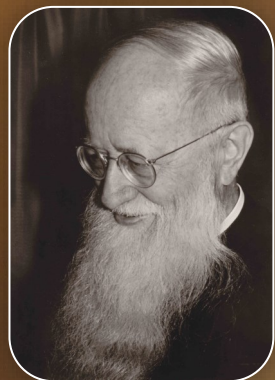


# IMPULSE

21/2021

## *for Daily Living*



In the year of Saint Joseph:

“Take the Child  
and his Mother...”

(Mt 2,13)



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

# *Take the child and his mother!* (Mt 2,13)

## *Saint Joseph and Father Kentenich*

*Pope Francis has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph," which will continue until December 8, 2021. The reason for this is the fact that 150 years ago Saint Joseph was declared patron saint of the Church.*



Father Kentenich was attached to Saint Joseph in a special way throughout his life. This resulted from the very fact that this saint was his patron saint. As a priest and founder, he often gave sermons or talks on this day and contemplated various aspects of the life of Jesus' foster father: his silence, his listening to God's word, his unconditional obedience, but above all also the central task that was

repeatedly entrusted to him in his dreams: "Take the Child and his Mother!"

In these words, Father Kentenich saw in a certain way his own task in life and the mission of Schoenstatt, his foundation, in a nutshell: never to separate the Child and his Mother from each other, to accept them as a great treasure in one's life and then to bring them close to the people. To proclaim the inner unity of Christ and Mary everywhere was one of his central concerns.

In a talk given on March 19, 1966, he gives testimony to this in the following way: "Joseph, get up! Take the Child and his Mother!"

First of all, he obviously has the task, the mission, to make sure that the Child and his Mother reign in his own heart in indissoluble two-in-oneness. "Take the child and his Mother."

What should we emphasize in today's meaning, in terms of currents of today's Church ...? "Take the Child and his Mother!" The two-in-oneness!

Plea for us: We too should, if we share his mission – and we do that in a special way under this view point – make sure that the two-in-oneness exists in indissoluble two-in-oneness between the Savior and the

Mother of God, that both persons rule our heart, our whole life.

“Joseph, get up, take the Child and his Mother!” Thus, carry him out, bring him to the nations!

This is a great task, which we must never forget in today's confused and confusing times ... Let us take Jesus and Mary in holy two-in-oneness wherever we have a task.

Once again, we say that this two-in-oneness is not to the disadvantage of Christ, but to the advantage, to the most necessary advantage! ...

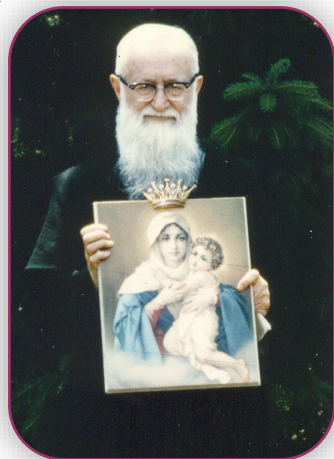
We suffer from the fact that we know all kinds of things, but love and live too little. We may study, fill our minds with facts of science, but what will help us to receive Christ, Christ alive in us, to take Christ in as a life-giving personality? ... The way through the Blessed Mother – Our Lady gives us a *vitalis Christi cognitio* (living knowledge of Christ). What does that mean? A living knowledge, a knowledge linked with love, a loving, embracing knowledge; a

living – *vitalis* – therefore also a life-giving one. If Christ is to fulfill his mission as redeemer of the world, we must never separate him from his blessed Mother."

What Father Kentenich stated here is also confirmed by Pope Francis in his letter for the Year of

Joseph. The Holy Father calls Jesus and Mary the most precious treasure of our faith. He invites us that we, like

Joseph, guard this treasure with all our strength. We are to learn "care and responsibility from Joseph: to love the Child and his Mother; to love the sacraments and fraternal charity; to love the Church and the poor. Each of these realities is always the Child and his Mother."



## Suggestions

- *What aspect of the life of Saint Joseph speaks to me the most?*
- *How might I apply his example on this point concretely to me?*
- *What do the words "Take the Child and his Mother!" mean to me personally?*

## *Patris corde - with a fatherly heart*

*Read here a few excerpts from the Letter of Pope Francis on the occasion of the Year of Saint Joseph.*

*Undoubtedly, the aspects of his fatherhood, as drawn here, were also decisive for the way Father Kentenich understood and lived his priestly fatherhood.*

### **Father in obedience**

As God revealed his plan of salvation to Mary, he also revealed it to Joseph. God did this through dreams which in the Bible, as among all the ancient peoples, were regarded as one of the ways through which God makes known his will.

