

Reverend Mother,

I am delighted to see that you wish to be obedient in spite of the objections of nature. May God be praised! All that God wants in these circumstances is that we be courageous and our will submissive. This is the condition to which attaches his grace and all the help we need to fulfill the designs of Providence. Consider Mary, our august Patron, as soon as the Heavenly decree is known to her, she answers the admirable Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum. The most sublime function ever confided to a creature, the most extraordinary consequences, the sufferings, the most unheard of humiliations, nothing could stop the consent of Mary for one moment. God wishes it; God desires it; that is all I wish to know: Fiat, fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum! There is the model; if we study her, we shall not hesitate in front of difficulties. St. Augustine said: All is equal where God's will is equally found. So we must carry out all the duties which the Lord deigns to confide to us with equal zeal. We must not consider our inclinations or our own satisfaction; we will accept them with generous and humble submission. Whether they are exalting or humiliating, easy or difficult, we see the greatest delight of the beloved of our heart, and we accept what it pleases him to grant us. We must not be led astray by the various subtleties of self-love; we must not fall into the snare of false humility which might only be a real lack of generosity or even a sort of laziness. The holy and ever adorable will of God, generous obedience to this divine will, that is the goal and the summary of perfection. So, dear Child, adore God's will by submission without question to what we have decided. Follow the example of Mary your Mother, and the almighty power of heaven will be with you. Be a willing instrument in the hands of God and you will have the happiness of procuring the glory of your divine Spouse. I shall make a point of praying for you during the Holy Sacrifice, as long as I live. You know how pleased I am to perform this duty. I wish to prove that I am sincerely,

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent 14th Dec. 1837

This is a letter which I request you yourself to give to the Archpriest Mr. Bosmans. You will do well to go and greet the 'Grands Vicaires' on my behalf, and request their good offices. Also, go to the Sisters of Charity and ask for their prayers. They are the children of one of my great-uncles; they will welcome you warmly and you can count on the help of their prayers, as soon as they know of your plans. The priests at the College will also be of great assistance.