



## SHRINE SOUNDINGS Jubilee Family Shrine & Retreat Center

Schoenstatt Movement, 27762 County Rd 27, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 [www.SchoenstattMN.com](http://www.SchoenstattMN.com) 507.794.7727



### Mary Calls Her Priest Son Home on Her Feast of Seven Sorrows

For his Ordination to the Priesthood on July 8, 1910, Father Kentenich chose as his motto:

*Grant that all minds may be united in truth and all hearts in love.*

Who could have guessed what a richly blessed life of service he would be able to offer to the Blessed Mother for over 58 years?

She called him into eternity on the feast of her Seven Sorrows,

a Sunday morning at 7:07 am, immediately after celebrating his first holy Mass in the Adoration Church on Mount Schoenstatt, on September 15, 1968.

As death brings with it the bittersweet of losing the human, natural presence and goodness of the person, it is in our faith that we reach out for the sweet promises of eternal life. With the death anniversary of Schoenstatt's founder reaching the golden mark of 50 years, we enter toward the post founder generation era. What we do today – with those remaining hearts who have personally known and worked with Father Kentenich – will set the foundation for the next generations to come to a fuller and more complete picture of how Schoenstatt's founder answered the needs of his time in God's holy will. Also, how he will continue to fulfill his mission in answer to the coming needs and problems of the times to come!

Father Kentenich understood his mission to bring Mary anew to the world, to offer an original system of education for the "post-modern person" of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond. He repeatedly invited his followers to co-found, to go with him in Schoenstatt's mission stating the eternal law that "a kingdom can only be sustained with the power that conceived it."

Referring to the scriptural image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, there are three characteristics that Father Kentenich

presented many times for us to reflect on and also to imitate in our own lives and situations. Namely, a shepherd's love, a shepherd's faithfulness, and a shepherd's care.

During these last years, our annual founding day celebrations in Sleepy Eye have been opportunities to hear from persons who personally knew Father Kentenich. We were told many experiences of how his shepherd's love was personal; how this great founder of a new spirituality within the Church, was able to listen and respond to other's concerns, to want to know them better, and to serve them and their needs selflessly. We ask our Mother Thrice Admirable to give us a love like Father Kentenich had, a love especially for those who are hardest to love... May Schoenstatters make a big difference wherever we find ourselves called to live out the covenant of love!

Faithfulness is the perpetuation of our first love. As St Paul was faithful to those he preached Christ crucified to, so Schoenstatt's founder always led everyone to Mary until his last breath.

Education for him was a constant living contact. Virgin Most Faithful, make us persevere no matter what the cost.

A shepherd's care brings us to the little things that Father Kentenich held onto and did his entire life. One of my favorite quotes from him is: *Schoenstatt has grown through selfless service to the individual; it must continue to grow in the same way in the future.* May Father Kentenich intercede the grace to live each day to the fullest, to give and care beyond measure. To prepare our hearts for when we will be called to step into eternity in our covenant of love,

*Sister M Jessica*





## Featured Schoenstatter: Father Randal Kasel



Father Kasel is well known as our Schoenstatt Retreat Master for the Women's Retreat and our annual Founding Celebrations. He is presently serving as Pastor at Pine Island, Zumbrota, & Goodhue.

### The Influence of Father Kentenich in My Life

Our Lady of Schoenstatt and Father Kentenich entered my life during my first year as a priest (2005-2006). Steve and Angela Carlson introduced me to Schoenstatt. When I learned about Schoenstatt and the spirituality our Blessed Mother shared with Father Kentenich, I was enthusiastic to be a part of the movement. The next year I entered the covenant of love and in following years I took more steps deepening my commitment and union with our Blessed Mother. I sense Father Kentenich was a father and guide for me in these steps.

The most profound moment of experiencing Father Kentenich's closeness to me happened when I visited the tomb of Father Kentenich in 2007. I was blessed to have time to pray at his tomb and ask for his intercession. I recall a moving experience of deep peace and love for our Blessed Mother. These were two of the

graces that could be found in the heart of Father Kentenich as he led the Schoenstatt movement.



I sense Father Kentenich continuing to assist me as a priest in many ways, especially as part of my involvement in Schoenstatt and in striving to be an instrument for our good Lord Jesus and our Blessed Mother for the glory of God the Father, in the service of our Church and the salvation of souls.

Father Kentenich prays for us to listen to our Blessed Mother. He desires that we let her lead us to love Jesus as much as possible. He is with us as we strive to be resolute in loving Mary and Jesus in our everyday life!

