

Madame Superior

I thank you for the good wishes you sent me for the feasts of Christmas and New Year. You may be certain that I shall not forget you during these days of grace, and that I will often commend you and your community to the divine Child and his Holy Mother, in order to obtain for you the continuation of the heavenly blessings that are raining down on you in abundance. For your part, be grateful; you know it is the best way of obtaining fresh favors. Repeat that often to all your dear children. I have not failed to pray for your nephew; may he be a worthy minister of Holy Church, a faithful friend of Jesus Christ.

I have not seen the brother of Mlle Clémentine, but I have received a letter from the father, which I have not answered. These parents seem to be to be rather exacting.

The difficulties arising from the new constructions at Malines, and other reasons oblige me again to grant some help to our convent of the Queen of Angels, and, all reflections made, I have resolved to send Mlle Clémentine there. So, please send that novice there as soon as possible. It is useless for her to break her journey at Ghent; she will book her place from Courtrai as far as Malines itself.

What a pleasure, Reverend Mother, to see your new dormitory filling so quickly. I am longing to enjoy the beautiful sight of that lovely corridor in the middle, where the image of our Mother Mary must produce a wonderful effect. If the (page torn) was going as far as Mouscron, I would have already obtained the pleasure this sight must produce in the hearts that love God.

During the night, this week, burglars got into the house of our Josephites at Grammont. They took nearly 3000 frs and one of the religious almost became the victim of his own courage and of the brutality of the burglars. A warning to all houses of education.

I shall do what prudence allows me to do in favor of Mlle Sylvie. I have seen her; she came to my house, but I have put off any decisions until around Easter.

So count, Rev. Mother, as I have told you to do, on the infinite goodness of God, on the love of Mary, St. Joseph, our holy Angels and our holy Patrons; and finally count on the good will of

Your devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 22nd December 1839

I have received a novena of the Prince of Hokenloke. It begins on the 26th of this month and ends on the 3rd of January. Now, the month of January is the month of Jesus.