



## ***Daring Practical Faith in Divine Providence***

Excerpts from: **Father Joseph Kentenich, *Childlikeness Before God*, 140-153**

### **The salvation of our times is the daring of childlikeness**

**What:** In his long and fruitful life, servant of God, Father Joseph Kentenich (1885-1968) shared many pearls of wisdom. The theme: *Daring practical faith in divine providence* comes from two conferences at a retreat Father Kentenich gave to the Bethlehem Fathers, a Swiss missionary community, in 1937. The world situation was very difficult at that time with Hitler and the Nazis in power in Germany on the northern borders of Switzerland and the Italian dictator, Mussolini, in power on the southern border. The insights Father Kentenich gave at that time can also be applied to our present challenging time.

**Who:** The Leaders of the Schoenstatt family, that united around the International Schoenstatt Shrine in Waukesha, Wisconsin, for the October Convention in 2018, chose the following motto: *Like Father, Dare to Offer Ourselves for the Church*. The Leaders of the Schoenstatt Mothers League in Wisconsin and Illinois chose as their aim of education with this motto: to grow in understanding of practical faith in divine providence.

**How:** By *divine providence*, the texts from Father Joseph Kentenich in *Childlikeness Before God* in the fifteenth and sixteenth conferences, were discovered. Father Kentenich spoke about: “The daring of childlikeness! ... Ask the simple man and woman in the pew. What word do they use instead of *daring*? They talk about a living faith in divine providence.” (*Childlikeness Before God*, 141) These texts have been made available in the 18<sup>th</sup> of the Month Impulse for the Schoenstatt Mothers League WI & IL. May they be helpful in learning to live a daring faith in divine providence. This doesn’t happen overnight but over time through prayer and practice.

**Response:** One mother shared that this short impulse is from a book she has had on her shelf for a long time. With the new motto, and the wisdom of Father Kentenich, these outlines are helping her see God’s plan more actively in her everyday life.

**Question:** Isn’t this too difficult for new moms to understand? Everyone can benefit from learning about practical faith in divine providence. God’s plan of love is a mystery to all of us and Father Kentenich gives practice examples and tools to help us discover God’s road map for our lives.

**Suggested Method:** As a group or individual,

- Read the whole text silently or out loud.
- Begin again and read one section at a time ending with thought question.
- In silence, maybe with the help of a note book, write down your answer.
- Group can share insights on what is Father Kentenich’s message for the present moment.
- Continue through whole text.
- Find one practical point (resolution) relating to the text that can be done each day.