

Madame Superior Clothilde

I give thanks to God for the favors he is showering on your house, and congratulate you on being the fortunate objects of his blessings. I like to think that your sincere gratitude will allow the Lord to continue his kindness; so I refrain from exhorting you to it.

The plan of which you speak to me needs to be further matured. Your present house employs ten subjects; now, if we have to base it on that example, shall we have subjects in a large enough number? For the rest the whole of this affair will be dealt with Mme the Superior General. I count on going to Malines in about ten days time.

I thank you for the information you have given me of the visits of Mr. the Superior of the Josephites from Brussels. I shall use it very prudently.

Tell your dear Ladies that I thank them for the beautiful letters they have just sent me, and that some of them rather resemble, as it were, little pieces of eloquence, as Mme de Sevigne would have said. I am very pleased with the sentiments found in them. I do not have the leisure to answer them and besides there is no great need. Let your Ladies be good enough to reflect for five minutes before the Blessed Sacrament and they will receive the answers for which they have asked me.

I must however tell you that the handwriting, generally speaking, has not improved. Yours, my good Lady, is becoming more and more insignificant; further progress of this kind and I shall be obliged to send your letters back to you for you to make them legible. You know I set store on reading what you write to me. Remember me also to your sisters.

I must finish; the letter has to be taken to the post. Receive my blessing and always count on my sincere devotedness.

Your Father in Jesus Christ  
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 6th February 1841