

Dear Sister Colombe

I think you have taken the real means of correcting your defects of character; you must not talk too much about yourself, not even examine yourself, as I have told you. As for your slowness, rather somber appearance and rather plaintive tone, you will do well to watch over them and to pray that you will be corrected. You have already achieved much in this respect.

You need to remind yourself of the rules of spelling and to practice your handwriting. Your letter swarms with errors. (Some examples are quoted) These are a few examples of your know-how. However, your style is natural and satisfactory.

Continue to go along at your own pace with the lay novices. I think Sister Cecile should not have been admitted to her vows. We will probably have to send her away after a year. Hers is not a happy character, and it offers few resources for remedying her troubles. Watch over her and pray. I will help you with my prayers. Do not talk about it.

Receive my blessing, dear Sister, and believe that I am always

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 13th December 1836