

Reverend Mother

When I received your letter, you had the consolation of having with you the Rev. Mother of Alost, whom for a long time, you had hoped to have. I myself was delighted about it and your joy increased mine. You will have learned of the interesting details of the illness and death of our dear Sister Aloÿse. One so much likes to interest oneself in that model of perfection, that it seems to me that this inclination is a grace from Heaven, and will result in spreading in our Institute the simplicity, unlimited confidence in Jesus Christ, loving cheerfulness that shone so brilliantly in our angelic Sister. As for me, I willingly acknowledge that the thought of that saint child encourages me, cheers me and hardly ever leaves me. Let us often, my dear Reverend Mother, consider the great reward attached to generous confidence and submission, and we will find perfection much easier.

I think that, instead of a glass of water, in the morning, one would do better to take a cup of tea, that warms one up and prepares one better for mental work. You will add a piece of bread as you have been doing. I like to think that the swelling in your legs will not have unfortunate consequences; it is sometimes a necessary evil. May Sister (name crossed out) remain reasonable! She must have passed her time of childhood by now. Our dear (name crossed out) is going to lose all she gained at Malines, if she listens to her melancholy ideas. She will go backward and her divine Spouse will no longer be as pleased with her as he has been for some time.

The spirit of the Holy Rule is opposed to all unnecessary correspondence. One must have one's heart and mind in the Institute, and only busy oneself with outsiders even if they were relatives, as little as possible. Your prospectus is good now. May it bring you a good number of pupils.

It would give me pleasure to see that divine Providence has obtained premises for you. What you tell me of that matter points to a good beginning and gives me true reasons for hope. I will try and come and see you as soon as I can. But the profession on the feast of St Joseph and the Lenten fast will make that journey difficult for me.

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