

IMPULSES

1/2019

For Daily Living

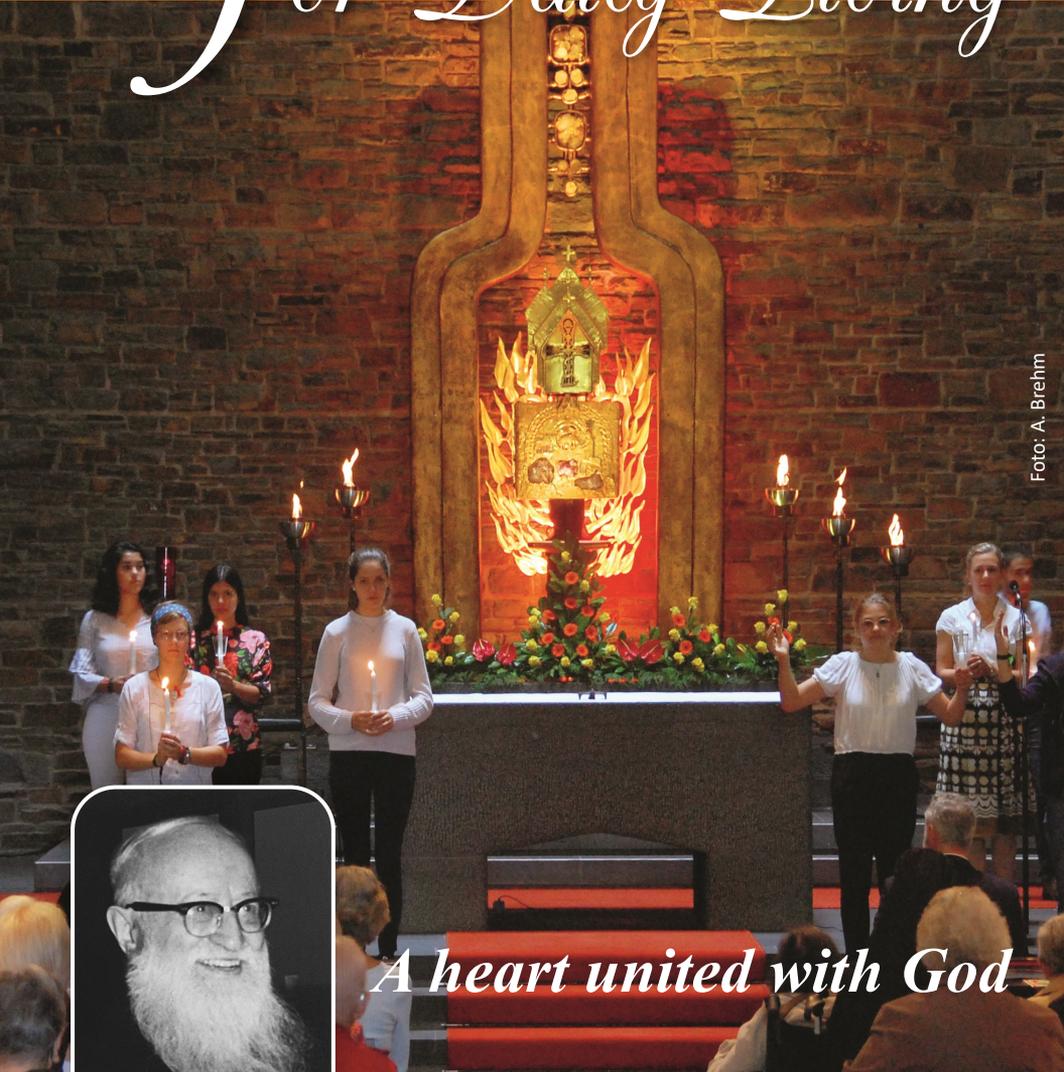
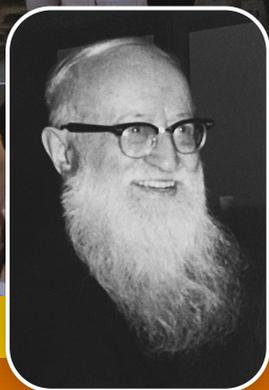


