

# IMPULSE

4I2020

## *for Daily Living*



# Maria

## A Woman of Confidence



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

## Mary, A Woman of Confidence

She had become the woman of his trust: Mary. God had chosen, selected her, to give the world the Redeemer, to become the mother of his only begotten Son, and she had not disappointed God. She had said yes, blindly entrusted herself to him and his plan. She was sure that everything would go well, that he would take care of everything; he would clear up all misunderstandings and any hostilities because "with God nothing is impossible." What the angel told her in the hour of the annunciation, she held fast her whole life long; she never rescinded her trust, not even in her darkest phases of life. Mary - a woman full of trust in God. Father Kentenich had looked deeply into her life and understood: ***"The contradictions between promise and fulfillment multiply in her life. (But) she does not crumple. Just the opposite! With her faith the whole supernatural life grows in her to perfection."* (J. Kentenich)**

Throughout his entire life, Mary became for Joseph Kentenich guideline, measure, and source of strength. She became the woman of his entire trust, the Mother and Queen of his life: Already as a child, at his consecration to Mary, he experienced her person very closely and deeply, so that this experience became a lasting treasure for his mission and his life's dedication. It awakened his whole trust, and she also gave all her trust back to him. She entrusted to him Schoenstatt as a place of her grace and effectiveness, as a great movement, as a uniting of



many people and communities. She was the one who gave him the gift of an extraordinary founder charism that brought all this into being and breathed original life into it.

Already in early childhood she let him experience how God really is, what it means: God is an inescapable reality: he is there, he loves me and he loves me personally. Mary stood and stands in his life and mission never for herself, never detached from God, but always in a deep union with him. Father Kentenich knew and had experienced it:

***"The heart of Merciful Eternal Benevolence beats towards us in the heart of the Blessed Mother."* (J. Kentenich)**

This God experience carried through. His confidence in Mary remained irrefutable. He did not break down either: neither in the four-week

detention in the dark Gestapo prison, nor during the three-year concentration camp imprisonment in Dachau, nor during his fourteen-year-long exile with all its struggles and hostilities, accusations and defamations, and the many apparently senseless attempts at clarification. His life - also in these difficult years - is like an eloquent appeal also for our lives:

***"He who has confidence has everything." (J. Kentenich)***

Especially in those most difficult years in the course of his life, he became a counselor for many, gave home and support, and became a sign of hope, to never give up. He was a father for many because he himself always became more and more a CHILD. His childlike trust in the omnipotence of God and the faithful love of the Blessed Mother remained irrefutable in the darkest hours. Thus one who visited him in exile told his confreres when he came back from Milwaukee: "You do not have to think that I have found an embittered person. This is someone who always lifts up others."



Foto: Denkinger

Father Kentenich remained at her hand, at her side, always at the side of the Woman and Mother of his

trust. He remained a child surrendered to her, who also persevered under the cross. He invited others again and again to the same confidence.

***"If she walks and stands with us, God is at our side: Then he is with us. And if he is for us, who can oppose us?"(J. Kentenich)***

Many found their faith again through him, and arrived at an even deeper, more vibrant faith in the love of God the Father. He sought to draw everyone into his confidence, to lead to the Woman of his Confidence: to Mary. With joy he gave a favorite prayer, which he had formulated in Dachau, to thousands of people who had entrusted themselves to him on their way:

***I trust your might, your kindness, Mother dear; with you to guide me, I need never fear. Whatever happens, O Mother mild, I blindly trust in you and in your Child.***

Through this union and with this confidence Father Kentenich was free from fear of man, free from enmity he encountered. He perceived "the greatness of modern man," precisely in such situations, in "resisting the dictates of his environment." He invites us, too, to overcome the fear of people, not to bow to the dictates of our surroundings, but to overcome obstacles as free, strong Christian personalities from this deep trust. His life is an eloquent example.

*Sr. M. Doria Schlickmann*



# *Experiences of God through Father Joseph Kentenich*

Part 3

Man's mind may be satisfied with the awareness: God exists and still shows signs of his life. Like a doctor watches a patient: He's still alive, he is still moving. The human heart is not satisfied with that. Augustine says: We are created for God; our heart remains restless until it finds its way to him. We need personal contact with God.

