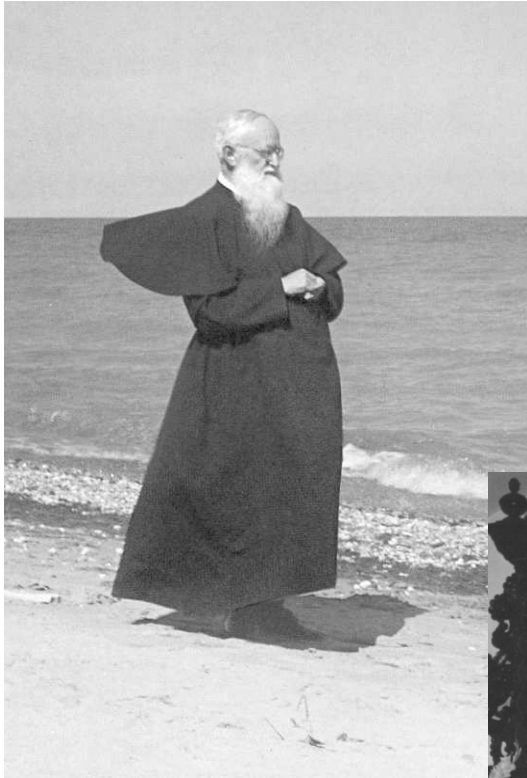


Milwaukee 2002:
Your Gift, Our Mission



Novena



for the Golden Jubilee
of Fr. Kentenich's arrival in Milwaukee,
June 21, 1952

Novena for the Golden Jubilee of Fr. Joseph Kentenich's arrival in Milwaukee, June 21, 1952. Compiled by Fr. Jonathan Niehaus, November 2001.

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Introduction

Your Gift – Our Mission!

This is the motto of the U.S. Schoenstatt Family as it prepares to celebrate a very special Jubilee. It is the 50th anniversary of when our father and founder, Father Joseph Kentenich, arrived in Milwaukee in 1952. This arrival was of great importance, for it marked the beginning of nearly 14 years of priestly and fatherly presence in our midst. This presence and activity became a great gift and treasure not only for those who experienced those years directly, but continues to be a gift of God that inspires the Schoenstatt Family today.

This legacy is a rich one. The outward occasion for Father Kentenich's time in Milwaukee was the Church's testing of his charism as founder. But as it turned out, our fledgling Schoenstatt Family in Wisconsin was able to witness first hand how he never stopped being a *father*, leading many to the secret of being a true *child of God*. Men, women and children of many backgrounds discovered how they could be *family* when they knew this one special priest.

Those who got to know Schoenstatt even discovered that the little Shrine where they met "Father" could become a direct part of their lives in the *home shrine* and the *heart shrine*. Through it all, none would have guessed that he was in "exile." There was no sadness or bitterness in him, but rather a joyful spirit and devotion to Mary that always spoke of a *deep love for the Church*.

These are the gifts which he passed on to our U.S. Schoenstatt Family. In 2002 we want to give him a gift in return. We want to take up the treasures he left us and make them our mission. This novena is meant to be a tangible reminder of the main steps in this process: WELCOME, LISTEN, RESPOND. Even as we welcome him and his gifts, we want to find the best way to respond in our lives.

– Fr. Jonathan Niehaus

Origin of this Novena

This novena originated as an impulse from the Leaders Convention in Waukesha in October 2001. The leaders wished to *unite* the entire U.S. Schoenstatt Family for this Jubilee, so that not only the representatives who gather in Milwaukee on June 21, 2002 will be part of the Jubilee, but also – in spirit – all those who know and love our MTA and Father Kentenich all across the United States.

The Leaders Convention in Texas (also October 2001) placed an accent on the renewal and rededication of all the home shrines. This matched a suggestion at the Wisconsin convention to "refurbish" each one's home or heart shrine. In the spirit of including everyone in our Schoenstatt Movement, one might expand it to be an invitation to each member of the Family to *renew his or her shrine of choice*:

- my home shrine
- my heart shrine
- my attachment to the Pilgrim MTA
- my attachment to one of the daughter shrines.

To help provide inspiration for this action of renewal, this novena was, from the start, conceived in the form of a "tour of shrines" leading to Milwaukee.

It is a final suggestion that the *entire Schoenstatt Family* join in prayer on the actual anniversary day:

June 21, 2002.

