

5328: *To All the Sisters*
Munich
October 30, 1878

J!M!

Dear Sisters!¹

Since we are sending you the promised address by the apostolic nuncio,² I would like to add a few words in response to the thank you letters which you sent me from your missions. I know of nothing better to recommend for your careful consideration than the beautiful words of the hymn of praise, the *Magnificat*.³

You recognize the great grace given to you in your holy profession. With the most Blessed Virgin Mary, therefore, praise God who deemed you worthy to be a bride forever and impressed a radiant seal upon you, distinguishing you from the other members of the church for all eternity.

Let us also consider the second portion of the *Magnificat*—our poverty and need, our lowliness and imperfection, with which we appear before the thrice-holy God. Let us ask God to look upon us graciously and show us the favor once promised to the humble and lowly. Dear Sisters, let us acknowledge that we are poor handmaids and servants, unworthy to be looked upon by God, but obliged to give faithful service all the days of our lives *in that place* where we have been placed in holy obedience and *in those duties* indicated to us through God's most holy will. Let us do this without asking for anything more or better. Let us work faithfully and diligently in the vineyard of the Lord without worrying about what others are doing. Let us simply strive for our own holiness and perfection instead, as our holy rule prescribes.

If the work becomes heavy and difficult, the Divine Bridegroom will call to us from the tabernacle, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."⁴ In the most holy sacrament, Jesus gives us the bread of the strong, as well as

1. A note on the copy of this letter prepared for the beatification process indicates that it was addressed to the sisters in Altenbuch, but the same letter may have been sent to sisters at other missions as well.

2. Archbishop Gaetano Aloysius Masella (1826-1902) Apostolic Nuncio to Germany (1877-79)

3. *Luke* 1:46-55

4. *Matthew* 11:28

comfort, light, and strength. With courageous hearts, then, we can carry to Calvary the cross that Jesus laid upon us until the last hour strikes and the portals of eternity open.

Then the third part of the *Magnificat* will also be realized in us. All generations will call us blessed, just as they are found in the eight beatitudes: the poor in spirit, with whom we shared the bread of poverty; the pure of heart, with whom we spurned this earth for heaven; those who mourn, with whom we sacrificed our own will in obedience; the merciful, with whom we dedicated our entire lives to the education and formation of young people; the peacemakers, because we have chosen the common life so that by amiability and friendship, by sisterly love and patient endurance of the faults of others, we will fulfill the new commandment which God gave to us.

God grant that one day we will join the choirs of angels and virgins in singing the beautiful *Magnificat* with the dear Mother of God!

May Jesus bless you! Praised be Jesus Christ!

Mary Theresa of Jesus