

Here is the child of St. Joseph. I have given her a hundred francs for which you will give her a receipt. This girl does not have the goods of this world, but she has received more precious gifts from God. Let us try and cultivate in her the good qualities the Lord has bestowed on her and they will one day be used to glorify their Author. To stimulate her gratitude you will allow her to write to me from time to time and to send me your receipt. This is for you alone.

I am very glad to learn that you continue to be pleased with all your children. May the good God be praised for that! As for what you call your woes, I entreat you not to dwell on them with anxiety. They are perhaps great mercies in the eyes of your divine Spouse. You think, you say, that it is your temptations that give rise to your fears; say rather that it is your fears that give rise to your temptations and draw the conclusion from this reasoning yourself; no, your heart will not elude you.

My kind regards to your invalid. Let her offer her sufferings often to God for the whole Institute. She could not more usefully serve that Institute she loves so much and so rightly.

Please, give my compliments to all your dear children; I give them my blessing.

Your ever devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 14th November 1840