St. Bernard Schoenstatt Wayside Shrine

Garden Sanctuary of Grace and Community Outreach

Initiative by the Schoenstatt Family of Calgary
Dedication: October 18, 2026

A Legacy Reborn: Calgary's Schoenstatt Legacy

Reconnecting with our parish roots to renew apostolic commitment in the Diocese of Calgary

Deep Parish Roots

The original Mother Thrice Admirable (MTA) shrine was enthronement inside St. Bernard's Church in 1960, establishing a rich 66-year spiritual foundation in this community.

Renewal of Apostolic Commitment

This outdoor wayside shrine represents the continuation of a long journey by Calgary’s Schoenstatt members, seeking to renew active local apostolic outreach.

Diocesan Mission Alignment

Fully aligned with the Diocese of Calgary's renewal, the shrine helps form missionary disciples, strengthens Catholic family life, and fosters a church of personal encounter.

Understanding Wayside Shrines

A covenant culture that brings the graces of the sanctuary into the concrete settings of daily life

1. THE CORE CONCEPT

Wayside shrines are small, often garden-sized replicas of the Original Schoenstatt Shrine in Germany. They are dedicated to the Mother Thrice Admirable (MTA) and represent a physical 'covenant culture' that weaves faith into our ordinary, daily lives.

2. STRUCTURE & SETTINGS

They can range from simple wooden or stone roadside structures and garden markers to small wooden chapels. Typically situated in beautifully landscaped parish gardens or quiet walkways, they foster a natural atmosphere of encounter and silence.

3. SPIRITUAL PURPOSE

They serve as visible anchors of faith, inviting quiet reflection and silent prayer for passers-by. For the local community, public wayside shrines act as spiritual centers of unity for meetings, devotion, and monthly Covenant Day commemorations.

A Fountain of Blessing: The Three Graces

How this sacred place offers spiritual shelter, inner healing, and missionary focus

THE GRACE OF SHELTER

Finding a Spiritual Home

Experiencing deep acceptance and security in the heart of Mary and God. The shrine acts as a peaceful shelter from modern anxieties, noise, and spiritual fragmentation.

THE GRACE OF TRANSFORMATION

Inner Growth as Disciples

Mary acts as our Mother and Educator. In the silence of the shrine, she helps us overcome our shortcomings, heals our hearts, and forms us to more closely follow Christ.

THE GRACE OF FRUITFULNESS

Apostolic Mission to Serve

We are sent forth from the shrine empowered to be active witnesses. It drives us to carry Christ's love to our families, workplaces, and the wider community.

The Covenant of Love: Spiritual Foundation

A dynamic, mutual relationship of love and sacrifice: 'Nothing without you, nothing without us'

The Core Consecration

The Covenant of Love is the heart of Schoenstatt's spirituality. It is an active consecration where we invite Mary to dwell in the shrine, and she offers us her motherly care and guidance.

Mutual Partnership

Beautifully summarized by the motto: 'Nothing without you, nothing without us.' The spiritual life and efficacy of the wayside shrine rest upon this mutual cooperation and sacrifice.

Nourishing the Sanctuary

While physically anchored on St. Bernard's land, the shrine is spiritually sustained by the prayers, love, and daily moral struggles (contributions to the 'capital of grace') of the local family.

The Calgary Mission: Sanctuary for Suffering

Extending the warmth of St. Bernard's sanctuary beyond the walls of a closed church temple

Proximity to Suffering

St. Bernard’s Parish is uniquely positioned immediately adjacent to three major healthcare facilities: Foothills Medical Centre (FMC), Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH), and the brand-new Arthur Child Cancer Centre.

The Closed-Temple Challenge

Due to administrative and security constraints, the parish church temple remains closed for most of the day. Families and patients have no place of prayer nearby.

A 24/7 Silent Sanctuary

An outdoor wayside shrine in the parish gardens provides a fully accessible, beautifully landscaped, 24/7 oasis of solace, prayer, and quiet encounter for those in crisis.