Foto: A. Brehm



A heart united with God



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

A Heart United with God

Commemoration in Rome of the 50th Anniversary of Father Kentenich's Death

This remembrance day was commemorated in Schoenstatt and in many places in the wide world prior to, on, and after September 15, 2018. Through the many initiatives in the Kentenich Year the celebrations were well prepared. Everywhere, the Schoenstatt Movement experienced being newly united in and with its founder and once again pledged to serve his God-given charisma.

On November 13, 2018, the postulator for the beatification and canonization process, Father Eduardo Aguirre, extended an invitation to a memorial service in Rome.

Ambassadors and authorities from the Vatican, representatives of other ecclesiastical movements as well as the Roman Schoenstatt Family attended. The celebration took place at Santa Maria dell 'Anima, the church of the German community in Rome. Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Families, and Life, was the main celebrant at the liturgical service. Twenty priests con-celebrated Holy Mass with him. A reception took place afterward in a hall of the parishioners.

Cardinal Farrell's sermon follows:

SERMON ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FATHER JOSEPH KENTENICH

Church of S. Maria dell 'Anima, Rome, November 13, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Father Joseph Kentenich, the prayers and readings of the Mass for the liturgical commemoration Our Lady of Sorrows were chosen. The Church celebrates this day every year on September 15th. On that day, 50 years ago, Father Kentenich died in the sacristy of the Trinity Church in Schoenstatt after celebrating the Mass of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. In this way, Mary sealed the life of her beloved son.

At this moment, we, too, focus on Mary. The just proclaimed Gospel has given us a picture that is very dear to us: His Mother stood at the cross of Jesus. With these simple words, the evangelist described the

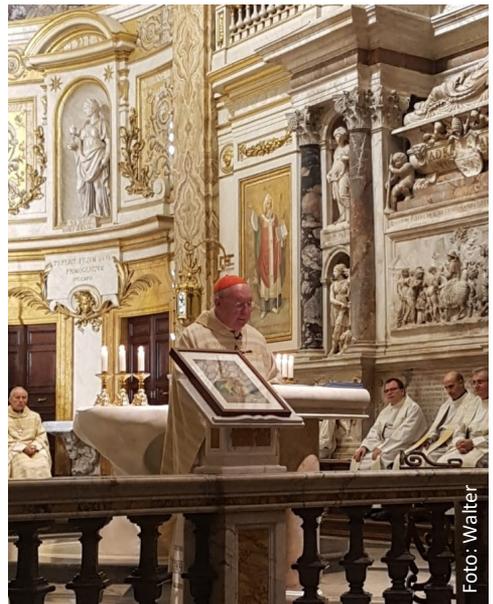


Foto: Walter

silent presence of Mary next to her dying Son. A presence that is not passive and resigned, but full of prayer, full of inner participation in the sufferings of the Son, the sacrificial gift for the redemption of the world.

In this dramatic and solemn moment, when the hour of his going to the Father is near, Jesus from the cross entrusted the "disciple he loved" to his Mother: "Woman, behold, your son," and the mother to the disciple: "Behold, your mother." The tradition of the Church has understood that these words do not have a private meaning; they were not a *family affair*, not simple childlike piety towards a mother who was soon to be left alone, but they had a deep, universal meaning. Neither Mary nor John are named, but only the *woman* and the *disciple* are mentioned. And so we can understand that in John all the disciples *who love Jesus* – all who believe in him and will follow him are represented. Mary, on the other hand, embodied at this moment that *daughter Zion*, of whom the prophetic predictions spoke. She who welcomes not only the *scattered Children of Israel*, but also *all the people* that will come to the Temple in Jerusalem in search of the *Face of God*. Mary is the fulfillment of this prophecy! She is now the universal mother who takes in all those who are on the way to Christ, the true temple, the true *face of God*, the Savior of the world. That's one of the reasons why she is addressed with the solemn name *woman*. And it is significant that Jesus said: "It is finished," only after entrusting the disciple to his mother and the mother to the disciple. Jesus felt



Foto: Walter

that his mission was accomplished only after he entrusted us to Mary! The institution of the universal motherhood of Mary for all believers in this way concludes the work of redemption.

