

My dear Sister

If you like to offer me good wishes for my happiness, I can assure you that I too feel a sweet pleasure in occupying myself with being useful to you. It seems to me I am doing something very pleasing to our good God, when I commend to him your progress in the way of perfection, or see to the means of enabling you to fulfill the duties of your sublime vocation. The dispositions that grace has put in your soul, and the talents you have received, are as many titles to the efforts of my zeal to enable you to bear fruits our Institute has the right to expect of you.

The reflections that the premature death of your Sister Eulalie has suggested to you, will be useful to you, if you banish from them every sad thought, every gloomy notion. Do everything through obedience and devotedness to Jesus Christ, and it will all be of benefit to you at the hour of death.

I find good things in your essays; but I need more spare time than I have at the moment to give you a considered opinion, or to make a judgment on them that can guide you in your studies. Meanwhile, my dear Child, do not work too hard; take advantage of the stay of your very Rev. Mother and be cheerful and always in the presence of Jesus, your divine Spouse.

You know that I am sincerely

Your very devoted Father
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

30th January 1837