

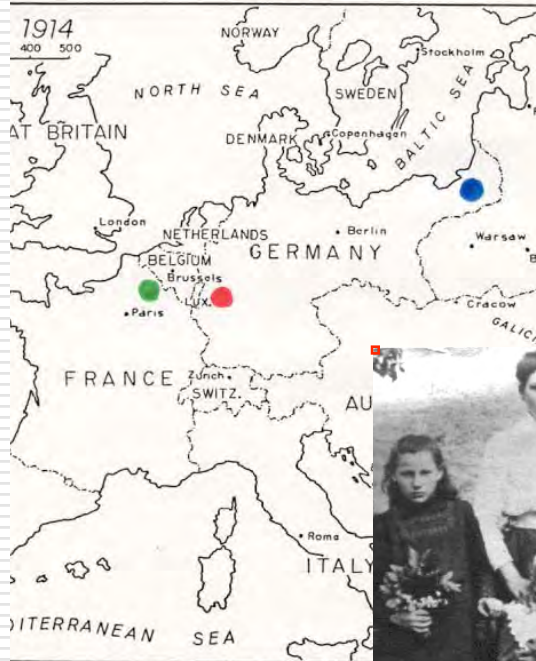
# JOSEPH ENGLING

Servant of God



“To become all things to all and Mary’s very own!”

Joseph was born on January 5, 1898 as the fourth of seven children to August and Maria Engling in the small village of Prositten, Germany - today's Poland.



**Prositten, now Poland**  
**Schoenstatt, Germany**  
**Cambrai, France**



Back: Elizabeth, Maria, Joseph, Father, Valentine  
Front: Lucy, Mother, August, John.

One evening while passing by the children's bedroom, his mother heard Joseph call, "Mama." On entering she found the little one kneeling in bed with tears in his eyes and hands folded. Some childish misbehavior which she could not remember anymore filled his heart with an acute sense of guilt. He could only be calmed after his mother had taught him the act of contrition...

Joseph's transformation began with his baptism on January 9, 1898. At the age of 12, he began a diary in preparation for his First Holy Communion. On June 29, 1910, Joseph approached the table of the Lord for the first time. From this day onward he recognized his priestly vocation.

311

Mäng  
31. Aug

3 Mäng  
Aber Mittwoch  
Wid der Aufbruchzeit  
gibt die hl. Taufe  
die Altäre neu zu beleben  
wofür wir zum Gottesdienst  
mit dem Priester die  
heilige Eucharistie empfangen.  
Priester stand der Gläubigen  
offen und gab ihnen im  
Sakrament die Kraft  
und die Palmzweige  
wofür die Eucharistie  
Katholiktag gemeinsam

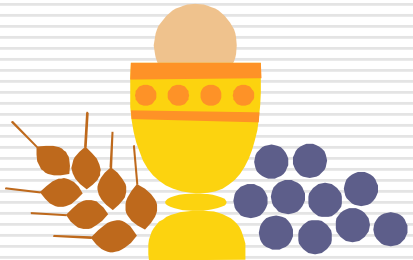


*This diary is not to serve vanity, but the improvement of my life and the preparation of my first Holy Communion...I thus begin to write...*

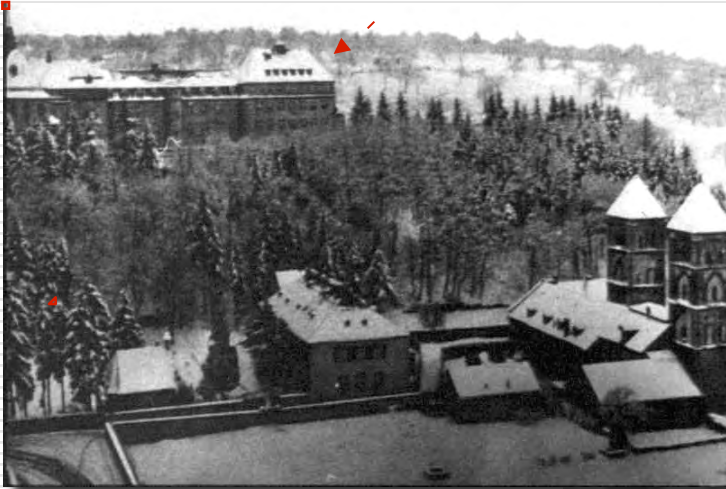


1973 Photos of Parish Church

Entry from Ash Wednesday, March 3, 1911



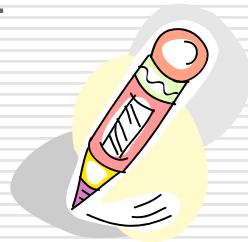
In September of 1912, Joseph traveled 800 miles to western Germany to begin his studies at the Minor Seminary of the Pallotine Fathers in SCHOENSTATT.



