

My dear Daughter

I am pleased to learn that you are ready to carry your cross in imitation of our divine model. That disposition is all the happier, since it immediately places you in the company of the saints. However, I think that you will have to arouse yourself to always have great courage: it would not be reasonable to follow Christ with sadness or cowardice. So be courageous, be joyful. Never melancholy. This would be very harmful to you. If, in spite of yourself, sadness sometimes takes over, shake it off by prayer, by talking with your Sisters or by doing a corporal work, according to the time of the day or your particular function.

I hope that this advice will enable you to profit by your fortunate position, and will help you to a real profession of the love of Christ crucified. You will obtain for me the great consolation of seeing you well prepared on the day of the great sacrifice when you hope to have the happiness of offering yourself entirely to God.

Your devoted spiritual Father
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 2nd September 1831