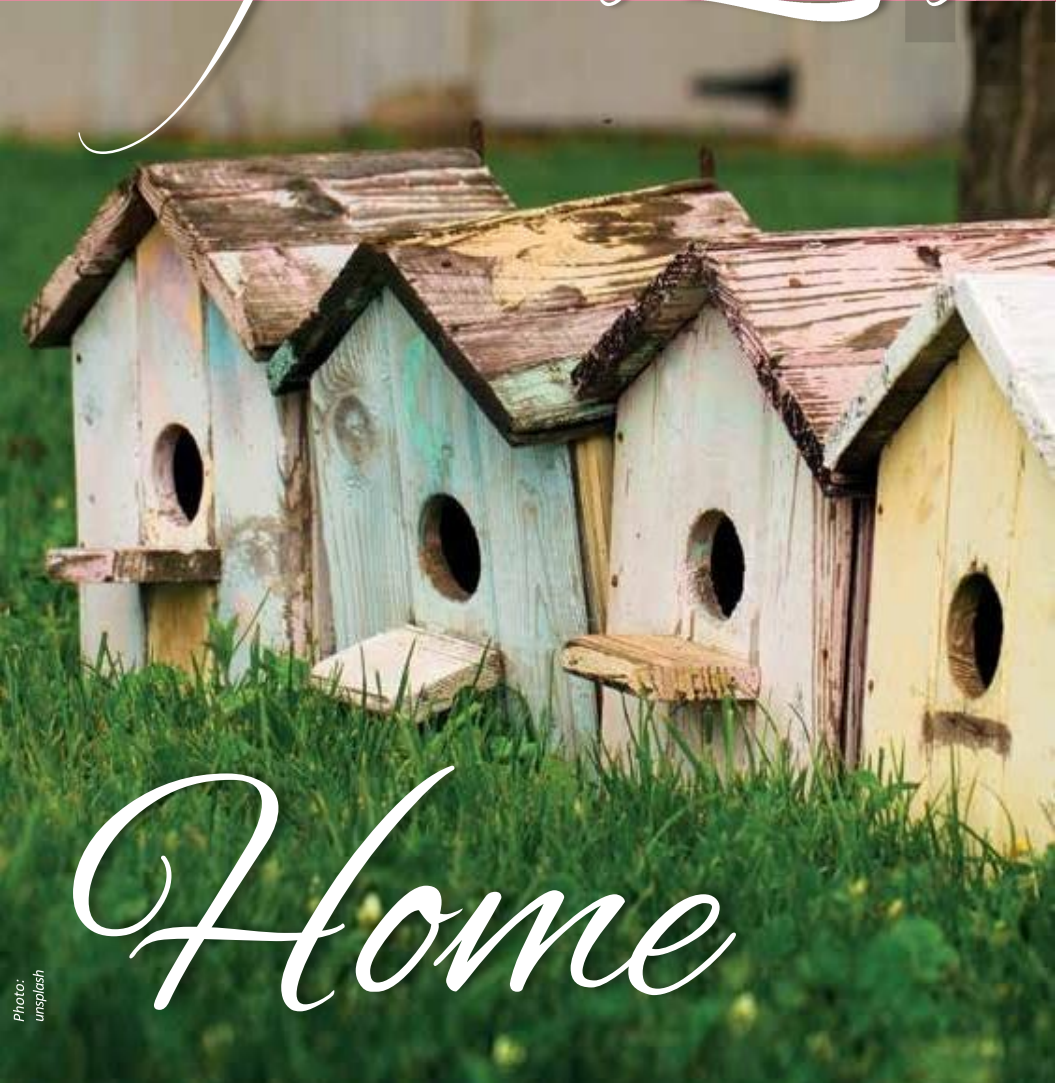


# IMPULSE

02 | 2024

## *For Daily Living*



# *Home*

Photo:  
unsplash



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich



## *Home*

The new issue of "Impulse for Daily Living" is in front of you. You will probably first notice the cover picture and the word HOME.

What do these birdhouses lined up in the meadow have to do with the topic of this brochure? Could they tell me something? When the nesting boxes are used, they become a home, a home for the hatched birds. Let this photo inspire us to dwell on the term "home". From the wealth of things that could be said or written on this topic at various levels, here are a few thoughts for everyday life.

