

IMPULSE

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for Daily Living

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New beginning



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

New beginning

"There's a magic in every beginning" - a well-known saying of a German poet. Yes, it's true: there is something special about a new beginning, a "magic" that touches us, that awakens joy and hope. Wearing a beautiful, new piece of clothing for the first time; moving into a new apartment, taking the first drive in a new car such and similar moments let us feel the attraction of the new.

It is similar when a new year begins: Many "welcome" it with joyful celebrations, ringing of bells, fireworks, good wishes, good resolutions ... The "magic of the beginning" can also be experienced here.

At the same time, a new beginning always means a certain risk, a piece of uncertainty, vagueness. How did you start the new year 2022? With hope, with anxiety, with expectation?



Photo: J. Neuenhofer

A new beginning is always precious. It holds the chance to leave behind mistakes, annoyances, failures... and the depressing, to refocus on what is really important.

How good it is, therefore, to know that God always offers us this chance for a new beginning anew.

"Our God is a God of ever new beginnings."

So St. John Paul II once said: Yes, God is a God of the covenant, who always holds out his hand anew when the human covenant partner has failed. Let us think of the new beginning with Noah after the Flood, with Abraham, who was given a son after a long period of childlessness, with the promise that his people will be as numerous as the sand on the sea shore. Let us think of Moses, who brought the people of Israel to a new land after hard slavery.

The unique new beginning in the history of salvation is given to us in Jesus Christ: Through his love God becomes man, comes unimaginably close to us, redeems us from all our guilt, opens up the possibility for us to begin anew again and again - no matter what has happened. Because he is the "God with us", we can look into the future with confidence. In his strength we can always dare new beginnings in our own lives.

FATHER KENTENICH - A MAN OF NEW BEGINNINGS

In one of his talks, the founder of Schoenstatt once said that our whole life consists of starting over again and again. More often he could even say: "Holiness consists in having the courage to begin anew every day."

By founding the Schoenstatt Movement in October 1914, shortly after the outbreak of the First World War, he became one of those who initiated a new beginning in the history of the Church: Through a "Covenant of Love" with Mary, the small chapel in Schoenstatt has become a source of blessing for many. The time before this venture was described by Father Kentenich as the most difficult in his life. It was marked by questioning and struggling to interpret the will of God correctly. For a real new beginning cannot be the work of man alone, but must ultimately be

based on God's initiative.

This remained his basic attitude also in the founding of each of the various Schoenstatt communities: Groping, listening and asking about God's plan and the willingness to accept his guidance, even when this required unexpected changes.

What was the secret of the new beginning for Father Kentenich? Where did he get the courage to take such risks? One answer is surely his deep attachment to Mary. She is the "expert" of new beginnings, because from her womb came the one who became the great new beginning of mankind: Jesus Christ. In this way, Father Kentenich was able to issue the motto in 1968, in a rebellious phase for the Church and the world:

"With Mary, hopeful and confident of victory into the newest time!"

Suggestions for our lives:

- *To see each new morning as an opportunity and, holding the hand of the Blessed Mother - She will help!*
- *Especially in times of crisis: always start anew to create in my environment an atmosphere of love and hope.*
- *At every new beginning: ask about God's plan, open yourself up and let yourself be led by Him.*

Testimony

“A new beginning in my life”

We are in June 2019 and I have arrived - sadly arrived at the end. At the end of my marriage!

I seek the discussion with my husband and explain to him that I want to separate from him. Only his repeated assurances that he loves me and does not want to separate, and the thought of our 10-year-old daughter Anna give me pause ...

I experience the following days agitated and restless. There comes an offer from my mother to accompany her to a "Women's Day" in Memhölz just at the right time. Supposedly it is about keys to relationships! The event was offered by Schoenstatt! A bus trip and a beautiful, relaxed day in the Allgäu!" Allgäu - relationship problems - woman. Yes, that fits!", "Schoenstatt - no idea", I think to myself and agree. In my tense family situation I grasp at this straw - not suspecting that this would be the beginning of a wonderful change.

The day in Memhölz, at the beginning of July, is spent by my

mother and me together with the rest of the participants, prayers, songs, good food, and the possibility to stay in the small Schoenstatt shrine. Everything is well organized, many friendly people, a relaxed atmosphere. On the way to the shrine, I am impressed by the life-size statue of a man who captivates me with his charisma – Joseph Kentenich. In the shrine itself, I immediately notice a small brochure that is on display there:

"DO NOT BE AFRAID! A NEW BEGINNING IN FAITH AND LOVE"

"A new beginning in love! Fear not! - A new beginning in Love!" I keep thinking to myself. The booklet seems to be made for me.

I take it with me, buy another biography about Father Kentenich, and my mother and I set off for home with our bus company.

At home, the little booklet turns out to be a novena (nine-day prayer), and for the first time in my life I pray, I really pray,

without even suspecting how powerful prayer can be! At the same time, I begin to read the life story of Fr. Kentenich's life. Above all, his deep love and his trust in the Blessed Mother and his faith in Providence impressed me deeply. Like him, I now place my life under the care of Mary.

