



INTERNATIONAL  
**APOSTOLIC**  
**FAMILY**  
**FEDERATION**

# **FEBRUARY 2022**

**The Family Federation is a new type of free, apostolic community of committed Catholic married couples, who through generous striving and faith in Divine Providence live their secular calling in the world.**

# What does "practical faith in providence" consist of?

Practical faith in Divine Providence is faith that God who is wise, powerful and loyal has a plan of love for humanity and for each person within it. We are talking about "practical" faith in the sense that we can know that plan and form our real life according to it through the light of faith, the voices of the times, and of the soul and of being.

Practical faith in Divine Providence leads us to actively seek the will of God in life and its events, and to filially and effectively respond to it. It is a "receptacle", which if it is open to receive God's guidance and abandons itself to His will, and if it becomes "activated", will actively seek this will and try to carry it out.

**The Covenant of Love is energized in time through practical faith in Divine Providence, which is, according to Father Kentenich, one of the most important "charisms" of Schoenstatt.**

God governs the world through secondary causes. God intervenes in the concrete history of the world, of communities, of each person. The person who is guided by practical faith in Divine Providence tries to detect the presence and wishes of God manifested through events, the signs of the time, or in the circumstances; through these, one perceives his will.

Gott spricht auch in uns selbst zu uns – durch die Anregungen des Heiligen Geistes. Wer sich vom Praktischen Vorsehungsglauben führen lässt, kann in den Wünschen seines Herzens und seinen Bestrebungen den Willen Gottes erspüren.

Seinsstimmen: Das ist das, was Gott zu uns sagt durch die natürliche und übernatürliche Seinsordnung. Die Seinsstruktur der Dinge und Menschen und ihre Natur trägt in sich den Willen Gottes: Es sind inkarnierte Gottesgedanken und als solche inkarnierte Gotteswünsche. Um mit Thomas von Aquin zu sprechen: Die Ordnung des Seins bestimmt die Ordnung des Handelns.



## The God of life speaks to us...

The God of life wants to communicate with man through life. A key moment is the conviction of being able to discover God's footsteps everywhere: what is within us interiorly, in encounters with other people, with creation; in the small and great events of history, in the scientific and technical processes. The "voice of God" is like the blades of the windmill that receive the wind and transform it into energy, that is what we discover in our own hearts and our surroundings as signs of the time that appeals to us and at the same time gives us the strength and energy to respond to it in our lives.

Fr. Guillermo Carmona, "What is Schoenstatt?"  
Fr. Rafael Fernández, "150 questions about Schoenstatt"  
Hubertus Brantzen: Spurensuche.de

## In the light of our General Chapter 2022

What does the text tell me? Looking at our Federation: What comes to my mind and what do I tell myself? What do we – as a couple – aim at and what do we wish for our Federation?

### Heavenwards Nr. 569 f

<sup>569</sup>I can think of nothing more beautiful on earth  
than to give myself to our family,  
to really be its child in body and soul  
and to devote to it all my strength.  
O God, may my right hand wither,  
should I forget you, Schoenstatt.

<sup>570</sup>Others can sing their communities' praises  
and develop there in their own way,  
but for me there can be no greater happiness  
than to generously strive according to our ideals.  
O God, may my right hand wither,  
should I forget you, Schoenstatt.

<sup>571</sup>From now on I may wear the medal.  
It shall rejoicingly tell the whole world  
that I have been and will remain accepted  
in the family for which I was born.  
O God, may my right hand wither,  
should I forget you, Schoenstatt.