

IMPULSE

04|2024

For Daily Living



Harvest



Secretariat Father Joseph Kantenich



Harvest

When you hold the new issue of our "Impulse for Daily Living" in your hands, you will probably be celebrating Thanksgiving in different ways in various towns and parishes.

The summer, which has brought us a lot of sun and warmth, is over, fall has begun. Fields and meadows have been mowed, some have already been plowed again. Fruit and vegetables have been harvested, some of them perhaps for storage; some cooked or frozen for the winter. Trees, bushes and shrubs bear their leaves in a colorful variety, which appear to be bathed in golden light by the autumn sun.

The photo on the front page encourages us to think about *harvest and Thanksgiving*. Against the background of a farmers' market in the Vogtland region, our gaze falls on the table with harvested turnips, red and white cabbage, potatoes and pumpkins,

in between beautifully decorated and color coordinated autumn flowers, chestnut leaves, and ears of corn. Everything looks harmonious and invites us to linger.

Perhaps you have recently gathered something similar in your own garden or noticed during a walk the mowed field, the empty fruit trees, and the last sunflowers in the neighborhood. As part of the harvest festival, we have thanked God personally or together in church services for everything that he has allowed to grow and flourish. Harvest and Thanksgiving could be an opportunity for us to consciously look at the good and beautiful things that have been given to us, our family, our friends and acquaintances in the past months of this year.

When we look back, we will probably not only think of positive things. There were certainly also sad and difficult events, some strokes of fate and disappointments, that we cannot simply ignore.

*A piece of life program,
that we should all write in our
hearts: Difficulties of any kind
are tasks.*

JOSEPH KENTENICH

All of this is part of our lives and it is still important not to forget to cultivate gratitude.

In our search for experiences that inspire us to give thanks, it is worth noting a few and mentally placing them on the coffee table of our cover picture.

“Thank you, good God, for our daily food, for the refreshing rain, for everything new that I was allowed to get to know, for all small and big successes, for every word of appreciation that I received, for every initially inconspicuous small thing that gave me new courage.”

We can “pull out” a note like this with words of thanks when things get busy again in the coming weeks. Thanksgiving is not only in November.

Impulse for everyday life

Could the “Year of Prayer” proclaimed by the Holy Father be an occasion to focus not only on the prayer of thanksgiving this October, but also on praying the rosary?

Pope Francis calls the prayer of the rosary “the summary of the history of God’s mercy. The mysteries that pass by us are concrete gestures in which God’s action towards us unfolds. Mary accompanies us on this journey and shows us the Son, who radiates the mercy of God himself.” (10-8-2016)

Thanksgiving can also simply be in the midst of life and inspire us to a silent personal or communal prayer of thanksgiving.

In addition to giving thanks for the harvest offerings in the church tradition, October also includes the invitation to pray the rosary.

For many, praying the entire rosary or individual phrases is probably a regular or occasional part of their prayer treasure, while others may find this form of prayer rather difficult. In times of hardship and uncertainty, many people have found that the rosary can become a “prayer to hold on to”, giving them new strength and courage to carry on.

For the coming weeks, I hope that you will always have the opportunity for a small “harvest festival” and the experience of being accompanied by the Blessed Mother.

Sr. Gisela-Maria Mues



Testimonies

Renate Martin

For a long time in my youth, I asked myself whether church was only what I experienced locally in my parish; namely, a weekly Sunday Mass at the end of which everyone went home without experiencing human community, without having the impression that people knew who you were and that you belonged. In the city parishes in the 50's and 60's, people remained largely anonymous. For me, church became a family-like community for the first time, when I experienced a completely different church climate in Schoenstatt. It soon became clear that this "trademark" emanated from Fr Kentenich, especially when we were able to experience him during the October Weeks in 1966 and wanted to absorb as much as possible from this founder. So after his return home, my husband Norbert and I experienced him on very different occasions, in larger or smaller groups. Our affection for him grew through very human experiences. But as students and young academics, living far from Schoenstatt, we also picked up his books until we grew into his family work.

Two of his keywords gradually became guiding stars and challenges for us, also for us through personal encounters: spiritual care and apostolate. How can these two worlds be brought into

balance in a family? Doesn't apostolate absorb our strength so that spiritual care withers away? Does spiritual care, i.e. the attempt to create a religious family life from the real environment that we want to win for God in the apostolate? Are we not either unworldly or obsessed with business? Fr. Kentenich balanced the two for us. I would like to give two examples.

On April 30, 1966, Father Kentenich met with the representatives of the Family Work from the League, the Federation and the Association. They were very excited: What guidance would he give to this group of his work that had grown up in his presence? To our great surprise, it was not a question of structure or advice for further development or the mutual relationship between the family communities. It was about the life of faith, about the application of the most precious thing that had grown for him in the Dachau years and during the time in Milwaukee: the childlike trust in God's guidance, the faithful interpretation of events, the discovery that God had always shown himself to be a Father who leads his children through all adversity when they entrust themselves to his love. This trust: God

is there and loves each and every one of us in a very concrete way, was also his

top priority when it came to families! And he also expressed this when he comforted and encouraged us with his promise of prayer during the life-threatening illness of one of our children.

Even after Fr. Kentenich's death, a Schoenstatter approached us to say that he had asked about the condition of our seriously ill child, although his schedule was full of important appointments and meetings at the time. For us, this was proof that even in his turbulent life full of "apostolic work" he did not forget his promise to pray for the recovery of a baby! Mental fitness into old age!

