

My very dear daughter in Jesus Christ

I am still waiting for a reply from Ostend relative to your postulant of Assche.

Here are my answers to your novices. Kindly explain them to them and point out their mistakes in style and spelling.

You cannot refuse yourself the wish for a reward: David said that he had inclined his heart always to fulfill the duties of justice, for the reward. Do not be over subtle, my Child; love our good God generously and love his rewards. Serve your divine Spouse with great and true simplicity. Be cheerful (some words crossed out) without exaggeration; appear so in all circumstances.

Ask Mme Honorine to say a few words of encouragement on my behalf to your dear invalid. I will commend you all to-morrow in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I do not have the leisure to say any more; but I am no less deeply

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 5th February 1841

If it as cold at Alost as it is at Ghent, I pity those suffering from rheumatism and those who are as unmoritfied as I am.

I like to think that your Superior will not leave you alone for a long time, unless the cold interrupts communications by railway. In that case you would have a double motive for desiring the thaw.