

You are astonished, I think, at my silence. I am sorry to have to tell you that the cause of it is: 1) Madame Bathilde who did not give me explanations capable of making me understand the matter with which you had charged her; 2) Yourself, my dear Lady, by adding to your letter of explanation, contradictions, fears, scruples in short, that prevented me from sending your letter to the notary and forced me to go to his office and to return there until I managed to speak to him in person.

That is the explanation of my silence. The paper will be sent to you when the difficulties are in their turn explained.

For the rest, my dear daughter, I am very pleased to see from your last letters, that you are content and full of hope for the future of your house. I continue to commend it also with all that composes it, beginning with yourself, to our good Patron St. Joseph, our Holy Angels and our very excellent and powerful Mother, august Mary. In my name urge all your dear Sisters to pass the lovely month we are beginning, with zeal, with faith and sincere and filial confidence.

Your ever devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 26th April 1852