

Malines, 22nd June 1812.

Deacon in the Seminary in Ghent.

My very dear Nephew,

I have not forgotten your request on behalf of one of the daughters of your uncle Jean. I have given it long, frequent and mature consideration but I can see no possibility of accommodating her here. The Rules and Statutes of my holy daughters do not permit them to receive boarders; their silent and demanding life and the frugality of their diet would not suit the child. Furthermore there is not even the smallest place for her to live as the cells which have been constructed are all taken. Finally I have great difficulty in maintaining the nine sisters who are there at this time when lace makes little profit and everything is so expensive, so there is no possibility of me taking this girl on. I do however consent to my sister the Béguine using the money she gets from me for those good works that she sees fit, and especially for the good work you mention in your letter.

I knew that you were to have the joy of being ordained during the holidays, but you should not spread this news. The Bishop of Roermond has asked for it to be kept secret until now.

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

My very dear nephew,

Your very humble servant,

JG Huleu