

I like to think that you will have nothing to take away from the good accounts we have been given on the child of St. Joseph, but that the more you know her, the more you will also be able to give me a good report of her. You could also urge Mlle. ... to give me news of her. It will be an opportunity for your novice to write to me. The other novices have already done so. You may give the receipt as the pupil wishes you to do, but it will be appropriate for her to send it to me to express her gratitude for it. You know how keen I am on the young people getting accustomed to fulfilling duties relating to that virtue! I imagine that she will tell you she got from me the hundred francs she gave you.

I share your opinion relative to the study of poetry of Mme. N. Try and make that Lady understand that she will find real happiness only in complete subjection of judgment and will. The smallest recess of secret will or of ownership she reserved for herself would sadden the Holy Spirit and distress her soul; while complete surrender will set her free and lead her very far towards perfection. You see that I take pleasure in concerning myself about your Madame N.; it is because I think God is calling her to great sanctity, in spite of the opposition that grace meets in her.

Please, give Mlle. Colette the enclosed pictures. Keep for yourself the one in which the hand of the Lord is leading a person who is abandoning herself to him with confidence. Follow that lesson in all your behavior, you will find it useful. Nobody must ever be more sincerely devoted to you than

Your Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 28th November 1840