

IMPULSE

#1-2024

for Daily Living



*In
God we trust*



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich

Have confidence

"Have faith", can this call become an encouraging word for this year's Lent and perhaps even beyond?

"Have faith" is easy to say, but isn't the situation in the world and the Church currently characterized more by mistrust? Isn't there more and more talk of crises of trust, of a loss of trust, of the need to regain lost trust?

How good it feels when there is a climate of trust in the family, among friends and at work, when people can rely on each other, are there for each other and solve and bear difficulties together. However, such a climate does not just happen, sometimes it takes time and patience to build and maintain trust. Each and every one of us is personally called upon and challenged. Trust always requires courage. If I am too anxious and too hesitant, I will find it difficult to trust others. "Just take the first step in trust. You don't need to see all the way. Just take the first step." (*Martin Luther King*)

We have probably all experienced that trust is often associated with a certain degree of risk. We have placed our trust in others and experienced bitter disappointments. We talked about sensitive, personal matters in what we thought was a trusted circle and were sure it would stay that way. But then we experienced content being passed on "on the street".

The disappointment will be even greater if someone uses confidential information to their own advantage in order to appear good or trustworthy. "Have faith", we don't have to give this advise to the little girl in the photo. Her laughter reveals that she is experiencing pure joy, that she is not afraid. The child intuitively trusts her father because she knows he will catch her and hold her close. No matter what comes, she is absolutely safe in his hands.

"Have faith", an encouraging word for preparing for Easter and beyond? In nature, we await spring in these weeks and, after the dark days of winter, long for it to become brighter again.

Yes, we know that new life is already germinating in the earth and that the rays of sun will break through. This sprouting and ever new blossoming in



nature can be a sign to us that our personal darkneses will also become brighter again.

"It is trust and nothing but trust that must lead us to love." These words of the

little St. Therese inspired Pope Francis to write an apostolic letter.

The Holy Father refers to the core of her spirituality as the 'little way' for her. For her, it is not personal merit that counts, but only the grace of God.

"The appropriate attitude," says Pope Francis, "is therefore to place the trust of the heart outside ourselves: to ourselves, in the infinite mercy of a God who loves without limit and who has given everything in the cross of Jesus." (cf. Oct. 14, 2023 vatikannews)

Looking at Therese and her little way, Fr. Kentenich encourages us to become a "miracle of trust". He himself overcame all difficulties countless times in his life only by trusting in the help of the Blessed Mother and he guided others to do the same.

He lived entirely from his covenant with Mary and the experience: "I am never alone, the Blessed Mother has made a covenant with me and everything I do, I can trust in her." It was from this attitude that he formulated his prayer of trust in the concentration camp in Dachau.

I trust your might, your kindness Mother dear, I do believe, that you are always near. Schoenstatt's great Queen, O Mother mild, I blindly trust in you and in your Child.

"Have faith" is a word we can say to ourselves, but we can also pass it on to others. It can accompany us when we are plagued by worries or especially when things are not very trustworthy in everyday life. A look upwards, a prayer to Mary can help us to take the first step, to gain new trust, so that climate of trust and mutual appreciation can emerge anew, continue to grow or become deeper.

Let us be inspired by the child on the cover picture to let ourselves fall into God's merciful arms "in all situations". Let us tell our families, friends or colleagues about positive experiences or call someone we know who is lonely and alone. Strengthened by new experiences, we can then celebrate Easter and sing the Hallelujah with joy.

Impulses for everyday life

- *Can Fr. Kentenich's prayer of trust also become my prayer of trust?*
- *Can I courageously practice small steps of trust in preparation for Easter?*
- *Can I say everyday in prayer: 'Lord, I trust in you, give me the strength to go forward, I trust in you, in the things you have given me, tell me how to carry them out?'*

Sr. Gisela-Maria Mues



Testimonies

Meeting with Father Kentenich in 1964

*Testimony of Sr. Thomasine Treese,
who now lives in Perth, Australia.*



As a student at the Marienschule in Vallendar and having grown up in the Schoenstatt Youth, Sr. M. Thomasine was inspired by the biographies of the young students of the founding generation. "When I was about 15 years old," she reports, "my life was already pretty clear: to live my covenant of love with its ideals and to serve God in the mission, preferably in Africa." After graduating from high school, she studied, became a teacher and wanted to join the Sisters of Mary for the missions. As it was not possible to join the missions directly, she received a proposal to spend several months with the Sisters of Mary in the USA. After some hesitation, she took the plunge. During her stay, she had the opportunity to meet and speak with Father Kentenich. Sr. M. Thomasine reports from this time of a guidance that has shaped her life to this day:

I was nervous about meeting Father Kentenich, but also curious to meet a great founder and see how he would go about making people, and hopefully me, a better person.