## Pilgrimage to Exile Land

Everything came together, after years of scheduling hassle, so we were able to make a pilgrimage from Minnesota to Wisconsin to visit the direct places of Father Kentenich's Exile Land.

As our last Summer *Shrine Soundings* invited our readers to an armchair tour of the places Father Kentenich visited exactly 70 years ago in Minnesota (as recorded by Father Jonathan Niehaus in his book *Visit to America*), now you are invited in these next pages to come along for an

### ARMCHAIR PILGRIMAGE TO WISCONSIN



Front row: Catherine, Mary & Anna LeBrun, David Barriga, and our guide, Sister M Margarite. Standing: Sarah Gahlon, Lorie Spear, Rose Zollner, Sydney Gahlon, Joan Johnson, Kim & John LeBrun, Judy Pipke, and Beth Barriga. Five are members of the Waseca Mothers' Group called Threads of a Tapestry; Carmelita Jimenez & Sister Jessica also came.

Since 15 was our limit at Waukesha, we were sorry the others could not come along August 3-5. Half of us began with Holy Mass at 11:00 am at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located on a bluff above the Mississippi River south of La Crosse, WI. We also met at Holy Hill in departing on Sunday noon.



The LeBrun Family will be joining the Girls Youth Pilgrimage to Germany from September 11-21, 2018. A highlight will be when the parents, John & Kim, make their covenant of love on the 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Father Kentenich at Founder Shrine



At Madison our quick tour involved visiting the Founder Shrine, memorial of the Rosary Campaign, and their unique Father Room with historic door of the Founder Shrine (only shrine that was moved) and window which Father Kentenich viewed often.

## Arrival at International Center

Our arrival was Friday evening and Saturday's bookends were two Schoenstatt Sisters who had spent years with Father Kentenich. We were privileged to hear first hand their accounts of Schoenstatt's founder and pick up inspirations for our own lives some fifty years later as the post-founding era soon begins. We began in the Father House which was the original farmhouse, twice restored in 1964 & 1984.



### *Lorie Spear from Waseca writes for our readers:*

“Our pilgrimage to deepen our knowledge and thus our relationship with Father Kentenich left me profoundly happy and sad at the same time. Through Sr Paulette, Sr Jean, and Sr Margarite sharing many heartfelt, often animated recollections of Schoenstatt's founder, I came to know Father's loving heart, his desire to guide, mold, and always direct our hearts to the MTA. He came to life in these many stories. I can see his kind smile with twinkling eyes and hear his laughter as he walked with the children.

At the Movement House, to sit in the very room where the famous Monday night talks were held was very special. It did not take long to hear the

conversations, and feel the love and hunger the couples had to learn and grow in everyday sanctity.

Thank you Sr Margarite for showing us the very spots where Father touched, knelt, walked and prayed... With her recollections if you closed your eyes, you could see Father walking in the cemetery or greeting us at the shrine door, a connection I will not soon forget...always leading us to Our Queen.”



**Sister M Paulette** had no prior Schoenstatt knowledge as she was a political science student arriving from Germany in 1963. Her goals were to help lead a new generation of students toward a democracy. So when a free Lufthansa flight with three months stay to the United States of America was brought up, she agreed.

A friend had given her the name of a very famous professor living near Marquette University in Milwaukee whom she should get in contact with. That for her was *the* game changer. After her first visit with Father Kentenich on Blue Mound Road, she was allowed to come almost daily to visit with him during the last two years of his exile stay in the USA.

From Sister Paulette's very lively and engaging presentation, we will hear three anecdotes. 1) As there were famous visitors from Rome, priests, and parishioners who all wanted to visit Father Kentenich, she thought, *I'm a Nobody* and so she asked Father, “Why do you give me so much of your time?!” Schoenstatt's founder answered her to this effect: **Everyone who comes to me is sent by the Blessed Mother.** See like the Israelites were chosen following a leader out of Egypt. Can the Blessed Mother make a mistake? No, we know she doesn't. So the Blessed Mother didn't make a mistake choosing you from among millions for her work.

Sister Paulette explained to us that she saw many MTA pictures around and she asked Father, “Do you like her?” He answered so characteristically with another question, “Do you know her?” If you want a relationship, tell the Blessed Mother. Tell her to form a relationship with you.

Well, three months later, Sister Paulette threw away her return ticket to her family, to her home country, and to the only life she had known. She thought: Never in the world would I find such a person like this. How God planned humans in paradise was how I came to know Father Kentenich; for me he was like a saint in heaven!

