



Opening of the Pentecost Congress 8 June, 2022 - Homily

Pentecost Octave - Mass: Visitation of Mary Zef 3:14-17; Lk1:39-49

Dear Schoenstatt Family, dear representatives of the worldwide Schoenstatt Family gathered here for the Pentecost Congress,

In the Memorandum of the Pentecost Congress 2015, we declared ourselves in favour of a **Schoenstatt on the move**, missionary, outward.

(New Pentecost)

Pentecost is a perpetual and ever-repeating event. The Spirit of God always breaks in anew, it renews and rejuvenates the Church, renews and rejuvenates Schoenstatt as well. We need Pentecost, we need the

- The Spirit of holiness who transforms and renews us,
- the Spirit of love who unites and holds us together in freedom and solidarity,
- the Spirit of mission that sends us out and makes us fruitful for the world.

These keywords inspired us at the great Jubilee 2014 and at the first Pentecost Congress: **Holiness, attachments and mission**. All three are closely connected: Attachment as a path to holiness and as a source of mission. Today we stand for them all the more.

(Signs of the times in the world, Church and Schoenstatt)

The signs of the times show an acceleration of the crisis: the war, not only in Ukraine, the pandemic, to name only the most important and obvious ones, but also in the Church the search for a synodal, participatory, open and missionary Church, the treatment of the cases of abuse and the crisis of trust and authority in the Church, the role of women, etc.

Crises are challenges and are a call of God to us. All these signs show us how relevant and urgently necessary our charism, our contribution is for today's Church and world. We can rightly say: today, more than ever, holiness, attachment and mission.

And when I think how our founder has been questioned and attacked in the past two years, I am all the more convinced.

(Historical truth and development of our charism)

The truth will reveal itself. We do what is in our hands that the historical truth comes to light, that all sources and documents are located and made accessible. We are most interested in free independent research by scholars. Wherever we can help, we are ready. From our own

ranks there are already serious and qualified experts working on this. It takes time. The good God is merciful and patient. We have to learn that patience too.

(Testimony of our life, our unity and our mission).

However, there is another task that is incumbent to all of us. We cannot and should not sit idly by until the results of the investigations are complete. When we turn to the Gospel and especially to Pentecost, we learn another way. It was not experts, researchers, who scientifically proved the resurrection of Jesus. It was the testimony of simple, but convinced and convincing people who, seized by the Spirit of God, bore witness. And how? Through their holy lives (holiness), through their fraternal communion (bonds) and through their missionary apostolic commitment (mission). This is the way we are to go. Like the apostles, we can not but pass on our own experience: what we have heard and seen, what we have experienced and touched with our hands, that is what we proclaim.

It is not first of all about the canonisation of Fr Kentenich. It is about helping to sanctify this world. He will be canonised one day - the Church will see clear signs from God that his charism is a way and school of holiness if we ourselves live "saintly" and help to transform, humanise, sanctify this world that needs so much of God.

We will bear witness when we become a true community, a family of many families, unity in diversity, unity in freedom and solidarity, in mutual respect and love, so that people can see how we love each other.

But above all, we will bear witness through our apostolic commitment, where each one of us is, where we selflessly place ourselves at the service of others, where we take care of the most needy and distressed, where we missionarily communicate the joy of the Gospel.

This is how we will represent the **letter of recommendation of our Father and Founder**. This is how we canonise him, as John Paul II asked us to do.

Gathered around Mary, Queen of Apostles, in the Original Shrine, our Cenacle, we implore in these days this new Pentecost for our worldwide Schoenstatt Family, for Church and world. I hope that we will have a good Congress, but much more, that we will experience a new Pentecost.

Fr. Juan Pablo Catoggio