let us bring all uncertainty about how new founding works; let us ask for the ability to dialogue with the coming generations; and let us fill our shrine with our longing to become more like Mary in the way she questions God, how she communicates with her fellow human beings, and how she translates her questions into action.

Let us make this shrine overflow with our gratitude: for everything that has been given to us; for our marriage; for our children; for our own family of origin, for all those who accompany us, support us, pray for us and bring their contributions... Let us give thanks for the gift of the shrine and the covenant of love!

Let us remember one of Father Kentenich's favourite words, that God "works" anew by seeking "co-workers". Let us show each other how happy we are that we are all "co-workers" of our Mother and Queen! AMEN!

Offertory and intercessions

Song call: **Laudate omnes gentes**

miwa 39

Priest: God our Father, for 50 years Mount Nazareth has been "on mission" through the Shrine of Families. Here you want to prepare the good soil so that the beauty of marriage and family can shine forth and become fruitful for the Church and the world. We thank you for all the gifts and graces that we have received from this shrine in the past years. With confidence we place all our petitions for the future of Mount Nazareth in your good hands:

1. Today we bring you **earth from the Shrine of Families** to the altar. We thank you for all the couples and families who have built and cared for it and who keep the doors of this shrine open to this day. For all those who have given you their life's commitment to the mission of marriage and family and who have already passed away. Thank you for the 50 years that the Blessed Mother has worked from this shrine and connected many families from the wide world in the network of home shrines.

We ask you: Bless all marriages and families who know themselves connected to this shrine. Strengthen them in their faith in you and your infinite love. Give us all the experience: The WE has a future in the covenant with you - from the shrine.

Song call: **Laudate omnes gentes...**

2. Today we bring you **earth from the House of the Family**. We thank you that you want to give couples and families in particular a place of rest and recuperation, a place of encounter and inner orientation and a place of closeness to you in the shrine.

We ask you to lead many families into this house. Let them experience that they can strengthen and enrich each other when they share life and faith with each other and open their hearts for Your Good News in the shrine. Let them feel that love grows through the time they give to You and to each other.

Song call: **Laudate omnes gentes**

3. We bring you **earth from the playground on Mount Nazareth** with gratitude for all the children you give us and who make our lives rich. They are the future.

For them we pray that they will find a variety of living spaces in this world in which they can move and develop freely and joyfully, so that they will mature into people capable of bonding and having relationships. Help all parents to accompany their children in love and faithfulness.

We especially commend to you today those children who have a hard time and seem to have no future because of war, flight, poverty and need. Give them your special closeness through people who meet them in solidarity and help them.

Song call: **Laudate omnes gentes**

4. Today we bring you **soil from the shrine at the Kentenich farm in Hillscheid**. We thank you that you have called many married couples in Schoenstatt to live their own original vocation to marriage in the League, Federation or Association. We thank you that they make themselves available in joint responsibility for the Family Work in order to carry the mission of Mount Nazareth convincingly and in keeping with the times into the future.

We ask you to give your Holy Spirit to our worldwide family movement so that unity in diversity may succeed. Let them remain united and alive on the pilgrimage of faith in the covenant of love.

Song call: **Laudate omnes gentes**

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we consider
the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with confidence.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
also make our families
places of intimate togetherness
and to communities of prayer,
to genuine schools of the Gospel
and to small house churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
Let there never again be in our families
Violence, stubbornness and division;
Those who experienced injury
or had to take offence,
soon find comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
let everyone be aware,
how sacred and inviolable the family is
and what beauty it possesses
in the plan of God.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
hear and answer our supplications. Amen

Pope Francis

in Amoris laetitia, 2016

Song for the Exodus: Tu alianza - nuestra mission

Song sheet

D. Pilgrimage and blessing celebration

Following Holy Mass, we set out together on the way up. We carry the picture of the Blessed Mother with us. We want to go with her to the place on Mount Nazareth where her shrine could stand in the future near the family home.

We take the earth with us and the spades.

Above, there is a bed prepared where we put the soil of the different sanctuaries and places. Seeds are sown on this bed. Already in a few weeks a flowering chaplet will emerge there. In addition, flower bulbs will be planted in the soil by the participants. The blossoming shrine is a symbol of our faith in the future of the Family Movement and the shrine.

Songs: Caminando en alianza, ...

Prayer at the designated site of the new shrine:

Dear Mother of God, Queen of Families.

We come here today with *YOU* on Mount Nazareth.

We bring the *earth* of the different shrines.

We bring *spades* - one big one and many small ones.

We bring *seeds* and *bulbs*.

We bring *our history* with the Shrine of Families. It has been on the air for 50 years now. It has experienced a lot with us. *YOU* have experienced a lot with us in all these years.

We bring with us *hopes, disappointments, open questions* - also with regard to the future of your shrine. Our request to you is: *"Let us recognise what you want from us for the future of the shrine and the family movement!"*

We also bring you *our gifts!* The *small wooden shovels* symbolise the daily "building work" - on our own marriage and family, on the community, on our very personal "family sanctuary", where we are at home.

We trust: The WE has a FUTURE!

Make the family strong! In a time of upheaval in society and the Church, you call us to focus on the core cell of life, the family, and to make it strong. You encourage us to give each other impulses that make life in covenant with each other and with God successful. You gift us with your motherly tenderness, care and love.

We trust: The WE has a FUTURE!

Life presents us with great tasks, often enough we experience our limits, feel overwhelmed. "*You are not alone on the road, you are not on your own - I GO WITH YOU!*" is God's liberating promise to us, which can also be experienced here through you. In covenant with you, Mary!

We trust: The WE has a FUTURE!

The **House of the Family** stands for the future of marriage and family. It is a place where families can be at home - where the reality of their lives finds space. Here they experience community and receive inspiration for a life of faith - in the midst of our world.

We trust: The WE has a FUTURE!

The **house and shrine** form one unit. They see themselves as the spiritual centre of the international Schoenstatt Family Movement. In close union with the Original Shrine, we work from here to strengthen the Christian family. The development of a contemporary spirituality, pedagogy and pastoral for families is a permanent concern. Only together - as a united family movement - can we stay on track towards this goal.

We trust: The WE has a FUTURE!

Song: Sanctuary is a YES that lasts

Song sheet

Song: Searching and asking
(while sowing and planting the bulbs)

miwa 72

Each couple is invited to take home one of the small wooden shovels as a sign of their spiritual co-construction of the shrine.

Silence and renewal of the Covenant of Love

Blessing

Closing song: Mother Mary

miwa 121