

Madame Superior

The sentiments that have presided over the writing of the letter you dear pupils addressed to me are too good for me not to do all I possibly can to bring it about that the clothing of Mlle Victorine takes place at the convent of St. John the Baptist. I have already made sure that the rules on this matter are not opposed to granting the request of your children; the Madame Superior General would willingly accede to you wishes, and consequently I am happy to enter into your designs and grant what your pupils request in terms so pious and worthy of the education they are receiving from the Ladies of Mary.

You will therefore, Madame Superior, be kind enough to fix the day, in consultation with the parish priest, on which the clothing will take place, and to inform Mlle Victorine of that decision as well as the other persons who are interested in the happiness of your happy postulant. You will be good enough above all to make known to your dear good pupils that it is with real satisfaction that I am giving them this proof of my affection and sincere devotedness.

Receive, Madame Superior, and for all you holy community, and all your pupils, the blessing given from the depth of his heart by

Your Father in Jesus Christ  
C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 23rd July 1849

You will look into whether it is appropriate to ask the parish priest to do the ceremony, or whether it is better to seek the ministry of your chaplain.

I beg you to tell Mme Léonardine that her letter satisfies me in all respects, and that she is not even to think of the matter she wrote to me about, which moreover is of very slight importance.

Please, remember the souls of my nephew Arsène Van Crombrugghe, brother of your sister Mme Félicite, and his wife, carried off by cholera on the 19th of this month. Their eldest son, aged 5 or 6 years, followed them to the grave the next day; and the apprentice of the chemist on the following day. We have had great reason for consolation, in the Christian dispositions that the dear departed brought to bear on their preparations for their last sacrifice. The epidemic has lost much of its intensity.