

IMPULSE

2 | 2026

for life

A New Beginning



Father Joseph Kentenich Secretariat



A New Beginning

This time the cover image of the new issue of “Impulse for Life” features a blossoming apple tree standing between the Father Kentenich House

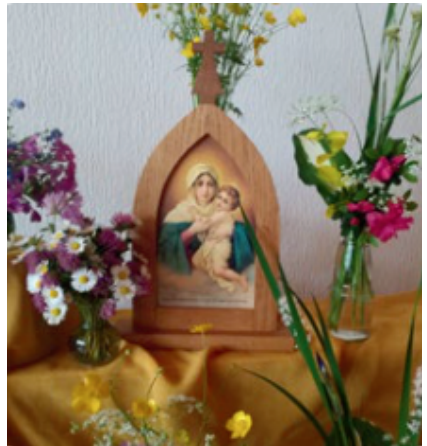
and the Marienland Conference Center in Schoenstatt, Germany. It is spring; the sun is shining, warming the air, inviting us to take a walk or to work in the garden. The sight of the blossoms against the bright blue sky lets us hope for a bountiful harvest in the fall.

Spring, which signifies the definitive end of winter, the end of the cold and windy days that were still frequently felt in April. Spring is associated with a certain sense of renewal. In nature, everything begins to grow and fresh green becomes more visible every day and transforms the entire landscape.

In the Catholic Church, the month of May is associated with a special Marian devotion in the Middle Ages. The blossoming nature becomes a symbol of the Mother of God’s abundance of grace, who is sung of as the “most beautiful flower.” The first May devotions took place in Germany in 1841, at the Convent of the Good Shepherdess in Munich-Haidhausen took place. In many parish churches and chapels, a festively decorated May altar is a long-standing tradition.

People are often invited to pilgrimage routes featuring May devotions at wayside shrines or statues of the Virgin Mary out in the open air.

Presumably, many of us have decorated a small May altar for Mary in our families during the month of May. Perhaps this custom is still observed today to honor the Mother of God, to thank her, and to entrust our many concerns and worries to her. Quite a few young families have rediscovered for themselves that it brings joy to children enjoy gathering herbs and flowers for a May altar ending the day like this.



The decision to celebrate Mary in May was a great concern for our founder, Father Kentenich. On the evening of April 30, 1968, he told the pilgrims at the shrine on Mount Schoenstatt who had gathered with candles in their hands for the May procession:

“What can we expect this May?

More specifically: What can we expect from the Queen of May? ... Here we recall an old saying ... by Vincent Pallotti ...

It goes like this: How much peace there is in heaven—and how many graces are bestowed here on earth! That was always said for each individual feast day.

And when we think of the month of May, then we not only have one but a whole month, that is, 31 days. Hence, if now every single feast day already prompts the Mother of God to show herself as the Mediatrix of Grace, what can we then expect from her when we think of an entire month!... Every feast day a day of grace! Every day in May is a day of grace! Every day in May is a Marian feast day!”

In all things, Father Kentenich trusted in the help of the Mother of God and urged us to call upon her again and again as the Intercessor from whom we may expect much even today.

What is it that moves and concerns us in this Month of May 2026? What can and do we want to entrust to Mary today?

A look at the situation in the Church and the world gives us more cause for great sorrow than for a spirit of renewal and new beginnings.

There is still no peace in many parts of the world, countless people are still suffering from the consequences of natural disasters, and conflict and uncertainty still dominate daily life in communities and often within families.

On April 11, 2026, Pope Leo XIV spoke of the power of prayer in his urgent appeal for peace. He emphasized that it is prayer that teaches us to act and that compels us to do so.

“In prayer, our limited human possibilities are joined to the infinite possibilities of God.” ...

