

Malines, 19<sup>th</sup> May 1811

Studying theology at the seminary in Ghent.

My very dear Nephew,

I learn with pleasure that you are to receive Holy Orders<sup>1</sup> and will thus be irrevocably consecrated to the Sacred Ministry. I do not doubt that it was obedience which made you take this step so soon and consequently I can only applaud. In submitting to one's superiors one is following the will of God. I am quite annoyed that I did not know ten days earlier that your Bishop was going to confer Holy Orders on Wednesday. I would have asked him to include candidates from my Seminary. If you know that there is going to be another ordination before the holidays I would be very pleased to know in advance.

I am delighted that my nephew Van Den Hende has returned to the Seminary: I pray that the Good Lord may guide him in all his ways and that he might become a worthy priest of his Church. Please tell him that his letter pleased me and that I urge him to persevere.

Like you, my dear nephew, I wish to meet and talk, and I really hope that the summer holidays will present an opportunity; in the meantime may it be as pleases the Good Lord, and I will try always in my letters to answer what you see fit to ask me. I will ask my holy daughters to pray for a good outcome to your ordination and I will do the same as long as you do not forget me before the Good Lord.

Accept the assurance of my friendship and my sincere affection; with these sentiments I have the honour to be,

My very dear nephew,

Your very humble and very obedient servant,

*JG Huleu*

PS Did you receive the treatise De Deo etc which I sent you in time?

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<sup>1</sup> He received minor orders on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1811 and the Sub-Diaconate on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.