

**Predigt in der Konventmesse in St. Vincent Arch-Abbey, Latrobe, am  
24. Oktober 2017**

Dear Father Arch-Abbot Douglas

Dear most Reverend Vicar General of bishop David,

Dear brothers in Christ our Lord

Dear brothers and sisters!

On October 24, this is today, on October 24 in 1846, so I read on your homepage, Father Boniface Wimmer and his companions arrived here in Latrobe. This day marks a main step, marks the beginning of a unique history made by God and men obedient to His will; a history of evangelization.

I know that you celebrate the foundation-day some weeks later, but for me it is a wonderful coincidence to be here on the day of Wimmers very first arrival.

The Gospel of this day taken from St. Luke (12,35-38) describes the mission of all Christians, and especially of a Benedictine monastery.

“Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.”

Silja Walter, a Swiss Benedictine Nun – you probably know her – commented the Gospel in a wonderful poem titled “The monastery on the outskirts of the city”:

“Somebody must be at home, o Lord, when you come.”

Yes I think it is the mission of the monks: Being at home, being at home by praying, by meditating the Holy Scripture, by the *Lectio divina*, by receiving the guests like they were Jesus Christ himself.

The formation of young people is important, and the formation of the students is important. We admire the professionalism of your college.

The most important mission is this: Being at home, being expectant and being able to open the door to the Lord coming in our life.

Evangelization begins with self-evangelisation

“Somebody must be at home, o Lord, when you come.”

It seems that there are so many people in our days not being at home, not being at home even at themselves, not being at home by not seeking god. So they can't open the Lord coming back and knocking on the door. They need our help, your help.

“Somebody must be at home, o Lord, when you come.”

You the monks are this somebody being at home.

This is not a privilege, but a service, a service for the church and for the whole world. Thank you for this being at home and expecting the Lord coming into our life, knocking on the door of our heart just now in this Eucharist,

Amen.