

# *Impulses for Daily Living*

02-2010



*In the Covenant  
With Mary*



*A glance at  
Father Kentenich  
in the Year for Priest*

News from the SECRETARIAT

**FATHER JOSEPH KENTENICH**

Founder of the International Schoenstatt Movement

## ***In the Covenant with Mary***

### ***A Glance at Father Kentenich in the Year for Priests***



The photo shows a statue of Mary that played an important part in the life of Father Kentenich. His mother consecrated little Joseph to Mother Mary. The statue had its place in an orphanage where Father Kentenich's mother sought refuge. She was a single mother and for financial reasons forced to place her boy into an orphanage. In her distress, she consecrated her child to the Mother of God and asked her to care for Joseph and be his mother. She took a little cross from her First Holy Communion, her only piece of jewelry, and placed it on the statue. It was a symbol that she was entrusting her most precious possession, her only child, to the Mother of Jesus. Later Father Kentenich testified that this boy intensely shared in this event, and that it was a key event of his

life. From then on he experienced Mary as his real mother and educator. She accompanied him on his way to the priesthood. The consecration to Mary at age nine became the forming source of strength for his priestly activity and is the hidden root of his foundation, the Schoenstatt Movement. Years later, when Father Kentenich was the Spiritual Director in the House of Studies of the Pallottines, he wanted to pass on to the young students who also desired to become priests what had become an important experience for him:

*"If we surrender to the Mother of God with all we have, with our feelings, with our wishes, with our abilities, talents and possessions, then we are well protected."*

Insignificant events that Father Kentenich recognized as God's direction led to the founding of Schoenstatt in October of 1914. The young priest invited the students who were entrusted to him to make a covenant of love with the Mother of God. It contained the petition to make the little chapel in the valley of Schoenstatt a place of grace and to be active there as Mother and Educator in a special way. At the

present time, approximately 200 replicas of this chapel have been built in more than thirty countries: They are sources of life and strength for many people in whom it becomes apparent: It is good to have Mary as strong and faithful covenant partner at one's side. You can depend on her! Father Kantenich was convinced: No person can lead us better to Christ than the one who could be nearer to him than any other human being, who was chosen to be his Mother, who accompanied him from the start of his life to its

completion on the cross. Because Mary stood under the cross, she is now present in every holy Mass – the renewal of the Sacrifice of the Cross. She is here for us, to accompany us in a motherly way and to lead us more deeply into the mystery that we celebrate: The remembrance of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. An important maxim for the priestly life of Father Kantenich that he offered as an incentive to many reads: With Mary to the altar!

### ***What Father Kantenich said about his union with Mary ...***

(From his talk on the occasion of the silver jubilee of his ordination)



*“What was realized, what was realized through me, what was realized through you, was realized through our dear Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt...”*

*May I first say: She formed and guided me personally since I was nine years old. I don't like to say that, but I think that I may briefly explain the connection. In retrospect, I may say that I know no other human being who had a deeper influence on my development. Millions of people break down when they are left by themselves as I was. I had to grow up interiorly alone because a new world had to be born in me that should later be carried and passed on to others. If my soul*

*would have had contact with the culture of that time, if I would have been attached to a human being, then I could not say with such conviction that my education was without deeper human influence, exclusively the ‘work of the Mother of God’. I know that I say a lot with this.”*





### ***Impulses for our life:***

*Which persons – relatives, acquaintances, priests - do I want to entrust to the Mother of God especially in the near future?*

*What situations in my personal life could I place with greater confidence into our Lady's hands?*



## **TESTIMONIES**

"One day when I took a walk with Father Kentenich, we had a conversation that became a key experience for me: The topic was Mary, specifically my relationship with the Mother of God. I told him at great length how little I could do with Mary formerly – especially as a Theology student – but how later, shortly before my ordination I had an experience with the question that was typical for my situation at that time: Was it possible to address Mary with the familiar 'you'? And at the same time I experienced a previously unknown personal relationship with Christ – it was in the chapel at the seminary - directed to Jesus in the tabernacle. – After I told this to Father Kentenich he visibly and for an extended time allowed it to sink in. Then he turned a little towards me and said, 'If you love the Mother of God, then we are friends.'"

*(Fr. Michael Marmann, Schoenstatt Father.*

*From a report about his first encounter  
with Father Kentenich in Milwaukee, WI, USA)*



"Father Kentenich had talked about the Mother of God and stressed very strongly: If we work for the Mother of God, then she will work for us. On occasion I asked him why he had stressed this point so much. He responded that he had not done so because there were doubters, but he wanted to impress this idea very deeply into our hearts because this was the soul of his soul."

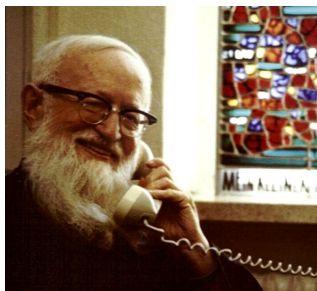
*(A Secretary of Father Kentenich)*

"At the time when Father Kentenich lived in Milwaukee, I stayed with my sister in Chicago for several years. I did not know Schoenstatt. One day, my sister and I traveled to Milwaukee and I met Father Kentenich (Many visits followed after this first one.) I could talk with Father Kentenich about everything. He emanated great calm. I was very homesick for Germany. Therefore I asked him one day whether he was homesick for Schoenstatt. He replied very simply, 'I belong to the good God.' Then he and I faced the picture of Mary and he said with great conviction, 'You may not see the Mother of God only in the picture ... The Mother of God is always with you.' Father Kentenich led me ever closer to the Mother of God. He taught me some little prayers that I should say during the day, for instance, 'Dear Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt, educate me as a perfect instrument in your hands.' Or, 'Dear Mother, lead me where you would like me best.' ... One day I asked shyly, 'Were you in Dachau?' He only said 'yes' and gave me a type-written history of his time in Dachau to read. Earlier, I had read a book about Dachau that described the terrible conditions there. Father Kentenich's description emphasized much more the help received from the Mother of God." (N.N.)



