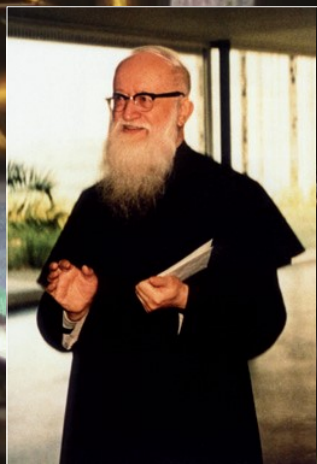


IMPULSES

4/2017

for Daily Living

*That is
what matters...*



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

That is what matters

Tunnel Experiences

We experience it time and again: We feel our limitations. Temperamentally: Some lose self-control; others suppress disappointments and their souls are burdened; others escape into activities or a dream world as a response to failure. Our strength also has limitations. Things go wrong in our life. Such experiences can be compared with traveling through a tunnel. In this connection Father Kentenich speaks about a “tunnel” through which God is leading us. There is no daylight in the tunnel; it is narrow. It goes straight forward; we must trust that we come out into the open again because we cannot turn around in the tunnel and go back.

Why Tunnels?

Tunnels are built where it is not possible to make a road on open countryside, for instance, through a mountain. The way through a tunnel may not be pleasant, but it leads us through the mountain. Often we find a new outlook, new scenery.

That may be an image of what Father Kentenich calls “a very special way of God’s love”: where we accept tunnel experiences and live through limitation experiences correctly. They give us a new view. God does not allow our “miseries” to “keep us

small” as some people think. He wants to protect us from an attitude about life where we inevitably will fail, the attitude: we are in charge.

We experience at the present time how wrong such an attitude is: Human capabilities may be almost brilliant – at the end is always the helplessness in the face of destructive factors. The German magazine “Spiegel” said on 02-28-2016: “The world becomes poorer. More radical. Less democratic. Autocrats govern more brutally; religious zealots are gaining ground; increase in prosperity does not eliminate poverty: A recent study sees a very troubled world.” This troubled world is man-made.

Society in Fear

That is the name of a bestseller by Heinrich Bude. He describes fear as a constant “noise in the background” of our attitude towards life. Above all it is the fear to make mistakes; the world seems ever less controllable. The money and finance system is one example that instills fear: “It is the fear that nobody masters this process because all are involved and all have different expectations.

The reaction: Individuals try to take control in as many areas of life as possible. Because that does not work many more people suffer from depression.

What Father Kentenich meant when he said we should see “limitation experiences as God’s special way of love” becomes clear on the background of such developments. They not only show us realistically the limitation of human capabilities (the darkness and narrowness of the tunnel), they can direct us to a breakthrough experience: The one who has power and wisdom and kindness, who leads all to a good conclusion is waiting for us at the end of the tunnel.

“Papa and I can do it”

Five-year old Max reacts with this commentary when Mama returns home with a flat tire of the bicycle. Obviously we know who is playing the decisive part in repairing the tire. But Max sees it differently: Papa could not have done it without him. Max can repair a tire, of course, with Papa on the team. And how happy Papa is that he has Max!

A common picture from daily life that can be applied to adults: God wants that we develop, that we experience our greatness, that we are happy about our abilities. But precisely that is the reason why it is important for him that we realistically acknowledge: I am too weak for many things. Present-day life is uncontrollable. Perfectionism is not the right way.

That is what matters:

To unite ourselves with God, with his power, his wisdom, his

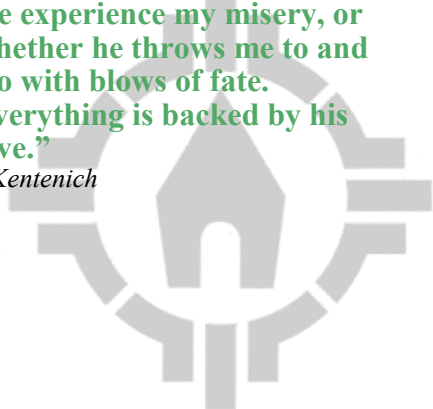
capabilities when we are overwhelmed. He is always ready to be there for us as the good Father. He is happy when opening up new possibilities for development in our relationship.

The biblical word for this is: Mercy. When God mercifully turns to us because we meet him with our weakness, he will not belittle us but will help us develop our abilities.

