

Madame Superior

I have seen with joy, that you are putting your confidence in God, that you are not afraid, and that your whole community is joined with you to ward off the storm by faith and the means our position as children of Mary and Joseph provide us with. Very grave circumstances warn us that nothing is great, nothing is powerful; nothing is lasting here below, unless God gives his support, unless his hand is there to sustain it. Let us detach ourselves more and more from creatures in order to attach ourselves in reality to the Creator who alone is great, alone unchangeable, alone worthy of all our affection.

I hope that devotion to St. Joseph will grow in Belgium. The needs of the nation will contribute towards stimulating the zeal of our compatriots, and we will have the happiness of seeing our holy Patron receive homage more universal and more genuine than he had for a long time been receiving in a country that is more specially consecrated to him. Let us try to bring it about that our humble family shows by its zeal, it is worthy of the fine privilege with which it is honored of being, amid a nation of the servants of St. Joseph, still more specially devoted to honoring that august Patriarch and being the children of predilection

I like to persuade myself that the Madame Superior General is temporizing, in the affair of the novice for good reasons. I informed her some time ago of your feelings and mine about that poor person.

Kindly recommend all your dear children on my behalf, to take great care to commend us to St. Joseph, while commending themselves during the lovely month we are beginning. I will make it my duty to do that for them with zeal and confidence.

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

Ghent, 1st March 1848