

Malines, 13th September 1812.

Theology student living at the seminary in Ghent.

My dear Nephew.

I applaud your decision to follow the advice I gave you and to come and say your first Mass here and to continue your retreat here. If you say it on the Sunday I will let my holy daughters know so that you can say it in their chapel and they can take communion at your hands. It will be a day of celebration for them and for me.

As for the journey to Brussels, I do not think I will be able to do it because of confessions on the Saturday, but you will meet there Mr Tubbax, a young professor from the seminary here, who is also presenting himself for ordination and with whom you could travel here.

Whilst awaiting your reply, I have the honour to be, with true affection,

My dear nephew,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

JG Huleu

PS I have invited your father with his wife and family to come and spend a few days here in Malines. Do you think they would like to fetch you from here after your short retreat? I have not received a reply to my letter written, I think, two weeks ago. I do not cease to pray for you and to ask others to do the same.