With this insight Father Kentenich shaped his educative activity. Where in spite of human limitations and great difficulties something great is developing, God’s mercy is active. If that is the case, the future looks bright. That was the secret of Father Kentenich’s optimistic attitude towards life. As soon as we unite with God in our weaknesses and limitations, he gives us strength. Then we are stronger. It is important that we believe in his love.

“He loves me! Whether he gives me his mercy, whether he lets me experience my misery, or whether he throws me to and fro with blows of fate. Everything is backed by his love.”

J. Kentenich



Always only God

(1st continuation from Impulse Nr. 3-2017)

Father Kentenich was appointed spiritual director in the Minor Seminary of the Pallottines in 1912. The students prepared to become priests. Contrary to the prevailing pedagogy of obligations, Father Kentenich introduced a new way and based it on education for freedom.

The teachers and superiors downright mistrusted the new beginning, or even opposed it. But the spiritual director heard God's call in the situation and wanted to respond to God's call.

What he did in the small circle in the House of Studies prepared something great within a large framework. He could point out later that the "education for freedom with which we started must quite simply be the program of our time".

Carefully but goal-directed Father Kentenich led the missionary students forward step by step. After discovering their own interior world and their enthusiasm for the common goal of a Mission Association, they founded the Marian Sodality in April of 1914. Thereby the Founding Hour of Schoenstatt was prepared. It coincided with a fateful hour in world history, the beginning of World War I.

God's work

October 18, 1914 encompasses the most momentous decision in the life of Father Kentenich. Although God's directive urges him to lay the

cornerstone of a daring, new work of God, he did not receive it in a vision or by other extra-ordinary means. General belief in Divine Providence that recognizes a message from God in all events and things was his sole adviser. Did he interpret it correctly? Could he infer something very great from it? The young priest was sufficiently down-to earth to recognize the enormous risk of faith that he took upon himself: With some young, just maturing students he wanted to move the Mother of God to transform an old, formerly unused chapel into a place of grace for the moral-religious renewal of the world. It should become a very special place of grace on the foundation of the covenant of love between heaven and earth, on the faithfulness and engagement of human instruments who obtain the blessings of grace through prayer and sacrifice. That was an idea that tremendously surpasses natural insight and sensible calculation.

At the beginning of the Work, God demanded the "death leap" of the intellect of the founder that tore him away from the level of human insight and placed him exclusively on the foundation of faith. The founder accepted the venture. He confessed later that it was the greatest risk he ever took in his life. Then he gave the decisive talk of October 18, 1914, the "First Founding Document".

It outlines the foundation of the future Schoenstatt Work, shows the originality of the place of grace and

lists the rights and obligations of the two covenant partners: the Mother of God and the small family of sodalists (members of the Marian Sodality). The small group accepted the ideas joyfully.

Father Kentenich could say: "I feel that your hearts have caught fire."



But ultimately he alone understood the greatness of what had transpired. In believing confidence he made the covenant –

for all who were present and for all who would once be called to the Schoenstatt family.

At this hour, the life of the founder was placed into a new reality. As it were, his own life ended, it was flowing into the life of the Work. He became the father of a great family of God in whose life no decisive event would happen that would not manifest itself in the life of the founder, and vice versa. There would be no new awakening without the founder's engagement. No blossoming for which he would not be the seed in some way.

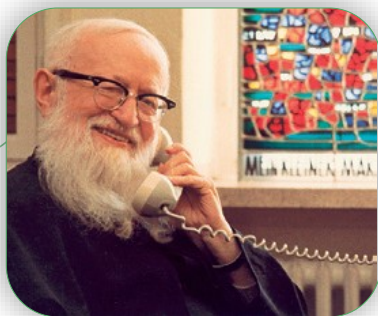
The founder understood from the very beginning the God-willed union between himself and those whom God entrusted to him...

He did not want to do anything without those who belonged to him. He accepted each individual as a serious co-worker; reverently faced his personal freedom and offered him genuine co-responsibility so much that he preferred that something did not happen, rather than to dictate to the other person. He kept contact with individuals as much as time and strength made it possible, especially with all leaders.

They could experience a hundredfold his priestly-fatherly care. Thus the community between the founder and his followers was more than a community of tasks: It was a community of life and destiny; it was unity of hearts.

