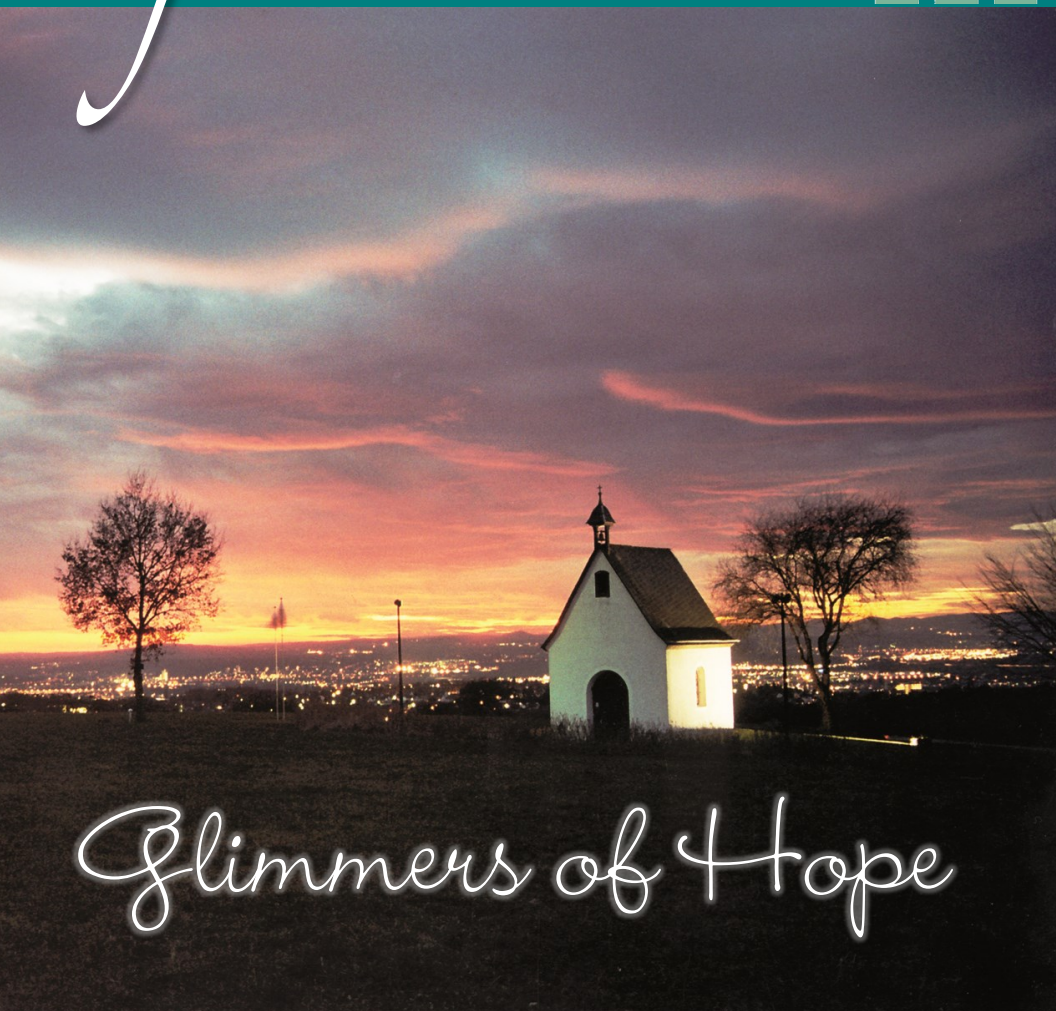


# IMPULSE

21/2021

# *for Daily Living*



## *Glimmers of Hope*



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

## *With Glimmers of Hope*

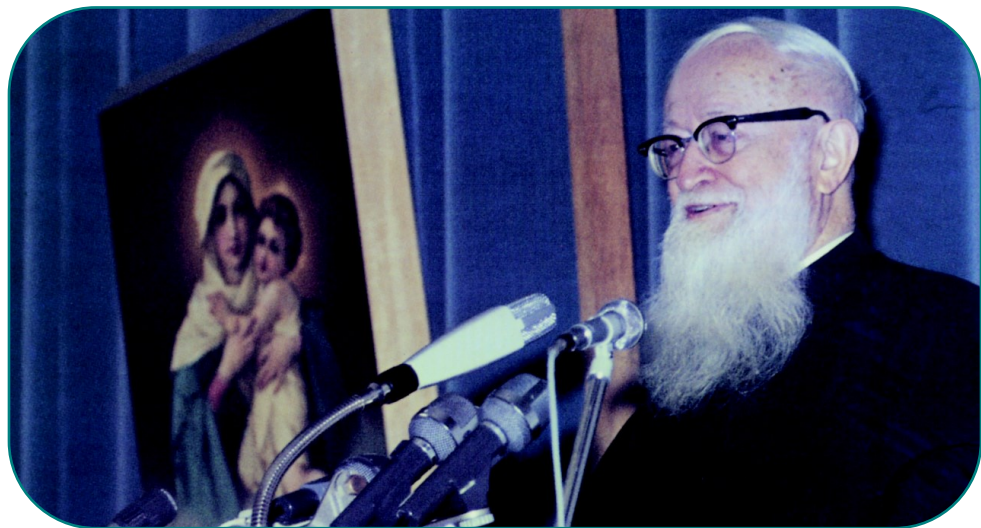
"Hope is the last thing to die!" – A generally well-known proverb. We humans need hope, especially in difficult times, in crisis situations. So the longing for a glimmer of hope is also alive now: Hope for an end to the pandemic, for a good vaccine, an effective medicine. Hope that the economic situation will improve again, that stores, restaurants ... will not perish completely but will be able to continue offering their services. Hope that we will soon be able to meet again without worries, to do things together, to celebrate together. And with regard to our Church: hope for an inner renewal in faith, for a common journey in truth and love in a genuine Christian spirit. Hope that the Holy Spirit will become active anew. Our faith and trust are newly challenged. We often hear it said how important it is to think

positively: to see the positive in every situation, to find the good side of it. Undoubtedly, this is very important. However, how do we manage when we are hit really hard? When a child, a loved one is terminally ill? When I lose my job? When relationships break down? ...

***What gives you hope?*** - This question was recently posed to young people through an Internet channel. Answers included, "My family and friends ..." - "When I see young people getting involved ..." - "A simple smile." And, "Mary – because with her, good will prevail."

***What would you answer?***

If you were to ask Father Kentenich, his answer would most likely also be a reference to Mary, our dear Blessed Mother, whose



faithfulness, power, and goodness he often experienced in his life. In all the dark situations, in all the dangers for himself and his life's work, the Schoenstatt Movement, his reaction was always along the lines of: We surrender ourselves entirely to the Blessed Mother, and we trust completely in her. Then she will do it. That is how convinced he was of the mutual covenant of love that he had made with Mary at Schoenstatt's founding hour in 1914. Someone testified: "Being close to Father Kentenich, I learned that for him there is no *impossible*. He always trusted without limits in the power and goodness of the Blessed Mother, and he believed in the reality of the covenant of love. This was the secret of his life." A young man who visited him during his years of exile in the United States, as decreed by the Church, relates: "Once, during a walk, I asked him if he really still believed in returning to Schoenstatt, when everything spoke against it and the decrees from Rome constrained him more and more. Then he suddenly stopped and said in a

solemn tone: 'Herewith I reveal to you the great secret of my childlike confidence and my sovereign tranquility: I have sealed the covenant of love!.' Therefore, Father Kentenich would probably advise us today as well:

*"We don't trust in people; we trust in God and in the Blessed Mother, whom the Triune God has given us as a reason for hope."*

It is not for nothing that the Church likes to call Mary the *Mother of Holy Hope*. During the days of the Easter cycle, which we are now celebrating in the Church year, we see anew that her faith and hope were invincible. When everything seemed hopeless, even lost, when she saw her Son die and later held him dead in her arms – in her heart there remained trust in God's power and in Jesus' words that he would rise again after three days. Easter, the feast that teaches us to hope with Mary in all the darkness of our time: God's love triumphs in the end!

*"We will never lose heart as Easter people."* J. Kentenich

### *Suggestions*

- *What "hopeless case" do I want to entrust to the Blessed Mother today? –*
- *To whom can I give hope today – even if it's just a smile?*

Sr. M. Resia Käppeler



## Testimonies from Letters of Readers

### *Never give up hope*

I have prayed many novenas to Father Kentenich. I have always felt his help. As a widow, mother of three children and three grandchildren, I couldn't cope very well with my life without God and without prayer. Of course, we can't get our requests fulfilled by God at the push of a button either. We also need to have patience and perseverance in prayer. I still hope for help for K. Fortunately, I have great confidence in God. He won't abandon us. So, let's never give up hope and prayer. Through trusting prayer, I will also experience God's help in my current request.



