

Life and Letters
of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Volume One
1828 - 1852

Founder

Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
Fathers and Brothers,
Congregation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
and a Eucharistic Association for the Laity

Translated and arranged chronologically by
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CONTENTS

VOLUME I

1828 - 1852

Preface

General Introduction

I. The Early Years

Latin student at St. Robert's Hospice
Novice with Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Departure from Pastorship at Monteynard

II. Belley 1839-1844

Marist novitiate
Spiritual Director of Marist Boarding School

III. Lyons 1844-1850

Provincial Superior of the Marists 1844-1846
Assistant and Visitor General Sept. 1846-1851
The Revolution of Feb. 1848 ff
La Salette - Apparitions and Miracles
Spiritual Director of the Third Order of Mary

IV. La Favorite April 1850-1851

Substitute Novice Master for the Marists
Novice Master
Parish Missions
Third Order of Mary canonically established

V. La Seyne-sur-mer Part I, 1851-1852

Director of the Boarding School
Spiritual correspondence with members of Third Order
of Mary - Lyons
Chaplain to sailors and prisoners
The Revolution (cont.)
Spiritual Guide to Adoration of Toulon

Appendix I - Excerpt from the journal of Marguerite Guillot

Appendix II - Minutes of a Third Order of Mary Meeting

Appendix III - Preface to Volume IV of the French Letters

-Fr. Edmond Tenaillon

PREFACE

To translate the thoughts of a Saint is an awesome task. The risk of losing a profound intuition in the literal translation of words is ever-present. But the risk is worth the effort nonetheless in the hope that English readers will be able to benefit to a degree which would otherwise not be possible.

For the first time, the letters of St. Peter Julian Eymard are being presented in English, and for the first time in any language, they are being presented chronologically. The purpose is an attempt to reconstitute the life and letters of our Founder in as close a combination as possible. This will be as close to an autobiography as we can obtain posthumously. The originals show a remarkable flexibility of relationships. He adjusted to every person. His use of vocabulary, style and form vary sometimes very sharply from one person to the next. It is hoped that this characteristic has not been lost in the translation.

Here and there between the letters, biographical information is inserted to help place the letters in their context of life and events. Over two thousand one hundred letters have been taken from 5 published and 3 unpublished collections, reorganized chronologically, completed with footnotes and interspersed with a chronology of events and a list of topics taught in retreats and conferences.

To read St. Peter Julian's letters is to get to know him from within, and to find a friend and spiritual guide. The trivial details of daily life transport us to the life-style of the 1800's in a France beset by class struggle and revolution. We find a man who befriended every class of society. I pray that all readers will discover in Peter Julian Eymard the man, a friend and a saint with whom to study, learn, be guided, struggle and teach.

Key

The technicalities of translations deserve some consideration and explanation. Our effort was to be more literal than literary, to stay as close to the original text as possible, while however striving for smooth and readable English.

The headings for the letters are followed with a code which will enable the researcher to locate the original French letter and know the number of letters addressed to this correspondent. For ex.:

Miss Marianne Eymard (III 1/145 VI 10) means that this is the first of 145 letters to Marianne Eymard in the French Vol. III and that there are also 10 letters to her in the French Vol. VI.

St. Peter Julian often used abbreviations to begin his letters and after his signature. The meaning of these will be given in a footnote the first time the abbreviation is used. Ex.: A.R.T.E. = May your Eucharistic Kingdom Come! Abbreviations used after the signature have usually been written out in full when they were simple enough. Ex.: Sup. = Superior. Others are left as abbreviated when they did not translate easily from one language to another.

The capitalization of words by the author has been respected and left as in the originals. Therefore, Heaven, Will, Providence are constantly capitalized, which reveals a certain sensitivity or importance given by St. Eymard to these spiritual realities. However, the letters from Vol. II (to Marguerite Guillot) do not follow his usual pattern of capitalization. These were probably not transcribed from the original manuscript to the French publication. Other words were capitalized in English though they were not so in French, because custom or meaning required it. Ex.: Mass, Society and Work, when the latter two words referred to the Religious Institute he founded or other works being undertaken in the Church of France at the time. The capitalization of the word cross and the words he, his and him, when referring to God, has been left as in the original.

Another pattern of his which has been respected is that of placing dashes when least expected, or an exclamation point in the middle of a sentence, or a colon to precede an explanation.

Although it was customary for diocesan priests to be called Mr. whenever the context is clear, these have been translated as Father, as is current in English use.

The list of topics taught at retreats and conferences is incomplete. But it is the one presently

available to the translator. Conferences given to the priests and brothers of the Blessed Sacrament are indicated by the abbreviation SSS, those given to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament by the abbreviation Conf. Serv.

Whenever a phrase is bracketed in English, it is because additional words were needed to complete the original French thought. Lines of dots in the text, especially letters to Marguerite Guillot, indicate that the text was made illegible by the recipient (crossed out).

The determining guide in placing the Letters was the chronological listing of Fr. Garreau, S.S.S. Therefore, some letters have been relocated because that critical reading indicated that some dates had been misread for the French publication. For instance, in St. Eymard's handwriting May and March were difficult to distinguish, as were January and June. Occasionally, St. Eymard himself wrote an incorrect date or year as can be deduced from the postmark or content. The critical judgment of Fathers Garreau and Troussier have been followed in this matter. Other letters were without indication of date or place. These have been placed according to St. Eymard's pattern of correspondence. Letters begun on one date and finished on another have been placed at the earlier date except when the context dictated otherwise.

The Letters are divided into six volumes as follows:

I 1828-1852; II 1853-1857; III 1858-1861; IV 1862-1864; V 1865-1866; VI 1867-1868.

A short biographical sketch about the recipients of the letters has been included in the back of each volume. The content of the Appendices has not been included in the topical index.

Acknowledgements

Lastly, it is with a grateful heart that I wish to acknowledge the support and help of all those who contributed their efforts to this task: Sr. Janine Bourque SSS, who willingly researched information in the archives in Rome; Fr. Andre Guitton SSS, France, who supplied previously unpublished letters and responded to requests for clarification; Fr. Edward Stalmans SSS, Belgium, who supplied a travel journal; Fr. Gerard Busque who researched the archives of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Rome for the photographs; to those who assisted me in producing the maps: Mr. James Benefiel for his research and Mr. Joseph Montano for computer outlay; Mrs. Margaret Denat from Australia, who did the rough draft of translation from French Vol. VIII and part of Vol. VII; Mrs. Judith Abeyta who transcribed the initial translation from cassette to paper; Sr. Josephine Roney SSS and Sr. Kathryn Kelm SSS, who typed the first three volumes after the initial corrections; Fr. Normand Falardeau SSS, who verified the authenticity of all translations with the original French texts; Mrs. Virginia Reva, who reviewed the English idiom and grammar; Mrs. Julianne Hultzen and Mrs. Amy Miyaki, who put the text on computer; and those who helped with proofreading: Margaret Martinez, Mary Ann Halliday, Norah Ryan, Amy Miyaki, Joe and Kay Fischer, and Sr. Kathryn Kelm; to Mr. Georges Andreson of Guyner Printing Co. for his patience and professional suggestions.

In addition to these major contributions of time, work, support and love, I also wish to thank those who gave a lending hand and encouragement along the way: Sr. Marie Julien Fortin SSS, Sr. Rose Anna Ouellette SSS, Mrs. Nikki Ryan, Miss Sandra Roberts, Miss Linda Going, Fr. Joseph Roy SSS, Sr. Virginia Connors SSS, Sr. Simone Tardif SSS, Sr. Edna Mary Cardozo SSS. If anyone has been forgotten, please forgive me, and know that your reward will only be greater.

Chronological listings of events have been compiled from chronologies available from the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, various biographies, and drawn from the letters themselves.

In the Lord,
Sr. Catherine Marie Caron SSS,
translator

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO ST. PETER JULIAN EYMARD

LIFE AND SPIRIT OF ST. PETER JULIAN

St. Peter Julian Eymard was born in the French Alps on Feb. 4, 1811. He lived very close to the church, and his mother would take him there every day for visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Even at an early age, he was sensitive to spiritual things. However, it was to be a long, long journey before Peter Julian could finally realize his vocation to spread a love for the Holy Eucharist in the Church of France and found two religious congregations and an association for the laity.

Although he always wanted to become a priest, the way was not easy. His own father bitterly opposed his vocation and Peter Julian began studying Latin in secret. After the death of his father, he was free to follow his vocation. He entered the seminary for diocesan priests at Grenoble, and at the age of 24 he was ordained a priest on July 29, 1834.

He was sent to the town of Chatte as Assistant Priest and 3 years later became Pastor at Monteynard, where he was greatly loved by the people. After two years among them, every parishioner received Communion at Easter-time.

During the time he had been assistant at Chatte, an event had occurred which marked his spiritual life very profoundly. While he was spending an afternoon of prayer he was overwhelmed by a sense of the goodness of God. This experience marked his preaching and counseling from that day forward. He referred to this event until the end of his life. Meanwhile his desire for the religious life kept haunting him. He was attracted to the newly-founded Marist society and sought permission from his Bishop to join it.

He held many positions in the Marist Society. While he was serving as Provincial, he was asked to carry the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of the city of Lyons on the Feast of Corpus Christi. During this two-hour procession, he confided all the needs of the Church, of France and of the world to Christ the Lord. This was another important moment in his life. He wrote in his private notes: "Since the beginning of this month I feel a very strong attraction towards the Eucharist. It was never so strong before. This attraction impels me to bring everyone to love Our Lord, and to preach only Christ and Christ in the Eucharist."

One day, as Father Eymard was praying in the chapel at the shrine of Notre Dame de Fourviere, he was strongly moved by the spiritual needs of priests and religious. He was also struck by the fact that all the mysteries of Our Lord's life had religious orders to honor them. The Holy Eucharist alone, the greatest of mysteries, was without its own religious group to honor and glorify it. There should be one. From then on, he was haunted by the call to work for the Eucharist.

Little by little he came to consider the foundation of two congregations, one for men and the other for women - the Congregations of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers, and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament - destined to make the Eucharist the center of their life and spirituality, to adore the Blessed Sacrament perpetually exposed and spread the fire of Eucharistic love to all. He wanted this grace to extend to the laity as well and inaugurated an Association for them.

Having consulted the Holy Father to know whether such a work would receive his blessing, he also consulted three Bishops in Paris to know whether the idea came from God. He received a favorable answer from both quarters and he left the Marists to begin this eucharistic work.

With only one companion, he began exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris in 1856. Many of those who had promised to come did not do so. Two years later he invited Marguerite Guillot and a few other women to join them, to begin the women's branch. Marguerite Guillot, his principal collaborator, had been guided by him for many years in the Third Order of Mary, while he was with the Marists.

Father Eymard began his two Congregations in the midst of great difficulties of poverty, loss of credibility, rash judgments and misunderstandings. Nevertheless, when he died, the Blessed Sacrament Fathers were located in Paris, Angers, Marseilles and St. Maurice in France, and Brussels in Belgium. The sisters numbered 60 and were located only in Angers, after failing in their efforts to establish a new foundation, which had caused St. Eymard many heartaches.

Father Eymard was a friend of the poor and the lower classes of French society. During the French revolution, he visited the jails and the workers in their factories. They made it a point to protect him from danger, recognizing him as a friend. In Paris he began an apostolate among young uneducated workers, providing them with opportunities to learn catechism and make their first Communion.

He died August 1, 1868. On July 12, 1925 Peter Julian Eymard was beatified by Pope Pius XI, and on December 9, 1962, at the close of the first session of Vatican II, he was declared a saint by Pope John XXIII. The Pope spoke the following words on that occasion: "Follow his example, place at the center of your thoughts, your affections, your zeal, this incomparable source of all graces, - the Mystery of Faith, which hides under its veils the very author of graces, - Jesus the Incarnate Word."

SPIRIT

The spirit that St. Peter Julian spread around him was a spirit of love - a great love for the Holy Eucharist, a love which is transforming and flowers into generous self-giving and service. His goal was to allow Christ to live in him and become the new self within.... "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me."

He focused especially on the love in the Heart of Christ at the moment of the Institution of the Eucharist - a love that reaches down the centuries to each one of us. St. Eymard felt that the spiritual life is summarized in love which imitates Christ's self-giving.

For him, the eucharist was the "now" mystery of Jesus, the mystery that sums up all the others. New theology expresses that understanding in the words "covenant" and "memorial". "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." These words from the Gospel of John were a constant inspiration to St. Peter Julian. This love for the risen Christ giving Himself continually as food, as Body broken, as Blood poured out for the life of others, was the unending subject of his contemplation. He taught a method of prayer that flows from the Eucharist, that is: adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. His prayer was an extension of the Mass. He was truly a man ahead of his time.

Emphasizing the loving goodness of God, he encouraged frequent Communion as remedy to our spiritual poverty. He prepared the way for the decree of St. Pius X allowing more frequent Communions. Placing the Eucharist at the center of the Christian life, he paved the way of a spiritual renewal centered on Eucharist which came to flower in Vatican II. Our understanding of the eucharistic presence of Christ is enriched with a deeper sense of community, as a sacrament of liberation from sin, as a call to personal transformation and communion among believers.

St. Eymard, the priest of the Eucharist, a man on fire with love for Our Lord, stands before us as a contemplative and an apostle of the Eucharist and opens our understanding to a warm, Christ-centered spirituality that is fed at the banquet of the Lord.

THE HISTORICAL SCENE

The following is an excerpt from “*Vita Eucaristica e Vita Religiosa*” by Manuel Barbiero, Verona 1991, an excellent summary of the social and historical events of this period.

“During the lifetime of St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868) political, social, cultural and religious events in France intertwined themselves with a steady and pressing rhythm.

“The following events occurred on the political level: from the fall of the Napoleon Empire (1814) to the Borbonic Restoration with Louis XVIII and Charles X (1815-1830); from the revolution (1830) with the constitutional monarchy or bourgeoisie of Louis Philippe (1830-1848) to the Paris revolution (February 22 - 24, 1884); from the Second Republic (1848 - 1851) to the coup d’etat of Louis Bonaparte (December 2, 1851) with the birth of the Second Empire under the same Louis Bonaparte who became Napoleon II (1851- 1870).

“The transformation of France was also taking place on a social level, from a ‘rural country’ - the farmers represented about 90 percent of the population at the beginning of the 19th century - to a country which set out to fulfill, so to speak, the ‘industrial revolution’. Under the push of industrial growth a huge displacement of people took place from the interior of the land, from the countryside to the cities with the consequent birth of a new social reality: the working class, the proletariat, the suburb; the ‘social problem’ was born tied to the poor conditions of workers; including the sad situation of child labor.

“On the cultural level a struggle also rose up against illiteracy, creating clear divisions between those outside the cities and among the social classes. The State’s responsibility for schools and the various laws underline how slow progress was on this point. In addition to the difficulty in creating public institutions there was also that of printing and the progress of communications.

“On the religious level the situation was still more complex. After the unexpected disaster of the revolution, the Church made an effort to restructure and recuperate lost land, to reorganize dioceses, rebuild the clergy, strengthen itself in education and restore religion.

“The signs of the revolution remained, however. They accentuated a process of de-christianization that was already in course in numerous regions. It left the clergy divided, undermined the Gallican Church, and contributed to the new climate.

“These surprising events cost the religious institutes dearly: the religious life was destroyed by the revolution, because it was thought to be in contradiction with its own spirit. It was seen as opposed to Napoleon, who thought it useless; and yet, in an uncertainty due to a lack of legal security, the religious life developed and multiplied with the same spontaneity as in the 1200’s and 1500’s.

“During the 19th century France was a nation in which the Catholic religion was a religion of the State; it had become a nation in which the greater part of the French were Catholic. At the end of the century, it declared itself to be a nation of separation between Church and State.”

It is in this social and cultural upheaval that our saint found his way of spirituality. His own faith was unwavering and he became a firm anchor for many in a stormy sea.

FRAGMENTS

The following undated fragments give us in capsule form a foretaste of the heartwarming spirituality which he was to share with countless correspondents over a period of approximately 30 years.

FRAGMENTS (VI 1/3)¹

CO 2065

1st fragment:

Love is life, creates life. Love God like a fire which is always seeking fresh fare, like a child who finds life from its mother rather than [within] itself.

Love touches all the virtues and is bound to none of them, it touches all sacrifices and calls them love, like the sun it touches all created things while remaining pure and ever-fruitful in God alone.

These are my wishes for you and my final blessing.

Eymard

2nd fragment:

May God keep these dispositions in you.

3rd fragment:

Receive Communion like a child, sigh for Jesus like the hart in the desert.

¹ According to Rev. Fr. Rene Robin, SSS, these lines appear to have been written on a letter addressed to Fr. Eymard and returned by him with the above marginal notes. The longer fragment must have been written in the blank space after the letter and the shorter fragments throughout the letter, between the lines; in fact one can see traces of a different handwriting surrounding the short fragments and preceding the long one. The original is in the Marseilles House. These manuscript notes were found in the House of Marseilles pasted inside the book by Rodriguez, Vol. II.

CHAPTER I

The Early Years.

Latin Student at St. Robert's Hospice

Novice with Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Departure from Pastorship at Monteynard

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 1/145 VI 10)¹

Saint Robert², June 30, 1828

My dear sister,

I'm writing you a few words to let you know that my health is quite satisfactory, thank God. I hope this letter will find you in good health, as well.

Let me say that I was very upset over the fact that I did not see you before I left. You surely could have waited a little longer for me. Unfortunately, it was otherwise. However, I do hope to see you this summer. It's starting to get very hot here and it would be a lie if I didn't say that I'm bored. It's worse than ever. If, at least, I had someone to keep me company, I wouldn't be so bored. But I have no one, so to speak. I pray that the Lord will have mercy on me and remove me from the abyss of disorder and crime which reign here in Bicetre.

May the Lord keep me from spending the rest of my life here!

Would you have my name inscribed among the members of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin? Since the feast of the Visitation is coming soon, I would like to become one of your associates. Feel free to choose the hour that I am to dedicate to the Virgin Mary. Please send me the holy picture which is in the book I had brought to Notre Dame du Laus.

If I am able to go to La Mure this summer, I promise to give you a very lovely sermon. Until then, accept this token of my esteem and love.³

See, I am praying to the Good Lord for all our relatives and also for Nanette, whom I look upon as my sister. Notice the expression of joy shining on my face!

Remember me to the Lord in prayer as I need it in order to remain virtuous while living among so many scoundrels.

Give my regards to the Pastor. Since I was so disappointed that I could not see him before I left I didn't even ask his sister to give him my warmest regards. I was so hurt!

I wish I could continue writing now. If it were possible, I would go on forever, but right now the paper is full. So I am closing by embracing you both in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Julian Eymard

I forgot to mention that no one scolded me; neither Fr. Dumoulins nor the Director. On the contrary, they welcomed me very joyfully. The Blessed Virgin has been very kind to me.

To Miss Marianne Eymard, at her father's
at La Mure (Isere). Urgent
(Father Eymard was then 17 years old.)

The following letter is written from the novitiate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate where Peter Julian entered in June 1829. In November 1829, he was sent home seriously ill on the advice of the doctor.

¹ This is the first of 145 letters addressed to his sister Marianne Eymard and to Nanette Bernard, their adeptes

² Hospital 6 kilometers from Grenoble

³ Here he drew a picture of himself kneeling in prayer with a cross in his hand.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 2/145 VI 10)

*L.C.M.*⁴

Marseilles, October 13, 1829

My dear sisters,

I was very happy to receive your letter. I can only admit that I am guilty of what you say. No, it wasn't laziness that prevented me from writing to you. Far from it. Time just flew by without my being aware of it, because I was spending such beautiful days with dear friends. The fact that you are in good health, as you said in your letter, made me very happy. Let me assure you that I am also enjoying good health. I haven't been sick since I arrived here. I was very surprised that you didn't take advantage of Brunel [to send me a letter]. I thought I might receive some letters from you. When I learned that you didn't even see him, I was really surprised. Knowing the circumstances, I can understand why. We lose sight of things and it is easy to forget. Your letter surprised me and it was only after a second reading that I recognized your handwriting. At first I thought it was Nanette's. I'm so very happy that you are continuing to learn. Continue, continue. I know you will succeed.

For the moment, let's talk about something else: the Sodality. Is it successful? That is what I would like you to tell me. Above all, recommend me to the prayers of the devout members of the Sodality. Continue your own prayers for me and have Nanette do the same. Pray that I may persevere to the end in the holy vocation to which God has called me. Avoid the ways of the Pharisees. That is to say, avoid the companionship of men: flee from it, flee! Do look after our Henrietta, if she stays at the house. On one occasion I saw a worker from Vanard speaking with her and it really troubled me...

If I continued to write as I would like, I would never finish. New things constantly come to my mind, but it surely is time to stop. Please remember me in your prayers. I do not and will never forget you in mine. Extend my regards to Babos, whom I forgot to visit. I keep thinking of Baret; that dear friend was kind enough to write to me through Brunel and I haven't answered his letter yet.

To close, my sister, I offer my deepest respects to you, and to Nanette, as well. And I have the honor to be

Your brother,
Julian Eymard

P.S. I am happy that you will have the good fortune to hear our Fathers.

To Miss Marianne Eymard
at her father's at La Mure.

There is a 10 year lapse in the available correspondence and Fr. Troussier questions the accuracy of the date of the following letter to his sisters. It is difficult to determine under what circumstances it would have been written.

⁴ Abbreviation for "Praised be the Heart of Mary," in Latin.

TO MISS MARIANNE EYMARD
(III 3/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*⁵

1837⁶

My very dear sister,

It is in the Lord that I am writing to speak with you about spiritual things. Since our affection is rooted in God with Heaven as its goal, it's only right that we assist one another on the long and difficult journey to eternity. My dear sister, how many times I thanked our good Master for having consecrated you to serve him as a virgin! How often I applauded the plans of Divine Providence upon you in all the circumstances of your life! All the vexations, conflicts, pain and suffering which filled your life were an indication that God wished you to love him more perfectly and gave you those opportunities to show your love for him. So you will continue to suffer. You will always suffer, because divine love always places its throne on Jesus' Calvary. Your crown of Justice must be made up of thorny red flowers, gathered at the foot of the Cross. If you really want to love Jesus, you must embrace suffering, for you must love it as the bond and nourishment of that love.

You asked me two questions: the first, what you should think about this fear of yours, the second, how you should pray. First, to reply to your fear of not having acted according to God's will, I answer: you surely could have legitimately sought a relationship with the future in mind, even without our parents' permission, because that is a natural right. With greater reason, you might have pursued a deeper relationship and yet maintained a friendship that was both reasonable and Christian. Our parents' opposition stemmed more from not finding you at work than from a condemnation for seeing you go to your girl-friend's home.

If your choice had been conducive to personal gratification and vanity, if you had been seeking pleasure and honor according to worldly standards, I would say: it's a punishment; her reward is in this world. But the cross leads me to say - God willed this state in life, he willed it in his love and certainly wills it now. If he didn't he would not have given you this inclination, this continuing attraction, this facility for union [with him]. Satan would have done all he could to prevent it. He dislikes a sacrificial path. So from now on, bless and thank God for your choice and your state in life. It's the most beautiful in the eyes of faith and love.

For the second question about prayer: In order to succeed in it, it should be done when we first awaken, when our whole being is calm and recollected. We need to make our meditation before anything else. There are some who do it even before vocal prayer, in order to profit better from the soul's recollection.

As far as possible, we should pray in a quiet and silent place. That is why contemplatives seek out places of solitude, e.g. caves in the rocks, the more solitary unnoticed places of their home or Church. Then, one is closer to God.

Try to have a favorite topic for prayer which will give life to the others [prayers]. No doubt, that would be divine love, together with a strong inner attraction, such as devotion to the Passion of Jesus, the Blessed Sacrament, holy Poverty, or awareness of the divine Presence. This then must lead us to love his divine Will.

My dear sister, be faithful to meditation, follow the attraction of recollection and union with our Lord by self-denial. Go directly to Jesus without too much fuss or preparation. Love goes directly to the heart. The child goes directly to its mother without delay. When we love someone, we no longer need someone else to introduce us - that's only for strangers.

⁵ Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

⁶ Fr. Troussier questions the year, probably Apr. 1847.

Decide on a determined [amount of] time: a half hour, an hour, according to the time you have available. But before prayer [begins], leave aside any duties which would distract you.

These are some sure rules, my dear sister. I share them with you with a brother'-s love. As a priest and religious, I beg Our Lord to give you the gift of prayer together with all it entails.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard

Fr. Eymard wrote to Fr. Dumolard regarding his plans to join the Marist Congregation (Doc. 4) and to his sisters from Grenoble after the fact (Doc. 5).

4

CO 3

TO FR. DUMOLARD⁷
(V 1/2)

October 4, [1838]

I have just received your magnanimous letter, my dear friend; your sentiments and mine are the same. Only God can will the state of crucifixion in which I had been since our separation. I wanted things to happen right away, but a thousand delays! The greatest [was] the Bishop. Yes, my dear, I know the famous words of St. John Chrysostom: "*Super calcato, Petre, perge.*"⁸

It seems to me that once I am convinced of my vocation, nothing will stop me. I made this sacrifice twice and never fulfilled it. I hope the third time will be eternal, because even if I knew that I would die on the way I would be happy! If only I had the advantage your brother had, to die in a religious house!

As for my temporal affairs, I have a few personal debts. I would like to pay them off before leaving, and I propose nothing less than to sell some of my books, and bring the rest with me.

Keep this matter so secret that they will not know our decision until after we leave!

I am working a little at writing a few fundamental instructions, in order not to be naked; but I think that we will have to make up for this winter's delay.

The Bishop will oppose you as much as he can. But I hope to have a peremptory reason. You, you have the Foreign Missions. Besides, I know as you do all the difficulties that will be involved in creating his new house,⁹ and I don't want to bear them. Besides, I want to leave the diocese, in order to be free and unknown.

Win over the Bishop, and everything is done.

Don't come to see me this week. I'm leaving for Voreppe. I am going to get the altar which Mr. de Perus made for me.

Ever and always,¹⁰
Eymard, Pastor

⁷ Pastor at Villard – St. Christophe

⁸ Peter, proceed without scorn.

⁹ The Bishop was establishing a new community.

¹⁰ French "conglutine".

CHAPTER II

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

Marist Novitiate

Spiritual Director of Marist Boarding School

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 4/145 VI 10)

Praise to Mary!

Grenoble, August 19, 1839

My dear sisters,

I paid Miss Marsallat the 19 francs for the carriage; you can keep for yourselves what you would have paid. - I saw the Bishop and, just as he encouraged you to trust completely in God and his Blessed Mother, I feel obliged to speak to you along the same lines. Our Lord knows the sacrifice I am making, but it would be wrong to think that you would be its first victims. You will not be abandoned. I tell you in the name of Jesus Christ: God would rather perform a miracle to come to your help. So then, have total trust, and surrender into the hands of God - this is my prayer for you.

The Bishop encouraged me to leave from here so as not to upset you again, and that I might not have to witness the tears of my parishioners. You know how deeply I feel things! I hid it from you...but if I were to return to Monteynard, either I would fall sick, or I would run the risk of losing my vocation. May the holy will of God be done! If I should die, we would each have the same merits. It was necessary that you share my sacrifice as Mary shared that of Jesus Christ. God be praised! Please stop crying. You are losing me for a time in order to find me more conformed to Jesus Christ; you also will be more conformed to our Lady of Seven Sorrows. I hope also that Our Lord will graciously accept the small sacrifice that I am making of my whole being. I am not worth very much, but even were I worth less, I still would offer myself completely to God.

I'm happy to reach the goal I desired. It is very difficult for you. Look toward heaven - one day we shall all be there forever, all three of us.

I leave you in the arms of Mary.

Your brother,
J. Eymard

P.S. You may leave my personal belongings at my successor's, the Pastor. I will have them picked up in three or four weeks. Please don't condemn me. I had already sent a small package ahead before I left. I took everything else I needed with me.

I suggest that you both spend a week at St. Marcellin with Fr. Brun, who will receive you like two sisters.

I will write to you soon. I hope that my letters won't renew your sadness.

TO FR. JEAN-VICTOR BARET
(V 1/6)

Lyons, August 21, 1839

My dear friend,

Finally I arrived here,¹ happy, content and quite well. I was welcomed as you will be, with fondness, like a brother. They were expecting you and felt sorry not to see you. "But you shall see him soon!" This hope consoled them. Hurry up, my dear, we are in Paradise here in every way. We had to suffer a great deal to get here; but once we have entered, we are so happy! I spoke about you to Fr. Chatrousse and to the Bishop. You will have your replacement soon. Be ready: as soon as Fr. Jardin is free, you will be. Alas! How unhappy we are when we are separated from what we desire! But don't worry. These Gentlemen² wanted me to write to tell you to come before the 28th; but we will make this sacrifice. I'm writing to Sayetat to come. Try to see him as soon as possible, even if you have to go especially for that. These Gentlemen have an extreme need. One of their brothers is leaving, and it would be providential if Sayetat came.

Try to sell my books to pay Mr. Format and to pay the 4 francs 80 which I owe to Mr. Gallet, the road-constructor. If you can, sell my Repertory on Scripture. It cost me 28 francs. Give it for 20 to 22 francs. Also sell Bourdaloue to Fr. Guignier, at least 20 cents a volume. Also sell the "*Thesaurus Patrum*" for about 20 francs; but don't sell any of my folios. Hold on to your valuable books, especially Bossuet. Bring your Rendant or mine.

If you could also make some money to ship my things, that would be fine; but now I believe that Fr. Dumolard won't delay in finding someone. Mr. Format, etc. "*Vir, esto fortis.*"³ Your goal deserves and requires it.

Your friend,
Eymard

Fr. Baret
Pastor at la Motte d'Aveillans
via La Mure (Isere)

Aug. 27 - To Belley for the annual retreat of the Marist Society.

¹ At the Marist novitiate.

² Gentlemen: refers to the Marist Priests.

³ Man, be strong.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 5/145 VI 10)

Lyons, September 6, 1839

My dear sisters,

As I return from our retreat at Belley, I am writing to tell you that you still have a brother in this world and he is not so ungrateful as to forget you. On the contrary, his love for you becomes even stronger since it draws its strength from God. I'm beside myself with joy and I can't thank the Blessed Virgin enough for having called me into a Society that bears her name and imitates her virtues. I have surely felt all the pain my coming here has caused you. My sacrifice seemed small in proportion to yours; yet Jesus Christ was calling me; could I disobey Him? He was calling me for my greater good; could I refuse His grace? So, I urge you to love our Lord. Do not sadden him with useless tears. Become strong in order to rise above natural feelings. And, as I told you so often, place all your confidence in God and God will be your Father.

Now to speak about myself, I am feeling fine and I hope that my health will continue to improve. When the soul is content, the body often feels the effects of it.

Concerning my personal belongings, I sometimes wonder; what if nothing were sent me, what would I do? The same as the poor do. Surely my trust in God is too great for me to give in to despair. If nothing were sent to me, I believe I would even rejoice in God's sight rather than become sad.

But that is all pointless. Please send my underwear and the rest of my clothing, except the two used cassocks. You can do what you want with those.

I had put a few devotional books in the same trunk as the flowers. You may keep them. If you should like some of them, you may take them, but only for yourself and not to be given away.

I had put a few devotional books in the trunk where there were flowers. You may leave them there, or if Father Bard should want them, give them to him with the two large volumes entitled *Dictionnaire du Droit Canon* [Dictionary of Canon Law].

Don't forget my two books of hymns as well as my new biretta.

Keep the fine silk stockings which you wanted to give me; they are too thin and too fancy.

Please send me some towels and a few sheets, not those that are so big, but a few of each, five or six pairs. I would also like at least one blanket.

I suggest that you sell all that is not useful to you. Use whatever furnishings you can and get rid of the rest.

If you need anything, I will send you my small money order of 100 francs which I expect to receive in October.

Address my belongings to: Mr. LeBorgne⁴, Rue Roulage, Saint Louis, Grenoble, and put my address on each package. My address is Fr. Eymard, Marist, Montee Saint Barthelemy #4, Lyons.

Please write as soon as possible to give me news about yourselves.

All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,
J. Eymard, p. [priest]

P.S. Don't send me any pictures, nor cane, nor coverings, but do send me my syringe.

Miss Marianne Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure [Isere]

⁴ Unclear whether he is a Marist priest.

TO FR. JEAN-VICTOR BARET

(v 2/6)

Lyons, September 6, 1839

My very dear friend,

As I return from our retreat, I am writing you a few words to get twice as many in return. You would have been so happy to attend this very fatherly and touching retreat! Forty Marists were there. Oh! my dear, what a difference between these retreats and ours! If you knew how they love one another in this Society of Mary! I heard wonderful things, I will share them with you personally. Besides, it's impossible to write them, they are worthy of Heaven. I am still very happy. They are expecting several novices these days, and novices, my dear, who will put us to shame. I saw four of them; a Superior of a Seminary, a notary, and 2 heads of boarding houses in Lyons. They even mention others. It's wonderful to see how they tell one another the trials each one has passed through. We aren't the only ones for whom it cost a lot to come here. This grace comes at a cost.

The Superior General is coming to Lyons to settle here. What a joy it will be for us to have him here!

Write me a little, I want to know what you are doing and what is happening with my things. Tell me something about Fr. Dumolard. Share my letter with him.

I don't know where my sister is. Since my arrival I haven't received any letter. It isn't that I am lonely, no; but I would like to know, in order to console her.

If you had the opportunity to see a child from Majeuil, named Severin Ravet, try to take him in. Tell him that I found a place for him to be a Marist brother. On my request they would be willing to receive him. They would even make great sacrifices, because instead of 600 francs, they would ask him only 25 francs, which would be used to buy paper and books. I know that this modest sum will be difficult for them. Ask him if he could have it; otherwise, I will arrange it, but he could enter only on All Saints Day.

Write to me, I'm longing for news about you.

All yours,
J. Eymard

Fr. Baret
Pastor at La Motte d'Aveillans
at La Mure (Isere)

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 6/145 VI 10)

V.M.⁵

Lyons, October 16, 1839

My dear sisters,

I received your letter. I was quite worried about your trip to Saint-Marcellin, but a letter I received from Miss Melanie reassured me that you had left Chatte in good health.

I was told that you had been well received. I thank God for that. I was also informed that you had gone to Notre Dame de l'Ozier. Well, I pray that the Blessed Virgin, into whose hands I entrust you, will obtain many important graces for you: especially that you will want only what God wills, since that is where all perfection lies.

Now to speak about my health: I can assure you that I have not been sick one moment. On the contrary, I have an excellent appetite. As for the climate of Lyons, I am accustomed to it now. Besides, it's much warmer in Lyons than in La Mure. Also, this more active life that I am living is better for me. It is often said that contentment brings happiness. I can assure you that I am very happy that I can sanctify myself more perfectly in this way. If you love me, do let me continue to live a life of obedience. That is the state for me. To leave it would be to prepare my bier, or to lose all happiness on earth.

I entrusted Monteynard into the hands of God. Do as I did and do not worry. The Good Lord does not want you to do so.

I can assure you that all those regrets which are causing harm to religion and making people abandon it cause me great remorse. I am afraid that I was building on shifting sands. If it is as if people loved me more than the Good Lord. So it was necessary for me to leave.

You can be sure that no one loves you more than I do. The world may call me ungrateful, but surely the Good Lord judges otherwise. You will always make me very happy with news about yourselves and I will always respond in the same way.

Your brother,
J. Eymard

P.S. Please send my coat by mail because I will need it. Don't forget my sheepskin jacket.

Miss Marianne Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure [Isere]

⁵ Abbreviation for Vive Marie: Praised be Mary. Tr.

TO FR. DUMOLARD

(V 2/2)

V.J.⁶

Lyons, October 16, 1839

My dear friend,

It is high time I write to you! I have been wanting to for such a long time, but I did not dare, for fear that my letter would be intercepted. I knew the rumors which were circulating and how you were being watched. So now, may God take care of it. I have been here two months. It's as if it were two days. I was happy when I entered, I was at home, the will of God was fulfilled. Eight days after I entered, I had the joy of making my retreat with the community. I cannot tell you what this retreat was like, the brotherhood that reigned there, the holy joy which gave life to all the meetings, the constant edification of the elders. How they love one another in the Society of Mary!

In that retreat, I had the advantage of meeting most of the Marists. Since then, a Marist has died in the diocese of Belley. He died blessed and surrounded by his brothers. At that time, I remembered then what you had told me several times: we must prepare for death!

I tell myself that every day, as you do. It's true that when dying in the bosom of a Community, we don't have the useless hope of being grieved as [one would be] in a Parish; but there are consolations, encouragement, supports that it would be futile to seek in the world.

I heard about the obstacles they created for Fr. Baret and the beautiful colors they used to paint a picture for him: genuine zeal, fidelity to his Post, [the possibility] to do good wherever we are, to prefer a certain good to an uncertain good and then to let the Bishop act. So, they say so much that the one who is the subject of it is sometimes persuaded that such is the will of God.

