

I do not want to put off any longer writing a few lines to you, my very dear daughter in Jesus Christ. The time for visits is approaching and it will be harder still for me to deal directly with my children. I am beginning by thanking you for the good wishes you expressed for me at the foot of the crib, and those you are intending to offer Jesus at his Circumcision. Be certain that I am not forgetting you either and will take care of you at the feasts that are approaching. You and your dear Community will have a good share of my petitions.

You misunderstood me very much when you imagined I gave you the advice you spoke of in your letter. That is one of those things that ought not to happen to you after so many counsels and instructions. A moment's reflection would have been enough to rid you of an idea so preposterous.

Please, very dear daughter in Jesus Christ, offer to Mlle. Colette my greetings for the New Year. Tell that old friend of our Institute it is not only on New Year's day but every day of the year, that I address prayers for her to our good God. I sincerely say as many for you dear Madame N., and assure you that I will always be yours very devotedly in Jesus Christ.

Your spiritual Father

Ghent, 27th December 1853

Where is the postulant of the Sisters of St. Joseph? Is she persevering? She too might write to me, but in her own words.