

(Dictated)
L.S.J.M.J

1-7

Madame Superior

I am very pleased that you agree with the sentiments I made known to you. I do not disapprove of your wish to render service to the town of Malines. As to the means you write to me about, perhaps these could be employed; I would like to discuss them with the Madame Superior General who, I am very sure, will give the matter careful consideration.

I advise you and all your dear Sisters, to be as recollected as possible, and to rest in the holy presence of your worthy Spouse Jesus Christ, once the prize-giving is over.

(In the Founder's hand) Just a word about Mme Kostka: You know the different bonds that attach me this dear child. Her extreme youth, poor health, and the various distractions she has had on account of prize distribution and also by the Congress; all these must have affected my god-daughter. Try to enable her to have some recollection and to walk once more in the presence of the good God. Recollection, prayer, turning to Jesus, must help our weakness, to prevent the fire of charity from burning out. In the example of our divine Master, the Superiors must draw aside, into solitude, those of their subjects whose distracting occupations may have caused them to lose their recollection and the precious calm of the religious heart.

I ask the good God, my dear daughter, to lead you by his grace, along the different paths you may have to follow as Superior, as a mother. I also very cordially give you my blessing.

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 22nd August 1863