When I learned all that, I couldn't help thanking the Lord most sincerely for having delivered me from all those traps, and I said: Alas! Perhaps, of the three, I will be the only one chosen to be a Marist. I didn't deserve such a preferential treatment.

They are writing to me to reproach me. They are trying to draw me away from my place of rest, but God has begun and Mary will obtain my perseverance, and if it is necessary to free me completely from my laziness, the apostolic grace of Oceania.

At this time, the novitiate is increasing in numbers. We will have the advantage of being greatly inspired by the example of several Gentlemen who made great sacrifices to get here.

Since we came last year, many repairs have been made. We now have the whole house; we have two, not to say three chapels in our house.

I was very surprised to learn through letters that I had been sick. I didn't know it yet! No, my dear friend, in a Parish we never have the temporal advantages that are found in a Community.

I hope that you will give me news about yourself right away, because I long for it very much.

I learned that your esteemed uncle had died. What a beautiful life!

I am and I will always be,

Your friend,
J. Eymard

Fr. Dumolard
Rector of Villard-St. Christophe
via La Mure (Isere)

⁶ Abbreviation for Vive Jesus, or Praise [be] Jesus!

11

CO 10

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 7/145 VI 10)

V.M.

Lyons, November 9, 1839

My dear sisters,

I'm taking advantage of the same messenger who brought my coat to thank you for it and give you some news about myself. I'm doing well, and I am still very happy about the beautiful vocation to which the Blessed Virgin has called me. At present, I desire only one thing: that you should share in my happiness. First, by urging you to adore God's will and then, by imitating the hidden life of the Blessed Virgin as much as possible. After all, if we are separated from each other for a few days in this life, that is not such a great loss. What we should deeply desire is to find each other in heaven. That is why we should try to detach ourselves from all that is not in harmony with the love of God in order to love only Jesus Christ crucified and hidden in the Blessed Sacrament.

It seems to me that people in the country are much happier than city people. Here we see all classes of people as well as the whole gamut of human misery.

I would also like to throw some light on a suffering of yours. You thought that my purpose was to go to the foreign missions. If I had the necessary health, I would cry for joy. But I don't have that ambition. I will remain in Lyons.

With all my brotherly love, I beg you to take good care of yourselves and to rejoice in the Lord. This is what I often ask Mary on your behalf.

Your brother,
J. Eymard

P.S. Remember me to Joseph Desmoulins. Although I am in Lyons, I think of him daily, please God I will still be able to help him in the Lord!

Miss Marianne Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

12

CO 11

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 8/145 VI 10)

V+M

Lyons, November 21, 1839

My dear sisters,

Today, on the beautiful feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin in the Temple, I was happy to offer you along with myself to Mary at Notre Dame de Fourviere. Each time that I visit Fourviere, and I go twice a week, I always pray to our good Mother for you. Surely, if these prayers of mine were as efficacious as they are frequent, you would be as happy as a spouse of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ crucified, can be in this world.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

I saw Fr. Faure and I became increasingly aware of how great this good friend's attachment to you really is, since he didn't mind making such a long trip. Certainly, if it were human motives that had guided me in the choice of a more perfect life, Fr. Faure's presence and his opinions would have influenced me. But since I am not placing my confidence in my own strength nor in any human qualifications, I put all my trust in Mary. I surrender my destiny to her and I hope to persevere in this wonderful vocation: to bear her name, to serve her, and to make her loved.

Although I don't bring you any glory, nonetheless it seems to me that your devotion to Mary ought to increase your happiness in having a Marist as a brother. If I am no help to you, then you can address yourselves more confidently to Mary and as if by right.

Find your consolation then in the Blessed Virgin, your patroness, and remember that Mary was greater at the foot of the Cross than when she had the joy of living with our Lord.

Oh, if I were worthy to be heard in prayer, you wouldn't be troubled by the fear of future failure and unhappiness. And there would be no need for my heart to be torn by learning that you are still crying. God has tested you and, if you have great trust, the trial will disappear. Do you realize that your sadness might afflict the hearts of Jesus Christ and his Blessed Mother, and that by shortening your own days in this way, you will surely shorten mine as well? See here! Although you may have been told that I am hardhearted and ungrateful, that I no longer wanted you, God will be my Judge. He knows how attached I am to you and that no human motive brought me here. I am sad that you have let yourselves be taken in by malicious and lying words. That is how you will know what the world is really like. Yes, God alone is lovable.

I am sending you my money order since Fr. Faure wasn't able to bring it. Because the gift will cost more than 100 francs, I hesitate to take on such a large expense. Be consoled. Never has the thought ever entered my mind to cheat you out of it. Such a thought has never come to me and never will. I have a will here in your favor. It will be the first and the last because I know that, if you should outlive me, your intention is to do good works with what is left over. So, I am giving you everything, persuaded that you will not forget that I am your brother. Don't let the devil tempt you any longer on this matter!

Thank Mme. Reynier for her prayerful remembrance. She can be sure that I will always keep her close to you in my poor prayers. Ordinarily, I say Mass at six-thirty.

When you see Fr. Ripert, please tell him that my feelings for him are always the same.

I feel well and I pray that you do, too. It is with that intention that I began a novena for you at Fourviere yesterday, offering all that I could do to obtain what you need.

Your brother in our Lord,
J. Eymard,⁷

Please write to me right away to let me know that you received my letter so that I won't worry. I am afraid that it might get lost.

Miss Marianne Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

As early as December 1839, Father Eymard was named Spiritual Director of the College (high school) of Belley by Father Colin S.M., the Founder of the Marists. Father Eymard had not yet completed his novitiate.

⁷ Julian Eymard, Priest.

TO MR. GAY (FR. GAY, S.M.)
(VI 1/1)

Belley, August 3, 1840

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE⁸

WHOEVER LIVES BY THE RULE, LIVES BY GOD. (St. Paul)

It is time to warm my cold heart. It is for lack of heavenly food that my soul is reduced to this state of mediocrity which is ruining me. To come out of it, I will use the following means.

DEVOTIONS

Full morning and evening prayer in a peaceful place. The more suffering there is in our prayer, the more we touch the heart of God.

Two decades of the rosary. Mary will always be the object of my most tender love.

Devout reading. I will read the life of a saint, etc....but I will continue with the same book in order to avoid inconstancy which is so harmful to piety.

I will approach the Sacraments on the Feast of the Assumption and the Nativity.

I will make a daily examen with my schedule as guide.

My work will not exceed two hours a day as my strength allows.

Should anyone proclaim that he is an unbeliever or immoral, he will be like a devil to me. - If necessity obliges me to be in his company, I will reply negatively.

If I am questioned, I will proclaim my faith openly. If it is ridiculed, I will leave his company or win a double victory by my silence.

I will try to remain calm, avoiding the passion of violent desires. I will train myself to holy detachment, waiting for God's will. All my prayers will tend in this direction.

Oh my good Angel, remind me of my promise, present it to Mary and you, oh Mother, to Jesus. Let it be one of the flowers in my crown to begin and to persevere.

Belley
August 3, 1840

⁸ Holiday Schedule outlined by Father Eymard for Mr. Gay when he was a student at the minor seminary of Belley. He later became a Marist.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 9/145 VI 10)

V.J.L.M.⁹

Belley, August 9, 1840

My dear sisters,

It's time that I write to you. I've been waiting and worrying a long time to receive news from you. If you wanted to break my heart by not answering my last two letters, then you succeeded. You ought to know that by a farewell to the world we don't say goodbye to brotherly love. I certainly deserve that you should no longer be attached to me. I realize how much I made you suffer all my life, but what can I say! If the Good Lord wants me to be your cross, he also wants you to love that cross. My dear sisters, it is better that you should cry over my body than if I had had the misfortune of making you cry over my soul.

It is true that I am of no use to you in a material sense, but the Blessed Virgin, to whom I recommend you each day, will take care of everything. Therefore, I ask you only one thing: that you write to let me know how you are. If I can't console you, at least I will sympathize with your suffering and pray with greater fervor...

As for myself, I am well. The holidays have begun and now we are resting a little. I was sorry to learn about the large bankruptcies that happened in Grenoble. How I thank the Good Lord now that I did not sell the little we have with your consent. At the moment everyone is talking about bankruptcy. No one can invest money except for a mortgage.

My dear sisters, be strong and confident, please. I will not go to see you this year. My presence would only renew your grief. Besides, the Good Lord wants this sacrifice because I could not go to La Mure without visiting Monteynard, and I would not have the strength to go mourn at the tomb of the people whom I loved so much.

Please do write to me. You know that I never delay in answering you. I experience a real joy in writing to you.

I will offer Mass for you on Assumption Day. Please unite your intention to mine.

I will probably make a trip to Saint Francis Regis. There, to be sure, you will have the lion's share of my prayers!

All yours in our Lord,
J. Eymard

Miss Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

(Express Mail)

⁹ Abbreviation: Praise be Jesus and Mary.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 10/145 VI 10)

Belley, September 27, 1840

My dear sisters,

Continue to learn how to write. I am pleased to see your progress. I can read you very well. When you are reading, study closely how the words are written, in order to be able to write them correctly. You need to learn how to count the letters.

Your letter pleased me very much. May the Good Lord and his holy Mother bless you, for you are always present to me before God. I ask nothing from heaven without asking a share for you.

Concerning the money that you mention, about the 8 francs, I had not taken care of the eight masses. You know that when the novenas were unpaid I was doing only the first and the last [days], in order not to lose everything. If you would keep the money, I will take care of the eight masses as soon as possible. Always join your intentions with mine on the principal feasts of our Lord and the Blessed Virgin, because I am saying the Mass in part for you.

I have to give up the trip to La Mure, first of all because my trip to La Louvesc tired me, though I am better now. And then, it's time for the students' arrival and we must prepare everything. Then I will be absent during five or six days for business, to see our professors.

If the pastor is so kind as to mention me, please thank him. Oh, I do still love the good Pastor! He wished me well.

As for our friend Fr. Baret, he always has a place in my heart.

I thank the Good Lord for his fatherly providence toward his children. I was told that the harvest had been good.

I must leave you now, we are on retreat. I had to ask for a dispensation to see good Benvenin and answer you.

Always your beloved brother in Jesus Christ,

J. Eymard

Miss Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

(Express Mail)

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 11/145 VI 10)

*M. Imm.*¹⁰

Belley, December 8, 1840

My very dear sisters,

For almost a month I have been wanting to write to you and I don't know how it happened that your letter found me so lazy. I am very ashamed. I cannot use my numerous occupations as a pretext, because I should rather have shortened my sleep to do it. So then, forgive my delay. Another time I will be more prompt. At the beginning of the school year there is so much to do that one really could be excused. I kept looking for a free moment to be able to converse with you. But my desire was always unfulfilled.

Finally, I'm writing to you today, on the beautiful day of the Immaculate Conception. You are the first ones. I have at least six letters to write. For two months now, I have lived somewhat as a recluse, without any contact with my friends. I am quite well, thanks to the Blessed Virgin, I have not been sick. It seems that my present work is well suited to my temperament. There is always much to do without too much pressure.

There were no tragedies here. Belley is slightly elevated, there is nothing to fear. But in the department¹¹ there was incalculable damage. It comes from God. People forget him too much, that is why we are being afflicted.

My good sister, you are still angry with me for not visiting you during my holidays. You can be sure that it was a great sacrifice for me. I thought of writing to you from Chatte saying that I would wait for both of you there. But I said to myself: I am not worth having my good sisters run so far; then I will have to console them, dry their tears, I whose heart will already be so heavy because of their sadness. As far as going to La Mure: a religious is under obedience. Then to tell the truth, I would not have had the strength to bear going there and receive a thousand complaints, a thousand reproaches from my friends. So then, please forgive me again for this fault, if it is one.

You give me no details about your health, nor about your affairs. Well, I also forgive you. Well, I'm going to say something naughty, but without a grudge. The one who addressed the letter advised you to finish your letter in this way: "You are right not to love us as much as your friends." First of all, I say it is a big lie and then that it was an idiotic thing to do to me. I can tell that the letter was dictated, for you would have been more gentle in reproaching me for this fault and for my laziness.

On the contrary, see how considerate I am: I pray more for you than for myself. Every morning, at 7:00, half of my Mass is for you and when I make the Stations of the Cross, you have half of everything that I ask for. Do the same for me. We are not eating at the same table, but we have the same heavenly Father and one day we shall be on the same throne.

J. Eymard, P.S.M.D.¹²

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

¹⁰ Mary Immaculate.

¹¹ Geographic sector in France.

¹² Priest-Director, Society of Mary.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 12/145 VI 10)

Praise Jesus!

Belley, January 2, 1841

Very dear sisters,

Yesterday I received your New Year's letter, wishing me a happy New Year. Thank you and I wish both of you the same: may it count as a good year for heaven. That is also your thought, I presume, because there has never been any happiness on earth since God said to Adam, the sinner: "You will eat your bread at the sweat of your brow." There will never be happiness on this earth for the disciples of Jesus Christ, but persecutions, the cross to carry, and continual sacrifices to be done. This is what Jesus Christ reserves for us in this world. This is how he has been nourishing you for a long time. But, my good sisters, when we wish to sculpture a stone and make it into a beautiful decoration for a palace, we don't choose a damaged stone, that would be useless. It would break under the first strokes of the sculptor. So, when we want to choose a friend, we test him before offering him our heart. Don't be surprised, then, if the Good Lord acts this way toward us. It is neither I nor others who are the cause of your sacrifices... we are only the occasion for them. It is Jesus Christ who wills it, who even uses your brother to make you suffer. What should you do? Consider yourself fortunate to have something to offer to God. It is not given to everyone to follow our Lord so closely.

You may study and consult as much as you want. The final answer to everything is that in order to enter into heaven one must suffer much on this earth. What I wish for you, my dear sisters, is the patience of the Gospel and the generosity of a spouse of the Lord. That is what I ask the Blessed Virgin for you, twice a day.

You can be sure that I have never prayed so much for you as I have since I became a religious. You are all that I love in this world and the only object of my desires in Jesus Christ.

I felt terrible about the accident that happened to you these past few days, but we must be consoled and put all our confidence in Jesus and Mary. Nothing will happen to you that Jesus Christ does not will and desire.

It might be well for you to insure your house with Mr. Clavel or, even better, take the Blessed Virgin as your insurance. Each year give her a small sum for this purpose and she will keep you well protected.

Tomorrow, on the feast of St. Joseph, I will offer Mass for you. Continue to improve your writing. I always like to see dear Nanette's signature. I don't understand why I don't see it any more... I hope she isn't sick.

In your letter I would like [to find] some details about the village. I was told that one of the Assistants had left because of some speculations. That is too bad! Please, my dear sisters, take my advice: show much respect toward priests. Show them great honor. Be happy to prove to them your esteem and confidence. But where all these speculations are concerned - whether to take one side rather than another - be very much on your guard. However, I know that in such matters you are prudent.

Please give me some news about Mr. Lesbros, mother Cros, of Mr. Fayolle's distinguished family. If you should have the opportunity, please extend to them all my very best wishes.

There's nothing new here. I am well enough. I love you always. Let me know your sufferings and I will carry half of them with you. I am your brother. I embrace you in the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your brother,
J. Eymard, p.¹³

¹³ Priest.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

18

CO 17

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 13/145 VI 10)

V.M.

Belley, February 5, 1841

My very dear sisters,

This is a beautiful day for me. This is the day you became my godmother. You know that I called you by that sweet name a million times. When I entered the clerical state, I called you sister, but my feelings of godson will continue even in heaven. I owe you so much, especially for having kept me far from occasions of sin in my youth. I can say that you are partly responsible for my vocation to the clerical state. At that time I was surrounded by too many bad companions. I could have become quite evil. I beg our Lord to remember that on the great day of reward. I have always kept a great devotion for Saint Agatha, the patron saint of the anniversary of my baptism..

I also feel the need to write and ask you for news about yourselves. I've been worried ever since your accident which I referred to only briefly. I'm afraid that surprise and worry have made both of you sick. If you want to make me happy, just send me some news about yourselves.

Hardly had I sent my last letter than I was sorry that I had written you about the cross, rather than send words of consolation. I encouraged you to love the cross, and perhaps you were already carrying it. But then, since I couldn't console you in person, the only thing left for me to do was to point to Jesus Christ on the cross, the sight of heaven and the double crown awaiting you.

I am quite well. My great wish is to become a saint quickly so as to go to heaven and be with the Blessed Virgin, our poor father and my good mother. I am beginning to be bored on earth. I love you always; but don't hold it against me if all my love for you is aimed at your perfection and reaching heaven.

However, I pray our Lord to leave you a little longer on earth. I prefer to see you do your purgatory on earth. In your letter, give me news about Mme. Lesbros and give my best wishes to her, to Father Second, to Joseph Desmoulins. If anyone has died, do give me their names. I love so much to pray to God for those I have known!

All yours in our Lord,
J. Eymard, p.m. (Marist priest)

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

19

CO 19

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 14/145 VI 10)

V.M.¹⁴

Belley, April 19, 1841

My good sister,

I had hoped to see you after Easter, but I have been prevented until now by a cold and a sore throat. I am doing better. In ten days or so we will have our First Communions. Since I am in charge of it, I cannot see you before that. So, at the beginning of May I will make a short visit to see you, please God.

The letters that I received about your state of health have made me very sad to be sure. They lead me to really pray for you. It is both a duty and a consolation for me to do so. Know how to benefit from this purgatory, this Calvary, this Cross. I know that nature does not like suffering, but that is how your faith will become more generous and your piety purer, uniting you more and more with our good Jesus. All you need to do is to be lovingly surrendered to the holy Will of our Lord.

For our part, we will ask God to leave you longer with us here¹⁵. The hope of seeing things improve consoles me. Please send me some news about yourself often.

I beg Nanette to take better care of herself. Her great heart leads her to forget her own needs, but one must take care of oneself. You have some friends who would without a doubt make it a pleasure to help her.

In your suffering, pray for me.

Your brother,
J. Eymard, p.m.

Miss Marianne Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

20

CO 20

TO MR. ANTONY MAYET
(VII 1/6)

Belley, May 17, 1841

Dear Sir,¹⁶

I want to be true to my word and transmit some contraband. I hope you will find the merchandise in good taste. Your sisters will be the judge. The loom is yours but the skilled labor raises the price, and this labor is highly skilled! It carries its heart, and a warm heart at that, for its dear Tonny. When it wants to be happy, it [tells] me about your adventures. When it needs to relax, it speaks about you. Oh! How your dear brother loves you!¹⁷ I have never yet found anyone whose friendship is so sensitive, so gentle.

¹⁴ Praised be Mary.

¹⁵ On earth.

¹⁶ In his letters to Antony Mayet, Fr. Eymard usually adopts a playful tone.

¹⁷ His brother, Fr. Mayet S.M., was a close and lifelong friend of Fr. Eymard.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

Your sister made him unbelievably happy by the painting she sent recently.

His health is mediocre. How sad that we cannot pass on strength just as we exchange friendship! He expects to go to Uriage¹⁸ immediately when the holidays [begin]. I wish I could go with him. If I can be free, I will be happy to do so.

Your brief visit has made your memory present and respected here. All our professors love you. A second visit would also be very good for us. You know that both brothers are like one to us, and believe me to be the third.

Eymard, Director

For the congregation, (a hymn) composed in Jan. 1841 by Mme. Mayet. Melody: Song of the South or: You Are Witnesses, (Canticle of Amiens)¹⁹

To Mr. A. Mayet
at Mr. Menthe & Co., brokers
Rue des Capucines
Lyons

21

CO 21

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 15/145 VI 10)

V.M.

Belley, July 7, 1841

My dear sisters,

I am quite worried about your state of health. I was waiting for news from you every day and I see that you have forgotten me. I don't know if I hurt you in some way. It would certainly have been involuntary because you know very well that I love you. My two visits must have shown you that. Please write a few words. I hope that you are getting better and better. It's the only reason I can think of for your silence. I had a very good trip, but I didn't stop anywhere, not even in Grenoble where I felt greatly needed.

I am quite well. Take heart, my good sisters! With God's help, all will go well.

I returned from La Mure with a deep sense of gratitude toward our good friends who show you so much affection: Mme. Lesbros, the good and esteemed Fayolle family, joyful Victorine, etc.

My letter is short, but my heart is saying a great deal. Love our Lord Jesus Christ and his holy Mother.

Your brother,
J. Eymard, p.m.²⁰

Miss Marianne J-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

¹⁸ The mineral springs.

¹⁹ Here followed the text of a hymn of six strophes and one refrain. The refrain was composed of 4 lines of 12 meters each. At the end of this hymn, Fr. Eymard added: Goodbye dear friend, until next time; now it's your turn.

²⁰ Marist Priest.

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 16/145 VI 10)

Belley, November 30, 1841

My dear sisters,

I am a little late in writing to you. Since I have nothing very interesting to tell you, it leads me to put off writing from one day to the next. However, because you love me, you may be worried.

I heard that you are doing well. I like to think that you are enjoying good health and that Nanette is recovering a little from so many nightly vigils and cares.

Yes, our Lord will have written these sufferings, sacrifices and devotedness into his book of love and life. My dear sisters, that is how God treats his own. He leaves them on Calvary a long time; but this good Father was on the cross before us and his holy Mother is at our side to encourage us. How beautiful your crown will be since the suffering Jesus shared so many bitter chalices with you. But excuse me, I notice that I am giving a sermon and I only wanted to recommend myself to your prayers, counsel you to be careful during your convalescence and also to let you know that I am well.

I was afraid that the return of the boys from La Mure might have saddened you. Don't let it bother you. I showed them as much affection as possible. But what could I do? Those poor children were too weak in their studies and I couldn't teach them everything in one day. They left in spite of me, especially Gaillard... Father Baret may possibly be angry, but they are the ones who should ask forgiveness rather than I. I had reason to be angry. Try to find out if Father Baret is unhappy about it, because then I would write to him...

I am in our Lord,

Your brother,
J. Eymard, p.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 22/145 VI 10)

Grenoble, Thursday

My dear sister,

Yesterday a letter arrived from your Pastor telling me about your illness. This sad news really upset and troubled me. I left Belley immediately to come to be with you. To get there more swiftly, I took the more direct route. However, I cannot leave Grenoble today because there is no place available in the stagecoach. I can't leave until tomorrow. I will arrive at eight o'clock in the evening.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

Oh, my poor sister, I had set aside my holiday time to come to see you, that was settled. But since the Good Lord is trying you now I want to come to suffer with you.

Your poor brother who is deeply afflicted,

J. Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

24

CO 23

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 17/145 VI 10)

*L.J.C. et M. Imm.*²¹

Belley, January 19, 1842

My dear sisters,

I notice that it has been a long time now since I've written to you. I wanted to write to you on New Year's day and then on two other occasions. But I was so busy that I put it off from day to day. Now I find myself surprised at the date. I learned that you were not too well. It's true that winter must make things harder, particularly with this changeable weather. That is enough of a reason to keep you more to your room. With nicer weather your strength will return. My good sisters, when we are suffering we often need all the virtue we can muster to be able to throw ourselves into the arms of God's Providence and resign ourselves lovingly to his adorable Will. But you are already doing this and, in any case, it's the only means of consolation.

So you saw one of my colleagues, Fr. Dubreuil. I was very happy that this kind man had visited both of you. You must have been very happy to see him because he is so gracious! I will thank him for it.

I learned that Fr. Cat was appreciated and that the fine Fr. Verdun does well. That really pleased me. And good Fr. Rabilloux is still zealous and delightful²². So much the better! I kept wanting to write to them, but my letters wouldn't be interesting for them.

For myself, I am still [here] with my large family of children. Therefore, what interests me can hardly interest them. Their ministry is altogether different from mine.

Please offer them my apologies. It's also true that I am lazy about writing. I believe that this is the first or second letter of New Year's greetings that I have written. I received a letter from my dear friend Fr. Fayolle. He is well. He makes me laugh so much when he talks about a job change that was offered to him: Chaplain at Mont-Fleury. Surely if those women thought that he would seek to flatter them or please them, they were sadly mistaken. He mentioned to me that the women thought he was too mean, too impolite, too inflexible. They were afraid of him. Yet, Fr. Fayolle is kind, very forthright, though without courtly manners or flattery. They would have needed to know him better in order to appreciate him more. But to conclude, he is quite happy about his experience...

My respects, please, to the fine family. I am well. Besides, I don't have time to become ill. Next time I will be more punctual.

²¹ Praised be Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate.

²² The parish priests at La Mure.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

Please pray for me and know that you are always present in my prayers.

Your brother,
J. Eymard, p.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

25

CO 24

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(U1 VII 2)²³

January 29, 1842

Our good friend²⁴ is leaving me a little space. It makes me happy as it allows me to show my gratitude, and to congratulate you for the solitude of the chapel, of the house of Nazareth at Pomiers. I can only think of it with a tender heart; we are happy everywhere when we know how to find Jesus, Mary and Joseph there, to live with them and like them. We often speak about Pomiers with good Father Mayet, about good papa Perroud, the most blessed of men because he has found and protected a great treasure; long life to the Joseph of the family, because he will have time to rest in Heaven, and about you, Madame, mother of such a large family. The life of faith lets you find your happiness exactly where so many others would only find a sad and depressing solitude; with Jesus, Mary and Joseph we have everything: less noise, fewer distractions, fewer noisy celebrations, but peace of soul, love for one's state in life, heaven on earth.

We also like to speak together about the little family. Oh! how I do praise you! that you are seeing to their initial training yourselves; at your side these fine children will absorb the family spirit, love for their parents, the initial impression of Religion, an impression which is never lost. They will also be instructed and better behaved. I deeply pity parents who are without experience or prudence, who break away from their children before the age of reason. That is the greatest loss they could experience. They will become children without love and without joy.

We are praying a great deal for Tony, Oceania. Storm heaven, we need a great victory now. Beautiful family! you have so much [illegible]. We continue to hope, as Fr. Mayet, our dear brother, is better. As for me, I am also counting on it.²⁵ If we need a miracle, Jesus Christ is God, and Mary is his divine mother, and Fr. Mayet their child.

But I only wanted to say a few brief words. This is too long; forgive me. However, it's true that in winter we read more. Finally, union of prayers and good works. Everything is shared in half. Strength is found in unity.

All yours in our Lord,
J. Eymard
Marist Priest - Director

Perroud Family
Pomiers (Rhône)
Jan. 29, 1842

²³ This letter was written as a post-script to a letter from Fr. Claude Mayet to his sister Mme. Emma Perroud.

²⁴ Fr. Claude Mayet.

²⁵ Healing for a chronic laryngitis.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 18/145 VI 10)

V.J.²⁶

Belley, March 19, 1842

My dear sisters,

I was about to write to you when I received your welcome letter. I was worried about your health. I was afraid that such severe weather would affect your health even more. But it seems, according to your letter, that you are relatively well. Since you are so weak, avoid worrisome thoughts as much as you can because they will affect you too much. Try to maintain that holy joy that Saint Paul so often recommended. It makes the soul stronger and happier.

At the end of your letter you remind me about the trips I took last year. No, my sister, those were not pleasure trips for me. The fear I felt and the thought of your sufferings, all combined to sadden my heart. My only consolation was to know that you were devout, adoring as I did the designs of God and kissing his crucifying hand with love.

When I thought of the kindness and charity of the good priests of the parish in coming to visit and console you, my gratitude grew in proportion to their kindness. But, my sister, God alone is eternal and his goodness has no end. He will always be your Father and Consoler. How fortunate we are to love him as his children!

For myself here, I am well, thanks be to God. My occupations, as numerous as they are, suit my taste and my health. I am happy to be able to work in the youthful vineyard of the Lord.

As to your proposal that we allow Mr. Lesbros to make a passage for his house, I would really like to please this good man. We owe him a great deal. However, I see that we would be giving a right of way that would greatly diminish the value of our own house should we ever want to sell it. And it would also involve some expenses on our part.

Young Auguste is well²⁷. I would like to see him succeed. Take heart, my sisters, let us always love our Lord Jesus Christ and his divine Mother. Let us make Saint Joseph the Foster-Father and protector of our family.

Your devoted brother,
J. Eymard, Director

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

April 17-24 - General Meeting of the Marists.

²⁶ Praised be Jesus!

²⁷ Auguste Artaud, son of a family friend studying at Belley.

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(U2 VII 2)²⁸

June 5, 1842

Madame,

I am taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity which our good Father and friend is offering me to recommend myself to your prayers, because prayer which springs²⁹ toward heaven from solitude is more ardent because it is more calm and pure. Wonderful family! which continues the life of Nazareth in a small out-of-the-way place, for whom the world is nothing and cannot even have access to you. Heaven looks at you with pleasure and the Angels have placed the mysterious ladder of Jacob there.

I also am interested in everything that concerns you. I have a great love for them [your concerns] and I trust. I owed you a visit of thanks for your offer to rest at Pomiers, but I was much too weak. My gratitude is none the less for it.

My respects to your husband.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
J. Eymard, p.m.

To Mme. Emma Perroud
Pomiers, (Rhone)

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 19/145 VI 10)

V.J. et M. Imm.

Belley, June 25, 1842

My very dear sisters,

I am answering your welcome and interesting letter. I like to reread it because its details remind me of my duties. You are going to Notre Dame du Laus. How nice! I envy your happiness because I always remember with joy the happy days I spent there during the wonderful pilgrimages. I've seen many shrines of devotion, but I have never seen any like Laus. There is something so devotional, so touching there! First of all the beautiful solitude we enter into when leaving Gap, the desert, the woods. The oratories scattered along the way like pious stations already prepare the soul to break away from the world. It's like the desert was for the Hebrews.

Oh, I will always remember how on arriving at the mountain, I used to feel my heart beat with joy and longing when I would catch sight of that church of miracles and graces. On one occasion I even began to run until I reached the feet of the Blessed Virgin.

If it should be God's will that I visit you during the holidays, I also hope to see and kiss the feet of the Good Mother³⁰ if there is time. That is where I received my vocation from the hands of the Blessed Virgin.

²⁸ Written as a post-script to a letter from Fr. Mayet to his sister.

²⁹ Probable allusion to the location of the Perroud property at Pomiers, which Fr. Eymard must have visited.

³⁰ The "Good Mother" is the popular title for Our Lady at Laus.

May this Good Mother be with you and accompany you there, my dear sisters. May she answer your prayers. May you obtain good health if it is in the plans of Providence, and may you also obtain graces and divine love which make it possible to find heaven on earth. On the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, I will join my intention to yours, and I will celebrate Mass for you.

If you see Mme. Amiel, please offer my deepest respects to that fine and virtuous woman. She surely had her [share of] crosses. That daughter of Mary may perhaps already be in heaven. Give my regards to Magdalon as well.

Mme. Lesbros is still sick it seems! Too bad! What a good woman! Unfortunately, God has sown her life with many sorrows. On earth, Calvary is everywhere and in all life situations. Happy are those who know how to find Jesus and Mary there.

About the saint you mentioned, I think it is the same one to whom I was praying for her intentions two years ago. That is, Saint Francis Regis. But I have great confidence in the Blessed Virgin, and I will offer one Mass for her, for that intention on the first Friday of the month of July.

Someone mentioned an exceptionally good syrup to me. It is the "Rob". It renews the blood. From Mr. Giraudeau of Saint-Gervais, Richer Street, #6 bis, in Paris. Let her know about this syrup. It's a little expensive: it costs 12 francs... One is free to write gratis to the author and to consult him. But take care for it is not effective for one of the illnesses mentioned on the directions. I think this syrup would not be good for you because your illness comes from a nervous condition.

Please extend my best wishes to dear Mme. Lesbros. You can tell her that I place her along side of you in my poor prayers.

So good mother Bonnier has died! She is a saint in heaven. I'm convinced that she was the holiest person in all of La Mure. Her simplicity, her humility, her charity, her sacrifices, her crosses... she had so many, even if it had been only the one of knowing her children's worldliness.

What I liked about Mr. Bonnier was his great respect for her. He had a sort of veneration for her. She was also so considerate and gentle! I certainly envy her reward. It must be a great one.

So poor Germain has also died. He was more fortunate than his brother, he had a happy death. Nothing matters when the end is good. And all those possessions and plans for the future: see how they all pass away? Poor people, who kill themselves in order to have a more expensive burial, or a better coffin!

Now I notice that I am becoming a gossip. Auguste is well. I had a shirt made for him for his walks so that he wouldn't get so warm... he is succeeding well; he is behaving well.

Please give my best wishes to Fr. Rabilloux³¹. I kept planning to write to him and then time ran out. So you will have to take my letter to him.

In your next letter, tell me about Fr. Faure. I'm longing to have news about him.

Your brother,
J. Eymard, Marist priest

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

³¹ Parish priest.

TO MR. ANTONY MAYET
(VII 2/6)

Belley, September 6, 1842

Sir and dear friend,

I am keeping my word, but not to sadden you with any bad news; our good Father³² is no worse than usual. On the contrary, I find him very joyful. The essential thing for him is silence, and he cannot be too strict about that. I had to travel to my village³³ and, to my great regret, I had to be separated from this good friend. I would have liked to have him with me to distract him a little, but the trip and the stay would have been too frustrating for him, so I did not insist. When I returned I found him the same as usual.

Here, we relax as much as we can. If you were here, we would surely spend beautiful moments. But it seems that you are still the captive of that bad flu. I think that the busy pace of Lyons doesn't leave you the time you need to get better. If I were your doctor, I would tell you: a bit of time in the country, Belley, common sense, distance from worries, and then good health will return.

I expect to go to Lyons and my first visit will be to your fine family.

In the meantime, receive my sincere and heartfelt sentiments.

Your ever devoted servant and friend,
Eymard, P.M.

Please offer my sentiments of esteem and love to your father (we cannot help loving such a father) and my respects to Mademoiselle.

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 20/145 VI 10)

Belley, October 7, 1842

My dear sisters,

It's time to give you a sign of life and also to thank you for all your kindnesses toward me during my recent stay at La Mure. I was so happy about my visit, especially since I saw that your health was improving. Do take care of yourselves and I hope that you will be getting better and better. Take care not to go out into the cold. Avoid sudden changes from a very hot temperature to a very cold one. That often happens in La Mure.

My trip to Grenoble was a bit difficult. Unaware that the coach I took would pass by Monteynard, I immediately decided to stay until evening. While in a hurry to leave, yet not wanting to repeat my goodbyes which would have made you sad, I went as far as Cerf de la Motte and from there to Pierre-Chatel. I was reassured that I would not be seen by anyone at Monteynard, that I would be well hidden. I could not decide on it because the sight of this place and its good people would have moved me too much.

³² Father Gabriel Mayet, his brother.

³³ La Mure.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

Then, I learned that Mr. de Pelissiere was in La Mure. Trusting in God, I decided to wait for the five o'clock coach for Pierre-Chatel; but there was no vacant place. I waited for the midnight coach, still no empty place except for the one above. It didn't matter. I placed myself next to the driver and we rolled right along to Grenoble in the cold air.

I stayed three days at Voreppe, but the person I had wished to see was not there. There was ample time to speak with Fr. Fayolle. He is delightful. His trip to Rome will not materialize, so much the better!

In Lyons I visited Mme. Reynier. I think very highly of that woman. She told me that she was going to La Mure.

I also visited and consoled Miss Fribourg's sister. She felt very deeply about the loss of her child. I was pleased with myself that I had gone. A letter alone would have surprised them too much.

I also saw several boys from La Mure; Mr. Cotte's son, who is doing very well. I saw the son of Ramus who is not doing so well but we do have hopes.

I was pleased with the two children of Mme. Balme from Breuil who are very fine and responsible. They are well.

Fr. Desmoulins who went to La Mure strikes me as an angel of piety.

Have courage, my sisters! Let us always love the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin; that is the way to be happy in this world.

Please be so kind as to send with dear papa Artaud a book which I loaned to Miss Cesarine Reynier. You could advise papa Artaud that the coach from Cordon is now in service. He will still have to travel two hours from Abrets to Cordon. The coach doesn't reach Cordon until five or six o'clock in the evening. It would be better if he could find a coach from Grenoble to Morestel. At least he wouldn't have to walk.

I forgot a black scarf again in La Mure. If you should find it, please forward it to me.

Ever all yours in our Lord,
J. Eymard, Marist priest

Miss Marianne Julian-Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

31

CO 30

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 21/145 VI 10)

Belley, December 6, 1842

My dear sisters,

Every day I chide myself for my silence and I resolve to write to you. Then a thousand and one things happen that prevent me from doing so. This doesn't mean that my love for you isn't still as great as ever. My thoughts are often with you. My heart is at Mary's feet so that she may bless and love you.

I am still quite well. For some time now, we have had very changeable weather. One day is just ideal, then the next is excessively cold. However, good weather has persisted for a few days now. Yet this marvelous weather has given some people here sore throats and headaches. Please don't catch these because they are really bad.

We haven't had any snow yet.

Little Auguste is well³⁴; he hasn't been sick.

³⁴ Auguste Artaud, son of a family friend at La Mure.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

I would have sent you the clogs you requested in your last letter, but I didn't receive your letter until after dear papa Artaud left. Then it was impossible to fulfill your request. Hopefully I will have better luck another time.

