

Your letter, my dear Child, gave me great pleasure. The generous sentiments of submission and devotion to the cause of the Lord that animate you are precious gifts. They are fruits of the grace of God the Savior. Always follow the impulse of that supernatural force and you will fulfill your duties to the great satisfaction of your Superiors, the true good of your pupils and in conformity with the designs of the religious Institute of which you are aspiring to become a member. The time in the novitiate passes quickly; apply yourself, my Child, to acquiring those fundamental virtues I have often talked to you about: humility, meekness, interior and exterior obedience. Do not be content with the theory; get on to the practice; look for the opportunities. Beg your Superior to allow you acts of the virtues; I am talking to you about. I know you are strong enough and enlightened enough by supernatural light to speak to you as I do. By the preceding, you recognize the devoted guide whom our good God charges with leading you. He is helping you with his prayers. He knows that (you) also are praying for him.

When the opportunity allows you to write to me again, without tiring yourself, add a few words on the way you have succeeded in putting my counsels into practice, in your studies and classes and in your health. (One line is almost entirely obliterated)

Canon Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 1st December 1860