

Malines, 24<sup>th</sup> June 1811.

Theology student at the seminary in Ghent.

My very dear Nephew,

For a long time I have owed you a letter in reply to your last one and to show you the satisfaction I experienced in learning of your ordination.

So you are now for ever attached to the Sacred Altars; may the Lord be blessed, and may His Church find in you a faithful minister whose holy word and edifying example will encourage his faithful to work zealously for the salvation of their souls! Ah! my dear nephew, what glory you will attract to the Lord, what consolation for his afflicted Spouse, if you set yourself the task of following faithfully in the footprints of those holy Ecclesiastics who have preceded you. Advance, my dear nephew, a little every day in the path of virtue, especially in humility through self-knowledge and in charity through a total abandonment of your will to that of your divine Saviour. I can think of nothing more necessary or more advantageous, especially to a young minister of the Church.

The practice of these solid virtues will aid your renouncement of your own wishes, of the tendencies of nature, of the vain desire to know everything, and will restrain you from the sallies of a too lively or hurried zeal.

For my part I have tried to help your uncle Van Crombrugghe: I suppose your father will have done the rest as I wrote to him. I hope that this bad moment will have passed. May God grant that he meets no more such moments, since I can do nothing more.

I hope that my nephew Van Den Hende is now persevering in his plans and that he is agreeable to advancing to the Diaconate.

My holy daughters always pray for you and I commend them to your devotions. They are now nine.

The Bishops who were at Savona seem content with their mission and we can hope for a rapprochement between the head of the Church and the head of the Empire. Let us pray fervently that the crisis be ended to the advantage of Religion. Pray also particularly for the one who never forgets you for a single day and has the honour to be with esteem and affection,

Your very humble and devoted servant,

*JG Huleu*