

You have done well, my dear daughter, to put off writing to me for a few weeks. I thank you for that delicacy and above all for the prayers you have offered for me during the great solemnities that we have been celebrating.

I do not forget you either, believe me indeed, my Child, in my prayers and at the Holy Sacrifice I have the happiness of offering every day.

I am happy to see that you understand what the proprieties require of you, as of all my children, in our relations with each other. Yes, my dear daughter, it is your right to chat with your Father with an open heart. It is also the duty of your Father to profit by your openness of heart to guide you in the way of happiness to which Jesus Christ is calling you. Your letters never tire me.

Always love to do the holy will of God. That is the whole secret of the spiritual life. As for occupations, avoid exercises that require you to use your lungs beyond your strength. You know that for a few more years you must be careful of your chest and neither speak more nor louder than duty absolutely requires.

I like to hope that you will get the blue belt as soon as you have the right to it. One communion more per week is a favor that I wish you to enjoy as often as you can.

Receive, my child, the assurance of the sincere devotedness of your

Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 22nd January 1862