

1140: *To Archbishop Carl August von Reisach*  
*Munich*

Munich  
March 21, 1852

Your Excellency! Most Reverend Archbishop!

Your Excellency sent me the order, under pain of excommunication, to recall the obedience within an hour.<sup>1</sup>

Convinced that I was not failing in obedience to Your Excellency, because no previous order in this regard had ever come to me, I took this step and acted completely in accordance with my duty. Moreover, the same request came from Rottenburg. Nevertheless, I respectfully enclose the obedience.

I no longer have the right to appoint the sisters or to interfere in their direction, and with this order, I do not have the right to recall them either. As a result, the sisters in Rottenburg are released from all religious ties with their superior before whom they professed their vows with episcopal permission.

You will not allow me to express my reasons against this, and therefore I am compelled to submit them to the Holy See for a decision.

Respectfully yours,

*Mar. Th. of Jesus*  
Superior of the Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame

By order of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Carl August [von Reisach], Archbishop of Munich and Freising, the Poor School Sisters in Rottenburg may not comply with the obedience given by their superior to return to their motherhouse in Munich. They are to remain in Rottenburg instead until His Excellency ordains otherwise.

Munich, March 21, 1852

*Mar. Ther. of Jesus*  
Superior of the Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame

*Letters of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger*, translation and notes by Mary Ann Kuttner, SSND, vol. 3, *Jolted and Joggled, 1849-1852* (Elm Grove, Wisconsin, 2009), 106-107.

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1. Mother Theresa's letter of March 13, 1852, to Joseph von Lipp, Bishop of Rottenburg, caused great consternation because the institute in Rottenburg was flourishing with 38 boarders and 10 candidates. If all the sisters were suddenly withdrawn, the institute would be in danger. Various remarks by Dr. Joseph Mast made it clear that it was already decided to separate the mission from the Munich Motherhouse, but since other personnel had to be obtained to continue conducting the institute, more time was needed. Through Bishop Lipp, Dr. Mast appealed to Carl August Reisach, Archbishop of Munich, who, on March 21, ordered Mother Theresa to cancel the withdrawal of the sisters within one hour under pain of excommunication. He also ordered the sisters in Rottenburg to remain there until he himself, with the consent of Bishop Lipp, would call them back to Munich, or until Bishop Lipp himself would send them back to Munich. See Ziegler, *Kampf um die Regel*, 53.