

30th June 1807

To Mr G Van Crombrugghe, Brewer in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut.
College of Montdidier, 30th June 1807

Very dear Parents.

Here I am writing to you again to send you my report and François'. I hope that you will have the satisfaction of seeing that François has done better than previously in class. If it is the case please say so in a letter to me so that I can speak about it to him. It has been proposed that I should ask you to make him spend here the holidays here, but I dare not do so; besides it is not very feasible since it would be too long a time before he saw you again. If however, dear Parents, you want him to stay (which would not make me very happy) you might, perhaps, do a lot of good for his studies.

For the rest we are well, and we are happy to see that the time approaches when we will see each other all together. Ah! indeed, dear Parents, it is a joy which we will, perhaps, not have often, so it seems to me that this is all the more reason for us both to come home together.

On the feast of St John the Baptist Jean we saw some very moving sights. Firstly, two children of the ages of twelve and fourteen were baptised. How beautiful these ceremonies are! At the same time they are a good moment for those that are already baptised to remember their own covenant with God. Alas, very dear Parents, these are truths about which we have hardly been reminded, and it is important that one knows them. It seems to me, dear parents, that it would be very good to instruct my dear sisters about this.

Then we had some First Communions. Oh! what joy one felt at the sight of this ceremony! When one sees children, who look more like angels than weak mortals, approaching the Holy Table to be fed with God's body. Oh! If you had seen with what joy they went before the altar of the Lord to promise that they would always remain attached to the God who does them so much good. In vain would I tell you how moving it was; I could never give you an adequate idea of it!

I finish therefore, dear Parents, in commending myself to your prayers and assuring you of my tender devotion,

Your very submissive son

C Van Crombrugghe

PS: Please, I ask you, give my good wishes to all the dear family and especially to my Aunt Huleu.