In view of the serious changes in our society, the numerous war and crisis zones in many parts of the world, the natural disasters and the greater mobility that is expected, the longing for home seems to have grown. This is an observation that we often come across in contact with pilgrims who come to Schoenstatt. An old hiker's song says: "I can't go home, I don't have a home anymore." This means: I

have no heart to welcome me, to shelter me.

But what exactly is home? If we were to start a survey now, there would probably be as many different answers as there were people asked.

Home ... for some, this can mean "village" or "house". It can be the place where you live, where you are "at home". For many people, home is associated with something beautiful, with a sense of security and contentment. They usually think back to their childhood, family, friends, school, time with friends and acquaintances, the parish church where they were baptized, made their first communion, confirmed, married ...

However, home is not just a place, a country, there is obviously more to it. It is about experiences, adventures and relationships. In a conference that dealt with the term "home" from a social point of view, it was said, among other things, that "home is a certain attitude, i.e. a certain way in which I approach my world and the world approaches me" (Hartmut Rosa) ...

"Home is when I share the same values with people." (Mutherem Aras)

"Where we find and give security, there is home." With this statement, Father Kantenich gives us a very brief answer to his experience of home. If we look at his life, we tend to see examples of separation, insecurity, attachment and homelessness.

From Father Kentenich's point of view, *finding a sense of security* first requires searching for it. And to *give* home. So whether I feel at home, whether I experience a sense of security, also depends on me. Father Kentenich has his listeners to first create a natural home, i.e. to create a climate of welcome and acceptance. Everyone can contribute to this every day through small signs of mutual appreciation and goodwill.



However, Fr Kentenich does not stop at the natural conditions alone, he goes further and directs our gaze to the supernatural. From his own experience, he points us to Mary, who shaped his whole life, who *gives* us the special *grace of a home* in the Schoenstatt shrine.

Here we have a place where we are welcome, where the Mother of God

looks at us and is there for us. It is a place where I can find home, but also a place where I can draw new strength to continue giving. Whether the Blessed Mother gives us this grace also depends on us, depends on whether we find the way to this shrine. "Seek and you will find, ask and you will receive" (*cf. Luke 11:9*).

"Some time ago, when I was sitting back in my apartment after a visit to Schoenstatt, I was suddenly overcome with such a longing for this place. Without further ado, I decided to simply go there again for the evening blessing," this is how Mrs. K. experienced having found a home in the shrine.

"Where we find and give security, there is home", this statement by Father Kentenich could accompany us through this month and beyond. Let us seek out places that give us a sense of home, remember positive experiences, deepen relationships and create a climate in which we can live.

*"What matters is ... that we learn to believe that God loves me personally, me with my peculiarity, immeasurably ... If the world points at us, it doesn't matter! All the more reason to find our home in God!"*

J. Kentenich, Nov. 28, 1937

## *Impulses for everyday life*

- *What does home mean to me, to me personally?*
- *What was it like in the past, what is it like today? Has anything changed?*
- *What are my positive or negative memories?*

My wish for the coming time is that, with the help of the Blessed Mother, you may discover your moments of security in your search for a home and share them with others. *Sr. Gisela-Maria Mues*



## *Testimonies*

*My everyday working life with Father Kentenich*  
*Testimony by Markus Reinert, Schoenstatt Men's Federation*

*How did I get to  
know Father Kentenich?*

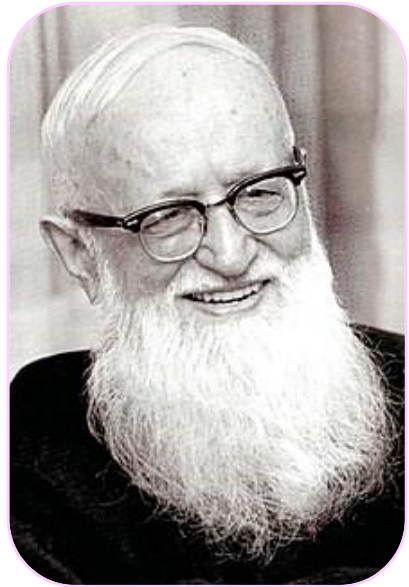
Unfortunately not in person. He died on September 15, 1968.

In the first place, it was people who brought me closer to Schoenstatt's founder over the years: Sisters of Mary, Fathers, men from Schoenstatt branches. They had experienced Father Kentenich personally, each in their own way. These personal experiences and testimonies were very impressive for me and had a lasting effect. Through the biographies "Prisoner No. 29392" and "A Life for the Church" I learned more about the life of the founder. Later I informed myself about Fr. Kentenich's life by reading other published biographies.

