

My dear daughter in Jesus Christ

I am writing to you to get myself news of your Madame Superior, without exposing myself to the danger of bothering our dear invalid. I was surprised to learn of the event you were expecting no more than I was, I suppose; but I am very edified to read of the religious way in which the illness is accepted, and that resignation and calm your Superior enjoy, make me hope that we have nothing serious to fear. However, be kind enough to give me a few words on the actual condition of the invalid and tell your Rev. Mother from me that I am commending her to our powerful and devoted Patron.

An objection made against our plan for the construction of a convent at the same spot as you are in at the moment, is that your street is sometimes impassable because of the waters of the Dendre that flood from time to time. Ask Madame Superior to tell you what you are to write to me on this matter.

I shall await your letter, my dear Lady, with a little impatience.

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 3rd of St. Joseph's month 1862