

Malines, 26th April 1813.

Curate of Mouscron near Courtrai.

I have received, my dear nephew, your letter of the 22nd and I wished you the double peace which Our Lord Jesus Christ wished his disciples according to the Gospel of that day. Peace of mind and peace of heart; we have great need of these in these dark days where everything is seen in total darkness here and with you. How could one see otherwise given the state of affairs both spiritual and civil? Furthermore a whole lost flock regard this darkness as if it was light and continually desire it. We must establish ourselves in that double peace by submitting ourselves to all that divine Providence has already arranged and decreed, and limit our desires to everything which would be His divine pleasure.

I have not written to you for a long time, my dear nephew, because I did not know what to write about, but now I have major news to communicate to you so I am replying immediately to your letter.

Fr De La Brue¹, first Vicar General of our Archbishop, has been appointed Bishop of Ghent by the Emperor. I knew that he was about to be appointed Bishop, but I did not expect that it would be for Ghent.

Certainly when Mgr De Broglie needed a successor he could have no more worthy one than Fr De La Brue. As he is a friend I know him very well. He was a student at the seminary of Saint Sulpice and he maintains all the spirit of that venerable institute. He is one of the most worthy Ecclesiastics that I know and I can predict that he will hold you in particular favour if the ecclesiastical difficulties are smoothed out and he had canonically exercise his ministry. I can tell you of, and commend you to, his benevolence. His lodgings are near to the seminary here and he has been promising to come and occupy them for three months.

Farewell, my dear nephew, pax Dei quae exuperat omnem sensum custodiat corda vestra et intelligentias vestras². Remember what I said at the beginning of this letter, because quicumque hanc regulam secuti fuerint, pax super illos et super Israel dei³.

I greet you from the bottom of my heart,

Your very humble servant and affectionate uncle,

JG Huleu

¹ Jacques de la Brue de Saint-Bauzile, former Canon of Dijon.

² "And the peace of God, which is beyond our understanding, will guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus." Phil.4:7

³ "Peace and mercy to all who follow this as their rule and to the Israel of God." Gal. 6:16.