

Madame Superior

(Dictated Letter)

I was very pleased to receive the wishes you addressed to me for the feasts we have just celebrated as well as for the New Year that we are entering upon. I too have asked the Lord on your behalf and that of your dear Sisters, for new graces in proportion to the needs of each of you.

(in the Founder's hand)

I was edified to read the letter of Mme Kostka. God has deigned to grant that dear niece and god-daughter, exceptional favors, and in particular, that of understanding that she must be grateful. Please tell her from me that the Lord asks her to be also very confident in his goodness. For the moment I do not have time to answer her letter, but I wish you to tell that beloved daughter in Jesus Christ, that I thank her for the prayers she is addressing to the divine Child on my behalf, and that I in my turn, am trying to acquit myself of the commitments I have undertaken towards her. I am also very pleased with Clara and Léonie. The latter is going to prepare for her first communion at Doorzele.

I have also seen in your letter, Madame Superior, that the touching feast has given you new courage in your position as superior, the importance of which divine Providence has made you understand.

Kindly tell all your dear Sisters, I am commending them with all my heart, these days, to our good Mother Mary and the divine Child who is the subject of our hopes in time and for eternity.

Your Father in Our Lord Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 4th January 1864