

Madame Superior

I thank you for the news you have given me and the good wishes you offered me on the feast day of our Holy Patron. I can tell you also that I acquitted myself of my duties towards you, towards your Rev and beloved Mother Superior, towards your dear Sisters, your novices and your pupils.

The letter of Mlle Justine gave me great pleasure. Please tell her so and add that I will specially commend her to our good God, these days, and above all, on the day when she has the happiness of consummating her sacrifice by abandoning all she has and all she is to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Among the motives for rejecting certain names, length is also to be included. One finds that four syllables or five pronounced as four like Olympiade, Marie Charlotte, are the longest that are acceptable. Marie Joséphine, Marie Henriette go beyond that limit and must not be allowed, unless there is some special reason for allowing an exception of this kind.

Since there is already Joséphine in your Institute, your novice might, if you think it good, receive the name of Josépha alone.

I am not for Marie Kostka, Marie Gonzague; nor Irene because of Siren (mermaid). Duplicating names must only be the exception.

Present my congratulations to Mlle Antoinette and tell her that I am also commending her, with zeal, to the Lord, during these holy days. I like to believe that she will think of me, at the moment of her profession.

Urge your postulants and novices to equip themselves with sentiments of generosity towards Jesus Christ, our Savior, in memory of what he has deigned to do and suffer for us.

Please, Madame Superior, tell Mlle (illegible) that her letter has given me great pleasure. I have understood the sentiments that animate that person. We will get on perfectly with each other. It is not easy for me to write to her, at this moment, any more than to the other young ladies. You will kindly be my interpreter to all of them. They may count on my prayers and devotedness, until we have the opportunity to talk to each other in person.

The Josephite novice, Mr. Ignace, will have the happiness of going to be edified at the profession of Mlle his sister. We are still very pleased with that novice.

The first impression Clara has made on the members of the family and on the governess is in her favor. May our good God make the future justify our good impressions.

The letter of Victorine also shows a change in favor of that niece. There are signs of more reflection and care in it. I am awaiting her report to give me a better basis for my judgment.

Your devoted Father in Our Lord Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 25th of the month of St Joseph 1861