

July 14, 2017

Dear Parishioners,

I write to you from Vaduz, the capital of the Principality of Liechtenstein, which is surrounded on all sides by Switzerland.

In this short week I managed to drive to the shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague, then to the great Bavarian shrine of Altotting, and then to the amazing image of Our Lady "Undoer of Knots" in Augsburg, Germany.

At each place I carried you with me in the many, many intentions that you delivered to me before I left. I presented your prayers to Our Lord and Lady, along with all those hidden intentions of those who were unable to hand me letters or notes. I prayed especially for those of you who are sick and suffering in any way.

At Altotting, where is venerated the ancient statue of Mary called the "Black Madonna" I was very moved by the fact that the chapel was completely covered inside and out by "ex votos," which are medals or images giving thanks for prayers answered. At the last minute, the sacristan in charge asked me to cover the 9:00 AM Mass since the priest scheduled got sick. And they agreed to let me offer a Latin Low Mass, which is never done at that sublime altar of God. The church was packed with Germans, but I preached in English and told them all about how wonderful my parish in America is and how faithful all of you are. We are in solidarity in the Body of Christ, no matter the place or nationality. The smiles I received were confirmation that they felt the same. So, greetings from the devout Catholics of lovely Bavaria!

Please don't forget to pray one Hail Mary a day for me, that I return safe and sound to our little country parish...

Yours in Christ,

Father de Rosa

