

# FIRE

for the  
CHURCH

## Day 8

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## Day 8

<sup>5</sup>We are grateful that in all our actions, **“WE KNOW OURSELVES TO BE INSTRUMENTS IN THE HANDS OF MARY,”** especially in these times of crisis in the Church.

### Impulse

Let an experience from the centennial celebrations motivate us:

“My moment at the Jubilee was Saturday afternoon in the pilgrims’ arena, which was already impressive, with all the thousands of pilgrims from different countries and branches, and me in the middle of it all... And then SHE came. So solemn and sublime, so real, close, and true, the MTA was carried through the lines and celebrated. You could feel that there was so much reverence for this great Woman, so much personal connection with each one, and you didn’t know how to pay tribute to her. Sometimes, there was applause, and then people just watched, admired, waited, and hesitated until she reached the stage and found her place. Several men carried her on a litter, and some little girls scattered roses like a queen.

When I think about it, it sounds absurd. And yet it didn’t seem distant or false to me, but wholly pure and true, just like herself.

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5 J. Kentenich, May 5, 1952 to A. Menningen

## Reflection

<sup>6</sup>The fact that “the Church sees herself in the image of the Mother of God and protects herself” is part of our Founder’s image of the Church. If the Blessed Mother is excluded from the process of salvation, it is because of a mechanistic way of thinking, even within the Church. On May 31, 1949, when Father Kentenich placed the first part of his didactic letter, the “Epistola perlonga,” on the altar of the Blessed Mother, the destruction of our free society and the suppression of the Church were already on the horizon.

We long for a Church like Mary<sup>7</sup>, open to the Spirit of God. Then, as now, the Blessed Mother will be our help in times of need. Her promise is valid from the beginning: “I love those who love me.”<sup>8</sup>

### **(My) A contribution today**

What thought ignites me, and can I put it into practice so I can burn for the Church today?

**Prayer** (*see the conclusion of the novena*)

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6 J. Kentenich, 5.5.1952 to A. Menningen

7 Thoughts on the evening from 05. 31. 2024

8 Founding document



## *Daily prayer at the end*

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, our international family was born in the shadow of the Shrine.

With our Founder, Father Kentenich, we believe that on October 18, 1914, you established yourself here in a special way and worked miracles of grace.

In the Covenant of Love, we unite across countries and continents and place ourselves at your service.

“All those who come here to pray shall experience the glory of Mary and confess: “It is good for us to be here. Here, we

will build our tents; here is our favorite place.” A bold thought, nearly too

bold for the public, but not too bold for you. (...) Whoever knows the history of our sodality will have no trouble believing that Divine Providence has something special in store for it.” (Founding Document)

Together, we want to communicate your gift to the people.

Together, we want to seize every opportunity to analyze adequately the challenges of the extraordinary processes of change in the world and the Church.

Together, we want to make a conscious contribution to the capital of grace today and entrust all the people we carry in our hearts to you.

Together, gathered around you, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in all things so that your gift may bear fruit in the many needs of our time.

May all the Schoenstatt Shrines be places of divine grace. Give us a home, transform us, and send us forth.

In preparation for Covenant Day on October 18th, we place ourselves at your disposal once again by praying the “little consecration”:

***My Queen, my Mother...***