

Madame Superior

I am most obliged to you for the prayers you have offered up for me during these days of preparation for the feast day of our Holy Patron. I too acquitted myself of my duty towards you and your pupils, especially my dear nieces. Please tell the latter so and add to Teresa that I understand the importance of the favor she is soliciting through the intercession of St Joseph (that of knowing her vocation), for earthly happiness and eternal salvation, and that I am taking care to unite my prayers to those of that dear great-niece, so that she may come to that knowledge. A picture, a souvenir of her Lady of Mary aunt, having fallen into my hands by chance, I think that this souvenir may be useful to the niece. But let that be and remain between and us alone.

Since I have the opportunity, I will remind you of the duty in conscience of each of the members of the council of the Rev. Lady Superior General to be prudent and to weigh their opinions carefully, when it is a question of the use of the property of the Institute and of the convents. Now that they are building at Coloma and are going to do so at Alost and Mouscron, it will be doubly necessary to avoid all excess, for fear of exposing the Institute to some catastrophe.

Let us pray St Joseph goes on giving us his fatherly help and to lead us through the difficulties of life to the abode of the blessed, where it is no longer possible to make mistakes.

I give you, my dear daughter, in Jesus Christ, my fatherly blessing.

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 17th of the month of St Joseph 1863