

I am much obliged to you for the lovely and very pleasant letter you have just written to me. Your sentiments towards your Superiors have been known to me for many years; but good things can sometimes be repeated. It is a relief in this valley of tears to see our devoted attentions mutually appreciated and acknowledged with simplicity. I have not failed these days to offer our divine Mother the hearts of all my children. May that offering draw compassionate glances on the part of Mary.

It is very doubtful whether I will be able to come to your prize distribution. However, if the Dean cannot preside at that ceremony which is so important for your house, try and let me know in time; in that case I will do all that is possible to render you service.

I do not have the leisure to give detailed answers to your novices. Please, make them understand, as well as the two Ladies who wrote to me, that I have done all I could, and that the few words I am addressing to them are proof of my very good will.

As for you my dear daughter, go forward with courage. Holy obedience and abandonment to your divine Spouse will guide you more surely than all those meticulous precautions that subtle self-love helped by natural timidity often inspires in certain persons. Love Jesus and his adorable will without reserve; let your heart reach out and do not worry about anything.

The errand at Wacken is done, and the sum of 120 frs. is credited to the account of the Superior General.

I am always in Jesus Christ

Your devoted Father

Ghent, 17th August 1840

Tell my dear children not to write to me; they are overburdened with work and I myself must admit that I lack the leisure to answer them.