

Yes, my dear daughter in Jesus Christ, I did receive your letter of the 15th of March. You gave me pleasure by reminding me of events that awaken sentiments of gratitude. Souvenirs of that kind are useful; the author of so many graces that have been accorded to us has the right to receive expressions of our gratitude and it must be sweet to pure hearts to experience the need to express what they feel for their Benefactor par excellence. So, render our good Jesus love for love, and prove to him that you understand his desires and ask only to be able to satisfy them. You are fortunate, my Child, in having to form privileged souls destined like yourself to serve the Church of God, to occupy distinguished places in the heart of Jesus Christ, to be instruments of his mercy, to become his Spouses!

In answer to your letter of the 29th of March, I will tell you that it will not be possible for me to receive the vows of my dear Children. I regret that, but tell them I will try and render them through my prayers all the services that depend on me. They will on that account let me know what they desire me to ask the Lord for each one of them.

I would need a few days in May to talk with Mme Superior General, with her councilors and the other Ladies, the Sisters, the novices and the postulants. I will try to settle the matter of the postulant you wrote to me about, in the way you suggest. You will have a very good subject in her, if I am not mistaken.

It is good for you to know that Mlle M Louise received from me, or rather her mama paid with the gift I made her for her daughter, what has been paid for her dowry at Coloma. Mlle M Louise knowing that it is because of some remarks of mine that she has not made her vows with her companions, might in time to come, harbor doubts about my attitude towards her. Profit by what I have just made known to you to reassure her as to my attitude which, in reality, is always full of charity towards her.

The cure of the novice of our Sisters of St Joseph at Ostend, which occurred on the feast of St Joseph, is being maintained. The premises of the Josephites in Brussels are sold for 566,000 francs, and several other favors obtained in the course of the month of our Holy Patron add to the obligations we are always under to St Joseph and our dear Mother Mary.

Many good wishes to Mme Superior General and to the dear Ladies her councilors.

Your devoted Father in Our Lord Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 3rd April 1859

Tell your Lady Novices that I recommend them to apply themselves with love to all that the Church reminds us of in this time of the penance of Our Lord.