

## **The Contribution of the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign -SRC- to the New Evangelization: “Covenant Culture”**

The Covenant Culture is Schoenstatt’s answer to the question posed by the Church and by society: Schoenstatt, what do you do?

The Schoenstatt Movement has been responsible for the birth of many apostolic, social, educational, missionary and pastoral activities throughout the world. It is about the dynamic power of the Covenant of Love, a Covenant Culture in all aspects of life.

“Covenant culture is how we typically express the way we live and work: our attachment to God, to people, to nature and culture, to Church and the world, all based on the covenant of love.”

With concrete manifestations of the Covenant Culture, Schoenstatt shows – through deeds – its love for the Church, for families, for youth, for the poor and needy, for society in its political and pedagogical aspects; for a world of development and investigation and for all aspects that have something to do with people and the longing to live in covenant with God, with their neighbors, with nature and work, and with themselves. This is the concrete contribution that Schoenstatt offers for the development of a new social order, the realization of its call to build a new world, from the Covenant of Love, and through new persons.

The Covenant Culture is, moreover, an offer from Schoenstatt for the Church and society. In the same way that poverty wasn’t meant for the Franciscans alone, neither the discernment of spirits only for the Jesuits, peace only for St. Egidio and unity just for Focolare, the Covenant Culture is by no means, only for Schoenstatters.

### **The most important answer: Mary**

Through the Pilgrim Mother Campaign we can feel the vital application of what is most important in Schoenstatt's social, apostolic and missionary actions: Mary is the final answer to all human needs. They aim to take her to all areas of modern life, so that she can act and build a Covenant culture.

"The centre of the Campaign is to take Mary as an image of grace, she should be at the forefront. This means taking her ‘wherever we can and She will act...in her is what we have always wanted and emphasised. (Fr. Kentenich, 11.04.68)

"Through Deacon João Pozzobon's Campaign, the Blessed Mother and Mother Thrice Admirable wants to go out from the Shrine as the 'Great Missionary,' as the 'one who will work miracles' to take the Covenant of Love to countless men and women, and through it, to Christ and the fullness of the Gospel. (Santa Maria Consensus Document, 1989, II, 1,3)

The Campaign, as Schoenstatt's 'missionary countenance,' is present all of the strategic areas of the apostolate, and wants to reach out to all men and women, especially families so that their homes can become shrines where Mary can educate and evangelize. In particular, João Pozzobon reached out to children and the poorest of the poor, and wanted the Campaign to work towards "salvation of families" (Testament). Here we see a strategic pastoral accent.

The Campaign aims to work as Mary's instrument in her evangelizing mission so that she, the great teacher of faith, can educate our people and lead them through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to the Father. (Santa Maria Consensus Document, 1989, II, 2, f)

From the Shrine to the poor: the social commitment of the Campaign has its origins in João Pozzobon himself, in the commitment and mark of his actions.

### **Go forth to evangelize! Avanti! says Pope Francis**

"Put simply, there are two images of the church: a church which evangelizes and goes out of herself" by hearing the word of God with reverence and proclaiming it with faith; and "the worldly church, living within herself, of herself, for herself,"

The Pope called on Catholics to go out into the world, sharing their faith "with enthusiasm and vitality" by being living examples of joy, love and charity. "An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral".

"In the Gospel there's the beautiful passage about the shepherd who realizes that one of his sheep is missing, and he leaves the 99 to go out and find the one," Pope Francis told the parish leaders. "But, brothers and sisters, we have only one. We're missing 99! We must go out and find them."

