

3855: *To Pope Pius IX*
Rome

Munich
April 24, 1865

J! M!

Most Holy Father!

The Poor School Sisters of Notre Dame, prostrate at the throne of Your Holiness, beg for the final approbation of their holy rule which, by a papal decree of July 13, 1859, Your Holiness tentatively approved for six years and attached to it many indulgences and privileges.¹

We make this petition so that, supported by a firm staff on our pilgrimage in this valley of tears, we will not stray from the right path. With the help of Divine Grace, we will climb the mountain of perfection, keep our eyes fixed on the star shining before us in the Church's heaven, rejoice in divine help and blessing as we teach and train 50,000 children, and, together with these children, find and walk the right path to heaven.

With the expression of deep respect to Your Holiness, I remain,

Mary Theresa of Jesus
General Superior

Letters of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, translation and notes by Mary Ann Kuttner, SSND, vol. 5, *Living Branches, 1859-1867* (Elm Grove, Wisconsin, 2009), 155.

1. Although the decision was made on June 5, 1859, the decree was signed only on July 13, 1859.