



FIRE for the CHURCH



Novena for
October 18, 2024



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Novena in preparation for October 18, 2024

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Novena for October 18, 2024

Fire for the Church



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

FIRE

for the
CHURCH

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)*

FIRE

for the
CHURCH

Day 2

We give thanks for the **110 YEARS OF THE
SOURCE OF GRACES AND BLESSINGS**



Day 2

We give thanks for the **110 YEARS OF THE SOURCE OF GRACES AND BLESSINGS** flowing from the Original Shrine to the whole world.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

A man from Slovenia writes: “What I will undoubtedly remember:

- the warm welcome and attention I received at all times;
- the excellent organization
- The beautiful nature and buildings of Schoenstatt.
- the moments of grace in the Original Shrine;
- the feeling that the Virgin Mary needs me and accepts me;
- the conviction to be spoken interiorly and be sent to others.

I hope many people in my home country, Slovenia, will recognize at least one of Schoenstatt’s important messages: “I would like to live with you if only you show me that you love me.”

Reflection

A stream of blessings goes out from the Original

Shrine and reaches the whole world. During his meeting with Pope Francis on the occasion of the Jubilee Pilgrimage 2014, he said after the renewal of the Covenant of Love:

“In giving you this blessing, I am sending you out as missionaries in the years to come. I do not send you in my name but in the name of Jesus. You are not alone, but by the hand of our Mother Mary and in the bosom of our Mother, the Holy Church. I send you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.

(...) A Schoenstatt priest gave me a picture of the Virgin Mary some time ago. And I have it on my bedside table. And every morning, when I get up, I touch it and pray. It is a secret that I wanted to tell you.

How can I show the Blessed Mother that I truly love her so that a stream of blessings will flow from her throne to the people I am sent to?

(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)*

FIRE

for the

CHURCH

Day 3

We are grateful for the centennial
**CELEBRATION OF THE COVENANT OF
LOVE 10 YEARS** ago



Day 3

We are grateful for the centennial **CELEBRATION OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE 10 YEARS** ago and for the return of blessings from around the world to the place of origin.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

“As a helper, I would like to thank...

For the time in Schoenstatt.

For his time as a helper.

For free time.

For their incredible hospitality.

To have a place to spend the night.

For clean bathrooms.

For the many happy and friendly faces that smiled at me.

For the time with the incredible work team...

I am happy and proud to have participated in this special anniversary.

The people’s joy overwhelmed me and showed me once again that our path, our life, and our day can be like this. It is possible.

When I returned home after the anniversary, I gathered my children (two) and my husband and

declared, “Paradise exists, and I was there for four days. “

Reflection

All for Schoenstatt. Schoenstatt for the Church. The Church for the Triune God. A word from our Father and Founder, Father Kentenich. His fire spreads throughout the world so that an actual return current of blessing flows to the place of origin.

What motivates people today to give everything for Schoenstatt, the Church, and the Triune God?

“Matías, a Chilean economist who spent five months volunteering at the Jubilee, relates: “I have known Schoenstatt since I was a child. In Schoenstatt, I learned that when you work for the Blessed Mother, she educates and gives you back twice as much. And I realized more and more that the Covenant of Love forms you to change the society in which you live (...). Blessed Mother, I want my fire to burn so that I never become indifferent and always have the strength to take you to society”.

(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)*

FIRE

for the
CHURCH

Day 4

We give thanks for the **FIRE OF THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT**



Day 4

We give thanks for the **FIRE OF THE ORIGINAL SPIRIT**, rekindled by the 2014 torch relay from the Pompeii Valley to the Original Shrine.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

One of the runners with the torch tells us about the experience:

“The most profound moment was when we entered the arena, and I could say on stage, “If you have a mission, you have to accomplish it.” I don’t like speaking in front of a big crowd, and I didn’t feel like doing it, but heaven willed it. But I was very excited. When we were together in the Original Shrine afterward, I felt especially united with Mary!”.

Reflection

84 young people carried the torch 1800 kilometers from the Pompeii Valley to the Original Shrine, transmitting the light to 10,000 pilgrims from all over the world.

This has involved many sacrifices, but where the fire of the original spirit shines, great things can be done.

Father Hagel, who shared daily life in the study center with Joseph Engling, wrote: “The conditions in the old house were very favorable for making sacrifices (...) We will only discover what individuals did quietly for themselves at the end of time; that will remain hidden from us. When I look back on that time, I must say that it was one of the best times of my life”.