Some were afraid that the founder had too much personal power through his foundation, gained too much influence. But he wanted only God and the execution of divine plans. He was only the instrument in the hands of one above him. Thus he could confess at one occasion: "At the beginning of our family history was not a brilliant person who wanted to accomplish something great and then moved God to want the same. No, there was a person who reverently bowed before the good God and wanted to execute God's plans. Do you understand what that means? The word 'God' stands at the beginning of Schoenstatt." That was and remained decisive for Father Kentenich... There was always much darkness on his way so that he had to take the next step in faith. A.K.

He Helps



IN SERIOUS ILLNESS

I was very worried about my husband between February 2015 and the summer of that year. Due to third degree burns on the shoulder and arm, he had serious heart- and kidney ailments. Two surgeries with skin transplants could be made only seven weeks later. His transfers to three different hospitals put much strain on us. In 2015 my husband was hospitalized fourteen times. Again and again, his heart and kidney ailments persisted. They thought that he would need dialysis soon. I asked Father Kentenich to intercede for us with God, especially that our family would accept and bear the burden. In retrospect I am surprised how well the family mastered this difficult time.

I felt guided and carried and could meet and accompany my very ill husband with hope and confidence. In February of 2016 my husband and I heard a talk about kidney disease and could afterwards talk to the speaker, the chief physician in the dialysis hospital. I sent an ardent prayer to heaven. With benevolent and competent treatment and with God's help, my husband is much better and may also drive short distances again. We are grateful and happy and convinced that Father Kentenich's intercession and blessing

accompanied and helped us.

M. B., October 2016.

Today I may joyfully tell you that our grandchild is healthy. His and our fear that his headache could be a sign of a brain tumor was not confirmed. The pain is caused by a nerve that is stuck somewhere. The cause must still be found. But it is a normal treatment that he now has to undergo. It is important to me to let you know how much I felt carried at this time and was able to support my daughter and her family. Without "help from above" I could not have done it because I am a very anxious person. The prayer of many people and the intercession of Father Kentenich have helped us much.

Praying the novenas helps me. I will continue because there is always somebody who needs help... The texts on different days are very appealing. I always discover something new, a different aspect that speaks especially to me.

K. B., Belgium, November 2016

My grandson, age 24, was told that he had a "malignant tumor". It measured 1 cm and was located in

the motor area of the brain. Surgery would probably result in partial paralysis. Filled with confidence in the Mother of God and in Father Kentenich we began a storm of prayers. The surgery lasted seven hours. When the parents returned from the hospital at 8:00 p.m. they said that there were tubes everywhere. Two hours later he himself called us and said that all was fine. There was no paralysis, and he could move all members. At a later examination all was well and the surgeon had no explanation. Thanks to the Mother of God and Father Kentenich!

M. W., December 2016

THE LOST WAS FOUND

My daughter was traveling with her two children and had lost her smart phone. She called and asked us to pray that her husband would find it. He tried to locate it. He finally discovered that a woman from Syria had it. Children who had played with it on the street had given it to her. We had promised Father Kentenich publication and a donation. We are very, very happy to have found it again. The Mother of God and Father Kentenich have helped us often in small and great concerns. We say heartfelt thanks.

S. B., April 2017

GOOD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

I prayed for a long time that my grand daughter would get a good high school diploma and then would get good employment. Both

were given to her. I want to thank for it with all my heart.

T. R., May 2017

AN INSURANCE CONCERN

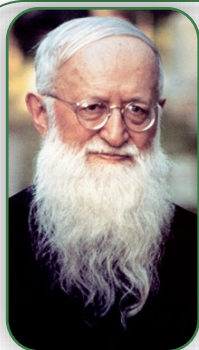
We had a minor car accident in October of 2016. A driver in a different car was very careless and finally crashed into our car. Of course it was afterwards difficult to evaluate the case objectively. Both drivers claimed to be innocent. The police was called. After brief questioning we could continue on our way. No assessment was made. Our daughter advised us to take the case to Father Kentenich. The tension and uncertainty lasted several weeks. It seemed that the other driver would benefit and we would be the party at fault. After a long time, after praying three novenas, we received the news that the decision was made for our benefit and the insurance company would pay all expenses. We had not expected it because the other party was very experienced in insurance matters and insisted that we were at fault. Obviously the positive decision was made on the intercession of Father Kentenich. It was overwhelming to experience it.

R. and G. N., March 2017



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.**

Thousands visit his tomb trusting in his intercession before God. There are increasingly more people around the world who spread his spirituality and ask his intercession.



September 15, 1968 – September 15, 2018
50th anniversary of Father Kentenich's death

Kentenich-Year

You will find more information about this at brief at: schoenstatt.de

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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