



**Message from the District Administrator Dr. Alexander Saftig on the occasion of  
the Opening Ceremony for the Jubilee Year 2014,  
100 years of the Schoenstatt Movement in Vallendar  
at 20:00 on Friday, 18 October 2013, at the Original Shrine**

Words of welcome

With this celebration you begin a truly remarkable event. One hundred years of the Schoenstatt Movement's covenant of love means one hundred years of working for a Christian society. Right here in Schoenstatt, the Christian faith radiates into the world. The importance of the covenant of love has been explained to me in Schoenstatt and by means of many conversations with my relative, who unfortunately died much too early, Father Jonathan Niehaus, and also by his brother Mark and his sister. It became very clear to me, how greatly blessed the covenant of love between the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich and the young people has become, and how very much faith is carried into the world from Schoenstatt.

The Schoenstatt Movement has taken a decisive role in strengthening the faith and values formation of millions of people in over 110 countries within 100 years of its work. Millions of people of every age and every nationality.

The Movement has become an integral part of the lives of many people around the world. Today's opening ceremony of the jubilee year 2014 is the best evidence that this spiritual community is more up-to-date than ever. The radiant focal point – the world center of the international Schoenstatt Movement – is in Vallendar, and with that in our administrative district. This makes me proud, happy as a District Administrator, and gives us the commission to do everything conceivable in order to wholeheartedly support this Movement, and quite specifically also the jubilee year 2014.

In the Holy Mass for his inauguration on 24 April 2005 Pope Benedict XVI described the community of believers as follows:

*"The Church is alive. And the Church is young. She holds within herself the future of the world and therefore shows each of us the way towards the future. The Church is alive and*

*we are seeing it: we are experiencing the joy that the Risen Lord promised his followers. The Church is alive – she is alive because Christ is alive, because he is truly risen.”*

And whoever wants to see and feel the vitality of the Church, they need only to look to Schoenstatt, they have to look at the image of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt and the prayer of Father Josef Kentenich will become manifest:

I trust your might, your kindness, Mother dear,  
I do believe that you are always near.  
Schoenstatt’s great Queen, oh Mother mild,  
I blindly trust in you and in your Child. (USA version)

Schoenstatt and 100 years of the covenant of love indicate that the Mother of God has accepted the offer made at this place, and the celebration of the 100 years of the covenant at the same time also signifies the challenge: “Keep it up, the world and the Church need you.”

Today, we have come together precisely here in order to return to the origin together. To celebrate a jubilee means to return to the source. We start the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Schoenstatt Movement here in Vallendar today and return home to the starting point.

And I’m proud to say that this place of origin is located in the district of Mayen-Koblenz. Simultaneous to our opening ceremony here, today the national Schoenstatt Movements all over the world celebrate everywhere the opening of this jubilee year, and over thousands of kilometers are also connected with us at the place of origin. So I wish not only all those locally present here a beautiful celebration, but also all those, no matter where they are right now, who are united with us here, a beautiful celebration.

We set out together today towards the jubilee year 2014 – towards the future, for which Schoenstatt has come into existence.

Bis zum 18. Oktober 2014! Bis zum großen Jubiläumsfest in einem Jahr!

See you the 18th of October 2014! See you on the jubilee feast in one year!

¡Hasta el 18 de octubre del 2014! ¡Hasta el gran jubileo el próximo año!

*Trs. smmr – English Office, Sch. Int. Secretariat*