

My dear Sister

I cannot stop myself from adding a few words to this parcel for you. First of all, I will tell you that a postulant from A. is arriving who will deserve special attention. I think she is a chosen soul. It would be a good thing to recommend her to Sister N., to whom I have written a note; then you will give me a few details about Sister N. I also think the Lord has designs on that good soul.

You will try and get Sister N. to love our good God and be less afraid. What God has already done for her proves how much she is loved by God. Her devotion mingled with so much fear offends the fatherly heart of her Creator. If you succeed in getting her to reform on this point, I will admit her to profession with the other novices, and tell the novices I am talking about their profession and urge them to think about it often so that they may prepare their hearts in which Jesus is soon to be the sole master.

Reverend Mother General who, I think, is animated with the spirit of her state is of the same opinion as I am about the way you are fulfilling your office as mistress of novices. So do not allow yourself any more fear or doubt. Be cheerful and courageous. God will show what his grace can do in the souls that have confidence in him. Ah! my dear Sister, that is true devotion. To believe, to love and to hope - it is on that basis that we respond to the promises of God: that we recognize his kindnesses and that we feel the fire of love light up more and more in our poor hearts. So love your divine Spouse very much and you will communicate those chaste flames to those you are called on to form for that same God-Spouse.

The feast of the Sacred Heart that we are celebrating next Friday will succeed, I hope, in lighting in all of us that love with which the adorable Heart of Jesus burns incessantly. Speak in my name to Sister N. of the confidence we must have in the Heart of our Savior. It was sinners that the divine heart came to seek and save, so we are the ones he has redeemed. Let us in our turn love this God who so loved us first.

Good-bye my dear daughter in Jesus Christ. I give you a blessing and wish you a great advance in the love of that same Jesus Christ.

Your devoted spiritual Father  
C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 23rd June 1832