In every situation of life, Joseph was able to express his *fiat* (let it be done to me), as Mary did at the Annunciation and Jesus did in Gethsemane.

### **Father in acceptance**

Often things happen in our lives whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is often one of disappointment and resistance. Joseph leaves his reflections aside to give space to what is happening. However mysterious it may seem to him, he accepts it, takes responsibility for it, and reconciles it with his own history. If we do not reconcile with our history, we will not be able to take the next step, because we will always then remain hostage to our expectations and the resulting disappointments.

Joseph is not a passively resigned man. He is a courageous and strong protagonist. The ability to accept something is one way in which the gift

of fortitude that comes from the Holy Spirit is manifested in our lives. Only the Lord can give us the strength to accept life as it is, and to give room even to what is contradictory, unexpected, or disappointing in it.

### **Father with creative courage**

The Gospel tells us that God always succeeds in saving what matters, provided that we have the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth. He knows how to turn a problem into an opportunity by always trusting first and foremost in Providence.

If God sometimes does not seem to help us it does not mean that he has abandoned us, but that he trusts us and in what we can plan, develop, and find.

The Gospel does not give any information about the time when Mary and Joseph and the Child were in Egypt. Certainly, however they had to eat, find a place to stay and work. It does not take much imagination to fill the silence of the Gospel in this regard. The Holy Family had to face concrete problems, like all other families, like many of our brothers and sisters who, even today as migrants, are still forced to risk their lives.



At the end of all the scenes in which Joseph plays an important role, the Gospel notes, that he gets up, takes the Child and his Mother and does what God has commanded him to do (cf. Mt 1:24; 2:14.21). In fact, Jesus and Mary, his mother, are the most precious treasure of our faith.

### Father in the shadow

In his book *The Shadow of the Father*, the Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński narrates in novel form the life of Saint Joseph. With the impressive image of the shadow, he outlines the figure of Joseph, who, in relation to Jesus, is the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father. He guards and protects him, does not forsake him, and follows his steps.

Every time someone takes responsibility for the life of another, he is exercising, in a certain sense, fatherhood.

In all circumstances, we must always be mindful of the exercise of fatherhood, we must always see that it is never possessive, but rather points symbolically to a higher fatherhood. In a sense, we are all always in Joseph's position: we are "shadows" of the one Father in heaven, who makes his sun rise on the bad and the good and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust (cf. Mt 5:45); and we are "shadows" in following the Son.

Saint Joseph as the  
patron saint of the Church.  
Motherhouse Chapel of the  
Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary  
Photo: M. M. Zell

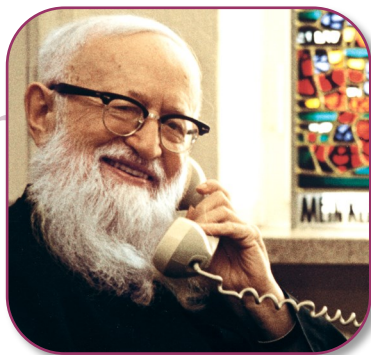


# He Helps

## PROFESSIONAL

I am a company consultant and, because of the pandemic, sales in the last quarter of 2020 were very poor. I was in a difficult situation and under a lot of pressure from my bosses. In spite of everything, Father Kentenich helped me to keep calm and trust. December 8 came, the feast of the Blessed Mother, on which we also celebrated "100 years of Women in the Schoenstatt Movement." I helped in the communications team. Early in the morning, I got ready to finish my work in time to be able to participate at 5:00 p.m. in the celebration of the jubilee of the women. When I was about to leave the house, I found myself standing in front of the box with quotes from Father Kentenich and said to him: "What do you think about what I am doing now? I feel very bad about my work, and I want to even stop earlier today in order to go to the celebration at the Schoenstatt Shrine. Is this good or bad?"

With these thoughts, I pulled out a card. It said, "You did it right. Keep doing what you've been doing. Everything else I'll take care of." Naturally, I left the house full of joy. In the following three days I received three calls from customers and did business for several thousand dollars. This had a very positive effect on my work. Father Kentenich is faithful and always there for me. *E. C., January 2021, Ecuador*



My nephew was not involved in any work until he was 30 years old because of psychological problems. He had dropped out of school after the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We were very worried about him. I have always asked the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich again and again to see to it that "a door" would open. Due to various events, he suddenly began to look intensively for a job. Although he could not prove his education, he was offered a chance. Now since seven weeks, he has been doing regular work. His daily routine is structured. We are grateful for that! We trust that he will continue to receive the necessary help. *C. H., April 2021*

I applied for a new job that I desperately needed. The job description sounded very ideal and the location was in close proximity. I entrusted the intention to Father Kentenich and then applied knowing that my chances most probably were slim due to the many applicants. On the third day of my novena to him, I received a phone call for a second interview and at that occasion was informed that I did have the necessary qualifications and I did get the job! Thank you Father Kentenich.

