

Título:

A Different and Unexpected Kentenich Year

Excerpt:

Certainty and uncertainty at the same time characterize the path we are now walking with our Founder.

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Dear Members and Friends of the Schoenstatt Movement,

Advent marks the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the past months' challenges. The questions asked by our Founder, Father Kentenich, are a deep incision for us that will shape the new year and the time to come.

Further information

Since July, the news has been dominated by the publication of accusations against Father Kentenich. This is an inadequate information situation. I am glad that shortly, it will be possible to publish appropriate material that will shed more light on the context of the various events according to our current knowledge. I would like to thank everyone who has worked and is working on this. The fact that the accusations against Father Kentenich have been presented under the emotional heading of sexual abuse arouses a spontaneous reaction in today's world and also in us. Once something is alleged, there is certainly more to it, which will become apparent with time. This makes us cautious. It's good that the awareness has grown. We can realistically say this main accusation is unjustified at this investigation stage. It is good that the historical commission will soon be appointed by the Diocese of Trier and can begin its work.

Trust in our own experience

Given the wealth of material, this historical clarification and reassessment will take time. Our inner image of Father Kentenich today is a mosaic of many individual aspects and experiences. How decisive are critical and contradictory pieces of the mosaic for our understanding of his life? The present search and closer examination are of great benefit to all of us. The greater the historical distance from the founder of our movement, the more comprehensive and differentiated the reports and testimonies must be to get a picture of the whole person. At the same time, despite the collection of historical knowledge and traditional stories, it is also a question of our personal relationship with him: What does Father Kentenich mean to me? It is a question of intuition and evaluation. What creates distance and justifies trust in his person and his inspirations? We must take our reactions to our Father and Founder more seriously than before.

Enter into conversation

Experiences are personal. Yet, they are clarified by the feedback and reactions of others. That is why we need an open and frank conversation among all the generations and communities of our movement. Everyone can bring their questions, their convictions, and the perspectives they see. Different approaches will come together. So, I hope we can find and create many such spaces for discussion. It will not always be easy to start and keep a conversation going. I believe it will be a

decisive learning step for the future of Schoenstatt. Irritations are especially important for a new decision and greater certainty.

Openness and trust

We walk this path in trust in the Covenant of Love with the Blessed Mother. Mary carries the divine child to bring him into the world. In her, it is already Christmas, while around her, it is still a time of expectation, hope, and longing. Advent is characterized by both certainty and uncertainty. Both also characterize the journey we are about to take with our Foundress. Trust in the Blessed Mother has proven itself often and in many difficult and challenging circumstances. The history of our family bears witness to this. And above all, the life of our Foundress herself bears witness to it. The more exciting and threatening a situation became, the more firmly and resolutely he lived out his trust in the Covenant of Love. He encouraged this again and again.

The Covenant of Love with Mary is the foundation on which we can take all the steps God shows and asks of us in the coming year.

In this Advent season, I wish you and all of us divine confidence.

With affectionate greetings

P. Ludwig Güthlein