

IMPULSE

3 | 2024

For Daily Living



Hope



Secretariat Father Joseph Kentenich



Hope

I invite you to focus on one aspect of the topic of *hope*, through the photo of a small plant on this cover of our "Impulse for Daily Living", and to look for and write down the small signs of hope every day. The rays of sunlight surrounding the plant remind us of bright and hopeful moments. I'm sure we've all experienced situations that seemed hopeless at first glance. Blows of fate of various kinds, shattered dreams, failures, injuries that make life more difficult... Sometimes even small things for a moment can throw us off course, for example, when something goes very differently than what we expected.

Did you know that the word *hope* comes from Middle Low German and has something to do with 'jumping', 'jumping restlessly in anticipation' or 'fidgeting'? "As hope (Latin 'spes', Greek 'elpis') refers to the confident expectation that something positive will happen, even if there is no certainty about it."¹

With the small plant in our photo, you might think that with good care it will grow into a larger bush or even a tree. However, this doesn't happen at the push of a button or overnight. Sometimes it takes a long time and a lot of patience for a plant to grow and become something big.

When everyday life sometimes goes on without a break, when the burdens of work and family, perhaps even a voluntary activity, take their toll, then there can be phases in which the hope for change or improvement becomes very small or is no longer noticeable at all. In old age, the increasing inability to be active and the increased loneliness due to the loss of a spouse can lead to hopelessness. This is when we need a nudge, a new motivation to consciously perceive the signs of hope that are undoubtedly there every day and to look to the future with new courage. What can help us do this?



Pope Francis has invited people to a "Year of Prayer" for this year 2024 in preparation for the upcoming Holy Year 2025. In his address on April 21, 2024, we find the reference, "*Prayer is the first power of hope. You pray and hope*

¹ <https://www.herder.de/religion-spiritualitaet/glaube/hoffnung>

grows, it moves forward. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. The hope is there, but with my prayer I open the door."

For many, daily prayer is a matter of course. However, it is not uncommon for people to ask us to pray with them because they feel too weak themselves or because they are so busy in an emergency situation and cannot pray at all. It may be that due to various circumstances daily prayer has

become less and less frequent or even ceased altogether.

"I ask you," said Pope Francis, "to intensify prayer in order to prepare ourselves to live this event of grace (the Holy Year) well and to experience the power of God's hope. Therefore, today we begin the Year of Prayer, that is, a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute necessity of prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church and in the world." (January 21, 2024)

Impulses for everyday life

Could the Year of Prayer and Pope Francis' suggestion, become an opportunity for us to reflect on our own practice of prayer and to rediscover or rediscover it as a force of hope?

In the school of prayer, we can always remain learners and start anew. To begin with, it is enough to have the desire and to secure a little or more time and peace for prayer.

Is there a favorite prayer for me that quickly comes to mind, that helps me in special situations and gives me new hope? It can be prayers from the church's prayer treasury or personally formulated prayers. Perhaps it is the verse of a song that I associate with a positive experience, which I then sing aloud or quietly to myself. Perhaps it can also be praying the rosary, which helps me to regain hope by looking at the individual stages of Our Lady's life.

In the introduction to the rosary, we add at the second "Hail Mary ..." exactly this request ... "who strengthens hope in us".

My wish for you over the next few weeks is that you discover prayer more deeply as a school of hope, that you find your favorite prayer that gives you the *strength of hope* and carries you through the day. Thus prepared, we can become pilgrims of hope in the coming Holy Year 2025.

Sr. Gisela-Maria





Testimonies

Elisabeth Drexler

(Born on 12-18-1925 – died on 9-9-2009) (Archdiocese of Cologne)

and *Hermine Petzel* (Diocese of Trier)

Many people only met our founder, Fr. Joseph Kentenich, once in their lives. Often it was only a brief encounter, a conversation of a few minutes, eye contact, perhaps combined with a few groundbreaking words. In most cases, however, these experiences left a deep mark and had a significant influence on their future lives.

Elisabeth Drexler (Archdiocese of Cologne) and *Hermine Petzel* (Diocese of Trier) both from the "Women and Mothers" community and now deceased - told us about their encounters years ago. We have included their testimonies here:

Elisabeth Drexler tells how she came to Schönstatt for the first time with a friend. At the time, she was preoccupied with an important professional decision. For this reason, she was not reluctant to come along and present her request to the Blessed Mother at this place of grace.

