

I thank our good God, my dear Child, for granting you a little relief through my ministry, and I congratulate you on following the counsels I gave you with reference to him who is asking you for your heart, that is to say, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

But I am sorry that you did not stand firm against your cowardliness and against the enemy of your soul. What have you to fear seeing that you are under the protection of an Angel, under that of the August Queen of Angels and under the eyes of him who is preparing you to become a Saint, to be his Spouse?

Whatever may happen to you whether in imagination or in the body, do not worry; see God present and your Angel and the divine Mary, and despise the powerless efforts of the devil. He is a chained dog, he barks and snaps but can only bite those who want him to do so by willingly approaching him. Oh, my child, if you knew how our good God loves you, you would not count on yourself but on him who has made an arrangement according to which you will never be tempted beyond your strength united to that of grace. Novice in the Institute of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, learn to have in your mind and in your heart the thoughts and sentiments of confidence that must distinguish the Children of the very Blessed Virgin. Try and learn to meditate and pray well mentally, and your fears will no longer torment you during the time of those precious exercises.

Finally, my poor child, I will pray the Lord to deign to give you the strength to carry your crosses and not to take all crosses away from you. I would not love you as I must, if I wanted you to be without any cross and unlike him to whom I hope I will have the pleasure of uniting you with indissoluble bonds. Say from time to time: Lord Jesus, deign to make me meek, humble and chaste; Holy Mary, show that you are my Mother; St. Joseph, please pray for this poor sinner.

There, dear N. this is the best that can be said to you by him who loves you in God and wants to be one day and for ever,

Your spiritual Father

Ghent, 1st December 1834

I am more and more pleased with your writing. Cultivate that talent for the greater glory of God. Do not neglect grammar.