

Malines, 30th July 1812.

Theology student at the seminary in Ghent.

My very dear Nephew,

I am delighted that I was able to reassure you and to make one of my young nieces less unhappy; may she pray to the Lord to have mercy on me.

I rejoice truly at the approach of your ordination to the priesthood. It would have been a great joy to me to assist at your first Mass here if you had been able to have been ordained at Pentecost. It would have happened without fanfare and feasting here, as is fitting for this act, and as is laid down for all our seminarians. I cannot break this rule. I was so content on saying my own first Mass in Louvain with no family present that ever since I have recommended this to all and have done everything I could to introduce this rule here.

I doubt that I shall get to Flanders this year as it is almost impossible to get away from here. I will nevertheless be doing some short journeys at the end of August, but I will certainly be here around the 8th September when the novice in the Sisters will be making her profession. If you could come to Malines around this time I would be delighted, or perhaps several days before your ordination in order to go from here to Brussels and perhaps I could accompany you.

I never cease, my very dear nephew, to commend you to the Lord so that He may make of you a priest after His own heart and, to this end, that He may give you the grace to prepare yourself well for your ordination and be saved from all fracas and tumult when you start to offer Him the Holy Sacrifice. Farewell, my very dear nephew; may the Lord give you every blessing, may he give you the grace of a total abnegation of self at the same time as giving you a total and limitless trust in Him.

I commend myself to your prayers and ask you to believe me to be, with affectionate devotion,

My very dear nephew,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

JG Huleu