

Reverend Mother,

I cannot tell you how happy I am to see the sentiments expressed by my dear Children. Their filial piety and full confidence in Mary is the most pleasing evidence I can have from them that they really wish to be what I am trying to make them: worthy daughters of the Mother of Jesus Christ and true spouses of that loving Savior. May Mary, on this day of her triumph, deign to accept the simple expression of the love of her children; may abundant graces from heaven come down on our religious family, and may we all, without exception, become instruments of mercy in the hand of divine Providence. That briefly, is the most ardent wish of my heart. Reverend Mother, please tell my Children this once more and assure them that I shall pay much for them tomorrow. I will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for our family and Mary will deign to accept our vows; this august Queen of the Saints and the Angels will join her prayers to ours to obtain an abundance of heavenly favors, on our Sisters and on those pupils God has confided to our care.

It is impossible for me to answer all the letters which gave me so much pleasure. I will answer them verbally before long.

Your very devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 11th August 1839