



## Press Release

# 250 citizens of Vallendar attended to an informative evening about the Schoenstatt Jubilee Celebration.

It was an evening with an international touch to it and you could already feel the joy rising at the forthcoming jubilee pilgrimage in October. More than 250 members of the town of Vallendar and the surrounding area came to Schoenstatt on 3<sup>rd</sup> June for an information evening in the town hall of this town on the Rhine.

What was the point? The organisers of the Schoenstatt Movement and the town council wanted to prepare and explain to their town members the traffic flow and changes which will take place during the Jubilee pilgrimage days as well as an insight into the programme. At the end of an entertaining, varied and very informative evening few questions remained to be asked by the town members.

That such a jubilee requires great organization and extra work should be taken for granted, a point made very clear by Dr. Alexander Saftig, the district commissioner for the Mayen-Koblenz area at the beginning of his speech. Whoever followed the catastrophe of the Love Parade in Duisburg in 2010, knows exactly what to expect, what is important and what must be planned and organized. Security is top priority during these days of festivity. Dr. Saftig also explained that he will continue to accompany and follow the preparations. "As a community we want to do all we can to support Schoenstatt," he said. In regard to the planning situation he was very positive that things have and will continue to run smoothly.

The programme for the jubilee celebration from 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October will have four major Eucharistic celebrations. At the same time visitors have the chance to experience the variety on offer by more than 20 communities belonging to Schoenstatt. In all five covenant tents you can discover several hundred projects and initiatives from around the world. There are panel discussions, Holy Masses, a mile of goods on offer with various national and international products, just to name but a few points from this very entertaining programme which all pilgrims, whether you are from Germany or abroad, can expect to enjoy, such was the presentation given that evening from Sr. M. Veronika Riechel. The celebrations will be transmitted worldwide by the Cologne Cathedral radio station – Dom Radio, and by the Catholic television station, EWTN as well as the Brazilian station, Cancao Nova. This jubilee pilgrimage is a huge event which has not taken place in Schoenstatt before at this level, so it is certainly worth while being there.

The international feeling was certainly spread with the help of 20 volunteers from around the globe who sang and danced during the evening. A song from the youth festival 2005 just before the World Youth day in Cologne: *Our way moves*, was a taster for what we can expect in Vallendar in October. A short video with music and photos supported and added to the atmosphere of the evening.

"We want to make a really nice welcome possible," said Fred Pretz, Mayor of Vallendar Vallendar. He also explained the good working relationship between the authorities and the event organizers. For several years now there have been regular meetings to discuss what the effect of this event would be on the people of Vallendar and the need to keep any disruptions at a minimum. Four days are planned to discuss the transport questions only and look for solutions together.

Experts in the field of transport as well as the management of the place of event presented their concept. Dr. Klaus Manns from Manns Engineering, in Wirges spoke about his not too easy task when you expect to organize 8,000 – 10,000 to come and go in an orderly and safe fashion on the most visited day, the 18<sup>th</sup> October. The area will be completely closed to traffic without permission but there is enough parking lots from

where a shuttle bus will take pilgrims to the event. This closure is necessary in order for the buses to come and go and people to quickly get on and off the bus safely. An emergency area has also been designated.

Fr. Stefan Strecker, manager of the organizational team in House of the Covenant in Schoenstatt, thanked all helpers and volunteers from the region and from Germany as a whole. Many people from all over Germany have responded to the request for helpers and with that they will serve the many pilgrims who are coming from around the world. "Our helpers also have to pay for their event tickets otherwise we would be unable to finance this jubilee pilgrimage." Fr. Strecker continued.

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Thank you for your preference.

For any questions or suggestions please contact us:

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