

5159: *To Fr. J. J. Berger, OSF*
Maria Schmolln

Munich
July 7, 1876

J! M!

Reverend Father!¹

In accordance with your wishes, we have already written to Vienna. The superior² there will inform you of the day and the hour of her arrival in Altheim-Obernberg.

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate your second expressed wish. To apply for the teaching position in Rossbach contradicts our faithfully held principle that we go only "where Divine Providence calls us." We have never applied for a place and we cannot do so now. Nevertheless, we will pray that if the pastor applies for the transfer of the teaching position in Rossbach to the Poor School Sisters, all will take place in accordance with God's holy will.

In case you would like to correspond with the superior in Vienna about the trip, we are enclosing her address. We gave her the directive to wait for further word from you.

Requesting a remembrance in your worthy prayer at the shrine of our Blessed Mother, I remain respectfully yours,

The Poor School Sister,
M. Theresa of Jesus

5168: *To Fr. J. J. Berger, OSF*
Maria Schmolln

Munich
August 30, 1876

J! M!

Reverend Father!

We just received word from Vienna asking for certificates for the sisters proposed for Rossbach. Since we have them here, I hasten to send them directly by return mail.

M. Evarista (Margaret) Enders passed the examination for elementary subjects and needlework in Austria, as her certificate indicates, and is therefore the appointed teacher.

We are also enclosing Sister Clara Kraus's certificate, which she acquired after working five years in Orb.³ She is also a certified teacher, but passed her examination in Prussia,

not in Austria. We are sending her as a companion sister because, in accordance with our statutes, we do not send one sister alone. Sister Clara can assist the appointed teacher.

Recommending this cause to God and to the Most Holy Mother of God, I remain respectfully yours,

M. Ther. of Jesus
General Superior

P.S. Please send us the district authorities' reply. We are waiting for their response before we make a personal inspection of the site.

5197: *To Fr. J. J. Berger, OSF*
Maria Schmolln

Munich
November 14, 1876

J! M!

Reverend Father!

We received Sister M. Clara Kraus's certificate that you enclosed with the letter in which you expressed your sorrow over the hopes that have come to nothing.⁴ Since our times are not right for carrying out such plans, we entrust the cause into God's hands. We want nothing more than to work for the glory of God and the salvation of children's souls. Perhaps our unworthiness prevents us from doing this.

We thank you for the trust you have given us and recommend our order's intentions to your prayer at the shrine of our dear Mother of God.

Respectfully yours,

[No Signature]
General Superior of the Poor School Sisters

Letters of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, translation and notes by Mary Ann Kuttner, SSND, vol. 10, *Mission to Upper Austria* (Elm Grove, Wisconsin, 2008), 164-165.

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1. J. J. Berger, OSF, was stationed at Maria Schmolln, a Marian shrine located in Upper Austria. His letter to Mother Theresa has not been found.
 2. Sister M. Mathilde Petri
 3. After the Austro-Prussian War in 1866, the town of Orb fell to Prussia. Sisters were then sent from the motherhouse in Westphalia to the mission in Orb until the *Kulturkampf* laws forced them to leave in 1872.
 4. Sisters were never sent to Rossbach.