

IMPULSE

11/2021

for Daily Living

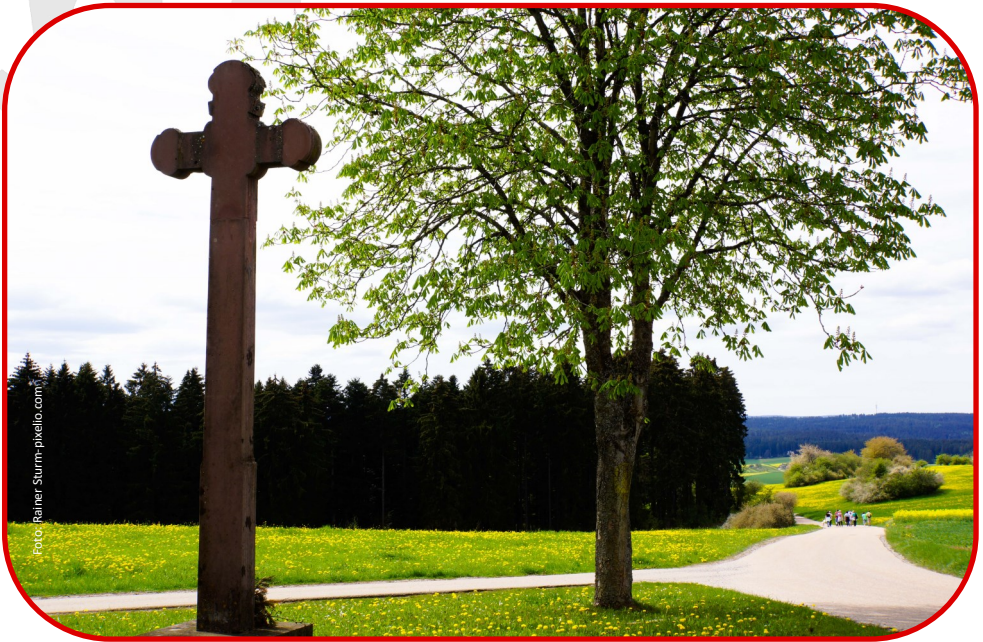


*With
God's
Blessing*



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

With God's Blessing



2021 – The new year has recently begun. By far the largest part still lies ahead of us, like a path that is only gradually opening up to us. What may await us on this path? What encounters, events, joys, sufferings? Last year, perhaps more than at other times, we became aware of how quickly our human plans can be thwarted. For many, it was certainly an experience of uncertainty and worry, of insecurity and powerlessness. Despite all the advances in technology and science, we had to experience: We don't really have our world, our life under control! As Christians we believe and trust: There is another person who holds everything in his powerful and good hands – even if we don't always immediately understand his

guidance and dispensations. The ancient wisdom: "Everything depends on God's blessing!" expresses what ultimately matters. Times of crisis especially challenge us to acknowledge in all humility our human powerlessness and to connect more closely to the power of something greater.

God's blessing! This is how we as Christians wish it at the beginning of a new year or an important turning point in our lives.

Asking God's blessing for ourselves personally and for others – that means: his nearness, his accompaniment, his protection, his help.

This gives us courage, inner peace, and a positive view of the future,

even if there are many uncertainties ahead. Looking back on his childhood, Pope Emeritus Benedict recounts: "I will never forget the devotion and inner attention with which father and mother used to draw the cross on our foreheads, mouths, and chests with Holy Water when we left home, especially if it was a major farewell. This blessing was a companion by which we knew we were guided – the revelation of the prayer of the parents who went with us, and the certainty that this prayer was sustained by the blessing of the Savior."

The Latin word *bless* means to say good things. Through his blessing, God gives us this good assurance:

I want the best for you, I am with you, I help you!

Those who receive good things can pass good things on to others. Those who are blessed can become a blessing for others.

Suggestions

In the union with Mary, opening ourselves to God's blessing, trusting in him, asking him to bless us personally and all those who are important to us – this is certainly a good *program* for the year still ahead of us. Concrete possibilities:

- Consciously ask for the blessing in the morning and in the evening
- For people I care about
- For people I struggle with: Lord, bless them!
- Before special challenges ...