“Prayer calls us to leave behind whatever violence remains in our hearts and minds. Let us turn to a Kingdom of peace that is built up day by day – in our homes, schools, neighborhoods, and civil and religious communities. A Kingdom that counters polemics and resignation through friendship and a culture of encounter. Let us believe once again in love, moderation and good politics. We must form ourselves and get personally involved, each following our own calling. Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace! Let us educate ourselves accordingly and get personally involved, each according to his or her vocation. Everyone has a place in the mosaic of peace!”

And in conclusion, the Holy Father addresses this prayer to Jesus Christ: *“Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother, who stood at the foot of your cross with a broken heart, firm in the faith that you would rise again.”*

With all my heart, I wish and pray that, in the time ahead, amidst all the challenges, you receive this deep trust in the Blessed Mother.



Photo: Tobias Fischer

Encounters at the Father Kentenich House

When the Father Kentenich House was opened to the public on September 15, 1985, the architect, Alexander Baron von Branca, said that this house was not meant to commemorate the deceased Father Kentenich, but rather —“the most Reverend Father who takes us by the hand to lead us into a more humane, a more faithful future that transcends the boundaries of life.” And at the end of his remarks, he expressed the hope that this house might be a “piece of the Gospel in a world that so urgently needs the Gospel.”

Today, more than 40 years later, we are witnessing that the Father Kentenich House has become a place of proclamation for many people, regardless of whether they already knew something about Schoenstatt

and its founder. Whether you have heard of it or read about it or not, it has become a place of encounter and is becoming so more and more. Visitors from all walks of life and every nation are discovering this house, not least through digital media. Often they are spontaneous guests who happen by as hikers or cyclists and are simply curious about what lies behind these walls.

The Father Kentenich House is a place that bears witness simply through its architecture. A massive stone cross, with plenty of glass—which, as one visitor remarked, “offers a view of nature from all sides and connects with it”—forms the outer framework, through texts, photos, and artifacts we commemorate the founder of the

international Schoenstatt Movement TODAY. Here are some excerpts from recent months.

One visitor says: “His life was a legacy of courage and love.” A man remarks: “Father Kentenich’s life is truly impressive. I’m leaving here today having learned a lot.”

A man who belongs to the Schoenstatt Movement reflects after several visits: “It is something different whether I am at home in my living room, sitting in a lecture or a sermon by Father Kentenich, or whether I do that in this house where, because of the circumstances and everything that surrounds me here, I am in a completely different atmosphere. It’s simply different to read a text that, for example, reports on a stay in prison, when I’m standing here in front of the prison gates or in front of the replica of the bunker cell. All of this has an effect on me, for which I am very grateful.”

A woman who participated in the event “Walking in the Footsteps of Father Kentenich” during Lent expressed at the farewell: “The encounter here at the Father Kentenich House with the founder has helped me to leave behind the crosses in my family that I am currently carrying. I am returning home with new courage and much confidence.”

Children and teenagers also let themselves be approached and engaged at a station. For example, the guestbook contains the following entry:

“Dear Father Kentenich, we are A. and V. Thank you for always giving us something. Bye, see you next time.”
“Hello, we’re currently taking the introductory course at Sonnenau and learning more about you and the faith. Thank you!”

“Hello, we’re also from the introductory course and find Father Kentenich’s old items really exciting and unusual to have.”

“Hello, Father Kentenich, I am R. Schoenstatt is very nice. I am happy to receive these items from you. I am from India and am in the 4th grade.”

An elderly gentleman, who is coming into contact with Schoenstatt for the first time and is visiting the Father Kentenich House, remarks:

“I’m taking a lot of good things from here back home with me. This place has a peaceful atmosphere.”

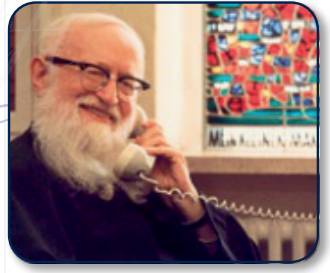
A couple writes in the guestbook: This is an “impressive monument to Father Joseph Kentenich! It has given us additional inspiration regarding spirituality and faith in our Church, and for the Easter season of 2026. We wish the memorial many visitors.”
May this wish come true.

