

11th October 1806

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Businessman in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.
Mondidier, 11th October 1806

Very dear Father

This is the first free moment that I have found to express to you, on occasion of your feast, the concern that I have for your prosperity. It seems to me, very dear Father, that nothing that I could say would convince you so much as if I were to tell you that I pray to St Guislène to ask for graces for you, as much for prosperity in your life as for the salvation of your soul. I know that one of the greatest graces that you can have here below is see your children fulfilling the ambitions you have for them. I will strive, therefore, to provide you with this grace with God's help, in fulfilling better and better my duties as son and as a Christian.

I have just learned by letter from my Uncle Joseph Spitaels that my dear Mother arrived safely home, but at the same time I am sad to learn that he is ill. I have already written to him as he wished; may it please the Good Lord that he recover through the intercession of St Joseph to whom I continually address my humble prayers to this effect.

François is well and very happy here, but the poor child has trouble in making himself understood by his schoolmates, but it won't last long because he has an easy nature and a good memory. As he didn't know that I was writing to you today he didn't have the time to add a letter, but he asked me to give you his best wishes, and to ask you to embrace his dear brother Jean and his dear sisters for him. Please, very dear Father, do the same for me.

I have run out of time, study has begun; I can write no more and I am afraid that in my rush to tell you so much I have actually told you too little; because I fear that you will have difficulty in deciphering my writing, but remember that it is a student's writing.

I have the honour to be very sincerely

Your very devoted and submissive son

C Van Crombrugghe

PS: Please present my respects to my Aunt Huleu, to whom I will write the next time that I write to you.

