

IMPULSES

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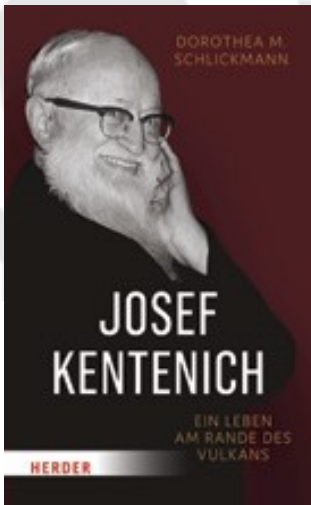
for Daily Living



*Father Kentenich-
An Exciting Path of Life*



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich



An Exciting Path of Life

In early 2019, Herder publishing house printed a new biography of the founder of the Schoenstatt Movement:

Josef Kentenich –

A Life on the Edge of the Volcano.

(Soon to be published in English)

At the book signing in Schoenstatt, the author, Dorothea M. Schlickmann, answered questions about the origin of this book.

How did you get the idea to write this book? For whom did you want to write the book?

D. Schlickmann: A lot has already been written about Father Kentenich. Nevertheless, he is still too little known: his life, his work. We needed a new biography. That's why the attempt to write a book that is read by as many as possible! It was printed by Herder publishing house to reach out to a broad public.

It wasn't meant to be a novel, but a narrative biography. I wanted to write for the people of today. Biographies are still popular. One likes to read about a exciting life.

Give us a little insight into your writing workshop.

D. Schlickmann: I was facing a difficult task – very extensive and filled with tension. The main part consisted of extensive research. It should become a new kind of narrative. Often Father Kentenich helped me in some ways, helped to

find quotes, and most findings came to me especially when praying.

The multi-layered task resulted in a multi-layered work. There are several narrative levels: the historical-factual, the biographical line, the spiritual substance of his person and his life, and then the psychological line, that inner-emotional process, the emotional area.

According to what criteria did you select from the abundance of material?

D. Schlickmann: That was quite a challenge, because it is impossible to capture such a big life in one book. Nevertheless, it was necessary to try to convey what was essential. I didn't want to portray him cheaply or make light of him. The selection of the material often happened through examples: One person, one example represents many others.

How do you manage not to become "sensational," and nevertheless draw the readers into the action?

D. Schlickmann: Actually, I just needed to tell his life – that’s sensational enough, hugely exciting – The reader has to put up with the depth and spiritual argument. Through the relaxed narrative passages, one ought to take a breath before moving to the next level of depth. One absorbs the material more easily when the natural basis of one’s thinking and feeling is prepared.

How trustworthy are Father Kentenich's self-statements and the historical representations, which we find in the work repeatedly? You are a historian – how difficult was it for you to renounce footnotes?

D. Schlickmann: Almost every sentence could be substantiated by a footnote, but the renunciation of doing so was necessary with consideration of the reader and the particular genre. For example, there are two fictitious letters. In every detail, they are based on historical findings and witness statements that have come down to us. They helped capture the content in much livelier terms.

Is there anything that was new for you or has become more important to you when writing?

D. Schlickmann: Yes, I have known our founder for over forty years, but exploring his life for this book has given me a greater sense of his entire greatness. In my opinion, he belongs to the great saints of our time. But I don't want the reader to be pressured to this realization at any point. I want the readers to be able recognize and experience this for themselves.

Most of us have not experienced Father Kentenich in person. That means a big responsibility for those who say or write something about him today, because they continue to draw his image. How do you want to portray him? What did you want to tell of him?

D. Schlickmann: I deliberately did not write about him according to a specific idea. In the narrative the focal points come to light on their own: his father charisma, belief in Divine Providence, childlikeness, the covenant of love with Mary, his priestly being. The reader should decide for himself what they say about him. But I wanted to make it possible to meet him as a person as authentically as possible. He has to draw his own conclusions.

The questions were asked by Theresa Strunk. In the following issues of our Impulse, we will publish sample excerpts from the new book.



Testimonies from Readers' Letters

Father Kentenich – Experienced Today



"One day there was a pamphlet in our mailbox with a novena to Father Kentenich. To this day, I don't know who anonymously put it in the mailbox. It was totally soaked. I let it dry and then prayed it. This suffering, this being slandered as Father Kentenich experienced it fit exactly to my situation. So this novena became a great help for me. It was for me like a greeting from the other world, an understanding, compassion, a great comfort to me. Sometimes I prayed the novena several times in a row. May God reward you, Father Kentenich! Since this novena brought me a great deal of comfort, I would like to pass it on to the sick. Therefore I ask you to send me some (novena booklets)."