Papa Artaud told me that the Superior had promised him a discount of 50 (fifty) francs, but he left before the matter had been settled. He can rest assured that I will request the same favor myself from the Vicar General. But he doesn't grant it easily.

Take good care of yourself during the winter and pray in your room when it's too cold. Above all, don't work too much. Death follows life, and heaven, I hope.

I enjoy reading the details in your letters. So don't forget to tell me about the sick and the deceased. I especially like to pray for those whom I have known.

All yours *in Christo*,

Your brother,
J. Eymard, Marist priest

P.S. My best wishes to Fr. Rabilloux and his colleague³⁵. A very special remembrance to the Fayolle family.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

32

CO 31

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 23/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*³⁶

Belley, January 23, 1843

My very dear sisters,

Indifference is not the reason for my delay in writing to you. It is a little laziness. To write a letter is a sacrifice for me. So I am often reproached for my negligence. I have at least a dozen letters to write and only God knows when they will get done! Since Charles told me that you had given him a letter for me, I was waiting for it to answer you. I still haven't received it because his package was delayed en route.

Through different people I received news about you, and I thank the Good Lord that you are doing fairly well. May God keep you both well and peaceful.

I sang the Midnight Mass and I offered it for you, my dear sisters. The three of us were around the crib of the Child Jesus³⁷ and as celebrant, I held him in my hands. I presented you to him as my dear sisters. This divine Master was crying and suffering and seemed to say to me: "Your sisters are also suffering and crying. But tell them from me, that one day I will wipe away their tears and I will be their reward. Love them because they resemble me and because I love them."

Those were my feelings at the Midnight Mass. I presume that you were also thinking of me and that we met at the feet of the Child Jesus.

On New Year's day, the Blessed Virgin received my wishes for you. Presented by her, they will be heard. She is our common Mother.

³⁵ the parish priests.

³⁶ Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

³⁷ in spirit.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

My good sisters, this will be a good year if we progress more and more in the love of Jesus and Mary. If our souls would often rise toward heaven to learn the path it must travel one day and only once, for all eternity, it would be an excellent year.

I often say to myself: my only concern is "To go to heaven, close to Mary." It's so true. Whoever knows the world sees there is nothing to gain from it. Rather, one is constantly exposed to lose everything. The world is nothing since it cannot make us happy. So let us leave it behind and lose ourselves in the hearts of Jesus and Mary until the day we die. Death will break our chains and tear away the veil that prevents us from seeing the face of God.

Now I am giving you a sermon, my dear sisters, but I know that you like that. As for news, it is so meaningless that it isn't worth repeating.

I'm doing well. Auguste Artaud is also well.

My regards and best wishes for New Year's to Mme. Dumoulins, the Fayolle family, good Mme. Cros whom I highly esteem, without forgetting Mr. Fribourg, Miss Fribourg and Mr. Juvin.

All yours,
J. Eymard, Director

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

33

CO 32

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 25/145 VI 10)

Belley, March 9, 1843

My dear sisters,

I received your most welcome letter. It's always with great pleasure that I receive news from you. It's only right since you are all I have in this world. If I don't write as often as your heart wishes or as I would like, it's only that I am too busy.

I urge you to take care of your health especially during Lent. Eat meat because you absolutely need it. Surely your Pastor would oblige you to it. So, I don't think that your timidity or fear should prevent you from asking him. He is kind though a bit cold; his character is like that. Then my dear sisters, let us be humble like the Blessed Virgin.

If no one pays attention to us in the world, if we seem to be forgotten, let us bless the Good Lord for it. We will love him all the more purely. This is how the Saints acted and wished it to be.

I thanked Miss Marsallat for her nice visit with you. That lady is so kind and proper!

I am well... Little Auguste is also well and is doing well. We are very pleased with him.

Please offer my best wishes to the two excellent Assistants³⁸ whom I love and esteem with all my heart.

Please don't forget Mme. Dumoulins and recommend me to her prayers; to good Mme. Cros, whom I consider as my mother; to Mme. Didier about whom I would like to receive news; to all the wonderful Fayolle family.

For yourself, do take care of yourself. Love the Lord and his holy Mother.

Your brother,
Eymard, Director

³⁸ parish priests.

34

TO M^{LL}ES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD³⁹
(III 24/145 VI 10)

Don't let those difficulties crush you. Such are the adversities of life. Place this problem in God's care, then act. Write and tell me what you have done. I am enclosing a letter for Miss Fribourg. If you think it might do her some good, give it to her. If not, burn it.

Take courage! Fix the house in order to find more suitable tenants. You would do well to sell all the tools of the oil press. It is really giving you too much trouble. May God come to your aid!

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard

35

CO 33

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 1/17)

(Belley), April 18, 1843

Mademoiselle,

How kind you were to have remembered my dear Sodality⁴⁰ and so spontaneously. So we can offer you only a modest but very sincere thank you, and if you will, a prayer on the part of all the members. Your flowers decorated the altar of the Blessed Virgin, and are also a loving tribute of your zeal for her honor.

We saw Mr. Tonny⁴¹. He is still as charming as he is endearing. It is too bad we don't see him more often.

He will convey to you personally our best wishes and feelings for you and your whole family, which I consider as my own.

I have the honor of being, Mademoiselle,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, PM

Miss Elizabeth Mayet
Lyons

In the following letter, St. Peter Julian describes how busy he is as Director of a boarding school.

³⁹ Fragment ending the Doc. #198 in Volume I (CO 195).

⁴⁰ Sodality of Mary, a lay association.

⁴¹ her brother.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 26/145 VI 10)

V.M.⁴²

Belley, May 19, 1843

My very dear sisters,

I was expecting some news from you every day. You probably are making the same complaint against me. You see, I am writing first, hoping to find out how you spent the Lenten season, how you are doing and if you are well. Also send me some detailed news about the people in whom I am interested - especially Mme. Lesbros. Please offer her my most sincere regards and, if she is feeling better, tell her how happy I am about it. Don't forget Mr. Dumoulins and good Mme. Cros, that kind mother whom I love so dearly.

It seems to me that you had a very consoling Jubilee⁴³ filled as it was with success and conversions. Now, with the month of Mary everything will be renewed and rekindled with love for the most Blessed Virgin.

I must include a word about myself - I'm the same as usual, thanks be to God. From morning till night I am as busy as a mother nursing her children. It's not a difficult work. It's accompanied with great consolations, especially when we witness continual conversions among these young people. Surely my position could be envied and seen as really desirable because we can hope to do a lot of solid good, having these young children continually with us to be nurtured. Believe me, some of them are very intelligent and generous.

Auguste is very well. The only drawback is that he doesn't have much talent. However, he does have enough to be a good student, but not enough to be one of the first. He works well just the same.

I must include some news. The frost did a great deal of damage in many places but especially here on the nut trees and the vines.

The weather is inconsistent. There is a lot of rain and humidity. Please keep your feet dry with the horsehair soles.

We have just sent a dozen missionaries with a Bishop to China. They will convert the natives who have never heard of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Religion is taking hold and is reawakening everywhere, especially in the large cities. I pray that, before we die, we may see it flourish with a faith similar to that of the first centuries. The Blessed Virgin is especially being recognized in this century. Let us not lag behind. Let us love this good mother with our whole heart.

Take courage, my good sisters. Have patience and love God! Write soon.

Your most affectionate brother,
J. Eymard, Director

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

⁴² Abbreviation for Praised be Mary.

⁴³ parish mission in a Jubilee year.

TO MR. ANTONY MAYET
(VII 3/6)

Belley, July 24, 1843

Very dear friend,⁴⁴

I am borrowing someone else's hand to answer you about your good brother who still loves you dearly, as I do, needless to say. It's in his name that I have come to express our love.

You are really too kind to remember my short trip, you who know only too well that nowadays people go to America, or China, or New Zealand at the drop of a hat, either as fishstockers⁴⁵ (which is more lucrative) or as missionaries.

A little further and you would have been here with us. Yes, if you had fallen asleep for one instant, you would have had dinner with us at Belley, instead of dining at St. Clair at about the same time. Our mail-coach burned the road. Eight hours to Meximeux, 1-1/4 hours to Belley, wouldn't you say that was very good? So then, you see, we had a good trip: no [incident] of a brother killed, sick or dead, as you can see. Always silent though,⁴⁶ excused from conversation, unless it be with the Good Lord, the Blessed Virgin, or the Saints of the triumphant Church. He speaks often with them, however, and constantly about you. He does so with genuine outbursts from the heart which bear no counterfeit, and with a sweeping ambition of spiritual wishes, with a lively prayer and endless loquacity. That, he says, does not hurt his throat, but only his heart and the strange thing is, that it relieves his heart at the same time. I certainly wouldn't understand it except for our two meetings...if I loved you less, and if I were not a priest...but on to something else.

I am quite sad that your father isn't well and I strongly urge him, as well as the Abbe, to take good care of themselves. As strong as he is, he will be able to overcome this little discomfort with some medicine. Father wants me to add that you shouldn't disturb [your father] with your dizzying confusion when it upsets him. I really don't know what he is making me write here, but he is really insisting... "We must do the will of those who are ill!" you told him once, when you had no other answer to give...so now, you yourself are the victim of that saying.

He received that dear fatherly letter from your fine papa Mayet and thanks him. It was like the quintessence of a father's heart entirely preoccupied with his children. Somehow, even the Good Lord would be embarrassed (if I may use this expression) were he to refuse this good father what he petitions for his children... Father Mayet's health is still mediocre, but who knows what is best? But how could he not bless his other requests...Father is here telling me to implore your father to continue to pray for you because, he says, you have an immense need for it, more than you think. Come now, Sir, you know what we were telling you as we ran ahead of the coach of Belley⁴⁷ at Easter. You must get your own weapons, for it will be useless for us to draw a sword to defend you. The efforts of all the other fighters to save you will guarantee your loss, if you yourself remain a spectator to the struggle. You must really accept these words from poor Father Eymard. No, rather, no permissions asked. Certainly Sir, if we must wear white gloves to tell you: don't go to hell forever, you are among the...

Your brother was waiting for you to give him fresh news, to write to you about that business and he doesn't want to do so sooner. He is being stubborn.. He can't make sense out of the silence from that family... He adds that it hasn't been very long since he has seen or written to you, not to complain about you or write to you, but because he doesn't like people to worry... So then, he says he won't write.

⁴⁴ For an explanation of the tone of this letter, see letter 4 to Antony Mayet, July 26, 1843.

⁴⁵ Empoisonneur: difficult to translate.

⁴⁶ Fr. Mayet had a speech problem due to the larynx.

⁴⁷ Passengers often dismounted the coaches when the horses were going uphill.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

You mentioned Spain. Let me tell you about Spain, since I am just as close to it as you are. Espartera, whom God is pursuing, is in flight, seeking refuge in a colony. If God wills, he will get him.

We are ending on August 2.⁴⁸ Our children are very fervent and by means of a good retreat they have just pouched many cartridges for their two-month campaign.

Goodbye, regards, greetings, love. I offer my respects to the whole family, and I am, for life, and if you will, for eternity,

Your good friend,
Eymard

38

CO 36

TO MR. ANTONY MAYET
(VII 4/6)

Belley, July 26, 1843

Dear friend,

Thank you for your kind letter. I was very surprised when I read it. If you wanted to play a trick on us, you really succeeded. Weren't you able to see that it was a playful letter?⁴⁹ That my thoughts were flowing from the pen of your dear and beloved priest-brother? That he put so much humor into it that in the end, he was becoming vague. This dear friend was saying: My brother will laugh to think that I would be silent and speak for Father Eymard. So, no more mysteries, we were both together with these thoughts.

Father is better. He is very reflective. The news about that sad affair did not affect him; he was expecting it. His soul is really strong yet very loving. These two qualities, which are so rare, are also found in his dear Tonny.

Your letter really made me sad, dear friend. It seems to me that the blows falling upon all of you hurt me more deeply. I would like to see you all happy and peaceful. Poor family! What trials have already befallen you! This recent blow must hurt very much again, especially now. Really, my dear Tonny, I seem to need more comfort than you do.

Your efforts to go to Fr. X thrilled your dear brother. He told me: "My good brother was true to himself. I would have expected that from that heart of his."

He has also just written him a lovely letter, if we can use that word (lovely) when we offer sympathy.

Regarding that business situation, don't get discouraged dear one. This is my thought: everything is frustrating and seems hopeless; [yet] it will succeed, the Good Lord will get involved. I like the phrase: "I trust in God." It's a prophecy.

Dear friend, please thank your sisters in my name for the lovely flowers they so thoughtfully donated for my Sodality.⁵⁰ I am late with my thanks but my heart has never been.

Goodbye, dear friend. We will meet again, I hope.

All yours,
Eymard

⁴⁸ The school year.

⁴⁹ C.F. letter to Anthony Mayet, July 24, 1843.

⁵⁰ Sodality of Mary, a lay association.

TO FR. JEAN-CLAUDE COLIN, S.M.
(VI 1/6)

*V. J. Marie*⁵¹

St. Marcellin, August 11, 1843

My very Reverend Father,

I am writing to report to you about my mission. God blessed it, and the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph clearly protected me.

First, I want to congratulate you for not sending a letter. It could have caused you problems later, and a thousand other things which could not be foreseen.

The house will be adequate. It is in a good location. There is space for expansion on either side. Some rooms are not finished yet; they will be completed during the holidays. To conclude, with some money this establishment could become very lovely, but especially very flourishing. It is [located] at the hub of five regions. It lacks a chapel.

Here is the result of my visit: I found the priests⁵² quite discouraged; worried about the professors they lack; troubled as a result of an administration which is constantly hampered by the three who are at the head and do not get along, who contradict one another in spite of their good intentions. There can be no unity with such leadership. Their institution could only destroy itself. The death of one of the three would destroy everything. They agreed that the status quo was equivalent to agony and death.

They accepted your offer, Father, as a life-saver, but they absolutely need new members. I promised I would ask you in their names; that is, a Director, Professor of Humanities, one for the third level and one for French. They also wanted a Prefect, but I opposed it (unless you advise otherwise) because, 1. if the Prefect were not to succeed, it could harm the Society, since this position is so difficult; and for the first year, it's better not to have any animosity toward us; 2. that it would be better to train one on the spot, with the spirit of the house, etc...

They asked me for a Professor of Rhetoric. My feeling was to refuse it; 1. so as not to cause too much commotion and create too much of a stir; 2. the person who has been doing it is familiar with all the customs; because of all the comments and compliments received, etc., it was necessary that Mr. Boirayon should continue another year; 3. it would upset his sense of pride to remove Mr. Boirayon as Professor of Rhetoric. The result was that Mr. Boirayon, who wanted to give it up, would continue to take charge of the Rhetoric.

But, the big issue was the administration of business matters. We spent a day and a half debating this important question. We had to be sensitive about Mr. Crozat. It was necessary that he have some distance from everything, be absolutely out of everything without its seeming to come from you. Finally, we succeeded. Fr. Chovin is in charge of everything, as you will see in the minutes and Mr. Crozat will be the Professor of Mathematics.

Mr. Crozat was asking for security. We named you as guarantor, to satisfy Mr. Crozat, who, it would seem was always afraid to sign. Fr. Chovin and Mr. Boirayon told me to let you know that it was only a matter of form because at the end of the school year, they would get reimbursed for many notes. I told them I would submit that clause to you; that my mission was not that extensive. However, Father, I think there is nothing to fear.

They are asking me for a Treasurer. I refused it so that the Society would not seem to be immediately in charge. I am convinced that for the first year we should not engage in any employment which is too burdensome, risky or notable.

⁵¹ Long live Jesus and Mary.

⁵² It may be that all the men discussed in this letter are priests. However the title "Fr." was given only when this was certain.

Now, if you agree, we would need to write to the Bishop about the request made by these Gentlemen. He may be somewhat upset and frightened because the Vicar General is pushing him; but he is in an awkward position. Once your letter is sent, these Gentlemen will act upon it. Perhaps we should speak to him openly; he sees clearly and it would flatter him.

If you could write to him as soon as possible, these Gentlemen will not act until they get your answer. Besides, the Bishop knows that we were invited.

Fr. Gay, the Vicar at Peage, is [alone] at this moment. The Bishop has just changed the second Associate, so he is afraid he cannot leave at the moment. He asks you to allow him to make his novitiate with the new Novices in the Institute. Besides, that will be very easy⁵³. Fr. Chovin would have two excellent members for the Society. He would like to keep them and have them study their Philosophy in his house, while using one at the Prefecture and the other for a lower class. He asked me to share that with you and to ask your opinion.

So, Father, this is the result of my visit. [I am] pleased if I served as an instrument for the will of God in everything.

Your obedient son,
Eymard, S.M.

P.S. The clergy will be happy to see us come. They were telling me, even now, that the Bishop should ask for us, etc... - As for Father Touche, I learned very painful and distressful things. Please, Father, try to cut things short with him, so clearly that he can no longer boast of belonging to the Society. He has harmed the Society here, and his actions betray a very imprudent and dangerous man. People are astonished at how we receive him. He almost destroyed all the good that Fr. Chovin had done. He stirred up the students against Mr. Crozat. He campaigned to be named Superior instead of Fr. Chovin in case of death... Finally, Father, he complained that the Society obliged him to pay for his own trip to Paris for the Irish College. That is how he obtains money for his plans. He offered a Professor to Fr. Chovin. I believe it is his nephew. That is how he proceeds. He has lost all respect in the diocese of Valence.

If you should need me, I am leaving for La Mure to be with my sister (Isere). A word from you and I will fly wherever you want.

Please forgive me for sending you a letter which is so badly written. I couldn't do better and it is urgent.

40

OC 38

TO MR. ANTONY MAYET
(VII 5/6)

Oct. 13, 1843

Dear friend,

Two words! I saw and spoke to the gentleman from Grenoble, as we had said. He knows Mr. P. well; they see each other, they own neighboring properties. He told me that he would speak diplomatically about the matter without jeopardizing anything.

A million,⁵⁴ head merchant of Grenoble, a good reputation, no usury, ready to retire; a merchant son-in-law planning on this fortune. Many people are stepping forward, either without a head or without a heart. People don't want them. I was told that in that business everything is done by the

⁵³ Some words are missing because the letter was torn open.

⁵⁴ Francs?

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

mother. So, be confident, I welcome this hope for your happiness. In the meantime, my dear friend, Fourviere and everything else you were describing would be difficult. That's too bad, but it must be.

I like the son-in-law, he is direct and generous.

Your priest-brother is well, he is happy here. He has his routine and a lot of variety.

My respects and greetings to your good sisters please, and to Mme. Emma and Mme. Aline.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I know a fine young man who needs a position. - Can something be found? His education is average.

41

CO 39

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 27/145 VI 10)

Belley, October 22, 1843

My very dear sisters,

Thank you for your kind letter. My heart wanted to answer immediately; but so many matters took my time. I didn't want to answer you hastily, but waited for a more leisurely moment.

The news of Nanette's sickness made me sad. Since she is often ill, she should spare herself. I firmly hope that your situation will improve so that you will have fewer worries and concerns. Knowing your energy for work, I see that you will always do more than you can. So, if you should find a good price for the house and invest the money well, you would be able to live more peacefully.

As for what you told me, I would have been very hurt if you hadn't added that you didn't believe what was said. As if I would not care whether you were in poverty and claim part of the money from the house. On that subject you know what I told you during my holidays, my word should be enough for you and Nanette. I am upset with only one thing. It is that when I am at La Mure I don't know who the persons are who judge me in this manner. My answer would be ready for them. They say it comes from a good heart; but I, I see it otherwise. It's an outrage and the most bitter insult. I wish you had been silent about it and spared me that sorrow, because that would help me to avoid making rash judgements. Let there be no further question about it. If I didn't love you, would I be so happy to go see you? You know very well that when I go to La Mure, it isn't for the village nor for my acquaintances, but only for you.

It seems that the sale of Mr. Didier's garden will go through. They wrote to [tell] me about it.

Six thousand francs for the house would not be enough. We need a higher price.

Let us count a great deal on Providence, which takes care of those who trust.

As for you, my dear sisters, work for heaven always. Love our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Visit him often. Dedicate yourselves entirely to love the Blessed Virgin and to the interior life.

Each day we must buy heaven by some sacrifice.

United in the love of our Lord and in prayer, I am

Your brother,
J. Eymard

P.S. Auguste is well

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

TO FR. BRAMEREL
(V 1/5)

Belley, December 26, 1843

Very dear friend,

For a long time now I have been looking for a sufficient amount of time to reply to so many signs of friendship from you. So, among the many letters I have to write, yours will be the first.

Your two letters touched me deeply. I was expecting them, because I know your heart. You could surely reproach me because I made you wait so long. If there is some laziness, there has never been any forgetfulness. I would say to myself every day: Come on! You must pay your debts today.

What good news can I give you? You are now in your Cenacle, happy, pleased, settled, so much the better! When we like our situation, it's Paradise on earth.

I imagine that a few clouds pass over your head from time to time but they pass quickly. However, we need to have the patience [necessary] to wait for the Sun of Justice, because human life is only temporary, tested and changeable. The happiest man is the one whose virtue resides above the storms and tempests which burst at his feet.

You miss the Sodality, and we also miss you! Your departure left a great void; but the thought of you is still alive here. It's a beautiful and touching thing when, on Sundays and Thursdays we pray for our absent brothers. And then each one names his friends and consecrates them to our good Mother. I am deeply touched to learn that you all love this gentle Virgin very much and that you speak about her often. Continue, dear friends, she is looking at you and smiling at your desires for her glory.

Here, we do all we can, but not all that we owe her. The Sodality has about 50 members and seems to be going well.

Nothing new here; everyone is hard at work, and all are feeling well.

Don't forget us, especially me. Next time I won't delay so long! Thank you for your offer of 5 francs for the Sodality. But they told me that you had already been inscribed and they didn't want to give me anything. You should tell me if you have begun the lessons.

I embrace you with all my heart.

All yours *in Maria*,
J. Eymard

P.S. My best wishes, my regards to all our good hermits, silent like St. John of, dead to the world. However, Mr. Delacourt, Mr. Turnier, Mr. Bernardy⁵⁵, have all given me signs of life; Please express my gratitude to them.

Rev. Bramerel
1st Course
Major Seminary of Brou
At Bourg (Ain)

⁵⁵ Perhaps other seminarians.

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 28/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*⁵⁶

Belley, January 13, 1844

My dear sisters,

Thank you for your kind letter. It made me feel good. I was beginning to find the time long and I was going to write to you when I received your letter. I also wish you a happy New Year. Alas! My sister, if our Lord had not led a life of poverty and suffering, if he had not left his cross as a heritage to his children, I would wish you happiness in this world. But, all I can ask for you is patience, love for Jesus crucified, the joy of a soul [which] serves God fervently, a hope which sighs for that beautiful heaven of the Elect and yearns for it with its whole soul. That is my wish for you, it's the one you were expecting from me and which you like [to receive].

Take heart, my good sisters, let us go toward Paradise. Let us see life as a crucible where gold is purified, as a difficult but heavenly path, which leads towards the Blessed Virgin, to our Lord. They are opening their arms to us saying: Yet a little while and I shall be your reward.

You may know that Rose, the housekeeper of the pastor of Chatte, died on Christmas day. Pray for her, I owe her a debt of gratitude.

The death of papa Darier deeply affected me. But his holy life makes me envy his lot, for he is a saint. Offer my condolences to that fine family.

I have no news [to give] about myself, except that I am well, and that my great desire is to become a saint so as to help others become saints and so procure the glory of God.

Present my New Year wishes to Mme. Cros, to Mme. Dumoulins, to the excellent Fayolle family.

Your brother,
J. Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 29/145 VI 10)

Belley, June 4, 1844

My very dear sisters,

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time. I thought that you might even write first, but it was my turn. I am always happy to fulfill this fraternal duty with joy; but you know that I am a little lazy about writing.

I am well. We are all working as much as we can. Life is so short and heaven is so worthy of being earned by every possible means! I often thank our Lord for having given me the grace of

⁵⁶ Abbreviation for Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

sacred ministry to boys and children. It is a most meritorious and consoling ministry. We are preparing priests for the Church and watching over children with a mother's care.

Pray so that the Good Lord may bless my efforts. It is to your advantage since we share everything.⁵⁷

Auguste is well, we are still happy with him.

I've just visited the Bishop of Gap, Bishop Depéry, the Canon of Belley. Surely, Gap shall be pleased with this choice. He loves the Blessed Virgin very much.

Write to me and give me a lot of news. I am longing to receive news about you, since you are all I have on this earth. It's only right that I should think about my sister who loves me more than I deserve, and about Nanette whom I call my Nanny and my nurse. So, be sure that if my prayer has any value in God's eyes, you have a great share in it.

I am, in the love of Jesus and Mary,

Your brother,
J. Eymard

P.S. My affectionate regards to Fr. Rabilloux and Fr. Verdun⁵⁸, and also the good Fayolle family and Mme. Cros.

Miss Eymard
at La Mure (express mail)

45

CO 43

TO MR. ANTONY MAYET
(VII 6/6)

Belley, June 5, 1844

Dear friend,

Thank you for your fine friendly letter. I wasn't expecting it for a while with so much to be done, but in your friendship you put me first. I am proud of that and I am repaying you [the honor] because you know my affection for you. This news really pleased me, especially such a choice. May God bless you always.

Every time I think of the commandment: "Honor your Father and Mother and you shall live a long life," my thought turns naturally to #4 St. Clair and I say: They shall live a long life there, and be happy in this world. - They deserve it. They earned it. I have never seen a family where there is so much love, where there has been so much dedication. That is at the source of my esteem. The last part: "and be happy in the next," I draw as a consequence, because saints are praised only after their death.

I said Holy Mass for you on the predetermined day. May heaven pour out all its blessings upon you. When you see your dear brother, hug him for me... It was so hard for me to see him leave⁵⁹. I can hardly get used to it. I have to chase the thought away, it makes me sad. Please ask him if he received his package.

Goodbye, my dear friend, my sincere wishes to your whole family.

All yours,
Eymard

⁵⁷ Spiritual benefits.

⁵⁸ Parish priests.

⁵⁹ Fr. Mayet was transferred to Hyeres.

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

P.S. Thouin is fine.
Address: Mr. Mayet, Broker
Hemmerline and Mayet
Lyons

46

CO 44

TO FR. BRAMEREL
(V 2/5)

Belley, July 7, 1844

Very dear friend,

Your good letters always bring me great pleasure. I always find that same simplicity, honesty, and generous heart which God loves so much. I ask him to help you keep these fine qualities.

So now you are ready to take the first step in an apostolic career: do it, my dear, like a giant *a summo coelo*.⁶⁰ We lose nothing by consecrating ourselves to God, leaving everything to follow him. And then, what are we in fact giving up for him? Problems, burdens; a selfish, wicked, unbelieving world; a vanity whose only reality is remorse, the torments of an unfaithful conscience. - No, no, let's not feel any regrets over what we leave to follow our Lord. If we have any, it should be that we sacrifice so little to the love of Jesus Christ! - They say that the success of a thing depends on its beginning. Take this first step well: let it indeed be a farewell, a step which liberates the mind from the world. What can you do to prepare yourself well for it? The *Imitation* says: "Give everything and you will receive everything."

The Gospel says, "*Si quis vult post me venire, abneget semetipsum, tollat crucem suam quotidie, et sequatur me*."⁶¹ That is the sum of the sacrifice.

But you have a treasure within yourself to exploit! Here it is; perhaps you never noticed it.

I noticed and I still notice in you a tender devotion toward the Sacred Heart of Jesus. My dear, that is one of those choice graces which God gives to a few special souls. So, cultivate this grace carefully. Give it your full attention. It is sufficient to satisfy you during your whole life and for all eternity. Try to get some reading matter on it.

Now, you are right to scold me about our silence about the first letter addressed to the Sodality. It's surely not through coldness, even less because of indifference for such lovely flowers, but I was waiting to have some major news to tell you. The Bishop was due to make his consecration in a few days, and we wanted to describe it to you; but waiting made us lazy, since the Bishop didn't make his consecration until the feast of St. Louis of Gonzaga. Then, to make up for everything, we gave a general report to everyone, to the whole family; and I imagine that Fr. Gallet must have received it and shared it with everyone.

I won't tell you any details about our feast for the reception of the Bishop. It was very touching; and several cried when they heard the loving and heartfelt consecration of this holy Bishop. We now feel very glorious and proud to have three Bishops at our Head, the Superior General of an Order, a Martyr, and holy missionaries. That should encourage us!

Try to reawaken the zeal of the members of the Sodality. Remind them of the Association we established which is always growing. I am sending you 50 certificates for this purpose to distribute to those who hope to find associates during their holidays. When school opens or sooner, they should send the names here, to inscribe them in our lovely register. You may know that I wrote to Rome, in order that the associates could enjoy all the indulgences of the Sodality. During the holidays, I plan to prepare a little manual for the members of the Sodality and the Associates.

⁶⁰ "from highest heavens." Tr.

⁶¹ "If you want to follow me, deny your very self, take up your cross daily and follow me."

Belley: 1839 - Nov. 1844

In order to help the Sodality a little, request the small amount of 5 cents from the priests to whom you give the certificates. It is meant to cover our expenses and to have our little manual printed. However, if you don't find a use for them, please return them to me by means of a priest from Belley.

We must also give a Miraculous Medal to those we enroll or one from the Archconfraternity. I am sending you a few.

Goodbye, dear friend, this time you will be pleased with me. Embrace for me Fr. Tournier, Fr. Buridon, Fr. Delacourt, the whole family, all the brethren, because *cor nostrum patet ad vos*.⁶²

All yours in Corde J.C. et Mariae,
J. Eymard

Fr. Bramarel
At the Major Seminary
At Bourg (Ain)

47

CO 45

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 30/145 VI 10)

*Belley, July 9, 1844*⁶³

My very dear sisters,

I am writing these few words to answer your kind letter, while waiting to do so in person. Yes, my good sisters, just as I am still the subject of your brotherly love, so I do not forget you either. Every day, I think about you at the holy Altar and during the day.

I am always happy to go to see you. I would have liked to share the first part of my holidays with you, but I can only give you the last part. I may take a trip to Avignon, to visit the Trappists and find some edification. It is said that they are Angels on earth.

I will also see Avignon, the ancient city of the Popes, where there are still such beautiful ruins. Perhaps I will go as far as the sea, for during our holidays we need to travel to shake off all the worries of the year. It's a real need.

Please, tell papa Artaud to go to Miss Marsallat in Grenoble, to get the reliquary that I ordered for him and to pay for it. It should cost 20 francs. It is for a pastor here.

Once again offer my fond regards to the Pastor and to my friends, his two fine curates. Ever yours in Jesus Christ,

Your brother,
J. Eymard

Miss M. Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

⁶² "our heart sympathizes with yours."Tr.

⁶³ May be the 19th.

TO MR. PERROUD
(VII 1/2)

Belley, October 15, 1844

My dear friend,

Since I didn't have the pleasure of seeing you at home, I will console myself with a letter. I saw your Wife, her modesty is charming, she has the Mayet spirit. Heaven made her especially for you. May He be blessed!

You had a perfect visit this time. I am told that you are becoming inseparable with the Bishop of Amiens, like Father and Son. Certainly, my dear friend, people envy you and I am not surprised if so many blessings have borne such blessed fruit.

Mme. Aline arrived with her son and returned the same day. I think that he will develop more this year and will especially overcome his laziness, and that his headaches will not bother him so.

And so you see our dear brother often. Give him a thousand and one expressions of friendship and reproaches from me. Poor priest! what a heart-breaker, a good miracle would suit very well in his case⁶⁴.

Goodbye, dear friend. Be ever kind, joyful, and happy, and do not forget your friends.

Always and ever yours,
Eymard, Director

P.S. I was asked to look for a position for a promising young man who would be a good bookkeeper. Do you know of one? He would need to be paid even the first year, because he couldn't cover [the cost of] his own meals.

⁶⁴ Fr. Mayet suffered from a larynx problem.

CHAPTER III

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Provincial Superior of the Marists - Nov. 1844-1846

Assistant and Visitor General - Sept. 1846-1851

The Social Uprising cf Feb. 1848 ff

La Salette - Apparitions, Miracles

Spiritual Director of the Third Order of Mary

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 31/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*¹

Lyons, November 11, 1844

My very dear sisters,

It's time that I should write to you now that we have more or less passed the bedlam of opening the school year. We have many students this year, over 200. I think you know that Fr. Baret entrusted his nephew Auguste Laval to me. I obtained all the favors that I could for him. I wish for only one thing, that is, that he behave well. I recommended him in a special way to his professor, because he is poor in his studies. I asked them to keep him in the third year and they did. Now he must work well, and I hope that he will succeed. But he needed to leave La Mure and Mr. Mondon's because it would have been a waste of time.

As for Auguste Artaud, he is still well. His professors are pleased with him. He is almost as advanced as Mr. Laval. He will be a good student, he is not homesick. Tell papa Artaud that I passed on the information about his [Auguste's] bed.

As for me, I have had a cold. The damp and rainy weather has caused many people here to complain about sore throats, etc., I had it, too. Now it is passing. Please keep your feet warm and dry. That is very important during this time of year. I hope that you are still wearing flannel. You need it, especially in the winter. It is a necessary expense. You will both be the better for it.

Now I have some news for you. I don't know whether it is good or bad. For me it is neither good nor bad, as a religious should have no will of his own, and should be happy anywhere. The news is that I have just left Belley and that I will now be staying in Lyons with the Superior General, to help him².

It will be a joy for me to be with such holy people and it can only be to my benefit. So, putting aside my human feelings, I thank the Good Lord for placing me in a position where I will have more helps to perfection. From now on, you may write to me: To Fr. Eymard, Marist Priest, Saint Bartholomew's Hill, 4, Lyons.

You need not tell the parents of our students about this. They will hear of it soon enough from their children. Besides, I will not be abandoning the minor seminary of Belley for that. I will often go there for visits. I am responsible for it and I entrusted them to my successor who is one of my friends and who will care for them. So, let them be at peace about it.

I learned with regret that Fr. Bard's sister was very sick. Alas! So true is it that when we think we are happy, God afflicts us to remind us that we will find perfect happiness only in heaven. I united myself to the prayers that Fr. Bard requested. I wanted to write to him, but I didn't have the time.

When you write to me, send me the address of Mme. Reymond, Lucille, at Vienne. When you ask for it, present my respects and regards to the whole Reymond family which I love.

Remember me to Mr. Dumolins and to Mr. Fayolle, don't forget good Mme. Cros.

Could you find out whether Mr. Lesbros received a little book from me? Let's always pray for one another, that is the heart of brotherly love.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Your brother,
Eymard, Marist Priest

¹ Abbreviation: Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

² He does not tell his sisters that he has been named Provincial Assistant to Fr. Colin.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Miss Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

50

CO 48

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.
(V 1/8)

Lyons, January 13, 1845

Very dear Father³,

Finally I am putting everything aside to be entirely at your service; I have a thousand and one things to do here, so I deserve some indulgence! Add to that a miserable Lenten series to be prepared within a month and a half with three instructions a week at the Charity⁴ which, what's more, they say is perhaps not too charitable, since it means preaching at Bellecour. Oh well, may God's grace be there! provided my health holds up.

Nevertheless, I am quite well. But I'm surely not wasting any time from 4:00 a.m. until 9:15 p.m.... In spite of ourselves, my dear Father, we miss the enclosure of Belley, the solitary walks, the beautiful country, the pure air, the peace, the solitude among your little people, and you know how lazy I am about traveling. If I did not have to go into the city, I probably would not have set foot there yet.

Your wishes to me were those of a friend and father, and I offer them daily for you, in the past and in the present, because I need to do so. If you weren't so far away, I would visit you often. I feel that a visit wouldn't hurt you; but perhaps it has not been long enough for me yet. I think it would be better to let Fr. Morcel get well-rooted. That's also Father Superior's feeling. You can speak to him about it, because he will soon be going to Belley. Let me tell you in passing, Father wants you to write to him every month when he is here, about your house, its details and personnel.

It's true that I shared your news with him. But, since it's the Rule, he wants it. As for me, I'd like it to be every day, your letters do me so much good.

I suffer perhaps more than you do about your situation. I can feel the sacrifices, prudence, patience and difficulties you must undergo. So, I assure you that my every hope is to see it finish or improve. I believe that Fr. Poncet will be true to his word, that is, that he will send all the candidates who are asking to join us to the Minor Seminary. But in that case it must not be in the name of the Diocese, but of the Society, and they must enter absolutely as novices, and not, as has unfortunately been done, to study their vocation. The test is too hard, and with such a mixture, they end by losing their vocation. A person must enter there with his decision being made. With that help and that of the Society, the Seminary will then be part of the whole because there will be a unity. I feel that we must be firm on this point, because you can see the results of our experience as well as I. If I saw Fr. Poncet, I would tell him frankly, but I believe that he feels the same way. So, my dear friend, be a bit more patient.

I didn't write a collective letter to all the teachers because I am very uneasy since I cannot send a letter that is either too serious or too light. Tell me your feelings. It's a little late, but I was waiting for an opportunity, or a lead. It might be better not to say anything.

