



INTERNATIONAL  
APOSTOLIC  
**FAMILY**  
FEDERATION

# JULY 2022


The Family Federation is a novel, free, apostolic community of committed Catholic couples who, through generous striving and faith In Divine Providence, live their secular calling in the midst of the world in the spirit of the evangelical counsels and in close union with the Church through the strength of the Sacrament of Marriage and the **Covenant of Love with Mary...**

*From a series of talks given by Father Joseph Kentenich in 1948 in the Shrine of Nueva Helvecia, Uruguay (not a verbatim reproduction of the original talk).*

### *The Covenant of Love in Schoenstatt*

In 1914 - that is, relatively recently - Our Lady also sealed a Covenant of Love....

This covenant is nothing other than a renewal of the covenant that "the angel of the Lord announced to Mary". God, who descended into the Virgin's womb and sanctified her, wanted to make Himself present through Mary in the Shrine in order to make this small piece of land a holy land, a place from which a holy movement would emanate, giving birth to new people and a new social order. So it is she who wants to use all those who make the Covenant of Love as instruments. The first ones to seal the Covenant of Love - back in 1914 - were a small group of young people whom I accompanied. At that time, we were acting on your behalf. The other partner was the Mother of God. We made this covenant of love, and she already included in the founding act all those who would one day join this covenant.



Are there any of us who are willing to be included in this covenant as well? Just as Adam and Eve represented humankind at a certain point in history, you were represented in 1914 by those who made the Covenant of Love in the shrine.

You may wonder what obligations this Covenant of Love entails. A simple man from Montevideo brought a bouquet of flowers as a symbol of total surrender to Mary. The boys offered the same to the Blessed Mother at that time; in fact, this was her demand.... She learned this practice from the good God. At the beginning of the Redemption He had said: Nothing without Mary, and so she says to us today: Nothing without you who are called! This is what we already called then "contributions to the capital of grace", that is, the awareness that we too have something to give so that the covenant can be fulfilled....

The Covenant of Love gives us an infinite security of life, an infinite fullness of life, and a distinct joy of life.

I would like to end this homily with the same simplicity with which I began it, asking Our Lady to fold her hands to implore the Holy Spirit that many of you seal your Covenant of Love for the blessing of the whole people".

**In light of our General Chapter 2022: What does the text say to me? Looking at our Family Federation: What comes to mind and what do I say to myself? What do we aspire to - as a couple - and what do we aspire to for our covenant?**

## THE SHEPHERD'S PRAYER

**<sup>533</sup> They have made a covenant with you.**

**May it stand as firm as if cast in bronze.**

**Then I will know that they are in safe and loyal hands  
and will not fear the raging fury of the flood.**

**<sup>534</sup> You will bring them all victoriously home to the Father**

**so that they can sing hymns to the Lamb.**

**I firmly believe that no one will be lost  
who remains faithful to the covenant of love.**

