

I have been very pleased to learn that our Flore is at last in the midst of my dear Daughters. Take care of that young plant; the enemy of her salvation will not fail to make efforts to prevent that soul from attaining the sublimity of her vocation. Without being anxious or at all afraid, watch over her a little; I give you that task. You have experienced how clever the devil is and how much we have to take precautions so as not to lose the great grace that God is preparing for those he chooses as his Spouses.

Do not let the care given to the pupils make you neglect anything in order to advance in the perfection required of you by the one who is calling you to become a religious and a member of a congregation in which knowledge is needed in order to render many services to the Church.

Arouse in yourself that love for that thrice holy God, and let your heart unceasingly give expression to those loving sentiments that make it so pleasing to your divine Spouse. May the feasts we are approaching find your soul disposed to welcome the heavenly dew that will descend upon it. You will experience, my dear Child, how good and generous he is who is calling you to his nuptials at which you yourself will be the Bride.

Tell Flore that I have for her a feeling that leaves no doubt that she as well as you, will be one day forever, my spiritual daughter. I already love her in that capacity and count on her fidelity to grace to bring it about, in her own time, that my hope is realized.

Good-bye, my Child, count on the sincerity of the sentiments of your spiritual Father.

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 7th December 1832