

17th September 1806

To Mr G Van Crombrughe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.
Mondidier, 17th September 1806

Very dear Father,

The joy with which I learned in your letter of the 11th of the month that my dear Mother will be coming to bring François here would seem very weak if I were to express it in a letter. That is why I ask you, my very dear Father, to forgive me if I don't really express it now.

I was very surprised by the news of the death of Mrs Verhaeghe; what a loss for the children!

As for the information that you asked for concerning classes, I can't give you the necessary information, but I will try to make you to understand as best I can through my dear Mother, by letting you know the authors with which we will begin the course.

Please, very dear Father, tell François that I am impatient for his arrival; I would like to be able to write him a brief word but the little time I have left makes this impossible; I ask you therefore, very dear Father, to give him my very best wishes, and to tell him it would oblige me greatly if he were to take it upon himself to present my respects to Aunt Namur and her family, to my cousin Elisabeth and to everyone I know, and to embrace my dear sisters and my brother Jean. He will, I hope, be I very happy here because there are some very fine boys of his age here. If only I could tell you everything face-to-face, but the hope of telling you everything through my dear Mother comforts me.

I would like to take the liberty, my very dear Father, of making another request. I would be afraid to bother you with my requests if I did not know that you have never asked anything more particularly of us than to consult you in everything. It is in this spirit that I dare to send you a list of books that would be very useful to me and that I would like François to bring me. Firstly, a work in two volumes that you bought at a sale from a country curate with my cousin Albert Spitaels, but I have forgotten the title; it is about the duties of a curate. Secondly, *Télémaque* etc., son of Odysseus, in one volume. Thirdly a work in two volumes in Flemish by our Uncle Huleu. I believe that it concerns the practices of perfection by Alfonse de Rodriguez¹. Fourth, *Cosmographic Journey through America*. Fifth, *Vlaemsche Chronologie*. Sixth, *A Treatise on Gaiety* (which would be very useful to me). I leave it to your good judgement to add or remove any.

You tell me, very dear Father, that it will be Sunday 28th of the this month that my dear Mother will arrive in Amiens; if it is your wish I could go to meet her in Amiens; for that it would be sufficient for you to tell me your wishes so that I can tell Fr Le Blanc.

I ask you give my every good wish to all the family. I have the honour to be very sincerely

Your very loving and submissive son

C Van Crombrughe



¹ Van Crombrughe would refer to "Rodriguez" in his letters to Josephites.