

Most Reverend Bishop of Csanad-Temesvar

Your Lordship—What unexpected sadness was ours when your Lordship's letter of March 18 arrived! Dear Sister Ludmilla, so good of heart and strong of body, has departed from us and finished her timely course. I could not sleep the whole night after I read the news, and while I lay awake, I was summoned to the deathbed of another sister.

Dear Ludmilla, she was such a good sister. What a great loss for our newly founded house in Temesvar, a loss for the whole order. When I opened the letter with the mournful news, the sisters stood about me, wringing their hands and weeping aloud, because the loving Ludmilla was so much beloved by all for her true-heartedness, and joy of spirit, her genial disposition. She was so faithful to the order and to her superiors, so upright and engaging, so motherly towards all. That is the reason why I was so happy to have a person like her to send to Temesvar; she knew not only how to instruct the children, but also how to educate them: although simple and plain to look at, she exercises a holy mastery over souls.

But the Lord of life and death has done this. He has given, has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord forever. She has left us only in the body; her soul is in our midst, and she will plead at the throne of the Lord that He send laborers into His vineyard, because the harvest is great, but the workmen are few.

That Ludmilla was conscientious in the performance of duty, as I trust the other sisters are, too, I am convinced, but I believe that the unforeseen pressure of so many children took its toll on our dear sister, and the other sick sisters. She attempted too much, strained herself too hard, sacrificed her all, and now she is reaping all.

In the beginning we had counted on only two classes. The institute was to have yielded some fruit first, and I made adequate provision for that. But both houses grew in leaps and bounds, the work doubled, the sisters worked beyond their capacity and it hurt me so that I warned them not to attempt too much. And so it is not clear to me what your Lordship meant by saying that she was too silent. No, our Ludmilla was never too silent; she was always open, never minded transitions, and when she was at the helm thought she was obliged to give herself like this. It could be that she thought the skin eruption of which your Lordship speaks was not worth speaking about, was only temporary and not worth making a big fuss over.

Your Lordship thinks I ought to advise the other sisters to be temperate in their mortifications. I certainly shall do that; it is my duty. It is a fundamental principle here in our motherhouse and institutes not to perform extraordinary corporal penances, only the usual ones prescribed by ecclesiastical law, since our work in the classroom is strenuous enough. We look for means of mortifying ourselves interiorly. Ludmilla must have taken this upon herself voluntarily, since she was the superior. I cannot vouch for this, since I do not know. Moreover, our present generation has not such stamina that it need be (y) restrained; at least, that is what I observe in our country. But with it all, one or the other soul is drawn to such penances, as for instance, Abundantia and Wunibald. But they were also held in check, and frequently got as a penance to eat and drink more instead of less...Sincerely,

Mary Theresa of Jesus, Poor School Sister