2) I was invited to pick apples with some of the sisters so I asked Father and he said, "Yes, you go along and come back and tell me about it." What an action packed day it was with a hundred details. Sure enough, when they returned dog-tired, Father called her. When she told him now I have all the noise in myself he said, "Come and bring the noise to me in my office." "He listened patiently to my tales of the day and sent me to bed," she explained.

With this Sister Paulette impressed on us Father's method that we must take the day to a personal "you" in the evening. Go to your home shrine or light a candle by Father Kentenich's picture and share all the impressions of the day with him *so these impressions impressed in the soul become expressions to be given back to God.* "The new day begins the night before," Father Kentenich wisely counseled.

3) Sister Paulette also humbly shared with us that once she came from her visit and wanted to write down what he had advised her, but she forgot the exact words. Patiently he said again: **The main thing is that the main thing always remains the main thing.**

Father wanted that one learns to know the difference between the main thing and the secondary or unimportant things, as Lorie notes. We need to ask ourselves, am I concerned with the grain more or less of sugar in my coffee, or that I have the coffee to drink each morning? Do I need a green blouse with so many buttons and a brand name to impress my neighbors, or is the main thing that I wear an expression of my personality that God likes to see on me? Is the newest gift the main thing for a grandchild, or that I take time and have a conversation with the child?



At 11:00 am Mass was offered by Father Robert.

### Afternoon Pilgrimage continues to Milwaukee

As we drove to Holy Cross Parish and Calvary Cemetery across from the Brewers Stadium the mid-Saturday temps were in the mid-90s. After prayer time in the Exile Shrine, where Father Kentenich offered over 3,000 holy Masses and we heard about the altar miracle, we passed the office windows of where Father

worked for almost 14 years, and drove to Calvary Cemetery. *Pictured below:*



The Exile Shrine is on right and below John LeBrun contemplates this symbol for our founder as the Mother Pelican gives of her blood to hungry babes.



Sister M Jean Frisk kept our interest on the edge of our chairs with questions that didn't want to end in the evening of August 4<sup>th</sup>. Growing up in the Upper Peninsula MI, her Dad's job moved the family down to Milwaukee and the parish her family chose happened in Divine Providence to be led by Father Ahler at St Philip Neri. When he heard there might be a vocation, he led Sister Jean to the door of the Schoenstatt Sisters who he had invited in to teach at the parish school (after he had built a Schoenstatt Shrine to receive the superior's more ready permission!)

1) With hilarious details too numerous to share, Sister Jean formed the first Schoenstatt Girls Youth Group in the USA and grew in her love for the little shrine. As they found their group name: **Firebrands of Love**, these three girls could show Father Kentenich their design and tell him about it. When they knocked at his office door he called "Ave" but since they didn't realize it meant "come in" they knocked again and then Father came to the door. We were all surprised and just stood there looking at him. He noticed this awkward silence and said: "Yes the Father God lent me his eyes when I was on earth." The only other person Sister Jean





**Sr. Jean & David Barriga**

met with such intense clear blue eyes was St Pope John Paul II.

2) The question arose if Jean could go to the prom. Actually the young man from CYO had asked the Schoenstatt Sisters on the bus what flowers to get Jean. That is how the sisters heard about her going to the prom. The sisters

thought she had to talk to Father Kentenich about this.

How did Father handle this? He asked Jean many questions about the American High School Prom: like who goes, what do you do, what do you eat, what do you wear, what is the schedule, etc. Then he told the sister that “Jean is going to prom, she’s going to have a good time and then she’d going to tell me all about it.” What a joy for all.

3) July 8, 1960, was the Golden Jubilee of Father Kentenich’s Ordination. Sister Jean entered the Schoenstatt Sisters at the end of July and could experience many a fortnight Sunday confession with Father Kentenich. Not that this was always easy mind you. The format was Father would say a prayer, give your penance and then a practical point to improve. If you asked him, Father would help you. Many shared their journal/notebooks with him.

**Father always made us laugh! In little or big things!**

Sister Jean shared that as a group of young women gathered, they could stay in a house across from the Calvary Cemetery and had a few ground rules and work charts for the internationalities to come together. One Saturday evening she had had it and ran to Father Kentenich’s office and knocked: “And what is?” he asked her. “She won’t clean the frig!” So seriously and simply he told her: Father needs to buy crystal bottles to save your precious tears; and asked her “What can you do to make Father happy?” So Sister Jean returned to the kitchen and told her, “I’ll clean the frig for you.” The other woman responded: “No, we’ll clean it together – And what did Father Kentenich say?!”