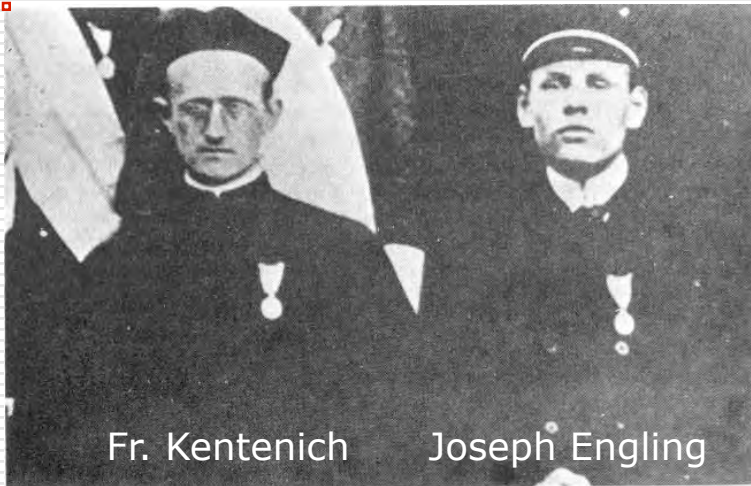
The school is pictured on the top left. The little chapel (lower left) became the Shrine of the MTA.



As he handed back papers one day, Joseph's teacher said, "I didn't correct your paper but gave you a 'high mark' right away. I know there aren't any mistakes on it." They went over the papers in class. No sooner were they done when Joseph raised his hand and said, "I **did** make a mistake." His classmates thought, "Is he dumb or what?" Deep down in their hearts, though, they could not help to admire him. That's how he was -- totally honest.



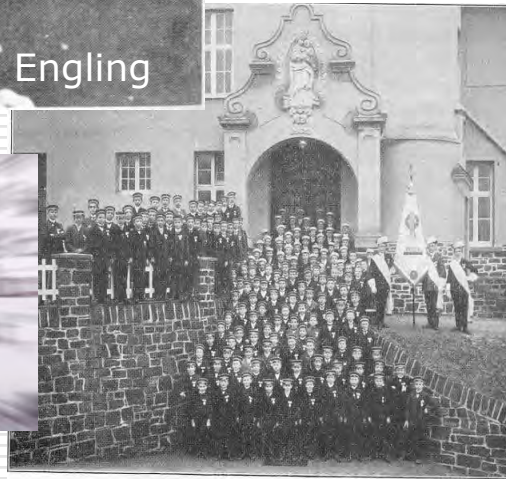
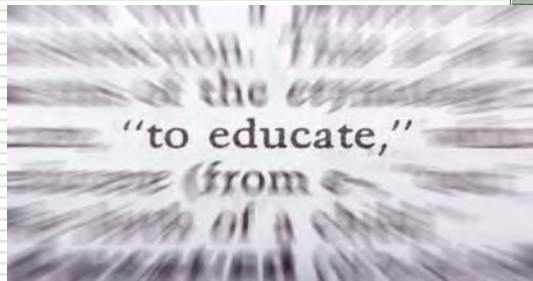
At first, Joseph had a hard time and was made fun of by the other boys because of his dialect and large size. But his genuine ways soon won them over. Fr. Kentenich also offered his help. He became Joseph's Spiritual Director and had a great influence on his life.



Fr. Kentenich      Joseph Engling



Joseph also immediately sensed the fatherly kindness which Father Kentenich showed him when he went to confession and how he helped him find the right steps to take in his self-education. In the process, Joseph dared to open himself up and place his entire trust in his spiritual director. He responded to Fr. Kentenich's thoughts and suggestions with great readiness.



In June of 1914, an event happened that changed history. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated. This incident resulted in the start of World War I. The onset of war changed the life of the students in Schoenstatt. Many of them were drafted to protect their homeland.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand



In October of 1914 the students were finally called back to school. How many things had changed! Around 250 wounded soldiers were recovering in the school turned hospital.