However, apostolate was always the second pillar, which was to be nourished by this cultivation of the spirit and was to shape everyday life. In mid-August 1968, a few days before Father Kentenich's death my husband told him on the phone about a scientific paper he had to write. Father



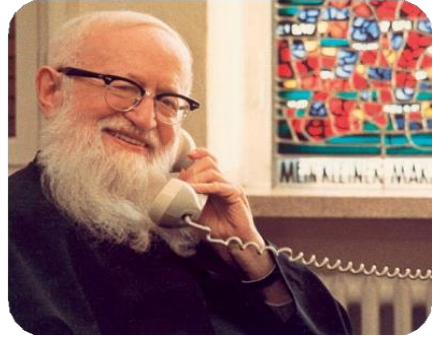
Kentenich hesitated for a moment and then replied: "Yes, the analytical topic you are working on is important, but I

would like you to consider: do as much as you can to strengthen healthy families in their Christian life." A call to apostolate! This sentence has always resonated with us and was something of a signpost for us. Again and again, God's providence opened unexpected doors for us that led to precisely this apostolate. And more and more we have been amazed over the years at how prescient Father Kentenich's advice was. Because he helped families who were increasingly burdened to the point of the then unimaginable material and tests of endurance to which they are exposed today.

The cultivation of the spirit and the apostolate have convinced us, shaped us and carried us through life in our continuous involvement with Fr. Kentenich. We have experienced in the community with many families shaped by the spirituality of Schoenstatt that both are very compatible, indeed that one cannot be lived without the other. What we have been given as a harvest, so to speak, on this path has made our lives rich and worth living and has proved to be a source of strength over the decades.

Renate Martin and her husband, Dr. Norbert (+2020), belong to the Schoenstatt Family Federation

He helps He helps



Car Found

After an enjoyable day at an outing, we wanted to go home and went to the parking lot but could not find our car. We looked for about 45 minutes, then spent another 20 minutes looking, but no success. We prayed and asked Fr. Kentenich to help us and soon a young man came with his car and offered to help us, driving us to the correct parking lot where we found our car.

E.P., WI

Cancer Free

A Schoenstatt member had a difficult colon cancer surgery. We prayed to Fr. Kentenich and asked for his intercession. After some complications concerning the surgery, he was told that he was cancer free now. Thank you Fr. Kentenich!

C.B., WI

Adoption of Twins

For two years my niece and her husband have cared for twins. They went through all the legal requirements and now are able to officially adopt the twins. I believe Fr. Kentenich interceded for this prayer intention!

C.D., WI

Wallet Found

An elderly woman lost her wallet with her credit card, etc. We searched everywhere, nothing was found in or around the house. I begged Fr. Kentenich to intercede. In the evening we heard the wallet was found in a public place. Indeed, Fr. Kentenich interceded and the wallet was found by an honest person who turned it into the lost and found.

M.E., NY

Physical Weakness Overcome

Our granddaughter – 13 years old – suddenly couldn't eat any more and she was getting weaker and weaker. During the medical examination at the hospital, the cause could not be found. In this great distress, we asked Father Kentenich for his intercession and prayed for her health. After four days, our granddaughter was much better and could be discharged from the hospital. We are extremely grateful for the help we have received and ask that it be published.

August 2024/ A. H.

Negative RESULT

At the last Covenant of Love celebration, I asked Fr. Joseph Kentenich's intercession, that the biopsy I was waiting for because of a surgical procedure on my skin might turn out to be negative! The first biopsy had been inconclusive, so it was sent to SP, and today I received the news that it was negative!

Pain RELIEF

A few years ago, I had extremely severe osteoarthritis in my joints, combined with a lot of pain. As I had also heard of people who had to take morphine-based medication due to osteoarthritis, I was quite shocked. The orthopedist suggested either surgery or painkillers. I asked Father Kentenich for his intercession and, I wrote a letter to the Sisters of Mary, for their prayers for healing or relief of this pain. In fact, the pain has been alleviated to this day and I can live with it. I would like to thank you very much for this and ask you to publish it.

July 2024/ W. B.R.

Support APPROVED

I would like to thank Father Kentenich and the Blessed Mother from the bottom of my heart for their intercession. My grandchild had difficulties in German and math at school and in the first two years of

school the parents noticed this and contacted the teachers. They were parents who demanded too much to their children. It was only the teacher of the 3rd grade, who said that a test was necessary to find out why the difficulties existed and a partial math weakness and a pronounced reading/spelling weakness were then identified. After many examinations, tests in various places and a change of test person, it was not clear whether the treatment would be paid for. The family with four children can't cope on its own. It was clear to me that I could always ask Father Kentenich and the Blessed Mother for help. And after a long, grueling wait, the promise came that the costs would be covered. You can rely on Father Kentenich and the Mother of God. Thank God for that. That is why I would like to share this special trust in prayer.

August 2024/S. B.

MOBILITY restored

A young father with two small children had a serious fall on his bike, in which he broke several bones in his leg. It was very painful for him and his family. I prayed to Father Kentenich again and again for his intercession. In the meantime, the young man has recovered to such an extent that he can work again and feels well. Grateful and happy, I ask for publication.

July 2024/M. H.



A warm welcome to visit the Father House!

In this historical house, you can learn about the person and mission of the servant of God, Schoenstatt's Founder, Father Joseph Kentenich. After the purchase of the farm land in 1963, the original farm house was renovated and used for events and meetings. As Father Kentenich often visited with people in this house, it was given its name: Father House.

You are welcome to visit this house with its many historic rooms, as it is open daily from 8 am to 8 pm.

A cordial invitation to visit the Father House!

W284 N404 Cherry Lane Waukesha, WI



*Come and ask for a tour. Learn
the history within these walls!*



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Whenever this pamphlet directly or indirectly states that Father Kentenich is a "saint" it is always the expression of private opinion. The decision of the Church is in no way anticipated.