

15<sup>th</sup> January 1809<sup>1</sup>

At Fr Sellier's boarding school, Montdidier.

My dear Nephew,

Everything I have learned from your letters and from those of your dear parents and Mr Franel have given me much consolation and have confirmed to me what I had already thought: that you have a strong resolution to become a man of holiness and wisdom. You will attain that goal if, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, you increase in your heart a constant and fervent desire to please God in everything and, to that end, you always try to know what He asks of you and to obtain His grace to accomplish it. This is the basis of true devotion, my dear nephew, and I can offer you no better way than this solid devotion. It will be a source of illumination for you in all the knowledge that you should acquire, and in all the virtues proper to the state of life to which it pleases the Lord to call you.

What I wish for you I also wish for your dear brother François; he will share the precious fruits of this tree of life with you as long as, like you, he cultivates it in his heart. May both of you remember me in your prayers: I remember you always in my sacrifice in the Holy Mass.

Give my very good wishes to Fr Sellier and to your other teachers and thank God for putting you in the hands of such zealous and capable men.

I have the honour of being, with esteem and affection,

My dear nephew,

Your very humble servant

*JG Huleu*

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<sup>1</sup> The date - 1809 - attributed to this letter by Fr Adolphe Desmet is certainly wrong. In 1809 Van Crombrughe had already left Montdidier. The good wishes offered by Huleu to François put the letter in, or after, 1807