

Dear Sister Colombe

Your letters confirm me in the idea that I have already expressed to you, that our good God wants you to serve him with confidence and the abandonment of yourself and your ways of seeing things.

The retreat you have just made, will bear fruit; purer lights, more tender love, more generous courage, more real forgetfulness of self; those are what you will have received during these blessed days. Peaceful cheerfulness will follow.

However, do not think, my Child, that you will have no more crosses; no, it will not be so; you will have crosses, but you have the grace to bear them; that is all that is necessary. So, there will even be cheerfulness in the midst of a few troubles and when laden with a few crosses.

I am very glad to see that your classes are doing well. That is where you must try and form yourself so as to be really useful to the Holy Church. I am pleased with your letter and your handwriting. However, you must go on practicing good handwriting; you have the ability. Avoid making the 'e' like 'c'; there are a few spelling mistakes, but I think they are due to carelessness and not to ignorance of certain rules of grammar. Study grammar carefully, it is indispensable to a good mistress in the Institute of the Sisters of Mary.

Good-bye, my Child, I am leaving you, but I shall not forget you in the presence of our good God. I wish always to prove to you that I am

Your devoted spiritual Father
C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 1st December 1834