

I am taking advantage of the first leisure moment I have, my dear Sister, to converse with you. The opening of your heart that you made to me is all the more pleasing to me since I have for a long time been wanting this opportunity of rendering you a few services that my true desire to see you happy was urging me to refuse you no longer. Your excessive sensitiveness is not incurable. It so little suits your age, your sublime profession, and the good qualities the Lord has accorded you, that it is corrected without any effort, provided you do not refuse the help of a very determined will. Well then; shun all internal and external coaxing; avoid every thought or feeling coming from your ingrained melancholy; bravely fight against the naughty me that often finds itself first in your plans, whereas your divine Spouse must always have the first place. Make an effort, dear Child, and you will soon be convinced that justice alone makes us happy. What use could it be to a man to know everything, if he is not calm, and if he has an anxious heart and mind? Live cheerfully, according to your Holy Rule, study for God and never for some motive beneath you, and I predict to you that in a very short time, you will have peace of heart which is the source of corporal and spiritual well-being.

It is true that the very Rev. Mother has just informed me of what you meant to tell me in a passage in your letter that referred to her. But, my child, that good Mother does not remember the faults of her children in Jesus Christ only to commend you more earnestly to the Lord. So be at rest on that point and love your Superiors for God and in God.

Finally, I give you the assurance that we should like to see ourselves capable of obtaining for you the virtues of your divine Spouse, meekness and humility, at the cost even of great sacrifices. You know how sincere I am and how truly I am

Your very devoted Father in Our Lord Jesus Christ
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 3rd October 1836

Give me some details about your studies. But show me by the use of time that you are not studying or reading during recreation or outside the time directed to these exercises.