

(The top of the letter is cut off)

Your two letters have given me great pleasure. You are quite right in saying that the kindness of His Em. the Cardinal is a thing worthy of our liveliest gratitude. The letter you received from him seemed to me to be worth preserving. It is Mary who obtains these marks of encouragement for us. Let us show that good Mother how aware we are of her attentions which are only the preludes of the more outstanding favors she has in store for us.

I do not think that the treasure of Superiors (Translator: seems to be the name of a book) can be of use to you. You would do better not to take it.

Treat your zealous novice prudently. Weigh up her ardor and moderate her naive tendency to tears. That Child would wear herself out, her physical strength would succumb, and her spirit would resent it. Let her love gently, sigh peacefully and await the sweet moment when God will let her offer an orderly and total sacrifice.

(Reverse side: The top is cut off)

Tell your dear Children that I do not stop recommending them to the Lord through the mediation of our good Mother Mary. Give them my compliments and in particular (the end of the line is effaced) of whom I have had less direct news for some time.

Like me, you must have noticed the many mistakes that disfigure that otherwise very interesting letter that Mme Alexandrine wrote to you. Do not say anything to her about this remark of mine, but require all your Children to write well and correctly always, and to speak in the same way. That is essential to such an extent that we will not achieve the aim of the Institute, if you do not conform better to my wishes than you are doing at present.

Good-bye, my dear Child; you can count on my zeal in fulfilling the pleasant duties imposed on me in my position as

Your Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 7th of the month of our august Mother Mary 1839