

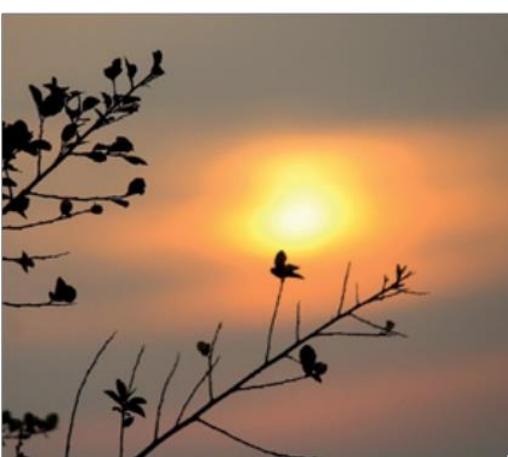
IMPULSE

*For Daily Living*

WORDS  
of  
HOPE



Secretariat Father Joseph Kantenich



## Words of hope

By the time you open this first issue of our "Impulse for our Daily Living", several weeks will have passed in the New Year 2025. 2025 is a year with a special emphasis. In the Church, we are celebrating a Holy Year worldwide - as we do every 25 years and on special occasions. The outward sign of the start of the Holy Year was the opening of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve 2024 by Pope Francis and subsequently in a Roman prison and in the main churches of Rome. The moment when the Holy Father - sitting in a wheelchair - lingered alone behind the threshold of the open gate for a while was very impressive. We can only imagine that at this moment he entrusted the Holy Year 2025 entirely to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. After

all, he is convinced that it is the Holy Spirit,

*"... who with his constant presence in the pilgrim church spreads the light of hope in the faithful. He lets it burn like a torch that never goes out to give our lives support and strength. (May 9, 2024 - Bull of Annunciation)*

With the motto "Pilgrims of hope", which Pope Francis has given to the Holy Year, he addresses a longing that lives deep within every human being.

*"Everyone hopes," he writes in the Bull of Annunciation. "Hope lives in the heart of every human being as a desire and expectation of good, even if he does not know what tomorrow will bring." (ibid.)*

The guiding principles that Pope Francis has used for his letter is a phrase from Holy Scriptures, from the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans:

*Hope will not let you perish"*  
*(Rom 5:5)*

It is the Holy Father's intention to strengthen hope in the whole world and in every individual, especially at a time in when hardships, worries, fears, insecurity and hopelessness are spreading almost at every level. We live in a time which every day the news tends to be full of reports on current crises and wars that do not promise a good future.

Let's take a moment, to let the words of hope and the address of the Holy Father speak to us. Perhaps a look at the cover picture will help us.

A harmonious picture, warm colors ...the sun is visible on the horizon, a radiant light, not quite clear, more like a fire that burns, a torch whose flames are visible from afar and do not go out. All darkness appears as if loaded with light.

Let us remember the prophet Isaiah's rejoicing message from the Holy Night: *"The people who walked in darkness has seen a great light."* (Isa 9:1)

The bright light - the Savior – was given to us anew at the beginning of the Holy Year. This light will accompany us and guide us through all darkness. The time of Lent could

be a good opportunity to be rekindled by the "torch of hope".

As Christians speaking of hope, always includes: We put all our Trust in God. That was the basic attitude, from which Fr. Kentenich lived in all situations and overcame the greatest difficulties. He turned to the Blessed Mother and asked for her intercession, when he formulated in Dachau:

*When we look at our own strengths, we lose all hope and confidence. Mother we stretch out our hands to you and ask for your many gifts of love.*

*Heavenwards, page 15*

### *This can become concrete in everyday life,*

- when we search in Holy Scriptures for our very personal word of hope to carry us through everyday life.*
- when we capture the small moments that have given us courage and hope.*
- when we share our encouraging and hopeful experiences with others.*
- when we embark on a spiritual or real pilgrimage.*

For the weeks of the Easter penitential season, I hope that you will keep your "words of hope". Find and gain encouraging experiences and become true "pilgrims of hope".

