

# IMPULSE

11 2023

## *For Daily Living*



### *A Listening Heart Assistance*



Secretariat Father Joseph Kantenich

# ***A listening heart assistance***

***"Give your servant a listening heart, so that he may know how to govern your people and to know how to distinguish good from evil." (1 Kings 3:9)***

This is the answer of King Solomon, when God prompts him to make a request that HE should grant him. A listening heart, that is without doubt something very decisive - also for us people today. How much information we take in every day, how many opinions are conveyed to us in newspapers, on the radio, on television and through many different ways on the Internet! How difficult it is to distinguish between good and evil, what is truth, lie or manipulation. It is a real challenge to hear God's voice in the noise of the many voices and noises and to recognize what is right according to his will, which way he wants to lead us, so that all humanity and each individual find "life in fullness".

Father Kentenich was convinced: "Through everything that is going on in the world, God wants to say something for me personally. We may assume that he places us in the

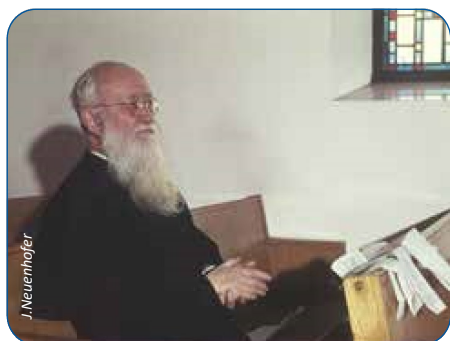
center of his interest, that he is interested in the smallest thing. And everything he does in the world government is also connected with a message for me.

We must always hear the message of God out of every little thing. This can be whatever, the question is always: Dear God, what are you trying to say?"

For Schoenstatt's founder, this question had become, so to speak, a basic attitude that he practiced daily. He suggested that every evening there be a kind of "today show" of the signs of God's love, to trace his guidance in every event, every encounter, in the beautiful and difficult moments that the day brought. He himself attained a certain mastery in this, so that Bishop Tenhumberg was able to say on the day of Father Kentenich's funeral:

"I have never experienced a person of whom I had the conviction that he was so much a listener at every moment, a man who listens to God, and is therefore, in the deepest sense, an obedient person."

In order to be able to listen attentively, it is important to become quiet, to take time, to give the other person space. This also applies in a special way to the



relationship with God. Those who give silence and prayer a permanent place in their daily lives are most likely to avoid the danger of being a victim of the multitude of opinions and events and simply go with the flow of the masses.

One of Father Kentenich's words, which makes us take notice reads like this:

***"The deeper reason for the rarity of character is the lack of contemplation, of silence."***

Using a practical example, he once explained in a conversational tone to a group of American couples how this listening to God can look very concretely:

"We think: What happened yesterday during the whole day? What did I experience yesterday? So, because of my business. I had to deal with workers and they gave me a hard time! Now, what do I do? I think: Is it by chance? ... You see, the question for me now is: Dear God, what do

you want to tell me? ... Perhaps about this harsh way my workers treated me today. You see, it is already a great step forward that I say to myself that the good Lord is behind it. And if only he had allowed it ... Now you must consider you have to think about what he wants to say to you. O, the dear God, he can often say a great deal with few words. Perhaps he wants to say to me: Stop, you are also sometimes terribly harsh in your life! Be careful, you must also overcome the hardness in yourself! And how many people have already suffered from your harshness! ... Of course, I would have to ask you to try this out first. Look, if you get used to practicing it often, then it will become a habit that no event will occur without taking advantage of it in a similar way."

***Impulse for our life***  
***Every day a small "Listening exercise": seek silence, events and encounters What has touched me? Where does God speak to me?***

***“ Lord, teach us to pray! ...  
Make sure that we learn to listen again, to hear what you say  
in us through suggestions; hear what you speak to us through  
the destinies of our lives; listen to what you speak to us  
through the great needs of our time! ”***

J. Kentenich

Sr. M. Resia Käppeler



## *Testimonials from Letters to the Editor*

children. Now they are 16 years old and can no longer come every week. But our relationship is still very cordial.

The faith in Divine Providence lived and taught by Fr. Kentenich helps me - also to remain calm and trusting during the Corona time. I also have no fear of the future or death. For Father Kentenich is a saint and his life is a model of finding God in the right way and of becoming a 'joyful child of faith'."

**I. Z.**

"I received the booklets 'God sees me, he loves me, he needs me' and 'Yes, Father! God is our Father' many years ago from a faith-filled woman and Schoenstatt pilgrim. It was a blessing for me to read them and, with the help of the texts and prayers, to find healing from inner wounds.

