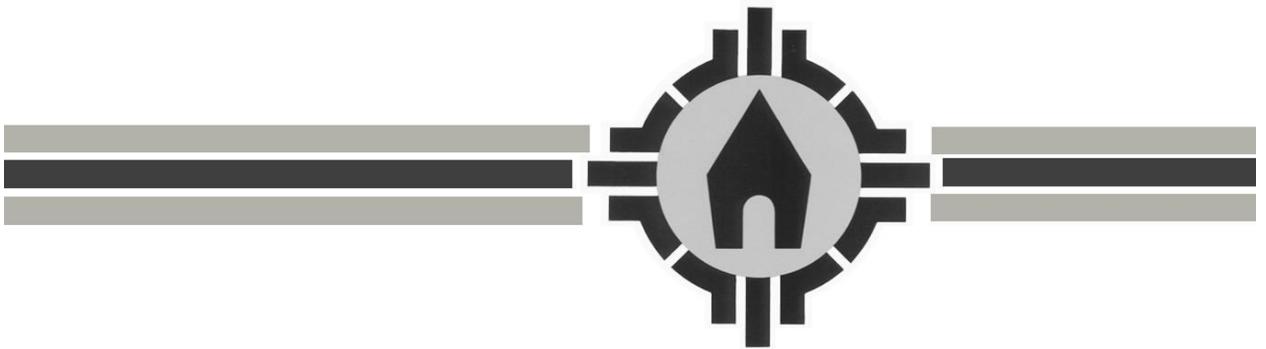


Covenant of Love

Pilgrims Movement

Schoenstatt Family, USA



Song (*Hymn to the Holy Spirit or a Marian Hymn*)

Address

The Schoenstatt's covenant of love with the Blessed Mother is a sacramental, that is, through the intercessory power of the Church it disposes the faithful to the effects of the sacraments with its distinct prescribed prayers (cf. CCC 1667). Therefore, the rite may be done in the context of Holy Mass. When done otherwise, a priest accepts the consecration as an expression of the faithful's desire to grow in holiness and the Church's support in opening new sources of grace to the candidate. It is appropriate to introduce the rite with a text from Father J. Kentenich, the founder of Schoenstatt, and some words from the priest or deacon, who is accepting the covenant.

Presentation of the Candidates

P: Dear candidates, after careful preparation you are ready to make your covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt. You wish to grow in love for Mary as your chosen way to grow in love for Christ and His Church. You do so in connection with the graces of the Schoenstatt Shrine. I now ask the leader to call your names. When your name is called, please stand.

L: After having found their home and cradle of sanctity in the Schoenstatt Shrine, and after having discovered the fountain of graces for their apostolate with (*mention apostolate or ministry*), the following persons have carefully prepared to seal the covenant of love with the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt.

(The leader reads the names of the candidates.)

Intent of the Candidates

P: Before you make your dedication, I ask you in the presence of the Triune God, of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, of Father Joseph Kentenich, the founder of Schoenstatt, of the members of our Schoenstatt Family here present: What is your desire?

C: We want to become part of the covenant of love sealed by Mary with our founder and the founding generation on October 18, 1914, in the Original Shrine, in Schoenstatt, Germany. We want to offer ourselves as instruments to help establish a Marian Father Kingdom in the Church and the world.

P: Why do you want to do this?

C: We are convinced that the Mother of God has called into existence the Schoenstatt Movement as a chosen work and instrument for the moral and religious renewal of the world in Christ. We firmly believe that we, too, are called to be instruments in the

hands of God, through our love for Mary, for the fulfillment of this mission. Therefore, we want to make this covenant of love with the Blessed Mother.

P: How will you accomplish this goal?

C: By cultivating a deep personal relationship with the Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt, to her shrine, and to our father and founder. Through an intense life of prayer and by bringing our contributions to the capital of grace of the Mother Thrice Admirable—our gifts of love to her.

P: What do you consider your specific apostolate?

C: As far as possible, we want to embrace what God asks of us, in everyday life, according to our personal mission and state in life. Our most effective apostolate will be our service to those entrusted to our care. The goal of our apostolate is the spiritual and moral renewal of the Church and world, in Christ through Mary. We consider it our task to follow God's plan into any area of apostolate he desires.

P: I now invite all the candidates to come forward with their covenant prayer and candle.

Blessing of the Candles and Medals

P: God, our Father, by whom all things are sanctified, pour out your blessing + upon these covenant candles and medals of our Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt, outward signs of our mutual bond with Mary. May they be reminders of the power of the Blessed Virgin Mary to shape our lives, protect us from all harm, and engage us in the work of the Gospel. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The covenant candles are lit.

P: I now invite you to kneel and say your prayer of dedication.

Dedication Prayer

C: Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt! Gratefully and joyfully we kneel before your picture. You have called us to make this covenant of love with you. We thank you for choosing us. God has asked you to fulfill a great mission in Schoenstatt. And now he has asked us to help you in this mission as your instruments. We gladly give our "yes" and place ourselves entirely into your hands. Accept all that we have and are: our abilities and limitations, our joys and our sorrows, our heart, mind and will. As we enter the Schoenstatt Family, draw us deeply into the covenant of love of October 18, 1914.

With joy, we offer to you our efforts in living an authentic Christian life. We place all our trials, joys, and daily tasks into your hands, that you may use it for the fulfillment of your mission from the Schoenstatt Shrine. We offer everything to your capital of grace. From today on, through the covenant of love, we belong to the Schoenstatt Family as your children and pilgrims.

Mother, bless us and allow us to recognize in our daily life how God guides us through his loving plan of wisdom and omnipotence. "Let us walk like you through life, let us mirror you forever, strong and noble, meek and mild, peace and love be our endeavor. Walk in us through our world, make it ready for the Lord." With Schoenstatt's father and founder we pray: "I firmly trust that no one will be lost who lives his covenant in loyalty." *Nothing without you, nothing without us.* Amen.

Time of silence as the personal dedication prayers are prayed.

Renewal of the Covenant with the Schoenstatt Family

P: Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt, you rejoice in this covenant of love! We unite with our entire Schoenstatt family in this moment of joy and grace and renew the covenant of love with you:

A: My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you and to show my devotion to you I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my entire self without reserve. As I am your own, my good Mother, guard me and defend me as your property and possession. Amen.

Exchange of the Symbols

P: In the name of our father and founder, Father Joseph Kentenich, I hereby accept your covenant of love and welcome you into the Schoenstatt Family. Rest assured in the belief that your covenant of love has been accepted in heaven. Our Blessed Mother says to you, as she did to the founding generation: "Do not worry about the fulfillment of your desire. I love those who love me."

*The priest accepts the personal prayers and candles and places them on the altar.
He then presents the medals to each one and prays:*

P: Receive this medal of our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Signing of the Covenant Book & Final Blessing

Song