

14<sup>th</sup> August 1809

To Mr G Van Crombrugge, Brewer in Grammont, Dept of the Escaut

My very dear Father and Mother

I am writing to you to pass on an observation that Charlotte made in her last letter, and which she thought I should tell you: Cecile won't need a bed and anything that concerns it (excepts sheets, which are not of good quality), nor napkins, nor towels, nor mâle<sup>1</sup>, nor table setting except a goblet, as she will inherit everything from me. Something else that we thought to tell you is that it seems that Sister Beaudemont is waiting for your answer to her letter and it would therefore be a good thing to write to her. It seems that you are not sure of how to arrange the journey; that is what my Cousin Vandenhende wrote? If I may give you my opinion, I believe that it would be necessary that my dear Father should make the journey. Several reasons make me think this way: first it is the best way to restore his health; he is pretty much of the same temperament as me and every year the journey from Flanders does wonders for me. Then it will hardly be possible for me to enter the seminary without anyone seeing my Parents. He would need, therefore, to travel to Gent at the end of the holidays if he does not do so now. Knowing his taste for the beautiful monuments to the taste and piety of our Fathers, I will show him in detail the magnificence of the cathedral. Everything is in better order than last year; the divine office is celebrated with an imposing majesty, especially since the establishment of a boys' choir. You will see that the useful and the pleasant are united in this plan which is shared by Charlotte. Please, I pray you, dear Father, tell me your wishes; I hesitate to say this but I feel I have a certain right to ask you this more than anything else; I have to tell you, somewhat naively that it seems to me that you could not refuse this request, the first that you can grant this year.

I wrote to the Superior of the Seminary in Gent to ask for a room in the old building. I also asked for and got my certificate of exemption from military conscription as the one that His Eminence the Bishop had given me was not on stamped paper and was not adequate. So I will be ready at the end of this month. If it were possible that you could be in Amiens from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> that would be marvellous. I would be able to see Fr Sambucy, who is not yet back, and you know that I would want to make him my adieus face to face. I must not omit here that you should see Sister Beaudemont; she is a unique person, but a Lady without pretension; it is a pleasure to speak with her and her merit is unquestioned.

While waiting for the pleasure of seeing you, my dear Father, in Amiens and my dear Mother in Grammont I call myself with the greatest respect and the most tender devotion

Your very devoted son

*C Van Crombrugge*

Amiens, 14<sup>th</sup> August 1809

PS: Please remember me particularly during this octave; tomorrow is the anniversary of my first communion. May Jean find here an assurance of my love, and the same for Cecile. Forgive the disorder of my letter, my enthusiasm has driven me too far.

