

My dear Sister

I thank you for the good wishes you have addressed to me. Count on my efforts to be of use to you these days.

Here is my response: if the Rev. Mother at Alost can render you the service you are asking for, I give my consent. But do not invite any important personages to your distribution; your pupils are too inexperienced, etc. etc. It seems to me you could accept half-boarders, but in that case they must be treated properly and in conformity with good customs. Ask a Jesuit Father to render you the service you are deprived of by the illness of your confessor.

Here is my letter to you. Here is one for your dear Sisters. I am pleased with their letters; I shall pray much for them to our good and generous Mother and I am counting on their prayers.

1. Mme Eulalie has only to follow the way of the grace that is making itself sufficiently heard in her soul. She is, that dear Child, on the good way.
2. Mme Euphémie is making progress. I praise God for it and congratulate her. She must be humble and generous.
3. Mme Léocadie has only to go on with joy and confidence preparing herself for the great day of her profession. She will be able to attend the retreat at Alost.
4. Mlle Stéphanie may hope to see the great day draw near; but it is on condition that she advances twice as fast on the way of humble and meek imitation of our angel Aloÿse and makes great progress in writing.

All your Ladies and novices have great need to practice their writing. Let each one have her exercise book so that I can judge their daily progress.

Read privately to each one what concerns her. I do not have the time to write to them at this moment.

May the triumph of Mary cause us to rejoice and strengthen us! May it obtain for us the graces necessary for triumphing over our miseries!

Receive the blessing of

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

14th August 1838

You are aware that the object of the journey of our Rev. Mother of Alost must be absolutely necessary to justify a request as indelicate as the one you would make to her on the eve of the holidays. I wanted to give you that little lesson before ending my letter.