All are invited to say the novena's concluding prayer together at the time when Father Kentenich always gave the evening blessing:

at 9:00 pm.

In this way those gathered in Milwaukee and all those around the U.S. Schoenstatt Family can be one in prayer to welcome Father.

May prayer, renewal and unity be our gratitude!

1. Madison, Wisconsin (1953)

Mission: Educate and Form the American Saint from the Founder Shrine
The American Saint



Fr. Kentenich left Chile for the U.S. on June 20, 1952. At the end of his last visit to the Shrine in Chile (Bellavista) he noted, “I am generally someone who deals quickly with the emotions of life. But this time I find it difficult to leave, because the bond which unites us has become so deep and tender. We are attached to the Shrine and in the Shrine we are attached to one another. Both form the underlying reason for the sorrow I feel at this parting, doubly and triply so, because where I am going there is no Shrine.”

But unknown to Fr. Kentenich, the MTA was already preparing him a Shrine – the first Schoenstatt Shrine in the United States. The decision to build came on July 2, 1952, scarcely two weeks after he arrived in Milwaukee. The decision of the Midwest Province of the Pallottines meant a Shrine would be only 70 miles west of Milwaukee in Madison. It was dedicated on June 20, 1953. Fr. Kentenich made his first visit on August 18, 1953. Numerous times followed in the years to come.

In this Shrine Father began to work with American couples and single women. The more he got to know them, the more he saw in Americans the potential for great saints, and he said so. He received covenants and met with families. Many of the seminarians got to meet him too. His presence in this Shrine has earned it the name “Founder Shrine.”

When the Shrine had to be moved across the street in 1979 (the only Shrine to be moved!), the Schoenstatt Family gradually began to look more deeply at their mission. What they discovered is the mission statement: “to educate and form the American saint from the Founder Shrine.” What an appropriate first stop on our pilgrimage of Shrines to Milwaukee!

Words of Father Kentenich in Madison

“Here from this place, the Blessed Mother wants to bring about the renewal of America. She wants to lead men and women to Christ and transform them into images of her Son. (...)

“We beg our Mother Thrice Admirable to take the responsibility for Schoenstatt in America and for the Schoenstatt Family in the whole world” (March 25, 1954).

“The more I get to know the Americans with their childlike spirit, simplicity and receptiveness, the more I am convinced that you are the timber from which saints can be carved. But as Cardinal [Stritch] says: all that is missing is the skillful hand needed to carve the wood. Behold the great educator who has no rest until she has carved a great masterpiece of me, the Blessed Mother of Schoenstatt, the Mother Thrice Admirable!” (Sept. 27, 1953)

Words of Father Kentenich in Milwaukee

“The Blessed Mother wants to enter in Madison as the great leader, as the great educator for the United States. She wants to assist us in fulfilling our great mission.” (Feb. 8, 1953)

Prayer

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt, as we prepare for the 50th anniversary of Fr. Kentenich’s arrival in Milwaukee, we ask you for this grace from the Founder Shrine in Madison: educate and form us as American saints! Let our whole Church be filled with the call to greatness and holiness. And let our love for you inspire us to the heroic love and faithfulness in everyday life needed to become saints in the footsteps of our Father and Founder.

Today I will do one act of love to help form a culture of sanctity.

2. Lamar, Texas (1959)

Mission: Unlimited Victorious

Childlike Confidence

The New Child

For the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in Texas, the exile brought the sacrifice of not being able to seek out Fr. Kentenich for much needed wisdom and support. They prayed with all their hearts for Father's freedom, until finally they decided to build the Shrine on land up the coast from Corpus Christi, at Lamar. It would not only be a petition for Father's freedom., but a "thanksgiving in advance" that God would grant this prayer. It was an expression of utmost confidence.

So it was that the *Confidentia Shrine* was born. Dedicated on October 18, 1959, it took the mission of "unlimited victorious childlike confidence." For indeed, can the heavenly Father refuse a child who trusts totally in him?

As the movement grew around the Shrine, this attitude became part of the entire Texas Schoenstatt Family. Love for Fr. Kentenich has always been strong there, and found a special symbol in the Father Eye in the Shrine, a gift of Fr. Kentenich's to the Texas Shrine in 1967.

