

SENDING FORTH SPEECH AT THE NEW BEGINNING OF THE SCHOENSTATT MOVEMENT

Father Heinrich Walter

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Dear Schoenstatt Family,

All this preparation, the hard work, the cost of the journey, the long wait, it was all worth it.

We have already forgotten all the strenuous efforts it required of us. A covenant has now been sealed between heaven and earth, between Our Lady and us, between you and me. What happened 100 years ago secretly in Father Kentenich's heart has now taken place in public. Thousands upon thousands have now made the bond of love. This is a strong bond which has brought talent, vocation, culture, and tradition together. This bond between the creator and His creation, between God and His people, between the beginning and eternity cannot be broken. It is a bond of healing, which unites head and heart, idea and life. This is the productive power of our spirituality, which we want to show our world even if we are in the minority. We have given our signatures. This is our yes to live this covenant in our daily lives in full responsibility. Let us be open to God and Our Lady's surprises as to how they will reply to our yes in the coming weeks and years. During this adventure of providence we are not only fellow workers but also witnesses.

We are now holding our mission cross in our hands. With this cross we are entering a new time in our movement. It is the time of mission and apostolic fruitfulness. We take our direction from the vision of Father Kentenich, from the shrine so much blessing has developed for the future of the Church.

From the power and passion of the source I would like to suggest a programme with three points:

We choose the way to holiness

Holiness means to know you are loved by God and belong completely to Him. In our daily lives we want to look out for Him. Holiness means to choose what helps me grow and mature and become a true witness to God in our world. Such characters radiate a healthy

natural and supernatural light. If you are in the company of such a person you yourself become a better person. Our holiness has a name: Mary, who is strong and noble, simple and kind, and spreads love, peace and joy wherever she goes. This holiness leads us all to the fullness of life and to being free as the children of God. The way with Mary is an effective pedagogy of holiness which we want to show the world. Be courageous and become the new saints of the new time in our movement.

We live in authentic and strong attachments

We all suffer under the fear of relationships and attachments of our time and the consequences this has, living with other people and other nations. Our answer to this problem looks at the mission cross. This is a cross of relationship. You can see Jesus and Mary speak the language of a loving relationship. In Mary's face her true faith shows and her hands bear testimony of her active love. The Lord gives His life through blood. His pain is free surrender. His wounds are transfigured. This look gives dignity to the world. The secret of saved and saving relationships has been entrusted to us as a charisma. At all stages of our life, prayer time, and work we care for reliable friendships, attachments and relationships. Through the small steps we take daily in life to freely bind us in love, something unique, and whole develops, a life culture with more unity. Our favorite place in this world is where healthy relationships and attachments can develop and be decisive for our future. That is why we emphasize so much youth and family life, places of education and training. We want to strengthen the family as the cell of society and the picture of the Church, the family of God. We are looking for a dialogue so that the friendship between cultures, other confessions and religions can grow. The aim of our way we call covenant culture.

We decide to do something missionary

Today we have not reached our goal, but rather a missionary decision. Cleansed by God's merciful love we want to be enkindled anew by the flame of the covenant of love and carry this into the world. We make the dream of our Holy Father our own: "I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." (EG 27) We are now setting out on a mission, which is a dialogue, a communal way and a covenant. We want to decide every day to practice some missionary task. If we really love then many people will hear and understand the Good News and find a way to God. Look at our mission cross through which Christ is speaking to us today: 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (Matthew 28:19)