

Day 1 — The Pursuit of Perfection

*Text from the Bible*

**Rom 12:2**

*+In the name of the Father*

*Preparatory Prayer*

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

*Text from Fr. Henkes*

From a letter sent on March 3, 1918:

Groß and Kubisch were here the other day, and then we sorted the group matters as far as we could. You will have already heard about this from Theele, if not, then Theele will soon let a group letter go around. But now we have to work hard to achieve our goals and efforts and use every opportunity and power. Above all, it should no longer happen that in the event of disillusionment, one or the other will step down and thus completely give up his work. I believe that the best means to prevent this are an active and lively correspondence and a written mental agenda or a written exam. You can see right away whether you fall or rise and can take countermeasures. That would be our first task. However, it will be uninspiring and require some willpower. But it must be, it is the preservation of our high moral values. Only when we work efficiently can we influence others more easily.

*Silence for reflection and for personal intercessions*

*Our Father...*

*Hail Mary...*

*Glory be...*