

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO MADAME OLYMPIADE DERVILLE
First Elected Superior General: Superior General 1840-1858
Born Nov. 23, 1812; Professed March 19, 1834; Died Aug. 15, 1887

In the Congregational Archives the letters in the Founder's writing are numbered from 1 to 374. The original number system is followed here even though only 106 letters and numerous fragments are extant: Letters dated 1833 to 1851.

L.S.J.M.J.

6 -1

In your letter, my dear child, there is rather too melancholy a tone; I do not like those extremely vague accusations made against a soul that is so dear to me. Oh! you must not tell me that you no longer have any faults, I would not believe it; but do not tell me either that you are not making any progress in the way of perfection. It is certain that you have received many lights since you have been in the convent, and I dare to assure you that you are often doing violence to yourself. I understand that you have not triumphed over all your enemies, but you have discovered them and a part of their strength is lost as a result of that. Continue with humble, meek courage and you will make yourself pleasing to the one who has chosen you out of thousands and thousands to prepare you for the greatest dignity you can attain here below. So be meek and humble.

I am taking note of the last words of your letter, but you will go on all the same, without fear, without mental reservations: Jesus will be yours and you will be his! Amen. As for me, I am lovingly

Your very devoted spiritual Father
C. G. Van Crombrughe

Ghent, 25th October 1833