I have just had 500 Masses registered for the college. Don't worry, we will send you some throughout the year, because I think as you do, and so does Rev. Father Superior. I do have 1000 Masses. Do you want me to send some money to Belley? Do you have some debts here that need to be paid?

³ First of 8 letters to Fr. Morcel, Marist, Superior of the Minor Seminary of Belley.

⁴ cf. Appendix I for the experience of Marguerite Guillot at this retreat.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I sent the altar frames to Antoine; they cost 15 francs, without including the case which I am giving him as a gift. I asked him to give them to you for me. In that case I would take it from the money I have here for you. - I had asked you 23 Masses as alms for our house; can I count on it?

I expect that we will see one another during Lent. Try to keep a few days for yourself.

I learned from the children that Fr. Morcel is loved⁵. If he could be a bit more direct and warlike, *alius sic, alius vero sic*,⁶ have a style which is more manly... But I know that we must plant before we can harvest.

They are very pleased with Fr. Vachon. They put him above... they love and fear him. His way of correcting in private and almost never in public has succeeded well, and has earned him everyone's trust.

I had asked you for 30 Masses before leaving to see Fr. Gros, the Pastor at Innimont. I believe that you inscribed them. If it's [inscribed] for me, it's a mistake. They were for him.

There is nothing unusual here. Bishop Epalle is in London and will leave around January 25th. Fr Charrain and Fr. Paget are still here, waiting to leave.

The missions are succeeding, God is blessing them.

So, I think you will be pleased with me this time. This is long, so excuse this outburst of news.

And believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary,

Your brother and friend,
J. Eymard

51

CO 49

TO FR. GOUJON, S.M.⁷
(VIII 1/2)

Lyons, January 25, 1845⁸

Thank you, dear friend, for remembering me - but I could almost reproach you for being too polite. Perhaps you think my heart has changed - no, not at all. On the contrary, the bonds which bind me to you are stronger, and you may be sure they will be eternal.

This is your last year at Brou. You must be an Apostle there - it is one of those situations which come once in a lifetime, so let us make use of everything to accomplish the Holy will of God - "*bona, beneplacens et perfecta*."⁹

I don't forget you in my poor prayers. I count upon yours, and I beg of you also, as an alms, a novena in honor of St. Joseph, along with some good Communions; and I trust that you will find among my former students, some who will remember their old Father in need.

All yours in SS Cordibus Jesu et Mariae,¹⁰
P.J. Eymard

Rev. Goujon, Deacon and Theologian
at the Major Seminary of
Bourg-en-Bresse, Ain

⁵ He speaks of his correspondent in the third person.

⁶ Now this way, now really that way.

⁷ Photocopies from the microfilm sent by the Bishopric of Noumea to the Superior-General of the Marist. The Rev. Fr. Goujon was a student at Belly when St. Eymard was Director there.

⁸ Address taken from postmark.

⁹ Good, loving and perfect. Tr.

¹⁰ In the hearts of Jesus & Mary. Tr.

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.
(V 2/8)

Lyons, January 26, 1845

My dear Father,

You will be pleased this time: good Fr. Maitrepierre is going to see and hear all your troubles, to bring them all back to us. I am very pleased about it myself, because I can sense your situation. Every day I place you on the paten¹¹ and offer you to God and the Blessed Virgin.

Believe me, it's a great grace to be aware of the difficulties of a house. Sometimes slight faults that are known and corrected do a house more good than a constant regularity which ends by becoming imperceptibly lax. From time to time it's necessary for us to shake up, and to awaken the piety of the children a little. Lent is coming; you know that we had the custom of making a novena for the deceased. You will be needing it soon, closer to Easter.

I urge you to purchase, as soon as possible, an excellent work called: *THE REGULAR TEACHING OF THE MATERNAL TONGUE IN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES* by Fr. Gregoire Girard. (Paris, Dezobry rue des Macons, Sorbonne, no 1, 1844 in-12, 484 pages.) You will like it. Also get *DIALOGUES ABOUT EDUCATION*. It is still in print. There have already been 6 printings; total 26 cents, at Perisse.

Mr. Peyre writes to tell me that there was no mention of a 100 franc note in the bulletin at the beginning of the year. I gave one to the Treasurer, and recently another one to you, payable at the end of December. Since we had settled that the major subscription would be included from the 330 francs, I gave him the news. (Please remind the Director it must be paid.) I often see Fr. Bal. He is fine; it seems that they are pleased with our candidates from Belley at the Major Seminary of Lyons.

Please! Take care of yourself. I am feeling sleepy. Goodbye.

All yours *in Christo*,
J. Eymard, PSM

P.S. I am sending you with Fr. Maitrepierre three money orders for 600 francs which I paid in coin to Mr. Mugniery, from the money for your Masses... And the 400... in silver.

I will draw up the bills and send them to you. You wouldn't be able to find your way through them, they are so badly written and abbreviated.

Feb. 22 until the end of Lent - Lenten mission at La Charit in Bellecour, Lyons.

¹¹ I offer you at Mass.

TO FR. BRAMEREL
(V 3/5)

Lyons, April 8, 1845

My very dear friend,

I would almost not dare write to you now, given my delay, if I didn't know your good heart.

Absent, preacher, confessor.. what else? I had almost stopped breathing except in others. But today, my first free day is for you. It's very late to reply to a letter which needed a prompt response, but today I will confirm what has happened because I believe your name is now written on the banner of Jesus Christ, and that you are happy in this divine army, and that you are longing only for the time when you can proclaim the kingdom of God. Please, my dear friend, you will be a good priest, and the priest of the Blessed Virgin; don't worry. I can understand your fears, but I prefer your love for God and your trust in his divine goodness; and God will bless such a loving heart that can love him so fervently and generously.

The month of your good and only Mother is coming. Make it well; present all your dedicated filial feelings on her altar. You need to do so to relieve your heart, and to find your good Mother once again.

But enough about that, I would still be crying with you...

What should be done about your Breviary? I had spoken about it to one of the Fathers when I left, and it was forgotten.

My best wishes to all your friends, to good Fr. Munier, whom I love four times more, - to good Fr. Delaigne, an honest heart. And so what is happening with my captain Goujon? And my Toccanier? They are sleeping as I am! At least, tell them that Belley Brou are always in Lyons for me.¹²

All and ever yours,
Eymard, Provincial S.M.

Fr. Bramerel
at the Major Seminary
at Bourg (Ain)

¹² Meaning unclear. Perhaps friends who were not writing. Goujon was a student.

TO FR. JEAN CLAUDE COLIN, S.M.
(VI 2/6)

Lyons, April 13, 1845¹³

Very Reverend Father,

I am sending you this letter, as I don't know what decision to make, because I am not informed about the needs of the foreign Missions. I saw a young man who pleased me and would seem to be a good subject? I put him off for two or three days. If he enters, we will have two locksmiths; if you need one in Belley they could be helpful for the new house.

Nothing new here; many requests, but all rejected. St. Bonaventure's requested the Sunday Prayer books.

With the most profound respect I am, very Reverend Father,

Your child,
Eymard, P.S.M.¹⁴

TO FR. GOUJON, S.M.
(VIII 2/2)

Lyons¹⁵, (May, 1845)

My very dear Friend,

Yes, I join you in thanking our good Master for having at last enlisted you in his Holy service, under the banner of his divine Mother. If he has made you earn your vocation, you may be sure that it will be all the more precious and firm.

Thus God tests his own.

Fr. Superior asks me to tell you that the doors of the Society are open to you as a Son of the family of Mary, and so it is with joy that I embrace you as my brother, and look forward to doing so in person.

As for the way of proceeding: I think, dear friend, that a year in Belley at the minor seminary would be the surest way to impress the Bishop. There you would find much benefit for yourself, becoming thoroughly familiar with that type of ministry, which is at the root of all the others. For this reason the Jesuits send their candidates there. It would also be, for you, an active novitiate.

For my part, I thank the Good Lord that I went there myself. I can see now how important it was. However, if you feel too much distaste for this activity, you could return to Lyons.

Courage, now; the moment of victory is always the most difficult; and, before leaving the seminary, light the holy fire there for the glory of God and the kind Virgin Mary, so that it will bring forth Apostles.

¹³ The above dated April 19 was a postscript to a letter from Canon Allies, the Pastor of Orgon, Diocese of Aix, dated April 15, 1845. Father Eymard's was dated either April 13 or 19. (Manuscript unclear.)

¹⁴ Priest of the Society of Mary.

¹⁵ Date and address taken from barely legible postmark.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I hope to hear news of you before the end of the year. I often see your brothers, who are very responsible and very good.

Yours in union with Jesus and Mary,
Eymard, Prov. S.M.¹⁶

Rev. Goujon, Deacon and Theologian
at the Major Seminary of
Bourg-en-Bresse, Ain

56

CO 55

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 32/145 VI 10)

Lyons, May 16, 1845

My very dear sisters,

While waiting for a free day to be able to write to you at greater length, time passed. So today I am putting everything aside to fulfill my duty as a brother. You shouldn't be surprised to hear me speak about my duties. I have many and I can never go to bed saying: I am free. What can I say! God has charged me with a responsibility which would humble anyone who might have wished for it. So to tell you plainly, I am Provincial, that is, responsible for the direction of our houses in France and elsewhere¹⁷. So, since I must be thinking of France, and even Oceania, you can understand that the sun often sets too soon. Yet I am not alone in sustaining this responsibility. The Superior General is there to guide me. When he is not there, I need the Blessed Virgin to be my Superior General.

This new responsibility (I call it this, because among religious there are no honors, the first should be the last and servant of all), this new responsibility puts me in full view and renders all I do public. This causes me many sacrifices of temperament. Now I must be a serious, reflective man, with self-mastery in everything, because my life is a mirror. Sometimes it is difficult for me, for you know that I am naturally quite spontaneous and unaffected.

I tell you this so that you may help me by your prayers, for in the end, the merit of all I do is really shared in half with you. And so to begin with you, I unite and associate you both to all the good works and merits of the Society of Mary. I unite you especially with those of our good missionaries in Oceania where several of them have already received the crown of Apostles and Martyrs.

I didn't write this to you at first, because it was difficult for me to speak about myself. I was so humbled by it. I would be somewhat embarrassed at La Mure, especially if they came to know that I am Provincial. So, I ask you not to say it. We owe that to the humility of the Blessed Virgin. Besides my sisters, believe me, the higher we are placed, the more we are exposed and the more we feel our weakness.

Now to come to you. The news you gave me about the accident disturbed me, as I can imagine your situation. I console myself only by thinking that the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin love you and watch over you. That is my daily prayer. On Pentecost Day, I said a beautiful Mass for you. You do well to stay as you are. I thank our Lord that we did not sell the house. As for your disappointments, put them all at the feet of the Blessed Virgin and through her in the heart of her divine Son. See! When people fail us, God replaces them a hundredfold.

¹⁶ Provincial of the Society of Mary.

¹⁷ He had been fulfilling this responsibility for about six months.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Have courage, love for God, and an ardent desire for Paradise!

Your poor brother in our Lord,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

May 25 - Corpus Christi Procession at St. Paul's, Lyons.

57

CO 56

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.
(V 3/8)

Lyons, May 28, 1845

My dear Father,

I complained about your silence, and now I am even guiltier. However, it isn't [because of] bad will, I sometimes have headaches like you do.

So you are still shackled! I did expect the Bishop to create a big commotion to frighten you, because the poor Bishop must see the wound very well; these three large houses of education are pressing him; and to tell you a secret, Fr. Buyat has decided to force the issue. He came to Lyons to ask for a cell¹⁸ in the Novitiate for the holidays. "That's for good," he said to me, "because I have proved my good will to the Bishop. Now, I must follow my vocation. Later will be too late; now I can still work a little."

If it were permitted to wish some misfortune to a brother, I would wish you some, enough to tell the Bishop: "I can't wait any longer." As for you, Fr. M., the habit is too strong to be healed; you only need to put some salve on the wound, without upsetting the religious discipline, because everything must be sacrificed for a life principle. Poor Fr....! He's a child. Fr. Niermont wrote to tell me that he found him totally depressed. He will see what it's like to be a curate, especially under a pastor who tests so severely. I learned that your house is doing well. However, it's necessary to keep your eye on the second division. They speak rudely there, even my little P...; and the CH... Watch over them closely, it's like oil on a fire.

Toward the end of the year, emphasize [the danger of] human respect¹⁹, the danger of bad companions, bad books, because it's really pitiful and horrible to see young men who were formerly responsible and now, alas! To mention a few, Mr. C.... Mr. L.... are lost young men in Lyons. (I am worried about J.T... I don't see him anymore.) These Gentlemen go to the cafe, to the theater. I learned that the first two go further. P.R... is on the road to ruin. How can it be otherwise, neglected as they are?

We found a lodging for Mr. O.... not without any difficulty. That poor young man might have done foolish things, if I had not been there. Mr. Dubost and Mr. Bal are acting very responsibly.

I am told that the processions for Corpus Christi were exceptionally prayerful. The people still have religion in their hearts; only the bourgeois have made a religion of their wealth and well-being²⁰. They fear only cannons and famine!

However, I had a lovely story to share with you: next time, brother is leaving.

¹⁸ Monastery room.

¹⁹ Human respect = peer pressure, Ed.

²⁰ Literally, stomachs.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Goodbye,

All yours in visceribus caritatis Christi,²¹
Eymard, P.S.M.

58

CO 57

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 33/145 VI 10)

Vienna, July 1, 1845

My dear sisters,

I am writing you a few words from Vienna from the home of kind Madame Lucille who will mail it. I have just come from a brief 4-day trip. I wished that La Mure had been only two leagues away. I would have gone to see you; but you were thirty leagues away. I desire as much as you do to go see you for my annual visit, because a few days spent with you are a delightful family vacation. I can't go now because the Superior General will be absent and I must replace him for business. But be sure that my first free moment will be yours, if the Good Lord wills it so.

In the meantime, don't forget me in your prayers because I need them. You know that you are always present to me in the Lord.

Take care of yourself...

Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
La Mure (Isere)

59

CO 58

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 34/145 VI 10)

Lyons, August 5, 1845

My dear sisters,

I can't let Fr. Dumolard leave without a greeting for you. I would gladly have gone with him to see you if I could have, but the Superior General will be absent for a few weeks. On his return, if I can, I will go see you.

Don't forget me in your prayers, for that is the greatest sign of affection you can give me. For my part I do the same in return, because I always think of you before God. My only desire is that the love of our Lord Jesus unite and enkindle your hearts, now and for ever.

Your poor brother,
Eymard p.

²¹ in the depths of the love of Christ.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

Sept. (Oct.?) - Presided over the departure of 13 missionaries for Oceania.

60

CO 59

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(VI 1/10 III 145)

Lyons, October 5, 1845

My dear Sisters,

I have your letter, and I am answering it right away to put your minds at rest. Yes, I thought I would be able to go to see you before this. It was even arranged; but the business we were hoping to finish is not yet over. In a few days we are sending 13 or 14 missionaries to the Foreign Missions in Oceania. Then we are establishing two foundations and until all that is done, I shall not be able to come to see you. It will all be finished in a fortnight, I hope.

I desire as much as you do to come and see you, for you know what I told you - that if there is still a bond attaching me to this poor earth, it is you. And the Good Lord knows my desire that we should love him with all our hearts, so that Heaven may make up for all these sacrifices and separations.

I certainly realize, my sisters, that the cross is heavy, that the divine Master is greatly afflicting your difficult lives, but be confident: love makes the sacrifices it imposes lightsome, even pleasant. Ah! how good it is to think of Jesus Savior and Judge, in his divine Heart; and to look upon Heaven from the top of the cross!

I leave you there, at the center of union and love. I shall write and tell you when I can leave for La Mure. Ever and always,

Your brother in our Lord,
Eymard, S.M.

61

CO 60

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.
(V 4/8)

Lyons, October 11, 1845

My dear Father,

I cannot let the good brothers leave without writing you in haste to say hello, to recommend that you take care of yourself, live in holy joy, trust in Providence; and pray for us, who are always up to our necks with work. What a life! May God be praised! Truly, I am afraid to lose all my devotion... Because, I am fortunate when I have said Vespers in the evening!

Finally, as God wills!

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

My fond regards to all our colleagues.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I am sending you 2 crucifixes for the Stations of the Cross. Have the confessor determine the prayers according to the Brief which reads: *Modo aliquas preces recitaverit ex arbitrio confessarii*²². Such as, the litany of the Passion, five Our Fathers and Hail Marys for the sick, a few acts of love.

Fr. Morcel, Superior of the Marist Priests
rue de Fleurus, 3 bis
Paris

62

CO 61

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 35/145 VI 10)

Lyons, October 25, 1845

My dear sisters,

I was so pleased to see good Mr. Lebros. I was really touched by his visit, and by the news he brought me about you. I am hoping that my trip will take place in early November. Our missionaries will be gone by then. What delayed me, is that the ship on which they were to embark was delayed. So this time my visit to La Mure will be strictly one of affection, since I will not have the pleasure of the beautiful weather.

If possible, also please order me two or three pair of woolen socks for the winter, so that I can bring them back with me when I come.

I am a bit rushed, so I leave you in Jesus and Mary.

Your brother,
Eymard p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

Nov. 15 - Departure of L'Arche d'Alliance for the missions.

²² "Other prayers may be recited following the judgment of the confessor." Tr.

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.
(V 6/8)

Lyons, November 26, 1845

My very dear Father,

I have just returned from a trip, it's a pleasure and a duty for me to answer your kind letter immediately. First, let me begin with [news about] us. Very Rev. Father was strong in the midst of so many [things] and such laborious business to be settled and organized. We should really thank God and ask him to prolong this grace. We are all so young, especially so inexperienced! I believe that you know that two new foundations have taken place in the past month: at Toulon Fr. Epalle, Superior, with Fr. Dumolard, Marcel and Jammes; at Moulins, Frs. Girard, Superior, Ozonam, Balmet and Carret. All those who are left with us here have gone or will go to the missions. Everyone is well; Fr. Mayet is in Belley, where he keeps going in spite of the *status quo* of his sad but very meritorious condition.²³ The Seminary at Belley is very numerous, Fr. Martin writes that he is very happy.

May God be praised!

And now about you. They must have told you that it would always be sufficient to have the confessor prescribe a few prayers for the crucifixes of the Stations of the Cross.²⁴ However they can be changed. It should be used only in the case of illness, travel, or the moral impossibility of going to church.

Others who are present can participate in this indulgence.

And the sermons! I thought you would tell me you already had half of Lent [prepared], at least a dozen basic stones.²⁵ When... zero! Oh, Fr. Morcel, you who are at the center of information, preachers, libraries. And then, nothing. Please! I forgive you for this time, because you had to get settled, but I am waiting. I promise to send you a big package of plans and good plans; but it will be your duty to plant and water them. As for your exercises of piety, God be praised! It seems that there is some improvement. I also advise you to write while meditating. God manifests himself in many kinds of ways. However, when the feelings of the heart arise, put your pen aside and pray.

About the vocations you mentioned, do receive those who come to you, encourage them, lead them to prayer, to consult the will of God. Then, on your side, study them as well: *multi vocati, pauci digni*.²⁶ Get information on their character, their judgment, their talent, their public behavior.

As for Mr. Pilleux, the young 26 year old, his departure from the Brothers, the motives for his departure are sufficient reasons not to receive him. In general, we should be exacting toward those who have been in other religious houses.

For the German, send him away while comforting him, as the Rule says. People who are inveterately scrupulous can hardly be used.

For the Priest of St. Sulpice, get information about him. Then you can write to tell us the outcome.

As for the point of the Rule, whether the timetable is sufficient: Yes, when we go out to fulfill a duty required by our work, such as, for Sacred ministry, Mass, confession, etc. But we should make it known and ask permission when we go out for something other than ordinary ministry, and make it known when we return. Good order and the religious spirit require it.

²³ Larynx problem.

²⁴ He had the permission granted to missionaries, allowing the confessor to determine certain prayers to be said to obtain indulgences usually granted for the Stations of the Cross.

²⁵ He was expecting a dozen prepared sermons.

²⁶ Many are called, few are worthy.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

In Paris you have the same faculties we have from Rome: to give the indulgences (Bridgettine) on rosaries, crosses, medals, following the *Elencus* printed in Rome. These faculties expire June 21, 1846.

The faculties from Rome to receive vows or for impediments *ad debitum conjugali*²⁷ have expired.

That, my dear Father, is the answer to all your questions. You would do well to write to the Bishop of Belley. I don't know any particulars about the diocese; so we must write a letter [based] on former practice.

Remember me to all our dear colleagues. The thought of you is and will always be affectionate and indelibly written in my heart.

I embrace you warmly in Jesus and Mary.

Eymard, P.S.M.

Dec. 10 - First meeting of the Third Order of Mary by Fr. Eymard.

64

CO 63

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.
(V 5/8)

Lyons, December 15, 1845

My very dear Father,

We are sending you Fr. Thenon. He has good will, he may be helpful; help him to become a little more direct. We have just received a package of letters from Sydney: 1. from Fr. Dubreuil; under his direction the Procure will become important someday because he is very active. 2. Bishop Eppale writes that he arrived in Sydney June 22nd. They are all in good health and had a smooth crossing. He said that the rumor that Wallis was at war is false. Praise God! He said that a ship of state, the *Rhine*, is visiting the center at this time. We hope that he went to visit Bishop d'Amata and that we will have some news soon. It is making us very anxious.

New Zealand is still in a state of war.

I will stop now; they are leaving.

Goodbye in our Lord.

Eymard

Fr. Morcel
Superior of the Marist Priests
rue de Fleurus, 3 bis
Paris

²⁷ "the marriage debt." Tr.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 1/395 VI 2)

Lyons, December 30, 1845

Mademoiselle,^{28 29}

Here is your New Year's gift: the two councils of the Third Order have accepted you. They are doing so immediately, as a favor, rather than put it off another month. I hope that this title of Child of Mary, added to so many others, will make you very grateful to your good Mother, who is accepting you into her family. I thanked her for you, Mary is so kind! Well! Are the heavens quiet now? Oh! Yes, I should think so. Storms³⁰ purify the atmosphere and pass away; then the sun reappears more beautiful and brighter. The longings, grief and tears that arise from a heart which loves only Jesus, are even sweet in the mutual outpouring of divine love. Shame and suffering relieve our poor heart's sense of powerlessness. Martyrdom would make it happy. Don't you think, my daughter, that Magdalen's sighs and tears near our Savior's dead body, Mary's agony at the feet of Jesus who had died on the cross, don't you think that these were not the result of a more heroic love? And wasn't the love of Jesus, suffering alone and forsaken on the cross by his Father and everyone, wasn't that the ultimate degree of suffering love in its total immolation of self? Oh! praised be Jesus, praised be his cross!

So, be a disciple of love's cross. It's true that Jesus complained to his Father: "Father, why have you abandoned me?" Well! You may also complain, but do so lovingly, after the struggle: let it be the outcry of immolated love. When Jesus' enemy and yours attack you so violently, do one thing: let your trust in God lead you to humble self-surrender. That isn't enough either. Go further, humble yourself below everyone, even beneath the devil himself, saying to our Lord:

"Oh! you didn't give him as many graces as you've given me. He no longer has a Savior and Father as I do. He offended you only once, but I, thousands of times. I've been ungrateful, unfaithful. It's only right that he should carry out your justice. Oh, my Father, I humble myself in my nothingness. But since you are my Father, don't forsake me. Hold me by the hand. My will, my heart are yours. I leave the rest to your justice."

May the heart of Jesus on fire with love be your strength, your haven, your center, your Calvary, the resting place of your whole being. Then resurrection will come, as well as life and glory. That is my wish for this New Year. It is the most beautiful and the greatest.

²⁸ First of 395 letters to Marguerite Guillot, his close collaborator both in the Marist Third Order, and as founding Superior of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. cf Annex 1 for her account of her first meeting with Fr. Eymard.

²⁹ Taken from a copy by Marguerite Guillot, not an original.

³⁰ Image of spiritual life.

TO MME. MARIE EYMARD-GAIDAN
(A-14 F 14)

³¹ ...No, but with this distinction;
Explicit reply:

The Church teaches the following: outside of the Church, no salvation. However, one belongs to the Church in two ways, in body and in soul as do Catholics who are apostolic and Roman. In soul only, as do those who profess in good faith what they know about revealed religion and the natural law, as do certain Protestants, and those who practice the natural law in good faith, not knowing the revealed law, such as men who follow their natural [goodness], etc.

To say that no one can be saved if they are not exteriorly Catholic, apostolic and Roman is not the teaching of the Church.

Eymard

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 36/145 VI 10)

Lyons, January 1, 1846

My dear sisters,

I am beginning this New Year by writing to you. It's only right since you are all I have in the world. It is doubly true since our love for one another is also a supernatural and divine love.

If I didn't write more often, it isn't because I forget you. Each day and often during the day you are present to me in God and it is in him that I see you. Yet, you know how much I have to do. It is true that a short note is quickly written. But when the heart wants to speak, it needs to be quiet and free. But months go by while waiting for such a moment.

My dear sisters, we are already beginning another New Year which the Good Lord is giving us in his goodness, to serve him even more perfectly, love him more purely, more perfectly, and more generously.

How often, when looking over the years, I have said to myself: "I never would have thought that I would have lived this long!" I recall that when I was ill, I used to ask God to have the joy of offering only one Mass and then I would be willing to die. And now I am in my twelfth year of priesthood. How many graces I have received since that day! If only I had used them more profitably! You also have received many graces. However, since your life is more solitary, less restless and more crucified than mine, you profited more from these graces than I. But just as things are shared in common among brothers and sisters, so I count on sharing from your supplies as [I did] at Monteynard, when I had nothing. Be generous.

Take courage, my dear sisters, be holy. After all, earth is nothing but a passing cloud, either white or black, which is hardly remembered a moment after it passes.

³¹ After her marriage to Jean Gaidan, Marie Eymard lived in Livorno. They had eleven children. One of them wanted to marry a young woman who was not Catholic. His mother wrote to Fr. Eymard around 1845 or 1846, saying: "Does Catholicism teach that no one can be saved unless they are Catholic, apostolic and Roman? Some affirm it. Others deny it." Father Eymard wrote the above reply.

January 5

I am a little ashamed that I didn't send you this letter [which I] began on January 1st. During these past few days I took care of so many things and saw so many people that I couldn't finish the letter.

Thank you so very much for the socks you were so kind to make for me and send me. I am still your godson making requests, but in return I try to repay you by my prayers and have others pray for you, too.

Our Father Superior General has allowed me to enroll both of you in all the prayers, sacrifices and merits of the members of the Society of Mary: be it the priests, the brothers, or the sisters. Thus, your Third Order of Mary will replace that of Saint Francis. It is quite right that you should prefer it since there is a Marist Third Order.

This is my New Year's gift; may Jesus and Mary bless it.

All and always yours in our Lord,

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you that I am doing well. My heartfelt wishes to Mme. Fayolle, a good woman and mother whom I love as a mother and to her whole family.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

68

CO 67

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 2/17)

I believe that I fulfilled your desire by proposing your [name] as we had said and you have been accepted.³²

You are now your brother's sister by a double title. However, even though everything is done, you are free to accept or not and whatever you decide, my feelings will always be the same.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Lyons
January 28, 1846

³²Probably as a member of his Third Order of Mary.

**TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 37/145 VI 10)**

Feast of Saint Agatha

Lyons, February 5, 1846

My dear sisters,

Today I cannot resist the joy of writing you a few words. I'm sure that you can guess why I prayed so earnestly to God for you, for our father, our mother and my godfather! It's such a beautiful day for me. It's the most beautiful day of my life since this is the day when I had the good fortune to be baptized. If I had died then, I would be in heaven now, praying for my godmother [who is] still on earth, weighed down by the cross, on the thorny path to heaven. But the Good Lord did not wish it and has left me until now in this valley of exile, tears and struggles. May he be blessed! All is well, provided we reach our goal at the end. Once we reach it, whether the road was short or long, easy or difficult, everything weighs in the scales only as grace and mercy from God. The essential thing is to reach it [the goal]. Pray that I may attain the goal, as I do for you. If you should reach it first, leave a walking stick behind and an open door. At least, my dear sisters, there will no longer be any distance or separation there. Who would have thought when I was twenty years of age, stretched out in bed and condemned to death by all the doctors, that I would have lived fifteen years more? If at least I had spent them well! It's so true, the Good Lord has given me many great graces. I cannot help but recognize the signs of his mercy and providence in my life - [signs] so great that I would be ungrateful if I didn't love him with all my heart and if I didn't serve him with all my strength.

My dear godmother, I owe you so much for your vigilant care during my youth and for all the religious practices you would suggest to me. Today I remember all those childhood years very clearly and I see them as a great grace. Do you remember when, sitting on my poor bed, close to you, we would sing the hymns of Marseilles to the point of tears, especially the one to Saint Genevieve, Saint Joseph and the Way of the Cross! Then, when I used to accompany you for confession (often at a great distance)? What wonderful times! I loved the Good Lord more then, than [I do] now.

Since then, so many different stages in life, so many different situations! What life is like in this world! How many people I have known and loved have already died! At least you are still with me. May the Good Lord keep you yet awhile.

I really don't know whether it is a good and desirable wish, but I find that life is so precious for a heart that is working for heaven, ruled by the love of a crucifying and crucified God! You see, I wanted to talk with you as a godson, and here I am preaching to you. I mix everything together, because a tree has roots, a trunk and branches. If these branches are not laden with fruit, at least they have flowers or leaves, to make you a bouquet: a bouquet so often made of myrtle. I surely hope that in heaven it will no longer have thorns³³.

Lent is here. Do not fast or abstain. You know that it is harmful for you. Simply ask for your dispensations. My cordial best wishes to your good Pastor and his three able Assistants. It will stand as credit.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, p.s.m.

P.S. My letter couldn't leave the same day. Don't be surprised. It was because of the road conditions.

³³ An image to describe his relationship to them as a disappointment and source of suffering. Ed.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

70

CO 69

TO FR. FREDERIC SALVIONI (U)

Lyons, February 8, 1846³⁴

Father,

Reverend Father Colin, our Superior General, received and read with special pleasure the letter you sent him last January 16th. When he gave me the responsibility of replying to you, he asked me to tell you his great regret when he could not see you last September because of our retreat, and he offers you his fond sentiments of esteem and dedication.

Therefore, Father, in addition to the joy I had in speaking with you a few moments when you travelled to Lyons, I now have the one of replying to you. I will not hide from you all that you are losing by it. If Reverend Father Superior had been able to write to you himself, you might have more precision and details. However, I will try my best to give a satisfactory answer to the different questions you asked of him.

ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY OF MARY

I can hardly specify when the idea of the Society of Mary was first conceived; all I know is that it was the subject of reflective prayer during a few years before its external realization. Finally in 1815, our founding fathers, who were still young, submitted their plans and ideas to their spiritual directors and to a few of their ecclesiastical superiors, obtained from them the permission to meet from time to time to encourage one another in the practice of virtue, piety and the imitation of the one whose name they wished to bear. They were then only four or five, but they inconspicuously grew to be twelve young priests or aspirants to the priesthood. From then on, their spiritual meetings became more frequent, especially toward the end of 1816. They all shared the same spirit and the most perfect charity reigned among them. The Directors of the Major Seminary of Lyons allowed them to hold their meetings in one of the private rooms of the seminary. But it was especially before the altars of Notre Dame de Fourviere, the well-known sanctuary dedicated to the Mother of God, that they often liked to meet. The priests celebrated holy Mass there and the others received Communion from them; and all, by their fervent prayers, implored heaven to bless and direct their undertaking. They offered themselves to Mary to work for the glory of her divine Son and hers, and they begged her to receive them among her children and apostles.

These blessed beginnings inspired the founding fathers of the Society, but did not overpower them. They understood that a work such as the one they had in mind, if it came from God, could not succeed without encountering much opposition and difficulties. They were priests dependent on episcopal authority. They felt that they could not and should not try to carry out their pious desires without the consent and approval of their respective bishops. Therefore, they agreed among themselves that they would present to them in writing, at an opportune time, the purpose and goals of the Society; that they would persevere in their requests to them, always with humility and total

³⁴ Fr. Salvioni was a professor at the Major Seminary of Milan. The postmark on this letter was Feb. 14 in Milan. Previously unpublished, this letter is to be found in the SSS Fathers' archives in Rome.

submission for the approval of their project and the permission to carry it out; that they would not even take any important steps in favor of the work without informing them and seeking their approval; they even committed themselves to this and each one subscribed to it during one of their meetings.

This wise measure, which mapped out a solid plan and sheltered them from any illusion, subsequently became for them a source of blessings and the origin of whatever success they would eventually attain. They were constantly faithful to it in the midst of the delays, refusals, opposition, and humiliations of every kind they had to bear during twenty years, until 1836, when the Holy See approved the Society based on the favorable reports of our Lords the bishops of Lyons, Belley and Grenoble.

PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

The first article of our rule describes the purpose of the Society in general terms; I believe, Father, that I will please you by transcribing it. Here it is:

Haec minima Congregatio, quam die 29 aprilis, anno 1836, Gregorius XVI Pontif, maximus benigne approbavit, jam ab initio nomen Societatis Mariae sortita est. Quod nomen satis indicat sub quo vexillo militare desideret in pugnis Domini, et qualis esse debeat illius spiritus. Hoc enim mellifluo Societatis Mariae nomine insignita est, ut primum omnes qui in illam admittuntur, ad quam pertinent familiae memores, intelligant se debere virtutes hujus animae matris aemulari et ex ejus vita quasi vivere, maxime in humilitate, obedientia, mutua caritate et amore divino;

*Secundo, ut hanc angelorum et hominum reginam, in variis laboribus ad majus Dei obsequium sustinendis, tanquam adjutricem semper prae oculis mentis habentes, tantaeque ducis exemplis accensi, meritis ac precibus recreati, majori cum animi robore et alacriori cum fiducia, tam in propriam perfectionem quam in proximorum salutem, auxiliante Dei gratia, sese impendant, fidemque catholicam adusque mortem fidelius teneant et pro viribus tueantur; sicque scopum quo tendit Societas abundantiori cum fructu attingere valeant.*³⁵

Therefore, Father, as you can see, the perfection of its members by the imitation of the virtues of the Mother of God, and the sanctification of the neighbor, credited to the power of the Queen of heaven, form the double purpose of the Company of Mary.

The Society helps its neighbor and works for the salvation of souls under the auspices of its patroness by retreats and missions which it gives here and there wherever it is requested, especially in rural parishes, by missions during Lent and Advent, by catechetics and the presentation of doctrine to the unlearned, by visiting the sick in hospitals and prisons, by the direction of schools and the education of youth and by foreign missions. These missions are therefore only one of the goals of the Society.

³⁵ This very small Congregation, which His Holiness Pope Gregory XVI graciously approved on April 29, 1836, from its very beginning was given the name of the Society of Mary. This name sufficiently indicates under what military banner it depends for the battles of the Lord and what kind of spirit it ought to possess. First of all, it is honored by the sweet name of the Society of Mary so that all those who are admitted into it belong to it as a family. Let them understand that the virtues they ought to practice in order to imitate this kind mother, as if living of her life, especially emulating her humility, obedience and fraternal charity and divine love.

Secondly, so that those who are admitted might devote themselves to this queen of angels and men in the various ministries for the greater glory of God, they always have her as a helper before their eyes. Inspired by the example of so great a leader and revitalized by her merits and prayers, helped by the grace of God, let them devote themselves with greater strength of soul and more lively faith not so much for their own perfection as for the salvation of others. Let them hold to the Catholic faith until death and guard it with courage. Let them be able to attain the goal for which the Society strives with more abundant fruit.

SPIRIT OF THE SOCIETY

The spirit of the Company should be that of the Blessed Virgin, whose name it bears, a spirit of humility, of simplicity, of modesty, of obedience, of zeal and selflessness. To do as much good as possible, but to do it quietly, without show, *ita ut B. Virginis Mariae vestigiis inhaerendo*, says our rule, *etsi ad quaecumque ministeria pro salute animarum sese exercere possint ac pro facultate debeant, occulti tamen et quasi ignoti in hoc mundo videantur*.³⁶

The spirit of our rule indicates that we should be always and everywhere self-effacing, that we should offer to other clerics, especially the pastors, as much respect and consideration as possible; that, in whatever diocese we are called upon, we should consider ourselves as the auxiliary troops of the bishop. *Tanta cum prudentia ac reverentia ubique se gerant ut episcopi nostram Societatem diligant, foveant et quasi suam habeant*.³⁷ (drawn from the rule.)

THE NOVITIATE

The duration of the novitiate is at least 18 months, after which the novice is admitted to pronounce the three simple vows of religion. During the first twelve months, he follows the novitiate exercises, and during the last six he returns to his studies if he is not a priest, and, if he is a priest, he teaches catechism to the unlearned, visits the sick in the hospitals or accompanies the priests in the missions or retreats. During the time which the novices spend in the novitiate, they rise at 4:00 a.m. and go to bed at 8:30 p.m. They spend one hour in prayer in the morning and a half hour in the evening; they have an examination of conscience twice a day, attend a presentation of Christian doctrine and spiritual conferences, spend a determined time in reading some spiritual book or the lives of the saints, practice the virtues of obedience and humility by the chapter of faults and a few other humbling duties such as sweeping the rooms, helping in the kitchen, serving in the refectory, etc. For the rest, there is nothing very difficult physically. The most essential among these practices continue after the novitiate in each house of the Society.

WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATE OF THE SOCIETY?

In 1836, at the time when the Society was approved by the Sovereign Pontiff, the Company only had 20 priests; only four of the founding fathers remained. All the others had yielded to difficulties and had withdrawn. Among these twenty priests, five left for Oceania in the month of December of the same year with three catechist brothers. Therefore only fifteen remained.

Today, the Society has ten houses or foundations in France. It has sent ninety of its priest or brother members to Oceania; four have been elevated to episcopal dignity and are at the head of the missions in New Zealand, central Oceania, New Caledonia, Milanesia and Micronesia.

To conclude Father, I believe I have responded to the questions presented in your letter and to have satisfied your wishes, at least in part. If you would be pleased to receive some further clarifications [you] will always find [me] ready to give them, in so far as I am able.

The Blessed Virgin has always been the support and protectress of the Church, but we would be tempted to say that her motherly care has perhaps never been more favorable to mankind than in the 19th century. So many works of zeal and salvation are arising everywhere under her protection! Without mentioning a multitude of other things, is it not a new proof of her tenderness toward the people of our wicked age, if I may say so, to be seen in the appearance in our times of a society of Marist priests, that is, a society bearing Mary's name, a Third Order of the same society which already has over 800 lay brothers who make vows approved by the bishops, have their own government, live in community and devote themselves after the example of the Brothers of

³⁶ ...in order to follow in the footsteps of the Blessed Virgin Mary, "says our rule," even if they can train themselves for any kind of ministry for the salvation of souls and have the ability, they should be hidden, even unknown, in this world.

³⁷ Let them conduct themselves with such prudence and reverence that bishops think highly of our Society and cherish it as their own.

Christian schools, to the education of children, especially in rural parishes.

It has a Marist third-order for people who live in the world, and this Third Order was also enriched with indulgences by the sovereign pontiff.

As I was writing this letter to you, a continual desire beset my soul, and I dare share it with you. It is that you should become the instrument of Providence to transplant the Society of Mary into your beautiful Italy, which is so Catholic and so dedicated to the veneration of the Queen of heaven. No doubt, you will be willing to forgive me for this avowal, and I promise you that I will importune the Blessed Virgin so that my desires may be realized.

In the meantime, I beg you to accept my most respectful sentiments with which it is my honor to be, Father,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, provincial

Rev. Father Frederic Salvioni
At the Major Seminary
In Milan
(Lomb. Venetian)

71

CO 70

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 2/395 VI 2)

Saturday, March 1846

My poor daughter, I am returning your book. Thank you very much for it. When I forget something, don't be afraid to remind me. It will serve as a remedy for my negligence which I asked you to correct. So then, no compliments. So now the sun is eclipsed³⁸, and a thousand storms are breaking upon that poor reed. Oh! May Jesus, who came "not to break the bruised reed," sustain it. If he allows the wind to shake it and bend it toward the ground, may he soon lift it up toward heaven... Listen to me, my daughter, the devil also tempted our divine Master and appeared to him under various guises. He did more, he dared to carry him away; and Jesus let him do so without losing his peace, without recourse to miracles. Jesus laid him low with a few words. - When we have accompanied Jesus to Tabor, the Mount of Olives and Calvary, we must share his temptations as well. So be full of trust: Jesus confronts the demons. He restrains their rage. He is in you to struggle with you. It is true, the devil isn't alone. Our imagination, heart and body all join with him against our poor soul. Don't torment yourself. When there are riots among the people, it's useless to reason, to shout for quiet. The best thing is to let them shout alone. They will soon get tired, and then be ashamed. The devil is to be feared less when his temptations are evident. Take heart! Once the initial fear is past, put your mind at ease and stay like a child on our divine Master's heart, like little children do on their mother's breast when they are afraid. I tell you now, that I am taking the sin upon myself, if there was one. It's a temptation, that's all. You will say: but the effects were perceptible. It doesn't matter, the soul was God's. Listen to St. Paul: "Who will deliver me from this body of sin, from this body of death? The grace of God."

You may receive Communion if you can and, if you do so, you will understand that it was all only a storm.

³⁸ images to describe her spiritual state.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph comfort you.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Lyons

72

CO 71

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 3/395 VI 2)

Holy Thursday, April 9, 1846

+ I want to get this letter out of the way, my daughter, with these few lines. I'm sorry that I didn't give you permission on Tuesday to keep company with our Good Master on Thursday night - he who is so alone, sad and suffering at the grotto of the Mount of Olives. I grant it to you willingly and would even wish to be able to go with you. Then, Easter day is coming, that beautiful day which dries every tear, and restores Jesus to us so beautiful and gracious. So, I must also give you back more beautiful to that good Father, and give you a bouquet for his tender Mother. So, here it is; I am permitting you to consecrate yourself by a special vow to Mary who is so pure and gracious, making her your custodian, your protectress, in a word, your Mistress of Novices. My poor daughter, can I give you anyone better? Oh! How fortunate you are! It's reason enough to cry for joy. Our Lord will be so pleased to communicate his graces through Mary's heart, to speak to you and show himself to you there. By this vow you will go to Jesus through Mary. You will love Jesus in the arms of Mary. When our beloved Savior calls you to the foot of his cross, you will find Mary there. She is already your Mother, she will be doubly so. Oh, it seems to me that this vow of holy slavery will obtain many graces for you and much love.

It's understood that when we vow ourselves to the Queen of Heaven and Earth in this manner, it is forever. Please tell her also that I am her humble son.

Take heart! On Sunday you will say: "I have died, but my life is hidden with Jesus and Mary in God."

I want to tell you a few words about my man. This morning, at ten o'clock, he had the joy of [receiving] First Communion. He was happy, and I believe that God was pleased with his attitude. The woman was next to him. He told me that he would pray for the charitable persons who had helped him so much. Now I am going to find him some work.

All yours in our Lord,

P.S. I promised a novena to the Blessed Virgin to another woman for the healing of her child, as a reward for a sacrifice she promised me she would make. - Please make the novena.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 4/395 VI 2)

Holy Saturday, April 11, 1846

I am writing to complete my letter with details about the permission given. What does this vow consist in? I believe that is what you are expecting to hear. So I'm writing to tell you, in order that you may grasp the full meaning of this offering.

I said that you would take the Blessed Virgin as your guardian and teacher. However, it will be more than that, for you have already done so. It means making her your model and rule in the vows you have taken. Do so in order to resemble this good Mother and through her to resemble Jesus her divine Son, whose perfect copy she is. In this way you will imitate Jesus in Mary. To give this vow a specific object, vow to imitate Mary's simplicity in your clothing, in your way of dressing, as obedience will determine. So when you are free to choose what you buy, don't buy any silk; I mean for clothing. Yet when you purchase something in common with all your sisters, then you may do as they do, if you can't do otherwise. But praised be Mary's modesty and simplicity!

Become a true daughter of Mary. Live in her heart more than in your own. You will find the adorable Heart of Jesus in her pure and virginal heart, three hearts in one. You know very well that it is only there that I want to find you and that you will find me.

Tomorrow your tears will cease. Oh, when will the day of our complete resurrection also come! Alas! Death takes away the chains of our mortality only in small portions. Yes, we may need many daily deaths to reach the great day of eternal life of love.

And so, may God be praised! How cold my heart is, and how it suffers at being so! You tell me so often to love him for you. But I am throwing back to you both the arrow and the flame for his divine heart. For unfortunately, I feel as if I don't have the strength to cast it toward him. However, may God be praised in everything! Provided that I may truly love him someday, that I may live and die loving him! But you will say, why me? - Well! We, then... What a letter! My soul is sad, it's true. Perhaps, our good Master will show himself to it tomorrow.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone,
Lyons

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 38/145 VI 10)

Lyons, May 7, 1846

My very dear sisters,

I was about to write to you when I received your most welcome letter. I learned you were doing well from several people from La Mure whom I had seen at different times. These reports helped to set my mind at rest about you.

Thank you for the good news you gave me about my beloved village, which I still love. If the Good Lord so wills, I will go visit you, but not yet, because we have much to do at the moment. This would make me very happy because I could compensate for such a short letter by face-to-face conversations.

I am well! Praise God. I won't give you any news about Lyons where businesses are not doing well. Oh, my sister, how many suffering families there are in the heart of large cities; what trouble, what corruption; what evils! Even with your difficulties, you are a thousand times more fortunate in our little village than in a city where things are so changeable.

However, it must be said that there are many beautiful souls in Lyons. The Blessed Virgin is greatly loved here. It is wonderful what is done for her. When the day comes and I am free to do so, I will give you more details about it. Today, all I can say is "hello" at the early hour of four-fifteen in the morning.

Greetings in the Lord. The bell is summoning me to meditation where I will pray for you. And I always pray for you because the thought of you is always present. God knows all that I ask for you.

All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 39/145 VI 10)

Lyons, May 27, 1846

My very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about myself since you so love to receive it. I understand, you love me, possibly even too much. Your love is in God and for God; such is the case since I don't deserve it.

I received news about you on many occasions from different people. I often thank God that you are doing well. I ask him that you may continue to be well and yes, very well.

Miss Reynier brought you a book from me, which, I hope, will please you. You would have preferred to have me bring it to you myself. If it were permitted for a religious to have a will of his

own, I too would have been happy to bring it to you and to visit with you. Then I would have gone from there to visit Notre Dame du Laus. How I long for that beautiful land of Laus where the Blessed Virgin gave me so many graces! How I would love to spend a week at the feet of this good Mother! When I think of her, my heart bleeds in thanksgiving and longing! I will go there when the Good Lord wishes; so let us be patient and always united in his holy love.

I am also writing to speak with you about something important which divine Providence may have brought about for you. Here it is. A group of good people has been formed in Lyons for iron smelting. The purpose of this association is to give devout souls, especially those who suffered losses in the bankruptcies which ruined so many families, a means of increasing their small incomes. The association offers them shares at five hundred francs. So, whoever buys one or more shares has a mortgage on the capital for the amount given with the assurance of five percent interest. Further, they would benefit from the profits of the association which could be from fifteen to twenty percent. In this way, five hundred francs could give you a revenue of twenty-five francs in interest, fifty or seventy francs of earnings, and, if you had two or three thousand francs, you would have some small annuities.

I will not go into all the details of the business because that would be too long. Suffice it to say that this was examined and continues to be looked into by very capable men who say that it is a very good deal. You might say: "How is it that everyone is not jumping into the project?" The reason is that it is not yet well known. This was done purposely so that devout people could buy shares before big capitalists took over. I have no advice to give you, no doubt, but I would so like you to be free of so many worries and able to live more peacefully! It seems to me that you could invest your money with Mr. Reymond into this venture even if the bank note is not due yet. If you sold the field which is such a bother to you and so unprofitable, and invested here, it would produce ten times more. Look into it, make a novena to Saint Ann, who is its patroness, then write to tell me what you think. Time is limited, but I will beg these men to save a few shares conditionally for you. The possibility of obtaining shares for five hundred francs will only last about ten days. I'm assured that there is no risk.

Goodbye. I embrace you in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Please extend my best wishes to your fine Pastor, to Fr. Rabilloux and to his joyful colleague, and especially to the Fayolle family.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

76

CO 75

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 5/395 VI 2)

Saint Etienne, May 30, 1846

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect! May Jesus be your way, your truth, and your life! May he live in you! That, my daughter, is my wish and desire. It means that I am consenting to your wishes and your vow, willingly and freely. It is true, I did hesitate a little, but it was necessary; for one must be sure whether it is God's will. Well! may his holy will be done, that divine will which St. Paul calls good, loving and perfect. Therefore, make an absolute and

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

perpetual vow. May our divine Jesus be pleased with it in his love, may he bless it, and crown it with his grace! May Mary, our good Mother, be its guardian and protectress and may good St. Joseph be its protector and teacher. Make it under that condition (as obedience will determine), so that it may be regulated by obedience. In that way you will avoid any fear of illusion, worries of conscience or anxiety. Goodbye, my daughter. Continue to be alone with our divine Master. I offer you to him as his victim of holocaust.

May we be consumed by his love and for his glory!

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

77

CO 76

TO A MARIST FATHER
(VIII 1)

Lyons, July 22³⁹

Very dear Father,

I think that, after careful consideration, it would be best if Fr. Ducorneau were to visit his mother in Bordeaux, and that he should go as soon as possible.

I was edified by your letter, but I knew nothing of the matter. Had I known, I would have scolded you only for having sleepless nights -

(unfinished and unsigned)⁴⁰

Aug. 23 - Blessing of the chapel of the Third Order.

78

CO 77

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 40/145 VI 10)

Lyons, August 25, 1846

My very dear sisters,

I have been wanting to write to you and a thousand and one things came up, so that I kept putting it off waiting for a day that would be quieter and freer. Finally, today I must still write to you in haste and I have had a bad toothache for the last ten days, to expiate my sins of gluttony. Praise God!

³⁹ The contents of this letter would suggest that Father Eymard was Provincial at the time. So the letter would have been written in 1845 or 1846.

⁴⁰ Written vertically at the bottom of the letter:

Fr. Foulon, a priest proscribed
in Algiers, conf. where
find out to whom)

Except for this toothache, I am well and it's a good thing, because everything falls on me since the Superior General has been absent for a month. But the Good Lord comes to my aid.

You can be sure that I am not forgetting La Mure nor my sisters. If I were free, I would hurry to come see you and breathe in the good mountain air. But for the moment the Good Lord doesn't will it. We shall see later on.

Take care of yourselves and give me news about yourselves. You are also a bit lazy about writing. You are using my own sin to punish me. I assure you that Mr. Clavel, who is bringing my letter, is a charming young man, very responsible and religious. People here were delighted with him wherever he stayed.

I leave you in Mary's care and I am very affectionately,

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Sept. 21 - Named Assistant and Visitor General of the Marists.

79

CO 78

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 41/145 VI 10)

Lyons, December 13, 1846

My dear sisters,

I really don't know how to begin my letter. I don't know whether to excuse myself or ask your forgiveness for such a long delay. My heart was not at fault - not so - because every morning I would say to myself: "Today I will write to my dear sisters." Then, hoping for a few moments of quiet and free time, I would come to the evening with my prayers yet to be said and the next day, I would begin again with the same resolution. And I have done the same thing now for three months⁴¹. Finally, today I am angry with myself and set myself to work. I also have to say that I had hoped to visit with you and give you my news in person, but new business always kept me from doing so. If it weren't so cold, I would come see you. But I don't know what kind of weather La Mure is having, though it's brisk here.

Let's begin with me. At present I am doing well. "Have I been sick?" - yes, but only from a toothache which we can't complain about. It was neuralgia and I had it for quite a long time. It's the kind of illness that makes you forget and neglect everything.

Your beautiful letter, in October, about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin did us all a world of good. It was, I think, the first news about it in Lyons. Within a few days, all Lyons was talking about it. From all sides - at Paris, Marseilles, Savoy, and everywhere in general - everyone is preoccupied with La Salette and it has had a good effect. However, wicked people made fun of it, just as our Lord's threats and prophecies were once mocked. There is so little faith nowadays; "Long live La Mure and the countryside!" Fr. Dumolard wrote to me, our mathaisins⁴² are worth more than many others.

As everything is misused, I think that many comments were made about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin and that wicked people may even have done so purposely. As far as our Fathers and myself are concerned, we believe that it happened. It is not surprising that heaven should be angry: there is so much evil! Men are losing their faith, women are losing the piety which is their honor

⁴¹ Actually four months.

⁴² Countrymen.

and happiness. Young people are old by their vices and make godless old men blush though they are less evil than the young. What remedy can we use to heal such misery? We don't know. One would think that only chastisement from heaven could bring men back to the faith and to the fear of God. Also, could it be, my poor sisters, that heaven has already begun [to act] since there is nothing but misfortune, calamity and disaster on every side? And it isn't over.

Let's always place all our trust in God because he is a Father and takes care of his children. This is the one thought that comforts me in your regard because I often say each morning at holy Mass: "My God, remember my two sisters: be their kind Father. They are orphans and you are the Father of orphans. Love Martha and Mary since you called their brother Lazarus to follow you.

Holy Virgin, I have made you the Mother of my sisters. You have to be their providence, their support, and their counselor." Such are my frequent prayers for you, my sisters. Since my heart has no other sister, it has no other love or care. In this way, I am dead to the world and I suffer when I have to deal with the world. Yet, I'm always involved with the world. Alas, how many times I've been envious of those who lead a solitary life of retreat with God alone! To speak about God and his will does not make the heart any better because of it. The heart must speak to God and to God alone in order to rest a while and renew its strength which is exhausted by its contact with people. The thought of visiting you also pleased me. I would be alone to some degree or within my family circle. To conclude, may the holy Will of God be done!

Don't enroll in the Third Order of Saint Francis. When I come to La Mure, I will enroll you in the Third Order of Mary. Our Superior General has allowed me to do this, and I don't think I can give you a better gift.

Today, my heart is unburdening itself a little. Please don't take it out on me! and do write. The Good Lord sent me news about you through several people and I'm most grateful.

Take care of yourselves. It's better to live in love and suffering than to go to Purgatory. In that way, there is more merit and love of God. What can I say, my dear sisters! Our Lord wants us to go to heaven in the same way he did. When I consider that periods of illness kept me from giving in to an altogether external life, and helped me to understand the vanity of this world, I consider it as one of my greatest graces.

Please extend my best wishes to the Pastor, to his friendly curates, to the Fayolle family and to good Mme. Cros, and believe me always in Jesus and Mary,

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.⁴³

P.S. Tell Mr. Clavel that we hope to find a place.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

⁴³ Priest of the Society of Mary.

TO FR. BRAMEREL

(v 4/5)

Lyons, February 16, 1847

Very dear friend,

Last night as I was going through the books of Fr. Morcel, a small pack of letters fell and I saw a letter which rejoiced my heart and consoled me: yours! I kept saying to myself: Who thought about me? Where did this wonderful box of tobacco come from?... I thought you were already fighting in the plains. If I had known you were still in the Cenacle, dear friend, my heart would have guessed it was you. Therefore, I am very grateful to you for remembering me. I didn't need that to reawaken [my gratitude], no! But I needed it for my consolation.

My only regret is that I didn't find your letters sooner. I wasn't here when the package arrived. So you will soon be a priest, praise God! A good priest is a saving Joseph, another Jesus Christ. How many souls are waiting for you! How much good there is to do! Heaven rejoices at the sight of a good priest as at the coming of the Savior. So, let's not look too much at the terrible, burdening, dangerous side of sacred Ministry, but its apostolic and divine side. No doubt we must see the enemy, but only to prepare ourselves for the fight.

Dear friend, do you want to persevere in the priestly spirit? Often read the "*Selva*" by Ligouri.

Be a man of prayer, of studies, but of sacred studies. Today, there is a great obstacle in Church science, it's that people only want to know and learn about the Church history of the 19th Century with the philosophy and science of the day, and they don't dare touch the earlier centuries and the older books.

I love you, you know it. Well, because I love you, I tell you: Dear friend, keep your heart lifted high, so high that human beings cannot lay hold of it; so high that God alone will be its life, its heartbeat and its center.

You will be loved in the world; love also, but [do so] like the sun loves the earth: its rays descend and return toward it. Your sun is Jesus through Mary.

I am happy to see that you love Mary! - Oh yes, dear friend, that is what makes us live, what feeds our life. A child is dead without a mother; with a mother, how rich he is! How rich he is with a mother like Mary! Then, you need a mother, as I do! In Heaven we shall say: Our Father and our Mother who art in Heaven...

Please, have confidence and love! And then, *fac quod vis*.⁴⁴

My best wishes to our elders. And believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary, your friend,

Eymard

Fr. Bramere
in the 4th Course
at the Major Seminary
at Bourg (Ain)

⁴⁴ Do what you will.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 42/145 VI 10)

Lyons, March 5, 1847⁴⁵

My dear sisters,

It is again by letter and not in person that I come to you. I was the one who was supposed to come to La Mure to preach at the Jubilee and I was praising God for it, even though a prophet is not received in his own country. In final analysis, I thought I would make amends for the sins of my youth and visit with you in the Lord. The Good Lord did not will it. For six days now, I've had a serious head cold which prevents me from working. It's what is left of the grippe that was all over Lyons. But the doctor thought it more prudent for me not to go and preach for the moment. Now I am resting while everyone else is working.

Father Denys will receive you in the Third Order of Mary if you wish. I told him [to do so]. He is a fine priest. We have always lived together.

Take good care of yourselves especially during Lent. Your fast should be to offer your prayers and difficulties to God and work hard at becoming saints and daughters of prayer. It was to spur you on a little that I was happy to go to La Mure. Prayer! Don't neglect it. Let me know in a letter how you go about it so that I can at least tell you in writing what I would have been happy to tell you face to face.

Let me know about yourselves since it has been some time since I heard from you. Let me know about Mme. Cros, that dear aunt. Saturday night at seven o'clock I was telling myself: "I will surprise her when I get down from the coach." Let me know about the Fayolle family, which I long so much to see again - especially that good mother, the likes of whom is hard to find nowadays.

I am affectionately in our Lord,

Very dear sisters,

Your devoted brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

⁴⁵ Troussier: May or March, unclear. Published in French as May.

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 1/7)

Lyons, May 9, 1847

Madame,

I am happy to send you the spiritual Rule of the Third Order which considers you its daughter and where you are remembered as a sister. May these few words help you to love a connection for which I thank God.

I am enclosing 2 crucifixes for the Stations of the Cross. They are very precious, especially at the time of illness, because the confessor can himself determine the prayer to be said to gain the indulgences of the *via crucis*; were it even only a few acts of love of God. You must have a few practices determined once and for all, like the Stations or 5 Our Fathers and Hail Marys in honor of the 5 wounds of our Lord or the litanies of the Passion or, when one is ill, a few acts of love of God.

This condition is determined by means of a special Brief. Here are the words: "*dummodo ante eas (cruces) aliquas vocales preces arbitrio proprii confessarii statuendas recitaverint* - (provided that in the presence of these indulgenced crosses, a few vocal prayers be recited as determined by the proper confessor)."

I willingly receive Mr. Perroud as a Novice to whom I give the name of Brother Marie-Joseph.

Excuse me Madame, if I am writing to you in haste. People are waiting for me. Another time, I will choose a better time.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 43/145 VI 10)

Lyons, May 28, 1847

My good sisters,

I am sending you a short greeting with Miss Monavon, an excellent young lady whom I highly respect. I would be very happy that you make her acquaintance. However, you'll see her only in passing. She is going to La Salette. I am well except for a little soreness in my leg, but it's nothing. I saw the Mother General of the Marist Sisters and I spoke to her about Miss Moutin of Pruniere. Mother General will receive her almost gratis as a lay sister. In that way she'll be able to come to Belley.

I would be very happy to receive news from you. I like to think that you are well. Do take care of yourselves and love the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin. In heaven we will speak together for all eternity in God. In the meantime, let's prepare ourselves well.

All yours very affectionately in our Lord,

Your devoted brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

84

CO 84

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 44/145 VI 10)

Lyons, June 9, 1847⁴⁶

My dear sisters,

I am leaving for a two-week trip. I'm going to Bordeaux to visit our houses. I will be in Lyons in two or three weeks.

Please don't listen to all that is said about me. I'm not going to the foreign missions. I'm not even thinking of it, I am too old now.

I only have the time to embrace you. I'm leaving immediately, but be at peace.

All yours in *Christo*,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

85

CO 85

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 45/145 VI 10)

Lyons, July 31, 1847

My very dear sisters,

I had time only to write a few words in my last letter. Today, I want to write a little longer. So I hope that you're not crying anymore about my leaving for the foreign missions. Besides being unworthy, I am too old now. When it comes to news, don't let yourselves be taken in like that because it makes you suffer and is quite unnecessary.

If we can call a long trip one that is three hundred leagues, then I took a long trip; i.e., round trip. Traveling one league every fifteen minutes is going rapidly. It was a good trip. I visited two shrines of the Blessed Virgin where our Fathers live: at Bordeaux and at Agen. I took advantage of the occasion to place you under the protection of the Blessed Virgin so that she would be your providence, your mother, your consolation and your life, that you would be daughters of prayer, that you would continue to love our Lord more and more. If the Blessed Virgin gave you all that, how rich you would become!

⁴⁶ In the French Volume II, this letter is dated June 2. Fr. Troussier assigns it as June 9, since the postmark is June 10.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

If you were inquisitive, I would tell you about many interesting places [I saw] on this trip, but I think that details about unknown places don't interest you. The only thing I can tell you is that I saw abundant harvest everywhere and this pleased me very much. It could be a proof that God had pity on us and withheld the merciful threats which he had made through the Blessed Virgin at La Salette.

Everyone is talking about La Salette. The Bishop of La Rochelle is preaching throughout his diocese about the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. I've seen this holy Bishop. He travelled two hundred leagues to visit La Salette himself ten days ago. You must have heard about it. People also speak often about the miracles that take place by means of the miraculous water. If this water could cure you and give you good health, I would be very grateful to our good Mother for this grace.

I asked a woman from Lyons, who is presently at the springs of La Motte, to visit with you if she goes to La Mure. Mme. Masse is a very kind woman.

Write me a few words to let me know how you are doing. Also continue to pray for your brother who never ceases to pray [for you] and to love you with all his heart in our Lord.

Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

86

CO 86

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 6/395 VI 2)

Lyons, August 23, 1847

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to you hastily, as Mistress of Ceremonies, about the cinctures for the reception of the professed. Now that I have reflected and weighed both the drawbacks and the advantages, I favor the simple cords and not the cinctures. The cinctures have something lovely about them it is true, but the cord is more religious. Those who have cinctures may keep them, but the new ones will have cords.

Please inform Miss Camus.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Continue to pray for our retreat and especially for the Third Order.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Lyons

Aug. 26-? - Fr. Eymard preached the annual retreat for the Marists.

TO MR. JOSEPH AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 1/24)

Lyons, August 26, 1847

Very dear Sir,

Forgive me my delay, I was visiting our houses and I couldn't answer your letter; but instead I prayed for you, because God knows all the good my poor wishful heart desires for you. Now about your letter: Don't do anything more than what you are doing and don't reproach yourself too much for the change you are being criticized for. It's the result of the current situation. Freedom of spirit, peace of heart, seeing everything in the light of the special holy Will of divine Providence over you; a childlike surrender into the hands of your very loving Father: these things will all help you remain ever calm and gracious - it must come naturally, so to speak; otherwise, they will see the sacrifice and it's necessary that they should see only the virtue of divine love.

I miss you in Lyons; but, since it's better for you not to be here, may God be praised!

The Third Order is always the object of our prayers. Do pray for it, you, the first Child of Mary, you who have shared our little trials. Heaven grant that this little mustard seed become a saving tree for many!

In the charity of Jesus and Mary I am,

Very dear Sir,
All yours,
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

P.S. My humble respects, if you wish, to Madame.
Mr. Carrel
at Amplepuis (Rhône)

TO MISS JENNY GUILLOT
(II 1/3)

Lyons, October 3, 1847

Mademoiselle Jenny Guillot⁴⁷
Mademoiselle,

I received your letter so full of woes and I truly felt compassion for you, because I see that it crushed you and perhaps even made you sick, since you already were very weak. Courage! If harm was done, don't increase it. Bear it very humbly at the feet of our Lord and offer him your faults, just as the sick offer their sufferings.

Yes, I approve your trip to Chasselay. You needed it. Rest there a little while, and especially, get well soon from your indisposition and put your soul at peace right away by not going back over

⁴⁷ First of three letters addressed to Miss Jenny Guillot, the sister of Marguerite Guillot, whose illness required constant family presence.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

the past. Leave the past where it is, in God's mercy, and turn towards your good Father, saying to him: You see my weakness, love me again as your little girl. And he will give you back his choicest graces. I am praying to our good Mother to help you and give you her motherly hand and blessing.

And I give you mine wholeheartedly.

Eymard

Miss Guillot Jenny
at Chasselay (Rhône)

89

CO 89

TO MISS JENNY GUILLOT
(II 2/3)

Lyons, October 9, 1847

Mademoiselle Jenny Guillot
Mademoiselle,

Your letter really comforted me. I thank God for having placed your soul in the peace and love of God's holy Will.

Continue to be a daughter of Mary by desiring only what our Lord wants. Consequently, love our divine Jesus, in illness and in suffering, since he is placing you close to his holy cross. So put aside any spiritual exercises that could tire you, like meditation, or long vocal prayers. Even sacrifice your Communions and holy Mass on Sunday. That is Mr. Berlioz' desire.⁴⁸ May God's Will be loved above all and replace everything: then it becomes perfect love.

Stay in Chasselay until you are healed. But stay there like the Blessed Virgin would stay, in peace, in union with Jesus.

Have courage, my daughter, but the kind of courage which is made of trust and surrender into the hands of your heavenly Father and of our good Savior.

I bless you, my daughter, and I pray our Lord and Mary, our good Mother, to be your strength, your peace and your consolation.

We are not forgetting you in our poor prayers.

My respects to your good mother and to your sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Guillot Jenny
at her mother's
at Chasselay (Rhône)

⁴⁸ the doctor.

TO MME. JOSEPH AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 2/24)

Lyons, October 9, 1847

Madame,

Your fine husband has given me news about you and your whole family. The bonds which unite us all cannot leave me indifferent even for a single moment. So, I was sorry to learn that you are not well, and I immediately prayed to the Queen of mothers to come to your help, and I asked all your sisters of the Third Order to pray for you. It will be a sacrifice for us not to have you still in Lyons; but, Madame, you are always here for us in the little chapel of Nazareth.

Your husband tells me that he will have to precede you to Lyons for a brief time. I understand that this thought must afflict your heart; but you love the holy Will of God over you too much to be sad about it. It's only right to reason with yourself as a child of Mary; especially in your sad condition. Don't be afraid of anything, the Blessed Virgin will always be by your side.

We have just extended the circle of the Associates by allowing mothers to associate their little children to the Third Order, even when they are still carrying them in the womb, so that they may have the joy of receiving the grace of holy Baptism. So, Madame, today I am associating under Mary's name the one which Heaven has given you. Every day, say a Hail Mary and "Oh Mary, refuge of sinners and perseverance of the just, pray for us."

Also pray for me, Madame, I am leaving in a moment to give a Retreat.

In our Lord, I am, Madame,

Your very humble servant,
Eymard, P.S.M.

Madame,
Madame Carrel
Amplepuis (Rhône)

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 10/24)

October 9,⁴⁹

Dear brother and friend,

A greeting, a thank you for your kind letter, and a request to pray for me. I am happy to see that you found the real source of grace, of peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, that is, conformity to the holy and every gracious Will of God. What happiness can be ours if we think, desire and will only one thing: the Will of God! Often meditate upon that: it's a gold mine of love.

But I only wanted to say hello, and now I am giving a sermon! It's because I will be leaving for 10 days: excuse me and pray for the one who loves you very fondly in our Lord.

Eymard

⁴⁹ Perhaps October 1847. (Troussier)

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

P.S. My expression of respect and friendship to your family and your brothers.

Mr. Carrel, at Mme. la Goutte
Amplepuis via Tarare (Rhône)

92

CO 92

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 46/145 VI 10)

Lyons, October 26, 1847

My very dear sisters,

I'm sorry that you had to wait for a letter from me, but you realize that my heart isn't at fault. Rather, there are so many things that make my days so short. Besides, I took several trips and trips do me good.

What comforted me is that I met several people from La Mure unexpectedly. When I hear that you are well, that in itself makes me happy. I know that crosses aren't lacking; one comes right after the other. As you know, the way of the just is lined with two hedges. One is grace, spread all along the way, becoming like the brook, the bread and strength for the journey. The other hedge is the cross of our Lord which has many forms, yet is always the cross. As we progress, the crosses are more numerous and more crucifying to our natural feelings; but they are also crowned with a more beautiful diadem. They herald the nearness of paradise because there is no purgatory for souls crucified with our Lord. My dear sisters, I hope that your Purgatory will come to an end with your earthly journey. For it isn't the one who dies at an early age who is the most fortunate, but surely the one who reached heaven first.

Let's always remember that God alone is the strength, consolation, joy and happiness of the faithful soul.

Alas, poor sisters! get accustomed to see the world pass before you like drops of water in the brook. Let them flow, babbling, tossing and clashing. As for yourselves, sit at the feet of our Lord. When people are absent or when they try you, see it as God telling you: "I am all you need."

I really like that thought because it makes us free and always keeps us happy. Besides, no matter how perfect the persons are, they weigh so little in the scale! It's like the leaf of a tree which falls at the slightest breeze and becomes just a little dirt.

So place your trust in God. He is such a good Father! You will not lack anything because you will be happy with his holy Will. We rest peacefully when we rest on the bosom of divine Providence. We travel happily when we are carried on the wings of this gracious Providence.

But let's talk about other things. I am well, thanks be to God. Lyons is quiet. It's possible that you were frightened by some alarming news about Lyons when there was some commotion over the house of Miss Denis; the police were there and the offenders are in prison. At a distance, such news is frightening. Up close, it's hardly noticed. Godless men were saying that this house was occupied by religious sisters, that priests committed evil there and tortured the girls and what else? A mob formed because of it; they called the priests devils because it was said that there was a girl possessed by the devil. The fact is that it was all false, as the Procurator of the King declared. This Miss Denis, who employed a few women, was an unfortunate wretch. Now, people laugh at her lunacy. So, when you are told any serious news about Lyons, don't believe it until I tell you.

I saw the Superior of the Marist Sisters at Belley. They are expecting Miss Moutin. Let her try to get what she can from her father. If he has the means, let him give her what he gave her sister... Then, let her write and leave because if she waits too long, she will lose her place. Her sister has found a place with the Marist Sisters at Meximieux (Ain). She should come by way of Lyons.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

My best wishes to our acquaintances. Pray for me. I don't think I can come presently to visit you, but each day I find you in God, in whom I am your brother.

Eymard, p.s.m.

P.S. I will answer Joseph Dumoulins soon. Everyone is of the opinion that all the rights are in his favor.

I will also write soon to Mr. Reymond. We are waiting for the Cardinal to know which day Miss Berthilde will make her profession. The Pastor had promised me some water from La Salette. I would be happy if Miss Reymond could bring it to me.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

93

CO 93

TO FR. CHAVAZ, S.M.⁵⁰
(VIII 1/1)

Lyons, Oct. 28, 1847

My dear colleague,

I am very happy about the wonderful opportunity our Fathers have to visit you. I am taking advantage of it to write you these few words, first to thank you for your kind letter, which brought back the happiness I experienced among you. My heart often likes to make a pilgrimage to Notre Dame de Verdelaïs.

Since you left your purse at our disposal, we said: we are short 500 francs to complete our project, and our only means of doing so was to draw on the house at Verdelaïs for this amount; and so, Father, it is because of you that the house of theology and the house of studies will have the advantage of studying the Holy Fathers. All the houses responded generously to this appeal.

So now you are about to begin your apostolic labors; we, who remain in the camp, will be praying for the success of all your missions, as we have a great stake in them. You must tell your missionaries to be faithful to the practices of the Society, especially prayer and examen; for if a missionary is not careful to nourish and strengthen the inner, religious spirit within himself, he will soon be exhausted in the ministry.

Then, in between missions, the few days of spiritual and physical rest which are taken in the Society, will renew their strength and their apostolic grace.

I believe that you are still joyful and happy, just as I left you. You know that when the heart is happy, suffering is nothing. Always keep your soul in Holy freedom - it is the means of accomplishing all things well: otherwise, you will be overburdened and ill.

Every time I think of you and your activities which are so numerous, I am overcome by a feeling of sadness: the fear of seeing you give way under the weight of being Superior, Pastor, Pilgrimage Director. Really, that is enough to fill three lives! Do try, as Superior, to delegate as much work as you can to your Colleagues for the pilgrimage.

That was the advice of Jethro to Moses. And there is another advantage: the pilgrimage, shared in this way, becomes more stable than if it depended on one person alone. I am well aware that confidence is not automatic, that's true; but if it is the result of necessity, they resign themselves eventually. Always keep to what you arranged for confessions, at set times. Otherwise, you could

⁵⁰ Marist Superior of Verdelaïs

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

not bear the pressure, you would be overwhelmed by the crowd, and your Superior's and Priest's heart would suffer for it. I have come to realize, since I have been on the Calvary of administration, that one must know how to get away, close oneself in, and sometimes be harsh - in a holy way - toward other people's demands; otherwise one cannot live - one scarcely has time to breathe.

Poor Superiors! they are much to be pitied! Everyone wants them at once, everyone makes demands on them.. let us imitate our Lord and "*fugit in montes ipse solus.*"⁵¹

It seems that your holy slavery is in fashion, and does good - so much the better! but be careful, Father, lest they call you a Jesuit invader! with the pastors in the forefront. I know you to be prudent, but you must persevere in prudence, lest the enemy of all good gain a foothold. They say there is nothing like pious women to cause jealousy and intrigue.

