

I noticed with keen satisfaction that your sentiments are being uplifted and that, forgetting yourself a little, you are becoming more useful to the dear family of Mary and Joseph. The heart remains small as long as one is crawling on the ground; but as soon as it raises itself towards the divine Spouse, it soars up in a way one did not think it capable of doing. Then one flies, one becomes really spiritual; one turns everything one touches into gold. Rejoice with me, dear Child, at what Jesus Christ has deigned to do for you. The cross of the Savior is beginning to produce its fruits in his docile, generous spouse.

Cast your eyes now over the whole boarding-school and replace Mme N. with courage, counting on him whom you bear in your heart and whom alone you are seeking, while apparently forgetting yourself. How wonderful are the mysteries of love! Go, dear Child, or rather run, fly after the perfume of your divine Spouse. Jesus Christ will work through your hands, he will speak through your mouth and your work will be precious and your words will convert souls. You will have no desire except to make him loved who is willing to make use of you to do great things. I can do all things in him who strengthens me, said St. Paul, and you too will be able to do all that this God, who is as powerful as ever, is willing to do through his pitiful servant. The smaller you are, the more obvious will it be that it is God that one has to attribute what is done through you. That is what you are told by one whom the Lord gives you as his interpreter. You know my voice; it is that of

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 10th February 1839