

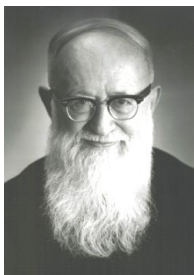
## VISIT #9, THE GRACE OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS

BECAUSE WE NEED AND WANT TO BE USED FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD. The Blessed Mother intercedes for us the **Grace of Apostolic Fruitfulness** so we can fulfill our personal mission in life, giving of ourselves in Service to our families, Parish, Diocese, and the world around us. **Our Thrice Admirable Mother intercedes for us this Third Pilgrimage Grace – Apostolic Fruitfulness. She says to us in her Covenant of Love, “Then from here (the Shrine) I will draw youthful hearts to myself and educate them to become useful instruments in my hands.”** (Schoenstatt, The Founding Documents)

### IN THE SPIRIT OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS

“The true goal of the apostolate (the work of the Church directed to serving and evangelizing the world) refers to the activity of an apostle, the one who is sent forth endowed with a special mission. During his life Christ entrusted a great mission to his apostles: to baptize, to proclaim the Good News, to expand the kingdom of God, and to unite all into one fold under the one, true shepherd, Christ. They were to lead all people to eternal salvation. This is the goal and purpose of all apostolic activity: to draw as many people as possible into the fullness of divine life and to help bring the divine life to maturity and perfection, securing a life of eternal salvation for all.” (The Three Pillars)

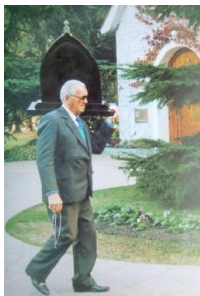
### Father Joseph Kentenich, the Founder of a Great Work



“The founder of Schoenstatt could be numbered among the greatest founders within the Church. Within a relatively short founding period his foundation became a complex, elaborate, worldwide movement of renewal. He founded a place of grace and pilgrimage which has been multiplied to channel its special graces to all nations and cultures, to all homes and families, to all hearts.

Father Kentenich created a movement of renewal for people of all ages, of all classes of society, of all states of life. He founded six separate secular institutes and placed them at the service of the Church.... He gave the Church a timely lay spirituality, a path aimed at fostering the pursuit of holiness and the practice of the apostolate... He built his foundation upon the pillars of the Church with the goal of leading the Church to the new shore of our time.” (The Three Pillars)

### Deacon John Pozzobon, History of the Pilgrim MTA



“During the holy year of 1950, Deacon John Pozzobon, a member of the Schoenstatt Movement in Santa Maria, Brazil, received a Picture of Grace of the Mother Thrice Admirable (MTA). It was suggested to him that he take this Picture of Grace into the homes of many people. He accepted this request as a holy task and special mission.

For 35 years, Deacon John took the MTA on pilgrimage. He traveled a total of more than 87,000 miles and took the Picture of Grace to a different family each day. He carried this Picture of Grace in a shrine-shaped frame that had been made specifically for this pilgrimage. He went from home to home, to schools, prisons, and hospitals. Deacon John would gather people together to pray the rosary with them; together they begged for the renewal of families and individuals, for the special pilgrim graces from the Shrine and the Picture of Grace and for Mary’s intercession for all their needs. Since his death in June 1985, the PILGRIM MTA has reached beyond the borders of Brazil and has extended throughout the world.” (A Hero Today Novena to Deacon John Pozzobon)

## Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger - Rome, 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1989:

“The future of the Church will depend solely on the vigor of those who have profound roots and who live only by the abundance of their faith.

It will not depend on those who accommodate themselves to the moment. It will not depend on those who choose the easy road, nor on those who recoil from the passion of the faith; who consider that it is wrong or old-fashioned, who interpret it as tyranny and legalistic for all it demands of man, and that causes sorrow, what it obliges one to do, and which makes one give himself completely. Let us say it in a positive way: the future of the Church will at this time, as always, be cradled by the saints.

Pope John Paul II during his first visit to Germany singled out Father Kentenich as a ‘distinguished priest in recent history’. A light radiates from his life, his word, and his work that can be an indication of the way. The axiom which guided him, formed him, and with which he formed many is etched on his tomb: ***Dilexit ecclesiam: He loved the Church.*** May Mary, the Mother of the Church, by whom he always allowed himself to be guided protect us and help us; may She, through her faithful servant Father Joseph Kentenich, open to many the way of love of the Church so that a new vigor of faith and a new joy of faith will inundate our people and our country.”

**THROUGH THIS ENCOUNTER**, with thanksgiving and gratitude, let us pray to be open. Let us pray to receive the **GRACE OF APOSTOLIC FRUITFULNESS** which the Blessed Mother wants to intercede for us from the Holy Spirit so we can become useful instruments in her hands and, under her protection and guidance, fulfill our personal mission in life – to become the saints who cradle the future of the Church.

### 1) Become more acquainted with **Father Kentenich** and the Grace of Apostolic Fruitfulness:

Pray **THE COURAGE OF FAITH NOVENA**:

**Day 7**, Sent out for the Family

**Day 8**, Sent out for the Church

**Day 9**, Sent out for the World.

### 2) Become more acquainted with **Deacon John Pozzobon**:

Pray **A HERO TODAY NOVENA**:

**Day 1**, Great Love and Surrender, Heroism is Required

**Day 2**, A Call to a Heroic Mission

**Day 3**, A Hero Now