"When Father Kentenich traveled to Brazil in 1947 it was possible because he had a diplomatic passport. I picked him up at the airport in Rio de Janeiro and we flew from there to Porto Alegre. There we were the guests of a community. When we were at table, I was called to the telephone. The airport police asked whether the gentleman with whom I had come had lost his briefcase. Very distraught I called out: 'Father, you lost your briefcase!' He was surprised and said, 'That can't be.' But he checked, and it was true: the briefcase was missing. Fifteen minutes later, two policemen arrived and returned the briefcase containing his money and the precious diplomatic passport. He was inexpressibly happy about the care of the Mother of God. He repeated again and again: 'Imagine, if I had lost the passport. What would I have done? But the Mother of God took care!'"

*(Sr. M. Norberta, Mission Sister who accompanied Fr. Kentenich in Brazil.)*



## ***He Helps***

### **Employment**

When our second son was only six weeks old – the first one was two – my husband was laid off just before Christmas. We were desperate. I said the novena to the Mother of God and to Father Kentenich. After ten months of unemployment, my husband found a good job nearby. We are very grateful and happy. We hope that he will have this job for a long time. In gratitude I promised Father Kentenich to write to the secretariat. Many thanks to the Mother of God and to Father Kentenich.

*K.M., June 2009*



My niece had finished training as pediatric nurse. After many applications, she still did not find employment. In my concern, I prayed many novenas to Father Kentenich and asked him to help. Now he has answered my prayers. She found a training position to become a confectioner. We are happy about it and grateful. I thank our dear Mother of God and Father Kentenich for this help.

*K.S., July 2009*



Our granddaughter finished three years of training as a doctor's assistant. Unfortunately, she was not retained after the time of training. I said novenas to the Mother of God and Father Kentenich and promised to publish it when my prayers were answered. Some weeks later the employment office was looking for a doctor's assistant. Our granddaughter was hired for six months. Perhaps she will be employed permanently.

*G.G., September 2009*



## **Saving a Marriage**

In Schoenstatt I asked for prayers to save a marriage. Our son-in-law, (married for twenty years, with two children ages 14 and 16) was in love with a co-worker. ... He treated our daughter as though she were invisible, was cold and rejecting. He wanted to be free and considered his family as stress and pressure. He told our daughter to move and look for housing for herself and the children. That is what she did. But she never gave up hope because she wanted to keep the family intact. She told her husband, "My apartment is open for you, but I will not come back to your house." I prayed daily to the Mother of God and to Father Kentenich. I always felt confident that the family would be reunited. When our son-in-law was alone in his house, he felt great loneliness. His "flame" did not move in with him. Gradually, he felt that he experienced even more stress. Now he had to take care of everything. He then approached gradually his family. Now he wants to live again with his family. We are very grateful that this marriage was saved.

*R.K., Switzerland, December 2009*

## **Education**

With our whole heart, we want to thank the Mother of God and Father Kentenich. Our son completed his studies as business economist successfully. There were difficult weeks with many tests. He was almost always desperate until he found out that he had passed. To help him, we prayed continuously to the Mother of God and to Father Kentenich. We hope that they will give him the strength to make the right decision in his choice of position and that he will be content. Very grateful for the help that we have experienced, we ask to publish this account.

*A. & G.S., February 2009*

I want to express my gratitude to Father Kentenich publicly. Father Kentenich belonged in my life from childhood on because my family was always close to Schoenstatt. Since he returned home to eternity he has greater capability to help as our intercessor. - My son had to repeat his Math finals at the university. If he would have failed, he could not have become a teacher. I asked Father Kentenich to help him. He passed! I asked Father Kentenich to continue to accompany him. Thank you, Father Kentenich!

*C.S., July 2009*



### *Father Joseph Kentenich*

the founder of the international Schoenstatt Movement - was born in Gymnich near Cologne, Germany in 1885. He died in the Church of the Blessed Trinity on Mount Schoenstatt immediately after celebrating holy Mass there. He is also laid to rest in this church. His sarcophagus bears the inscription: *Dilexit ecclesiam* – He loved the Church. Thousands of people visit his resting place, trusting in his intercessory power before God. To many people the world over, he offers orientation to live a life out of faith.

### *The Father Joseph Kentenich Secretariat*

serves the process of Father Kentenich's canonization. Please, report prayer intentions you wish to entrust to his intercession, as well as answers to prayers for which you would like to thank him to our secretariat. If you want your report about help received to be published and to serve the process of beatification, it must be dated, signed, and include the address of the writer. We promise confidentiality about reports. They are published only if such a wish is expressed. We see to it that the writer remains anonymous.

#### **Published by:**

Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich  
Berg Schönstatt 7  
56179 Vallendar  
Germany

*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.*

#### **Contact Addresses in the USA**

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary  
W284 N404 Cherry Lane  
Waukesha, WI 53188-9416  
Phone: (262) 522-4200  
Fax: (262) 522-4201

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary  
House Schoenstatt  
134 Front Street  
Rockport, Texas 78382-7800