

899: *To Agnes Finke*
Brede Convent near Brakel

[After May 4, 1850]

J! M!

Dear Sister Agnes,

You rejoice in God that our poor sisters have arrived¹ and that you are now a candidate, but dear Agnes, we must wait and see if we rejoiced too soon. Since we are all poor sinners, you will see many imperfections in our sisters. The grace of God will determine whether they will work for the glory of God or not.

Furthermore, my dear Agnes, when you come to our motherhouse someday and perhaps do not find what you expected, as often happens in human life, who knows if your hopes will be disappointed in manifold ways? For this reason, I can only ask you repeatedly to bear in love the weaknesses of our sisters. Please give them a helping hand where you alone can and plead incessantly that God's most holy will be done in you and in us!

At the same time, I am sorry that you and good Marie [Wernekinck] went to so much trouble for the reception of our sisters. We wanted to avoid all that. You also indicated the various hardships awaiting our sisters. We were certainly aware of the difficulties from the beginning. When it involves the reign of God, such hardships may not be absent, but dear Agnes, why did you not inform us about them sooner and in greater detail? Perhaps you were not allowed to do so.

Incidentally, we rejoice in God that our dear orphan children made very good resolutions. May God grant the children the grace to put them into practice so that they will become very good, upright young women!

I send cordial greetings in the Lord to you, to Sister Marie, and to Frances [Petri]. Fr. [Matthias] Siegert, who certainly will not forget you at the daily Sacrifice of the Mass, also sends greetings in the Lord. Countess Maria [von Bocholtz-Asseburg] also wishes to send greetings and asks for your prayers so that, with grace from above, she may make good progress and persevere in her vocation.

Let us pray very fervently for one another!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

The Poor School Sister,
M. Theresa of Jesus

Letters of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, translation and notes by
Mary Ann Kuttner, SSND, vol. 8, *Mission to Prussia, Brede* (Elm Grove,
Wisconsin, 2008), 12-13.

1. Sisters M. Philomena Blattner, M. Ildephonsa Eisenhofer, and M.
Peregrina Manhardt arrived at the Brede Convent on May 2, 1850. The
mission opened officially on the feast of St. Monica, May 4, 1850.