"We want to make Christ present everywhere, he who dwells and is enthroned in our hearts. Then untold blessings go forth from us."

J. Kentenich

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is wonderful example of this. When she visited her cousin Elizabeth after the hour of the Annunciation, Elizabeth exclaimed,

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (Lk 1:42)

In the Son she bears, Mary has received *the Good One* par excellence, Jesus, the greatest blessing God could bestow on the world. And by carrying HIM to the people, she herself becomes a blessing: Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit through the encounter with her. The child in her womb is touched by grace – he leaps for joy. After the birth of his child, Zacharias speaks again when he confirms: His name is John. Through the visit of the Blessed Mother and her assisting services, salvation and blessing is given to the whole family.

Father Kentenich - blessing priest

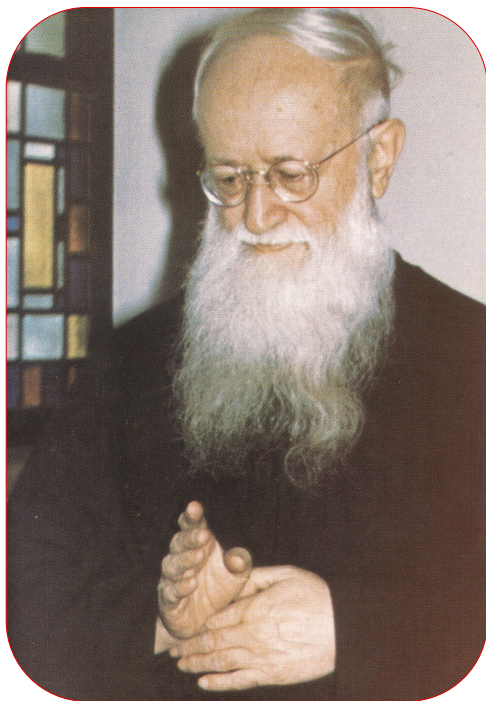
Father Kentenich blessed often, and he liked to bless. He had the custom of giving his priestly blessing in the evening at 9 pm, which could then be received by all who knew they were spiritually united with him at that time. In a letter he wrote: "I am of ... the opinion that we priests should have much more faith in our own priestly blessing. If we had more power of faith, then much more ... would be accomplished."

Some Testimonies:

How many times during his life may Father Kentenich have raised his priestly hand to call down the power of God in blessing on people, on work, on objects? He did it unobtrusively. For him, it was matter of course that he gave his blessing repeatedly – to all who were entrusted to his care and asked for it. "Let me bless you in the morning and in the evening," he once said during a farewell. Often Father Kentenich would make a cross from his window over the visitors who had gathered in front of the house. Quietly and unobtrusively, he could also bless successful works that were shown to him. In this way he lifted up all human activity into the supernatural sphere. He blessed soulfully and intimately.



The sign of the cross that he made over people and things was a symbol for us of the cross that he



himself carried – out of love for his own, with the Blessed Mother and with Christ. When he blessed symbols, he also saw before him the person who asked him for it. To someone who had asked him to bless an MTA picture, he said that even more than the picture he wanted to bless the heart shrine. Even at the end of telephone conversations he gladly gave his blessing to the other person. Many were able to experience how effective this blessing was.



A seventy-three year old priest came to Schoenstatt especially to receive Father Kentenich's blessing before he died. And he, who himself was very ill at that time, fulfilled

this and many such wishes. In this way he gave people spiritual strength and inner joy. He always blessed humbly.

