

Reverend Mother Clothilde

I received your letter of the 6th the day before yesterday at Alost. I am pleased to see that you want to follow your star, and that you are seeking help in the ordinary means that your divine Spouse puts at your disposal. That is a sure way, follow it courageously; it will infallible lead you where God is awaiting you. It seems to me that your dear Sister Olympiade is taking the best course which is to stay a few more days at your convent so as not to have to return there in a short time. Tell her that everything is going on very well at Alost, but that the very Reverend Mother is looking forward to the moment when she will be free to go to Bruges, where her presence is needed. Mother Elise left there for Ostend with several companions last Monday. They will be very cold, those poor children, but our good God will take care of them. It is for his cause that they have the happiness of undertaking the work that is calling them to that place. It seems to me that the boarding school fees cannot be more than 500 francs, for the reasons you put before me and because we can increase them later, if the Lord blesses your efforts. I will be very pleased to see your prospectus before you get it printed. At Easter, or even before then, I will be able to give you a young sister; try and arrange things so well that the time you spend in the class does not interfere with your other duties.

How happy I am, my dear child, to see you about to have the one who is your special treasure in your midst. O how good is the God of Israel! How much you are to be envied for being under the same roof as the one whom Heaven is not vast nor magnificent enough to contain! Always be sensitive to that mark of the special love of the Spouse and repay that ineffable love. Love and all will go well: love is the complement of the law, Church History tells us. Do not omit anything that true zeal may suggest for inspiring similar sentiments in your dear children in Jesus Christ.

Give my compliments to all the sisters in your community and especially to the Rev. Mother of St. Joseph's. It is needless to tell them that I am always very sincerely and intimately united in Jesus Christ with all of you; they know all about that

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 11th January 1838