Report about Father Kentenich's gift:

Father had the Father Eye in his room for several days. He was giving it for the Shrine in Texas, but the Sister who was to take it wanted Father to bring it in person for his anticipated visit the coming year. But he said: "It is better that the child takes it along. What you have, you have."

Then he took one more long look at the Father Eye, blessed it again and said:

"It is a beautiful Eye, a work of art, but it must always be a symbol for a reality. Father sees his child and the child will always



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find the Father in the Shrine.

Father sees me,

Father loves me,

Father knows me."

Words of Father Kentenich in Milwaukee

"We have experienced countless times in our family the power of trust... The more helpless we are in the face of our mission and the more powerful the opposing currents which wish to drag us down, the more we become children, the more tenderly and trustingly we stretch out our hands for the hands of our Mother and [heavenly] Father" (Letter to Fr. Klein-Arkenau, December 10, 1953).

"Confidence for confidence! The trust which Mary gives *us* must become the trust which we give to *her*....

"Take a look at the rose leaf. What do we see? A criss-crossing of veins. They cross and connect in seeming confusion.... It symbolizes the difficulties and entanglements of our life. But if we now put the green color [of trust] together with the veins, what does it mean? Trust in our greatest moments of difficulty, in the confusion of our lives" (March 18, 1956).

Prayer

Dear Queen of Confidence, your Shrine in Texas reflects the attitude of the "new child" – unfailing in trust for God's loving plan as our Heavenly Father. This lesson, experienced by so many during the exile, awakens in us the desire to rediscover the same boundless and victorious confidence as we make our way to Milwaukee. Let our Father and Founder be our guide to becoming God's children in every moment of our lives.

Today I will entrust to God something that worries or troubles me.

3. Home Shrine (1962)

Fr. Kentenich's years in Milwaukee gave him his first opportunity to work more intensively with families. He got to know them, listened to their needs and hurts, and always had a special love for the children. For many he became a real father to whom they could entrust their lives and hearts.

In the same year that Father turned his talks to the question of how to raise children (1962), a few families asked themselves: can we not also invite the MTA to dwell in our homes, just like in the daughter shrines? Fr. Kentenich let them try it and carefully observed this experiment to see if it were truly in keeping with God's plan. After a year he was finally convinced that the same graces of the Shrine were found in the *home shrine*. On November 18, 1963 he declared this as a "new order of Shrine."

From Milwaukee the home shrine spread quickly to the rest of the Schoenstatt Family worldwide. Until today it is one of the greatest blessings to come from Father Kentenich's years in Milwaukee. This form of the "domestic church" is so much the backbone of our Schoenstatt Family in the U.S. that we could hardly imagine where we would be without it!

Words of Father Kentenich in Milwaukee

"What do we mean by 'home shrine'? Many of us have not only dedicated their house to the Blessed Mother in general, but also offered it to her as a *Living Shrine*. Now you must pay careful attention. What I am about to say is of elementary importance for the future:

Everything which holds true for the Original Shrine and for the daughter shrines also holds true for the home shrines.

"....What is promised to the home shrine, any home shrine? What is demanded? The same six promises and the same six demands of



the Founding Document...." (November 18, 1963).

"If God blesses our endeavors, they [our home shrines] will be trailblazers for the pastoral work of the future.... Our surroundings are no longer marked by a distinct Catholic atmosphere. In the future this... absence of a religious atmosphere will be extraordinarily difficult. Where will this religious atmosphere then come from? Where will it need to be fostered? In the individual families in their homes.... We are like islands, little islands where the spirit of Christ and, we could add, the spirit of Schoenstatt is spreading and at home" (Dec. 9, 1963).

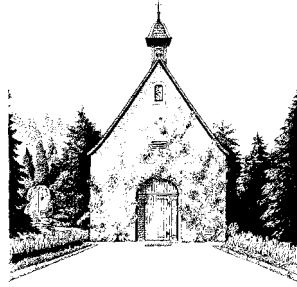
Prayer

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable! In our home shrines you dwell in our midst in such a down-to-earth way that we can seek you out in every need and know your presence in all the ordinary events of life. Through the home shrines you have worked countless miracles of grace and encouragement, and given many a place to pray and seek refuge. As we prepare for Father Kentenich's arrival, we thank you for this most remarkable gift from our Exile Legacy. Let the home shrine be the place where our hearts are enkindled anew with love for the Church and for our mission!