Every day I pray the novena "Sheltered in God – even in sickness, suffering, and need". Some time ago, when after seven years, I again had elevated tumor markers and was really afraid of death because of it, the novena *Be Not Afraid* helped me a lot. Without the novena prayer, something is missing in my day. I am restless until I pray and find strength,

comfort, and hope through it. My mother also always prays the novenas. With God, we find support and care, and I hope that God will give us many more years together for children and grandchildren. Thank you very much for the *Impulses for Life*. The texts about Father Kentenich always impress us. We have already watched the DVD *One Must Lead the Way* several times. It has touched us deeply. We have also given the book *A Life on the Edge of the Volcano* to relatives and friends.



Years ago, I went to Vallendar with a group of Schoenstatt men (including my husband). I had never heard of Father Kentenich before. But when I saw the picture of the Mother Thrice Admirable, I was fascinated. It was exactly this picture that my mother treasured very much. I was interested in the whole story of Father Kentenich's life. Since then, we go every year on a one-day pilgrimage. Only this year we couldn't, because of the pandemic. What a pity!

The picture of Father Kentenich is now at our bedside. I entrust my worries to him and I have already received help. I am happy about that and very grateful for it.



Today I would like to share with you how I have been helped through the intercession of Father Kentenich. During my last cancer check-up, I received a notice of suspected cancer, and as a result I was to be examined more closely. This triggered a wave of fear and worry in me. But now my faith and my trust in God's guidance was also required. This sentence of Father Kentenich helped me the most: "No, I'm not afraid; my father is at the helm. He will take care." This sentence is written on a little card that has been on my bedside table for a long time. Now was the time to prove myself, to trust God blindly that he had the right thing in mind for me.

I constantly asked Father Kentenich for his intercession, especially that I could trust God no matter what might come. Also, what Our Lady said at the wedding at Cana, "Do whatever he tells you to do," helped me to trust in Jesus as she did. Now the day before yesterday I got a good result after the blood test – better even than expected. I am very happy and grateful and I wouldn't want to be on the road of faith anymore without this exemplary trust of Father Kentenich. I am happy to gratefully pass this on to you and will also tell other people about it.



Father Kentenich had such a deep faith. It's not easy to follow him. I'm making an effort.



At my first encounter with Father Kentenich, unfortunately only posthumously, I was overwhelmed by his powerful charism and by the love and goodness that emanate from him. I regret that I only came into contact with Father Kentenich after his death.



# He Helps

## DEVASTATING SITUATION

I want to thank Fr. Kentenich for his intercession in resolving a very serious and complicated crisis that a family was experiencing. It looked hopeless and on the brink of a devastating situation. At the very end those involved received the grace to change their decision and the courage to follow through with it. Thank you Fr. Kentenich for your help!

*(DB, WI)*

## LOST ENVELOPE

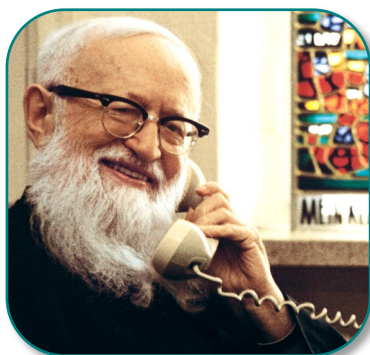
I asked Fr. Kentenich to deliver an envelope that was seemingly lost. I should have received it already two weeks earlier. I needed the material urgently and it actually arrived today as I prayed for it and not only to the mail box, but right to the door!

*(KB, NE)*

## ARRIVED ON TIME

My aunt was dying and I prayed to Fr. Kentenich that it would be possible that I could see her before she passed away. I had to fly in from out of state and there were many arrangements that needed to be taken care of before my departure. I was also having trouble getting off of work. In the last moment I found someone who would fill in for me at work. I took the first flight and arrived just hours before my aunt passed away. I could still speak with her and say goodbye. I am grateful to Fr. Kentenich.

*(TL, NY)*



## HELP IN ILLNESS

My sister-in-law, a mother of four young children, was diagnosed with cancer and so I immediately started a novena to Fr. Kentenich. Her surgery was scheduled for day nine of the novena so I trusted that, through the intercession of Fr. Kentenich, all would turn out well. In fact, the tumor was benign!

