

4th January 1808

Pupil at Fr De la Marche's¹ boarding school in Montdidier.

My dear Nephew,

I have received your letter from Ghent as well as the one before from Montdidier. I have not ceased to pray to the Lord for you daily in all the little trials that he sends you. I have wished for a year of blessings for you and I thank you sincerely for the god wishes that you offer me. I am delighted by the good outcome of the business of your conscription and that you have been included in the list of ecclesiastics. This allows me the sure hope that you will one day be numbered among the ministers of our holy altars. Revere this sublime vocation in your mind, and consider that from now on your life must be more holy than that of lay people. Each day implore the Holy Spirit to reveal your vocation to you, but above all ask for humility of heart, as nothing would be more damaging to you than to aspire to the most eminent dignity this world can offer without a spirit suffused with the knowledge of your unworthiness and uselessness.

Fr Burton, the Vicar-General whom you saw with our Archbishop,² knows your new Superior, Fr De La Marche, very well and he has asked you to give him his greetings and to say that he recommends you highly. At the same time I ask you to greet him on my behalf and to say that for the sake of the friendship he has for my close friend Burton he should not spare you when you commit any fault. I equally commend your brother to him.

So, my dear nephew, let both of you progress in the double path of virtue and of knowledge. Now you sow, later you will reap. Apply yourself in French as your worthy Bishop has recommended.

I pray to the Lord for your brother Jean that his matter may succeed, and I have prayed to the Holy Souls as you ask in your letter.

Greet your brother for my and believe that I am ever,

Your very humble servant,

|  *JG Huleu*

¹ Father of the Faith.

² Jean-Armand de Besséjoul de Roquelaure, former Bishop of Senlis, named Archbishop in 1802 when he was already in his 80s.