

Your letters, my dear daughter in Jesus Christ, have been delivered to me in due course. I have not answered the first, because I foresaw that the messages that the Rev. Father Rector of the College so kindly undertook, also had to have an answer from me and I wished to attend to them in a single letter. I beg you to thank Mlle. V. for her good wishes and to tell her I am pleased with her. Give her ten francs as a New Year's present; I know that one sometimes has to pay for little things and that cannot be done without money. I see that you are following Mme N with prudence; go on teaching her the practice of obedience, without which the impressions of grace would be turned into poison for lack of real humility which makes itself noticeable above all when natural tastes are opposed.

As for you, my dear child, go forward without hesitating too much and without worrying about the trials that your divine Spouse causes you to undergo, since they are the fruit of a great love for you on the part of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I have noticed that our good Father Superior of the Josephites is a little concerned that the interest payments reach him with such difficulty from Alost. You are perhaps hampered yourself by the state of your finances, but you could appeal for help to Madame Superior General, and then you have the right to ask the Superior at Brussels to reimburse you for the expenses caused by her invalid being at your convent.

Give my compliments to your dear children and especially your invalid and receive my blessing for you and for them.

Your ever very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 25th January 1841

You would do well to let me have a letter from your novices before long. It is good for me to follow them up closely -and that before long and with some latitude. Are there not any postulants offering themselves?