

(Beginning of the letter omitted in photocopying process)

... to come up to your expectations. I congratulate you on that heavenly blessing and unite with you in thanking God for it.

As for the novice, it is a cross. But it is a duty for you, not to rid yourself of this cross, but to make the matter known to Madame Superior General straight-forward, without fear of influencing, without good motives, the admission, contrary to the good of the Institute, a person who does not seem worthy of it.

I hope the remedies and courage, will give you back the strength that you tell me you have lost, or at least that has been reduced by the rigor of the season, I suppose.

Tell Mlle. N. I thank her for the good wishes she sent me; that I take a keen interest in her troubles, and make it one of my duties to pray for her. You will kindly add all you think useful in the dangerous circumstances she finds herself.

Be convinced, my dear daughter, that I commend you very specially to our good Jesus. Study that model; try and form yourself according to it. That is the surest means of reaching the perfection to which you are called.

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 15th January 1854