

Praise be J.M.J.

17-40

I have just received, my dear sister, the letter you sent yesterday. It seems to me that our good God will deign to grant our prayers, and that, after the trials, we will be able to rejoice with full hearts at the sight of fresh favors. Let us have confidence in the protection of Mary and her Holy Spouse. Jesus Christ will have pity on us. I do not cease to implore him by all that is dearest to him. I beg you, my child, to forbid anyone to tire our Reverend Mother. You alone may see her, and the others once a day for a moment, and in your presence to receive her blessing. Sister Agnes ought not to be in the infirmary; her weakness will have done harm to the Rev. Mother. I also beg all the community not to relax in any way; for fear of delaying the moment of mercy. Read this to the community.

You may read to Mlle Colette No. 1 and 2 that follow, if you think it is good.

I give you my blessing and I beg the Lord to give you light and strength with calm and confidence. You know how sincerely I am

Your very devoted spiritual Father

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

2nd of St. Joseph's month 1836

You must not stamp your letters; they are worth more to me than the cost of carriage. You will find in the case containing the chasuble a circular announcing the death of our dear Sister Eugénie, and a copy of a new collection of Flemish works printed in Ghent.

Would you not find it a good thing to subscribe to De Verzameling, a copy of which I am enclosing herein? It would provide reading books for the Flemish section of the congregation. For a small fee, you would obtain in the long run and inexpensively, a collection of useful works. I think I remember you distributed reading notes to the 1st section and the day pupils also, for a small fee. What is that fee? It might perhaps be needed to buy works for these libraries. The fee would provide for the cost of acquisition and upkeep.

If I had foreseen what has happened since, Sister Claire would not have left. If necessary, I shall send you a Sister novice from Grammont; write and tell me what you think about it, after talking it over with Sr. Henriette.