

LETTERS ADDRESS TO MADAME BATHILDE DELHAYE
(Sister of Madame Flore Delhaye)
Born Aug. 13, 1813; Professed April 11, 1833; Died July 26, 1839
(22 Letters dated 1832 to 1839)

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Mademoiselle

Your letter inspired me with sentiments of charity so intense that I feel real satisfaction in writing to you. I am led to believe that our good God is destining you to be an instrument of his mercy in the holy family of the Children of Mary and Joseph; and that he is preparing special graces for you in our midst. I seem to have understood the state of your mind and the sentiments of your heart so well; and I cherish the hope that you are called to serve the Church in a high degree of perfection. The favors God has already bestowed on you, and what he is destining for you in the course of time, must give you the complete conviction that your soul is specially dear to Our Lord Jesus Christ, and that you cannot neglect any of the means he is obtaining for you to make it more and more pleasing in his divine eyes.

So, I willingly unite my prayers with yours to obtain that you will become docile to the voice of the Lord and that you triumph over all the difficulties that might present themselves to you in order to turn you away from the holy undertaking you are contemplating.

If you grant me your confidence, I will make it a duty of mine to help you and direct your steps in the new career to which God has led you as if by the hand; open your heart to me with that childlike simplicity that God rewards with the most outstanding graces and that puts the spiritual director in a position to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Receive, Mademoiselle, with my blessing, the assurance of my sincere wish to be of use to you in the undertaking that is occupying your mind for the greater glory of the Lord and the perfection of your soul.

Your very humble servant
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 21st January 1832