

Accept my dear Sister, my thanks for the good wishes you sent me. I too pray our good God that he will deign to purify you more and more so that the fire of divine love may act in your heart without constraints.

It will be very pleasant for me to work towards the happiness of your nephew who is very well, may the Lord be blessed!

I was touched by what Mlle N. wrote to me, our good God is purifying that soul by the trial, may she take care not to be upset by what is happening to her. She is preparing herself for a holy life full of merits, if she goes on with confidence and cheerfully according to the good pleasure of God. Tell her how keenly interested I am in her happiness. I would willingly impose privations on myself, if I could in that way hasten her entry into religion. Tell her above all not to get upset in any way - from the trials she must gain 1) a firm and gentle character; 2) an amiable appearance which is not upset by annoyances; 3) a purity of soul which makes her pleasing to the Angels; 4) a tender love for Jesus Christ, whose spouse she is hoping to become; her writing is befitting. Let her go on with her studies.

I give her my blessing. I give you as well as your children my fatherly blessing.

Your very devoted spiritual Father

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 7th January 1836