

Praise be J.M.J

17-10

You gave me my dear Sisters, heartfelt pleasure, eight days ago, and I have been feeling the good effects of it all this week. I have begun a novena in honor of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and St. Francis de Sales, St. Joseph and our august and good Mother Mary as my powerful Patrons. In this novena I have been asking for the health of your dear mother, some other grace for some other person, and I will finish this exercise to-morrow, with much confidence. So it is in that adorable name of Jesus that I am placing my hopes for all of us, dear Child. You are included in the number of persons I have in mind in my special prayers during these nine days. I cannot tell you what fear and hope I experienced in receiving your letter and reading the news you sent me with so much friendship. Accept my thanks, and join me in softening the heart of your divine Spouse in our favor.

I ask you, dear Sister, to look at this list, and see what books you have received and whether you send me the price for them. You will return this list to me with your reply. May our good God deign to grant us often the sweet satisfaction, to you for sending me, and me of receiving news like that of last week.

I have experienced another consolation, my Child, that of seeing the great zeal the Lord is giving you for the salvation of your pupils; that is a great grace and you must foster it by responding to it with courage. You will perhaps be the instrument of the salvation, I will say, of the perfection of several souls. Persevere, and do not let even serious difficulties ever be able to halt your efforts. It seems to me that you will have the consolation of seeing your pupils follow with courage and perseverance the good impulses you have given them. I ask our good God for this other grace and I assure you that if you think I can do anything more to help you, you will always find me in reality

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 18th February 1837