The very day I arrived in Milwaukee, I met him for the first time during a prayer service in the shrine. I was a little surprised, because he was different than I had imagined him. He was short and had a high-pitched voice; he was kind, simple and warm, greeted everyone and me too and said that he was waiting for me. That relaxed me a little.

It was soon possible to tell Father Kentenich about my life. There was really nothing out of the ordinary in my life of 22 years. He listened with great interest and that made me feel good. When I came to the end, he asked the heavenly Father in simple words for wisdom and understanding so that he could lead me to where God wanted me to be. It was a simple prayer and yet it overwhelmed me that the founder of a worldwide movement would bow before God and ask him for the grace to understand this young person and guide her God's ways. That moment was deeply imprinted on my heart. From then on, he was no longer just the founder for me, but the representative of God, the person God would use to communicate his will and desire to me.

I had the feeling that Father Kentenich knew me inside out. That gave me

security, because with him I could be completely myself without pretending. Once I asked him to give me a suitable resolution for my self-education. I expected that he would give me something that would enable me to experience faster and greater success in my endeavors.

He said: "Pay attention to the signs of God's love for you every day." I was amazed and thanked him politely. But deep in my heart, I was not satisfied. I didn't think it was the right thing to say. I had expected him to give me a few specific points. Since I couldn't do anything with such a resolution, I brought up my difficulties on my next visit: It's far too general. Just paying attention to God's love is really not for me. I need something concrete and practical that I can do and check in the evening.

Father Kantenich simply listened and repeated what he had said before: "Pay attention to the signs of God's love throughout the day. In the evening, remember at least one of these signs. Then you can add the question: How did I respond to his signs of love? How did I show him my love during the day?"

He recognized my dissatisfaction, because I was still convinced that only concrete points could bring me forward in my striving, as I was accustomed in doing. He then explained that God does not want great deeds for the time being, instead it should be God's love for me that should satisfy me and not my own achievements. God wants to take possession of my heart, not my actions.

He knows that if he were to ask me to do a heroic deed, I would do it immediately and gladly. But he wants my heart first, the love of a simple, humble and trusting child, an unconditionally loving child who could do anything in any situation not so much because she wants to, but because God wants. Father Kantenich later added two more questions to the first ones:

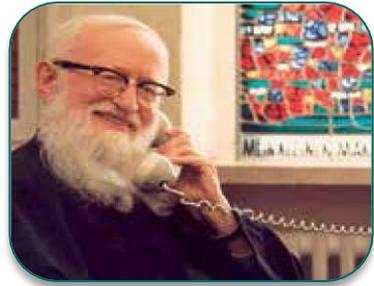
How has God hurt me - through people, circumstances, etc.? How have I offended God and made amends? This is the root of childlikeness, he said, the conquest of one's own inner world, where the child encounters her God, the Father. It is the basis for a fruitful life.

Why did our founder give me such simple advice, which at first seemed too simple to me? For him, it was important to develop an inner attitude. He wanted to be sure that God would come alive in me as a person whose love I can touch and should reciprocate in my daily life. Then action will unfold in the way that life demands.

To summarize, today I can say that the long process of transformation began with me slowly becoming a child before God, who is the Father and whose love and guidance is always a new experience for me. I am convinced that God is still using our Father and Founder to keep the flame of my childlike love alive and strengthens it. I am forever grateful to him for leading me despite my initial - stubbornness - into the deepest reality of life: Holiness consists in nothing other than the love of a child for her father.

That's my experience - every day.

He helps He Helps



SEARCH FOR AN AMOUNT OF MONEY

On our granddaughter F.'s baptismal day, her parents received a gift of €500.00. The envelope was "safely" deposited in the cupboard, but could no longer be found on the evening of the day. The question arose as to whether a handover had taken place at all. The people involved tried to reconstruct the process, but all attempts were unsuccessful. Even the discarded gift wrapping and the garbage can were checked. In this emergency, I begged the Mother of God and Father Kentenich to help me find the money, because €500 is a lot of money for a young family (even for an "old" one).

After four days, the redemptive phone call came. The envelope with the money had slipped between two books and was "hidden" in such a way that it was not noticed during the initial phase of search. I could clearly feel the help of the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich and promised to publish it.

M. S. - October 2023

THE GRANDDAUGHTER'S FUTURE

In great concern for the future and the

health of our granddaughter, I constantly prayed to Father Kentenich for intercession with the Blessed Mother. She answered our prayer, as she had done many times before!

