

To Madame P.

19-40

I thank you, my dear daughter, for the wishes you have send me on the occasion of my patronal feast. I know that you express sincerely those feelings which animate you; also, I am sensitive to your thoughtfulness and well satisfied with what you have tried to do for a long time to prove your gratitude. I am pleased to recommend you to the good God, especially at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

You could not believe how difficult the position of _____, has been in relation to the matter of which you spoke in your letter. I had to admire her courage and prudence in more than one circumstance. I think that if she had reasons for not communicating this matter to me in detail, she also had some to refrain from telling you all that she had heard on this subject.

For your peace of mind and in order not to cause any pain to your divine Spouse, who wants to have your whole heart and who wishes it to be calm and peaceful, I invite you not to occupy yourself with this matter except in prayer in order to recommend it to the mercy of God.

Receive, dear Child, the blessing of

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 30th July 1837