

Day 6 — Retreat Director and Preacher

Text from the Bible

1 Cor 9:27

+In the name of the Father

Preparatory prayer

God, our father,
you gave Father Richard Henkes the strength
to resist the evil,
to speak for love and truth
and to follow Jesus Christ on his way of the cross
until death.
His devotion for others
give us hope and strength
for our faith journey today.
We ask you, Father, in the Holy Spirit
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Text about Fr. Henkes

Katscher, Frankenstein, and Branitz, the most important places of activity of Fr. Henkes, belong today to the Polish national territory. The Germans who lived there fled or were displaced and scattered after World War II. There was no center in Silesia where the memory of Richard Henkes could have been maintained and kept alive. The situation is different in today's Czech Strahovice / Strandorf. These people could stay in their homeland. That is why the memory of the past pastor has always remained alive there. The provincial archives of the Pallottines in Limburg also contain many documents and letters to his family, from which one can largely reconstruct the growing success of the Pallottine Father. His rector in Katscher, Fr. Hahn, recognized the great talent of Richard Henkes, and included him in the team for the retreat house of St. Joseph in Branitz, where the Pallottines at the request of Prelate Nathan from 1935 took over the retreats. Fr. Henkes was assigned to retreats for women and girls. He also became a sought-after preacher, especially for the then popular Lenten homilies. The homilies of Father Henkes were marked by a clear opposition to National Socialism and the effort to provide Catholics in this difficult situation viable ways to Christian witness.

Silence for reflection e and for personal intercessions

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...