Today I will pray a special prayer for each member of my family in the home shrine.

4. Waukesha, Wisconsin (1964)

Name: International Shrine
of the Father Kingdom
Father as a father



As the years passed, it became clear that the Shrine at Holy Cross in Milwaukee would be unable to serve the Schoenstatt Family as a retreat center. A search was begun for new land, leading to an old farm 20 miles west of Milwaukee. It was purchased in 1963. The Shrine was built in 1964 as a gift for Schoenstatt's Golden Jubilee. It was dedicated on October 17 and on the following day, Fr. Kentenich celebrated the Golden Jubilee Mass in this Shrine.

Mario Hiriart of Chile, and others, felt that the mission of this new Center must reach beyond the nationalities and countries to be a real International Schoenstatt Center. The mission became its name. And the Shrine took on the mission of the "Marian Father Kingdom" which Fr. Kentenich built up and lived in Milwaukee. He visited the new Shrine many times, leaving in his footsteps valuable experiences of who he was as a Father. The Shrine is known as the "International Shrine of the Father Kingdom."

In 1985 the local family worked to make it possible for guests to discover this fatherly presence by remodeling the old farm house once used by Fr. Kentenich during his visits to the Shrine. It is now known as the "Father House," a place to see mementos and share a cup of coffee or a cookie, to pray and to gather, just as Father did in his time here.

Words of Father Kentenich at the Center

(During his first visit to the land)

"Bless all who will come here, all who will work here. Grant that blessings will go out from here!" (Aug. 23, 1963)

(A few days before the dedication of the Shrine)

"Today we also want to ask the Blessed Mother to take possession of this place not only for North America, not only for us Germans, but rather for the entire North and South American continents. We also want to ask the Blessed Mother to educate men and women here who are able, in the light of what we have heard this morning, to help lead the Church to the new shore." (October 11, 1964)

Prayer

Victress Thrice Admirable! You showered great blessings on Father's exile as a time when so many experienced him as a real father. He knew all the names and all the hurts and happiness. He sang songs and blessed children. No need was too small, no person too unimportant. In his radiance you began to shape a true Marian Father Kingdom, uniting many nations. We ask you, let our pilgrimage to Milwaukee and Father's arrival make us more like this "father to many" and let us continue to be instruments for the Marian Father Kingdom.

Today I will greet someone with a smile.

5. Heart Shrine (1965)

During Fr. Kentenich's last summer in Milwaukee, a number of Schoenstatt couples hosted seminarians from the Carribean. They told them about Schoenstatt and the Home Shrine. When the question came up about how to take Schoenstatt with them to lands without daughter shrines or home shrines, the couples wondered if there could be such a thing as a "heart shrine."



Their consultation with Fr. Kentenich gave them the assurance that they could take a further step beyond the home shrine – to the *heart shrine*. Not only did some of the seminarians dedicate their hearts as a Schoenstatt Shrine, but a number of the families did, too. This also became part of the exile legacy as the word and practice about the heart shrine spread to the whole Schoenstatt Family worldwide.

Words of Father Kentenich in Milwaukee:

"Dear Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt,

"See us kneeling here again tonight before your image. (...) We kneel here before you, not only to rejoice from the bottom of our hearts, but to thank you for everything.... Our spiritual son, Hugo, goes to a place that does not yet have a national shrine. Although there is a home shrine... we now ask you please supplement, please complete this, our Shrine, with the Heart Shrine.

"This means, dear Mother and Queen, that just as you have made this home your shrine, *make now our hearts your shrine*" (Aug. 2, 1965, at one of the first heart shrine blessings).

"I myself must become a shrine. That's why I go to the [daughter] shrine – to become a shrine myself. That's why I dedicate my house as a home shrine, so that I myself and all our children become a living shrine.

"Now listen to what makes our hearts, our souls, our bodies into a real shrine. For us it is absolutely clear: When we are God-bearers, then we are also a shrine. That's why the Apostle Paul – these things are as old as the Gospel – calls us a very special dwelling of the Blessed Trinity (cf 2 Cor 6,16). Just think of what a marvelous foundation for a relationship that is when husband and wife look on each other with such reverence! And again, if I look upon my children as a shrine, as a dwelling of the Blessed Trinity, how great will my reverence be, even when they are misbehaving and disturbing me to no end" (Feb. 3, 1964).

