

Dear Sister

I thank our good God for the favors he does not cease granting us; and finding it impossible to do so in a way that would befitting, I pray our august Mother and immaculate Virgin as well as our Holy Patron, that chaste Spouse of Mary, to be kind enough to be our interpreters with the Lord. Yes, we have powerful motives for believing that our children are destined to do good in the Church and that they will be instruments of mercy in the hands of God. Let us rejoice in the Lord, at the memory of these proofs of his goodness towards us, and redouble our efforts to correspond with grace. Not having time to answer all the letters I have received from the convent of St. John the Baptist, I charge you to say to the novices what follows:

To Sister N., that she is received for holy profession, that she must manifest her gratitude, fix her attention on thoughts that are in conformity with the goodness of God, and not worry about all that happens to her against her will; she may give herself up to affections in meditation if they have humility and the love of God as their basis. Let her concern herself with Jesus Christ and not so much with herself and her own thoughts.

To Sister N., that she is admitted to profession and must attach herself to our Savior Jesus with confidence without worrying about dryness. That is how to serve God for God's own sake and not for consolations that are too tangible.

To Sister N., that she is admitted to the Holy Vows and must rejoice in the un-hoped for favors God is granting her. She must be cheerful, generous and never set her mind on sad ideas; melancholy is her most terrible enemy. If fasting tires or saddens her, she may not observe it to its fullest extent.

To Sister N., that she too is received for Holy Profession, and that God is asking of her much confidence and love. Let her be generous and cheerful; the rest will come in due course as she needs it.

Add to all that whatever you find good to say, in accordance with my heart, and the needs of each of your children; you are in a position to fulfill my wishes in this respect; the grace of your office is the proof of that to me. I will intensify my prayers for these dear novices. I ask them, in my turn, for a more frequent memento in their communications with the good God.

You may, in circumstance like those you write to me about, grant Holy Communion to the novices.

I will hasten my arrival among you all the more, as it will be possible for me to bring forward the happiness of your dear children.

Be courageous; be cheerful all of you, as it is right for people to be whom God favors with so many blessings. Let everyone know and see by your manner that you are happy to be in the service of Jesus Christ.

I am to you and to your children without reserve and with the feelings of a Father

Very devotedly

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 24th March 1835

Give my kind regards to Sister N. and Sister N.; let them advance with confidence towards our good God; let them try and educate themselves with cheerfulness and for the glory of the Lord, I am also devoted to them in Jesus Christ.