Dear friends, for Father Kentenich, this Marian motherhood was not a theological truth learned from books, but an experience that lived in his own flesh and blood when he came to the orphanage when he had just turned eight and his own Mother entrusted him to the Mother of God. It was a painful, but at the same time also God-willed experience. From that moment on, the maternal care of Mary, her protection, and her nearness were the sure foundation on which the whole spiritual life of young Joseph developed.

We can say that Father Kentenich received at a young age the great grace to root his heart in love for

Mary and through her in love for the Lord. This is the secret of an authentic Christian life: The heart united with God, mind and the works animated by this union! If Christian life remains sterile, it is because often the opposite happens: The mind turns to divine truths, actions strive for effective results, but the heart is far from God.

Father Kentenich, whose heart was rooted in God, was through Mary able to face the many crosses that life had in store for him with extraordinary courage, with strength, and endurance: his often weak health, his imprisonment in the Dachau concentration camp, the bitter incomprehension of the Church, and his forced separation from his homeland and his work for fourteen long years. In all these trials, like Mary, he *stayed by the cross*. Together with the sacrifice of Christ, he offered his sacrifice for the salvation of souls and was confident

that Mary would make the best out of the painful trials he lived through. As he liked to repeat – *Mater habebit curam* – Mother takes care!

His personal experience also led to his extraordinary educational activity. He knew that young people run the risk of deviating from the path and losing themselves when they are at the mercy of senseless and transitory passions. So he realized that the first step for them was to make a *covenant of love* with Mary that has since become the hallmark of Schoenstatt's spirituality. In practice, it's about living in an alliance with Mary so that through her intercession, the personal commitment to sanctification and the apostolate in the world can bear fruit.

Due to the founding act of the Schoenstatt Movement, Father Kentenich was certain that before beginning any educational work, it is necessary to bind the heart to a secure foundation to prevent it from remaining at the mercy of life's rough storm waves. Because he experienced it personally, he knew that the heart, when bound to Mary, is spontaneously designed to love God, and in God loving one's neighbor. In fact, Father Kentenich was a great educator. His goal was always to form strong and mature personalities, but above all free persons. Persons who are free of external conditioning, free of social pressure, free of the wrong values of the world, able to live the Christian faith from the depths of the heart and not only outwardly. Persons who are able to bear witness to this faith in every social environment and to take apostolic initiatives independently, courageously, and with foresight.



Foto: Walter

Thus, Father Kentenich became a true father to many young people, to lay people, seminarians, priests, consecrated women, groups of families—all of whom found in him a safe and wise leader who accompanied them with loving kindness and a clear understanding concerning the growth of faith and its full unfolding of their personal vocation.

This man of God was above all a true son of the Church. He loved the Society of the Pallottines, in which, after the plan of Providence, his priestly vocation was born and developed. He gave himself generously for the spiritual formation of many priests who came by the thousands to attend in his retreats and conferences. He loved the whole great spiritual family that breathed life into the Schoenstatt Movement, a *tree*, as it can be said, from where many *branches* emerged: the Secular Institutes, the Pilgrim Movement, the communities of the Apostolic League, and the Apostolic Federation.