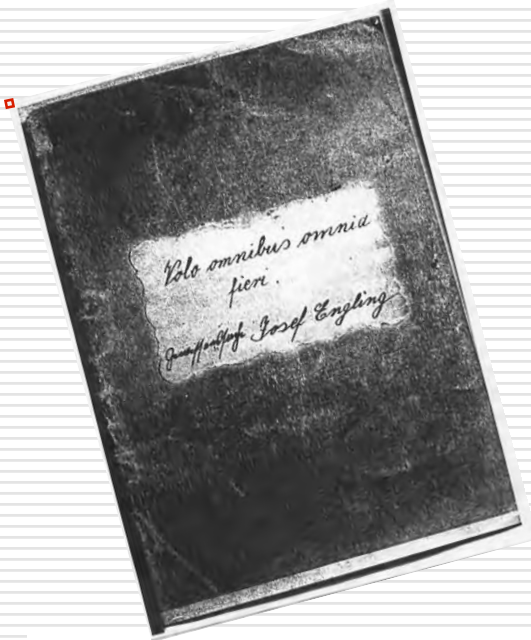
The students asked themselves how a regular seminary life could go on. “Well, it’s war”, was the brief explanation which helped them to adjust to the new conditions and hardships.

Father Kentenich had established a Marian Sodality for the students. Joseph joined and became one of its leaders. The group met in the Shrine dedicated to Our Lady, as the Mother Thrice Admirable or MTA. It was there on October 18, 1914 that the Schoenstatt Movement was founded.



Events of great importance were taking place. Fr. Kentenich gave a talk that presented a daring plan. Through their prayers and sacrifices, the students would urge Mary, the MTA, to make this Shrine a place of grace and of pilgrimage. It would be **transformed** into a spiritual home for the students as well as for future pilgrims.

All who visited the Schoenstatt Shrine, also experienced transformation. Joseph made a decision: “I want to become a saint”. In May, he offered the MTA many prayers and sacrifices or “blossoms”. He discovered his personal ideal – his life’s mission: **“To be all things to all and Mary’s very own.”**



*I want to and must become a saint in every respect. My Mother cannot deny me this favor because I have totally dedicated myself to her... Our dear Lord cannot deny His Mother any petition.*



*Mother, I offer myself entirely to you. I give myself to you with all that I am and have. Mother, do with me as pleases you. I ask nothing for myself, only let me love you. Let me love and honour you without end.*

*„Volo omnibus omnia fieri  
specialiter Mariae mancipatus.“*

Latin: “To be all things to all and Mary’s very own.”

May Blossom prayer,  
1916



In November 1916, Joseph was ordered to join the German Army. He was going to war! After training camp, he was first sent to the Russian or Eastern Front. There he had to deal with the harsh realities of trench warfare. At times it was boring, at others it was very dangerous.



*Just before he left for the army he added four special resolutions to his list... He would especially renew them every Sunday:*



- 1. I want to strive with still greater zeal for sanctity.*
- 2. I want to be a physical guardian angel for my fellow mates in the army.*
- 3. Never tell a lie!*
- 4. I want to keep Sunday holy.*

In December 1917, the soldiers were moved to the French or Western Front. Joseph went through many difficulties. He decided however, that if he was going to be a soldier, then he would be a “saintly soldier”. He tried to keep his spiritual life going and wrote letters to the other Schoenstatt students.



Joseph (behind Priest) at a field Mass, Easter 1918.



Joseph and comrades in one of the trenches of the Western Front.

*Dear Dekarski, 3/25/1918*

*Heartfelt greetings... I want to ask you to use your days in the trenches to pay special attention to your spiritual life...Our whole day's work must be penetrated by God and our dear MTA, and by our striving to serve God. Our mates must be able to sense our Catholicism through our whole being. Every action must bear the stamp of belonging to God...*



Joseph's love for Mary and his desire to bring renewed love for Christ to the whole world reached a climax on May 31, 1918. On that day he offered his life, as a sacrifice for the aims of Schoenstatt and the fruitfulness of the Shrine. It shows the heights of spiritual growth to which he had attained.

Lieb Mutterchen, Mater her  
admirabilis, der bringe ich mich  
auf, was ich als Opfer der Dir opfern  
ich mich alles was ich bin ich gebe, mein  
Leb ich meine Seele mit allem was  
ich besitzen als mich Leb ich Gei, mein  
Leib, meine Willen. Du soll  
ich ganz ich ganz gegeben sein dir  
auf. Was ich ich mich ich dir  
ganz was ich dir gefallt. Mein ich  
ganz mit dem was ich dir  
ich mich ein Opfer sein für die Welt  
die ich dir dir gefallt.  
In dem ich dir ich  
Joseph Geyling

San Felde, den 31. 5. 18

Dearest Mother, Mother  
Thrice Admirable,

To you I give myself once  
more as your sacrifice...

