

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MADAME GONZAGUE
Left the Institute (*)
(13 Letters dated 1838 to 1839)

Praise be J.M.J.

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Your letter, my dear Sister, excites an air of uprightness which charms me, to which I was no longer used and which you must maintain with me. Let us forget the past; Eh! that past is not longer ours, and it must not be an obstacle in the way of your happiness or the good you will do with the help of grace of the Savior. Think of your benefactress often; it is to her that you owe your return to your duty. Yes, it is through her that the God of all mercy has granted what for you is so great a favor that we could neither express nor understand it. That is the result of humble confidence in God and intense love for your divine Spouse. I will one day send you a few sentences extracted from the resolutions of our dear deceased one, or her letters or other writings.

Take care to achieve good order in the classes, among the novices and among the pupils. Try to get them to be cheerful without exaggeration, and generous in everything.

I am all yours in Our Lord Jesus Christ

Your spiritual Father

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 28th February 1838

May you spend with the greatest zeal possible, the month of March in honor of our Holy Patron. Imagine that it is a novitiate and that you will find in it all you need to recommence a fully religious life again.

I approve that which the Reverend Mother of Alost arranged; but I ask you to be very economical and to put off all expenses that are not urgent; we are much impeded because of the lack of funds and the needs of all our new houses.

Give my regards to all your dear sisters. I give them, as I do to you my blessing and I wish you, from the depths of my heart, the consolations of the Holy Spirit.

(*) The names of Sisters who left the Institute, including family names and profession dates, etc. were deleted from the Congregation's catalog of Sisters.