I must stop. I feel I am still talking to you with the simplicity and frankness which you have allowed me, since we are brothers.

So, courage, Father: the Blessed Virgin who is so kind will help and sustain you.

Say a prayer to her for me, and I am, in her maternal heart,

Your loving and dedicated Colleague,
Eymard, Assistant, Society of Mary

94

CO 94

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 47/145 VI 10)

Lyons, November 8, 1847

My very dear sisters,

Thank you very much for all that you were so kind to send me. You are so good to me. I can only repay you by my humble prayers. So I pray continually for you that our Lord will let you share in the hundredfold that he gives his children. I received everything: the water from La Salette, the two pairs of socks and my book.

I just learned that Fr. Rabilloux is pastor near Bourgoin. God grant that he may be happier there than at La Mure. I don't advise you to address yourself to Fr. Pillon, but rather to stay with the Pastor.

As good Third Order sisters, here is the way you can supplement for what is lacking. Write to me from time to time for your spiritual direction, on your sorrows of conscience, on your exercises of piety, on your prayer life - a separate page for each of you - and I will try to answer as best I can. I hope that Father Pillon will succeed in La Mure if he keeps to himself, if he is very discreet and especially if he is serious and modest. He is quite religious, but you know La Mure, my good sisters. To be at peace, one has to keep to oneself. So, you have chosen well.

Please extend my best wishes to the good and excellent Fayolle family, especially to our sister of the Third Order.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

⁵¹ He fled to the mountains alone. Tr.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 7/395 VI 2)

November, 1847⁵²

My daughter, I am returning your notes. Keep them for me. In the meantime I approve your desire for a temporary vow of obedience, but on a daily basis.

I'm leaving shortly on the wings of that very gracious Providence.

In her company, I would be willing to go to the four ends of the world. Providence is so gentle, caring, attentive, loving! So you should also depend on it.

I have spoken about you to Fr. Colin, in case you should need him.

Farewell in God, in Jesus, in Mary and St. Joseph, and if I should go to Heaven before you, I will keep a place for you there.

Wednesday

TO MISS JENNY GUILLOT
(II 3/3)

Lyons, November 8, 1847

I'm writing to give you a brief reply, dear daughter, before leaving for Saint Etienne, where I'll be staying about a week. Your letter pleased me, for I can see that you are working to acquire inner peace by the unfailing means of conforming your will to our Lord's, of seeing everything that happens to you as a grace from our good Master. And in fact it is very true. For then, what does it matter after all whether we please our Lord in illness or in health, by a state of dryness or fervor, of submission or devotional practices, provided he may be pleased with what we do. With these principles we will be satisfied with everything and everywhere, because we only act and desire as God wills. Nevertheless, try to do all you can to get better, and for that purpose take all the necessary precautions. Only perform the spiritual exercises which are proportionate to your strength. If your Communions don't tire you, well! do them, but with calm and surrender. You don't need to confess every week, every two weeks is sufficient. If you aren't well or if the noise or presence of people tire you, you can be dispensed from Vespers. Replace them with a brief visit to the Blessed Sacrament, if you can.

Be strong my daughter, always rejoice in our Lord's love for you.

My respects to your good mother and believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary,

Devotedly yours,
Eymard

Miss Guillot Jenny at her mother's
Place de la Fontaine
at Chasselay (Rhône)

⁵² Fr. Troussier indicates this letter as the 10th, but the archives of the servants have the 8th.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 8/395 VI 2)

Sunday, January, 1848

All your crucifixes have been indulgenced with the conditions indicated on my paper.

I read the letter from Miss L. That good woman embarrasses me by what she believes about me. In fact, it's very humiliating to be considered to be what one ought to be, knowing it should be so, with inner humiliation as the only possible response.

It seems to me that there is no need for an Association for the work of vestment-making. I would prefer separate collections. I spoke to Miss de Revel about that. I will have her give you the money.

I am leaving at 11:30 with Bishop d'Amata. Pray for us.

Be closely united to Jesus, Mary and Joseph, all of you. And you, especially, let the winds and storms rage within you. Fire is purified by swirling upon itself and then it can melt and purify gold.

Continue your Communions in spite of the violence of the devil.

...

I bless you.

Eymard

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 48/145 VI 10)

Lyons, January 4, 1848

My dear sisters,

It is only right that I begin my first letter of the year with you. I wanted to write on New Year's day, but that became impossible. I wished you a "happy New Year" at the sacred Altar where I presented you to our Lord, and brought your needs and wishes before him. I prayed then as your godson, your brother and priest and your religious. Under these four titles, I was asking four graces:

1. That he would repay you for all the good you have done for me;
2. That we would always be united in the love of our Lord, our Father;
3. That we would always be worthy spouses of Jesus, consecrated to his love and to his cross which is its proof;
4. That you would always be good members of the Third Order of Mary, loving the simple and obscure life like Mary; serving God with the simplicity and modesty of piety, especially practicing holy conformity to the Will of God in and above all; pleading every day for the gift of prayer through the intercession of Saint Joseph, that gift which brings all other gifts with it.

These, my good sisters, are my wishes. Aren't they beautiful?

As far as temporal wishes are concerned, I entrust you to divine Providence which is your mother and protectress. Be assured that our divine Master will never forsake you.

I urge you to take care of your feeble health, doing only what you can do, while still serving the Good Lord well.

There is nothing new here except the extreme difficulties which are felt because business conditions are bad which is not surprising. People are so evil and so untrustworthy! Therefore, my

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

dear sisters, stay quietly in your corner, earning paradise there. These large cities are really Babylons of damnation.

On several occasions I saw Mme. Robert whom Fr. Faure recommended to me. Take care not to receive either that poor ill-intentioned person or her wretched daughter - all the doors of Lyons have been closed to them by their gossiping, etc...

Good Fr. Faure should never recommend such people. I consider the mother mental and the daughter a hypocrite, although I have no proof. But she gives me the impression of being a mental case.

I was forgetting to tell you that I celebrated Midnight Mass for you. You can well imagine that I placed you very close to the divine crib.

Pray for me always. I pray more for you than for myself. I'm well.

All yours,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

99

CO 98

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 49/145 VI 10)

Lyons, January 27, 1848

My good sisters,

Your letter saddened me because I saw that you were upset. I know full well that no one should embroil himself in your family affairs. You shouldn't be obliged to render an account to anyone as to what you own or should do. So stay at peace and continue to do as you always have done and as St. Francis de Sales so well said: "Do what is right and let others say what they will."

You'll never be able to silence the tongues of pietistic people. This is especially true when these people think they have reasons that justify their zealous words. What should you do? Imitate our Lord. Be silent about it, but a peaceful silence with charity. I believe that these misguided people, who are causing you heartaches, are thinking only of others' misfortunes. They pay attention only to their heart but little to their rather cutting words. Don't get so disturbed, either, by what the Pastor says. He is a man who, like the others, is too easily influenced. If he was told that you are very rich... I can understand what happened. But, unfortunately, the poor Pastor doesn't know everything.

My sisters, this has always been my advice: be simple in your confessions. If you are asked any questions bordering on spiritual direction, answer gratefully. If all they do is listen to your sins, oh well? The Good Lord himself will enlighten you at the opportune time, but don't be disconsolate. After all, you are what you are before God and God is a good Father.

Take better care of yourselves. You work too hard. Take more time for things. Pray for me. I will for you.

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)⁵³
(V 1/76)

Lyons, January 28, 1848

Madame,

I was just beginning to complain to our Lord as I was quite worried, but then, your letter came to comfort me. However, I do approve when I see you applying what you said would be your rule: the holy Will of God first and foremost in everything and in everyone.

This divine Rule of gracious Providence makes us peaceful everywhere. We are like a child in its mother's arms. So, let us truly be like children in God's hands. Sometimes his grace carries us, then we travel joyfully. At other times he only gives us his hand, then we must walk, but difficulties are nothing in Jesus' company. He often lets us walk alone, in the mud, out in the desert. Then let's call out to our Master. He was deliberately teaching us that we can do nothing by ourselves. Sometimes this kind Father seems to be letting you experience weakness and poverty in a personal way. Well then, praise him for this grace also which proves his love for you even more clearly. Oh yes. Be sure of it, my poor daughter, God really loves you quite gratuitously. Your confidence should rest in that: he wants you to know especially that everything you do is good in his sight only to the extent that you sacrifice your will for his. So I thank our good Master for his Fatherly care over your soul and life. So, please believe me, [put aside any] anxious planning for the future, desires for a freer life, were it even to practice silence peacefully, exterior recollection, or even prayer. My daughter, let our Lord choose the external form of your life as he wills. Consider all personal events as coming from his Father's heart. Remind yourself that perfect love of God means loving God in God, going to God by the shortest way, that is, the way of surrender to his holy Will at every moment. Oh, how hard it is for your heart to die to your ego in order for God to be your whole life! To help us die [to self] God turns heaven and earth upside down, he surrounds us with every kind of weakness, distractions, dryness, desolation, interior frustration, to detach us from ourselves. People and their faults, passions, demands and thoughtlessness, help us practice gentleness and patience, tell us that the center of peace can be found only in God. You see, God can be very disturbing: when we would like to pray, he has us work at things we dislike. When we would like to be in solitude, we must live in an unpleasant and profane society. Alas. Let us truly say to him: "My God, my beloved Father, your holy Will replaces everything for me and I will praise you in everything."

But I must admit that if we aren't careful to feed and maintain the spiritual life, we would soon be worn out, weak and wavering. Earth's vegetation needs the night, human beings need sleep. Sleep often on the heart of our dear Jesus as St. John did. Oh! How many things we learn in this gentle sleep of the soul's interior silence in Jesus! How courageous we are on awakening!

But, you will say, I'm so disorganized, I am out of touch with myself. Activity is forever pulling me out of myself!

I do believe that it's all true. What can you do? - Nothing.

Gradually ignore your imagination, your mental activity, your irritated heart. Hand them over to our Lord one after the other; catch them in the nets of his holy Will.

It will happen without strain, clamor, or disturbance, like people do when they want to catch fish. Then, the miraculous catch will happen. My dear daughter, imitate the angel Raphael in your contact with others: notice, the Angel leaves heaven, his place of honor near God's throne and

⁵³ Firts of 46 letters to Josephine Gourd. Mme. Gourd was received privately by St. Peter Julian as a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament with the name: Sr. Joseph of the Blessed Sacrament. In fact she never entered the Servants. St. Eymard corresponded with Mme. Gourd and her daughter Stephanie until his death.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

comes to this sad earth. He takes on a poor, humble, servile way of life alongside young Tobias. He serves him as his master. He never seems hurried. He does each thing calmly and with a free heart. Why so? Because God wills it, God sent him for this very thing. So the Angel is happier to bring his message than to do his own will in heaven (if that were possible). But notice that, while living as a man, he continued to eat his own invisible divine food: he fed upon the sight of God and the fulfillment of his holy Will. That is how he found heaven on earth. I will let you make your own application.

That was for your soul. [Now,] I also want to tell you to take care of your body. I'm afraid your aren't taking care of yourself. Prudence must season all the virtues. As for myself, my health is adequate to my tasks; thank you; but I need to do the very things I am writing to you. My poor soul is also suffering from such an external and active life. Oh! Pray for my needs; you know that providers often keep nothing for themselves and are then reduced to seeking alms.

I believe you have been told about your poor mother's illness. It really upset me, especially to know that you were far from her, I had prayers said for her and your husband immediately. On Tuesday and Wednesday, our meeting days, I recommended them to the Third Order. They are all making a novena for both soul and body. As for me, knowing what your intentions would be, I am also making a novena of Masses in honor of the blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. Oh what a blessed illness [it would be] if its fruit were salvation! I do so wish it! Let's not be discouraged, Jesus has done everything to save a soul.

Madame Nicod is still very weak and sick. She may die from it as she has hardly eaten anything for nearly forty days. She has typhoid fever, but she is very resigned. However, she is suffering because of her children.

Oh my, such is life! When shall we get to Heaven!

Well now, I must stop. This has been too long, but it was to imitate you and show you how much I want to encourage you. All yours in the divine Heart of Jesus, where I can leave you and find you.

Eymard

P.S. We've just received news from Oceania and we [have] a new martyr: it's Brother Blaise. As he was dying and they were trying to comfort him, [he said]: "Why are you upset? We are only exchanging this life for a better one." At the sight of the peace and joy which were evident on his dying face, a Protestant cried out: "That is the true religion!" and became Catholic. All the missionaries of New Caledonia were nearly martyred with a Bishop. It's just by a miracle that they are still alive. They had to leave the island. - Pray.

Madame Gourd, at Nice
c/o the Superior of the Visitation convent
(to be given personally.)

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 2/7)

Lyons, January 28, 1848

Madame,

Forgive my delay in answering your letter which I was so happy to receive. I was waiting for a free moment, in order to write to you calmly, that is why I delayed until today, the 28th. -- If it's too late to wish you a happy New Year, I will at least wish you a good Feast of St. Francis de Sales, that dear Saint! whose name you bear and whose spirit you wish to share. This spirit is so gentle, so even-tempered, so tenderly loving. Oh! I often pray to this good Saint to make you ever kind, kind as he was, like our kind and tender Mary, like Jesus. I see that our Lord really loves you, that he finds his delight in your house of Nazareth. Consider yourself as being at his service. This thought will give you confidence and courage. Let me tell you my complete thought, very simply; in return you must very simply tell me your feelings about the Third Order.

Reflecting one day on the purpose of the Third Order, that is, about the individual sanctification of members, joined among themselves only by spiritual but precious bonds, it's true, I felt this was incomplete, much too limited, and especially, too dependent on the center of the Third Order, that is, on meetings and conferences; that something more total and constant was necessary. Besides, as the Third Order was effectively making religious of its members, it needed more effective means. My answer was as follows:

The Third Order must follow the development of the church. In the church, there are ordinary Catholics, others are more devout, finally, others are perfect: I mean the religious who are submitted to a perfect rule.

Therefore, in the Third Order, we could have: secular members and regular members. These [latter] would live with a rule adapted to their vocation, as similar to religious perfection as possible. I have been reflecting on this thought for a long time in prayer. Finally I set to work. I prepared a little rule for a house of the Third Order. Each member would have his responsibilities, etc., under obedience to the Rule. I say obedience to the Rule, and not to persons, to avoid the danger of arbitrariness. This was tried in one specific house; it is truly a house of Nazareth. If our good Master is drawing you in this way.... He is offering it to you, but first, I need to try it in a few families; how to harmonize the duties of the husband and wife, of father and mother between them.

It would be appropriate to make the Father the head, the Superior of the Third Order house. Yet it could result in great slavery for the mother. I see drawbacks to naming the mother as the Superior; what do you think?..

I will always respect the rights of each one and so I would like the vital principle of obedience applied to set duties rather than to persons. So, we need the head of the family who would be the Father, but I would place the Mother as head within the house to apply its internal Rule: here again, [give me] your thoughts and your prayers.

Now, I come to your letter:

1. On mortification. -- We need both interior and exterior [mortification], for it is like a preservative salt. - Interior mortification consists in denying our selfish will; external mortification, in vigilance over our temperament and senses, and this is in order to nourish our interior recollection. However, we need an easy, gentle watchfulness, which is loving and not bitter or angry, as is a humiliated self love. Our resolve to practice mortification must be limited to our current actions and not to certain days and months, because our senses don't understand why. They are like a day-old child. On fast days, the Way of the Cross would do some good.

2. My dear sister, let your soul fully imbibe the love of Jesus. When we owe much, we love much. Jesus repays everything and this love is merciful towards our neighbor: A mercy of indulgence for strangers, the mercy of a doctor for those who are close to us.

3. You do well when you go to Holy Mass to wait to say your prayers in the Church. It enables you to gain an extra moment near Jesus Eucharistic who has such love for us.

4. If you have "*The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales*," you could reread it fruitfully. Rodriguez "*On Esteem for Perfection*," Volume I, and then his treatise on ordinary actions would be [even] better. But vary your reading.

5. Oh! I would almost reproach you for having put aside your little monthly retreat. Come now, do it on your first free day.

This week I received news about Mme. G.⁵⁴ She is fine, but her husband is not well. It seems that she is occupied with her dear patient who hasn't lost his appetite. This dear Lady doesn't know that her mother is very ill. Tuesday and Wednesday I asked all the Sisters to begin a novena for her mother. Oh! if faith and conversion to God were its outcome, how happy I would be! I am also doing it. Your heart has already accepted to do the same.

Mme. Aline has been better,⁵⁵ I am told, for the last two days. I saw her on Sunday. Poor mother! Her children still need her... It would call for a miracle.

I am astonished, my dear sister, that I have written so much (unusual for me), but I feel like I am at Bramefaim where we forget both time and the hour.

My affectionate respects to dear Mr. Perroud. If he comes, we will receive him on the first Saturday of February.⁵⁶

All yours in Jesus and Mary.

Eymard

P.S. Your priest-brother is well.

Mme. Perroud
at Bramefaim, at Pommiers
via Villefranche
(Rhône)

102

CO 101

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 1/52)

Lyons, January 29, 1848

Mademoiselle,⁵⁷

I am writing to thank you for your two letters. The first brought me comfort, the second, sadness. Write to me. Give me good news about your dear mother whom I respect as my own.

I hope that Jesus will hear our prayers for her health.

I am including her in our novena for both your dear mother and father.

Now I want to refer to your first [letter]. I am thanking our Lord for treating you as his tenderly loved child, not by giving you sweet feelings, consolations, but opportunities to practice generosity, and consequently to struggle against your poor human nature. So, my daughter, be faithful, always faithful to your practices. Our body is in good health when it has a definite and

⁵⁴ Probably Mme. Gourd.

⁵⁵ Her sister.

⁵⁶ As a Tertiary member?

⁵⁷ First of 52 letters to Stephanie Gourd. This relationship was to continue until the end of Fr. Eymard's life.

consistent schedule. It's the same for the soul; faithfulness is the proof of love for God. So then, I urge you to learn to perform each thing perfectly according to its nature, and in order to do so, learn the specifics of each thing. Consequently, from time to time do your meditation, examen, and spiritual reading on meditation, examen, Mass, Communion, purity of intention, etc... for the very simple reason that we should begin by benefiting as much as possible from what is at hand and is the daily nourishment of our spiritual life.

Then, my daughter, always go to the Good Lord very simply, with the surrender of a small child.

In your meditations, learn to converse with Jesus and Mary as you would converse familiarly with your dear mother. Learn how to give our Lord a detailed account of your soul, of your life.

Tell the Good Lord what you are thinking, what you want, what is upsetting you. Oh! how happy we become when we discover this interior conversation with our Lord. We carry our treasure [with us] everywhere. He becomes the center of our heart and life. There is no happiness on earth without Jesus. Therefore, no other way than to live with Jesus, our spouse, our Father, the life of our soul!

Thank you, my poor daughter, for praying for me. It's a true charity, I am very needy.

Yes, at Nice they are frightening you about the republicans in France and the plans of the radicals. Don't believe any of it, because France is very quiet. And then, Mary is watching over France and St. Michael is its patronal angel.

Here people ridicule the ghosts of fear created to frighten people.

I am, in our Lord, my daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

103

CO 103

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 2/52)

February 3, [1848]

This morning I received your sorrowful letter, poor daughter. I am writing to tell you my heart sympathizes with your grief and sadness.

I am also very sad and I cannot help weeping over your dear mother. I also feel like I am losing a mother...

My soul is miles away by her bedside with you. Oh! We are inclined to tell the Good Lord to leave your good mother with us for a while. I am having others pray for this as much as I can, and I am also constantly praying.

Our united prayers saved your mother [before]. She was healed then. Oh! Will Mary our tender Mother not hear our prayers again? I know your mother would go to Heaven, and Heaven wants her, she is so good! Oh! Poor daughter, consider yourself blessed to have such a mother! Be her daughter for both reasons. You have been fortunate to know her so closely, to appreciate her spirit of charity, self-denial, generosity, and conformity to the Will of God in all things. You have a saint before you. But why should I speak to you about your poor mother as if you were to lose her? This illness may last only a few days! God grant that it be so!

It is an act of charity on your part to write some news to me about her, and I join with you to say: Oh my God, give us the grace to submit to your holy Will!

Make a vow to the Good Lord in honor of St. Joseph for your mother's healing. For example, to recite his litany during six months, to make an alms to the poor each week, one Communion each month for the souls in Purgatory (or something else).

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I have just learned that Mme. Nicod is dying, that she will not pass the night. She is dying like a saint, calm and serene. Alas! her Calvary has been long! Her beautiful soul will soar to Heaven, the goal of her life.

Take care of yourself a little, my daughter, and if you think it is advisable, tell your mother about our prayers here. I wrote to her a week ago. Please look at the letter, you may read everything.

I am, in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

104

CO 104

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET⁵⁸
(VI 1/10)

St. Etienne, February 20, 1848

Excellency,

I have just accompanied Bishop d'Amata here. He is leaving for Clermont. He is going to bid his farewells. He is leaving from Toulon on March 20 on the Egeria, a State warship, with 13 missionaries.

I have received neither letters nor packages for your Eminence. As soon as I have something I will address it to you in the form we agreed upon.

I had a long conference Saturday with a man who formerly had a high position in Switzerland. Here is the gist of our conference - In Switzerland, stand exclusively on Catholic ground, [position] - on the question of Catholic freedom, - but as a general and not as a specific question. - Do not concede any principles, for one concession leads to another, no one can diminish the principle of Catholic freedom. As for the question of religious Groups, he would like to have some, but he considers it as a consequence to be settled prudently (for the Jesuits, the ground is too hot).

This excellent statesman, although protestant, gave me a few references. I enclose them with my letter.

The coach is leaving. My most profound respects.

Eymard

P.S. This advisor prefers specific questions. He can be helpful. When I left, Father Colin asked me to present his sincere regards and to tell you he will be upset with Your Excellency if you pass through Lyons [without stopping].

The members of the PP. received the note with gratitude.

Forgive this letter - I am leaving for a fortnight.

⁵⁸ The first of 10 letters to Bishop Luquet, the papal Nuncio in Switzerland, who had close ties with the Marists.

105

CO 105

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 50/145 VI 10)

St. Etienne [St. Stephen], February 28, 1848

My dear sisters,

I'm writing you a few words so that you will not worry. I'm spending a few days at Saint Etienne [St. Stephen] to visit our houses here. My health is good, - the city is at peace, - and leaves us alone. This morning we received a letter from Lyons from our Superior General who informs us that the city is quiet, that civil order rules there. This was also verified by many people. We have just received news from Paris. Peace has returned after so much tragedy.

Let's put all our trust in God alone. Nothing will happen to us other than what is willed by divine mercy. We have been assured that there is no opposition to religion nor to the priests.

I embrace you in the Lord, very dear sisters.

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

March (date?) - Attacked by a group of rebels in the city.

106

CO 109

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 9/395 VI 2)

March, 1848

You are chiding me and I am still sick. I've been quite sick since Friday. May God be praised! I will be a little more indulgent toward the sick.

It seems that your reasoning is also a bit sick. I was consoling myself with the thought that you were calm, charitable, humble, and resigned to all the little trials that God sends! Are you going to let yourself become the plaything of so many little childish passions? Please! Don't let your personal pride make you so sensitive. You know very well that, if you are first in my desire that you should love God, you ought to be last in your own eyes and in the eyes of others. Why should you care what others think, provided you know my thoughts or rather those of obedience? Oh! Die a little then, for self-will is still too much alive in you.

I'll ask our Lord to let you become his little one, and especially to remove from you all the cunning⁵⁹ that makes me very sad, because it isn't very pure.

I'll be able to see you only on Thursday, because I'm not receiving anyone yet...

I had lost my voice, but as you see, my pen is my scalpel. Let's say: a Father's scalpel.

Continue your Communions.

⁵⁹ French: malices.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 51/145 VI 10)

Lyons, March 7, 1848

My good sisters,

I received your kind letter and want to express my sincere thanks. In time of need you both always have shown the heart of a mother toward me.

Nothing happened to us here in Lyons⁶⁰. Religion and priests were respected everywhere. In Lyons all the church ceremonies took place as usual the following Sunday. We even noticed that there were more people.

It's true, gangs of workmen burned all the looms they could find in religious communities, but they didn't harm the sisters. It was an old grudge, because they thought that work was done there at a cheaper price.

It was a crime on their part as they were violating every law, but the authorities are taking proper measures.

Everyone hopes that our new republic will not be like the first one. It has begun well and everyone recognizes that divine Providence intervened.

Now, we must pray well so that the Good Lord may lead everything to a good end. I just received news from Paris today: everything is calm there. They write and tell us that such a courteous and friendly revolution has never been seen before, as if it were a family of brothers. There is no red flag in Paris, no flaunting of the title of citizen, as is happening to the poor people in the provinces. Good order and ordinary relations have been resumed,

Lent is beginning. Take care of yourselves, love and serve the Good Lord well. "Do what is right and let others say what they will." Let that be your motto.

I embrace you in Jesus and Mary.

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. Kindly inquire from Fr. Girolet whether he took care of the six Masses I had mentioned to him. Give him my regards, as well as good Fr. Pillon⁶¹. I will write to him shortly.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

⁶⁰ He speaks of the Revolution.

⁶¹ Parish priests.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 1/52)

Lyons, March 7, 1848

Madame,⁶²

I have just arrived from a rather long trip and my first concern is to answer your letter which expresses such trust. I begrudge Fr. Cariet for having won such a high level of trust toward me from you. Oh! Madame, God humbles me by using me for a work which is entirely his and placing me in front of his beloved children. I like to remind my good Father that when he saves his children, he will also one day pity the poor servant who led them.

Well! You want me to share a few thoughts with you. To begin with, because of the spiritual bonds between us, I am happy to share in your merits and sufferings. Our natural feelings lead us to pity those who suffer. Therefore, I hope that your health will improve and I pray that it will. But grace understands suffering, and love makes us love and desire it, because the essence of love in this life lies in immolation and suffering. - Oh! My sister, I know that you also judge it so. In heaven Jesus' cross is his scepter and throne of glory.

But ordinarily, when one is feeling ill, the soul seems to follow the moods of the body. Don't worry about it: it's a struggle but not a surrender. So, your aridity, your inner sufferings, also come from God's infinite kindness. It's because he wants you to cling to him alone - so that you may love him more than his gifts of consolation.

It seems to me that the best thing to do would be to center yourself on the holy Will of God for you. Make it your life, your joy and your hope. Oh! how happy a soul feels when it watches or sleeps under the vigilant care of this special Providence!

But St. Francis de Sales would have us do nothing in a tense or hurried manner. Let us follow the attraction and movement of grace within: that is the principal criteria: so then, let me know what this attraction [of grace] may be.

I recommend myself to your prayers and, in the humility of our Lord,

I am, Madame,
Your very humble servant,
Eymard, P.M.⁶³

⁶² Father Eymard addressed 52 letters of spiritual direction to Mme.Tholin-Bost at Tarare and at Amplepuis (Rhône) and 28 to Antonia Bost, her sister.

⁶³ Marist Priest.

To MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 1/28)

Lyons, March 7, 1848

Mademoiselle,⁶⁴

I am writing in answer to your welcome letter. It brought me joy, in our Lord, because I believe that you are, or at least will one day become, a disciple pleasing to his heart and Mary's. I thanked Jesus and Mary for having chosen you both⁶⁵ as sisters in the Third Order and so Providentially. How wonderful is God's love gleaned some of earth's exiled ones here and there saying: "You will be my family, my Cenacle, my Nazareth in the midst of the world!"

My dear sister, I'm sorry that you are so far from the center⁶⁶; but the will of our divine Master which is to be adored and loved above all things wants you to be where you are. However, a single spirit must bring us together from all sides into the heart of Jesus through Mary.

This spirit is simple like Mary, like the spirit of the child of the gospel. This spirit is modest like Mary's modesty, a modesty which makes her appear ordinary, which covers her like a mantle; so that when the world sees her pray, work, pass among them, they say: She is an ordinary woman from Nazareth.

This spirit is considerate toward its neighbor, subordinating external piety to the duties of one's state in life, making virtue seem more pleasant than strict. How kind Mary was toward her neighbor, putting aside her own will for the sake of charity and sacrifice. How patient she was in trials, gracious and considerate in the house of Nazareth.

The spirit of the Third Order is more interior than exterior. That is why it leads to prayer and recollection; because activity, light and heat are the natural effects of fire, and when a soul is united to our Lord, it certainly knows how to discover and fulfill his holy Will.

My daughter, become a good child of Mary and a worthy emulator of your sisters, for they are very pleasing to our Lord.

You asked me how to correct yourself of your self-love, your moodiness, your touchy attitudes toward your M... Alas! I must tell you that it is by accepting yourself as you are, by going to our Lord like a poor person in rags, saying: "See how poor I am! But you are rich and you are my Father..." Oh! Jesus loves the poor so much that he calls himself their King!

Then, if you really love this divine King, you will also love not your imperfections and sins, but the humiliation they bring, as well as being treated as a poor one.

Continue your correspondence. May Jesus always be its soul! Continue to go to holy Communion like a child. Let trust bring you courage: speak from the simplicity of love and let an immense desire to love be your preparation.

I leave you and bless you. On your part, pray for me, so that Jesus may live in me.

It is in his all divine love that I am,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

Miss Antonia Bost
at Tarare (Rhône)

⁶⁴ This is the first of 28 letters written to Julie-Antoinette (Antonia) Bost at 2 rue du Mange, at Rennes

⁶⁵ She and her sister Mme. Tholin-Bost.

⁶⁶ Lyons, the center of the Third Order.

110

CO 110

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 10/395 VI 2)

April 1, 1848

Thank you, my dear daughter, for [showing] so much interest. What can I say? When the Good Master wants us to stay at home and sometimes in bed, we must do so, because it's for our greater good. May he be praised!

The illness I've had for a week consists in spells of dizziness that get hold of me, and I come close to falling. That is why I don't dare go out.

My great misfortune is to have too many doctors; but the principal one is our Lord and your prayers. Ask that I may do what the Good Lord wills.

Concerning the dismissal of the girls, don't take that responsibility on yourself, in case something unpleasant should happen. Let them be free to stay or leave until Easter. The prudent view is that it seems reasonable to advise them to return to their family, but it would be good if that should come from them.

That's my feeling. I share your feeling to keep one of them.

May the Good Lord bless you all and keep you always in his holy care. Be at peace, my good daughters⁶⁷. Mary will protect you well and cover you with her motherly mantle, I promise you.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
April 2 - Visit to the workmen at the factory.

111

CO 111

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 52/145 VI 10)

Lyons, April 4, 1848

Very dear sisters,

Your kind letters really touched me. I never doubted your love for me. Rather I would reproach you for having loved me too much, since it is that great affection which caused your great sorrows. But I must also say, that I always shared them as a brother. And the Good Lord knows that I love only two people in this world, with this natural Christian love, and that is you.

I am continuing my letter today, Sunday the 9th, I was unable to finish it [before].

I don't know how time passes so quickly, but I almost always reach evening without having had time to turn around. Then my migraine headache has come back these last few days. It had left me alone for so long! You know, with a migraine a person cannot do anything.

I see that some people have been frightening you about Lyons and about us⁶⁸. However, I can assure you that we have been left totally undisturbed. We haven't received even the slightest insult. On the contrary, a guard was placed at our door. We go into the city very simply in our cassocks and it almost seems that the cassock is respected more now [than before].

⁶⁷ Addressed to Marguerite and her sisters?

⁶⁸ News of the Revolution.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Two days ago, I went with one of my colleagues to visit a work site where there were eight hundred workers. We were wearing our cassocks. They welcomed us with respect. We went there to thank the workmen who brought us a flag.

So, my dear sisters, don't be so alarmed, and especially don't believe all the exaggerated tales that are circulating. Lyons is calm. The workmen are going back to work. We trust that God will take care of everything. It is admirable to see the fervor and piety of the Lyonnese toward Our Lady of Fourviere and in all the churches.

It is true that business is not doing well at all. If things were to continue this way, it would be most unfortunate.

I am astonished that Communism should be known at La Mure! It is something contrary to reason and common sense. That is why they are beginning to deal with it properly.

I don't think that looting will prevail, because honesty and respect for good order would unite people against something so revolting.

Besides, the Good Lord is watching over us. I trust that good will come out of evil.

My respectful regards to Mme. Fayolle and to all her dear family.

Always all yours in our Lord,

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

112

CO 112

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 53/145 VI 10)

Lyons, April 25, 1848

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I am well. Lyons is peaceful, Holy Week and the holy day of Easter were spent very well without any incidents. The elections were very peaceful. I went like the others, it is a duty for every good citizen. Sometimes a single vote can be decisive in favor of a good representative.

Do we hear of difficulties? Yes, every day. Nothing will ever stop the [discussions] for and against. Will there be a battle here? I don't think so, because people are tired of anarchy. They want order and security. If there were some disturbance, it would be only limited. Besides, my sisters, God and Mary are watching over us. All our trust lies in that.

Don't be terrified. God will take care of his own and I assure you that one is more secure in the city than in the country.

My respects to the Reymond family. I saw Miss Berthilde; she is situated in the country. Tell them not to worry about her. She is fine.

I embrace you in our Lord.

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET⁶⁹
(VI 2/10)

Lyons, April 30, 1848

Excellency,

We were worried about you, because we had not received any news. Thank you for having written to us. I would have written to you but I no longer knew where to address my letter.

So many changes [have taken place] since you passed through Lyons! God alone is stable and eternal. In the midst of this passionate agitation, there is still something consoling; it is that some good will inevitably result for religion from this shock. It will be freer in the [political] arena - it will know its enemies better, - and better appreciate its true friends. A dormant faith is awakening - we are surprised to find so many Catholic combatants and hearts that are so generous - Buchez-Bastide... they will replace the old moldy Utopians whose only religion and political power seemed to consist in placing obstacles to the development and progress of faith.

Our elections are good; they are proceeding in order, propriety and freedom. It is true that we have prayed so much, especially in Lyons; a single publisher printed and sold 30,000 copies of 40 or more prayers, fastings, alms, etc... The enemies of good order are beginning to be afraid. Arago, our Commissioner, left Friday to go into hiding. The public intends to take him to court. He is accused of having withdrawn large amounts of money, - of having misappropriated or embezzled 500,000 francs, etc.; now he is lost, rejected even, by the workers. So go the men who follow their passions.

Lyons is quiet. In spite of a thousand and one rumors, we can see the hand of God stemming the revolutionary tide. We, ourselves, have been quiet. Through prudence we have reduced the personnel in our houses. As to your affairs, I haven't received the chain you mentioned. I think it was delayed in Paris, as well as your letter. I did some investigation in Lyons. No one knows about it. Mme. Marteau is in great difficulty like everyone else. We even fear that in the end she may be ruined by the crisis. In order not to lose everything, your Excellency, we would advise you to accept the equivalent of her debt in vestments. That is the most prudent way. I am waiting to hear what you wish to do about this. If Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, cannot wait, Fr. Poupinel will be able to advance him something if you think it is suitable.

I sent all the Briefs to their address; what should we do for the payment?

They say that everyone preaches about his own saint. When I received that package, I hurried to see whether my request was included... I am waiting... but your Excellency, please obtain it for me, as it was granted to some of our missionaries with this clause: *modo exercitum consuetum viae crucis, aut aliquas vocales preces ex arbitrio benedictis statuendas recitaverint*.⁷⁰

There are so many sick people who cannot recite the 20 "Our Fathers", "Hail Marys" and "Glory Be's", and I know a Pastor who obtained this faculty without any [required] number. It's true, he had a friend in Rome, and a Marist devoted to the Missions of the Holy See would certainly have a filial right to this favor. I think it probably should be requested through the Propaganda. Please forgive me, your Excellency, for so much trouble, but all the merit will be yours, and I will have thousands of the Stations of the Cross done for you. My first names are Peter Julian...missionary.

⁶⁹ Papal nuncio in Switzerland

⁷⁰ They shall make the customary exercise of the Stations of the Cross, or recite some vocal prayers determined by the choice of those approved by the Church. Tr.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Please receive the respectful and ever dedicated sentiments of Reverend Fathers Colin, Lagniet, Poupinel, and with them I dare say that I am,

Your Excellency's
most humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

114

CO 115

TO MR. PERROUD
(VII 2/2)

Lyons, May 7, 1848

Dear Sir,

I've just returned from [visiting] His Eminence, who has very graciously granted the favor to have Holy Mass celebrated in your chapel and to reserve the Blessed Sacrament there. I told him that the Bishop of Amiens goes to see you every year, like our Lord went to Bethany to see Lazarus and his sisters. I even added that in case of danger, His Eminence would find a very devoted and secure shelter there, -- that your house was like a convent -- The Bishop listened to these things with fond and paternal [affection].

The permission granted is a general one, as you will see. So, you won't need to refer to the conditions mentioned in my Petition.

So your house is now a religious house of the Third Order of Mary. I will now prepare a little schedule for a family of the Third Order and bring it to you, please God.

