

Malines, 6<sup>th</sup> December 1811

Student at the seminary in Ghent.

My very dear Nephew,

It is with joy that I can tell you that I am now in completely good health. The fever left me three weeks ago and the headaches have diminished to the extent that I am rid of them: but the Lord has only allowed me this grace through my restarting the diet I abandoned about three years ago: abstinence from rich foods. The weakness of my stomach persuaded the doctor and my friends that I should give up lean foods: this succeeded for a time, but now I have started again without talking to the doctor and here I am cured.

I am expecting, my dear nephew, to see you and my cousin Bernard here for the next ordinations<sup>1</sup>. We have been told by letter that, following our Archbishop's invitation, the Ghent seminarians will be receiving Holy Orders here. I will, therefore, prepare rooms for you two, being certain that you will both be coming. Please invite, on my behalf, my nephew Van Den Hende. It will be a great joy for your great-uncle to see his two great-nephews receive the imposition of hands and thus give hope that that they will become worthy ministers of the Lord to console our Mother the Church which has such need at present.

I will not cease, my dear nephew, to address my feeble prayers to the Most High that he might shower you with his graces so that you may prepare yourself worthily for this august ceremony and that you will reap all its fruits. Pray for me that the Lord's grace my help me in worthily preparing those who have been committed to my care, and that I may benefit from what I preach to others.

Many greetings to all the family. Our holy daughters of Mary will pray particularly for you two.

I have the honour to be, with the most perfect and affectionate consideration, and in the hope of a word in reply,

My dear nephew,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

*JG Huleu*

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<sup>1</sup> Van Crombrughe received the diaconate on the 21st December in Namur at the hands of the Bishop, Mgr Pisani de la Gaude.