

Day 5 — The Teacher

*Text from the Bible*

**Rom 12:7**

*+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 the Provincial written on November 20, 1927:

Most Venerable Father Provincial,  
Thank you very much for your words from London. I should have answered sooner, but it has become too difficult for me, not because I feel worse, but because of the request from Maryland. I'm allowed to write about it openly. I have never counted on such a possibility and cannot give my consent. I would have to cheat myself then. I thought it would not be possible because of my health. However, it also seems wrong for me to go to the mission. If you do not have a profession for it, if there is no other way to recovery, then I would have to see the hand of God in it and would do it, if there is no other way. At least I ask your Reverence not to decide now. If the doctor forbids me to do schoolwork at Christmas, there is still time. So far, I've always been inclined to school because I've always had a love of education. If I recover completely, then I would like to ask again for a job in Vallendar.

*Silence for reflection and for personal intercessions*

*Our Father...*

*Hail Mary...*

*Glory be...*