Would the boys still think of the founding act in their heads, then? “Prove to me first by deeds that you really love me and take your purpose seriously. Now you have the best chance for it.” The challenges of the war were to become for them “an extraordinarily beneficial instrument,” and they were so because they truly loved Mary.

(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)*

FIRE

for the

CHURCH

Day 5

We are grateful for the **DEEPENING AND PROJECTION OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE**



Day 5

We are grateful for the **DEEPENING AND PROJECTION OF THE COVENANT OF LOVE** in Schoenstatt's history, especially for Fr. Kentenich's act 75 years ago on May 31, 1949.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

"The days in Schoenstatt continue to shine on us and give us strength and motivation in many places. During these days, I have often felt sorry for the many people who work in and for the Church and struggle with their fate, who are dissatisfied and pessimistic. How much they have missed by not being able to live this event full of energy.

This joy, this balance, this enthusiasm, especially on the part of the South Americans, impressed us deeply and gave us hope that the idea of Schoenstatt will live on in the context of the 200th anniversary.

Reflection

People experience Schoenstatt as motivating, energizing, and encouraging for their life of faith. They want all the faithful and the whole Church to

discover the gift of the Covenant of Love.

Integrating faith into daily life naturally and authentically is to live organically. When we live the Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother in the sense of organic thinking, living, and loving, faith is contagious, inspiring, joyful, and sustainable, even and especially in difficult times.

We wish for a listening heart and the gift of a new language, like Mary with the Apostles in the upper room at Pentecost, so that as a Church, we can understand the people of our time and reach them anew with the good news of the Father's Kingdom.

(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)*

FIRE

for the
CHURCH

Day 6

We are grateful for the **FIRE OF
LOVE FOR THE CHURCH**



Day 6

We are grateful for the **FIRE OF LOVE FOR THE CHURCH** that burned in the heart of our father and founder.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

“What pleases me most is what it has sparked in people’s hearts. (...) On the anniversary itself, many people were speechless - myself included - but reliving it retrospectively...

- It was a fire,
- what gratitude,
- how we were guided,
- What a motivation for Schoenstatt and the Church!

It had a lasting effect on those who experienced it. It can indeed be said that the Queen has worked true miracles in the people’s hearts.

Reflection

This fire for Schoenstatt and for the Church, which spreads, warms, and enlightens, first burned in the heart of our father and founder before it burned in the hearts of the other “Schoenstatt children.

This fire gave him hope even in the most desperate situations.

This fire allowed him to radiate lightness, joy, and confidence in stormy times.

This fire is Mary, whom he trusted completely.

We are convinced that Father Kantenich has a prophetic mission, especially for our time, for our world, for the Church, and society, as he wrote:

“To this is added the conviction that the Virgin Mary, of whom we say with faith that she alone has conquered all heresies, now also has the outstanding mission of conquering collectivism. However, according to the Popes, this can only happen if love for her is spread profoundly everywhere. Once again, mechanistic thinking is the greatest obstacle to an effective Marian pastoral”.⁴

Let our hearts be constantly rekindled with the fire of his love for Mary, mankind, and the Church in a totally organic way.

“Let us glow like brands of fire and joyfully go forth to the nations.”

(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)*

4 J. Kantenich, 05.05.1952 a.A. Menningen

FIRE

for the

CHURCH

Day 7

We are grateful for **ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SINCE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE KINDLED BY THE LIGHT OF FR. KENTENICH**



Day 7

We are grateful for **ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SINCE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE KINDLED BY THE LIGHT OF FR. KENTENICH** and who are ready with him to be “fire for our Church”.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

“I once arrived very late to an event at the Pilgrim Arena and looked for a seat in the crowd. Finally, an empty seat in a row of benches caught my eye, and I asked the people sitting there, who were from Puerto Rico if the seat was still free. One man replied that he had saved it “for a very good friend.” Well,” I replied and was about to continue, but he said, “No, come on! You are exactly the good friend that the Blessed Mother has sent me”.

Reflection

Being welcomed in a completely natural way opens the heart and soul to supernatural gifts because grace is based on nature.

