

The news you send me yesterday surprised me. I was expecting quite a different result. However, the more one gets on in life, the less eager one is in one's desires to see our days prolonged. Humble submission to the adorable will of God is what leads more surely to that calm the value of which one feels when the time of trials arrives. I am happy to learn of the pious resignation of my dear niece. That disposition on her part, gives me the certainty that the outcome of her illness will be the one most useful to her. So may the will of the Lord be accomplished! I unite my prayers with yours, my dear daughter, and those of our dear invalid. Fiat! Fiat! Voluntas tua!

To-morrow, my sister N., please God, will come and pay my niece a visit on my behalf to tell her that we are praying zealously for the fulfillment of the Lord's will. I give you all my blessing.

Your ever devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 12th of St. Joseph's month 1853