I studied many of his lectures in detail, especially the pedagogical ones. The "Monday Evening" lectures in particular contain many suggestions and life advice. What I read was deepened by existing audio recordings.

The increasing number of published photos showing the founder in various situations and encounters and the film sequences now available on the Internet also brought me closer to him in a different way.

Sometimes I ask myself whether and with what I would have gone to him, as many people did, and what experience I would have had or what advice he would have given me. Much more important to me, however, is the question:



*How do I apply Father Kentenich's  
pedagogy in everyday life?*

From the diversity of what I have heard and read I would like to name a few starting points that help me in my professional work with mentally ill people and that accompany and shape me.

***"How important it is for us to strengthen our self-confidence!"*** <sup>1</sup> In other words, helping people to help themselves so that they can become 'free'. I met a young man who is very afraid of being in a group and is very insecure. He has little self-confidence. His mental illness and the reactions of his environment have severely limited his ability very much. What is my task now? I provide appropriate help, that strengthen the young man's self-confidence.

Another person feels constantly inwardly tense, driven around, but is unable to express it and even less able to deal with it. In my attempt to find the cause and put it into words what is unspoken, I am accompanied by the words of Father Kentenich: ***"One unconsciously carries a problem within oneself, also suspects the solution, but cannot find the right word for either the one or the other. Suddenly someone comes along and says what you yourself suspect and feel and are looking for, and immediately a strong relaxation of the soul sets in..."***<sup>2</sup>

A young woman should learn skills - self-efficacious -skills - and apply them herself. There is often the expectation that the application should be carried out by the employees. I then give the people concerned the following advice from Father Kentenich's educational workshop: ***"If you want to, you must or you can and you should check it out now!"***<sup>3</sup>

***"Now check it yourself: How did that work out? Shouldn't it be better this way?"*** - ***"Now I'd like you to consider the***

***reasons given and your experiences so far!"*** <sup>4</sup> When people have experienced traumatic and deep injuries or feel misunderstood and marginalized, I am helped by the founding words: ***"Have reverence also for the fate of the human soul. How happy a human child is when it can explain its destiny. God has guided the soul in this way."*** <sup>5</sup>

Another person always falls back into "old" behaviors. There are many attempts and yet, almost no change occurs. Such a situation is quite frustrating. Then a piece of advice from Fr. Kentenich becomes very concrete for me: ***"We should cultivate trust all along the line, including a healthy self-confidence, a healthy trust in people and a healthy trust in God. And that is the solution to many mental illnesses today!"***<sup>6</sup>

Something that becomes clearer to me every day in my professional work is the fundamental advice of Fr Kentenich: ***"Soul guidance"*** - applied to the accompaniment mentally ill people - ***"is by its very nature service!"***<sup>7</sup>.

Markus Reinert,

Qualified social worker, has been working for over 25 years in the field of social medicine. Member of the Schoenstatt Men's Federation since 2011 and in a leadership role since 2022.

<sup>1</sup>1913

<sup>2</sup>September 1948

<sup>3</sup>February 326, 1963

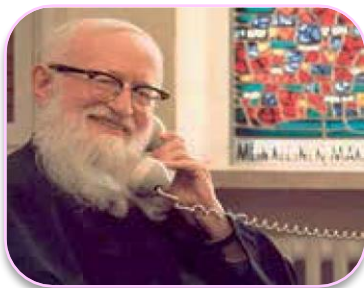
<sup>4</sup>February 28, 1963

<sup>5</sup>August 1924

<sup>6</sup>August 1933

<sup>7</sup>August 1924

# He Helps He helps



## **JOB FOUND**

I was looking for a job that would fulfill me, I was hopeless and helpless as to whether this could still become a reality. I was now 58 years old and I knew in the years to come it will not get any easier. In the meantime, I have found a job in which I can realize my potential. I've also joined a team where I couldn't have it any better. My group colleagues are super nice and we get along well - despite our differences. Thank you for the answer to prayer.

*September 2023 - B. H.*

## **AWAKENED WITHOUT DAMAGE**

A friend's mother had an operation that resulted in complications. She didn't wake up properly from the anesthetic and the doctors were at a loss as to whether undetected epilepsy or a stroke could be the cause. My friend was completely hopeless. In this great distress, I turned to Father Kentenich. The very next day, her mother woke up without any permanent damage and mentally fit. Many thanks to Father Kentenich for this and all other help in small and big worries.

