

My dear Sister

You are right in saying that the letters you have just sent me will bring me fresh pleasure. Yes, I am delighted to see that your children are responding to the kindness of the Lord. Those kindnesses are great, and it would be deplorable if those who receive them did not understand that. Tell those dear children that and add, first of all to Madame N. that she is to keep carefully her peace of mind and generosity towards her divine Spouse. Say the same thing to Madame N., let them no longer make an urgent study of the past; they are purified by this new baptism and consequently it would be superfluous for them to occupy themselves with their past life. Let them also continue forming themselves in the sciences and knowledge proper to their holy vocation. I am very pleased with their writing. Tell the novices also that their letter was a source of real joy to me; that I will help them with my prayers and with all the means that are in my power. I do not have the leisure to write to them directly, and I charge you with saying to them, as your heart dictates, the most encouraging things. All our children know how much I love them in God, but you must repeat it often. You would have much difficulty in exaggerating it. I pray very often, several times a day, to obtain for them purity of heart, and rectitude of mind that gives courage, cheerfulness and that generosity that produces true Daughters of Mary and Joseph.

Talk often to them about our dear Aloÿse; in her they have a perfect example of what they are to be. I recommend the month of Mary to all of you; let us try to get this holy month to be truly a time of graces. For our part let us love this august and very good Mother and have unlimited confidence in her love. Let us rejoice that we have Mary as our Mother and her Holy Spouse as our Father. I give you and your children a big blessing, beseeching the Lord Jesus Christ to add to it his own blessing which is all powerful. I also have the pleasure of in calling myself

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 22 April 1838