

Day 8 — Prisoner in Dachau

*Text from the Bible*

**Lk 21:12**

*+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 from Fr. Henkes*

From a letter to Paula Miketta written on December 22, 1943:

Dear Aunt Paula!

There is a way, but it is dangerous because there are high penalties for it. But I still want to try if you are able to read the words. So that I know about it, write me a greeting next time on the package section. I will describe the life here in more detail. You can imagine that in these days I have a great desire for a home to feel comfortable. Even after work, where you can once again live your professional life it becomes very difficult. At the moment we have a lot of work, but that will be better in the next week. The work will not be so bad, but I desire to do something according to my profession. What strikes me the hardest is the physical proximity to the others during the day and while sleeping. It was already hard for me to stay in the apartment at home. You know how I was constantly on the move. Now, you only have the camp road, which is about 600 meters (0,3 mi) long. During free time, about 15,000 people move on it and everywhere you are surrounded by electrically charged barbed wire. There is still a post every 50 meters (164 ft). You never forget that you are a prisoner. The clothes also remind you.

*Silence for reflection and for personal intercessions*

*Our Father...*

*Hail Mary...*

*Glory be...*