

I am very pleased with your letter because it sincerely reveals to me that heart I want to see belonging to God alone, and I find at the bottom of that heart goodwill and the desire to submit to what I prescribe.

I thank the Lord who is the author of all good, my child, and then urge you to let yourself be guided with simplicity. In dwelling upon yourself as you are doing, you are forgetting our good God too much, and from that comes that discouragement you are complaining about. There are so many subjects for discouragement in us, when we do not look towards the goodness of God and the merits of Jesus Christ, that the sight of them is overwhelming; so take care to cast your eyes on the Lord who loves us however wretched we are, and we will more and more marvel at his mercy, which will arouse in us the love of God and sentiments of generosity towards him. That, my dear child, is what I think I have to tell you and what I urge you to meditate upon calmly; you will draw out of your corrupt nature humility and the love of God. That is how you will convert evil itself into good and you will soon be cheerful gentle, simple and persevering. Have confidence in Sister N., and do not talk about your conscience to any other Sister; you would be exposing your-self to the danger of going astray, as the others do not have the grace to guide you in these matters.

Receive, dear child, the blessing of one who wants the greatest good for you, the love of God, and the graces needed to become a true Spouse of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your devoted Spiritual Father

Ghent, 27th June 1834

You would find it profitable to read the 21st chapter of the 3rd Book of the "Imitation".