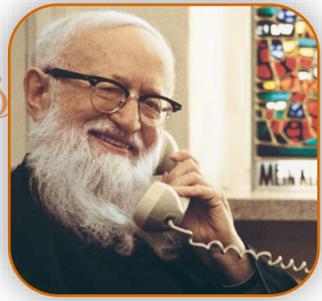
Dear brothers and sisters, like all founders of new ecclesiastical communities that have been inspired by the Holy Spirit to renew the Church, Father Kentenich also was an instrument that God had chosen and that God had enriched with many gifts and special graces. Perhaps it is not possible to convey all the spiritual richness of his personality, but you, his spiritual children, can be inspired by some aspects of his charisma and his work that you find particularly relevant in the social context in which we live. For some, it will be the pedagogical commitment for the education of the young, for others the offer of a serious

personal path of sanctification, for still others the Christian witness in their profession, the missionary impulse, spiritual accompaniment and fatherhood, the apostolate of prayer, the spread of Marian devotion in families, and much more. Remember that over the years, ecclesial charismas only remain alive when faithfully received, accepted, and actualized by generous and sincere people for each new generation to come.

May the Virgin Mary, whom you especially venerate as the Thrice Admirable Mother, accompany you and help you on your personal and communal path of sanctification and apostolate. Amen



He Helps *He Helps*



HELP AFTER AN ACCIDENT

After a special event I drove back towards home. At the beginning of the trip I asked Father Kentenich for his blessing and his protection. After about an hour's drive the GPS (satellite navigator) fell off the windshield. In reaction I put it on the passenger seat and must have accidentally moved the steering wheel because suddenly I streaked over the center guardrail. I drove immediately on the shoulder and stopped. The guardrail didn't appear to be damaged; but the car was damaged in such a way that I couldn't open the driver's door properly.

I got out and asked Father Kentenich to send me help. A car then backed up to me on the shoulder. The driver got out and inspected the damage that showed it was possible to continue driving. In my opinion, the gentleman stayed with me until he realized that the first shock was over, and I was able to continue. I thank Father Kentenich for his protection: No other car was nearby. No one else was involved in the accident. I had just streaked the guardrail and my car was only scratched by the sheet metal of the guardrail. The driver who drove back when he saw me standing on the shoulder had the feeling he should offer to help me. Out of gratitude, I would like to publish this answer to prayer.

B. K., May 20, 2018

IMMEDIATE HELP

This was my first time in Schoenstatt. Right on the first evening we visited the resting place of Father Josef Kentenich. I felt enveloped by a very deep peace and was very touched by love at his burial site.

I carefully touched his sarcophagus with my hand and told Father Kentenich all my worries and concerns, among other

things, that the fiancée of our son may not be willing to assume his surname. Literally, I said, "Dear Father Kentenich, please put it into her heart that she will take my son's surname." That was on the evening of May 22, 2018. My son will marry her this year, and we are very happy about. There is still a lot to be clarified, including the decision about the surname. Will the future daughter-in-law decide for a double name? My husband and I didn't interfere. But we had been praying for weeks, and as I said before, I had asked Father Kentenich for his help in this concern on the evening of May 22. It happened already on the next day. I got a call from my son that his fiancée decided to accept his name. This was very unexpected, and I knew immediately that Father Kentenich helped right away. I am very happy and very grateful to Father Kentenich.

P.G., June 2018

HEALTH

I have suffered migraine headaches since I was a child. It has been very difficult because sometimes I had to stay in bed for three days, twice a week. I was even sent to ER because I was so dehydrated. I couldn't see a solution to my problem. Almost everyday I had a headache in the back of my head. I had asked Father Kentenich to help me with my ailment. In the middle of August 2018, I went for a general check-up to my migraine doctor. I have tried a lot of different medications, but they didn't help me. The doctor told me that something new was on the market for migraines. I had tried everything she gave me, so I was willing to try this medication. Since I

started taking this medication, I haven't had a single migraine or any headaches at all! My life has changed and now I can do many things that I couldn't do before. Thank you, Father Kentenich!

