

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

This day marks the death of the founder of Schoenstatt, Father Joseph Kentenich, in 1968. Below you will find a small bit about Father's last day on earth taken from a book Joseph Kentenich: A Life For the Church by Engelbert Monnerhahn. We thank God very much for the life and example of sacrifice and love given to us by our father.

Mother Thrice Admirable, pray for us.

Father Kentenich, pray for us.

Deacon Pozzobon, pray for us.

Our Consecration Prayer

Our Queen, our Mother, we give ourselves entirely to you. And to show our devotion to you we offer you this day our eyes, our ears, our mouths, our hearts, our entire self without reserve. As we are your own, good Mother, guard us and protect us as your property and possession. Amen.

the 7 Sorrows of Mary

This devotion started in 1668 and in 1814 Pius VII extended the celebration to the whole Western Church in commemoration of the sufferings he had endured during his captivity in France

1. Simeon's prophecy 2. The flight into Egypt 3. The disappearance of Jesus 4. The road to Calvary 5. The Crucifixion 6. The taking down of the Body of Jesus 7. The Burial of Jesus

Home to the Father **Saturday, October 27**

Early in the morning of 15 September 1968 Father Kentenich walked from his apartment in the training centre of Mount Schoenstatt to the adoration church. He was to celebrate Holy Mass there for the first time, after which he was to address the sisters of the German west province in the hall below the church. It was Sunday, the feast of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Holy Mass started at 6:15. Two priests assisted him: Father Joseph Weigand, chaplain to the mother house of the sisters and Father Drago Maric, a newly ordained Yugoslav Carmelite, who was staying as a guest on Mount Schoenstatt. Both priests helped with the distribution of Holy Communion. Father Weigand estimated that Father Kentenich gave Communion to over a hundred Sisters. Mass ended a few minutes after 7 o'clock.

In the sacristy after Mass, Father Kentenich invited his two assistants for lunch that day. Then he blessed a packet of rosary beads which the sister sacristan held out to him and remained silently for a while at the vesting table. His two fellow priest remained in silence with him.

Suddenly they noticed Father Kentenich leaning forward. He tried to support himself with his hands but failed. He collapsed. Father Weigand and Father Maric held him by the arms and tried to seat him on a chair which the sister hurriedly fetched. But he was too heavy and they had to let him slide right to the floor where they laid him on his back. The sister put a cushion under his head. Father Kentenich reached for his heart. He kept breathing for a few minutes longer.

The general superior of the (Schoenstatt) Sisters of Mary and several other sisters who had attended Holy Mass were called into the sacristy. Someone telephoned the doctor. Father Weigand anointed him and gave him absolution. At a quarter past seven the doctor. His heart had stopped. Father Kentenich had died.

Five days later, on 20 September, Father Kentenich was laid to rest where he had died. The funeral Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Trier, Bernhard Stein. Concelebrants were Heinrich Tenhumberg, auxiliary bishop of Munster, Joseph Buchkremer, auxiliary bishop of Aachen, who had arrived in Dachau concentration camp in March 1942, the same month as Father Kentenich, and a large number of priests. Presiding in the sanctuary were Archbishop Balife, the apostolic nuncio in Germany, and Adolf Bolte, Bishop of Fulda.

Before the funeral the coffin containing the body of Father Kentenich was taken into the shrine of the Mother Thrice Admirable in the valley, to the place where Father Kentenich had given the talk almost 54 years before which later became known as the Founding Document of the Schoenstatt Movement.

His last resting place is a plain tomb of grey basalt. It bears only his name, the dates of his birth and death and, as he had wished, the words: DILEXIT ECCLESIAM, that is, "He loved the Church."

The Church had been the object of all his love. His life had been a life for the Church for the Church of the present, but above all for the Church of the future.

