

Malines, 14th March 1808

Pupil at Fr De la Marche's boarding school in Montdidier.

My dear Nephew

It is not the first time that the Paris newspapers have announced the death of our dear and respected Archbishop; tomorrow I will read him the beginning of your letter and he will be confused and edified by it, and then we will have a laugh at our own expense. Don't believe in his death unless the news comes from safer sources. The Good Lord will keep him with us for a long time. I couldn't tell you but the Emperor has just granted him a favourable retreat when the burden of age or illness demands that he rest.

I am not at all worried by your business in Ghent and recommend that you put it in the hands of divine Providence and of your Bishop who will certainly have something to say.

I am both delighted and edified by your confidence in the powerful intercession of the great Saint Joseph. I will join my feeble prayers with yours and will commend the two matters which are close to your heart to my holy daughters. I willingly accept Mr Quénard's contract since all the benefit will be mine and I ask you to give him my sincere thanks. I offer you in advance greetings from the Fr Secretary and the Misses Bacx. With all my heart I greet your brother François and end, as I have no more time, in commending myself to your prayers and calling myself, with esteem and consideration,

My very dear nephew,

Your very humble servant,

JG Huleu