

L.S.J.M.J.
(Dictated letter)

18-161

Madame Superior

As I needed to go to the doctor this morning, I took advantage of the fact to ask him for some explanations about the health of Mme Superior General. This is what he prescribed for your Rev. Mother: take cod liver oil after supper rather than in the morning; infuse half an ounce of Icelandic lichen in a pint and a half of water reduced to one pint and take half a pint a day; then put a plaster of Burgundy pitch between the shoulders; in short Mme Superior cannot afford to neglect those symptoms of ill-health. So, please tell her that I add my recommendations to that of the doctor. I thank you, my dear niece, for the congratulations you offered me on the occasion of my new dignity. Be kind enough please, to be my interpreter to my dear nieces, telling them of my feelings of gratitude for the sentiments so full of cordiality that they wrote to me on the same occasion. They will forgive me for not writing to them directly, my eyes still need great caution.

Receive, Madame Superior, my blessing with the assurance that I pray for you every day, and for your very interesting house.

Ghent, 7th November 1863

(In the Founder's hand)

Your Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe