

Praise be J.M.J.

17-26

Reverend Mother

I put off answering you in the hope of doing so in person, but seeing myself in the midst of more or less urgent occupations, I do not know what to do. Tell me sincerely; is my presence so necessary as to oblige me to put myself out and to put off other business?

If it is possible, it is better to finish the work on the old building before the winter, rather than after it. I am not saying anything about the front: you can see from the street that the construction work is going on.

Do the day pupils still go to the parish for Mass, and was it not sufficient to take them to your chapel? In any case, I think the time has come for keeping your Rules at Malines, and no Lady must go out of the convent.

It seems that the lay novice Colette Van Aken that you sent to Belleghem will not be staying there. You will have to give her dowry back; it was you who kept it.

I pray our Lord Jesus Christ to bless, enlighten and strengthen you.

Your very devoted spiritual Father

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 21st September 1839