

SCHOENSTATT FOR SAVING CREATION

Fr. Josef Kentenich (1885-1968) was a visionary catholic thinker, priest, psychologist and educator, whose idea put life, attachments and organic relationships in its central position. His teaching integrates the natural and spiritual dimensions of human life, theory and practice, with continuous efforts to self-education aiming to find the real core of personality and to cultivate of the divine life of grace. The Kentenich (or Schoenstatt – named after its „bithplace”) pedagogy is built on love and freedom, and its main aim is to create the new (whole) person in the new community devoid of mechanistic thinking. The essential features of Schoenstatt’s educational approach—the five “guiding stars” as Fr. Kentenich called them—include the pedagogy of attachments (promoting a wide variety of attachments – to persons, places, things, ideas and values); that of movement (which sees education as a dynamic process of growth, movement and life); covenant (commitment) pedagogy; as well as the pedagogy of trust (which is of fundamental importance in all education) and pedagogy of ideal (with personal and community ideals). The theory and practical applications of the Kentenich (Schoenstatt) pedagogy are applied in the course of Environmental Education, which forms—with the other two courses of Human Ecology and Environmental Ethics, and other practical elements—a central part for the Integrated Model of Sustainability Education developed at MATE Georgikon Campus, Keszthely, Hungary, in 2017. This model has been granted by the „Best Practice Award of Higher Education” of the Tempus Public Fund in Hungary in 2017. Recently, the opinions of the Schoenstatt Youth (between the ages of 18 and 35 years) both in Germany and in Hungary were surveyed in 2024 about the practical application of the Schoenstatt pedagogy for sustainability education, by using an online questionnaire with the following six questions:

1. Which of the Schoenstatt values and teachings of Father Kentenich can help the practical implementation of sustainability?
2. IDEALS are particularly important in Father Kentenich's pedagogy. What ideals do you think can help young people to lead an environmentally conscious, sustainable lifestyle?
3. CONNECTIONS also have a prominent place in Father Kentenich's pedagogy. How can these appear in your life, and what can they mean in terms of an environmentally conscious, sustainable lifestyle?
4. What VIRTUES do you consider important today in implementing a sustainable lifestyle for young people?
5. In your opinion, how and at what educational level could these be implemented?

6. In your life, did Schoenstatt help in the practical realization of any sustainability objective and goal? If so, in what and how?
The results of this survey and practical experiences are planned to be presented and shared in the Nuremberg Forum 2024.