



Message from Fr Bryan Cunningham

March 2018



Dear Schoenstatt Family, dear Friends,

This coming Sunday marks a half-way point through our Lenten journey. We are invited to rejoice in the Lord because he brings us into the new covenant friendship through his Son who gives his life as a ransom for many.

In Father Kntenich Year we are looking for ways to go deeper into the charism of Father Kntenich so that we become more and more missionary disciples of the Covenant of Love.

Celebrating this year we intend to have two seminars on the life and work of Father Kntenich with Fr Peter Locher who, as a young student, was with Father Kntenich in Milwaukee. One element which Father Kntenich emphasised was in our new covenant relationship we are truly children of God. We hear the word of the prophet Isaiah: Thus says the Lord who created you and formed you...

Do not be afraid I have redeemed you...I am your Saviour and you are precious in my eyes...

Father Kntenich makes us aware of God's plan of love. It is true: our source of life is in God and our journey through life is with God. Therefore we have no need to be afraid. God has paid the ransom price because we are precious in His eyes. St Paul exclaims: And all this he has done for me!

The next quarterly MTA Magazine will be published for the Covenant Mass on the 18th March 2018. We welcome your contributions to live in the Schoenstatt Movement and life around the Shrine.

This letter from the Schoenstatt Movement is prepared by our editing team, Avril de Mink and Juan Ignacio Melecio in association with the editor of our quarterly magazine MTA, Patty Ganley and many contributors

United in the Covenant of Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fr. Bryan Cunningham'.

Fr. Bryan Cunningham
Movement Director and Rector of the Shrine

Masses

Regular Mass Schedule

Holy Mass every Sunday at 9:30am in St John Fisher's Hall

Holy Mass in the Shrine: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9 am. Thursday at 7:30pm and Saturday at 12:00 noon

Adoration in the Shrine every Saturday at 11:00 am and Sunday at 12:00 noon

Shrine is open daily for visitors from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm and the praying of the angelus is at 12:00 noon and 6pm daily accompanied by the ringing of the bell

Groups welcome, to schedule go to www.schoenstatt.org.uk

Special Masses

7.00am **Early Bird Holy Mass for men** on the first Saturday of each month (Shrine)

3.30pm **Taste and See Mass on Mothers' Day**, Sunday March 11th

Covenant Mass, Sunday March 18th

7.30pm This Second Lenten Covenant Mass will be organised by the Mount Carmel Group.

Holy Week Masses

Palm Sunday, March 25th, Holy Mass 9:30am, with blessing and distribution of Palms

Maundy Thursday, March 29th, 7:30pm, Holy Mass of the Last Supper with Rite of Washing of the Feet

Good Friday, March 30th:

10.30am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Easter Saturday, March 31st, 7.30pm Easter Vigil, Blessing of the Easter Fire

Easter Sunday, Holy Mass, April 1st, 9:30am

Lenten Reconciliation, every Saturday from 11:00am to 12:00noon

Upcoming Celebrations

World Meeting of Families in Dublin: 22-26 August, 2018



Pope Francis invites us to Dublin for the World Meeting of Families, which is an international congress on "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World" with many speakers from overseas. Saturday will be the Festival of Families and on Sunday Pope Francis will celebrate the final Mass. The Diocese of Salford is organising a party to go to Dublin and you can join in this group if you are interested in going.

More information, email: formation@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

May Day



The women's group from the Shrine are preparing the May Day this year. They invite you to join us on *Saturday 12th May*, gathering at 10.00am we would spend the day together as pilgrims looking more deeply into the Charism of Schoenstatt's founder, Father Kentenich and spending time in prayer in the Rosary of Light.

As a follow on from the May Day we have two projects we would like to hear your views on: in this year we commemorate 50 years since the first holy Mass was celebrated in St John Fisher and we would like to invite those interested to join in the Eucharistic Congress in September 2018 in Liverpool. Our women's group is also interested in finding ways that we can take part in the daily Eucharistic Adoration in the Shrine.

