

Lord Jesus Christ, you always call people into your discipleship
and expect them to follow you in fidelity.
Today we thank you for the example of the Pallottine Father Richard Henkes.
At a time when the rulers of Germany
saw themselves as masters over others and disregarded their lives,
he fearlessly proclaimed your undivided love for all people.
He became witness for the truth that all people are
your sisters and brothers and children of one father in heaven.
His courage to proclaim this message fearlessly
has brought him persecution, imprisonment and tribulation.
His concern for the typhoid of Barrack 17 in the Dachau concentration camp
made him a martyr of charity.
May his devotion and his death
provide willingness to forgive and reconcile.
Help us who are gathered here (in front of the image of Richard Henkes),
to stand up for your gospel in our days,
wherever the dignity of human beings is infringed,
wherever the message of God's mercy is disregarded,
wherever people live hatred instead of your love.
To you, Lord Jesus, be with the Spirit and the Father praise and glory for all eternity.
All: Amen