## ***1. Loss of a personal relationship with God***

The American poet Thomas Wolfe takes this view about the disease of modern man: "I believe that they all suffer from the same thing. The ultimate reason for their complaint is loneliness." A former hospital chaplain in Wiesbaden tells the story of a patient, who told him when she left the hospital: "Reverend, there are billions of people in the world, but I do not belong to them. My son died in the war; my husband left me. Now when I leave the hospital and come home, there is nobody there waiting for me." - Despite the billions of people we find very much loneliness, lack of contact. The mass society is getting denser and denser. But we must expect that the spatial nearness will bring with it even greater spiritual distance. And when we find love between people – or also to God, it often happens that it is only an impersonal "it-love", no real "you-love." On the other hand, the love from person to person lacks the organic transfer to God; therefore it becomes empty. We are also aware that merely external dealings are still no "fraternal Church", as long as they are not animated, and attachments

from heart to heart are not fashioned among each other, and the living transmission to supernatural does not take place. Not only the person in the midst of mass society is sick with his loneliness. There is also the lonely person in the midst of the Church, in the midst of monasteries. Perhaps we can even say: Therefore the escape from the monastery, hence the escape from celibacy, hence the escape away from the tabernacle! Man attempts to get away from this loneliness. But whether he will find less loneliness where he is going is questionable. Father Kentenich was able to draw modern man out of this vicious circle.

## ***2. The way to a personal relationship with God***

Facing the lament of the lonely person Father Kentenich suggests: Come with me! – Like many of us who have experienced this during the long Schoenstatt history that he has accepted everyone, that he is inviting all he met, we know how Joseph Engling (one of the first young men of the founding generation, who died in World War I) was attached to the Founder; Father Kentenich. As a soldier he not only "was homesick" for the Blessed Mother and her shrine, but as he wrote in a letter to his Spiritual Director (05-20-1918): "homesick for you". This personal attachment to Father Kentenich was decisive for Joseph Engling's personal attachment to the supernatural. - In 1935, at the celebration of the silver jubilee of Father Kentenich, one of the most important priests who was present

reminded him again whether he remembered that already back then, when they were in the war, he must have had a warm heart: "I could inconspicuously take care of all kinds of little things: a head shield, an undergarment etc. It is true, I had much heart warmth come alive for our youth at that time. But this development has continued for all the people



that the dear God gave me and made demands on me." Father Kentenich points out first encounters at a conference or a personal meeting: "I believe, I could still prove to the individual, that's when the grace began to work, that's when mutual contact was established ...!" In the concentration camp Dachau many sought contact with Father Kentenich. A fellow prisoner, a Protestant minister, judged Father Kentenich in retrospect: "(Fr. Kentenich was) a friend who gave testimony of his ecumenical and fraternal attitude ... It was a privilege to recognize his personality values." Not only with representatives of another denomination, Father Kentenich also had contact with people of other worldviews in the concentration camp.

One day a package arrived again. While unpacking, a large sausage made its appearance. Father Kentenich said to his fellow prisoner, Father Fischer: We want to give joy to Willi Bader. He wrapped the sausage back in paper and Father Fischer delivered it. Bader was a communist, a socialist of the extreme left, who wanted nothing to do with the priests, but used every free hour in the evening to walk with Father

Kentenich on the camp street back and forth. When he later was moved to another camp, Father Kentenich said to him at the fare well: "If you want to give me a joy then you should promise me that you'll read something from the Bible every day."

We can see that personal attachment was for Father Kentenich always the approach to lead to supernature. He drew to himself, but not for his sake, but to open people up for a personal encounter with God.

Father Kentenich also connects people with each other. He realized the "fraternal Church". When in the founding period a student came to him and said he wanted to know something about the sodality, Father Kentenich answered: "I think you should go to Josephh Engling. He can explain this to you." "Oh, him!!" answered the student. But after some time of consideration he followed the advice. Joseph explained the consecration to the Blessed Mother to his classmate very simply and deeply so that this hour remained unforgettable. And both became friends.

*Talk by Father Rudolf Mosbach during the Delegates' Conference of the Schoenstatt Family, October 1970*

# He Helps

## IN ILLNESS

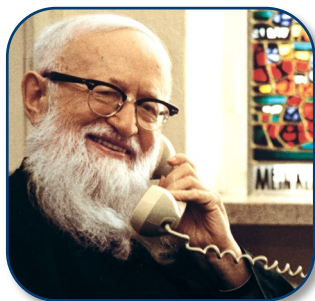
Two years ago our son suffered from eating disorder. We, especially my wife, suffered also greatly from it. My son became ever thinner. You could count his every bone. The doctors knew no way out, except for therapy in a clinic. But we didn't want him leave our home. So we prayed to Father Kentenich and his intercession brought the answer from God. Our son eats again without any therapy. He could even get his drivers' license, what nobody thought possible because he was very thin and very short. He has grown and become healthy. I am convinced, none of this would have been possible without Father Kentenich. **B. L., Dec. 2019**

Our son had a very bad cancer-diagnosis. They predicted only a short life span. Now contrary to expectations everything is well after the surgery. God bless you for your prayer help.

