

Very dear Sister

I have read and reread with great pleasure the details you have given me about my young children, and I have been thanking the Lord for the blessings he deigns to shower down on us. A feeling of lively gratitude will remain with me, I hope, in memory of the blessings we have received in such abundance from our good God. I do not doubt, my child, but that you share that feeling and also making it your sweet duty to be grateful. The enclosed letter that Sister N. addresses to you, will also give you pleasure.

I think that the means of persuasion and patience you are using with your pupils are the true means, and that one must not readily use others. Hearts will be generous when one mistrusts oneself, is less astonished at one's imperfections and puts all one's confidence in God. It is the unhappy I, that is the obstacle to this peace of heart. So, often tell your beloved children that to be at ease they must occupy themselves with our good God, rather than with their own selves. So let them be generous and always cheerful so that people who see them may learn and be convinced that one is happy in the service of God, and that spouses begin here below to taste the happiness of heaven, through the purity of their hearts and the conversations they have with Jesus Christ. A good religious converts many people by her appearance alone, if she shows what she must be.

Take care to get those who are weak to take nourishment from time to time, so as to acquire for them a good temperament and thus to put them into the possibility of rendering great service to the Institute, for one needs virtue, knowledge and health in order to be really useful.

I give you, as well as your dear children who are also mine, my fatherly blessing. May our good God grant you his holy love! Your happiness is mine; the father must not be separated from his children.

C. G. van Crombrughe

Ghent, 1st September 1834

I think that at the end of October I will have the pleasure of seeing you; do not talk about it yet except to your Reverend Mother and the young Sisters to whom that could be useful. If all goes well, I will give the veil to your good postulant, to whom I will reply when I have leisure; tell her I am pleased with her letter.