As they approached Vallendar, her friend suddenly said with joy, "Father Kentenich is coming." The young woman was not touched by this,

because she had only come to Vallendar to make a pilgrimage to the Mother of God. So she held back a little during the following conversation. She tells us about this encounter:

"Fr. Kentenich greeted me and simply said: 'Let the Blessed Mother tell you something in the shrine! Strangely, that met my wishes and desires, to learn from the Blessed Mother how things should continue ... This sentence has accompanied my life. The Blessed Mother never let go of me. I looked at her for a long time in the shrine. I felt the peace, the silence, I felt accepted and understood. Then one decision after another followed. I knew that I had not been here in Schoenstatt for the last time ...

How often I let the Blessed Mother tell me something in the shrine! I have learned to ask her, to entrust everything to her and to tell her everything. The words of our Father and Founder, whose life I continue to study, has accompanied me throughout my life.

'Let the Blessed Mother tell you something in the shrine! Not only in the Original Shrine, in the Cologne Shrine, in all the shrines, but also in the home shrine, I let the Blessed Mother tell me many things.

To become, to learn to listen and to respond, that is what our father and founder taught me in the few words of the only time I met him. He was concerned with attachment to the Blessed Mother. I can only recommend this to everyone: Let a sentence from our father and founder touch your life so that his word shapes your life. It is worth it.

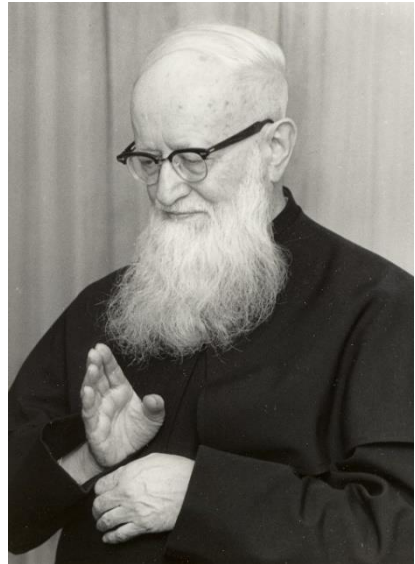
My attachment to Fr Kentenich grew. Again and again it came to my mind before decisions: to let the Blessed Mother speak to me. For some people it will be simpler. That word has meant a lot in my life.

In 1967, *Hermine Petzel* had just become a diocesan sponsor in the diocese of Trier. "Sister M. T. arranged for me to meet Father Kentenich on this occasion. He was to give me his blessing for my new ministry. I asked him for it very simply. But he spoke to me personally. He asked where I lived and about my family. Yes, he even asked if I had a good husband. I was able to answer in the affirmative and, encouraged by his warm-hearted

questions, I told him about a great family need. In doing so I was then able to experience what I later read in the novena 'The Courage of faith: '... he set himself aside in order to be able to give himself completely to the other person before him'.

Finally he said - and I would like to pass this on as a legacy: 'Always work for Schoenstatt, then the Blessed Mother will always work for you.

At the end, Father Kentenich gave me his blessing for my new task. I have been able to feel the power of his blessing throughout my ten years in office.



*We do not build on people;
we rely on God and
on the Blessed Mother,
whom the Triune God
has given us as a reason for hope.*

Joseph Kentenich

He Helps

He helps

HOUSE SOLD

My sister had been trying to sell her house for over a year, but couldn't find a buyer. Our family agreed to start a novena to Fr. Kentenich for this intention. Already on the third day of the novena, a young couple gave a down payment with the intention of buying the house. Thank you Fr. Kentenich!

(D.M. Ohio)

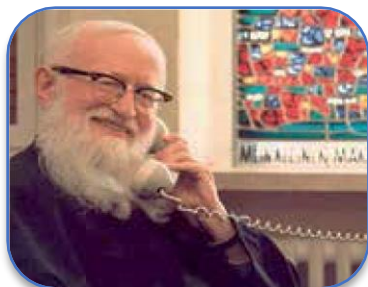
A DESIRE FOR A CHILD

A family member had been struggling for years to conceive a child. When she finally shared her desire to have a baby, I prayed to Fr. Kentenich everyday. After some time she chose to adopt a child and was at peace. This was the miracle which Fr. Kentenich worked in her life.

