

# IMPULSE

3|2022

*for Daily Living*



My  
Support



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

## *My support*

"The whole world surges back and forth." - These words, spoken by Fr. Kentenich in 1940, could just as well be said in view of our situation today. At that time, the Second World War had begun; insecurity and fear reigned everywhere. Today, in addition to new armed conflicts in Europe, there are insecurities on many levels, whether we think of health, the economy, society, the Church or other areas.

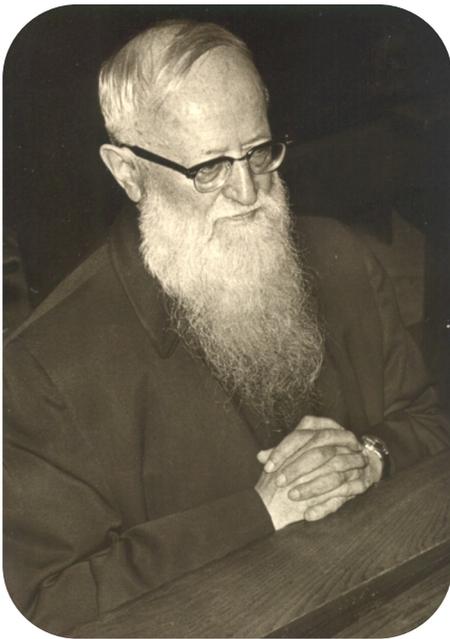
In addition, there are often

losing their jobs, who do not know whether they will survive a serious illness, who see no way out of a relationship crisis...

"The whole world surges back and forth" – and we feel helpless and powerless. If you continue reading words from Father Kentenich, the conclusion is: "All the more we must know that we are secure in God."

The founder of Schoenstatt likes to use the image of a pendulum to illustrate man's attitude to life. He invites us to conquer a certain security of the pendulum, "pendulum security":

"Towards the bottom, the pendulum is insecure; it can be set in motion by any breeze. It is often similar with the security of man on earth. Where does the pendulum have its security? At the top at the hook. It is similar with man. I am secured only in God. The man of today has no security with men on earth... What is needed is the bond with the great God."



personal challenges that are very unsettling and nowhere to find a secure hold. Prayer requests that are reported to our secretariat bear witness to this: people who are

Father Kentenich lived out of this trusting security. One of his longtime collaborators testifies: "When I met Father Kentenich and later was able to work with

him, my strongest impression was from the beginning: Here is a man who believes very concretely in the reality of God's presence in his life and dares to actively respond to it. Never before had I met a person with whom one could feel this mysterious presence of God so vividly, who was so completely imbued with it and who, in his

decisions, was always determined by it. And the strangest thing: He made no fuss about it at all.... Already after the first meeting I reflected on how this could be: God seemed very close to him, very familiar; one had the impression that he had just come from a conversation with him."

### *Impulses from Father Kentenich - Life from security in God*

*"In many things, we do not understand why the good God allows them. But he is all-wise; he knows why. He holds the reins of world events and our personal destiny in his hands; he directs and guides all that happens."*

*"What a sovereign peace it gives to be able to say to myself, 'God has entrusted my life, my work into his almighty fatherly hand! I have no other thing to do than to sovereignly and trustingly turn my gaze to him again and again. Therefore: Rooted in the supernatural world!'"*

*"The almighty God is above us. We are his children, safe in his hand. This gives us divine security. When do we feel safe? When someone loves us and we know he is powerful."*

*"Let us strive, in plain, simple, enlightened trust, not to let go of the hand of the Father. After all, we know the Heavenly Father has the power to protect and guide us; we only need to hold on to his benevolent hand."*

### **WHAT POSSIBILITIES DO I HAVE TO STRENGTHEN MY TRUST IN GOD?**

- *Reading the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures*
- *Slowly and contemplatively praying the Lord's Prayer*
- *Participating in holy Mass*
- ...