**Lorie concludes:** Father wants to have a relationship with us. That is why I felt sad as well, as I wish I would have been able to meet this kind and holy man. I came to understand Father Kentenich was very approachable and very interested in you. I believe he wanted to be a model of our Heavenly Father for us, so we could understand how to go to Him and thus guide others to Him. Father also understood that because we are who we are, we need the MTA to gently take our hand and put it into her Son’s. **May you each take this pilgrimage some day!**

**Home Shrine Dedication on Visitation Feast**



**May 31, 2018 was the day wished by Nicol & Craig Goblirsch for their new home dedication with their beloved Home Shrine: Mary, Mother of Mercy, Grace, & Love.** Father Nick VanDenBroeke gave a powerful homily and he and Sister Jessica were invited to supper afterwards. Children Michael, Mary Catherine, Joseph, John Luke, Samuel, Joshua, and David helped build their new home.

**Home Shrine Dedication in Des Moines**



**Our Lady of Good Council is the chosen Home Shrine for Tom & Marianne Dowd with their children, Staci, Lex, Jake & Abby, and extended families.** Marianne’s cousin, Father Chris McManus, was happy to oblige. This was a wonderful occasion for the Schoenstatt Family in Des Moines on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>.



**A Home Shrine is in process at Storm Lake, IA, as Skype was used in July for the Pariseau Family to speak with Gabrielle at Totus Tuus.**

A few weeks ago, my family and I were at Mass, the first weekend with our new pastor, after our previous pastor had just retired. We had heard many good things about our new pastor, and we were really interested to hear his first homily at his new parish.

The homily was quite good, and the ending has really stuck with me - he gave us homework. He gave us each to job of coming up with an "elevator speech," a 30-second pitch to describe to someone why we believe in God. He wanted us to be ready for the times when people challenge us on our faith.

He talked about his elevator speech, talking that he believes in God because he has experienced God's love in his life and in the lives of friends and family members.

I did as I was told; I went home and thought about my elevator speech.

I thought back to being a catechist when each of my children went through Confirmation prep. One of the things that I wanted to teach the candidates was a brief defense of faith in God and that any challenge posed to them has already been answered by the great saints of the Church. I thought about how to fit all of that into an elevator speech. And I came up with mine.

I believe in God because reason tells me that it's true and the limits of science support my faith. Yes, the limits of science. Science can measure and tell us about all things physical and measurable, even if the physics involved are quite complex. But science cannot tell us anything about things that are not measurable - things that may exist outside of our measurable existence and universe. And reason tells us that our universe - the matter and energy - had to come from some source or some potential, which had to be uncreated - had to exist entirely separate from the universe which it created. That source was God.

I haven't yet had the opportunity to use my elevator speech, but I have it ready. And because it is ready, I'm sure that Our Lord or Our Lady will give me the chance to use it.

**Resolution:** I will pass along the homework given to me: come up with your own elevator speech.

As always, we welcome feedback and ideas at [flocktalkmn@gmail.com](mailto:flocktalkmn@gmail.com) Steve Ray is a member of the *Our Lady's Disciples couples group in Roseville, MN.*

Please RSVP and Join Us for **Founding Sunday** on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018**, at the Shrine from **10 AM to 4 PM**, on the **50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee** of Founder's Call to Eternity: 507-794-7727

## New Leadership Team



**Ron & Melissa Miller from Sleepy Eye, and Chris & Mark Rockers from Winnebago, are the new Schoenstatt Leaders.** The Millers live right in Sleepy Eye and Mark has created many designs, including our annual celebration invitations. For any wishes his email is: [rockers.mark@yahoo.com](mailto:rockers.mark@yahoo.com)

★ **Heartfelt Thanks to Tim & Gloria Wolf and Dave & Jenny Baker for their 9 years of service!**

★ **Sister Marie Day** is very happy and looking forward to coming back to work with the Schoenstatt Family in the Midwest. She hopes to travel westward September 20th. We offer a warm welcome to her next time here!



★ **Sister M Jessica** will be traveling to Waukesha at the beginning of October. She has given eight years of service here at her "hometown shrine" for the Schoenstatt Family in the Midwest. One of her favorite prayers, prayed as her wish for each of you, is from Sr. M. Emilie's early years in the Schoenstatt Movement:

**ALMIGHTY GOD, UPON THE INTERCESSION OF MY DEAR HEAVENLY MOTHER, MAKE ME A GREAT SAINT AND HELP ME NOT TO SPARE MY POOR, WEAK NATURE. AMEN. -J.KENTENICH**

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