Happy and blessed Easter today!

Sr. Gisela-Maria Mues



# Testimonies

***Ursula Kratz-Esser, née Esser, used to be in the Schoenstatt girls' youth of the diocese of Essen. She now lives with her husband in Eching, Archdiocese of Munich-Freising.***

The testimony of Mrs. Renate Martin in the Impulses for Daily Living #4/2024, inspired me to look back on my own encounters with Fr. Joseph Kentenich, to write them down and make them available to the Secretariat Fr. Kentenich. Even if the direct contacts were only very brief, they left their mark on me and I still live from them today.

Before I report on my actual encounters in June 1966, I would like to mention two events that preceded them and without which I would never have gotten to know Father Kentenich

## ***Previous history***

I had my first contact with the Schoenstatt Movement in 1964, when I was 17 years old and in poor health. I hadn't had any good experiences at school and therefore didn't get a proper degree. Dissatisfied with myself and the world, I couldn't see anything positive for my future because everything seemed terribly bleak to me.

In this situation, I received an invitation from my friend from Mülheim to attend the Diocesan Day of the Schoenstatt Girls' Youth of the Diocese of Essen. We both took part in this meeting in Oberhausen-Osterfeld. It was December 6, 1964.

On this occasion I heard through the youth sister's talk for the first time about Fr. Kentenich, who lived in exile in America. In the subsequent discussion, the girls asked many questions about the situation. It was a very lively discussion. Sister gradually answered all the questions. I stayed pretty quiet because I didn't understand everything either. But then something really surprised me. At one point, she said: "And when Father comes back, you can ask him anything. He'll answer you everything." When I heard this answer, I thought: "Crazy! Father is in exile, he'll soon be 80 years old and the sister thinks he'll come back and answer personal questions and talk to me. No way!"

In 1965 I took part in a youth conference in Sonnenau in

Schoenstatt, which was held by Rector Dresbach. He told us about Fr. Kentenich's stay and his encounters in the Dachau concentration camp. This made a deep impression on me at the time and I thought: "I have never seen anyone who was in a concentration camp and was released from there alive."

In November of that year, I learned that Father Kentenich was in Rome and that later he actually returned to Germany.

### ***The actual encounter with Father Kentenich***

This took place in June 1966 at the summer youth conference in Schoenstatt. Fr. Kentenich came back from a trip and was picked up by car from the train station in Koblenz. He was sitting in the front passenger seat and the car stopped at Sonnenau so that I was standing directly in front of him. He rolled down the window, there was a lot of talking going on around

me. I just looked at him at that moment. His kind and at the same time penetrating gaze was directed at me and I immediately had the feeling: He sees me, He knows me, He knows everything.

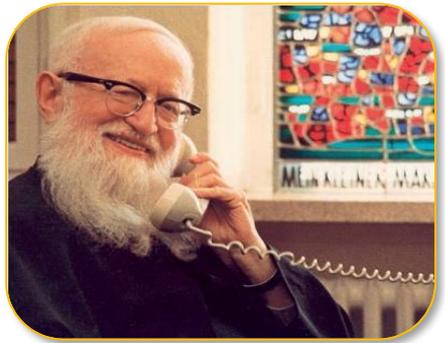
The next day at 3 p.m. was the "Sermon on the Mount"<sup>1</sup> for the Schoenstatt Family in front of the Shrine of the Sisters on Mount Schoenstatt. Fr. Kentenich stood at the podium and I sat directly opposite him. After the last song, he came directly to me and looked at me again. He took my hand and clasped it with his hands. This was a very special sign for me that I was taken seriously by him. I had the feeling that he was there just for me at that moment- even though there were many people around me.

To this day, I am very grateful to have met Father Kentenich. He had a very special instinct for giving people exactly what they needed by a personal encounter. Through him, I experienced what it means to be allowed to live as a "beloved child".



