

Interdict Described

Archbishop Reisach saw Mother Theresa as wanting to withdraw herself from all ecclesiastical jurisdiction in order to “rule as she thought best.”¹ From April, 1852 – June 13, 1854 Archbishop Riesach placed Mother Theresa under “interdict.”

The juridical term “interdict” was used to describe the following restrictions placed by Archbishop Reisach on Mother Theresa.

1. She was to organize nothing new nor change anything already in order without his special permission and approval.
2. She could not open any new mission without his seal of approval.
3. She must report the general business of the order to him.
4. She may not negotiate to open further missions without his approval.
5. She must wait for his approval to accept missions outside of his diocese.²

Many bishops saw the rapid growth of the congregation as a sign it was inspired by the Holy Spirit. “But others were convinced that Rome would never approve ‘the monarchical form of government in the hands of a woman who appointed her subjects – a power as little befitting the female sex as traveling around the country and visiting. This monarchical form of government the Apostolic Chair had condemned in the Jesuits, and it was not to be expected that the Pope would approve what had been rejected with so much evidence.’”³

¹ #1250, Mother Theresa to Dr. Schels, Oct. 26, 1852

² Ziegler, *Mutter Theresia*, 188-189.

³ Ibid. 182.