

(Catalog Number 18-129 duplicated)

L.S.J.M.J.

18-129(2)

Madame Superior

Your two letters respond perfectly to what I wanted from you, in the interests of your Postulants. Those young ladies have written to me, as you suppose in all confidence and naivety. They appreciate the favor that divine munificence is preparing for them.

Please read what precedes to those young ladies; and add that I make it my duty to help them with my prayers to prepare themselves for the happy moment when they will have the signal favor of exchanging their lay clothes for the humble but holy livery of Jesus Christ, our good Master and divine Savior. Try Rev. Mother, to make the Postulants understand the very honorable and indeed sweet but very real obligation to imitate that adorable model and follow him in their conduct. Now, what meekness, what humility, what obedience, what zeal for the glory of his Father and the salvation of souls there is in Jesus Christ! So it is to form themselves in these virtues that the elite souls are called whom the Lord deigns to choose for Spouses. Convince them that, helped by grace from on high, your children will gradually get used to mortification of the eyes, of the tongue, of all the senses, of heart and of mind.

You will communicate privately to each one the liens that concern her alone.

I have written to Marie. But I have had to reflect on the subject of the name to give her. After mature reflection, I suggest to Mme Superior General and to you, that you give my niece the name Kostka. Her Jesuit uncle is called Stanislaus. Mlle Mahieu has happily triumphed in the struggle that the enemy, pressing on the weak side of the young lady, cleverly aroused. I thank our good Jesus. It is to his grace and the love he bears that young person that your dear Elise owes the happy ending of the combat. It is a warning that our postulant must take account of. She needs to discover without delay all the temptations of the devil. I tell her that out of that feeling of devotedness that I experience for her. Her letter gave me great pleasure. I hope that we will understand each other perfectly. I very much approve of her being given St. Theresa as a patron. Let her be named Teresa.

Mlle Defrenne whom I have already seen and I am very pleased to see among your postulants, will render service to the Institute by her piety, by her prayer and by her example. All our subjects do not have the same function to fulfill. Your dear Hortense, will acquit herself to the satisfaction of our good God, of the one that obedience gives her.

The motive that makes her desire the name Joanna is worthy of a good child. I prefer Joanna to Jeanne.

I have made the acquaintance of Mlle Flore de Myttenaere. I remember talking to her when she was a boarder with our Ladies at Mouscron. I am happy to see her among your Postulants. Her character and dispositions have remained very clearly in my memory. Her natural courage, perfected by grace, will cause her to triumph over the difficulties she may meet and the dispositions God has given her for the Holy state that she desires to embrace will make that young lady suitable for various positions. Let her study our great model Jesus Christ, and I predict success for her in the career which she enters. She may count on my devotedness to help her.

I do not like the name Laure. That of Augusta has nothing to do with St Augustine. It is simply the feminine of Augustus. What about Rénilde? Guislène? They are saints of our Belgium. The abbess Aldegonde? Emilienne? Julienne? You will want to choose and to decide.

Be convinced, Rev. Mother, that I am praying specially for your lady postulants and for your novices. On Saturday I will have offered the Holy Sacrifice for your children before the clothing ceremony. I am sorry I cannot come to Coloma.

I am happy to learn that Mlle (illegible) has triumphed in the end. I wish her to give herself the assurance that she will be entering.

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 3rd December 1860

