

Dear Father archabbot Douglas, with all the brothers of the community of St. Vincent!

We thank you so much for this warm welcome and the hospitality in your arch-abbey!

We are very glad and honoured to be here and to meet you!

We were invited to a symposium on the theology of Pope Benedict XVI. in Mundelein Seminary near Chicago. So being in the middle West of the States for the first time we wanted to visit at any rate also the Abbey of St. Vincent founded by a really great son of the diocese of Regensburg. [We didn't hesitate to drive at least nine hours to meet you.]

To prepare myself for the episcopal ordination almost five years ago I went to the abbey of Metten, and the former abbot of Schweiklberg Christian Schütz gave me the spiritual points. So I heard a lot of Father Boniface Wimmer. I ever was deeply impressed on what God's grace and this man and his companions had done in the nineteenth century.

Together with Prof. Dr. Sigmund Bonk, director of the Albertus Magnus Akademie, Dr. Christian Schaller of the Institute Pope Benedict XVI. and my theological assistant Gabriel Weiten I started early in the morning.

We offer to you the greetings and the blessings from Regensburg, the home-diocese of Boniface Wimmer, and the greetings and the blessings of abbot Wolfgang of Metten.

It touches me when I imagine, how Boniface Wimmer made honor to his great name-patron, the holy Bonifatius, the so called "apostle of Germany". Spiritually formed in the Benedictine tradition on the British Island, he left his home and preached the holy Gospel on the European continent, organized the ecclesiogical structures and deepened and strengthened the connection between the german christians and the Church of Rome. In 739 he founded canonically the diocese of Regensburg.

In a similar way also Boniface Wimmer left his home. His intention was to care for the catholics who had settled in the new world; furthermore he wanted to build centers for the education and formation of the catholic inhabitants. In this way he could give back to anglo-saxon world something of the gift of faith, that the anglo-saxon missionaries especially St. Bonifatius had given the german people 11 hundred years before.

I thank you, your community and the whole congregation for your Christian testimony. Living according the Rule of St Benedict you stand for the primacy of God and the prayer. As a consequence of this you are a lighthouse for humanity, human culture and hope.

As the bishop of Regensburg I would be very glad if you could include in your prayers the diocese of Regensburg and here especially the three Benedictine monasteries of Metten, Weltenburg and Rohr.

As a sign of our spiritual connection I have a small gift for you. It's the so called Regensburger Rosary with some typical elements remembering Pope Benedict's visit in 2006 in Regensburg. I would like to promote the prayer in the families, parishes and communities; to promote the love to Jesus, Son of Mary and Lord of the World. Please take it as a sign of our spiritual bond. Thank you very much!