*(JH, OH)*

## TRANSFORMED

First of all, I thank you for your prayers for our son and our family. You had enclosed a brochure for me about Our Lady and Father Kentenich. One text gave me particular comfort and hope: "Where we as parents are often powerless and can bring about nothing in our children, the Blessed Mother can transform the "interior" – bring about inner transformation. I then asked the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich to transform our son as well, to take away from him the darkness that so burdens his spirit, and to make him happy and whole again. For me, for us, it's an answer to prayer and a wonderful help from the dear Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich: For some weeks now, our son has been transformed. He can be happy again and he is also able to

study again. He is interested in taking a Spanish course and over all he has once again become livelier. In addition, he has found a lovely Christian girl who is visibly good for him. We were able to experience all this progress, so that we can discover life and joy in him again. We are infinitely grateful.

*G. T., June 2020*

## **DURING EXAMS**

During the exams of our daughter we could once again experience the help of our dear Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich. Due to the pandemic, many classes were cancelled at the vocational school. The students had to prepare for the exam pretty much on their own. Our daughter went into the exam with a very bad feeling. The first two days of the exam went very well. The third day was very bad, so our daughter feared that she had not reached the exam goal. When the notification of the exam result came, we were all happy that in the end very good grades were achieved. During this time, we daily prayed novenas to Father Kentenich and the Blessed Mother. We are convinced that both of them always sent us the right help in our concerns. We thank them for the answer to our prayers and ask that they be published.

*I. S., December 2020*

## **PROFESSIONALLY**

My daughter changed jobs and took a temporary job in the public sector. The work was in line with her interests. She has a degree in environmental science. Good jobs are hard to find. The employment was for one year and then extended for

another year. The chances of finding a permanent position were slim because two of her colleagues also had temporary contracts. I asked the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich in prayer for intercessory help. The Sisters of Mary also prayed with me. After some unforeseen personnel changes, my daughter received a permanent contract. We are grateful. Our confidence was strengthened.

*F. W., February 2021*

## **CROWNING THE BLESSED MOTHER**

In this difficult time of the pandemic and other problems I had the inspiration to crown the Blessed Mother in the Exile Shrine. She was crowned in the Original Shrine in Schoenstatt, Germany, and later in the Cenacle Shrine in Santiago, Chile; to make it complete we needed to crown her in the Exile Shrine. The discussion about it went on for some time. It didn't seem to work. I asked Father Kentenich to help, and then the decision was made that we would crown her on December 8, 2020, in the Exile Shrine. – Thank you, Father Kentenich.

*M.C.B.*

## **IN SICKNESS**

The husband of one of the Schoenstatt Mothers suffered a stroke. I was asked to pray for this intention and entrusted this to Father Kentenich. After spending one night in the hospital, he was discharged and could return to his home. Now he is much better and will have some therapy for complete recovery. Thank you, Father Kentenich.

*M.C.B.*

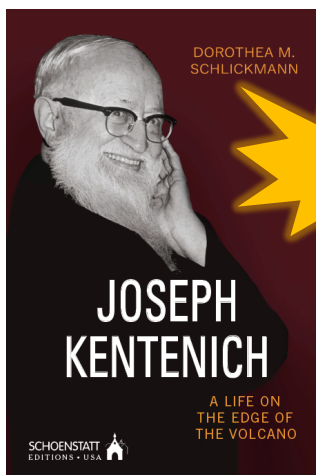
## **Father Joseph Kentenich**

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

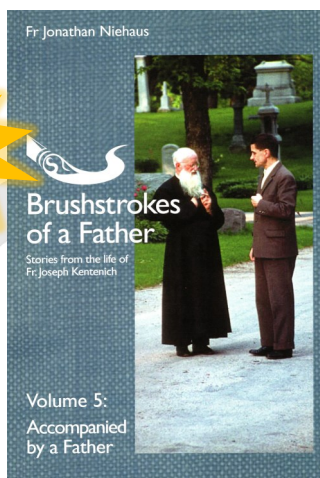
was born on November 16, 1885, in Gymnich near Cologne and died on September 15, 1968, in the Trinity Church of Berg Schoenstatt, immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass. He is also buried in this church. His sarcophagus bears the inscription ***Dilexit ecclesiam - He loved the church.***

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.*