

Malines, 10<sup>th</sup> May 1812

Deacon in the Seminary in and of Ghent.

My very dear Nephew!

I was surprised by your anxiety to know if there would be any ordinations here at Trinity. You should not doubt it after the letter I had written to you earlier in which I expressed my wish to see you ordained here. Don't despair that you have not yet got your dispensation, and the ordinations are still three weeks away. These dispensations normally take two whole months from the sending of the petition to their reception here, so you can calculate when you can expect to receive it. My cousin Van Den Hende is equally anxious and has written on the same subject at the same time as you. Our letter to your vicariate has no doubt crossed yours. If you do obtain your dispensation I would propose that you say your first Mass here in the chapel on the Sunday and I will have the pleasure and joy of assisting you. I am making the same proposition to my cousin Van Den Hende, whom I ask you to greet on my behalf: if you are together I will ask my cousin Lauwers to assist one of you. At midday you will eat with the Bishop.

I presume you are on retreat and I pray the Lord to pour an abundance of grace on my two great-nephews so that I can have the joy of seeing them flourish on the vine before I die, and working for the salvation of many souls who await their help to be saved.

I have the honour to be, with the sentiments of benevolence, affection and esteem which you know I have for you,

My dear nephew,

Your very humble servant,

*JG Huleu*