<sup>1</sup>After his return from exile, Fr. Kentenich gave many public talks for the various Schoenstatt communities, often outdoors in front of the shrine on Mount Schoenstatt, which is why they were called "Sermons on the Mount".

# He helps HE HELPS



## Born healthy

In April 2023, there was a young woman in our church who, during the service, asked me to accompany her outside because she felt dizzy. Outside, she told me that she was three months pregnant and had to lie down until recently. She was very afraid of losing her child and asked me for a prayer. I prayed to Father Kentenich for a good pregnancy and for the child to be born healthy. On December 26, 2023, little Gabriel was born healthy. The family is full of gratitude and asks that this answer to prayer to be published.

*Oct. 2024/TM. O.*

## PSA value decreased

My husband had a PSA level of 9.8 and a tissue sample should have been taken. Since he is taking a blood-thinning medication, it would have had to be discontinued and this is always associated with risks. We prayed to the Mother of God and to Father Kentenich and asked for their intercession, that a tissue sample would not have to be

taken and that the PSA level would drop. When the next blood sample was taken, the level had dropped to 5.8, and so a tissue sample could be postponed for the time being. We are extremely grateful for this tangible help and request that it be made public.

*Dec. 2024/R. St.*

## Fourth operation with success

Since I had been suffering from severe hip pain for quite some time and this had a very negative effect on my walking and overall posture, I decided to have an operation that was recommended to me by two specialists – probably with the note that at my age (91) such an operation was always critical. The X-rays showed a rapid progression of the arthrosis, which confirmed my decision.

My prayer for the intercession of Father Kentenich was supported by several people with great trust. So the surgery went without complications

and I was able to start the full-load exercises soon. After only ten days, I was able to transfer to the rehabilitation department, where I made further progress with good treatment. And all without pain.

Without the tangible help of the Mother of God and Father Kentenich, I cannot imagine the good progress and success of my operation; because it was the fourth operation in this area for me. I am extremely grateful and agree to have my experience published.

*Nov. 2024/MK. OD*

### Studies and apartment found

It was very difficult for our son to get a training place. In this great concern, we turned to Father Kentenich with this great concern and asked him for his intercession. After a short time, our son was accepted for an apprenticeship and also found a suitable place to live. We are extremely grateful for this concrete help.

*Nov. 2024/K. H.-N.*

### Teaching TEST passed well

Our daughter is a trainee teacher at a grammar school for Latin and religion. She was very afraid of the next teaching test. Her nerves were on edge and she had the feeling that she wasn't up to the extreme demands of her four examiners. In

normal lessons, S. is passionate about her work and gets on very well with all her pupils. However, every teaching rehearsal is the greatest horror for her. In this situation, we asked the secretariat for prayer support and put all our trust in Father Kentenich's intercession.

Today we can announce that our daughter passed her teaching test with a grade of 2. She got through her lesson very well, was almost on time and the pupils cooperated extremely well. Our daughter herself was amazed at how everything went so smoothly. We are full of gratitude!

*Nov. 2024/E. St.-S.*

### Serious diagnosis

In May 2024, our daughter (24) fell ill and we received a very serious diagnosis. In this situation, we prayed in the shrine of our Mother Thrice Admirable to Fr. Kentenich and asked him to intercede for our daughter. After the prayer I felt calm and I had the feeling that he was "listening" to me. It took quite a while, but in the meantime our daughter is healthy again. Thank you, Father Kentenich, for this intercession.

*Dec. 2024/T. O., Argentina*

*A piece of life's program  
that we should all write into  
our hearts: Difficulties of all  
kinds are tasks.  
Joseph Kentenich*



## 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. 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.

### *A cordial invitation to visit the Father House*

W284 N404 Cherry Lane Waukesha, WI



*Come and ask for a tour. Learn  
the history within these walls!*



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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.*