

My dear Sister

I have just received your letter and the precious relics you sent me. I cannot express what I feel at the sight of these treasures. I would like to have a generous heart, a heart like that of our saintly Sister Aloÿse, to testify to God feelings of a lively gratitude and a love tender, true and pure, in view of the graces that we have received. Help me, my Child; join with me and let us praise the Lord who is so freely granting us the gifts of his infinite mercy.

It seems to me that the Rev. Mother at Alost wishes you to have the consolation of being a witness of the lovely ceremony that will take place on Monday at the convent of St. Joseph. So come if it is possible; bring Mlle Valentyns and the other persons you mentioned to the Rev. Mother. It has to do, I think, with some of your pupils. Act prudently and try to be there, either tomorrow evening or on Monday before nine o'clock.

I do not have the time to answer the two nice letters from your dear Sisters Léocadie and Stephanie. I pray our good God to bless those happy Children of Mary and Joseph and to grant them the grace to imitate with a very large heart, the virtues of their saintly Sister Aloÿse.

I am very sincerely

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 17th of St. Joseph's month 1838