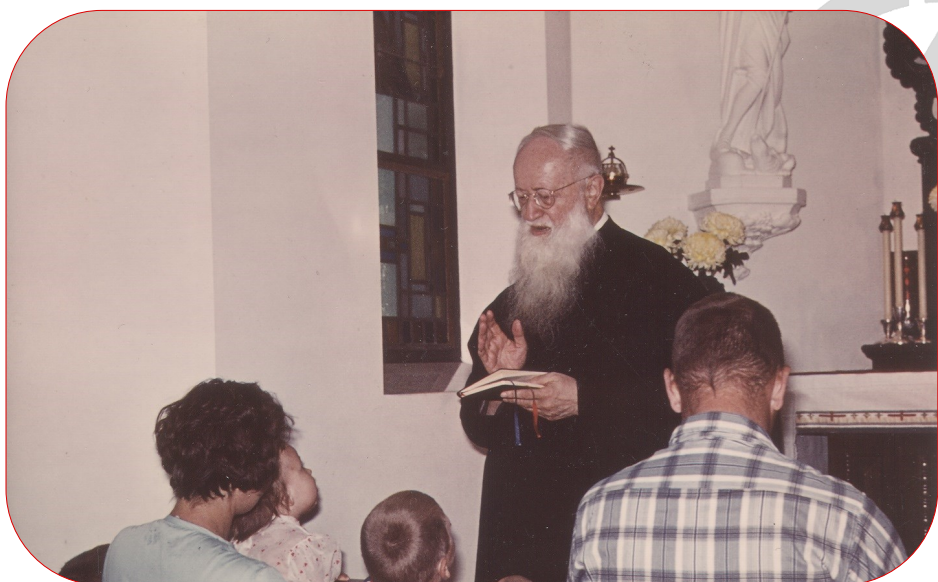


When a priest asked him for his blessing, he himself knelt down afterwards in order to receive the blessing of the other priest as well. No age difference prevented him from doing so. He gave each priest the experience of meeting in him a brother in the priesthood. When a newly ordained priest was presented to him, Father Kentenich knelt down immediately after the greeting and asked for the blessing of the new priest. Humility and reverence were involuntarily imprinted on everyone.

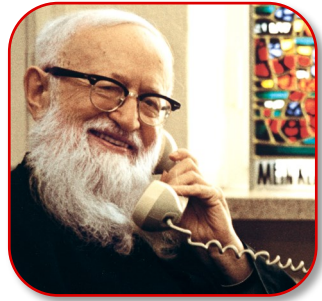


The last two priestly acts of Father Kentenich were blessings: He gave the blessing at the end of his last

Holy Mass, after his gaze was clearly directed toward the crowded church. Returning to the sacristy, he took off his chasuble as usual, remained standing for a while in front of the table, and closed his eyes. The sacristan wordlessly slipped him some rosaries to bless. At the subtle sound, he opened his eyes. He blessed the rosaries and closed his eyes again. After a few seconds he sank silently to the ground, took a few more breaths, and passed away. Someone wrote: "Our founder has gone home so silently, so simply and naturally, without any personal pretensions, but also so completely coming from God and directed toward him. As his life was, so was his death: To the end he thought of others, raised his hands in blessing. God was everything to him."



He Helps



SCHOOL PROBLEMS

Since 8th grade in junior high school, school has always been a struggle for our son. Tutoring sessions in Latin and math were on the weekly schedule. The topic of school dominated our family life, even during the vacations. Since the 11th grade, I sent prayer requests to Father Kentenich and the Blessed Mother to Schoenstatt, asking them to stand by my son during his last two years and to give him strength for everything. He successfully passed his exams before his high school graduation. Thank you for the supportive prayers from Schoenstatt. We are infinitely grateful for the answer to prayer and ask for the promised publication. With the Blessed Mother and with Father Kentenich we have strong intercessors. They will help, of that I am quite sure.

B. S., June 2020

Hereby, I thank you for the prayer. My son has passed his examination as a chimney sweep. You are welcome to publish this.

S. A., March 2020

IN FAMILY MATTERS

Father Kentenich helped us through his intercession, as he has done so often. My grandson (30) had quarreled with his parents. We aren't used to such things in our family. We always try to get along peacefully and lovingly and to live in mutual respect. I was worried all the more because

this quarrel was very intense. My grandson had broken off contact with his parents. As always, I discussed the matter in my home shrine with the Blessed Mother and with Father Kentenich. I asked them very much for help. Father Kentenich knows my grandson. I have already talked to him a lot about him. He also knows that he is a good person. Basically, he can't complain either. His parents have always taken good care of him and loved him. He is the only child. – Father Kentenich was a good intercessor. After many weeks of sadness on both sides – neither felt good – peace has come to my grandson and his parents. There was a good discussion. Much had been misunderstood. I am happy for the providence and thank Father Kentenich for his intercession.

