

To Madame Marie-Anne (Fragment)

I cannot get used to the idea that the novices are no longer in touch with me, and no longer give me any news. It is true that the number of those young plants that are called to replace our Ladies is reduced almost to zero, and that one thinks perhaps dispensed for this reason, from writing to me. I do not accept that that is to make me indifferent. So, you will resume the former habit, and tell me about the novice and the young religious.

(Fragment)

But must the novices sign Mlle N.A.? That seems odd to me. I urge you with all my might, to impress deeply on you the importance of your beautiful office and the merits you will reap in Heaven. Always be cheerful and generous; take care of your appearance; be amiable so that your children may imitate you without danger. Work at making their hearts generous so that they may become holy spouses and in no way frightened slaves; it is Jesus Christ who wants that. Many humiliations, but ones that cause their hearts to swell and remove timidity from their minds; exercises of penance, but ones that are most to be feared. But, I perceive that there is no necessary space except what is needed for telling you that I give you my blessing and am your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ.

C.G.V.C.