

I am acutely feeling the trial to which you, I and the Institute are being subjected to by divine Providence. But I also feel we must put the adorable will of God above ourselves and everything. So let us not stop in the face of human considerations and let us say with a full heart: May the very Holy Will of the Lord be done!

It would have been very pleasant for me to come and see Madame Félicité, but my presence is needed at Melle. Please tell me on Monday, if my journey is almost necessary. If our dear invalid is too bad then for my presence to be useful to her, you know that I am praying at Ghent just as I could do at your place, and I will put off my journey to a time when I can be more useful to you.

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

Ghent, 2nd April 1853

Make many recommendations to my niece for me. May she be generous, confident in God and submissive to his Holy Will. I am praying for her with all the fervor of which I am capable.