The fascinating thing about Father Kentenich was always his simple naturalness and genuine humanity. For many people, contact with our Father

and Founder became a profound heart-to-heart encounter, regardless of rank and name, origin, or character. He inspired trust and appreciated each person's dignity, which gave them a sense of security and protection from their own anchorage in God. Unexpected visitors felt expected, even sent by God, when they met him. And they experienced in him "a little piece of heaven."

What a burning, warm, and luminous fire of love for the Church will be kindled in us when we allow ourselves to be enkindled by Father Kentenich's charism, by his fire, and we burn with missionary zeal for the Covenant of Love...". Then, the Blessed Mother can draw many hearts to herself from the Shrine.

Apply the previous example: Who exactly is "the good friend that the Blessed Mother has sent me (today)"?

(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)*

FIRE

for the
CHURCH

Day 8

We are grateful that in all our actions, **"WE KNOW OURSELVES TO BE INSTRUMENTS IN THE HANDS OF MARY"**



Day 8

⁵We are grateful that in all our actions, **“WE KNOW OURSELVES TO BE INSTRUMENTS IN THE HANDS OF MARY,”** especially in these times of crisis in the Church.

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

“My moment at the Jubilee was Saturday afternoon in the pilgrims’ arena, which was already impressive, with all the thousands of pilgrims from different countries and branches, and me in the middle of it all... And then SHE came. So solemn and sublime, so real, close, and true, the MTA was carried through the lines and celebrated. You could feel that there was so much reverence for this great Woman, so much personal connection with each one, and you didn’t know how to pay tribute to her. Sometimes, there was applause, and then people just watched, admired, waited, and hesitated until she reached the stage and found her place. Several men carried her on a litter, and some little girls scattered roses like a queen.

When I think about it, it sounds absurd. And yet it didn’t seem distant or false to me, but wholly pure and true, just like herself.

5 J. Kentenich, May 5, 1952 to A. Menningen

Reflection

⁶The fact that “the Church sees herself in the image of the Mother of God and protects herself” is part of our Founder’s image of the Church. If the Blessed Mother is excluded from the process of salvation, it is because of a mechanistic way of thinking, even within the Church. On May 31, 1949, when Father Kentenich placed the first part of his didactic letter, the “*Epistola perlonga*,” on the altar of the Blessed Mother, the destruction of our free society and the suppression of the Church were already on the horizon.

We long for a Church like Mary⁷, open to the Spirit of God. Then, as now, the Blessed Mother will be our help in times of need. Her promise is valid from the beginning: “I love those who love me.”⁸

(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*)

6 J. Kentenich, 5.5.1952 to A. Menningen

7 Thoughts on the evening from 05. 31. 2024

8 Founding document

FIRE

for the
CHURCH

Day 9

We thank you for all those who carry out
the Schoenstatt **MISSION WITH JOY AND
CONFIDENCE.**



Day 9

We thank you for all those who carry out the Schoenstatt **MISSION WITH JOY AND CONFIDENCE.**

Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

“On the night of October 17-18, I had the privilege of witnessing something awe-inspiring.

Shortly before midnight, the Girls’ Youth crown made its way from House Sonnenau to the Original Shrine in a chain of girls from all over the world: from hand to hand. I was standing on the street above House Sonnenau and I could see all the girls who had already received the crown running toward the Original Shrine. It was a beautiful image.

Fortunately, a taxi stopped beside me and I hurried up the hill. There, young men with torches in their hands were making their way from the Motherhouse of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to the Adoration Church. It was an eloquent image. I was very impressed by these moments: on the threshold of the new century of Schoenstatt, the girls on the valley flocked to the Original Shrine and remained in the place where everything began 100 years ago. At the same time, the boys on the mountain went to

Father Kentenich and stayed with the person with whom everything started 100 years ago. In my heart, I thought: “Schoenstatt can go into the future with joy and certainty.

Reflection

At the beginning of Schoenstatt’s history were the promising words of Father Kentenich in the Founding Document: “ I would like to make this place a place of pilgrimage, a place of grace for our house and for the whole German province, and perhaps even further afield.”. This has become a reality. Today, we are the new “sodalists” urged by the mission to establish Schoenstatt in the world. We have received a holy inheritance: the same treasure as then. It has been given to us, and we are urged to give it to our Church and today’s world.

Today, our founder’s request applies to us: “What you have inherited from your parents, acquire it in order to possess it.”

(My) A contribution today

What do I value most in Schoenstatt? What do I want to transmit? What thought enkindles me, and can I realize it so that I can be a fire for the Church of 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...



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