Bishop Sproll of Rottenburg to Cardinal Pacelli, August 10, 1934

Source: Rottenburg Diocesan Archive, reprinted in Stasiewski, *German Bishops’ Papers*, vol. 1, p.774

Translation from the original German:

Your Eminence!

The undersigned Bishop considers himself obligated to have the honor of sharing with Your Eminence the latest events in connection with the prohibition on the Pastoral Letter of the Fulda Bishops Conference. As I have credibly verified, and as has been reported by a number of parishes in my diocese, this pastoral letter has been made an item of discussion in National Socialist gatherings and has been read out loud in parts, whereby it has not been forbidden to indicate certain connections between the Bishops and their pastoral letter on the one hand, and the traitorous revolt of former SA Chief of Staff Röhm on the other. It cannot be imagined what calamity could arise one day, if wide circles of National Socialism are whipped up in this way against the Bishops and clergy and the Catholic Church is portrayed to them as anti-Fatherland and anti-Government. For that reason I have taken the liberty to bring to the attention of the political police office in Stuttgart that is responsible for order and security of the state of things, by means of the enclosed letter, and I have simultaneously sent copies of this letter to the Reich Interior Ministry and the Wurttemberg State Ministry. I would like to leave it to Your Eminence’s judgment whether the State Secretariat of His Holiness considers it advisable, in the discussions with the Reich Interior Ministry on account of the Concordat-violating confiscation of our pastoral letter, to bring up these events also, in order to avoid further incalculable harms in the future.

In deepest respect I kiss Your Eminence’s ring, as your most devoted,

John Baptist Sproll, Bishop