

Malines, 26th October 1812.

Curate of Mouscron near Courtrai.

My very dear Nephew,

I am too interested in everything which concerns you to have been indifferent to your new situation which, whilst distancing you from me and from your family, puts you in a position to care for a precious part of our divine Saviour's flock.

I would certainly have replied to your first, undated, letter, if the seminary retreat and the ordination which followed had not taken away all my leisure time. I congratulate you again on your new task which should be as dear to you as it is unattractive to nature.

The President of the Ghent seminary tells me that by using a little dictionary which your Parish Priest has put together you should in very little time be able to understand the Mouscron dialect. Furthermore, since you tell me that religion flourishes in that area I hope that with God's grace you will make it flourish even more. I especially commend to you the young people; make Jesus Christ loved by the children, He who became a child for us. Saint Francis Xavier succeeded in bringing adults back to faith and piety through the example of their children; their docility, their obedience, their modesty, their piety, their diligence at work etc. delighted the parents and made them cherish and practice the religion which produced so much good in their households.

Fr Andries, who greets you, knows one of the most important inhabitants of Mouscron; he is a hatter with whom he has done business. His son should be coming here soon so if you have a letter for me you can entrust it to him; let me know if you are living with the Parish Priest.

I have the honour to be, with esteem and affection,

My dear nephew,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

JG Huleu