

L.S.J.M.J.

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Your letter, my dear Child, whatever you say, gave me great pleasure. I like you to write to me with this simplicity in which I recognize the Daughters of Mary and Joseph. But you will do better at revealing to me the heart which belongs to Jesus, my divine Master, if you take more care in expressing yourself. I insist on that before everything. Your short account shows that the good God is trying you, in allowing the enemy to stir up the bad foundation in you which results from sin. You must recognize that as the gentle solicitude of your divine Spouse to purify one whom he loves; you must humble yourself, but never be discouraged. Love, then, the practices of humility, and ask permission to do so. That is for you the quick and certain way to perfection.

Apply yourself to your studies with courage and perseverance. It is not through violent efforts, but calmly and repeating, that you must be taught. What you do not understand at first will seem easy when God gives his light. Take care of your handwriting. Every week give some time to writing a page or two carefully. Do not write letters in the vulgar way: for example, échec instead of é_chec, choc instead of c_ho_c, etc.

For the rest, I am pleased with your efforts, also be assured, my dear Child, that I am from the depths of my heart your very devoted spiritual Father.

Receive my blessing

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 26th April 1833