

It is finally your turn, my dear Niece, to get a few lines from me. You did not doubt for a moment, I am sure, that you had a share in the prayers I offered for my children on the lovely feasts we celebrated a few weeks ago. They are very sweet duties and one gets real satisfaction from fulfilling them. So I presented you often to our good Jesus, and it was through the hands of our august Patrons Mary and Joseph that you were offered and that the blessing of the divine Child came down on you.

I like to think, my dear daughter, that you felt the effects of those powerful blessings and will have been carrying your crosses with courage, with generosity, in the sight of God the Savior. We must not be completely without crosses, but we need to carry them with faith, with love, and at least with submission to the adorable will of the heavenly Master. So you will try, or will always seem to be joyful with your sisters and with your pupils. Win the affection of the latter by giving yourself generously to their needs, and show yourself severe only when your duties and the good of those same children demands it. Leave the supervisor to do what her function entails. The children must always have a mother in their mistress. That is the role that specially suits you.

Receive, very dear Child, the blessing of your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ and give my compliments to Mme Flore, Mme. Marie Charlotte, Mme Aug. and Mme Julie.
Ghent, 7th February 1852