

My very dear daughter in Jesus Christ

Your letter strengthens me in the opinion I expressed to you, that the Lord is destining you for a kind of life of faith, for a way perhaps less pleasant to nature, but also less exposed to the illusions of the senses. I approve of the way in which you received the deprivation that marked the feast of the 8th of this month. I hope, you say, that our good Jesus has taken my wishes into consideration. Nothing must be more dear to you than the adorable will of your divine Spouse. Accustom yourself, my dear child, to that heartfelt submission, that forgetting of your preferences in view of the good pleasure of God. As for the sensitivity that causes you some distress when humiliation comes your way, do not worry about it; the accomplishment of the duties of your state, the deeper knowledge of your nothingness and the need to seek to please only the Spouse of your soul, will make you more resolute and more indifferent to what concerns you every time your beloved is not displeased with you.

I am very glad to learn that you have acquired the knowledge necessary for teaching our mother language. Among the Ladies of Mary, that subject does not receive the care its importance demands. I like to think you will gratefully receive a work on the Flemish language and that your Superior and Mme Euphrosyne will have it read during the time devoted to the studies of the Ladies. I shall take advantage of the first opportunity of sending it to you.

However, you must not limit to the Flemish language, the study I have so much recommended to you. That goes without saying. You will do well to follow a plan. It will be necessary to ask for one. Your writing is good but it is a little too small.

Be convinced, my dear daughter, that I will make it my duty to commend you every day to the Lord, especially at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Your Father in Our Lord Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 20th December 1855

When, after the occupations of the New Year, you have read the pamphlet on the usefulness of the Flemish language, the Madame Superior will be kind enough to send it to Coloma, so that it may be read there also. It is the work of a Jesuit Father.