

## **Mother Theresa: Pioneer in Women's Rights and Human Rights**

Bavarian Minister of Education, Culture Science and the Arts, Hans Zehetmair said:

“Mother Theresa...is not only a person of German tongue who did something significant, as required by King Louis for the Valhalla, but her work that continues to the present day has made a decisive contribution to the improvement of life and education for women and girls. In fact, Sister Mary Theresa could be called one of the most important pioneers for women's rights and human rights in our area.”

He continued by recalling her association with King Ludwig I.

“King Louis I met with her in March, 1834, and she received his support ‘This woman knows what she wants and what she wants is well thought out,’ is attributed to King Louis himself. Sister Gerhardinger can also be looked upon as the inventor of the so-called ‘institute for the protection of children,’ that is, the modern kindergarten. “As she saw the miserable conditions of children...she opened ‘soup-schools’ for them and offered to care for them outside of school time. Through the concepts she developed, Sister Gerhardinger also made a professional contribution to the formation of teachers. Prior to this, there had only been a teachers’ training school for men. Women had to find out for themselves how they could acquire the necessary qualifications. But thanks to the five-year training program offered by the congregation, the number of women teachers in Bavaria rose to 890 by the year 1870.”