

Yes, my Child, I have understood you. I have recognized you from the start and I saw that the Superior General judged you wisely. Far from feeling for you sentiments contrary to those you have known me to have since your childhood, it seems to me that your last letter has added to that confidence I have had in your will to love God more than yourself, and to serve him generously, notwithstanding the difficulties his service would present to your natural inclinations and personal tastes.

To spare myself the fatigue that detailed explanations would cause me, I will content myself with telling you that the principle that the Superior General indicated to you is true. You can follow it. Then, you will read Article 3 of Chapter V of the excellent treatise on interior peace. Ask your Superior General for that book without indicating what you are to see in it.

Finally, my dear child, always count on the mercies of God the Savior who set you apart when you were still very young, and is preserving for you the distinguished place he has given you in his adorable heart. Also count on the august Mary and our good Patron St. Joseph.

You know that I am very devoted to you in our good Master Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 14th of St. Joseph's month 1863