A.K., July 2020

A Schoenstatt Mother had great difficulties with her husband. I also knew that she was a big part of the difficulty because of her early childhood experiences. This time their trouble was really serious. The husband left the house and consequently then she was worried. I could reach him by telephone and just then he was about ready to go home again. We talked and he told me the

story again and was very disturbed and ready for a divorce. I asked Father Kentenich for help and once again they made peace with one another. Thank you, Father Kentenich.

M. C. B., Texas

BUSINESS

The manager of our benefactor innocently got into trouble with the Law. He is a very honest man with a family of a wife and three children. A trial for him was scheduled and postponed several times. Finally, it was scheduled again. I prayed to Father Kentenich in this intention and the trial was again postponed. Thank you, Father Kentenich.

M. C. B., Texas

IN ILLNESS

Since I had had high blood pressure for nearly a year, despite the many medications, I turned to Schoenstatt in my distress. I prayed the novena with confidence every day and have now experienced striking help. My blood pressure is back to normal. This cannot be taken for granted. I thank the Thrice Admirable Queen of Schoenstatt and Father Kentenich for their intercession, and our dear God for hearing my prayers, and I ask for publication.

H. E., May 2020

My grandson suddenly had problems with his eyes. His father, a doctor himself, referred him to the eye doctor. So he went to see a doctor at the eye clinic. He immediately ordered an MRI and other examinations. There were symptoms in the brain that indicated the onset of MS. We were all very worried. Many

other examinations were done. These were days of uncertainty and worry for the whole family. I discussed everything with the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich. I had given my grandson a small MTA picture to take to the clinic. It was on his bedside table. With Father Kentenich, I trusted in the Blessed Mother. The good Lord will make it right, however it turns out. Three weeks have passed. My grandson has been discharged from the clinic. He is allowed to work again. The result: It's not MS. It's adhesions as a result of inflammation, possibly from a tick bite. Now he has to have a check-up every two years. I can only give heartfelt thanks for the help given by the Triune God.

A.K., July 2020

Through the intercession of Father Kentenich, the whole family of my godmother can rejoice due to a wonderful development: Regarding the cancer of the chest and abdomen, which was initially considered incurable, all treatments have been successful. The metastases have disappeared, except for one in the abdomen, which has shrunk to a size of one centimeter. The tumor levels have dropped so much that it is like a miracle for everyone. Now the whole family can look to the future with confidence and hope again.

S. R., October 2020

A friend was very sick due to COVID-19. I immediately turned to Father Kentenich in praying for her and after a week she could return to her family and is doing remarkably well.

N.P., Texas

Father Joseph Kentenich

- Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement -

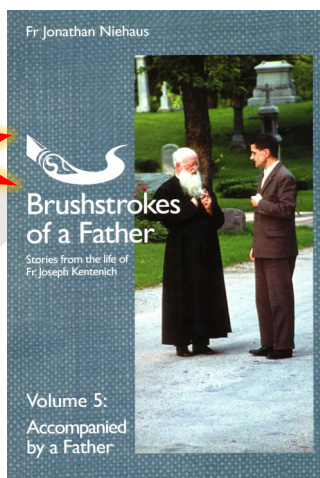
was born on November 16, 1885, in Gymnich near Cologne and died on September 15, 1968, in the Trinity Church of Berg Schoenstatt, immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass. He is also buried in this church. His sarcophagus bears the inscription ***Dilexit ecclesiam - He loved the church.***

The **Secretariat Father Josef Kentenich** distributes information about Father Kentenich, to those who are acquainted with Schoenstatt's 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:



Joseph Kentenich
A Life on the Edge
of the Volcano



Brushstrokes #5

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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.