

Reverend Mother Clothilde

The illness of our beloved Sister Aloÿse, which obliged me to travel to Brussels, is the reason why I have put off until this moment replying to your letter of the 10th of this month. You have no doubt been informed of all the concerns the severe trial that divine Providence has sent to our convent of the Holy Angels. You must recommend our dear sick Sister and the convent she is in charge of to our Holy Patrons and your heavenly Spouse. May we appease the Lord and preserve that very distinguished subject whose position is still very uncertain! Reverend Mother Olympiade is a marvel of courage and of generosity. May the author of all that is good be a thousand times blessed.

It seems to me, Reverend Mother that you are not taking any risk in accepting the conditions proposed by the father of the postulant about whom you have written to me. But would it be necessary to enroll her in the boarding school to learn French? A lay sister would teach her well enough at Mouscron, while she does the duties of a sister destined for work.

I have had the woman who sells vestments, and the chasuble you coveted. She offered it to you for 380 francs, you tell me, and to me she presented it for 225 francs. I think it would have been easy for me to get it for 200 francs. The financial difficulties we are in prevented me from making that purchase and paying off your bill from Lyon. The word consequent that you use to mean "too strong" is of no value. You should say too expensive or too considerable a purchase. Consequent means acting or reasoning in conformity with one's antecedents. We are acting in conformity when we love God whom we say and know to be worthy of our love.

I am delighted to learn of the fine displays of success that our good God is pleased to manifest in favor of the convent of the Queen of Angels.

Take care of your health, dear Child, and of that of your sisters. You know the feelings on that subject of

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 17th February 1838