

Dear Sister

I am pleased to note that you are training yourself in the style of letter-writing and that you are making satisfactory progress in that respect. As for your writing, I think that certain strokes are rather too big, and too many letters look like capitals. With regard to drawing or English, I hardly see any possibility of arranging for you to learn them. Continue to apply yourself to the French language, style, arithmetic, geography and history, as much as your occupations allow you to do.

I have no desire to scold you. I will urge you rather to go on gently and humbly under the direction of the divine Master who dwells in your heart. Yes, my dear Bathilde, Jesus Christ resides in your heart; it is the place he has chosen for showering his tender love. So go frequently in spirit to visit that Spouse, your heart accompanies you everywhere; also Jesus Christ is everywhere accessible to you. There you will find light, strength and all that you need for bringing up your children in the love of God. Good-bye, my dear Sister, I do not forget you before the Lord, because I am sincerely

Your devoted spiritual Father
C. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 29th January 1834

I was edified by the very Christian sentiments of your good brother; learn to adore the will of the most high in all your ways; then you will always be submissive and content and cheerful.