

Voices of Time

For a tight definition of the Voices of Time:

What we read or “hear,” perceive or interpret, from the present or recent events of the world (large scale) or of our own life (small scale), as the will of God for our course of action. Also known as the signs of the time.

Father Joseph Kentenich would often say *Vox temporis, Vox Dei*. The voice of the time is the voice of God! Already in the Gospels we find Christ drawing our attention to this fact.

Signs of the Times.

He also said to the crowds, “When you see [a] cloud rising in the west you say immediately that it is going to rain—and so it does; and when you notice that the wind is blowing from the south you say that it is going to be hot—and so it is. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time? (Lk.12:54).

Father Kentenich lived and taught this practice. Through a childlike connection to God we are better able to *listen to his voice* and interpret the signs of the times correctly. This is how Schoenstatt came into existence.

The Blessed Mother has used me to make the founding of this pilgrimage place possible. Her wish was not revealed to me in a vision, but by Divine Providence: first, through the signs of the time; secondly, through the workings of grace in souls which showed me the way. And now, the Original Shrine has been duplicated many times all over the world! ²

On the Voice of Our Time

Father Kentenich encouraged us to go through life

With the hand on the pulse of time and our ear on the heart of God!

Interpreting the events on the large scale of world events as well as the events that take place on the small scale of our lives is listening to the voice of God in our times. What world events represent for humanity can be felt or reflected in the individual’s experience, *here and now*. The joys and sorrows of routine, commitments, surprises, and frustrations convey God’s message to us.

We should learn to interpret:

- Issues and controversies
- Catastrophes and debacles
- Achievements and victories
- Wars and division
- News of any sort

Tuning in to God

Schoenstatt will always emphasize contemplating God in history. (This is the hardest!) Because we cannot understand God we ponder on his guidance, and because God cannot be contained in one thought or in one place, we seek God in everything. In other words, we must *move* towards God, at all times. In our daily lives, every inspiration, encounter, event, and place, is an opportunity to grasp something of God’s presence, work, favor, and blessing. In short, we must sharpen our spiritual senses, much like tuning our hearing to a soft background sound or voice. God’s voice is found in the way things are made (voice of being), in the way things happen (voices of time), and in the way we judge and perceive things (voices of soul).



² Father J. Kentenich, On Monday Evenings, #1, p. 88, November 16, 1955.