

Mademoiselle

I have weighed with the principles of Religion, the motives you have put before me according to which you are expecting a final decision on the big question that rightly preoccupies you. I authorize you to present yourself to the Lady Superior General of the Ladies of Mary. It is that Institute that the Lord deigns to call you to work to win him souls, and to sanctify yourself, under the auspices of our two august Patrons Mary and Joseph.

As regards financial considerations, my dear daughter, I take it upon myself to deal with that matter with Madame Superior General. If you have the good fortune to be admitted as a postulant, I consider it right for you to spend the holiday time with your Parents and to be back at Coloma as a pupil for a few months after that period of relaxation. Finally you would go and say good-bye to your family, two months before Easter, the time fixed for your entry into the convent. However, I am giving you full liberty to make your observations to me about these last arrangements when you see me in Ghent.

The daddy of my nieces willingly permits you to accompany those young ladies, as far as my house. But on the 27th only, will my nieces leave Coloma for reasons that my nephew will set before the Mme Superior General. You will write to Mr. your father to ask him to be kind enough to come and fetch you on the 28th. As I have not had the pleasure of chatting with him, when he brings you to me, I would like to explain to him my plans for you. In the meantime, continue, my Child, showing the good Jesus the joy, the love and the gratitude of which your heart is full on account of the ineffable favors he generously grants you.

I enclose 20 francs. Your journey will necessitate a few expenses.

Your Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 29th August 1863