Now - two years later I am dumbfounded, overwhelmed and in a deep peace and would like to briefly report on the small and big changes in my life:

- *The novena "Fear not! A new beginning in faith and in love" brought first of all a beginning in FAITH.*
- *Our Blessed Mother led me gently and tenderly to her Son.*
- *From a "Christmas only Catholic" I became a disciple of Jesus and a true lover.*
- *My circle of friends expanded by numerous, believing people, who share the same goal with me.*
- *From the former orchestra player and ensemble leader, who spent much leisure time listening to light music, HE formed an enthusiastic "praise singer".*
- *The initially (only) church-goer became an active participant in the life of the parish community.*
- *What I am also very happy about: My husband and I have been given a new beginning in love in our marriage.*



He Helps



PROFESSIONAL

From April 2020 to April 2021 I was unemployed. Twice I lost my job because of Corona. It was a tough year. Often it was not easy for me to persevere. But with prayers to the Blessed Mother and to Father Kentenich, I got through that year. In mid-April, I found a new job. Since May 1, I am employed again.

A. M. F., July 2021, Switzerland

It was ten years ago that our son finished his studies, but did not find a job, so he moved back home. Rejections, or no response at all to his applications had frustrated him greatly. In the early summer of 2012, I therefore went more often to the Schoenstatt shrine to pray or just to sit there. At that time, I also prayed a novena for help to Father Kentenich. In August, a Schoenstatter gave my son the advice to move to Berlin to increase his chances for employment. A room in a shared apartment was ready. After a few months, he got a half-time job, which was later changed to full-time. It is an interesting job to which he can also bring knowledge from his studies. Although I myself am not very deeply religious, I believe that the Blessed Mother Mary and Father Kentenich effected much.

U. S., August 2021

I had spent more than an hour recording some videos and when we went to find them on the camera, they were gone! We hooked the camera up to the computer, but still no trace of them at all. I asked Fr. Kentenich to please help us to find them. Then we attached the camera to the computer one more time and the videos were there! Thank you Fr. Kentenich!

F.Y.WI

IN ILLNESS

On August 23, 2019, I asked for healing for my son. He was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. He was given cortisone, which he could not tolerate very well. He started having cramps and could not eat or drink anything. He had to be artificially fed for several months. He lost a lot of weight and looked very ill. But then things got better. In July of this year, the doctor could no longer see anything abnormal during a colonoscopy. Our son can eat everything again and continue his studies. He is now 22 years old and enjoys life again. We are very grateful for the grace we have received. Thank you very much, dear

Blessed Mother and Father
Kentenich. *M. P., August 2021*

My husband was hospitalized since January 20, 2021 because of poor liver values. After many examinations, he had surgery on March 9. The head of the pancreas, the gall bladder, the duodenum and the mouth of the stomach were removed. He lost a lot of weight. During the operation he had caught a germ, which was treated with antibiotics for seven days. On April 13, he went to rehab for four weeks, which unfortunately didn't do much good because he was still too weak. On May 18, he was discharged. He read the description to the antibiotic and it said to take it for ten days. In the hospital and in rehab he had been given it for seven days each. Each time the diarrhea started again. My husband spread the last package over ten days and the four tablets over the last two days, and the germ was dead. He presented himself to the professor for chemotherapy. He said to him: "This therapy is too strong for you. You are 80 years old. This kind of therapy will make the germ active again." So he let it go. My husband started riding his bicycle again with his friends and since the end of June, his motorcycle again. Our Lady and Father Kentenich helped him. Thank you!

E. N., September 2021

When our daughter-in-law developed complications in the sixth month of pregnancy, a premature birth was

imminent with great danger for the baby. I asked our Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt and Father Kentenich for their intercession. Our daughter-in-law fought for every day and every week. After four weeks of strict bedrest in the hospital, all the findings were back to normal. She was allowed to return home, where her firstborn daughter was eagerly waiting for her. She continues to do well, and at the moment everything points to a timely birth of a mature, healthy child. As a gynecologist myself, I know how unlikely and unexpected such a favorable course is. For me it is simply a miracle.

S. B., November 2021

In early October 2020 I was informed by my Doctor that I had a large mass on my liver that I had to have checked out ASAP. My father had passed away from liver cancer some years earlier just 2 months after getting his diagnosis...I can honestly say I have never prayed in all my life so fervently for God's intercession for my health. A week later my Doctor informed me that the cyst on my liver was benign. I believe I am healthy today through Fr. Kentenich's intercession.

M. H. Texas

My dad was in a coma for 24 hours because of an overdose of medication and I asked Fr. Kentenich to please intercede that he would wake up and that there would be no brain damage. After 30 hours he woke up and does not have any brain damage!

F. Y. WI

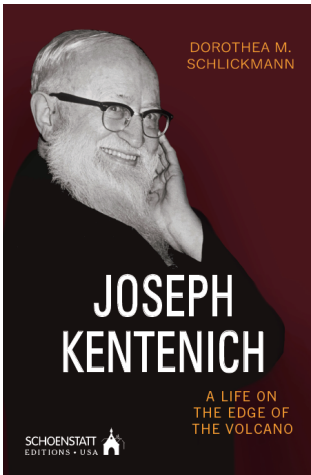
Father Joseph Kentenich

- 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 the publications:

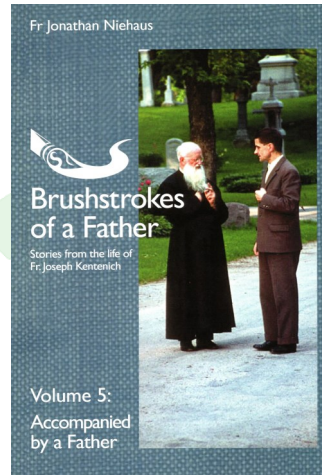


A Life on the Edge of the Volcano

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Brushstrokes of a Father #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