

Praise be J.M.J.

17-41

Blessed be God! My dear Sister, and the most Holy Virgin and St. Joseph be thanked for the great graces you have just received. I opened your letter in fear and trembling, and my joy was so great on learning the good news, that I did not have the words expressive enough to testify my feelings of gratitude to God. Glory be to the divine goodness that has deigned to grant the desires of our hearts! Let us double our efforts, very dear children, to show our heavenly Spouse how much we desire to prove our sincere and constant devotion to him. Thank Mr. Willemaers for his zeal and his attentiveness in making known to me the happy results with which divine Providence has crowned his case for our dear invalid. See that the diet prescribed by the doctor is strictly followed. I dispose of all that I have in order to hasten the recovery of our Rev. Mother; do not spare me; I have nothing so precious that I would not give it most willingly to cooperate in promptly restoring to you the Superior whom God in his mercy gave you, and whose illness has made you appreciate her good qualities better. How happy I am to see (name effaced) so near to resuming their usual occupations. I congratulate them and thank our good God from the depths of my heart. I recommend to them prudence and fidelity to what their situation requires. You know I do not want to prescribe childish precautions, but merely what the doctor orders according to the needs of our convalescents.

All yours in Our Lord Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 26th of St. Joseph's month 1836

The enclosed has been composed entirely by my godchild Colombe. Give my compliments to our Rev. Mother, the convalescents and all our Sisters. I shall commend you all specially during Holy Week. Continue to write to me and to pray for me.