## *Information on the current status in the beatification process for Father Joseph Kentenich*

Dear Readers,

On May 3, 2022, the Bishop of Trier, Dr. Stephan Ackermann, announced his decision to suspend the beatification process for Father Joseph Kentenich for the time being. Since 1975, the diocesan investigation in the beatification process for Father Kentenich has been carried out in the diocese of Trier because Father Kentenich died in this diocese on September 15, 1968. Thus the responsibility for the process lies with the respective Bishop of Trier.

The news of the suspension of the process of beatification has had a great impact on many who are in favor of the founder of Schoenstatt and who are committed to his canonization. Therefore, a few brief comments on the decision of Bishop Dr. Ackermann.

### **What does this decision mean?**

**The suspension of the process does not mean that it is finished.**

Rather, Bishop Dr. Stephan Ackermann expresses, that for the moment he will not actively continue to give time for further free research to clarify some questions. These questions, especially about the accusations made public two years ago against Father Kentenich, were not new; they had had been made in the process of beatification and were

dealt with there. However, the bishop considers the previous investigations of the complex subject matter as insufficient. The press release of the Diocese of Trier states: 'The discussions of the last two years have shown that more in-depth research on the person and work of Joseph Kentenich is needed,' said Bishop Ackermann.

'That is why I would very much welcome it if there is corresponding research in the coming years.' At the same time, it was important for the bishop to point out that the suspension of the proceedings does not mean judgment of the life and work of Father Kentenich.

### **How does Schoenstatt react to this decision?**

For the Schoenstatt Movement, the integrity of Father Kentenich is not in question. The fact that the proceedings have only been suspended shows that nothing has been proven that would speak against the continuation of the trial.

The request of the bishop to use this time for intensive research - also by scholars outside of Schoenstatt - meets a heartfelt concern of Father Kentenich. He wrote in 1964 during his exile that Schoenstatt "should not only be taken note of by ecclesiastical authorities, but also studied, critically evaluated and with their blessing sent out into the wide

world".

In the statement of the General Presidium it says in this sense: "Where previously, out of consideration for the ongoing beatification proceedings, restraint and discretion were required, questions and findings can now be dealt with and communicated with the necessary openness. Considerations as to the framework the research will take are underway. The bishop's decision is an impulse for us as Schoenstatters. The further research of the connections can help us understand the founder of Schoenstatt even better, also as a personality who was aware of his mission for the Church. Our striving for a contemporary authentic Christian life that helps to shape Church and society, is the best way to keep Father Kentenich alive in his significance for today."

### **What are the consequences?**

The call of St. Pope John Paul II to the Schoenstatt Movement in 1985: "You (must) canonize him!" is still valid. So it is and remains our task to continue to make Fr. Kentenich known to many people and to present his person, his life and his message. Through private veneration, we do not anticipate the judgment of the Church, on the contrary. A private devotion must be present if a person is to be beatified and canonized. The Secretariat of Father Joseph Kentenich continues to distribute



December 22, 1965: Fr. Kentenich with Pope Paul VI.

the writings that make him known and inspire confidence in him and his intercession. You can freely report your concerns that you have .

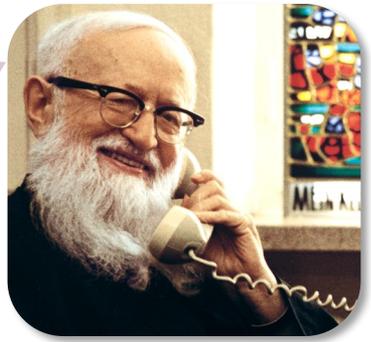
We are also very grateful if you continue to send us your donations so that we can finance the costs incurred. This includes the research work.

### **Sister M. Adele Gertsen**

*Notice:*

*On the homepage [www.schoenstatt.de](http://www.schoenstatt.de) in the section "Causa Kentenich" (<https://www.schoenstatt.de/de/causa-kentenich.htm>) you will find the link to the press release of the Diocese of Trier of May 03, 2022, the corresponding statement of the General Presidium of the Schoenstatt Movement and a letter of the President of the General Presidium of the Schoenstatt Work.*

# He Helps



## IN ILLNESS

In the spring of 2021, my girlfriend was diagnosed with a tumor on one kidney. It had to be checked. After several examinations in November, the doctor found that the tumor had changed, but it had not yet spread. Cancer was suspected. She had surgery on February 17, 2022. A week later she was back home. Ten days later, a doctor contacted her by phone and said, "I have good news for you. The tumor was benign. There is probably no greater joy you can give a patient. Ninety percent of all kidney tumors are malignant." She is unspeakably grateful for all the prayers, especially for the intercession of the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich. He is a great intercessor for us. I was able to witness the celebration on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Kentenich's death. I pray for his beatification.

