

Praise be J.M.J.

15-20

Your letter, my dear Child, gave me the greatest satisfaction. Your feelings, the way of expressing them, spelling and even handwriting are all good. I thank our good God for the talents he has given you and I advise you to cultivate them carefully so as to make yourself all the more useful to the Institute, which is completely consecrated to the service of the Holy Church.

Take great care of your appearance, your accent; train yourself to use the tone you know I wish to see prevalent among the Ladies of Mary. Good manners stands out in a person charged with bringing up children of a good family. Do not neglect anything to achieve this result.

I promise, dear Child, that I will help you with my prayers. I want to be, in the full force of the term,

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ.

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 10th December 1839

I am sending you the first volume of Rodriguez