

I have talked about your affairs with Monsignor, and I realized that we must ascribe to His Lordship the fact that you have been deprived of the happiness of receiving a visit from him, etc. There is no change as regards the confessor, unless the Dean wishes the extraordinary to replace him sometimes. That need not give rise to any difficulties.

One must not give in to the odd temptations of Sister N. Let her be forced to follow the customs of the house, without too much ceremony; the common way is the only one suitable for that Sister. The same observation applies to the novice A., who however, must give proofs of sufficient health and good judgment before being admitted to profession. Try and get all of them to understand that when anyone shows ardent desires and asks for permissions with too much insistence, she is wresting consent; whence it follows that it is then no longer the simple will of the Superiors, or that of God that one is doing but one's own to which those of the Superiors are giving way.

As for you dear child, forget yourself, not to the prejudice of the watchfulness that is inseparable from the love of your divine Spouse, but as regards anxious reflections of timidity or imagination.

May the feast of tomorrow obtain for you, my dear daughter, and all your community, a fresh degree of detachment from creatures, and of zeal for the interests of your heavenly Spouse. Be the interpreter of my sentiments to your Sisters.

You have known for a long time how sincerely I can call myself

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 27th of the month of our good Mother Mary, 1840