

Madame Superior

The more I weigh up what you wrote to me last, the more I think you will overcome the difficulties. They are in fact, more of a type of fearful apprehension than in real things. Perhaps it would be desirable that you, the Superior, be present at recreation with your religious. You would do well, I think, to speak to Mme Superior General about it. It seems to me she will understand that. As for the other points, you may believe that, it is forgetfulness or inadvertence on the part of your Rev Mother. I urge you to act with confidence, and sometimes ask for explanations with simplicity.

Do you have meals at the required time? How long do they last? Are the dishes for the religious well prepared and are they of good quality? Are they varied and always in sufficient quantity? I am not asking for an immediate answer.

The letters of my nieces Louise and Gabrielle gave me pleasure. Please thank those dear children for their attentiveness in giving me news of themselves. How is Teresa? Doesn't her uncle go to see her too often? Do not the visits do harm to the recollection that child needs in order to look into her vocation? How is Flore d'Halluin? and Mlle Van Wambeke, how is she? You may tell her I have asked for news of them and I am praying for them especially at Holy Mass.

As it is important for the affairs of Mouscron to be known as they really are, I urge you to read the enclosed letter. You may have full confidence in Mme Constance. You will then deliver this letter from Mme Constance to Mme Superior General giving her a definite assurance that I have the intimate conviction that Mme Constance is speaking sincerely and that one can believe what she asserts. I beg Mme Superior General to write to Mme Constance that being unable to do so myself, she will kindly write on my behalf to give her the definite assurance that our good God is the author of the peace the heart and soul of our dear daughter in Jesus Christ, Mme Constance is enjoying. I also authorize Mme Superior General to inform Mme Emerence of the letter of Mme Constance, as she must also know the real state of things.

Receive my blessing, my dear niece.

Your very devoted uncle and Father in Jesus Christ  
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 12th December 1862