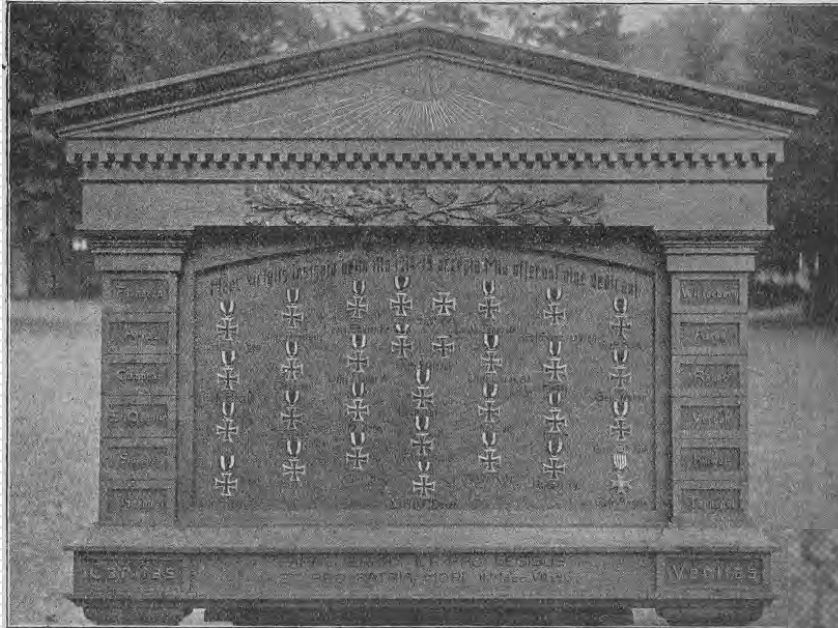
...I offer you all that I am  
and have, my body and my  
soul with all my abilities,  
all that I own, my entire  
freedom and my will. I  
want to belong entirely to  
you. I am yours. Use me  
and whatever is mine entirely  
as it pleases you. But if it  
can be reconciled with your  
plans, let me be a sacrifice  
for the aims which you have  
foreseen, for Schoenstatt.

In humility, your unworthy  
servant,

Joseph Geyling

It was in a foxhole like this near the Lys  
River that Joseph made his life offering.

In June 1918, Joseph was presented with the **Iron Cross** for bravery in battle. He, like many of the Schoenstatt members, felt that his medal had really been earned by the MTA. So he gave his Iron Cross to the MTA.



Above: the plaque in the Original Shrine with all the medals of honor given to the MTA in World War I. Joseph's is the third down in the second column.



Joseph Engling in front of the Shrine in Schoenstatt – on his last furlough leave in July 1918.



In August 1918, morale disintegrated in the German army. Many soldiers became depressed and there were many desertions. Joseph wrestled with himself. He decided that he must remain faithful to his duty, and also help where he could, to raise the spirits of his mates higher. It was not easy.