A second project is an invitation to the café programme recently produced on Our Lady, *'Let It Be Done Unto Me According To Your Word'*. In five sessions we would consider Mary, chosen by God, (to be) the first disciple, (and) Mother of all, Queen of Heaven and Help of Christians. If you are interested in these projects please let us know. fr.bryan@schoenstatt.org.uk or schoenstattukyouth@gmail.com

Life at the Shrine

Schoenstatt Youth UK

Mission Manchester
"Just the beginning"

"unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

Mission Manchester
this Easter in Kearsley
Go and Set England on Fire, J.K.

The Schoenstatt Youth in the UK and Portugal are organizing an Easter mission in our Shrine. Any young adult interested in becoming a "misionari@" and trying to do something different during the Easter season to help our community contact Ignacio Melecio (Nacho) or Francisca Inácio (Kika):

schoenstattukyouth@gmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/SchoenstattUKYouth/>

On the 3rd and 4th of March, the Youth had a meeting in Lisbon to share ideas for the upcoming Schoenstatt missions in the UK, Portugal, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.



St John Fisher's Parish / Schoenstatt is participating in the Bolton Deanery Youth Reps

Into My Vineyard

Saturday 10th March we had the **Into My Vineyard** meeting at 3.30pm in the tea Room of St John Fisher's. We finished with Mass in the Shrine.

Save the Date

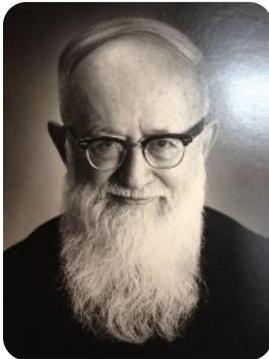
Family Week in August 2018

Our Family Branch invites you to the Family Week at Whitby from Monday 6th -Friday 10th August

Lenten meditations on Wednesdays in Lent at 2:30pm in St John Fisher's Hall

Year of Fr. Kentenich

A Lenten meditation with Fr Kentenich



Jesus, when I think of you my heart is filled with peace.

Because you were so deeply at home in God, you were never rushed, agitated or restless, no matter how pressurised you were and regardless of the many demands people made on you. You discovered the Father behind whatever happened.

Your life took its scale of values and significance from what the Father wanted: Success and failure, loneliness and misunderstanding, pleasant and unpleasant encounters, friends and enemies.

Those who one day shouted "Hosanna!", and the next day wanted to crucify you, could not shatter your interior calm or make you restless.

You knew what lay in the hearts of people, stooping down

you responded to them with kindness and reacted with inner benevolence to whatever they did to you.

And who really understood you!

Not even the Apostles, the closest circle around you, were reliable, everything around you was in chaos, but you remained calm and peaceful.

You were totally bound to the Father, and this was the source of your peace, your unshakeable confidence.

This was the great secret of your life.

Whenever you spoke of the Father, you did so with great warmth.

Jesus when I contemplate your life, I have to say to myself that there is perhaps no other person

Who experienced as much failure as you did? What did you have to show at the end of your life?

Your whole life's work lay shattered at your feet. You had to struggle hard to gain your inner peace.

Amidst your blood and tears you called on the Father. However, your last words were a unique great act of surrender to him.

"Yes, Father, yes, your will be done, whether it brings me joy, suffering or pain."

Jesus, you were able to live in such inner peace, because you saw a deep meaning behind everything that happened.

It is true, at the end of your life you saw nothing but ruins before you,

But these were the means to redeem the world.

Your failure was your success!

Jesus, when I think of you, a little of your great inner freedom and your sovereign calm fills my heart.

Like you and through you, let me be deeply anchored in the Father. Help me to bind myself totally to the Father.

(Taken from: Christ Prayers relating to texts of Father Joseph Kentenich 1997)