

Malines, 1st May 1809

At Fr de Sambucy's house, 1, Petite Rue des Augustins, Amiens.

My very dear Nephew,

I am very late in replying to your dear letter of the 5th April but you certainly know why and that it is not due to indifference to the nephew whom I particularly cherish.

I was delighted to be visited by your dear mother and your aunt de Bakker and her daughter. They were here for several precious hours and were brought here one afternoon by our cousin Lauwers. Your dear mother gave me all the news of the family.

It seems to you, my dear nephew, that you are not approaching the Holy Table with the disposition demanded by this significant action. I feel the same, and if the angels could approach it they would feel the same. It would be a very bad sign of you did not feel this way because you would either be underestimating the excellence of this ineffable Mystery or overestimating yourself and your frail virtues.

Always, my dear nephew, believe that you do not have the correct disposition demanded by this holy action, but at the same time try to dispose yourself as best you can without damaging yourself, without fear of approaching the one who invites you and encourages you approach by saying "come unto me you who labour and are heavily burdened" etc. Your concerns should never diminish the number of your communions: on the contrary, since one communion is a preparation for the next you would feel even less well-disposed if you start to lessen your communication with the Doctor and the medicine of your soul. I would judge that your communions are good and even very good since they lead you to wanting to love the Good Lord even more. Ah! What more do you need? Is not this longing the love of God? You want this longing to be followed by its effect, but should this effect be felt by you? The Good Lord often hides it from you in order to prevent pride. The result of this longing, my dear nephew, is that you are not subject to your passions, that you do not follow all the leanings of your corrupt nature etc... what sort of a man would you be if you neglected the sacraments? You would be unable to restrain yourself and perhaps you would become a source of scandal to those whom you now edify. So, no more worry on this point, but rather more thanksgiving, trust in God, peace and joy in your heart.

Many greetings to dear Charlotte.

We expect our new Archbishop this week; he has received his Bull.

I commend myself to your holy prayers; my holy daughters pray for you. They are now seven, and seven angels.

I have the honour to be, with a very special affection,

My dear nephew,

Your very humble servant,

JG Huleu