Prayer

MTA, Queen of our Hearts! At the very end of Father Kentenich's years in Milwaukee you allowed Schoenstatt to see more clearly the ultimate dignity given us in the covenant of love: to be a more vibrant temple of God's presence and love. As we prepare to welcome Father for his Milwaukee Jubilee, we open our Heart Shrines, remembering his words: "Those who seek me always find me in the Shrine." I welcome him in my heart and invite him: use my heart shrine as a place to fulfill your Milwaukee mission for the people I know and the places I live and work.

Today I will prepare my heart for the Jubilee by showing reverence to the people closest to me.

6. Sleepy Eye, Minnesota (1976)

Name: Jubilee Family Shrine

The Family and New Community



During Fr. Kentenich's years in Milwaukee, first steps took place to establish Schoenstatt in Minnesota.

At the invitation of Fr. Hoffmann of Hampton, one of the Sisters of Mary worked in his parish from 1954-56 and started a girls group. Some of the Sisters and Pioneer Couples went to Pipestone in 1956 to consider the purchase of an old school. In 1962 the Sisters decided to go to Ivanhoe to help staff a new hospital, which became the beginning of a chain of events that led to the beginning of the Movement in Minnesota.

The girls youth purchased the MTA picture for a Minnesota Shrine in 1971. This picture was crowned on Dec. 7, 1974 with the petition: Show us the place for the Shrine. Hours later the bishop of reminded of a property at Sleepy Eye, next to one of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes, and the chain of events was set in motion which led to the Shrine. The dedication on Oct. 3, 1976 was seen as a gift in light of three great "jubilees" – the 200th anniversary of the United States, the 100th anniversary of St. Mary's Parish in Sleepy Eye, and the 50th anniversary of the Sisters.

This led to the definition of the Shrine's mission as the "Jubilee Family Shrine." The importance of the *family* was an outstanding feature of the movement here from the beginning, and until today the Shrine attracts many families. The family and its renewal are a sign of the *new community* which Fr. Kentenich considered part of the Exile Legacy. And the *Jubilee* aspect reminds us that the family needs to be a vibrant part of our nation, parishes and Schoenstatt vision.

Words of Father Kentenich in Milwaukee

"The family is the first apostolate" (many times to many of the couples in Milwaukee, including Gilbert Schimmel).

"I must interrupt your conversation. [You want to know what I think about the project in Minnesota.] My interest is not in buildings, at least not in buildings in terms of houses. I think the building we should construct is different. What building do we want to erect? The edifice of an ideal family" (Nov. 5, 1956, to the *Pioneer Couples about the school in Pipestone*).

"[Someone] was wondering why I devote myself to so few Americans. I could be doing something other than working with families. But remember this: great and deep things are only accomplished nowadays if they are created in a small circle and if one works on it constantly, over and over again. I can imagine no other way to renew the world.

"Suppose I had done what some wanted – to help them become better apostles (...) working apostolically all over the place. That is the great mistake so commonly made nowadays: we work outside the home and destroy our own family. *Our* task is to become a healthy *family* and that our *children* are rooted and totally grow into a healthy *family*. I may not see great successes today or tomorrow, or in five years. We must give up our craving for success. Instead, our 'craving' must be to reattach people and educate them in small circles" (May 28, 1962).

Prayer

Dear Queen of Families, our pilgrimage to the Shrine in Minnesota reminds us of Father's important work in America with families. He worked to build a new community and family based on love and mutual concern ("in one another"), solidarity and mutual support ("with one another") and responsibility for the well-being of each member ("for one another"). As we welcome him in our midst once more, help us to form a true family.

Today I will spiritually bring each member of my family to the Shrine.

7. Staten Island, New York (1977)

Name: Shrine of Light

Love for the Church



The conflict sparked by the issues around Fr. Kentenich's exile also caused other Schoenstatt priests to come into the line of fire. Some were even reassigned to positions far from the movement. This included several who were transferred from South America to New York in 1960. But rather than be left idle in building up Schoenstatt, these priests were used by the MTA to help found her Family in New York City.

It was a humble beginning, but soon pilgrims were going to Milwaukee (the first arrived Dec. 1961). Hailing from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and elsewhere, they began to meet Fr. Kentenich and know him and love him. They made remarkable sacrifices to visit him and the Shrine at Holy Cross.