*M. B., Ohio*

I was given an important assignment that could only be done on the computer, but I had very little experience with the computer and was very nervous about the project. I entrusted this to Father Kentenich, hoping that he could help me find a way to complete the task at hand. Shortly afterwards, the possibility opened that I could receive some help from a relative who gave me a “crash course” which thus enabled me to complete the job on time. Thank you Fr. Kentenich!

*Wisconsin*

## IN SICKNESS

About eleven years ago I had asked for prayer support for a girl suffering from cancer. She is now more than twenty years old. She is doing well, and in the meantime she had received the diagnosis that she was out of treatment. Over the years she has had metastases in her lungs from time to time. But now she seems to be stable. Thank you for your prayers.

*I. G., January 2021*

One of my friends has a son in South Africa. He got married there and had his first child with his wife. The young family wanted to come and visit the mother, who is seriously ill. She needed many surgeries. The test now showed that her son had a Covid infection. We have prayed for him. I would like to thank the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich, and especially the dear God who always walks with me. The son is now healthy. We continue to pray for the mother.

*U. L., February 2021*

My wife came down with the Covid 19 Virus and refused to go to the Doctor

because she didn't want to be put on oxygen. Our family prayed to Father Kentenich for his intercession, especially when her condition became gravely serious. Within 24 hours her health improved considerably and we attribute it to Father Kentenich's help.

*Minnesota*

## TRANSPORTATION

On May 3, 2021, we set out on a pilgrimage to the International Shrine in Waukesha, Wisconsin. We travelled in a medium size car with four passengers. We had to take the opportunity to make use of space as efficiently as possible. We had everything packed except one large MTA picture. For a few moments it seemed that it was not going to be possible to take our MTA picture along because of its size. Then I prayed to our father and founder and asked him if it gave glory to God and through our Blessed Mother's intercession if we would be granted the miracle of "space" for the MTA picture. I asked Father Kentenich just like Mary at Cana when there was no wine – our car had no more space... At that moment we tried to place the MTA picture behind the rear seats of the car where the back glass is located. At first try it did not fit and would stick out, not allowing the rear passengers to have their heads in the correct position. Then upon the second try, it slid into place just as smooth as a glove without sticking out or poking the heads of the rear passengers.

I would like to thank Father Kentenich for helping us to making it possible to take the MTA picture.

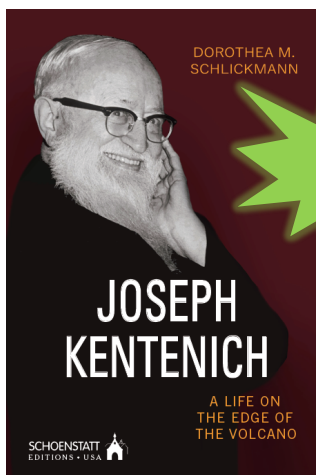
## **Father Joseph Kentenich**

**- Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement -**

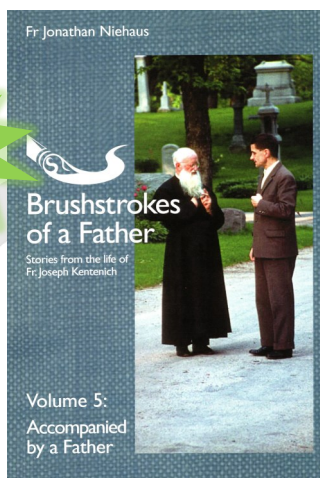
was born on November 16, 1885, in Gymnich near Cologne and died on September 15, 1968, in the Trinity Church of Berg Schoenstatt, immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass. He is also buried in this church. His sarcophagus bears the inscription ***Dilexit ecclesiam - He loved the church.***

The **Secretariat Father Josef Kentenich** distributes information about Father Kentenich, to those who are acquainted with Schoenstatt's spirituality and pray on his intercession. You will be able to find more information and novenas from Fr. Kentenich in our centers.

### **Request for the new publications:**



**Joseph Kentenich**  
**A Life on the Edge**  
**of the Volcano**



**Brushstrokes #5**

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\*Translated from the German  
by Sr. Marihedwig Heisig

*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.*