

Madame Superior Clothilde (Name added)

The novice we sent from Alost to Belleghem, or rather the lame postulant who, after receiving the veil at Belleghem, left the Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph, last year, has returned to her family in Brussels. The Superior at Belleghem has sent me 12 francs belonging to that girl. If you can find her, you will send her those 12 francs; unless the Mme Superior General thinks the small sum should go to her Institute to pay for stay of that girl at Alost.

I am enclosing an interesting letter from my cousin Pauline. You will read it with the Mme Superior General for your consolation, but under the seal of secrecy. The Mme Superior may keep it. It is a proof that this person is not yet lost to us.

Arrange everything so well that the multitude of tasks does not harm either the instruction of the pupils or good order; nor the recollection, nor the health of your dear sisters: moderation in everything.

It seems to me that a hand is expensive at your painter: 70 francs! It is enormous. Please tell him so. At Ghent, the portrait of the Rev. Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, with a hand, and all of it very carefully done, did not cost 200 francs. The painter took into consideration as Mr. Cels might have done, the position of an Institute occupied with constructions and other expenses at the moment.

You can see from the variations in my writing, that I have written this "in installments" as Mme de Sevigne used to say. I find it a convenient way: it offers me the advantage of saying things when they come into my mind. It is more important to you to have useful things from me than to have carefully written phrases. I have not undertaken to be your teacher of handwriting and literature; I would fulfill my duties badly. What I want to be and that always, is

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ.

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 28th July 1840