In 1964 a first little Schoenstatt Center was set up in Brooklyn and called the *Candelaria* (or "Candlemas", i.e. feast of the Presentation of the Lord). Soon it was too small and a New Candelaria was found in a larger house in Staten Island. This was just at the time when Fr. Kentenich was called to Rome. Out of gratitude to his faithful visitors from New York, he stopped in New York on the way to Rome (Sept. 16, 1965) and blessed the New Candelaria. There he offered the MTA a crown that would be hers – as soon as she would give N.Y. a Shrine!

The Shrine became a reality in 1977 when the purchase of a spacious house near the New Candelaria made it possible to overcome numerous obstacles and build the Shrine *inside* the house. It was dedicated on Nov. 5, 1977. Its mission is to be the *Shrine of Light* in keeping with the Candelaria tradition: in a city of lights home to so much darkness, a beacon of God's light through the MTA.

Words of Father Kentenich in Milwaukee

"Faith spreads an atmosphere of light in contrast to the poisoned atmosphere spread by unbelief. An atmosphere of light! Faith allows me to turn constantly to the light" (May 30, 1965).

Words of Father Kentenich in New York

"Those who saw us today [at the airport] (...) and experienced the reception, must have said, 'Truly, these are people whose hearts beat for one another, who are doubtlessly of the same family.'

"Are we really a family? (...) [O]n the deepest level the question becomes, 'Do we share the same Mother?' Yes, we have the same mother! It is the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt. It is Mary's love for us – or our love for her – a love which is part and parcel of our culture. But it is also the Blessed Mother as she has come to dwell in the Schoenstatt Shrine.

"It is a mysterious bond which has drawn us to her again and again. It is nothing to be taken for granted that we have so frequently made the long journey from here, from New York to Milwaukee. It can only be explained because the Blessed Mother has drawn us by a mysterious bond to her shrine there, and indeed has literally drawn us in" (Sept. 16, 1965).

Prayer

Dear Mother of Light! In the City of Lights you have established for yourself a Shrine of Light, that all forces of darkness might be banished. When Fr. Kentenich arrived in Milwaukee 50 years ago, one would have expected "exile" to mean "darkness." But his total trust in you and the Father's plan turned these years into a time of radiant light, especially through his *love for the Church*. May our love for the Church have the same radiant power of love.

Today I will join Father in his love for the Church by praying for the Holy Father, my bishop and my pastor.

8. Pilgrim MTA (1984)

In 1950 John Pozzobon, a married man and grocer from Santa Maria, Brazil began to visit families with a pilgrim image of the MTA. John, a Schoenstatt member, received Fr. Kentenich's blessing for this endeavor. In the exile years he also tasted something of the shadow over Schoenstatt, but remained faithful to the MTA and to the Church. Year after year he carried out his apostolate. Around 1980 it became the international "Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign." He continued his mission until his tragic death in a traffic accident in 1985.



The first Pilgrim MTA arrived in the United States in 1984. This precious image came with the blessing of John Pozzobon. It marked the beginning of the Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign in the USA, which grew rapidly, especially after broadcast appearances on EWTN. Today over 5000 Pilgrim MTA images are in circulation in the U.S., reaching all 50 states.

The shrine-shaped frame of the Pilgrim MTA links it to the Schoenstatt Shrine. Again and again, the graces of the Shrine are felt by those who receive the Pilgrim MTA. She bestows graces of peace and joy, of new openness to prayer and the rosary, of inner conversion through the realization that "Mary wants to visit me." Hearts find a home in Mary's heart and are stirred to apostolic zeal, bringing the image to friends and family.

Words of Father Kentenich in Madison

"We have begun to make our Shrine the center of all our loving and living. We want our thoughts and deeds to revolve around the Shrine. It should – what should I say? – become our family shrine, the capital of the kingdom Mary wishes to establish. Which gives me the idea: could we not also make use of the *rosary* to become more deeply and intimately attached to our Shrine?" (Oct. 1953).

"The rosary should be part of the armament of our Schoenstatt Family. (...) You see, we are drawn into the storms of the times, the battle for the soul of our modern day. And the rosary, small though it seems, is simply the great means which enables us to sway the thoughts of our time, to do effective battle and to skillfully carry the victory" (Oct 18, 1953).

