



FIRE for the CHURCH



Novena for
October 18, 2024



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ORGANIZATIONAL RECOMMENDATION

This novena is intended to contribute to a network of prayer. The text of the digital Novena is available at <https://schoenstatt.com>

à Starts October 9, 2024



GOOD EXPERIENCE AND SUGGESTION:

Some people install a personal ringtone on their cell phones that reminds them to pray the novena at a certain time (e.g., at the evening blessing or the historic hour of the Covenant of Love at 5:00 p.m.).



Introduction

This prayer accompanies us in the novena of preparation for **Covenant Day, October 18, 2024**.

110 years ago, the hearts of young people burned for Fr. Joseph Kentenich's quiet favorite idea. ¹ "To urge our Lady and Queen to erect her throne here in a special way, to distribute her treasures, and to work miracles of grace."

Since then, we are grateful for the fire of enthusiasm that has burned in the hearts of countless people worldwide for the Covenant of Love with the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

At the centennial celebrations ten years ago, we experienced the return flow of blessings worldwide.

We are grateful for the deepening and expansion of the Covenant of Love. The "milestones in Schoenstatt's history," especially the third milestone, the step taken by our father and Founder 75 years ago on May 31, 1949, testify to what has unfolded from this covenant of love in recent years.

²Let us allow ourselves to be enkindled by her light to become a "fire of the Marian mystery" in a time of crisis, a fire for our Church, which we love and of which we are a part.

1 First founding document

2 J. Kentenich, January 19, 1947

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Day 1

We give thanks for the **COVENANT OF
LOVE WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER**



Day 1

We give thanks for the **COVENANT OF LOVE WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER** on October 18, 1914, in the Original Shrine.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

“We are united by the same thing: the Covenant of Love with Mary. It doesn’t matter where you come from. The Virgin Mary was celebrated in style. The joy when they brought the picture into the arena was enormous. Having that experience was the best thing for me. To see everyone celebrating the Blessed Mother. It made me realize once again that all the programs around her were beautiful but that what counts is love and fidelity to the Blessed Mother. Without Father Kentenich and the boys’ Covenant of Love with Mary, Schoenstatt would not have come into being, and we would not have experienced all that has followed.”

Reflection

We are united by the same thing: the Covenant of Love. It unites us not only across borders but also across generations and in all its depth.

Let us look at history’s origins and the founding

generation! We can walk with the heroes and saints who lived before what later developed in Schoenstatt's history.

Above all, Joseph Engling. Father Kentenich called him a "living founding document," a "masterpiece of the divine art of education through Mary," the "original incarnation of a Schoenstatt saint." Joseph already lived the Covenant of Love by attaching himself to the Blessed Mother, to the Head, and to the Shrine with all the depth that this implies, with the strength of the blank check, the Inscriptio, and the total gift of his life. During the war, he led a profound life of prayer, led people to reconciliation, and worked tirelessly for a Christian organization in his surroundings. To this day, he remains a shining example and a living embodiment of the Schoenstatt Mystery³. Even in the whirlwind of war, he spared neither apostolic works and failures nor prayers and sacrifices for his comrades to win them to the aims and ideals of the Congregation.

We are concerned about our environment: the lack of freedom, the coldness in human relationships, the severe suffering caused by wars, the persecution of Christians, the indifference towards the Church, the Christian image of man and his dignity.

Even if our possibilities only seem to develop in a small circle, then as now, they become effective in the covenant of love.

3 Vgl. Mit Josef Engling auf dem Weg, Sigbert Baumann

(My) A contribution today

What thought ignites me, and can I put it into practice so I can burn for the Church today?

Prayer *(see the conclusion of the novena)*



Daily prayer at the end

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, our international family was born in the shadow of the Shrine.

With our Founder, Father Kentenich, we believe that on October 18, 1914, you established yourself here in a special way and worked miracles of grace.

In the Covenant of Love, we unite across countries and continents and place ourselves at your service.

“All those who come here to pray shall experience the glory of Mary and confess: “It is good for us to be here. Here, we

will build our tents; here is our favorite place.” A bold thought, nearly too

bold for the public, but not too bold for you. (...) Whoever knows the history of our sodality will have no trouble believing that Divine Providence has something special in store for it.” (Founding Document)

Together, we want to communicate your gift to the people.

Together, we want to seize every opportunity to analyze adequately the challenges of the extraordinary processes of change in the world and the Church.

Together, we want to make a conscious contribution to the capital of grace today and entrust all the people we carry in our hearts to you.

Together, gathered around you, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in all things so that your gift may bear fruit in the many needs of our time.

May all the Schoenstatt Shrines be places of divine grace. Give us a home, transform us, and send us forth.

In preparation for Covenant Day on October 18th, we place ourselves at your disposal once again by praying the “little consecration”:

My Queen, my Mother...