

My dear Reverend Lady

To save the times of your Reverend Mother General, I will address to you what I was counting on writing to her about the young postulants.

I am happy to learn that they have obtained the favor of being admitted to exchange their lay clothes for the livery of our good Master Jesus Christ. I like to persuade myself that, on leaving the world to obey their vocation, they have higher motives than promising themselves a sweet, easy life in the shadow of the cross; but that they entertain the generous determination to form themselves after the example of the crucified Jesus, so as to make known the heavenly Father, working for the salvation of souls and their own sanctification. There is no need for me to insist on the necessity for teaching your postulants what the Lord is expecting of them. You will fulfill your duties towards these young ladies, and put them on the way that will lead them to the happiness that is awaiting them here below, and being prepared for them in heaven.

I think I have informed Mme Superior General that I would not have the pleasure of myself giving the veil to your young Ladies. She will have the goodness to ask Fr. the Vicar General to replace me.

Here are a few remarks on the names to be given in your Institute. It is advisable in the choice of names to avoid:

- 1) Those that give rise to malice or embarrassing and even dangerous uses: Elizabeth - bete! (beast). I would prefer to say Eliza; Isabelle - belle! (beautiful) etc. etc.
- 2) Names made ridiculous, hateful, low or dishonest, whether in novels, the theater or by scandalous, tragic or comic events, etc.
- 3) Those that are disproportionately long, hard sounding, unpleasant, foreign, etc.

All the same, I do not want to carry things to scruples or minute details.

Please tell your postulants and especially Mlle Beyens, that I am making it my duty to pray for them. Among other things that I recommend to your attention, there is the handwriting of the novices. In our Institute this is an important matter. I wish you yourself my dear Lady to preach by example in this respect.

I always say with pleasure

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ  
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 21st January 1859

Please give my kind regards to Mme Superior General.