Father Kentenich is a saint for me, I feel this in my heart, in spite of the attacks to which he is still subjected today, long after his death." **M. M.**

"Already 30 years ago I began to turn to Father Joseph Kentenich in special emergencies, to ask him for assistance and help. I prayed novenas and, in the end, I was always helped. These were always borderline experiences, in which I did not know how to go on. In the beginning it was about marriage and job, then the children, and later their finding a place to live at home and

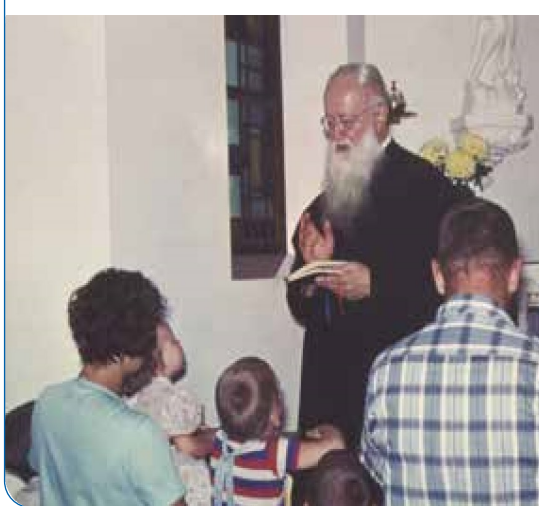
"I experienced Fr. Kentenich in two personal conversations and had the impression that he deeply grasped my being like this and understood me. When I stood directly by his coffin in the Adoration Church a few hours after his death, he became father and helper for me in the world beyond. For years I have asked him every morning, through a randomly opened text from one of my books, to speak to me for that day. After a prayer to the Holy Spirit, I open a book. Often, I get goose bumps, how appropriate the text is for that day. On one of my wedding anniversaries I came across a text from a book by Michel Quoist, 'Between Man and God.' It read, 'To be content with one's marriage.' At the time, my husband and I were having great relationship difficulties.

When I am in an important conversation with people, I ask Father to be there so that I have the right empathy and find the right words. His pedagogy - 'to educate is to selflessly serve others' lives' and 'creating an atmosphere of joy' - has helped me to experience twelve wonderful years with my twin

abroad, then about my own new professional direction. I can report in many ways that we were helped. My great trust in Fr. Kentenich and the Blessed Mother has proven itself. All the words that Fr. Kentenich left behind, namely that we can turn to the Blessed Mother have proven to be true. For this I am infinitely grateful.” R. C.

“On Father Kentenich's birthday, I thought of him and thanked God that HE gave him to us and that Fr. Kentenich intercedes for us in so many sorrows. Also, for all that we have learned from him, for all that he has told us, I am very grateful for that and it always makes me happy and joyful. His confident words always give me hope and strengthen me on my way through the day and time.” R. H

"I hope for the entire Schoenstatt Work, that Father Kentenich's beatification process will soon be resumed. Recently I finally watched the DVD about his life, "Someone



Must Lead the Way," for which I express my heartfelt thanks. In my opinion, such a man must be given the honor of the altars.

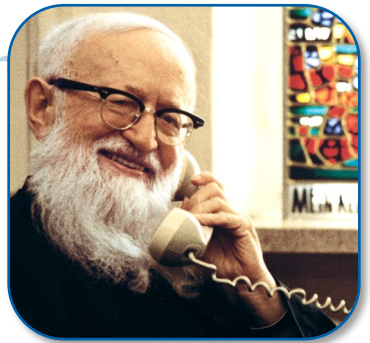
From 1942 until the end of the war my former pastor H. Richarz was in the concentration camp Dachau. In his apartment, on a table next to some other pictures were the pictures of Father Kentenich and Karl Leisner, who was ordained a priest in December 1944 in the concentration camp. Father Richarz, who died a long time ago, said again and again that he had always found Father Kentenich's words very beneficial, and that he had not experienced such profoundly faith-filled suggestions since his time in the seminary as those Fr. Kentenich had given him in the Dachau concentration camp. Thus, for him, through Fr. Kentenich, the concentration camp in Dachau became, so to speak, a second seminary."

J. H.

*God carries us. And should we ever fall from his supporting, guiding, loving hand, fall into the abyss as it were: the same Father's hand catches us again and again.*

J. Kentenich

# He helps **He Helps**



## **HE HELPS IN SICKNESS**

About a year ago I had written to you about my illness and asked for help. I believe that my and your prayers to the Blessed Mother and to Joseph Kentenich have been answered. After almost half a year, my circulatory problems and dizzy spells have almost disappeared. Since today I have been driving again. An additional breathing disorder has also been resolved. I would like to follow the words of Father Kentenich and not forget to give thanks. My great wish is to visit Schoenstatt again with my wife.

