

Very dear daughter in Jesus Christ

I thank you for the greetings you have just sent me on the occasion of the feast day of my patron, and I equally thank your dear Children for the sentiments of filial affection that inspire them. I hope that our good God who has fashioned the very sweet bonds that unite us in his heart, will answer our prayers, and that we shall have the happiness of serving him with zeal and perfection ever more worthy of him. I congratulate you especially, dear Child, on your restoration to health, and am persuaded that you will use it faithfully in the service of our good Master. You must have heard that our dear Sister Bathilde, after receiving the last signs of that real affection that our Reverend and zealous dear Olympiade bears for all of you, has departed with confidence to render an account of her conduct and receive the prize of victory that the grace of Jesus Christ has prepared for her. ... (The bottom of the page is cut off)

The letter of Mme Marie Charlotte gave me great pleasure; that Lady has only to follow the directions of the sentiments our good God gives her heart, to become a good religious, and to write in a very pleasing way. I am praying to our Holy Patrons to obtain for all of us, that we may make the graces bear fruit that divine generosity grants us so lavishly.

Receive, dear Child, the blessing of

Your ever devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 28th July 1839