

I have received the parcel and your letter. I thank you for your attentiveness and the prayers you are offering for me. I am also trying to acquit myself of the sweet duties of charity that our good God has put into my heart for you, my dear daughter, and for all my other Children. Yes, indeed, the moment is favorable and we will again experience in these days of grace how good and generous the Lord is towards those who seek him. I wish all your community a happy feast.

It seems to me that the practice is good in itself but does not suit us, as it causes divisions and categories among the Sisters, whereas the Holy Rule does not recognize any.

Mme. N. is all on fire at the moment; you have rightly judged that she must not be allowed any retreat other than the one prescribed by the Rule. As for poetry, I leave the matter to your decision. But in whatever way you decide, do not show any hesitation in expressing your mind.

Let our dear Sister C. unite herself more and more to the suffering Jesus and frequently with him, commend all the pious family of which she is a member, to the divine mercy. I am delighted to learn that your postulant is going to be clothed in the livery of Jesus Christ.

Take care of the appearance of all your Children. You know how important that matter is for you religious as well as for the pupils. By exercising them physically at the same time as morally, you will obtain for them the advantage of uniting to good health and a pleasant appearance a cultivated mind and sound judgment. I like to think that you also lay great importance on handwriting and that your mistresses are zealous in supervising that part in all the classes.

As you must be very busy at the moment, you will be content with your last letter, in which you sent me your wishes for the coming feast; I will not expect any other.

I am always as I must be

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 23rd December 1840