

I have received with joy, my dear sister, the good news you were able to send me of the improvement there is in the condition of our Rev. Mother. You know how keenly interested I am in all of you, and consequently you understand with what feelings I learn of the favors our good God grants you.

I am very far, my child, from doubting your gratitude for the promptness with which I asked for the help of prayers of the Carmelites for our dear invalid. I am well enough acquainted with your heart to know it to be opposed to ingratitude. However, on this occasion, I shall make the remark that you must always mention that you have received my letters and tell me something about their contents, so that I know whether they have been delivered to you and whether my intentions are understood and carried out

It would be very pleasant for me to receive at Grammont, a few lines written in the hand of our Reverend Mother. Make this wish known to her, provided however that her condition allows her to give me that satisfaction.

As for you, my good child, learn from the conduct of the holy women who were going to the sepulcher of the Lord to render the homage of their love to the Lord Jesus Christ, to have great confidence and even fearlessness in the enterprises that zeal for your office must inspire in you. Neither the soldiers who guarded the sepulcher, nor the fury of the Jews, nor the other difficulties daunted them. Love and the faith which animated them gave them every hope. So hope also for all the help you will need as time goes on. Hope for it courageously and expect it from that Providence that has placed you in your present state and duties. We do not know by what means we shall succeed, but God knows and we ourselves shall also know when the time comes. So do peacefully what depends on you, the Lord will do the rest. Your enterprises will be sure to succeed to his glory. Should we ask for anything else?

To respond to your pious wish, this is what I have found it good to inform our Sisters in our convent when the Mother there is ill: Write out the first seven lines of the prayer on p. 132 of my Manual, changing 'I come' into 'we come' and 'for men' into 'for us who have the honor to be your children'. Then:

*You know, O our Mother, that the one your son gave us to represent you among us, is ill, and your children who are always weak fear that, abandoned too much to themselves, they will relax in their fervor in the service of God. Deign to come to our help; obtain the prompt recovery of our dear invalid, if that is not contrary to the very adorable will of her divine Spouse, your son Jesus Christ. O Mary, show that you are always our Mother, that your maternal heart addresses itself to the divine heart of your son, in favor of your children!*

Monstra te esse matrem,

Sumat per te preces,

qui pro nobis natus,

Tulit esse tuus.

Finally a prayer to St. Joseph: copy out the first seven lines in the same Manual, p. 104, and add to them:

St. Joseph, our Protector and our Father, your children are in trouble: she who among us takes the place of your chaste Spouse who is our Mother, is unable to look after us. Alas, our weakness is enough to tell you how important it is for us not to be long deprived of her presence and the effects of her solicitude. Deign to join Mary to obtain for us what we ask for humbly and with confidence. Amen.

You will say these prayers in the morning after meditation.

Here is a treatise on Arithmetic that Sr. Gonzague will want to examine; our brothers think a great deal of it. I shall talk about it to our Mistress General, next week.

Awaiting the sweet pleasure of seeing your Reverend Mother and all of you, I sign myself with true devotedness in Our Lord Jesus Christ

Your affectionate spiritual Father

Ghent, 6th April 1836

C. G. Van Crombrughe