

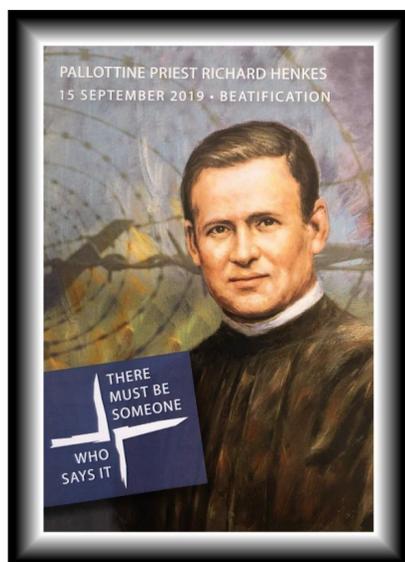
## Blessed Ricard Henkes

Richard Henkes was born on 26 May 1900 in Ruppach-Goldhausen (Germany). He wanted to become a priest and a missionary; hence he joined the Pallottine minor seminary in Vallendar-Schönstatt in 1912. His graduation pursuit was interrupted by the military service in Darmstadt. In 1919 he entered the Pallottine novitiate in Limburg, where he studied Philosophy and Theology and was ordained a priest in Limburg on 6 June 1925.

Later he worked as a teacher in the Pallottine schools in Vallendar-Schönstatt and in Alpen (Lower Rhine). From 1931 he was a teacher in Silesia, first in Katscher and from 1937 in Frankenstein. Moreover, he was also a preacher during pilgrimages and retreats. As he clearly exalted the Christian image of man in the face of the racist ideology of National Socialism, he came into conflict with the Nazi regime all the more. In 1941 he was exonerated from school service and was appointed parish priest in the village of Strandorf in the region of Hultschin. Here he experienced the tense situation between the German and the Czech population and sought for mediation.

On 8 April 1943, during a sermon in Branitz, he openly took a stand against the deportation of disabled patients from the hospital. He was immediately arrested and after a brief period in the prison at Ratibor, he was transferred to the concentration camp at Dachau. While being there he started learning the Czech language to return to the Hultschin area after the war and resume his work. Already in Dachau he took care of the prisoners from Czechia. The typhus epidemic broke out in late 1944 and early 1945, during which he took care of the sick and voluntarily allowed himself to be locked in a quarantine block. He was also infected and died on 22 February 1945.

## PRAYER



God of truth and love,  
you called Father Richard Henkes, to confide in you for life, to support the truth and to reconcile people.

You gave him the strength to be the bearer of the Cross and give his life for others.

Help us to be vigilant and resolute to follow our vocation today, in a way that people can live in dignity, which you have given to everyone.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Brother and Master.

Amen.

*"You can tell everyone that your worries remain my worries and that I pray and make even more sacrifices for the good of the community.*

*As long as there is no peace in the world, this worry of mine will not diminish."*

- Richard Henkes in a letter of 12.12.1943 from Dachau to Paula Miketta



**Bistum Limburg**

