

Madame Superior

From the depth of my heart, I thanked our good Savior yesterday for the graces he has just granted us. It was the happy day on which the Church celebrates the feast of the august name, at which every knee bows in Heaven, on earth and even in hell. It is in the name of Jesus that we are working and that our work is accepted by the Heavenly Father. It is the virtue of that name that accomplishes the good and crowns our efforts. To him then be all honor and glory now and through the ages of ages! Amen. Do you not think so?

Immediately after receiving the letter that our dear Superior General sent me by way of Alost, I wrote to Mme Marine, recommending to her that prudence the dictates of which we sometimes lose sight of, and to ask her to submit to me all offers relating to the house, vis-à-vis the Church, the halls, etc.

Mr. Vermissen will soon be acquainted with the intentions of our Ladies, if proposals to sell, etc., are being dealt with and he will conclude that we are thinking of acquiring his premises. Please thank Mme Superior for informing me of the good news with such promptitude.

At Mouscron they must be informed that the grounds for our convent are vast enough for them no longer to be obliged to take the pupils out for a walk. The Ladies of Mary cannot conduct establishments where that would be necessary. I hope they will also avoid sites offering other drawbacks, such as neighborhood views, the nature of the ground, etc., incompatible with what our various needs require.

Receive, dear daughter in Jesus Christ the blessing given to you as well as to all the community by

Your Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 19th January 1863

If I have not thanked my dear nieces enough for the signs of affection they have addressed to me, I beg you to make up for my inadequacy. They are very pleased with Clara.