*March 2024 - S. H.*

## **EXPERIENCE PROTECTION**

I was struck by a severe stroke on May 10, 2023 and was paralyzed on the right side. After three weeks in hospital and six weeks of rehab, I was well recovered. I am very happy that I can almost do my housework at home on my own again. Father Kentenich has helped me wonderfully. I feel that I am under his protection. My thanks and my trust are very strong. Perhaps you can publish my thanks!

*January 2024 - H.B.*

## **CANCER FREE**

Hello, in the year 2023, we were told by dear friends that their daughter Ana Berta Cantu had been diagnosed with breast cancer. I prayed to Father Kentenich for a miracle of healing. In February 2024 we were informed that Ana Berta was cancer free. Our thanks go out to Fr. Kentechich for his intercession.

*March 2024 - K. O. USA*

## **A LONG ROAD**

I had been living with severe mental health problems for years. At one point, I was in such a deep crisis that I even contemplated suicide. As I had gone to

school with the Sisters of Mary, I knew a little about Schönstatt. So in my great distress I became more involved with Schoenstatt and Father Kentenich and also visited the Schoenstatt Center near me more often. I prayed many novenas to Father Kentenich and after each novena I noticed that I felt better and better until at some point the gloomy thoughts had completely disappeared. It was a very long road, but today I can say with great gratitude that I am doing well. My story should also encourage other people to turn to Father Kentenich with great trust when they are in difficulty. That is why I ask that it be published.

*February 2024 - M. T.*

### **REHABILITATION MEASURE APPROVED**

My health was not good and my family doctor had recommended that I go to rehab. We submitted an application but were turned down. I also received another rejection when I lodged an objection. In this situation, I said to my doctor: "Then it's not meant to be!" But then I entrusted everything to the Blessed Mother and Father Kentenich in a novena and submitted another application. After a few days I received a confirmation. I am convinced that Father Kentenich helped me and I ask that it be published.

*March 2024 - M. K.*

### **HOPE IN A HOPELESS SITUATION**

My friend was suffering from leukemia. My husband and I went to the Chapel

of Grace in Vallendar to light a candle for her. I also gave my friend some information about Father Kentenich to take with her on her difficult journey. That was almost 2 ½ years ago now. In the meantime, a donor was found for a bone marrow transplant and my friend got through it. I prayed to Father Kentenich every evening. Through this difficult time, her husband found his faith more deeply and was able to cope better with the whole situation. Today we can say that my friend has beaten leukemia. She has remained an absolutely positive and optimistic person and is building up her own life. We thank Father Kentenich for giving us hope even in hopeless situations and for carrying us all through this time.

*March 2024 - S. H.*

### **FULLY HEALED**

On Friday March 1, 2024, my daughter, Teri Diaz, called in tears because her husband had had a glaucoma surgery and he was now blind in one eye. I prayed to Father Kentenich for healing or acceptance. The following day, Teri called to say that William was seeing out of the eye now and appeared to be fully healed.

*March 2024 - K. O., USA*

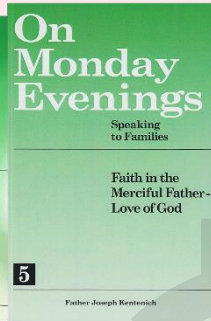
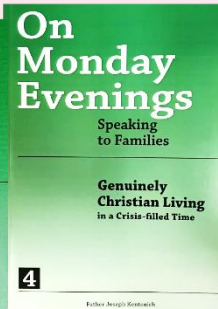
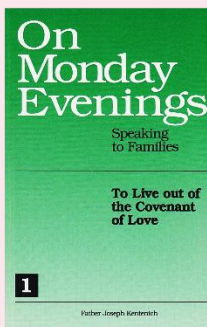




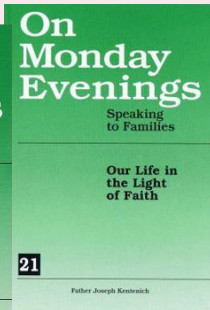
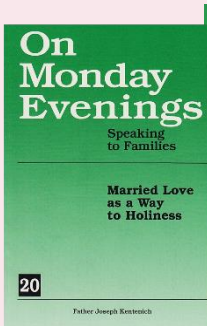
A warm welcome to visit the Father House!

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 1963, 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.*