

Excerpt from Letter to Dr. Schels,
October 26, 1852

I must stop here or I would go too far. For my own peace of mind, I must set forth still more counterarguments if I want to die in peace someday. This will again be attributed to my pride and desire to rule. In God's Name!

If they insist on male direction, it will drive away from our community our best sisters—to whom religious life and seclusion are very dear—and lead them to other convents. They are already saying this. This male direction alone requires a rule that is very different from the one we have been living until now.

Oh, how much I have written and, you will say, mostly lamentations. You do not see the valiant woman in me and I beg for your patience. *I often visualize the Blessed Virgin Mary beneath the cross of her divine Son, Jesus, and I meditate on the words, "And she stood,"* but I am lying in the coffin on the bare floor of the large, beautiful hall.

I repeat the request in the name of all of us—hold out to the end and have mercy on us!

We entrust you to the Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and ask for your prayers and priestly blessing.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Your grateful,
M. Theresa of Jesus