

Your letters always give me great pleasure, my dear child. You keep me up-to-date on the state of that soul I want to see happy, and you give me proof of that confidence that is precious to me for the fulfillment of the ministry of mercy that I am called to exercise in regard to you. Even though I do not give you an answer, do not be less zealous in writing to me with that outpouring your heart needs. Our good God, dear child, is forming you little by little to that life of faith, to that generous practice of self-renunciation; it is in this way that he will render you conformable to the image according to which he wishes you to form yourself, as is said in my manual, p. 84 in Part 1. Moreover, that model must be very dear to you; it is the divine Spouse himself, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

That you continue to have filial fear I consent, my dear child, but love for your Spouse must render it holy and perfect. I urge you not to narrow that heart in which Jesus Christ dwells; let freedom rule in it, as is right for Spouses of the Lamb. You know from experience how this lack of liberty, which you meet from time to time, hinders you from hastening after that most tender of friends and Spouses. I will continue with pleasure to give you the help you have been accustomed to get from me; I owe it to you, it is one of the sweet duties of

Your devoted spiritual Father

Ghent, 26th October 1837