**M. & N. B., September 2019**

With great gratitude I would like to share, that the Mother of God and Father Kentenich helped my husband again in a severe vascular disease. I prayed every day the novena from Father Kentenich and asked for help. He always answered my prayers. We come every year to Schoenstatt to give thanks. He also helped me 13 years ago, when I was suffering from breast cancer and had surgery. The Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich are our faithful companions. Also my son and my granddaughter are coming to Schoenstatt every year.

**G. B., Dec. 2019**



My husband and I have experienced for years how the intercession of Father Kentenich gives confidence and security. In 2007 prostate and bladder cancer was detected in my husband. Both were treated, but after 10 years metastases appeared. A new therapy was started, which stabilized the health condition of my husband for four years i.e. that brought all values to a standstill of the disease. At the last examination the doctor noticed that this therapy usually works for about one year and then must be replaced by another. He noted that it was extraordinary that all values have been allowed a standstill for four years.

For us it is clear that we owe it to Father Kentenich. We pray daily the prayer "I trust your might, your kindness ..." We thank you for what is given to us by Father Kentenich. We would like to express our gratitude also through a donation.

**M. & J. V., January 2020**

## SEVERE WEATHER

Two tropical storm were on the way towards the coast in the Gulf of Mexico. There was a violent hurricane category # 4 in 2017 that destroyed very much especially in Rockport, Lamar, TX, and the surroundings of Corpus Christi. I prayed to Father Kentenich and asked for his intercession and the storms took another direction and did not do much

harm in residential areas in the Brownsville Diocese and Kennedy County. Thank you, Father Kentenich.

Sr. M. C., TX, September 2020

## JUSTICE

The manager of our benefactor came innocently into difficulty with the law. He is a very honest man who has a family with his wife and three children. A trial for him was scheduled and postponed several times. Now it was scheduled again. I prayed to Father Kentenich in this intention and the trial was postponed again. Thank you, Father Kentenich.

Sr. M. C., TX, September 2020

## A MARRIAGE MIRACLE

A couple I know very well was trying, after many years, to have their marriage blessed by the Church. There was a problem when the husband had to get his Baptismal Certificate from a parish in Laredo. The wife made the contact and applied, and for a while could not get results. We prayed the novena to Father Kentenich and then the secretary of this particular parish answered. She had just then received the application and the money needed for the certificate. Now the Baptismal Certificate is with the Pastor who will perform the marriage for the couple. Thank you, dear Father Kentenich.

Sr. M. C., TX, September 2020

## GOLDEN ROSES

On Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 2020, Sr. M. P. died and I was asked to buy golden (yellow) roses for her funeral. The flower shop had no yellow roses but expected a delivery of flowers on the next day. I asked Father Kentenich to help me get these golden roses for

Sr. M. P. because she did so much for him. Next day when I went to the store and into the cooler to get a few things I continued praying for the miracle of golden roses. Fifteen minutes later the clerk came in with 50 yellow roses and said: Sister, these golden roses were meant for you because when they opened the truck they were just in the front and I decided to come and sell them to you.

Yes, indeed Father Kentenich worked the miracle and in gratitude I am writing this article for his beatification.

Sr. M. H. F. L., WI, September 2020

## AT WORK

In the last years of my professional life there have been massive attempts to make life difficult for me in order to get me asking for voluntary early retirement. Since I worked at my workplace for a very long time and therefore still had an old and good collective bargaining agreement, it was not easy to terminate the employment relationship. A severance payment would have been too expensive for the employer; there was no reason to terminate my job. So it happened that a new manager tried her methods. Several colleagues who had been working there for a long time voluntarily left the company in various ways. With God's help I have been able to stand up without bitterness and without hatred, for which I am very grateful. In a few months I will retire at the regular retirement age. My thanks go to God's merciful kindness, to Father Joseph Kentenich and his intercession, as well as to the Holy Mother of God, to St. Joseph and your helping prayers.

W.B.R., March 2020

## **Father Joseph Kentenich**

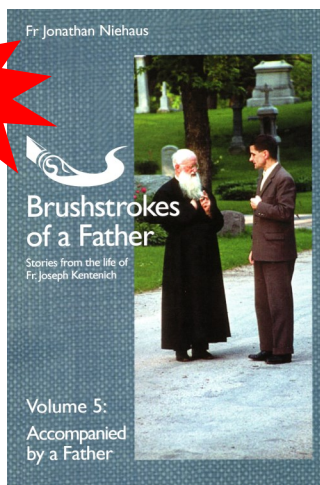
**- Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement -**

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.***

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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 new publication:**



#### **Brush strokes #5**

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\*Translated from the German  
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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.*