

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

18-164

Madame Superior

Receive my sincere thanks for the lines that you added to the letter of Louise, and that contain the expression of your feelings of devotedness towards me. Be very sure that you are not forgotten in my prayers.

I see with great satisfaction that the reports of my dear nieces Louise and Gabrielle are very satisfactory and that of Julienne gives evidence of greater efforts than usual on her part.

Please, thank Mme Cécile for the care she lavishes on my great-nieces.

All your relatives in this town are enjoying good health, thanks be to our good God. On Sunday, I will have my two nephews Joseph and Théophile and their sister Maria to dinner. It is to prove to them the satisfaction I feel with their behavior and diligence and to reward them for the good wishes they offered me, on New Year's Day, in the presence of the whole family.

I learned with pleasure that Mme Josephine is recovering gradually. Please tell Mme Louise that I like to think she is thanking our Holy Patrons with me for that recovery.

(In the Founder's hand)

Also tell your novices that I urge them to study well the sweet mystery of the Child Jesus. In it they will get an understanding of many things that your explanations would not render as evident as the suffering Son of God, humiliated but always patient and submissive. Why and for whom is Jesus reduced to that state?

Receive, my dear daughter in Jesus Christ for yourself and all your dear Sisters, the blessing of

Your devoted Father
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 15th January 1864