"My nephew needed a new job. I gave him *Impulses for Daily Living*. He read it and now prays the novena *Courage of Faith*. As I have done so often, I asked Father Kentenich for help, and received it. I tell my children much about Father Kentenich and encourage them to also pray the novena to him. I asked Father Kentenich to make sure that my son would also trust him. After some time, my son told me that he was praying novenas to Father Kentenich. In the meantime, my children now also have deep confidence in him. My son is 35 and my daughter 23 years old."

"Through a very dear friend, I learned about Father Kentenich. Now I experience more and more that I am starting to get interested in everything about Father Kentenich. I therefore ask you to send me information, novenas, and new publications."

"Above all, I would like to say a warm 'may God reward you' for all writings and communications. I am always very happy when I get them. I am very devoted to Father Kentenich and also recommend him to other people and have done so for many years. But as it is when people are helped, they easily forget to say thank you."

"I have been devoted to Father Kentenich for twenty years, and I have become a different person through his help, because I have been able to carry my cross easier only

with him and the help of God through prayer."

"I have had prayer books and novenas sent to me repeatedly. I need them for myself, but also for relatives and friends to whom I give them. Everyone is very enthusiastic about them."

"I can tell you that I was able to win over many people who got to know Father Kentenich."

"In the pamphlet *Impulses for Daily Living* I always find something that gives me strength or an inspiration for my everyday life. I am happy that the Schönstatt-Movement exists. I think that such a safe haven is very important at this time. Thank you very much! "

"When I'm sitting in the office tired and discouraged, I often look at the kind face of Father Josef Kentenich and think about what he's already experienced. Even in the darkness of imprisonment, he said: It was a holiday with Jesus. This kindness helps me to be able to forgive slander and injuries again."

"In the silence, he's such a wonderfully fatherly helper for me. Father Kentenich helps me every day through his words and gives me direction for everyday life. At the moment, I couldn't name a particular instance when he answered my prayer, but I receive the blessing of the Triune God through him at the beginning and before going to bed every day."

"Praying the novenas to Father Kentenich is a source of blessing at all times and in many situations of life.

The thoughts and the directions in them are the best way and help also in severe spiritual distress or illness of the soul. They are a *psychotherapy* that helps to understand life once more, gives reorientation and concentration to go one's own way of life with strength and courage, step for step, day in and day out, looking beyond time into eternity. You learn to find God and his Providence, as well as the help of Our Lady in the little things of life. Novenas as well as spontaneous prayers are often answered, or the path becomes more bearable and more understandable, also in retrospect. Father Kentenich accompanies me every day. He helps me in times when I don't know what to do. Sometimes a sign of his care for me and my family comes immediately. Thank you for this support for so many years."

"In recent weeks I received various novenas and a three-day prayer with Father Kentenich. The example of Father Kentenich gave me strength in a stressful situation. Father Kentenich has become an important companion in life for me. Very often it's as if I hear him say, 'Mother, take care!' And I sense that Our Lady cares. Thank you, God, for your grace!"



He Helps

PROFESSIONALLY

I was allowed to experience great help from our dear Blessed Mother of Schoenstatt and Father Kentenich. For a long time, my daughter-in-law had applied for a job. She only received negative responses. I prayed one novena after another. Today, on June 28, 2018, she received a positive answer. She can start a new job on 07-2-2018. With this donation I would like to show my gratitude. You may also publish this. I want to thank you again. Thank you! Thank you! I will pray daily for the canonization of Father Kentenich.

E. K., July 2018

In an issue of *Impulses for Daily Living* I read an answer to a petition that immediately brought to mind my own situation because it was so similar to mine: My son had applied for a new job that would be closer to his home. The previous job was very far from his home. There were many applicants for the new job. I prayed to our Lady and to Father Kentenich that my son would have a chance to get the new job. After completing the application process, he reported that he got the job. I had promised to publish this and would like to express my sincere thanks for the help and intercession of the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt and Father Kentenich. *M. P., October 2018*

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the intercession of Father Kentenich and for your prayers. On Thursday I met my INTEGRATIONSKIND (person whom I should help to adjust to the new situation and culture). My employment as integration assistant also depended on this meeting. The chemistry had to be right. Juhu! It worked. I now have now a three-quarter



position as integration assistant at LEBENSHILFE. (Organization

protecting life). You are welcome to publish this, so that my success also encourages others and gives them the inspiration to turn confidently to Father Kentenich and through him to God. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

K. M., July 2018

In addition to his job, our son took a six year study course to become a patent attorney. His family (two sons, now 7 and 5 years old) suffered greatly because of it. Now he had to pass the exam. He didn't have a good feeling about it. We are convinced that he did well through the intercession of Our Lady and Father Kentenich. Thank you very much! Three days earlier I was allowed to be in Schoenstatt and, among other things, to pray in the Original Shrine and at the tomb of Father Kentenich. I also pray daily for his early beatification and canonization.

K. M., November 2018

Today I would like to write a wonderful testimony to the honor of Father Kentenich. Our son had lost his partner and his young son by a stroke of fate. In addition, his job was terminated. Now began an exhausting two-year search for a suitable job. He wrote countless applications and got as many negative responses. From time to time there were probable job interviews, but they always ended with rejections. Understandably, it was getting worse and worse for our son. This state between hope and anxiety tore at his nerves. We feared that he might fall into depression. In this situation a friend of

ours, a Schoenstatt Sister of Mary, advised us to take refuge in Father Kentenich. So we prayed a novena to him and the Sister personally drove to the tomb of her founder. There she asked Father Kentenich for a job for our son by saying: 'Father, that's a matter for the boss. Please, help the young man to find a job.' Father Kentenich probably also saw this as a matter for the boss because when the Sister returned from Schoenstatt after three days, we could gratefully tell her that our son had signed an employment contract in the meantime.

Now we still had to go through the trial period. We therefore called upon Father Kentenich time and again. Today, we are grateful and amazed that we may write this testimony. Our Son has received a permanent contract. He now has a job, which is precisely tailored for him. He feels very comfortable there and has good prospects for continuing education and promotion.

E.W. September 2018

WONDERFUL HELP

A cousin of mine suffers from kidney stones and often they dissolve with the help of fluids and medications. However, at one point the stones didn't dissolve and surgery was necessary. We entrusted this intention to Father Kentenich and asked for a miracle rather than surgery since it was an inopportune time due to other commitments. After having gone to another specialist for a second opinion, it was decided that surgery was inevitable. On the scheduled morning, while being prepped for surgery, he suddenly asked them to stop and he was able to pass the bigger stone naturally, later followed by the other. With this he could return home and meet his other commitments. Even the doctors could not explain how this was possible! We are so grateful to Father Kentenich for his intercession. *NP (WI)*

I have had problems with my eyes since third grade. The eye doctor I found at my new residence was not able to help me. So I begged Father Kentenich to find an eye

doctor for me, again in a limited rural area, who could help me with the prescription I needed. Father Kentenich first inspired me to ask a couple in the neighboring town. They told me they had good luck with a doctor who also was Catholic. I made an appointment and received the best examination and explanation I have ever had. I selected the prescribed glasses and when it came to paying, the doctor said there would be no charge for his services. The next pair I needed a few years down the road brought me the wonderful gift that the doctor had taken care of the four-digit figure totally! I thank Father Kentenich for finding the perfect eye doctor and benefactor all in one in the very next town!

JS, WI

When I realized a few years ago that I was no longer able to manage heavy garden work around the house, I turned to our founder, Father Kentenich. I told him that I didn't know a person whom I could address. He should find someone for me. The very same day my cleaning person came up to me right after saying hello and asked whether I wouldn't have work for a man who was unemployed and for whom employment would be good. I was overwhelmed by this immediate answer to my prayer. Besides, it showed that Father Kentenich sent me a person with many talents. I thank our father and founder with all my heart for his care.

A. Z., December 2018

Today I would like to express my thanks for the great help of Father Kentenich. I had written to you that my daughter was unemployed. At almost fifty, she had to go to school to find out what she could still do with two metal bars in her back. She was not hired despite her many applications. I prayed a lot to Father Kentenich, that he should help. A *miracle* happened, on the last day of school she was hired by a company. Thank you very much, Father Kentenich! I continue to pray to him. He's my *helper in need*. He has already helped a lot.

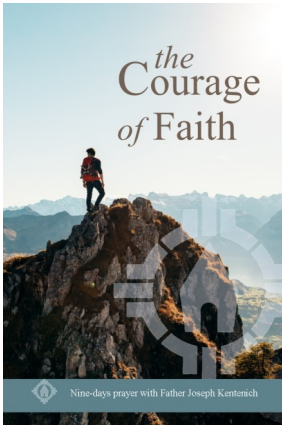
Father Joseph Kentenich

- Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement -

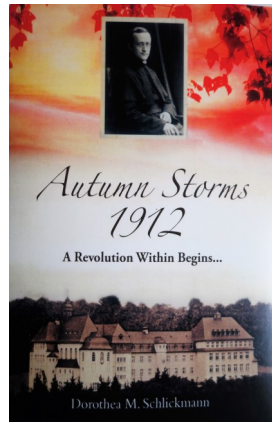
was born on November 16, 1885, in Gymnich near Cologne and died on September 15, 1968, in the Trinity Church of Berg Schoenstatt, immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass. He is also buried in this church. His sarcophagus bears the inscription ***Dilexit ecclesiam - He loved the church.***

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



Autumn Storms Book

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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.