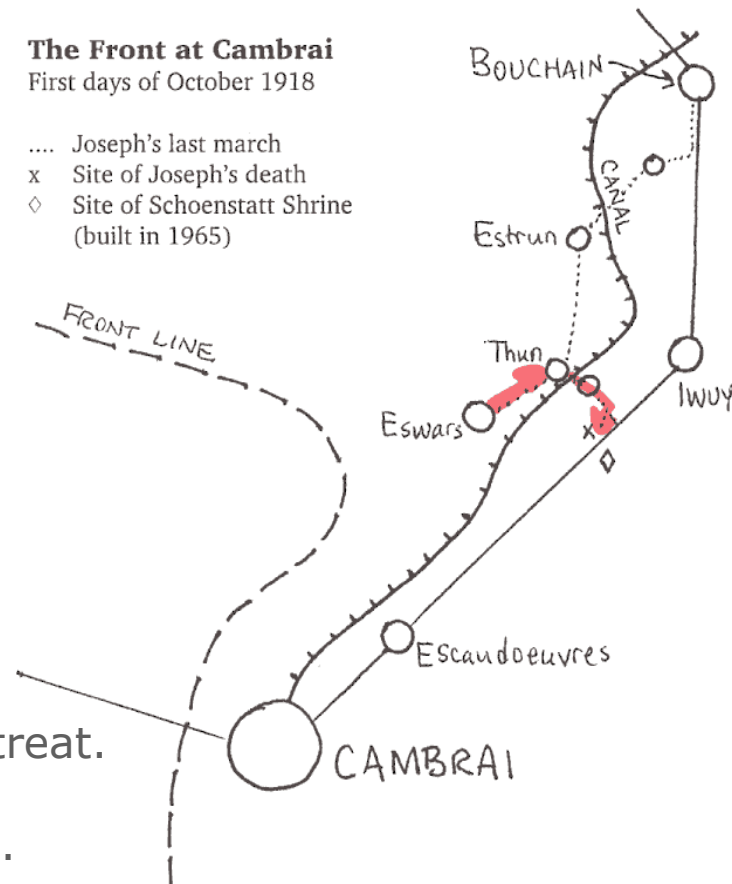


By October, the German army was in full retreat. Joseph was moving in the area northeast of Cambrai, France. It would be his last battle.

### The Front at Cambrai

First days of October 1918

- .... Joseph's last march
- x Site of Joseph's death
- ◇ Site of Schoenstatt Shrine (built in 1965)



On October 4, 1918, while attempting to cross a dangerous intersection, Joseph was hit by a stray shell. He was instantly killed.

**The MTA had seen fit to accept his life-offering.**



Although he was greatly missed by his family and friends on earth, he became an even greater friend in heaven. Until today, he remains one of the great inspirations for Schoenstatt members around the world.



In 1937, a memorial was dedicated in Joseph's honor near Cambrai, at the site of his death.

In 1965, a Shrine was built near his memorial site in Cambrai, France. It is known as the **Shrine of Unity** because it not only reminds us of Joseph Engling's life and death, but is dedicated to fostering unity between Germany and France.



The **Fire bowl** is a special symbol in Cambrai.

Engling Fire!



# Joseph Engling Servant of God

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- 1948: Process of Canonization opened by the Pallotine Province in Limberg, Germany.
- 1952: The process of Canonization opens in the diocese of Trier, Germany.
- October 10, 1964:  
The process is presented to the Congregation of Saints in Rome.
- 2000: A new initiative by the Pallotine Fathers and Schoenstatt Movement seeks to further the process which had come to a standstill.
- July 11, 2005:  
Bishop Reinhard Marx of Trier opens a supplemental process on the Diocesan level for collecting additional information.
- June 17, 2008:  
Closing of the Diocesan Process of Beatification for the Servant of God, Joseph Engling in Trier, Germany

Bishop Robert Brahms, Administrator of the Diocese of Trier, declares the "closing" of the diocesan process for the beatification of the Servant of God, Joseph Engling on June 17, 2008.





Placed near many shrines throughout the world, is a Joseph Engling Memorial. It is a visible sign that we do not forget Joseph and the Founding Generation. All who see it are reminded and inspired to become a **witness** - as Joseph was - to his **transformation** in Christ through Mary.

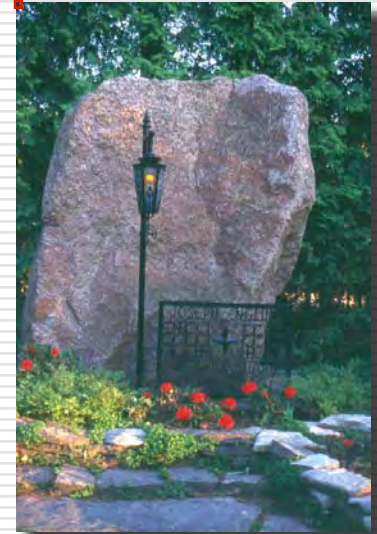
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Joseph Engling Memorial  
Mulgoa, Australia



Original Schoenstatt, Germany



Waukesha, Wisconsin USA

We will guard your Legacy!

This presentation was prepared for the **private**, limited use of  
**WYD08** Pilgrims to the **Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre**  
in Sydney, Australia.

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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

**to the resources adapted for use in this Power Point Presentation:**

Hanappel, Br. Paul, *Joseph Engling - Letters and Diary Entries*. Neuwieder Publishing Community, 1980. Translation: Sr. Marihedwig Heisig, 1999, Waukesha, WI USA.

Menningen, Fr. Alex, *Joseph Engling, A Biography*, Patris Verlag, Schoenstatt-Vallendar, 1977. English Translation by Fr. Jonathan Niehaus, Schoenstatt Fathers, 1998 Waukesha, WI USA.

Niehaus, Fr. Jonathan. *Joseph Engling – Man Afire* Power Point Presentation, 2003 (2)

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