Sr. Gisela-Maria Mues



He helps

He helps



FOR LIFE

Our youngest daughter became unexpectedly pregnant with her third child. Due to various circumstances, she found herself in such distress that she had already scheduled an abortion. There were only a few days left.

All that remained was to pray. Good friends and their prayer groups, as well as the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, helped to "storm heaven" with this intention and to trust in the intercession of Father Kentenich. On the eve of the abortion appointment, the life-saving decision was made.

November 2025/S. B.

SCHOOL ASSISTANCE APPROVED

Our grandson M. was born with a very rare metabolic disorder. He must take medication constantly, and his diet is severely restricted. To our delight, despite all these limitations, he was able to successfully complete elementary school with the help of a school assistant. For secondary school, the authorities did not approve further school assistance, which would have caused great difficulties for M. Out of this concern, we turned to Father Kentenich for his intercession. After considerable hesitation and several negotiations, the continued support was approved for the new school year. We are extremely grateful and consent to the publication of this story.

March 2026/B.V.

MAJOR SURGERY

A friend of mine was about to undergo major surgery. She had a tumor - probably benign, but in a difficult location in her body. She was told that the surgery would take about four to five hours. She was worried that afterward - among other things - severe paralysis might occur - which could be one of the "side effects."

I promised her my prayers and told her that I would turn to Father Kentenich in a novena and ask him for his intercession on her behalf. The woman is not a believer, but she "went along with it." The operation actually lasted nine hours - and another one was still necessary.

In the meantime, my acquaintance is already back home, has no signs of paralysis, and can move around in her apartment. She is now waiting for a rehabilitation program and is extremely grateful for all the support.

I am convinced that we have the positive outcome thanks to Father Kentenich's intercession.

März 2026/U. M.

MOBILE-APP

I just couldn't get the important banking app to work on my new cell phone. In desperation, I contacted the bank several times, but no one could give me the crucial tip.

Finally, I was stumped. So I turned to Father Kntenich as my mobile phone expert and promised to publish the story if he could fix it.

Then I drove with my new phone to a branch and described my problem. After a few attempts to install the right app, a competent employee managed to get it working. Now I can do online banking again.

Oktober 2025/G. W.

JOB FOUND

My son had lost his job because the company relocated to another European country.

In this emergency situation, we entrusted the matter of finding a good job to the intercession of the Mother of God and Father Kntenich. After a long search, he has now found a new job. We are very grateful and ask that you share this story of God's help.

October 2025/G.W.

RETURNED TO THE FAITH

For many years, I have been asking Father Kntenich to intercede for my son, who had become estranged from the Catholic Church and the faith. In doing so, a saying by Father Kntenich has encouraged me: "Whoever wishes to win hearts must give his own heart as a pledge!" With complete devotion and trust, I try to follow this call. In a prayer alliance with my sister, we remained faithful in prayer, even in the face of setbacks and difficult choices. Today I thank God and the MTA from the bottom of my heart for the answered prayer. Father Kntenich is a "true father" for those who entrust themselves to his intercession; "Miracles" still happen!

My mother and I agree to the publication of this answered prayer.

November 2025/C. M.

God is a genius at finding ways to love us.

Josef Kntenich



The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary invite you
to celebrate and give thanks for



100

Years



of blessings!

EASTER HOLY HOURS

and sharing with the sisters

English:

April 9 | Schoenstatt Shrine
2:00 pm | Milwaukee

April 26 | Provincial House
6:00 pm | Waukesha

MARIAN MINI-RETREATS

*at the Schoenstatt Café
International Schoenstatt Center - Waukesha*

Mary, light of our hope!

English:

Saturdays - May 9, 23, 30
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Español:

Lunes - 4 y 18 de mayo
Miércoles - 27 de mayo
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

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IMPULSE *fürs Leben*

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.