We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts and ask you to publish it!

M. Kl. - November 20

SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION

After graduating as a travel agent (2018), our son spent a year in Canada to perfect his English skills. After his return in 2019, he applied to a company and also passed the entrance exam (February 2020).

A dream had come true for him. But then came corona and after just six months, the company laid off all of its most recent hires, including our son. We repeatedly entrusted our son to the Blessed Mother and turned to Fr. Kentenich in numerous novenas. One month after his release in September 2020, our son took up a degree in business administration and, with God's help, graduated with great success in September 2023. After numerous applications, he has now found a good job in a large company.

We thank Father Kentenich, who has always given us new courage and helped us over the years.

U. P. - January 2024

TRUTH COMES TO LIGHT

A distant relative had been in a very difficult situation for several years. He had been accused by a company, but it was difficult to prove his innocence. Several lawyers had refused to take on this "case", everything seemed hopeless. We prayed a lot over the years and called upon the Mother of God and Father Kentenich for their intercession so that the truth would come to light. On October 24, 2023, the trial took place in which my relative's innocence came to light and he was acquitted. We are convinced that Father Kentenich helped here and ask for publication.

J. K. - November

A BABY IS ALLOWED TO LIVE ON

On Aug. 21, 2023, an eleven-month-old child was brought to our clinic in a severely malnourished condition. He had water on his face and body and therefore open wounds. I asked Father Kentenich so that the child could continue to live and gave him an emergency baptism. After three days, the child looked around a little and was able to cry, as the wounds

on his face were healing. He became more alert and began to eat. Father Kentenich helped. The child is getting better each day. Thank you very much!

September 2023 – Sr. M. P., Burundi

APPLICATION APPROVED

Today, on Fr. Kentenich's birthday, I have the pleasure of announcing a wonderful answer to prayer. Today I received confirmation that my application for a reduced earning capacity pension has been approved. At first it looked as if my application would not be approved. Then I entrusted everything to the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich. I thank you with all my heart for the answer to my prayers. Every day I place my family under the protection of the MTA and Fr. Kentenich and pray for his beatification. You are welcome to publish this answer to prayer.

November 2023 - A. F.

PURSE FOUND

My sister has taken on the legal guardianship of a young man from her former group home who is mentally ill. He now lives in a residential home and had lost his wallet with all his official papers. In this emergency, we urgently asked Father Kentenich and the Blessed Mother for help and we were able to experience that HE helps. The wallet was found very quickly and we are extremely grateful.

January 2024 - S. B

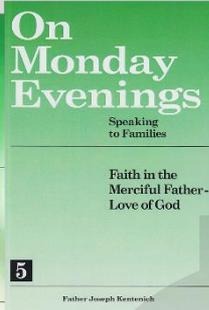
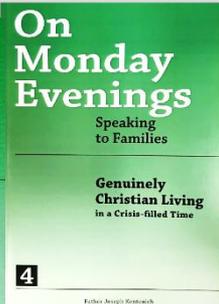
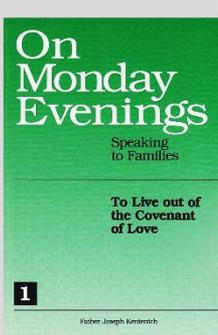




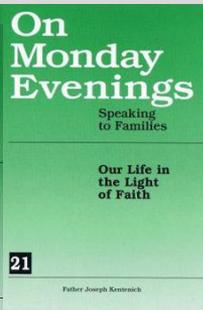
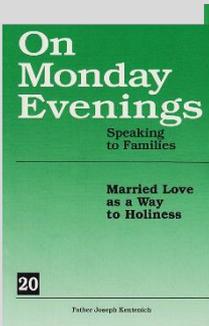
A warm welcome to visit the Father House!

In this historical house, you can learn about the person and mission of the servant of God, Schoenstatt's Founder, Father Joseph Kentenich. After the purchase of the farm land in 1936, the original farm house was renovated and used for events and meetings. As Father Kentenich often visited with people in this house, it was given its name: Father House.

You are welcome to visit this house with its many historic rooms, as it is open daily from 8 am to 8 pm.



The series "On Monday Evenings ..." publishes the talks that Fr. Joseph Kentenich gave to married couples in Milwaukee, USA, between 1955 and 1964.



We have various Volumes available, which include topics relevant for daily life, such as: how to live in union with Mary through a covenant of love, how to live our faith in our times, marriage as a way to holiness, etc.

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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.