

Dean-Pastor Franz Pettla Ninety

By Richard S. Jäger

Faith—Hope—Love, these three words describe the entire work and life of our venerable Dean-Pastor Franz Pettla. A profound faith has characterized him and his faithful. No political system was able to make him give up his true faith and love of Jesus Christ; whether they were National Socialists or Communists, under whom the church and priests had a lot to suffer. And also in today's democratic time, he shows us again and again the correct path to faith.

His determination to pass on the Catholic faith in difficult times as well is unshakable. Despite his great age, he is untiring in action for the church. And also his love, which he passed on to his community and faithful as shepherd, is immeasurable to this day. In all weather, even during illness, he performs his pastoral duties. He performs the anointing of the ill and the distribution of communion despite all the old-age-related difficulties.

Franz Pettla was born on the 19th of October 1914 in Bakowa.¹ After his study of philosophy and theology, he was ordained a priest on the 15th of August 1937 in Temeschburg. From 1937 to 1941, Franz Pettla was assistant pastor in Fatschet,² Tschakowa³ and Rekasch.⁴ From 1941 to 1963, he worked as clergyman in Temeschburger Fabrikstadt.⁵

For more than forty years, Pastor Pettla works in the Glogowatz⁶ community, where he took over the parish on the 1st of October 1963. Since 1990, he also looks after the Neupanat⁷ community. At the great age of 90, he also comes to Neupanat every second Sunday to celebrate Mass there.

He belongs to the Temeswarer Cathedral Chapter and is a judge with the church court of the Diocese of Temeswar. His official title reads: *Canonicus custos emeritus, vicarius foraneus.*⁸

The Heimatortsgemeinschaften⁹ Glogowatz and Neupanat owe a lot to Pastor Pettla: The renovation of the Glogowatzer and Neupanater churches, the care of the cemeteries and the pastoral care of the compatriots who remained.

The HOGs Glogowatz and Neupanat, as well as all the Banater compatriots in the world, congratulate Dean-Pastor Franz Pettla on his 90th birthday and wish him strength, health and God's blessing in the future.

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Translated by: George Breträger, 17 November 2006

Footnotes are the translator's; all errors are his.

¹ 18 miles ESE Temeschburg (Temeswar, Timișoara)

² 47 miles ENE Temeschburg

³ 16 miles SSW Temeschburg

⁴ 15 miles ENE Temeschburg

⁵ Part of Temeschburg

⁶ 4 miles ESE Arad

⁷ 7 miles ENE Arad

⁸ Canonical guardian emeritus, Vicar forane (Rural Dean)

⁹ (HOGs) Hometown Associations