A Public Landmark: Design & Global Inspiration

Combining natural landscaping with sacred architecture to create an outdoor oasis of encounter

Humble & Harmonious Design

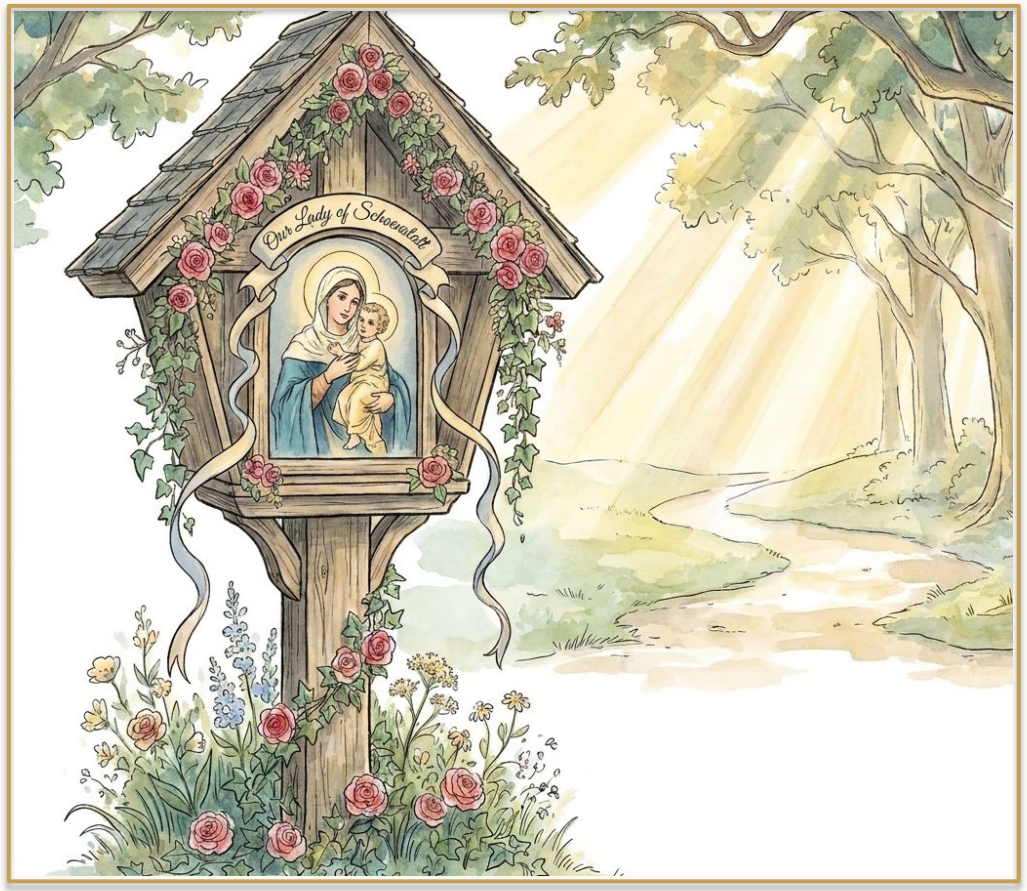
A tasteful public shrine built on parish grounds using durable, low-maintenance materials (brick, slate, timber) that blend beautifully with St. Bernard's mid-century architecture.

Natural Landscaped Oasis

Surrounded by quiet stone walkways and native perennials, the site is designed to create a peaceful garden alcove, naturally encouraging silence, rest, and contemplative prayer.

Community Gathering Hub

Designed with a compact but practical footprint, serving as a physical center for parish devotions, family prayer, and our monthly Covenant Day celebrations.



The Path Forward: Projected Timeline

A three-phase collaborative journey to prepare our parish soil and community hearts

1

PHASE 1

Diocesan & Pastor Approval

Obtaining formal approvals from the pastor, parish council, and Diocese of Calgary.

MOU Executed on June 26, 2026

2

PHASE 3

Construction & Prep

Executing physical site construction, gardening, and preparing hearts spiritually.

3

PHASE 4

Dedication & Blessing

Dedication ceremony on Covenant Day, October 18, 2026, after 9 AM Holly Mass.