



Schönstatt, 20 March 2023

Dear

Presidents and members of the National Presidiums,
National Directors of the Movement and members of the Central Offices,
Members of the Schoenstatt Family worldwide,

On behalf of the International Presidium of the Schoenstatt Work, I would like to share with you two important news:

1. At its meeting in December 2022, the General Presidium decided to extend "ad experimentum" the **General Statute of the Schoenstatt Work**, approved on December 8, 2017, for three more years. In this period, a commission formed by the General Presidium will conduct an evaluation and review in collaboration with the National Presidia of the Schoenstatt Work and the National Central Offices of the Movement.
2. At its March 2023 meeting, the General Presidium appointed **Fr. Arkadiusz Sosna** (Poland) as the new head of the International Coordination Office of the Schoenstatt Movement for a period of three years, starting on March 10, 2023, and confirmed **Sr. M. Cacilda Becker** (Brazil) for three more years in the same task. The Continental Coordination of the Schoenstatt Movement in America, whose current leaders – Fr. José Luis Correa (Chile) and Sr. M. Auxiliadora Bohórquez (Ecuador) – are appointed until June 2023, will be discussed at the next meeting of the General Presidium.

The **International Coordination Office** of the Movement was created in 2016 after the first Pentecost Congress. On March 19, 2016, Fr. Heinrich Walter (Germany) and Sr. M. Cacilda Becker (Brazil) were entrusted with the leadership of this coordination office. Their appointment was renewed for three more years on February 25, 2019, and extended for another year until March 10, 2023, after the pandemic.

In this context, on behalf of the entire International Schoenstatt Movement, I would like to thank **Fr. Heinrich Walter** for his tireless dedication to this task during the first seven years of the creation and implementation of this organism, which is so important for the internationality of our Family. I also thank **Sr. M. Cacilda**, for her availability to continue this service to which she devoted herself with all her heart, together with Fr. Walter, especially in regard to digital communication and the accompaniment of nascent Schoenstatt families in different parts of the world.

I also take this opportunity to thank the National Presidia and National Offices for their commitment and collaboration, which have **helped to sustain – spiritually and materially –**

this important service to our International Family. I am sure that the new team will be able to continue to rely on this essential support.

It is good to remember that the International Coordination Office (*see General Statutes n. 75 and 80*) represents the international Movement in the General Presidium and ensures international cooperation, respecting the autonomy of the National Central Offices and the work of the Continental Coordination Offices.

The tasks of the International Coordination Office are:

1. **Information:** It communicates important information from the General Presidium to Continental Coordination Offices and, if necessary, to the National Central Offices. It also reports to the General Presidium on the development of the Movement in different countries or continents.
2. **Cooperation:** It supports transnational and global Church events and joint strategies for this. It drives common concerns of the Movement.
3. **Representation:** It represents on behalf of the General Presidium the international Movement insofar as the General Presidium does not carry out this task by itself. It maintains contact with ecclesiastical authorities and other spiritual movements. It ensures adequate representation of Schoenstatt at events and committees and, if necessary, makes appropriate proposals to the General Presidium.
4. **Sharing reflection:** It promotes international exchange on the signs of the times and the formation of opinions on current issues.
5. **Service:** It creates opportunities for the exchange of material, literature and experts.

Today, the International Coordination Office maintains the website www.schoenstatt.com, organizes the Pentecost Congresses, promotes their follow-up and coordinates other tasks on behalf of the General Presidium.

I wish the entire International Schoenstatt Family many blessings from the Original Shrine. Here I pray in all your intentions, for a good evaluation and revision of our General Statutes and for the tasks of the new team of the Schoenstatt International Coordination Office.

United in *the Cor Unum in Patre*,



Fr. Alexandre Awi Mello, ISch