

I find some progress, my dear Child, but it is not rapid enough, because you are listening too much to fear, and you do not clearly enough distinguish feeling from consent. You are still going on in a manner that is too materialistic. Read with renewed attention the chapter on temptation in the excellent work: Instruction for Pious Souls by Fr. Quadrupani. In it you have what I have often said and written to you. I pray Jesus, my Child, to make you understand better the secrets of true spiritual childhood. It is for you the only way to reach the heart of your divine Spouse and to find that peace which the Angels at the birth of the Savior, announced to men of good will.

I am convincing myself that you are making progress in those fields of knowledge required by your state. I am pleased with your writing, but your V and a few other letters are of the old kind used at Mouscron but not in the best samples of calligraphy.

Receive, dear child, the blessing of

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 22nd December 1838

Do not write Divine Spouse, but divine; epithets are not written in capitals. Your y, p, x in addition are not all formed according to the principles either. Practice your writing sometimes in order to avoid bad habits.