

I think, my good young Lady, that you somewhat exaggerate your miseries. However, it seems to me that in the midst of your rather outlandish judgments of yourself, I find certain indications that lead me to believe that our good God is no longer treating you as a beginner, but is already offering you the food of souls more enlightened by the lights of faith. In short, it is by the way of depriving you of the awareness of certain things you find encouraging that the Lord is pleased to lead you. If that way is not the most pleasant and sweetest, it is the one Jesus Christ, our good Savior and the most perfect of models, chose for himself. Walk bravely along it; humble yourself with your miseries; admire the goodness of God who loves you in spite of your imperfections, and whose love goes so far as to call you to the signal honor of raising you to himself to be his chosen friend, to be his Spouse.

May this consideration make you find the secret of those conversations with God in the moments set aside for prayer and meditation; may it make you sanctify, by the perfection of your motives, all your external actions, all your works, all your efforts to respond to the designs of your superiors, those of the Institute, and those of God and his Church.

I will make it my duty to help you with my counsels and prayers.

Your devoted servant in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 3rd February 1855