

My dear Niece

(Dictated letter)

I repeat to you with real pleasure that I am very edified by the sentiments with which your pious mother and your brothers and sisters have borne this trial to which our good God has subjected the family. This very Christian submission is already beginning to bear fruit. The union, the courage and the wisdom of the steps taken that one observes among your brothers and sisters are visible blessings with which the Lord is rewarding their generous abandonment to his adorable will.

Please make my excuses to Mme Superior General for my delay in giving her information about the matter she had entrusted to me. The success of the steps I am taking is becoming more and more uncertain. It will be 10 or 15 days before I will write to her the decision. I think it necessary to tell her that I have not delivered the letter she sent me.

My health is gradually improving.

I will try and acquit myself with zeal, of my duty of commending to St Joseph, next month, Mme Superior, all the Sisters and the pupils of her whole Institute; it goes without saying, my dear niece, that you will not be forgotten in my prayers nor will my great-nieces.

(In the Founder's hand)

Your very devoted uncle in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 29th February 1864