



Towards 2014

July 2012 - Number 8

Quote

"The Covenant is the essence of Schoenstatt. Without the Covenant, Schoenstatt would simply not exist, since it is the soul of its being. If we search for the meaning of culture, we find that the REA states in a part of its definition, that it is "a combination of lifestyles and custom."

Juan Barbosa, Argentina

<http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/news/1068/163/Your-Covenant-our-MISSION.htm>

Editorial

Dear Pilgrims

Welcome to this months Newsletter 2014. The Shrine Current lives and we move in the midst of our time on the way to 2014. Soon a "Year of Faith" begins as we transition from the Year of the Shrine Current we are at the heart of the Church looking at ways of New Evangelization. Sr. Luciane (Central Team 2014) made us aware recently of the up coming anniversary of the canonization of St. Vincent Palloti – this anniversary of the Saint from whom our Founder cherished the title "The Great Missionary". Again and again there are signs that confirm our journey as a family toward 2014.

Fr. Andrew Pastore

Team 2014- info@schoenstatt2014.org

With every step we take on our pilgrim way

A simple, partly broken piece of slate framed in a special wooden box, passed on from family to family, received with love and joy, uniting many to a small chapel in a distant country. A 36 hours ride in an uncomfortable bus over muddy streets to spend three, four hours in the next Schoenstatt Shrine, some 800 km away. Families who design websites and write more and more articles in order to do a census of the existing home shrines in the world. A 12 year old girl from Mexico who sits at a computer at school and writes a letter to the Blessed Mother in the Original Shrine asking her to help her at school and to find a job for her father... A young Schoenstatt Father dressed with the shirt of the Spanish football team in the Madrid City shrine, celebrating in this holy place here second European Championship in a row (the most-read article of the month at Schoenstatt.org).

Schoenstatt has focused very often during its history on the shrine and the different

dimensions of the network of shrines – but it makes a difference to look with renewed awe and love upon the Shrine, or to let oneself – as a person, a community, a country or an entire Movement – be carried by the Shrine CURRENT. As the Year of the Shrine Current is about to go over into the Year of the Missionary Current, hundreds of stories from around the world tell us that the Shrine Current has proved to be what the Conference 2014 observed and thus defined: one of the most powerful internationally effective streams of life in the Schoenstatt Movement.

People who pass by the Original Shrine late at night, see the light shining through the windows: night by night, smaller or larger groups spend hours there, as if wanting to make up for the many, many years when it was not possible to have a “private hour” at this most holy place of Schoenstatt. At the same time, the shingle of the roof of the Original Shrine – handed over to the representatives of Ecuador at the end of the Conference 2014 – is on pilgrimage from home shrine to home shrine in this country, treated like a holy relic, and the same happens in Mexico and in Costa Rica. Week by week, petitions, gratitude, commitment and offerings sent to the Original Shrine fill 20 or more pages – and are placed in the jar in the Original Shrine, “our water that will be precious wine in the jubilee”, as one of the celebrants of the Holy Mass “towards 2014” said recently.

The National Magazine of the Schoenstatt Family in Chile dedicated a complete issue to the Home Shrine – highlighting the need of the church for the pastoral of the home shrine and the urgent need to offer the home shrine beyond Schoenstatt -, another issue was dedicated to the Work Place Shrine, filling the pages with testimonies of life with the home shrine. The Schoenstatt Movement from Milwaukee is planning a Congress on the Home Shrine for next year – and opened it internationally due to the wide interest.

The network of shrines as a reality of family unity and solidarity: this is what the Schoenstatt family of Tucuman, Argentina, discovered. Up to the end of this year, they therefore want to make spiritual pilgrimages to the Shrines of the world. Schoenstatt members from Burundi and from Colombia sent mails of gratitude to them and shared about the life around their shrines...

In Paraguay, the car shrine was re-discovered. Children began some years ago to work with the car shrine – telling their parents that the car is a place where so much time of the day is spent, so that it would definitely make sense to ask the Blessed Mother to dwell there. Guess what is the preferred capital of grace for this shrine? Yes: driving according to the rules.

When the Original Pilgrim Mother on her pilgrimage through Brazil arrived at a remote place of Amazonia – only accessible via boat – around one hundred people welcomed her with the words of the Magnificat: Who are we that the Mother of the Lord comes to visit us? When the moment of farewell had come, they made a resolution: no matter what we have to overcome – some of us need to go and be the first from here to ever visit a real Schoenstatt Shrine... once in their life and as representatives of all, until the day comes that we can build a Shrine in Amazonia...

In Argentina, each replica shrine is surrounded by a huge number of way side shrines, many of them bigger than the shrines themselves, places of grace, of common prayer and of family unity far from the next local shrine or local centers. Some missionaries of the Schoenstatt Pilgrim Mother Campaign want to gather the information of all wayside shrines in their country (as families in Ecuador want to do with the home shrines worldwide). A network of way side shrines, a reality of grace in secular times.

Secular times are times of the heart shrine, but the heart shrine as a missionary “tool”. Father

Fred Kistler's (Nigeria) comment has spread far and wide: „Where secularisation has advanced, we should activate the heart shrine, cultivating it and making it an instrument of the apostolate. Carry the MTA unobtrusively to the people and entrust the people to her; carry the graces of pilgrimage into the midst of everyday life. But the heart shrine not as an idea, but as a mission, and live with it personally, intensively and apostolically.”

The Shrine – in each of its dimensions – as a mission: the Year of the Shrine current may come to an end, but the Shrine current – as the Father current – are essential in the Year of the missionary current. What else is the missionary current but sharing what makes us rich? Early July, youth from several countries gathered in Cordoba, Argentina, for the first international missionary Congress under the motto: Your Shrine our mission. It was about the “misiones”, the missions, one of the strongest and most effective endeavors of the Schoenstatt Youth of the triennium, the Youth who call themselves a “Missionary Generation”. At the end of the Congress, all was summed up in one sentence: Schoenstatt does not do missions, Schoenstatt is mission.

It would be more than a dream come true could we say on October 17, when the Year of the Shrine goes over to the Year of the Missionary Current: The Shrine is not just a place of grace. The Shrine – the Original Shrine, the Replica Shrine, the home shrine, the heart shrine IS A MISSION.

Undoubtedly, it is. “We could not accomplish a greater apostolic deed nor leave our successors a more precious legacy that to urge our Lady and Queen to erect her throne here – HERE - in a special way, to distribute her treasures, and to work miracles of grace...”.

More on the Shrine current? Already know the page where each one can leave his or her testimony? Yours already in? <http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/my-schoenstatt/the-shrine-is-for-me.htm>

Team 2014

In the month of July the Central Team 2014 met twice to bring together the many strands of our Pilgrimage. We have been working on the pricing of the various packages and facilitation participation of families and youth. Meetings have been held with local politicians and responsables on many levels allowing us to clarify issues of program, security and transport.

In the Month of July a comprehensive **InfoPack** will reach the responsible teams in the individual countries. *If you as a member of such a team do not receive a pack by 31st July – Please contact the Comminications Office – Info@schoenstatt2014.org*

Many thanks to all those who have sent the details of the cooperating travel agents for the pilgrimage. Countries will make one booking to our Travel Agents – IQ Incoming here. Each country should name an official travel agent or contact person to handle all the practicalities of booking.

What's new?

- **Missionary Step**
What does the expression “missionary step” mean? On

Bits & Pieces

A very original initiative to prepare for the

the back of the cards that contain the Pilgrimage Prayer for 2014 we find three questions. Maybe the third one invites us to think a bit harder... "Which missionary step can I take today?" A missionary step can be any simple action carried out with the awareness: with the missionary steps each one of us take now we continue to shape the Covenant of Love in daily life and enter the threshold of the second missionary century of Schoenstatt history.

On the 2014 news section in [schoenstatt.org](http://www.schoenstatt.org) you will find – under the title "Missionary steps" – stories from daily life that have become real missionary steps.

<http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/schoenstatt-news/2014-news.htm>

jubilee of the Covenant of Love- by cycling from shrine to shrine in various stages- came to life at the Shrine in Aveiro.

<http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/news/1063/163/Riding-Towards-2014.htm>

Through the visit of the Father Symbol to the diocese of Encarnación, it could be said that we profoundly experienced the encounter of Father Kentenich.

<http://www.schoenstatt.org/en/news/1058/163/The-Father-Symbol-in-Encarnacion---A-Nation-of-God.htm>

Published by

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