

I am very touched by the good wishes you sent me for the pleasant feasts of Christmas and the Circumcision. I thank you, dear Child, for your good wishes and the prayers you offered to Heaven for me. I have not failed to commend you to the Divine Child; it is from him that I expect to obtain for you that simplicity, that confidence, that generosity that I would like to see in you for the good of your dear soul and the usefulness of our Institute.

Do not worry any more about those thoughts that are troubling you so gratuitously. If you could win yourself over to no longer fearing them and to despising them, you would have taken a great step towards that peace that Jesus Christ came to bring on earth and that the Angels announced to men of good will. Believe me, my poor child you are upsetting your mind uselessly. Have confidence in Jesus, in Mary, in Joseph, in that Angel charged with looking after you, and also in your Superiors, and soon you will triumph over the attacks of the enemy. Do not be afraid any more and the demon will be afraid in his turn.

May the sweet cheerfulness of the Children of God reign among you; it is a balm that spreads around the religious, that odor of Jesus Christ that edifies all those who have the happiness of coming into contact with them.

Receive, my dear Child, with my blessing, the assurance of the devotedness with which I wish irrevocably to be

Your spiritual Father

Ghent, 19th January 1835