*M. K., February 2022*

## FOR SCHOOL PROBLEMS

One of our daughters was having a very hard time in school and was extremely anxious and nervous before every exam, often causing a real black-out. In ninth grade, the final exams were approaching, and we were very worried if she would even be able to graduate. She had very poor grades in the mock exams, and passing was out of the question

at the time. In our distress we prayed for her to pass the exam. We did not care about the grade. To our great surprise, our daughter then went relatively calmly into the exams and became more confident from day to day in the exam phase. She passed her secondary school exams so well that she now has the self-confidence to continue her schooling and to take her secondary school diploma and her vocational baccalaureate. If someone had told us this a year ago, we would have just laughed at them. But for God, nothing is impossible. For us, this development of our daughter is really a miracle.

*H. K., February 2022*

## AFTER AN ACCIDENT

On January 16, 2022, I had a serious skiing accident, with intermediate unconsciousness. Due to different, serious diagnoses by several specialists, our concern was very great. A major operation was then to take place, lasting for hours, with an uncertain outcome. In our distress, we turned to Schoenstatt, as we had done so many times before, asking for help in prayer. Surgery is now no longer necessary. The bones are in such good shape that they can grow together without surgery.

It still takes a few weeks, but we are full of hope and confidence. Once again, we were able to experience help.

*D. and W. J., February 2022*

## IN SEARCH OF AN APARTMENT

A relative had been looking in vain for an apartment for a long time. I sent her a novena for intercession through Father Kentenich and a book about him. I advised her to trust in Father Kentenich. Of course, I also accompanied her in trust and prayer. Father Kentenich obviously helped. She found an apartment and even more, I believe, a home in the nearby Schoenstatt Shrine. *R. B., February 2022*

## PROFESSIONALLY

I especially thank Father Kentenich for the fact that I received an acceptance for my "dream department" last year. I liked it there very much during my training, and that is why I was very happy when a position finally became available in this department. I applied even though I was only in my second year of training. I couldn't believe it when I got the acceptance for this position over the phone. I have also experienced Father Kentenich's help many other times. I would like to thank him very much for that. He never lets me down.

*A. F., March 2022*

*Dear Readers,*

*I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that there has been a change in personnel in the Father Joseph Kentenich Secretariat. After thirty years in charge of the Secretariat, I will end my service at the end of June 2022 for reasons of age (I am now 84 years old).*

*For the time being, Sister M. Resia will take over my duties. She has worked with me all these years and is already known to many of you. You can continue to send requests and reports of answered prayers to the Father Joseph Kentenich Secretariat.*

*During the many years I have worked in the Secretariat, many a relationship of trust has developed. I will gladly continue to pray for the intentions that I know about.*

*Yours,* 

## Father Joseph Kentenich

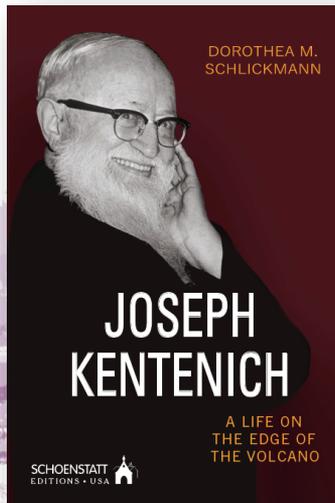
- Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement -

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' spirituality and pray on his intercession. You will be able to find more information and novenas from Fr. Kentenich in our centers.

### Request the publication:

in Spanish  
&  
English



### *A Life at the Edge of the Volcano*

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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.*