(L.S. WI)

WALLET FOUND

We went to a pilgrimage place to honor the Blessed Mother. When we returned home after our three hour trip, we discovered that we left our wallet, with all our important documents, at a restaurant we



stopped at. We immediately visited a nearby Schoenstatt shrine asking Fr. Kentenich that when we would go back the next day we would find the wallet. Making the three hour trip once more was rewarded and the restaurant manager was holding onto the wallet with all its credit cards, money, etc. intact.

(L.O. FL)

GOOD WEATHER

We were holding a big event outdoors which included Holy Mass, a barbeque and presentation. We entrusted this event to Fr. Kentenich especially because we trusted that he would intercede that we would have good weather which we depended on. Everything about the evening turned out so nice and gave testimony that Fr. Kentenich heard our prayers.

(WI)

Tumor successfully removed

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Father Kentenich for his intercession with the Blessed Mother, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt,

for her help during my kidney tumor operation. I thank Father Kentenich with all my heart that my tumor could be completely removed and that I am well again.

I pray and hope for a speedy canonization of this special person, who is a great example to me. The answer to prayer can be published.

R. D./April 2024

PC problem

Today (May 6) I encountered a major problem. Although I had already been working on the PC in the morning and didn't notice anything unusual, I couldn't open it again after a short interruption. The screen stayed black for a long time, the background image appeared at some point, but as soon as I tried to enter the password, everything disappeared again. I urgently needed to work something out and tried everything possible, but nothing worked. The IT specialist I called was also at a loss as to the cause.

We agreed that I should come to his workshop in the evening. A f t e r lunch, I switched everything off again. Then I asked Fr. Kentenich asked for his help, switched it on and was "amazed" that the notebook opened normally. That could only have been the best of all technicians,

Father Kentenich. Thank you for his help!

Sr. M. C./May 2024

No surgery necessary

I went to an orthopaedist because of my osteoarthritis. She discovered that my aorta, which leads to my heart, had enlarged by 5.5 cm. She therefore immediately referred me for a CT scan. I was very scared that I would have to have an operation, especially as I had only lost my husband a year ago. I prayed to Father Kentenich that he would help me. He heard me. I can be helped, but I don't need an operation. I am overjoyed and would like to say thank you very much.

G. R./December 2023

Overcoming exam nerves

Our son is completing his retraining. He has exam anxiety, especially during oral exams. He had his exam date in June. Together with Sister M. R., we asked Father Kentenich and the Blessed Mother to help him. Our son passed his oral exams with very good marks. He also did well in the written exams. We are so grateful for the help and ask for the answer to our prayers to be published.

K. P./June 2024

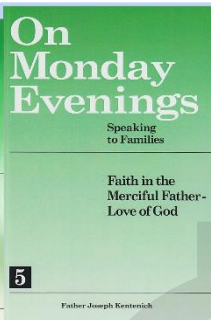
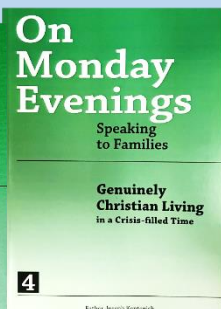
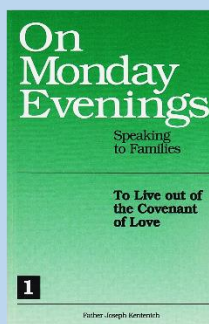




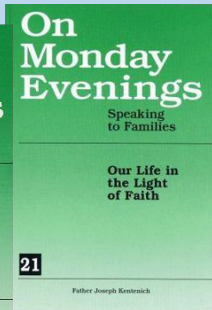
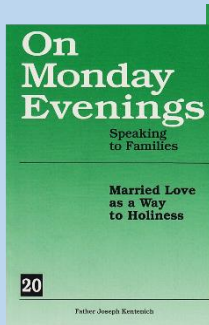
A warm welcome to visit the Father House!

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.

Contact Addresses in the USA:

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

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
House Schoenstatt
134 Front Street
Rockport, Texas 78382-7800
Phone: (361) 729-2771

Contact Address in Australia:

Mount Schoenstatt
230 Fairlight Road
Mulgoa, NSW 2745 Australia

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.