Anonymous

A small baby was shaken badly by her caregiver and had to go to the hospital. She had accumulated blood behind the eyes and the situation didn't look good. They did surgery a few days later and expected to find the worst. However, upon surgery everything was found to be cleared up. The next fear was that she would have vision loss. Again, we turned to Father Kentenich and the baby can focus and see clearly. All is now normal and we attribute everything to the intercession of Father Kentenich.

R.C., WI

ENCOUNTER AT THE AIRPORT

I was at the airport returning from an overseas trip. I had four pieces of luggage and so I used my last American change to purchase a cart to transport everything. The machine took my money, but I couldn't get the cart out. I immediately asked Father Kentenich for his help because there was no way I could go to the next airport by myself with all this luggage. A gentleman saw my predicament and to my great surprise once more paid to get a cart and it came out this time!

JU, WI

IN SICKNESS

In May 2016, my husband was diagnosed with a very rare form of leukemia. The kidneys were damaged to stage five through the disease. We were already informed about starting dialysis. I immediately started a novena to Father Kentenich with the plea for the good outcome of the treatments. I asked the sisters for prayer support. After six sessions with chemotherapy and immunotherapy my husband received the news that his blood count was almost normal. His kidneys were giving him no problems whatsoever. He doesn't have to do dialysis. At the final examination the doctor said that the course of treatment

and the good result was by no means a matter of course. Since then, my husband only has to see the doctor every six months. Last time, the doctor told my husband: "You look good and I am pleased with you. When I think of how you came in, I didn't believe in such a successful treatment." For us, it is clear: Without help from Our Lady and Father Kentenich we wouldn't be able to complete this stage of life so happily. We owe you endless thanks for their intercession.

C. R., June 2018

GETTING EMPLOYMENT

In Advent 2017, the farmer's wife, in whose field our wayside shrine is located, extended us an invitation. A little later, her grandson was also seen in the yard. She told us that lately he was just walking around, seemingly depressed. After completing a business administration degree, he found no job. She agreed gratefully to our proposal to pray a novena to the Blessed Mother of Schoenstatt and to Father Kentenich. After a short time she called us, deeply touched. He was accepted exactly at the company, where he had applied. The first applicant, who initially received the position had resigned. So, the grandson got an employment contract and could immediately start working. The grandmother told her grandson about our prayer. He accepted this silently, but gratefully. The farmer's wife has a great love for the wayside shrine of the Blessed Mother of Schoenstatt. Many praying persons and walkers are always bringing flowers and candles, and a bench nearby invites you to linger. We are very thankful for the answer to prayers in this 2018 Kentenich Year, and have promised publication.

M. W., August 2018

RIGHT DECISION

I would like to tell you that an important decision over the past year proved to be the best solution. Thank you dear Heavenly Mother and Father Kentenich for your help.

M. Sch., July 2018

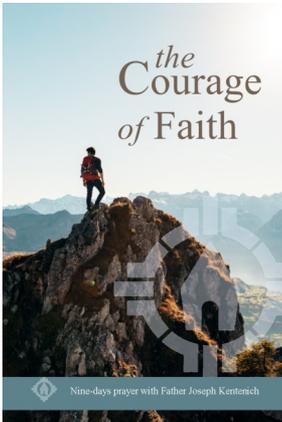
Father Joseph Kentenich

- Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement -

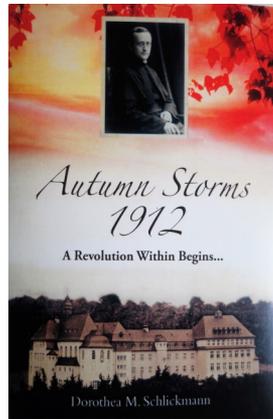
was born on November 16, 1885, in Gymnich near Cologne and died on September 15, 1968, in the Trinity Church of Berg Schoenstatt, immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass. He is also buried in this church. His sarcophagus bears the inscription *Dilexit ecclesiam - He loved the church.*

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 for the newest publications:



Novena Courage of Faith



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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.