

I was very pleased to see that Father ... made the journey to Alost to see and console his relative. I have expressed my gratitude to him for that proof of devotedness he has just given us. I like to think that Madame N. has understood that mark of zeal and affection that this former friend of our Institute still has for us, and will find in it a motive for thanking our good God and getting encouragement in the way of penance she is traveling along, I dare to hope in faith and submission.

You will be good enough to say on my behalf that I am zealously trying to fulfill my obligations towards my spiritual children and at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, very specially commend those whose needs are most urgent. For the rest, that dear invalid appreciates the various states through which the Lord leads his chosen ones; she has enough experience in the interior life to understand that we have the greatest interest in generously bearing the trials, following the example of our perfect model, Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ. So let her seek to prove that, in her capacity as a child of Mary and spouse of Jesus Christ, she understands that her way is the one that leads to Calvary. Let her ask for what is needed in order to be firm and resolute in the accomplishment of the adorable will of God. We all join with her and ask with her for the strength that is given by grace, the fruit of superabundant satisfaction of our divine Savior.

Be my interpreter at all times to our dear invalid and count also on my efforts to render you services when the opportunities present themselves.

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 19th June 1852