



Pentecost CONGRESS 2022

Moved by the Spirit of God!

„von Gottes Geist bewegt“

¡Movidos por el Espíritu de Dios!

Schoenstatt, 12th June 2022

“YOU ARE OUR LETTER” (2 Cor 3:2-3)

A fraternal letter to the international Schoenstatt Family

Dear International Schoenstatt Family,

Inspired by the feast of Pentecost, *we gathered with Mary* (cf. Acts 1:14) to implore the Holy Spirit in this challenging hour of history. After the accusations against Father Kentenich and having postponed this congress twice because of the pandemic, we came together, full of gratitude for the life that God continues to awaken in us anew. One hundred and forty-five participants from thirty different countries took part in the congress.

After much discernment and exchange of ideas, we believe our international Schoenstatt Family

1. is called to a better understanding of **the prophetic charism and the person of Father Kentenich. We, too, need to be rooted in him and in his prophetic charism** in order to bear fruit for our movement, the Church, and the world.
2. is called to renew Schoenstatt’s charism in a **learning, open and synodal way**.
3. is called to be **daring and patient at the same time**, searching for answers to the signs of the times from our Christian and Schoenstatt roots.

In this way, we can then make a **courageous and creative experience of trust**, in the midst of our changing times.

Standing firm yet moving towards the future full of hope

We listened to the voices of our youth and their call for a “*healthy rebellion*”¹, an organic synodality, characterized by a culture of dialogue, openness and listening. This synodality includes the courage to accept our fragilities and to redefine our attitudes based on a youthful spirit. By following this path of renewal and confidence, we learn to trust in Divine Providence. Together we seek to discover more deeply the richness of our charism. With hope and confidence, we are willing to face all questioning connected with Father Kentenich and the originality of our movement.

“Covenant culture is a culture of encounter” (Pope Francis)

The creative contribution of the Schoenstatt Family to the Holy Father’s call for synodality is the covenant of love. This leads us to an organic point of view, combining nature and grace, depicted in the organism of attachments. For us this means we should not only listen to human reasoning, but also to God’s voice as he speaks to us.

1 From the youth presentation at the congress.

Our covenant of love brings us into a living contact with God our Father, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Through this encounter and the contact with our neighbours and our environment, we learn to love. We then experience the greatness and the joy of being a synodal family. Deeply rooted in the charism of Father Kentenich, we journey towards the future, with open hearts and minds and full of hope.

We experience the covenant of love as a gift and as a mission, facing today's challenges in the Church and the world.

In the face of growing inequality and social problems, we are called to a covenant with others in all existential peripheries of life. Faced with the ecological crisis, we are called to a covenant with God's creation.

Deeply rooted in our charism and united as an international movement, we are willing to take up the challenges of today:

1. We see the need for an **International Youth Congress** to take place before the next Pentecost Congress. The International Coordination Office should support this.
2. We ask for a **representative quota of young people** to take part in the next Pentecost Congress.
3. We are committed to providing active support and conscious accompaniment within the Schoenstatt Family **to promote an organic transition** between the youth and other branches or communities.
4. We want to promote **workshops on Father Joseph Kentenich**.
5. We want to offer **leadership courses**, to empower more lay people to take responsibility in and for the movement and our society.
6. We encourage everyone in the movement to **actively engage in the World Synod** of our Church.
7. We want to place more emphasis on **dialogue with other charisms in the Church**, parishes, movements and civil associations.
8. We want to **generate an open atmosphere**, which allows more people in different circumstances, to participate in our movement.
9. We want to **network, combining our social initiatives** in order to provide a better contribution towards society, politics and culture, especially for the poor and marginalized.

This letter to our international Schoenstatt Family is testimony and encouragement. By bringing this to life, we **"are a letter from Christ ... written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."** (2 Cor 3:2-3)

Moved by the Spirit of God,
The participants of the Congress

