

Your letter of last Sunday gave me great pleasure, my dear daughter in Jesus Christ. You remembered that I have difficulty reading fine writing, and I was able to reread your letter without tiring my eyes. I thank you for that attention. The visit of our Rev. Mother General produces the same good effect everywhere. One finds, in the procedures of that Mother, what in religion one has the right to expect as a religious and as an inferior. There is only one voice on that matter in the whole Institute. May God be praised for it! My health is improving. Thank the Lord.

Here are a few words in reply to your children. You will read them privately to each one of them.

To Mlle Lejeune. I congratulate that dear child on having borne with courage the difficulties aroused by nature and exaggerated by the devil who is jealous of what God is preparing for the friend of his choice. Stress that privilege of being chosen from among so many thousands and of being chosen by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, etc. I am making it my duty to help Maria to thank the Lord for his ineffable goodness, and to ask for the graces necessary to prepare oneself to put on the livery of our good Jesus, in a spirit of faith and of charity. I am very pleased with her letter.

To Mlle Apolline. Confidence and the desire to make oneself more and more capable of serving our good God in the state of perfection to which the Lord is deigning to call her, give me the certainty that this child will walk with a firm and generous step behind our good Jesus. I congratulate her on her good dispositions, and tell her that I am very pleased with her writing.

Mlle Adélaïde. The sentiments with which this dear novice is animated gives me the hope that in her we will have a useful, generous subject, who will form herself on the model of Jesus, the most perfect of models. Let her above all learn from her model meekness and humility and progress of every kind will come and confirm my predictions.

Mlle Antoinette. Our good God is giving her the grace to understand that a vocation to the religious state is a special favor and of infinite value. Let her cherish that happy disposition with which our sweet Jesus deigns to adorn her. Prayer and a generous devotion to all that Holy obedience demands and to what the Sacred Heart of her future Spouse suggests to her; those are what will provide the nourishment our dear Antoinette will use specially to strengthen what grace has endowed her with. Tell her that her brother, Mr. Ignace is well and that, as the opportunity arises, I will give him news of his sister the novice.

I give you, as well as your novices and the dear postulants, my blessing.

Your Father in Our Lord Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

(1859)