

Malines, 20th February 1810.

Pupil of the Episcopal Seminary in Ghent.

My very dear Nephew!

You have many things you want to tell me about. Ah well! You should unburden yourself to the One who gave rise to them, and who will give rise to yet others after those which are currently concerning you cease to do so. Try often to empty yourself of such things as they are only temptations and obstacles in the way of progress in virtue. What to say of these circumstances? You will say to yourself no doubt that everything is leading to the downfall of Religion: but will it be saved by our alarms, by discussion of these matters, by our distress? Without doubt, no. It certainly will, however, through our prayers, by our resignation and a wholehearted trust in divine Providence without which nothing happens. If I am correct, the Dragon has been let loose after being in chains for a thousand years. Through idolatry he seduced, up to the sixth and seventh centuries, the peoples who now form the main part of the Church; since the eighth century he has been imprisoned and the idolatry and magic which were dominant have been thrown into the depths never to resurface. But the Dragon was to leave his prison after a thousand years and truly atheism started in the sixteenth century and has made great progress during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He has corrupted all of Europe, and the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ with the Elect which reached its zenith in the eighth century finished in the eighteenth. That is to say that the Church, which was dominant, has become what it was for some centuries: distressed, dependent and subjugated. If we can, as seems very probable to me, explain in this context chapters 19 and 20 of the Apocalypse, we must prepare ourselves in consequence: by this I mean that we must be on our guard against the agents of the Dragon - the philosophers – who grind away at the army of the Saints and the Holy City (the Church of Jesus Christ) in order to seduce those who start to read their impieties or to listen to their false reasoning. Thus the first thing that we have to do is to keep ourselves safe from the corruption of our faith, and the second is to live as God's elect in the midst of corruption. The third is not to be surprised by what is happening as it will go yet further without anyone being able to stop it, and the fourth is to be consoled by the assurance that these times will not last long and that they will be followed by the last times when the Lord will come to save and reward his elect. What I am telling you is only one method: you must keep it to yourself and preserve yourself from the fanaticism of those who would wish to oppose what has been decreed by the Most High and cry out unceasingly against their civil and Ecclesiastical Superiors. So, my dear nephew, be calm. God has foreseen everything, predicted everything. Jesus Christ has reigned for a thousand years in his dominant Spouse and from the beginning of the 9th century until 1809; even in the temporal sphere through His Vicar on earth who has been Sovereign for a thousand years. He does not cease to reign through grace in the hearts of men of good will, just as He has done since the establishment of His spiritual Kingdom: ecce ego vobiscum usque ad consummationem saeculi.¹ The State of the dominant Church is not essential and it will try in vain to become so again if God wishes otherwise.

Our good superior is back in health, but she is still very weak. I commend her and all her daughters to your prayers. I am truly happy about the matter of your brother Jean; what you say about Charlotte and Cécile pleases me equally. Pray a great deal for me: I need prudence and courage as you can well imagine.

I have the honour to be most sincerely,

My dear nephew,

Your very humble servant,

JG Huleu

¹ "I am with you always, yes, to the end of time." Matt. 28:20.