

My very dear Sister

I experienced a lively consolation and one that I will long remember, during my last stay among my beloved children; may our good God be eternally praised for the great mercies he bestows on us.

You must also have experienced such pleasant sentiments at the sight of the goodness of your heavenly Spouse that the memory of them remains deeply impressed on your soul, so that nothing is any longer able to lessen the effects of divine love in you and in those whom you are called to lead. So to have always the means of reminding you of Jesus and of those you have to help, often ask as Jesus did of the two disciples who were going to Emmaus: With what are your occupied? That question will always bring you back to Jesus Christ, the heavenly Spouse of your soul. You will learn to walk constantly in the presence of God and you will find a resource against the temptations of the enemy. You will sanctify everything and be daily loaded with new riches. You will make yourself more and more fit for the designs of mercy that God has on you and your children.

Good-bye my dear Sister, continue your good prayers for the one you know to be very devoted to you and who likes to say so, because he is

Your spiritual Father
C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 24th April 1833

Tell the dear novices to preserve the joy, the fruits of that sweet peace Jesus has given them. Sweet, simple cheerfulness must never abandon them. It is a necessary adornment for those who are destined to become the spouses of Jesus; a smiling face on which is imprinted the calm of the children of God, animating and enlivening everything. The true means of obtaining that good appearance is to keep at peace the heart for which that of Jesus was sad, and after death pierced by a lance so that his children's hearts may be joyful all their lives and live on after death, as St. Francis de Sales remarks.

Get them to understand that this holy cheerfulness is not dissipation. I also want my children never to measure my affection by the small size of my letters. I often write on small sheets of paper to avoid the expense of the carriage of letters and also to save my time when I write several of...

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