**E. R., June 2022**

Many years ago, I experienced a miraculous healing. On the middle finger of my right hand a reddening had appeared, which became more and more swollen and painful. The diagnosis at that time was "circulation" and the finger was treated on an outpatient basis with Rivanol and penicillin. After a slight improvement I received permission to take part in a planned trip, provided that I continued to receive regular treatment at the hospital there. When I was there, I was in for a nasty surprise. The finger was completely ulcerous and looked as if

it had been chewed on. The doctor was furious because I had been allowed to travel in this condition. The X-ray confirmed his suspicion: suppuration of the bone. He saw no hope for the finger and explained to me that this diagnosis would have meant certain death a few decades ago. Since he knew Schoenstatt, he told me, "Father won't help you there either." He wanted to try to save the finger with a strong antibiotic treatment, but he did not give me much hope. That same evening, I began a novena for the intercession of Father Kentenich. There were anxious faces during the daily treatment. At the next X-ray examination, which could only be done after a few days - at the end of my novena, I was afraid of the truth. I met the doctor in the corridor and I would have liked to sneak past him. But he had already discovered me and called to me from afar: "Father Kentenich has helped! The X-ray was great!" It was a load off my mind. A fellow patient told me at that time that, according to experience, such a disease would break out again after a few years. Since this has not happened so far,



after more than thirty years, I would like to publish my thanks.

M. L., July 2022

### AT THE HOUSE SALE

In the summer I contacted the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary to pray to Fr. Kentenich and ask for help when a house sale which was connected with much effort and work, threatened to fail. Together with my siblings I had put the house of our parents which was in need of renovation up for sale. After many difficulties we had finally found suitable buyers and were very happy about it. Shortly before the notary appointment we were unexpectedly told by good acquaintances that there were obstacles in the way, so that the house sale threatened to fail. This situation has not only burdened us siblings very much. By our not completely simple life circumstances we lacked the strength, to start again with the search for a buyer. But through the intercession of Father Kentenich, we were able to sell our house after all, for which we are very grateful.

G., August 2022

### FOR SCHOOL PROBLEMS

The past months have been very difficult for us because of our grandson's school problems. At the age of 15 he did not care about anything. He did not want to know anything about the church. He had "no desire" for school. About six weeks ago, he got the message from the high school that his graduation

was in jeopardy. I prayed two novenas and almost a miracle happened. He studied properly during the last week before the exams and recently received the joyful news that he had done everything and could graduate. Next week he is also going to Denmark with a Catholic Church group! I sometimes think: We have now another grandson! Many thanks for all the help.

U. G., August 2022

Both of my daughters were in the high school graduation class. The younger one was in high school and the older one had to move to a vocational high school to a big city 120 km away. Little by little she got mentally worse and worse, although it went quite well in school at first. At some point, it became clear to her and us that she was suffering from homesickness, aggravated by the crisis, as she had to spend a lot of time alone in her room. The thought of dropping out of school came but her desire was to pursue a degree in social work and then help disadvantaged children. To achieve this goal, she had to persevere. With the help of Fr. Kentenich and the Blessed Mother, she has now her high school diploma and also got a place at university. With the younger daughter, we did not know whether she would be able to graduate due to her math grades. Here, too, our prayers were answered. Thank you for all your support in prayer!

R. H., September 2022

## Father Joseph Kentenich

- Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement -

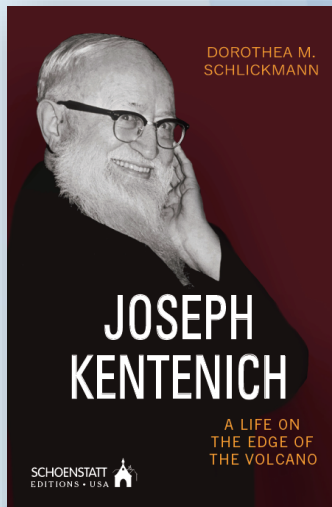
*was born on November 16, 1885, in Gymnich near Cologne and died on September 15, 1968, in the Trinity Church of Berg Schoenstatt, immediately after the celebration of the Holy Mass. He is also buried in this church. His sarcophagus bears the inscription **Dilexit ecclesiam - He loved the church.***

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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.

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### *A Life at the Edge of the Volcano*

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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.*