

Praise be J.M.J.

9-11

You see, my very dear Child, that our good God is taking care of you and does not lose sight of you. That excellent Father; that tender Friend, that loving Spouse wishes to try you; but that is one of the surest signs he is watching over you. So, depend on him entirely; he loves you and he is almighty. Think of Jesus as a fugitive with his Holy Mother and St. Joseph in Egypt. Admire and imitate his humble submission; admire and adore at the same time the gentle treatment of the Providence of his heavenly Father, which leaves his divine Son in that foreign land until the death of Herod. Await with confidence the moments of God; they will come, count on that, but in peace and humble submission.

Do not lose sight of the opportunities that are offered; knock on the doors of your benefactors. Arouse the attention of the parish priests whose names you gave me; even allow yourself wise importunity! Your divine Spouse will send his Angels to serve you according to the designs of his mercy.

I authorize you to do what you consider appropriate with your girl; but act prudently. Rev. Mother Olympiade will call at your place on her return from Malines. You will take counsel together about that and the other difficulties.

It seems to me that more than ever Sister Gonzague must at last recognize the illusion with which the devil has been deluding her for so long. I cherish the hope that she is going to open her eyes and perceive the precipice on the brink of which she is so imprudently walking.

Express to your good and charitable Mlle Thimpont, the sentiments of gratitude I feel and am not in a position to show her in person. I am commending her to our good Patrons and divine Jesus; we are celebrating the feast of his august Name tomorrow. You realize you will not be forgotten, neither you nor your children nor your benefactors.

Next week I intend to deliver to Monsieur Dellafaille, at the Ministry of the Interior, the aims and needs of the establishments of the Ladies of Mary at Brussels.

What do you think of a plan that I am considering and that would consist of sending the Novice Eulalie to spend the last six weeks of her novitiate at Mouscron, and of sending to you in her place, Sister Stéphanie? The latter could perhaps learn English. Talk to our Rev. Mother Olympiade about it.

Our Sisters of St. Joseph, led by Mother Elise, left last Monday to begin a house at Ostend. The cold did not frighten that little colony. May the fire of divine love given them the strength necessary to overcome all the hardships of their undertaking. Sister Augustine is remaining at Bruges; her health is not better; I have just received a letter from her which gives me much pleasure.

Good-bye, my dear Child; be brave; be generous; Jesus is our friend! Let us walk in his footsteps; the odor of his divine sweetness will cheer us and lead us to the summit of the holy mountain where heaven will reveal itself to our eyes.

Receive for yourself and all your house the blessing of

Your most devoted Father in Jesus Christ

C. G. Van Crombrugghe

Ghent, 13th January 1838

I forgot to write to our Rev. Mother at Malines that I learned at Nomm...bosch that the Archbishop has written to the Bishop of Namur that as the Ladies of Mary have been established at Malines, he may not allow the Sisters of N. D. to make a foundation there, as they had applied to him for permission to do through the Bishop of Namur. You could perhaps send this letter to Rev. Mother Olympiade.