Excuse me, I am being rushed, but I am and will always be,

Dear Sir,

Your loving and devoted Father,
Eymard, A.S.M.⁷¹

115

CO 114

TO CARDINAL L.C.M. DE BONALD⁷²
(VI 1/1)

Excellency,

The Perroud family from Pommiers, a respected and devout family, has offered the hospitality of its home to the Society of Mary, which accepts it gratefully. A Marist priest is already in residence there. There is a very suitable home chapel in the house.

Your Eminence had granted permission to celebrate Mass and to keep the Blessed Sacrament when there would be an approved priest in residence there. As this permission has expired, we ask that, in your kindness, you continue the permission in favor of this holy family and of the Society of Mary.

⁷¹ Assistant of the Society of Mary.

⁷² Cardinal of Lyons

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

We are asking for this grace with the consent and desire of the Pastor of the parish.
With the most profound respect, I am

Your most humble and obedient Servant,
Eymard
Assistant of the Society of Mary

Lyons, May 7, 1848
Granted
LCM de Bonald
Archbishop of Lyons

116

CO 149

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 11/395 VI 2)

Saturday, May 12, 1848

My dear daughter, I am sending you the minutes for Tuesday, and I am happy to tell you that you have no need to be forgiven. I really wouldn't remember for what, other than for your great dedication to the Third Order.

I thought about the errand you asked me to convey to Fr. Lagniet. Would you know that I had forgotten the second one you mentioned in the confessional, and I thought it concerned only the first one. When I saw that you were upset, I still couldn't understand why. What can I say? It was one of my thousand distractions.

I really would like to receive news about Miss Claudine. about you, and about the whole house. Write to me at the hospital of St. Etienne [St. Stephen].

I'm still praying for you. May our Lord ever be your way, your truth and your life, and may you rest in him!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

I was forgetting to tell you that my health is adequate for my work.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour
Facing the Rhone,
Lyons

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 54/145 VI 10)

Lyons, May 27, 1848

Very dear sisters,

Miss Monavon, whom you saw at La Salette, has agreed to bring you my letter and to visit you. Thank you for your kind letters. You have no idea how happy they make me.

Several people also gave me news about you and I believe that you received some indirectly about me. That's why I wasn't writing to you right away.

We are well in Lyons. As I told you, don't believe all the exaggerated or alarming news you hear. Current news is filled with lies. The times are evil because we are in the presence of so many passions and almost under their power. The future would certainly seem dark if we didn't have divine Providence to protect us and Mary, as Queen of France.

That is what gives me confidence and [the thought] that evil men will do no more than the devil [can do]; they will threaten, they will seem ready to destroy everything. But God will bring their wickedness to a halt.

As for the mortgages you mention, I advise you to leave things as they are. They are just as secure.

The daughter of Mr. Moutin is a Marist Sister at Meximieux, department of Ain. I believe she is well, but what is sure is that she is there and very happy.

You tell me that you need to re-immersed yourself in God's love. Alas, we all need it and more than ever. I do approve your idea to make a little retreat of recollection at home. I often recommend that here. This is how [to do it]:

The first day, our concern is to obtain contrition by meditating on our sins in the morning, and on death in the evening, so as to bring us to expiate our sins more quickly.

The second day, it is to obtain the knowledge of our sins.

The first meditation is to identify the principal obstacles within us against the fulfillment of God's holy will upon us. It is often negligence or pride.

The second meditation is on what the Good Lord wants of us, as can be seen in our present state of life.

The third day is on God's love.

The first meditation is on the love of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

The second one is on heaven, the object of our hope.

During the day, we make the Stations of the Cross, keep silence a little more, and take some rest.

These few thoughts are meant to help you, but its purpose is not confession, but recollection with God.

I will write to Fr. Pillon. I had begun to [do so]. Take courage! Leave the world alone and it will leave you. Yes, I am a Christian republican, that is, I want to be independent from creatures and love and serve the Good Lord without them... to use them only insofar as the Good Lord wills. Do the same and you will be very free and peaceful.

All yours in Jesus Christ,

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

June 10-17 - Retreat at Notre Dame du Laus.

118

CO 118

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 12/395 VI 2)

Notre Dame du Laus, Saturday, June 10, 1848

I am writing, dear daughter, to give you a little sign of life from my dear retreat at Laus. I am finally here, happy once again to see this holy chapel where I have so many memories and from which I expect so many graces.

You can imagine that none of you are forgotten here: you in your illness, your sisters, all your dear ones, and all the sisters of the Third Order. Here, one is so close to Mary, we can ask for anything.

I need to tell you that our Good Mother is leaving me with poor health [during] these days, especially my head and ears. You can imagine my natural feelings, but I rejoice over it, because I see it as a promise of graces from our Lord.

I am sending you the minutes of the single women's meeting. As soon as possible, please pass it on to Madame Champin, rue Saint Jean No. 5, so that she may read it at the married women's meeting as well.

I am happy to send you the paper which I have just moistened with blessed oil from the lamp burning in front of the miraculous chapel of the Blessed Virgin. This is the oil which has and is still accomplishing many authentic miracles. I've read the accounts about them. All the Missionaries of Laus, myself and my sister who is with me, are making a novena for you, reciting the "*Veni Creator*"⁷³ and the litanies of the Blessed Virgin each day. Unite yourself to us and apply to your pain the oiled paper which I am sending you.

I bless you, my daughter, and your sisters as well.

Pray for me.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour
Facing the Rhone,
Lyons

⁷³ Come, Creator Spirit.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 2/76)

Notre Dame du Laus, near Gap, June 15, 1848

Dear Madame,

I am writing to you from the place of pilgrimage of my youth where I first came to know and love Mary. I have been wanting to come here for a long time to be quiet at the feet of our Good Mother (that is the favorite popular name for her here), I've been here now for nine days. I don't want to leave this place without writing you. I feel that a letter written at the feet of Mary will be better.

What can I tell you, my dear sister? That I can't thank the Blessed Virgin sufficiently for hearing my prayers for you. I was complaining to our good Mother that you were so sick. I didn't want heaven for you yet.

I prayed to our good Mother for you daily, for Miss Stephanie personally, for your husband, and for your poor mother.⁷⁴ Oh! If my prayers are as effective as my desires, you will be heard. I feel a gentle comforting confidence that it will be so.

It would make you so happy, my poor daughter, [if you could] pass through Gap on your way back to Lyons, and from there come to visit Notre Dame du Laus which is only two leagues away! You would receive great graces there. That's my wish for you.

Our good Master has really tried you. It's the first sound of the bell for eternity. Let's prepare for our departure.⁷⁵

In the meantime, while I was here I understood more than ever that our Lord wants you in a life of self-denial and spiritual poverty, but also of total surrender into his hands like a little child. The small daily trials which happen are wings sent by him to help you put aside your old self and give your nothingness to Jesus. Let yourself be divested, let everything be taken away, in order to belong entirely to God.

Goodbye my daughter, pray for me. I'm sending you paper moistened in oil, in the oil of the lamp which burns in the sanctuary of Notre Dame du Laus. The blessed Virgin promised Sister Benoite⁷⁶ that this oil would work all sorts of healing for those who use it with faith. Use it for some of your patients, but do so with a novena to Our Lady of Laus.

I bless you in Jesus and Mary.

Eymard

Madame, Gourd, at Nice

⁷⁴ for their conversions (except Miss Stephanie).

⁷⁵ death.

⁷⁶ the missionary of Laus.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 3/52)

Notre Dame du Laus, June 15, 1848

Miss Stephanie,

My dear daughter, I am writing to thank you for your welcome letters. I was so relieved with the news about your dear mother! [Your letters] were not fruitless, since I had prayers said for her everywhere.

Now I have been feeling sad on your account.

I was told that you had been very ill and that you still are. My poor daughter, this is how our Lord comes to visit his children from time to time, to tell them that this life is only an exile, a Calvary, to make us desire Heaven, our beautiful, eternal Homeland. Did you desire to go see the Good Lord face to face already, and Mary, our kind Mother? Oh! You may have to carry your cross on earth a little longer and prove by your sacrifices that you want to love Jesus above all things, as he deserves.

Love our good Master dearly, my dear daughter, and suffer for his love; work for heroic self-denial of the will, convinced that whatever we accomplish with gentle self-denial is infinitely more pleasing to God than any other action which may appear to be more perfect. I entrusted you to our good Mother and I asked her in your name that she love and lead you as her beloved daughter.

Pray for me, my daughter, as I pray for you.

Eymard

Miss Stephanie Gourd
Nice

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET⁷⁷
(VI 3/10)

JMJ

Lyons, June 26, 1848

Excellency,

I am writing to inform you about the matters you entrusted to me. Everything is working out for the better.

Mme. Marteau, whose debt toward Your Excellency amounts to 707 francs 50, including the cost for the protest, will send 17 chasubles worth 600 francs to Fr. Charrier, the procurator for Foreign Missions. Fr. Charrier will put these 600 francs toward your debt with Mr. Favier, the goldsmith. Fr. Poupinel has already advanced 107 francs 50 to Mr. Favier. Therefore, the matter is settled..

I haven't received the total of the expenses for the Briefs yet. I will ask the Milles. Lespinasse and Robert again.

⁷⁷ Papal Nuncio to Switzerland.

I've just received your gold chain. I will hold on to it for you, or if you still feel the same, I will ask Mr. Favier to take it back. It would be too bad, however, because you might really like it in certain circumstances.

Lyons is calm. We hope that the Blessed Virgin will continue her protection over our city, which is so visibly and universally recognized. Fourviere is always full.⁷⁸ I won't mention Paris. We hear only about its horrors. Not much is said about insults heaped upon the clergy. It's true that we still don't have all the details.

Now that you are in Rome, I dare remind you about my desire to have the faculty for indulgences on the crucifix for the Stations of the Cross like our Apostolic Missionaries, with the clause: *modo pium viae crucis exercituum consuetum, aut aliquas vocales preces ex arbitrio benedictis statuendas recitaverint*.⁷⁹

We obtained these faculties through the Propaganda and did so quite easily.

I am embarrassed to cause you so much trouble for something which I know was granted to secular priests. What urges me to make this request is that during my visits I am often asked for these indulgenced crosses, and then, it's one of my devotions. I would be happy to spread it, be its advocate, for you are very influential.

Therefore, Your Excellency, I will ask you again to obtain a privileged altar for Fr. Laurent Cat and Fr. Pillon, Eugene, priests of the diocese of Grenoble. The latter would also like to have a Brief to indulgence medals and rosaries.

Give us news about yourself. You know how happy it makes us. Call on us as you would your own children. Fr. Colin is fine. We have been peaceful, and have even continued our house of theology.

And so I dare say that I am, with the most profound respect, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
(Pierre) Eymard
Assistant of the Society of Mary

P.S. Bishop d'Amata is in Clermont waiting for the departure of a ship of the Society of Oceania. We have 4 new martyrs in Melanesia; three priests and a catechist brother. It is both sad and consoling.

122

CO 123

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 13/395 VI 2)

1848⁸⁰

Mademoiselle,

If you have any linens ready, kindly give them to our brother.

I don't know where we left our stoles. If it were at your house, please also give them to the bearer of this letter, and give him news about yourself for me.

I hope that our dear Blessed Mother has completed her deed. I am well enough.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁷⁸ the Basilica.

⁷⁹ They shall piously make the customary exercise of the Stations of the Cross, or recite some vocal prayers determined by the choice of those approved by the Church. Tr.

⁸⁰ Perhaps July.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour
Facing the Rhone,
Lyons

123

CO 124

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 14/395 VI 2)

1848⁸¹

1. I cannot send you the candlestick cases, we have hidden them.⁸²
2. Neither Fr. Poupinel nor I will say anything about Saturday. So, silence.
3. Miss Cesarine can associate 53 more persons. I dispense her from a second rosary, the first one will be enough.
4. Please send us some linens, amices, purificators, a few surplices, two or three albs, the chalice. Tonight we will open our chapel and it will stay open.
However, I will be going to St. Paul's tomorrow and the next day.
Praised be the Lord for his visit,⁸³ its effects, and his love towards you! You will soon receive the same favor again.

124

CO 125

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 55/145 VI 10)

Lyons, July 12, 1848

My dear sisters,

An acquaintance told me about this kind sister who will bring you my letter. She is on her way to La Salette. She is coming from a great distance especially for that, so please give her hospitality on the way.

Lyons is very quiet, everything is falling in place; so be at peace.

My ear is a little better.

All yours,

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

⁸¹ Perhaps July.

⁸² Perhaps in safe-keeping against revolutionary invaders.

⁸³ Holy Communion at home.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

July 16 - Received authorization to bless crucifixes with the same indulgences as the Stations of the Cross, and to determine the prayers to be said. This is a privilege he used extensively throughout his ministry.

125

CO 126

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET⁸⁴
(VI 4/10)

Lyon, August 15, 1848

Your Excellency,

I am writing to thank you for the precious Rescript you kindly obtained and sent me. You will have the largest share in the prayers to which it will give birth.

I saw the Head-coachman. Everything is settled for 1000 francs as he had said.

The Marteau matter is concluded. Father Poupinel, who offers you his profoundest respect, found a way to withdraw the 107 francs 50, so your chain is entirely paid for. I now have money left over; that is, 49 Fr. 20 for the Briefs you had sent.

I had forgotten to say, when asking you for the Briefs for indulgences for a privileged altar for Fr. Cat and Fr. Pillon, priests of the diocese of Grenoble, that these gentlemen would cover the necessary expenses gratefully.

We will be happy to see you again, Your Excellency, because we love you like a Father.

Bishop D Amata's departure has been delayed again. The government had promised it to him for the month of August, but now he has been delayed until the month of October. Poor Bishop! What a disappointment and what sacrifices!

Nothing new here. We are quiet; people are blas. Nothing stirs their interest now. They wait for the future coldly, but good people pray a great deal. Notre Dame de Fourviere is filled with pilgrims. Commerce is still lagging.

Please receive the respectful sentiments of devotion of one who loves to call himself,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

126

CO 127

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 15/395 VI 2)

Thursday, September, 1848⁸⁵

Mademoiselle,

Kindly give Madame your sister a few notebooks (4) for the profession tomorrow along with the printed card for the profession.

So you are now on the cross. Be there with Jesus and like Jesus.

I bless you.

⁸⁴ Papal Nuncio to Switzerland.

⁸⁵ The postmark read Sept 19, which was a Wednesday - the year is doubtful.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

127

CO 128

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 16/395 VI 2)

Tuesday, September 8, 1848⁸⁶

This is only a short greeting during your illness. I fulfilled your errand this morning. I hope our good Mother will hear us.

On the cross, love is red as blood, crowned with thorns, forsaken by God and man. That is its throne... it is a triumphant love for both God and man.

Here is the purpose of my errand: please give the bearer of this letter twenty printed "Rules" with the box of seals and two lithographed notebooks.

All yours in our Lord,

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
2nd floor
Lyons

Sept. 8 - Miraculous healing of Marguerite Guillot during a novena to Our Lady of La Salette. cf. Doc. 145.

128

CO 129

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 56/145 VI 10)

Lyons, September 12, 1848

My very dear sisters,

I am writing to thank you for your good letter and the news that you gave me. The only thing that interests me is to know that you are well and that you are not worrying too much, in spite of your difficulties. There are so many conflicts and difficulties in life that, in order to make the most of them we must, so to speak, become accustomed to them and do as St. Paul teaches. Consider them as light temporary crosses which will form our eternal crown in heaven.

As for me, I manage to keep up. The Good Lord always gives me the strength I need. May he be blessed!

I am writing to you somewhat hastily, for in two hours we will begin our general retreat and I will have to speak there.

Miss Moutin de Prunier is still a Marist Sister at Meximieux (Ain); she is well. I think that she must have written to her parents; I sent her the message.

⁸⁶ The date is doubtful. September 8, 1848 was a Friday. Troussier

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

The religious mentioned by Mr. Fayolle is at Belley (Ain). I was told that she is a bit tired and that a trip to Voreppe would be very good for her. A visit from Miss Marchand at Belley would settle everything.

I don't have the relic for Fr. Girolet yet, but I'm not forgetting it. Please remember me to him. I love that dear priest more than others.

I received my book through that valiant religious. Thank you.

I haven't finished the little rule yet, but you can count on it.

As for my portrait, I can't say anything yet - you have me.

Miss Guillot, of whom I had spoken to you and whom I venerate, whose home I love like our own, is better... thanks to a novena to Our Lady of La Salette. I had made her promise to go to La Salette should she be healed, and then to spend two or three days with you. You will enjoy meeting her. She is simple and kind, let me say, almost like you. She has asked me to say hello to you in her name as well as her three sisters.

My regards to the respected Lesbros family and to good Mme. Fayolle.

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

Sept 13-19 - Annual retreat of the Marist Community (Fr. Maitrepierre).

129

CO 131

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 17/395 VI 2)

Lyons, October 7, 1848

I agree willingly to your trip. May God, Mary and the holy angels accompany you and bring you back happy, holy and well...

There is no need for me to entrust you with my errands for our Good Mother!⁸⁷

I am writing to my sister. She will wait for you at the coach which arrives at 6:00 p.m. The three of you will lodge at her house just as you would at home, in simplicity and poverty. You will find a cordial welcome there.

Here is your itinerary:

You will arrive at Grenoble at 6:00 p.m., at Grenette Place. From there, lodge with Mr. Jarrillot, close by on Boissieu Street. It isn't a hotel. He offers only lodging and sends out to a restaurant next door for whatever is needed. You will be well there.

Nearby, you will take the coach for La Mure, (from Pelloux or the one from Lyons). It leaves at noontime. Reserve the section in the morning. On route, don't let your sister get off for the hills,⁸⁸ so as not to get overheated. The mountain air is too harsh.

Bring the food you need from here to Grenoble.

I give you all your permissions.

If you need help in Grenoble, go to Miss Marsallat and use my name. She makes church vestments at Notre-Dame Place,

You could send your ex-voto afterwards. However, if you have something ready, so be it.

⁸⁷ Pilgrimage to La Salette to thank Our Lady for her healing.

⁸⁸ To lighten the load for the horses?

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Go with obedience, and return happy.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Lyons

130

CO 132

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 57/145 VI 10)

Lyons, October 8, 1848

My dear sisters,

I am writing a few words to you to tell you about the trip of Miss Guillot, Marguerite, to La Salette. She will be accompanied by her sister and one of her friends. She will arrive at La Mure Tuesday night in the coach from Pelloux, or else with Mme. Seymat.

Miss Guillot wanted to leave her friend at the inn in order not to disturb you. I am telling you so that you will not separate the Trinity.

I hope these good women will be willing to spend a few days with you. Receive them simply without ceremony; otherwise they will run away.

Miss Guillot is afraid of eggs, fatty bouillon and cabbage. She likes noodles, milk products, veal and lamb.

No need to give you news about myself, I am well.

I embrace you fraternally in our Lord.

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. Recently I saw Sister Moutin: she is well and prudent. They are pleased with her. I hope that her sister will be able to share her happiness some day.

Miss Eymard - Julien
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

131

CO 133

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 58/145 VI 10)

Lyons, October 24, 1848

My dear sisters,

I am coming to thank you for your letters, to tell you that I am well, and that I will be leaving for a few days. I am going to visit one of our houses. The good Miles Guillot are thrilled with their trip, and I, that you have met them. They are so kind!

People are working in Lyons; business is picking up again. Things are very peaceful. Let us trust in God and in Mary.

The winter is here, take care of yourselves. It is my best time. I will stop now, for I am leaving in a few moments. Pray for me, I do so continually for you.

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere (Isere)

132

CO 134

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 5/10)

Lyons, November 15, 1848

Your Excellency,

The transaction for your carriage was concluded yesterday. I reimbursed the 1000 francs that had been loaned to me for it. I thanked the Gentleman Garel-Forax in your name for their good offices on your behalf.

I still haven't received the box you informed me about from Switzerland. As soon as we receive it we will address your books and reliquaries to Mr. Charge in Marseilles. As for the chalice, gold chain, and cross, our Procurator for the Missions has just sent his shipments. Besides, our Apostolic Vicars wouldn't take on such an expense. The following means would succeed better: Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, will take back the chalice with hardly any loss. He will try to sell the chain and the gold cross at the first opportunity. He told us he wouldn't make any others before [it is sold]. He observed that the loss would be too great to sell it for the weight of the gold, and that if Your Eminence needs money, he would advance 400 francs on it, while waiting for an opportunity to sell. He observed, however, that if your objects remain a year and more, he would ask for the interest.

Eminence, I am waiting for your answer. I still haven't sent your small sum to Langres. I am expecting to have an opportunity soon.

I had asked a favor from Your Eminence for my Pastor, Mr. Laurent Cat, (Diocese of Grenoble), the privilege of a portable altar for his curate, Fr. Eugene Pillon, with a Brief for the

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

indulgences of St. Bridget. If it's no inconvenience to you, it would please them. They will pay all the expenses.

I recommend myself very humbly to your Masses and beg you to receive my sentiments of most profound respect and entire devotedness from one who dares to call himself, Your Eminence,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, A.P.M.⁸⁹

P.S. Very Rev. Father Lagniet offers his profound respects to Your Eminence. He asks whether you would kindly obtain the faculty to enroll with the scapular of Mt. Carmel for his Pastor, Jean-Marie Joannet, the Pastor of Apinac, Diocese of Lyons.

Nov. 26-? - At St. Maurice to compose Rules for the Third Order.

133

CO 135

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 18/395 VI 2)

St. Maurice, November 29, 1848⁹⁰

Mademoiselle,

The Good Lord is keeping me here for another week: may his holy will be done! It goes a little against my will... I would perhaps prefer to work for the dear Third Order. Everything was ready, but His Excellency the Cardinal couldn't come to confirm our children tomorrow and he postponed Confirmation for a week. God has his plans, I adore and love them.

These days I will recollect myself and compose the "Rules" for the Third Order Virgins. Pray for that. In this way, I will be working for you.

The Good Lord has blessed this retreat; thank him for me.

Continue at your usual pace.

I ask our Lord to be all in all for you and to take the place of everything for you.

I often present you to our Lord and his Holy Mother.

Continue to be the disciple of God's good pleasure.

In our Lord, I am

Humbly yours,
Eymard

P.S. Kindly put out the alb and the appropriate vestment.⁹¹ My respects to your household. I am tired, but that's all.

(Urgent)

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

⁸⁹ Assistant Marist Priest.

⁹⁰ The date is the 26th and not the 29th, as printed. (c.f. Archives of the Servants and Fr. Troussier.)

⁹¹ Alternate translation: the alb and the clean vestment.

134

CO 136

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 19/395 VI 2)

Sunday, December, 1848

Mademoiselle,

Would you see Miss David and console her, or at least enlighten her? I believe you would be doing an act of kindness. I hate to think that this good woman is suffering because of me. I told you how much I esteem her, and how far I am from what she believes!

I thank the Good Lord for it all. It's a lesson, a grace, and one more link to God alone.

I thank you kindly for having told me all that. I never would have guessed it. I never would have thought it.

All yours in Jesus,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

135

TO FR. MELIN, PASTOR OF CORPS⁹²
(VI 1/1)

The document is deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume I Doc. #377 (CO 375)

136

CO 137

TO FR. MELIN, PRIEST-ARCHPRIEST OF CORPS
(VIII 1/1 VI 2)

Lyons, December 8, 1848⁹³

You will not attribute my delay to indifference, I know, but to prudence; and, I admit, it has perhaps been too human. It is not, Father, that I had doubts about the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at La Salette. No; but I examined, I saw, and I believed. And all those who do the same will believe, for the logic of the facts is in harmony with the evidence. It is a question of opening one's eyes to see. Miss Guillot's cure⁹⁴ is one of these facts, able to convince the strictest

⁹² Extract of a letter accompanying the account of Marguerite Guillot, written November 21, 1848, about her healing through the intercession of Our Lady of La Salette, September 8, 1848.

⁹³ Extract from a work by Mr. Rousselot: "New Documents on the Apparition at La Salette" (p. 192)

⁹⁴ LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS CONCERNING LA SALETTE - Forward

I. In Volume VI of the French Letters can be found:

examiners... [Here Father tells the story of the cure, and adds:] But one must admit that something was lacking in this irrefutable miracle. What was it? Everything that should have made it extraordinary; that is, the outward change as sudden as the inward one. True, that seemed to be lacking. But it must be said, to the glory of God, that it was the condition which the sick lady herself had made. She didn't want to be cured too suddenly, so as to avoid the publicity and the crowds which follow an extraordinarily miraculous cure. I agreed with her prayer. But God soon revealed his work. Helpful precaution soon became useless. She was healed without going through the weakness of convalescence, and soon the miracle was broadcast abroad...⁹⁵

137

CO 138

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 59/145 VI 10)

Lyons, December 18, 1848

Very dear sisters,

Excuse me for such a delay in writing to you. I was so busy and then I went on a few trips. Weeks and months seem to fly away like hours, for me.

I have been well, except for a few migraine headaches. But I am very sick one day, and the next day [I am] on the run, preaching in good health. Lyons is very quiet, and the silk trade seems to be picking up.

I think that things will get better. Never trust false alarming news; some people make it a game, and often a kind of politics.

Write to the good Miles Guillot. They love you like sisters. I am sending you a little note that I have had for some time. I'm leaving tonight for Belley. I expect to stay there until Sunday. I'm going to visit one of our houses.

Miss Guillot will send you your pictures. Pray for me, I do so every day for you.

Your brother,
Eymard

(1) A letter to Canon Melin, Priest of Corps, dated December 8, 1848 (simple extract) page 119. This letter is attached to the account of the cure of Miss Marguerite Guillot, written by her on November 21, 1848.

(2) The account of this cure, dated March 24, 1849, (Doc. 145) addressed to Canon Rousselot, Vic. Gen. of Grenoble, and 6 other letters to the same: 1851: January 29 (Doc.244), March 6 (Doc.250) and June 24 (Doc.262); 1852: July 21 (Doc.270); 1854: June 29 (Doc.461) and July 16 (Doc.462).

II. In Volume VIII of the French can be found:

(1) The integral text of a letter to Canon Melin of Corps.

(2) Two letters to Canon Rousselot, of March 8 and 10, 1854.

(3) A letter to Miss Louise de Brissac (end 1859 or early 1860).

III. In the "*Bulletin des Missionnaires de N-D de la Salette (B.M.S.)*" Mr. Louis Bassette published: *Notre Dame de la Salette et le Bienheureux P-J Eymard*. (Year 1956: nn. 562-565. 1957: 566, 568-571. 1958: n. 572.)

IV. In the APPENDIX (French unpublished) four other documents can be found which were transcribed in the copy of the CURIA.

⁹⁵ The certificate from Doctor Berlioz, given by Fr. Eymard, is dated November 7, 1848. Fr. Eymard later drew up a testimony on March 24, 1849, which he sent to Fr. Rousselot, Vicar-General. For this text see Doc. T.S. p. 574.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

P.S. I'm very happy that you are taking Melanie. She will be very helpful to you, she is such a good girl!

Miss Eymard-Julian
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

Jan. 5 - Visit to the House of Moulins, then to Paris.

138

CO 139

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 60/145 VI 10)

Moulins, January 15, 1849⁹⁶

My very dear sisters,

How late I am to wish you a happy New Year! At Christmas I had expressed my very best wishes for you, by saying Mass for you; by offering you to the beloved child Jesus as his two favorite servants! On New Year's Day, I went up to Notre Dame de Fourviere early in the morning, to offer Holy Mass there and to pray for you. So if I didn't write you sooner, it's because I was absorbed by so many things that I didn't have the time or the peace of mind to do so. So now I am writing to you from Moulins where I have been for seven days, visiting the two houses that we have here, a house for the missionaries and the Major Seminary. Next Monday, I'm leaving for Paris where we have a foundation which I shall also visit. In Paris I'll go say Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires for you. Don't worry about my health, travelling doesn't tire me too much and I am taking good care of myself. Write to me in Paris at the following address: To Fr. Eymard, rue Montparnasse, 5, in Paris, and ask Mme. Faure for her son's address and Mme. Dastarac for her brother's. I want to go see them. I will stay about a week in Paris.

Also pray very much for me, my good sisters, in order that I may be a saint and that I may cooperate with God's graces and with the great duties of my holy state. How much good I could do, with God's grace, if I were truly interior, truly united to our Lord, truly filled with his Spirit of love! Come, my good sisters, this is a New Year, one more year, followed perhaps by death, and then heaven. Ah! That beautiful heaven, that eternal heaven, let us work closely with our Lord and let the world amuse itself, and bustle about, while it forgets us. God alone is enough for us.

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s. Marist⁹⁷

P.S. I didn't have time to write to the pastor so please present him my respectful and loving regards, as well as Fr. Pillon and Fr. Ripert. Ask them if they have any errands [I could do for them] in Paris, and I shall do them gladly.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

⁹⁶ The postmark is January 13th.

⁹⁷ Priest of the Society of Mary.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 20/395 VI 2)

Paris, January 18, 1849

I am writing, my daughter, to give you news about myself, and to thank you for yours which made me very happy. I was worried about all of you, especially about you.

My health is good, the same as in Lyons. The Good Lord blessed my visit to Moulins, I pray that he will bless the one to Paris. Also pray to him for that intention. I probably won't be in Lyons at the beginning of next week, I'll arrive only at the end of the week and I'll go to see you first.

Until then, continue to be united to our Lord. Remain very humble and simple in his Sacred Heart.

If there is anything burdening you, you could speak to Fr. Colin.

Saturday at 7:30, I will offer Holy Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires. You know that you will all be with me on the paten.⁹⁸

Paris is very quiet. I don't know why there are so many alarming rumors in the departments.⁹⁹

I will bring you St. John of the Cross.¹⁰⁰

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
in Lyons

TO A MARIST FATHER¹⁰¹
(VI 1/3)¹⁰²

[Paris, January 1849]

I have just returned from Meximieux, where I preached a Retreat to the Professors, and dear Father Lagniet is leaving me a little space to greet you affectionately; to tell you that I still remember Verdelaïs and still love you as a dear brother. So please think of us too and our problems, for we are in the Capital City.

My regards to all our Fathers,

Eymard

⁹⁸ Offering ourselves to the Lord.

⁹⁹ Political sectors of France.

¹⁰⁰ Presumably, the book.

¹⁰¹ Anonymous Marist

¹⁰² The lines were written at the end of a letter from Fr. Lagniet to an unidentified Marist. The beginning of the letter is missing. It was written in Paris as the text indicates: "in the Capital city." Fr. Eymard visited the Paris Community in January 1849.

141

CO 141

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 21/395 VI 2)

Moulins, January 31, 1849

Mademoiselle,

I am finally here at Moulins. I left Paris Monday. When I left things were calm, in spite of the foreboding rumors which had spread through the streets on the preceding evening. I hope there won't be any serious consequences from it all. An evil which is foreseen is paralyzed as it were. Then also, the Good Lord is there. In Paris there are many holy persons devoted to God's justice.

I am leaving for Lyons tonight and I hope to arrive there by boat tomorrow at one o'clock.

You may be wondering how I am. Today, the same as usual, yesterday, not well. The coach ride and a migraine headache had left me weary.

I leave you now in the Lord. I'm going to pray for you and your family at Holy Mass.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

142

CO 142

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 61/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

Lyons, February 5, 1849

My good Sisters,

Here I am back in Lyons and I'm over the fatigue of the long trip. I really prayed for you every day at Notre Dame des Victoires, as I had promised.

What can I tell you about this trip? There would be too much to say: I can't forget the feelings I experienced January 21, on the anniversary of the death of Saint Louis XVI, on the very square where he was guillotined by his children. There is still great sadness on that day, especially in Paris. I also visited Versailles and the apartments of Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. Alas! What sad memories!

I also went to venerate the famous Carmelite house where so many bishops and holy priests were killed during the Revolution. One can still see traces of blood from that horrible massacre. I kissed them respectfully and asked the Good Lord for faith, courage and love like theirs.

But what made me very happy was to be able to visit and venerate the Sainte-Chapelle, built by St. Louis, where the precious relics of the Sacred Crown of Thorns and a large part of the True Cross were kept until the Revolution. In this magnificent church I said to myself: Here is the place where so many saints have prayed, it is the most venerable place in France. All the kings and great ones came here to pray. And yet, my good sisters, when we have seen all these beautiful royal palaces, all that is richest on earth, we still say to ourselves: Everything is vanity, everything passes, heaven is worth more.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

There are some beautiful souls in Paris and much prayer. Every day in one of the city churches, there is perpetual adoration and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament day and night. Women are the adorers during the day, and men at night. I believe that so many prayers will touch the heart of God. We have already received so many signs of divine protection! I believe you know that Providence has outwitted all the bloodthirsty and revolting plans of the Red Republicans.

Lyons is very quiet. Don't believe any alarming news that might be spread about. It is only a spectre of fear, or despair's cry of weakness. I was very glad to see my old friend, Fr. Faure. I wasn't able to see Mr. Cros.

Lent is here. I urge you to really pray and sanctify yourselves, but to take care of your health. You could keep Melanie with you. Pray for me.

Goodbye in our Lord,

Your brother,
Eymard

I'm not forgetting that this is the feast of St. Agatha, my Baptismal day, when you brought me to the church. I will repay you for it by saying Mass.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

143

CO 143

TO MR. BETHFORT
(VII 1/3)

Lyons, February 24, 1849

Dear Sir,¹⁰³

One of my colleagues is going to preach the Lenten station at Chalon. I am asking him to go and present you my heartfelt respects. He is pleased to become acquainted with you.

Dear Sir, I was so sorry I could not meet you and your fine wife at the time you suffered misfortune. Her heart was sharing in it and I would have liked to make it lighter.

Please transmit my respects to Mme. Bethfort as well as her dear Mother on my behalf.

And believe me ever, dear Sir,

Your devoted and loving,
Fr. Eymard

¹⁰³ A lawyer at Chalon-sur-Saone.

144

CO 144

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) (II 22/395 VI 2)

Lyons, Friday, March 9, 1849

My daughter, I've just received your letter. Since I couldn't see Mr. Gaudioz,¹⁰⁴ I'm writing you a few words. We would prefer to have a monstrence.

Ever since Monday I've been looking for a moment to go see you. The Good Lord hasn't willed it. Instead I prayed for you very much and especially suffered a little. So, you see, things happened as you said they would, not to the same degree, perhaps, but just as effectively.

I can understand your soul's deep sorrow and the unfavorable circumstances (but contrary to my will and even contrary to my intention), I can understand your condition a little better and I even believe I know what the cure might be.

I pray that your poor heart may find relief and be united to God.

This news will make you happy: Mr. Champin, a doctor, signed the report for La Salette.

Don't think that you made me sad: no, when a mother hears her child suffer and moan, she loves it even more.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

145

CO 145

TO CANON ROUSSELOT, VICAR GENERAL OF GRENOBLE (VI 1/6)

REPORT OF THE HEALING OF MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT

We, the undersigned, Assistant of the Society of Mary, in Lyons, attest in accord with our conscience before God and as an eyewitness, that Miss Guillot (Marguerite) from Lyons, Place Bellecour, no. 9, was miraculously healed through the intercession of Our Lady of La Salette.

Ill for the last 10 years, Miss Guillot was in continual pain and could neither work nor walk without exposing herself to excruciating pain. Her pain increased intensely on May 30th, 1848. She was obliged to remain in bed. Soon the illness became alarming. Mr. Berlioz, her doctor, judged that it would be prudent for her to receive the Sacrament of Anointing, and I prepared the patient for death. Long exhortations were not necessary. It was the good news she had been waiting for, for a long time.

But God wanted to heal her for the glory of La Salette. The doctor declared that the resources of his science were henceforth inadequate, so we addressed ourselves to the Blessed Virgin. The whole family made a novena to Our Lady of La Salette. The patient joined in. Each day we recited the rosary; we attended Holy Mass, and made one Communion for this intention.

Day and night the patient drank water from the miraculous fountain, and each time she took some, she felt some relief. We were hoping and trusting, when on the 8th day of the novena, the patient seemed to be in an agony after a terrible attack lasting 12 hours.

But the next day, the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, was to be the day of the miracle.

¹⁰⁴ Her brother-in-law.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

It was 7:00 a.m., the whole family was at Holy Mass, praying fervently, but also with resignation. What was not the surprise of all the patient's sisters and my own as well, to find her up, dressed, walking, acting as if she had never been sick. She had been healed suddenly during the Holy Sacrifice. What tears of joy, what gratitude toward our good Lady of La Salette.

The healing did and does still continue. She has never felt better.

She went herself to fulfill her vow at La Salette soon after. She will be a striking and evident proof of the truth of the miracle of the apparition of the Blessed Virgin. I am not the only witness of this fact of the power of Mary, and I am happy that I was its weak but very grateful instrument, and I am ready to confirm it with the full authority of my faith.