Prayer

Dear Pilgrim MTA, Queen of the Rosary! Just as you hastened to your cousin Elizabeth to bring her blessings, as the Pilgrim MTA you have hastened to all corners of the USA. Hasten now from all the many homes and parishes to welcome our Father and Founder in Milwaukee! Help make his Milwaukee mission bear abundant fruit in every home and every heart. Set our hearts afire for his fatherly presence and his love for the Church.

Today I will join the whole Rosary Campaign in praying a decade of the Rosary.

9. Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1954)

Name: The Exile Shrine

Your Gift, Our Mission

We come to the end of our pilgrimage. It brings us to the place most closely associated with the gift of Father Kentenich's presence in the U.S., 1952-65, and our mission as his U.S. family: the Shrine at Holy Cross (now St. Vincent Pallotti Parish) in Milwaukee.

The Shrine was built in the Marian Year 1954 as a gift to Mary from the Holy Cross Parish and the provincial center of the Pallottines. It was dedicated on October 18, 1954, Schoenstatt's 40th anniversary. This development took place without any instigation from Fr. Kentenich; he took it as a gift from our MTA – she herself would join him in exile.

He watched the construction of the Shrine out of his office window; took part in its capital of grace, and at the moment of its blessing was asked by Provincial Superior Fr. Joseph Haas to do the honors. It was the start of an inseparable history of Father and Shrine. His home was just a few dozen yards away. He came daily to pray. He said daily Mass there – over 3000 Holy Masses from 1954-65! He accepted the covenants of love of families, youth and pilgrims. He read countless letters and gave counsel to visitors. Great men such as Gilbert Schimmel and Mario Hiriart offered their lives in this Shrine and under the inspiration of their Father and Founder.

Today the Exile Shrine is a place where many discover Father as a real father. They may walk through the nearby cemetery where Fr. Kentenich walked and prayed daily. Or they may visit the Movement House, seeing how he welcomed and cared for his guests in such a personal way -- no need was too small, no concern too trivial! Then there is the wider circle of places where Father was: St. Michael's Church, Grant Park and homes of families.



Here he wants to continue his mission and offer his fatherly presence in our New Millennium. Here at the place of his arrival in 1952 we want to welcome him, listen to his wisdom again, and respond with all our hearts: Use us, Father, as the Family known to all as a harbor of love for the Church and a hearth of a transforming Marian Kingdom of the Father!

Words of Father Kentenich in Milwaukee

“Was it not kind of the Blessed Mother to follow me, as it were, with her shrine into my exile?” (Oct. 18, 1954, to Fr. Haas after the Shrine was dedicated)

“Today we crown Mary as...Queen of the Schoenstatt kingdom here in America. What does this remind us of? That Mary has sealed a covenant of love with *this* shrine too, and that she wants to instigate a great movement of world renewal in our country from *this* shrine. In this *we believe!*” (May 31, 1959 at the crowning of the MTA by the Pioneer Couples in the Shrine in Milwaukee).

“It seems to me that if we take these three words home with us then we will have understood what the eternal Father God and the Blessed Mother had in mind for our years together, the purpose of our shared experiences, our growing so close together and becoming one heart.

“To repeat:

– ‘*Child, do not forget your Mother.*’ Our Mother became more and more for us the Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt.

– ‘*Child, do not forget the mercies of the eternal Father's love and the mercy of the Blessed Mother.*’

– And thirdly, ‘*Do not forget to utilize your miseries in order to grow deeper and deeper into the heart of the eternal God.*’” (Farewell address in the Shrine, Sept. 15, 1965).

Prayer

Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt!

In spirit we gather in the Exile Shrine as the place where we welcome and greet our Father and Founder: We declare with one voice: **Your Gift, Our Mission!** His presence in our midst for 14 years was a great gift from you, and all he did for us then, and does for us now, comes together to form a legacy that speaks to the needs of our times.

On this Golden Jubilee of his arrival in Milwaukee we want to welcome him with all our hearts, listen to him, and respond by recommitting to his mission. With your help we dare to reach out for this high goal. We will not forget either you or our Father. But neither must you forget us. Lead us to Father and let him show us the way to a new stream of renewal and blessings for our nation, Church and world.

Amen.

Today I will join the whole U.S. Schoenstatt Family in praying this prayer at the time of Father's customary 9:00 pm blessing.