

Praise be J.M.J.

15-18

I did not fail, my dear Child, to commend you to our heavenly Mother, yesterday on your birthday and the last day of the octave of that glorious assumption that has caused us so much joy. You are on many accounts a Child of Mary, a happy prerogative!

You may begin your retreat tomorrow. I commend you all to the Lord and do you on your side, not put any obstacle in the way of grace; open your heart to your divine Spouse and renew your offering to him. If I can comply with your invitation, you will see me on Sunday evening. Meanwhile, I am putting off answering the letters of your dear sisters, but they are not to draw the conclusion that my feelings for you all are any less intense.

Your Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 23rd August 1838