Lyons, March 24, 1849

Eymard, Assistant general
of the Society of Mary

Reviewed for the verification of the signature of Fr. Eymard, assistant of the Society of Mary,
Lyons

March 24, 1849

L. + S.
Grange, Vicar General
I approved the miracle as witness.

Marcel, Priest
Champin, Medical Doctor
J. E. Berlioz, Medical Doctor
Gaudier
Barillot
L. Vachon
Gaudioz (Claude)

146

CO 147

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(II 23/395 VI 2)¹⁰⁵

*Easter, March, 1849*¹⁰⁶

To his sisters from La Mure on their arrival in Lyons.
Hello my dear sisters, you are welcome. What a resurrection!¹⁰⁷
I can't see you this morning. I will see you after dinner at 1:30 p.m.

All yours,
Eymard

¹⁰⁵ Although written to his sisters, this letter is presented and numbered in the French Volumes among the letters to Miss Marguerite Guillot.

¹⁰⁶ Troussier remarks that the letter was dated "Easter, 1849, March." However, Easter was April 8 in 1849.

¹⁰⁷ Reference to Easter Sunday.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 3/78)

V.J.

Holy day of Easter, 1849

Madame,

I have a free moment and I am seizing it to wish you the grace of our Lord's Resurrection and tell you that today especially you and your family have been present to me, because your loved ones are dear to me, and I desire what you desire¹⁰⁸, and ask our good Master for it. I hope that all your desires will come true: have confidence! Our good Master lets us pray a long time because he wants to give us a great deal.

Goodbye my good sister, it is 10 p.m. I am tired, because today I preached the next to last Lenten sermon at the Charity. ¹⁰⁹I preached on the love of our Lord which makes us holy and generous. Alas! If only I could be the first example of it! So now, I will leave this until tomorrow; it will have my first moment.

I am finishing my letter now, afraid that it might arrive too late.

I've often asked for news about you, because I was very sad. Since you left I travelled a lot. I went to Paris, then to Belley, and then I have been at the Charity, since the beginning of Lent. The Good Lord has been very kind. He blessed his word spoken by his poor servant.

The Lenten services were well attended in Lyons. There has been a return toward Religion, not phenomenal as far as sacraments are concerned, but at least, people are going to church. However, there is still so much evil among the people and among the wealthy class! These latter are the worst. Alas! Those poor people who should have opened their eyes to see Heaven's anger now would [willingly] kneel down before a man who promises to defend them in case of danger.¹¹⁰

Miss Guillot's health is weak, she has not been well, but not bedridden. God loves her next to his cross. Our Lord doesn't forget you either, Madame! So be very generous! Welcome our good Master under any disguise with whatever graces he approaches you. He is ever Jesus, Savior and Father.

You need to consider the holy Will of God always as the highest perfection to which all other means of salvation must be submitted.

Do make this your divine center, live by his holy Will. Walk in the brightness of this ever shining light. Be sure that our Lord's gracious Providence protects and leads you. It is like the cloud of the desert for the Hebrews.

You will be coming to Lyons soon. I praise God and I hope to be here and free to see you. My thanks and regards in God to Miss Stephanie. Believe me ever, Madame.

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

P.S. I am finishing the Lenten exercises Sunday. I am feeling a little weak, but our Lord has been my strength, as I was sick at first.

Madame
Madame Gourd, at Nice (Italy)

¹⁰⁸ The conversion of her husband.

¹⁰⁹ Church in Lyons.

¹¹⁰ Political leaders.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

May 25 - Blessing of Our Lady's statue at Valbenoite.

148

CO 152

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 24/395 VI 2)

Vaulx, June 1849

This is to thank you, my dear daughter. It was kind of you to hold Nanette's letter to you for me. May the holy will of God be done! Nevertheless it would be a great sacrifice.

I'll be in Lyons, Friday morning. I am at the rectory of Vaulx-en-Velin via Villeurbanne.

Don't torment yourself, please! Have trust.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

149

CO 150

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 28/395 VI 2)

Lyons, June, 1849

Monday, 6 o'clock

Mademoiselle,

I am better; a little tiredness confined me to my room.

I wanted to go see you, but I'll put it off until tomorrow morning because of the late hour, supposing that you will not go to St. Regis until evening. Don't worry. Everything will go well.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 62/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

Lyons, June 3, 1849

Very dear sisters,

I'm coming to thank you for your very kind letters and to tell you how much they please me, especially when I learn that you are well. I was very sorry to hear about Nanette's burn. My God! Is it possible that such a bad accident nearly crippled her! Do be careful.

I'm pleased that you were happy about your trip. I thanked the Good Lord for it. You asked me whether I'll be going to La Mure soon. I don't know, because I'm still very busy. Then also, it's a costly trip. But if the Good Lord gives me the opportunity, I will thank him and go see you with pleasure. Don't be worried about us in Lyons. I promised to write to you if anything serious ever happened.

Lyons is very quiet. Don't judge by hearsay or by the newspapers. In Lyons we laugh at all these rumors.

The good Miles. Guillot are better. They have had great trials, but they are so good. They were deeply touched by your offers! I have been traveling since Easter, but I'm well.

Continue to pray for me, my dear sisters, and believe me always, in Jesus and Mary.

Your loving brother,
Eymard

P.S. Tonight Fr. Pillon's brother is leaving for Chatte; he is better. He had good care. Nevertheless, it will still take time. My regards to Father.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 63/145 VI 10)

Lyons, June 9, 1849

Dear sisters,

Oh! I was so sad to hear about your illness. I was rushing to leave for a trip and I only read Nanette's letter on the coach. What could I do but recommend you to the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin.

I hope that you will be better soon. My first thought was to go see you and cheer you up.

Have someone write to us often. The good Miles. Guillot are very grateful for news about our dear Nanette.

Then, to tell the truth, it almost seems as if crosses of every kind are following you: Nanette's burn; my God, what bad luck!

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Don't worry about Lyons, nor about a thousand false rumors. Everything is quiet. Cholera is the only thing that is causing great losses in Paris. Our Superior wrote that in one day fourteen hundred people had died.

May the Good Lord preserve us from this scourge.

Farewell, my good sister, have confidence and be prudent.

All yours in *Christo*,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

152

CO 154

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 25/395 VI 2)

La Mure, June 16, 1849

Mademoiselle,

As I promised, I am writing to give you news about myself. I arrived safely, though a bit tired because of the coach.

A few days of rest and I will be back to form.

I found my sister weakened by the attacks of fever. They were longing to see me. My arrival surprised them, and since then, she seems to be better. Today the doctor was satisfied with his patient.

However, it seems that she was dangerously ill four days ago. Blessed be God! I hope she will be better soon. I would like, my dear ladies, to receive similar news about all of you, for I was sad when I left you, seeing that you were suffering so much and still so crucified...

If my prayers are heard, you will soon be healed, and if I go to Notre Dame du Laus, my prayer will be more efficacious there. I haven't settled anything about my trip to Laus yet. If I were to go there, I would stay only a day or two. When I return I'll write to tell you when I am to arrive in Lyons.

Have courage! My dear Ladies, do like the Blessed Virgin at the foot of the cross, stay on the cross with love, with our Lord, and make acts of love for everything, even your sins. My sister asks me to tell you how sad she is that you are ill; her gratitude for your friendship and prayers, her thanks for everything. Nanette says the same.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

153

CO 155

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 26/395 VI 2)

La Mure d'Isere, June 17, 1849

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to give you some news about us. I am the same as usual: quite well, better than in Lyons, except for a cold. My sister is the same as usual. She is continuing to improve ever so slightly. The doctor has hope, although she is not out of danger yet.

There are two complicated illnesses. The first is a chronic illness which you know about, and then, there was also an onset of pneumonia which is healing now. My sister is deeply touched by the fact you remembered her and she is offering her sufferings to the Good Lord for you (keep this to yourselves). I will leave tonight for Notre Dame du Laus. I'll spend only two days there, but [the thought of it] already makes me happy. I'll work for the dear Third Order, and I would like to put the finishing touches on it at this shrine of blessings.

You can imagine how I'll pray to our Good Mother for you and your dear sisters; for you, so that you may always be a good child of the Blessed Virgin: simple, calm, resigned, loving our Lord always, everywhere, in any condition, in any sorrow, because it is all part of God's will of love and grace.

I bless you all in our Lord and I am, in his love,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

154

CO 156

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 64/145 VI 10)

Notre Dame du Laus, June 19, 1849

Dear sisters,

I arrived safely at Notre Dame du Laus. This morning I had said Holy Mass for you at 7:00, as I had promised you. I am fully confident that the Good Mother of Laus will heal you and that you are already much better.

If I don't arrive Thursday, don't worry about me. I would then arrive Friday. It is so good to be here!

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 27/395 VI 2)

La Mure d'Isere, June 23, 1849

Mademoiselle,

I've just returned from my beloved place of pilgrimage! No need to tell you that you all had a big share in it. Tuesday I said Holy Mass for you so that our kind Mother would console and relieve you from so much pain!

I was happy at Notre Dame du Laus, it's so good to be there! However, let me tell you something, in case you should go there someday. I find some of the missionaries too comforting. They seek out the pilgrims too much. It seems to me that I wouldn't care for so many contacts. We go there for the Blessed Virgin. Yet, it's surely kindness on their part. I was able to break away from them.

I did a great deal of work there for the Third Order. This time I hope that the Good Mother has blessed her Work.

When I returned, I found my sister very weak. She had had a serious attack the previous night. They thought she was dying. Today I said Holy Mass to the Blessed Virgin for her, and she seemed to be doing better. May the Good Lord be praised! My sister asks me to convey to you all that sisterly affection can express, and say how touched she is by your good wishes.

Nanette's dedication is admirable.

I'm asking the Blessed Virgin to heal my sister quickly, because I want to leave for Lyons. I won't be there for the next meetings¹¹¹: so go to the countryside and enjoy yourselves, be calm, happy and trusting.

As for you, I have forgiven you; but you should be more prudent. So, obey the doctor's orders; that is what the Good Lord wills. When you can do so prudently, receive Communion. I grant you that permission wholeheartedly.¹¹²

Find the loving will of the Good Lord within yourself, around you and within you, concerning himself with you as if you were the only one in the world.

Look! Go to our Lord without your body, without your soul, leave them at the door like servants, and be ever united to his love with your will.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

¹¹¹ of the Third Order.

¹¹² The frequency of Holy Communion was decided by one's confessor in the 19th century.

156

CO 121

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 29/395 VI 2)

Saturday¹¹³, June 24, 1849

Mademoiselle,

I am hoping to go and bless Mr. Gaudioz¹¹⁴ store tomorrow, at 1:30 p.m. I'll leave here immediately after dinner.

Please give our brother one of the altar cloths that you have. We have none.

My health is the same as usual. This week is good, I hope, in the sight of God.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Guillot
Lyons

157

CO 158

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 65/145 VI 10)

Lyons, July 1, 1849

Very dear sisters,

I arrived here in Lyons safely. I found the good Mles Guillot distressed. We forgot to write to them. They thought something terrible had happened. Write to them or to me.

I am praying that the Blessed Virgin who brought you relief, dear sister, will heal you completely, in order that you may serve the Good Lord better in the future and obtain his holy glory.

I embrace you in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and close quickly in order not to miss the mail.

All yours, in Jesus Christ,

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

¹¹³ In 1849, June 24 was a Sunday. Troussier.

¹¹⁴ her brother-in-law.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 2/52)

Lyons, July 6, 1849

Madame,

Finally I am writing to make up a little for so much forgetfulness (no, I didn't forget you), but for my too lengthy silence. Let me confess that I brought your sister's letter with me to Paris, to Moulins, and on all my trips, in order to answer at length. That letter on parchment paper came back with me without returning the pleasure it had given. - I had even promised myself to see you when passing through Tarare. The Good Lord didn't will it; so, as you can see, I was constantly thinking about my reply.

And now you are coming to Lyons: I will expect you on that given day. I am delaying a departure, saying: the Good Lord doesn't will it.

I would have been very happy to see Fr. Cuvier, but I had to sacrifice it: may the holy Will of God be done! All I ask from him is that I may not be an obstacle to such a generous desire for good.

Madame, I join with all your friends in thanking the Good Lord for giving you good health; now may he preserve it and grant you continued improvement.

Now, about your request for the minutes of the Third Order conferences. I am pleased to tell you that I've just engaged a woman, Mme. Franchet at Quai St. Vincent 63, Lyons, to take care of it. She will see that you get the minutes after the conferences, and in her pleasure to oblige you, she could later provide you with past minutes. I hope, by this gesture, to deserve your indulgent forgiveness.

Later on I will see that you get the Rules of the Third Order, so that you may judge whether it is fitting to show them to the Associate Pastor. However, let us proceed prudently and discretely, so that the enemy of every good and of the interior life may not provoke a thousand and one obstacles. Silence is the soul of great things; it even shackles the devil. How happy it would make me if I could hope that someday you will owe part of your crown to the Third Order. But even now, I count on the charity of your prayers and those of your sister as well, if I may include her in my feelings for you.

When you wish to write to me, I would prefer if it were through a third party, Mr. Carrel or Mr. Franchet, who would deliver your letter personally to me. This is because I am often absent and I don't want conscience matters to be read in my absence.

I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your very humble servant,
Eymard, P.M.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Tarare (Rhône)

TO MISS PAULINE JARICOT
(V 1/1)

Lyons, July 6, 1849

Mademoiselle,¹¹⁵

I learned that you were in Paris for the sake of the Work about which you have reflected for such a long time, and which God has put through the crucible of trials.

May our Lord always be your strength and your reward, as he was the only goal of your generous sacrifices!

Mademoiselle, great works are always founded on the soil of Calvary, you know that well, you have already drunk so often from the chalice of the Olives! It seems that the Work you are planning for the good of the Church follows its painful phases.

But have confidence! So many prayers, so much suffering, so much love cannot remain sterile.

I would be happy to be able to show you, other than through my prayers and desires, how much I share in your situation. But I am convinced that in Paris, the city of all great works, you have found all the heartfelt understanding and results which you had hoped from its faith and generosity.

May Mary, whom you have so loved and led others to love, be your guide and your success; and may we have the consolation of seeing you return among us happy and blessed!

Mademoiselle, please receive the respectful and devoted sentiments of your very humble servant,

Eymard, P.S.Marie¹¹⁶

P.S. Our Fathers are on rue Montparnasse No. 5.
Miss Jaricot
Paris

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 66/145 VI 10)

Lyons, July 12, 1849

Very dear sisters,

I come to thank the Good Lord with you for the improvement you told us about in your letters. How pleased we were by this good news! We hope you will continue to improve, and that we shall soon be able to thank Heaven for perfect health.

Monday, I went up to Notre Dame de Fourviere and said holy Mass there. I prayed to the Blessed Virgin for you, and I hope that she will hear me. The whole Third Order prayed for you; how many Communion were offered for your healing! So then, I thanked those women for their interest in you. For your part, my dear sister, take advantage of this state which is so painful to human nature. When we are sick we can neither meditate nor pray for long, nor does the Good

¹¹⁵ The only extant letter to the Foundress of the Propagation of the Faith.

¹¹⁶ Priest of the Society of Mary.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Lord expect it. But from time to time it is good to offer our Lord our sufferings, our sorrows, our uselessness... this offering is very pleasing to God and will obtain great graces for you.

The Milles. Guillot are a little better, news of your improvement made them so happy!

I am the same as usual, thanks be to God. Lyons is quiet.

I am sorry that my departure made you ill. You know how I like to stay as long as I can, but it was time to return and to see our missionaries leave for Oceania. A few of them left the day after I arrived. I embrace you in our Lord.

Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

161

CO 162

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 6/10)

Lyons, July 27, 1849

Excellency,

I have just seen your name in a newspaper. So! May God be praised! He protected and saved you in the midst of so many storms. How many prayers we offered for you, Excellency. Because you have given us the privilege of calling you a friend of our Society, we could not help but be overwhelmed with grief, especially by the fact that even our letters weren't reaching you. I hope this one will have better luck and will tell you how happy we are to be in contact with you again.

I had written to you, Your Excellency: (1) that we had received your items from Switzerland, your books, etc... (2) that Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, planned to sell your gold chain, that he had sold your little chalice; (3) that if you needed money, you could draw immediately on Fr. Poupinel, our Procurator for the Missions, or on Mr. Guerin, his banker, for the amount of 400 francs plus the 60 francs for the chalice and the 17 francs for the Briefs which you kindly sent me and for which I am very grateful.

Your Excellency, do not overlook my desire to serve you. I would be so happy to be able to help you.

We eagerly wait for news about you, and news about our dear Father Theiner, about whom we are very worried.

All our priests ask you to accept their respectful regards. Very Reverend Father Colin is absent and his respects are known to you.

Your Excellency, I have the honor of being, with most profound respect,

Your most humble and devoted Servant,
Eymard,
Assistant of the Society of Mary

P.S. Father Lagniet, the Provincial, wishes to ask Your Eminence to obtain through the Propaganda a Brief [with the faculties] to give the indulgence on the Crosses for the Way of the Cross with this clause: *modo pium exercitium consuetum recitaverint, aut aliquas vocales preces ex arbitrio benedictis statuendos recitaverint.*¹¹⁷

¹¹⁷ They will piously make the customary exercise of the Stations of the Cross, or recite some vocal prayers determined by the choice of those approved by the Church. Tr.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 67/145 VI 10)

Lyons, August 20, 1849

My dear sisters,

I believe you must have received the case of oranges, rosaries and books that we sent you. I had put a short letter in it. I hope you received everything. Please tell me about it in your next letter which I am anxiously waiting for.

I really thank the Good Lord for this slight improvement of our sister's health. I ask him with great confidence that it be promptly restored!

This situation makes me very sad, because I am only afraid, dear Nanette, that you will soon be in her place. So spare yourselves, since the good people of La Mure are charitable enough to offer to help you.

Please present my respects and gratitude to kind Mr. Telmat. I owe him a lot for myself, so my debt will be doubled.

I am well and always very busy, to the point of not even having time to write.

I am in our Lord,

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. I said Mass August 10, at the chapel of St. Philomena for our sister, and I hope that this good saint will heal her.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

Sept. 8 - Captain Marceau was received into the Society of Mary. He was a convert and directee of Fr. Eymard.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 68/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

Lyons, September 10, 1849

My dear sisters,

We are going on retreat tomorrow for eight days. Pray that I may make a good retreat. I need it greatly.

September 11. - It will be a rest for me. I will really pray for you. Mr. Reymond gave me news about you, and about several other people when he returned from La Salette. May the Good Lord be blessed and thanked! I am happy to hear you are feeling better. When will I hear that your health is perfect! I am well, thanks be to God.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I don't know yet when I shall go to the South. It will be in the fall.
Farewell, my good sisters, the bell is ringing for our retreat [to begin]. I must leave you.
All yours,

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. I said Mass August 10, at the chapel of St. Philomena for our sister, and hope that this good saint will heal her.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

Sept 17-23 - Annual retreat of the Marist Society (preacher unknown).

164

CO 215

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 30/395 VI 2)

Thursday, September, 1849¹¹⁸

Mademoiselle,

We've just finished our retreat. I'll still be here tomorrow morning. If you and your sisters wish to see me, come around 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

165

CO 169

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 31/395 VI 2)

La Mure, October, 1849

Mademoiselle,

Thank you for your letter which I received yesterday. I left Thursday morning on the coach from St. Dominic's. So you will need to have someone claim your parcel of oranges for which I am also grateful.

As for the relics, it was wrong on their part not to have given you the ticket. However, they thought you would recognize the brother.

¹¹⁸ The postmark indicates September 19, which was a Wednesday. Troussier.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I was very sorry about the trouble it gave you. You can be sure, it was caused by the brother's southern temperament.

My sister and Nanette are elated about the beautiful things which arrived safely. May the Good Lord repay you for it! They were happy about it, but their first words were to express the hope of seeing you for a month next spring: from here we shall go to Notre Dame du Laus. May our Lord keep you and guide you always in peace and devoted love for him!

Goodbye in our dear Master. I'm feeling fine and I will be leaving in a few hours.

Eymard

P.S. I wanted to deposit two notes with you: one of a thousand francs for Mr. Jamot's painting, rue St. Helen, and another for two hundred francs as Third Order money made out in your name... On the 200 francs, one hundred francs were given to me by Madame []¹¹⁹ for a charitable work she knows about (a woman in need to whom I have given only 50 francs at this time). In case of death... you could find out her intention. My respects and devoted regards to your fine sisters.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

Oct. (date?) - At Laus to write the rule for the Third Order of Mary.

166

CO 166

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 7/10)

Lyons, October 14, 1849

Your Excellency,

I am writing to tell you that I am shipping your case of books from Dromet and Co. on Rome St. at Marseilles, to be sent to you in Rome. These gentlemen will inform you the day they arrive.

In addition, you will find 3 more books. The 1st is the book by Mr. Pinart for Bishop Durattie. We are happy to send it to you. No payment needed. The 2nd is the travels of Mr. Fulchiron, which Your Excellency wanted to have. Mr. Mulsant, whom I had the honor to present to you, asks if you would accept them as a gift. He had some difficulty obtaining them. The 3rd work is by Mr. Mulsant. He would like, through you, to pay his respects to His Holiness. In Lyons you kindly promised him that you would. Mr. Mulsant is a very devout author. At every opportunity, he sustains the Catholic cause in the midst of numerous learned [Associations] of which he is a part. - In return, he would be happy to receive the signature of the Sovereign Pontiff. If, in his generosity, His Holiness would give him some honor, it would certainly be well applied, because I understand it is a delicate question.

I also wish to present to your kind attention the request of a good priest from the diocese of Lyons, Fr. Poulat, the pastor of St. Jean de la Buissiere. - 1st, the privilege of a privileged altar for the deceased; 2nd, the faculty to receive people who want to receive the scapular of Mt. Carmel; 3rd, the faculties to give indulgences or Bridgettine rosaries, etc. He would be happy to pay for any needed expenses.

¹¹⁹ A name has been crossed out here in the original.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

All our Fathers are well. Very Rev. Fr. Superior, Fr. Lagniet, as well as Fr. Poupinel, ask me to convey to you their sentiments of esteem and respect. In these same sentiments, I am happy to be, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Assistant S.M.

P.S. We will be happy to receive news about you.

167

CO 167

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 69/145 VI 10)

Lyons, October 15, 1849

Dear sister,

I cannot leave Lyons until Thursday. I hope to arrive at La Mure Thursday night. What is keeping me here is the Superior's absence. I have to replace him.

I will not be able to give you much time, but I will be very glad to give you all that I can.

I was happy to learn that you are much better. May the Good Lord be blessed! and his holy Mother.

In the meantime, I am,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I will bring your errands with me.

168

CO 168

TO M^{ME}. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 1/8)

Lyons

October 15, 1849

Madame,¹²⁰

In the hope of seeing you come to Lyons from one day to the next, I kept deferring my reply; I had even begun. But today, I am giving in to guilt, I feel like you must be planning a well-deserved reproach. And yet, I often went to visit you spiritually. It seems that you really love your solitude, your woods, your little paths, the silence and calm of nature, and that you forget the world there.

It is so good to be with God alone and in God alone!

And so you will come back to us fully spiritual and, I also hope, in good health.

I will not have the pleasure of seeing you when you arrive. I'm leaving for the south the day after tomorrow. I am going where there is cholera. Well, Madame says, perhaps cholera will lay

¹²⁰ The first of 8 letters to Mme.Galle.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

hold of Fr. Eymard when he visits and send him to Heaven! At that price, what a beautiful trip! I would almost invite you to come and join me. But no! I am not worthy of Heaven. Unfortunately! May God in his divine mercy grant me purgatory. That would be a great grace for such a wretch!

There, at least I would love the Good Lord while suffering, desiring him, yearning most ardently to possess him.

However, do pray for me. It's a comforting thought because you will be showing the same charity I wish for you.

Goodbye, my dear sister, and may our Lord always watch over you in his holy love for Christian youth.

Eymard S.

P.S. My ever devoted respects to your dear Mother and friendly greetings to Mr. Paul.¹²¹

Mme.Galle
at Mme. de Villedieu
at the Tower of Salvagny near l'Arbresle
(Rhône)¹²²

169

CO 172

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 33/395 VI 2)

Lyons, November, 1849

Mademoiselle,

I've just learned that someone is leaving for La Mure on Monday.

If you want to send your pictures, send them to the following address: Mr. Buison, carpenter, or Madame Borel, rue Plat d'Argent, 18.

Kindly add a Third Order notebook for the receptions, to be loaned to Fr. Faure, the pastor at St. Laurent.

I am in our Lord,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

¹²¹ her son.

¹²² This letter was forwarded to the following address: Mme.Galle, Place St. Laurent #3, Lyons.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 32/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, by Toulon, November 5, 1849

Mademoiselle,

Here is some news about the traveler: he is the same as usual.¹²³ The Good Lord doesn't want him yet, unfortunately! What would he do with such a lazy and worthless servant? In his goodness, he is granting him a little more time. Thank you for your prayers, I'm trying to do the same for you. I'll be here until next Sunday, the day when the children's retreat will close, as I am giving three.¹²⁴ So I hope to reach Lyons at the beginning of next week. Therefore you have time to give me news about yourself and your household. I would be pleased to receive it. However, send it to the following address: Fr. Eymard, at La Seyne Boarding School, via Toulon, (Var).

How are you? Should a serious worry or difficulty prevent you from continuing to receive Communion, go to Fr. Colin for reconciliation, rather than Holy Communion. Otherwise, wait.

When I left, my sister was in good health. I must tell you that I visited Notre Dame du Laus and enjoyed most delightful days there. The Blessed Virgin is so good to me there!

I bless you all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I believe you must have received my letter from La Mure with the two notes enclosed.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 70/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, November 5, 1849

My dear sisters,

I'm coming to give you news about myself. I am well, the cholera has left Toulon and there is very little in Marseilles. When I passed through Gap, I spent a day at Notre Dame du Laus. I spent eight or nine hours there. You can imagine that you were not forgotten. I said holy Mass for you there.

The Bishop of Gap asked me for news about you, and he is praying for you.

I found good Mme. Hass, whom you know, a bit tired. I hope she is better. Theirs is a delightful family.

Fr. Denis asked me for news about you, and he is praying for you very much.

¹²³ Speaks of himself in the third person.

¹²⁴ Perhaps retreats to different age groups. Ed.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I will be here until next Sunday. Write to tell me how you are, and whether Miss Berthier left with her niece, as I am afraid that the Superior General might be absent. However, she can count on being received.

I may not be able to go back by way of La Mure because they want me to pass through Viviers to see the Major Seminary there, but you know very well that if I can I shall be happy to do so.

Please! Keep up your courage and continue to trust in our Lord and his holy Mother. Time is short, heaven eternal. Let us continue to love and serve the Good Lord as he wills.

I am in our Lord,
dear sisters,
Your brother,
Eymard

Here is my address: to Fr. Eymard, at the Boarding School, at La Seyne, via Toulon (Var). - I wrote to Lyons for the Artaud boy. They promised they would give him good recommendations.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

172

CO 173

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 71/145 VI 10)

Lyons, December 2, 1849

My very dear sisters,

My reply to your letter is always so long in coming. It is just that I have been so busy that I don't have time, especially recently, our Superior has been absent and I have to replace him.

I had a very good trip; but one thing was lacking, that is, to pass through La Mure to see you. But the Good Lord did not will it so, since obedience was sending me elsewhere. Life is like that: we are here only in passing, and we will stop only when we reach Blessed Eternity. Dear sisters, all our desires and affections must tend toward it, in the eternal love of God. While waiting, we will continue to suffer, to be tested, to follow Jesus crucified, offer daily sacrifices, because that is the price of heaven and God's love wishes it [from us]. You have been sorely tried, but be consoled, that is the lot of Jesus' spouses.

Everything is fine in Lyons. People may tell you about the cholera and frighten you, telling you that it is in Lyons and causing terrible losses. That isn't true, it isn't the worst type of cholera. Some people really like to frighten others. Hell is the dangerous cholera we should fear; the rest is nothing.

All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. The Reymond and Gras boys are well. We are pleased with them. I'll be absent for a month. I will preach a mission at Dionay, near Roybon (Isere). I am leaving Friday night, December 7th. Pray for that. You could write to me there.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

173

CO 174

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 34/395 VI 2)

Dionay, December 22, 1849

My dear daughter,

I'm hurrying to answer your kind letter, briefly. First, let me say that it pleased me.

I'm happy to learn that things are going better in the first house of Nazareth: may the Good Lord always bless it! It is established on the cross. How could our Lord not love it? The structure needed these crosses. They are not natural, they are trials.

1. I'm much better than I was when I left Lyons. You guessed the reason for my silence: it's the trial that God is sending me.¹²⁵

2. No meetings will be held for the Ladies nor for anyone else until the first Saturday of January. Then I will be back.

The mission will end January 2nd. I'll reach Lyons Friday morning.

3. Go to the Justice of the Peace, it's only right. May St. Joseph take care of running his house.

4. Wait for me for confession, if you can. What you told me isn't an obstacle. Be interiorly kind toward those who are the cause of your dislikes. Don't do anything for or against, nothing. It's a disappointment. Don't see so clearly. - Let charity make you oblivious.

5. Permission is granted to give your New Year's gifts,¹²⁶ and to buy shoes. (Please, take from the Third Order cash box what you advanced for the women's gift. I authorize you and beg you to do so. The Third Order will never be able to repay you for your great dedication.)

6. Permission is granted to write whatever you deem appropriate. Please tell my sister that I'm well.

7. I won't say anything about the gift. Oh, those dear sisters are too kind.¹²⁷ They think I am more helpful than I am.

The Third Order keeps me busy. It's my joy and consolation. I would like to do a thousand times more to lead these good people on the way of perfection. But my motto is: do everything through obedience; be willing to leave Lyons tomorrow without seeing it again, nor those to whom I am fully devoted in God. I am willing to live and die in the corner of a stable, or on a highway, not even to wish to be spoken of after my death, to be seen as one of the poor. That is what I wish and what I ask you to pray for me.¹²⁸

I am in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Devotedly yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot, Ironer
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone, 2nd floor
Lyons

¹²⁵ cf.DOC. 175.

¹²⁶ She had a vow of obedience to Fr. Eymard.

¹²⁷ The members of the Third Order.

¹²⁸ Premonition or insight into his coming transfer? Ed.

174

CO 163

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 1/33)

August 2¹²⁹

Madame,

Please excuse me if I don't send you the minutes. Mme. Chaupin isn't here, I will finish the last one tomorrow morning; I hope I will have finished it.

May the Good Lord be praised for giving you a tangible proof of what I told you, especially for giving it to you so soon! I was expecting it for you. Yes, my dear daughter, remember that the Good Lord doesn't give such graces to those who do not love him with a privileged love.

It's the proof of his love for you.

If he gives you a place on Calvary, it's because he will stay there with you so that his grace and love may lift you up to his heart.

All yours in our Lord
Eymard

Mme. Franchet
Quai St. Vincent 75
Lyons

175

CO 248

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 2/33)

March 3¹³⁰

Madame,

The state of your soul makes me very sad. I understand your [sorrow] a little. Who will bring you out of it? Divine goodness does not forsake its poor, humble, patient children. Madame, from time to time you know how to make great sacrifices. How I would wish to see you more patient on our Lord's cross. Where does all this suffering come from? Somewhat from ourselves, says the *Imitation*. What does our Lord want? That we should learn to suffer within with gentleness and generosity.

My own feelings of sadness about you are also very reasonable, since my present position doesn't permit me to give your soul all the care it needs. It's a sign that divine Providence gives us: to me, not to let you suffer without help, and to you, to seek another Director.

Then, Madame, new difficulties have come up. I can no longer go to hear confessions at St. Regis. For now, it has become impossible for me. You know my good will, but I must submit, and you belong to God, more than to a [particular] director. A director is only for a time, but God never leaves a soul.

¹²⁹ before 1850.

¹³⁰ before 1850.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

If I had kept a few penitents, you could complain about me; but you know that it is not so. - I adore God's plans and I will pray to him for you; but this decision doesn't come from me; consequently I cannot avoid it. The greatest pleasure you could give me, is to accept everything as a good Christian, return to serving God and take up your ordinary practices.

Therefore, I am placing you again into the hands of our Lord and his Holy Mother, and I will be happy if grace helped you through me.

In his divine love, I am, Madame,

Your very humble,
Eymard

176

CO 175

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 3/33)

[before 1850]

Madame,

Your request disturbs me. If it is because of proprieties, yes... because I am very sure of your piety.

Continue to rise above the storm... our Lord is with you.

Excuse my brevity, I am expected on all sides.

Eymard

177

CO 176

TO MME. FRANCHET¹³¹
(VII 4/33)

Please excuse me, I haven't done the minutes yet. Alas! Yesterday I [understood] clearly that you were on the Cross! Continue to love our Lord to the very end, be faithful to him; his grace will help you.

Eymard

¹³¹ The above is a post-script from Fr. Eymard to the following letter of Mme.Franchet, before 1850:
Most Reverend Father,

I am going to Lyons tomorrow for errands. If you have finished the minutes and would kindly give them to my servant, I would be most obliged. I am on the cross. Since I have no more strength, will I be able to hold up until the end? I don't think so. I don't have a ny religious help; since I can no longer receive Communion, prayer is drying up my soul. Father, I can no longer go on.

Receive the assurance of my profound respect and my full devotedness.

Your Daughter

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 5/33)

*Sunday*¹³²

Madame,

Mr. Delaunay, Principal of the College of Valbenoite, will be here until 4:55. Mr. Franchet had expressed the desire to introduce your child to him. If that is possible, you will be welcome.

In our Lord, I am,

Your very humble,
Eymard

¹³² before 1850.

Dates unknown - Retreat to the Third Order of Mary

First Day

Advice

First Meditation – God’s Goodness in Creating Me.

Second Meditation – God’s Goodness in Sanctifying Me.

Third Meditation - God’s Goodness in Predestining Me to Glory.

Directions.

Second Day

Advice

First Meditation - God and the World.

Second Meditation - The Merciful God.

Third Meditation - God and I.

Directions.

Third Day

Advice

First Meditation - Jesus Calls Me to Follow Him.

Second Meditation - Follow Jesus with Mary.

Third Meditation - The Life of Jesus and Mary in Me.

Directions.

Fourth Day

Advice

First Meditation - Strength in Confidence in God.

Second Meditation - Exterior Recollection. Third Meditation - Interior Recollection.

Directions.

Fifth Day

Advice

First Meditation - The Spirit of Sacrifice.

Second Meditation - The Simple and Hidden Life of Jesus.

Third Meditation - Jesus and the Soul That is Poor.

Directions.

Sixth Day

First Meditation - Jesus Humble of Heart.

Second Meditation - Jesus Meek of Heart.

Directions.

Seventh Day

First Meditation - Jesus Obedient.

Second Meditation - The Eucharistic Life of Jesus.

Third Meditation - Closing of the Retreat - Spiritual Bouquet - My

Love to Jesus in Life and Death.

TO CAPTAIN AUGUSTE MARCEAU¹³³
(VII 1/1)

[1850]

Let me tell you that I love La Favorite like a Nazareth. It is far from the world, I live near our Eucharistic Lord like a child near its father and I am happy. But to my happiness are sometimes joined the temptations of St. Anthony. A life without struggle is not possible on earth.

I need to struggle against myself to see people. Does it come from grace or natural feelings? Perhaps both. Recommend me to the prayers of N... not to know the will of God, but [to know] what might be an obstacle to God's plans in my life. - I do want to serve him but I can feel the old self which makes me earthly.

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 8/10)

JMJ

Lyons, anuary 14, 1850

Your Excellency,

I am writing to thank you for the Documents you kindly sent me for Fr. Poulat, pastor at St. Jean's. That good pastor is very happy and joyful about this.

I am glad to learn that you are better. I would have been very upset to know that you were ill, alas! Take care of yourself a little, Excellency! If only you were here!

It seems that you didn't receive my letter written almost 2 months ago. A gentleman leaving for Rome, who said he knew you well, had taken it. I am very upset by his forgetfulness.

At the time, I was returning from Marseilles, where I had seen Mr. Marius Olive. He told me he was planning to withdraw your money, and that the person to whom you had entrusted it had promised him to give it to him shortly. I had asked Mr. Olive to write to me about this matter. I did not receive anything from him. It seems that everything is going well. To be sure of it, I am writing to him today. If it can help you, you could always withdraw 300 francs on Mr. Andre Favier, the goldsmith, informing him beforehand. Your chain and cross aren't sold yet. Mr. Favier still expects to find an opportunity.

I thank Your Excellency ahead of time for the book you kindly sent me. It will be a very lovely souvenir for me. Fr. Superior General is asking me to offer you his respectful and devoted regards. I am happy to offer you mine and to consider myself always, Your Excellency,

Your humble and devoted servant.

Eymard, P.S. Mar.¹³⁴

¹³³ An extract drawn from the notes of Fr. Mayet.

¹³⁴ Priest of the Society of Mary.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 72/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

Lyons, January 31, 1850

My very dear Sisters,

I really don't understand how I can stay so long without writing to you, I who wanted to do so on New Year's Day! And while waiting for a quiet moment to converse with you, I let the weeks and months pass by. But I don't need to tell you that my heart is at La Mure and that a single day does not pass without my visiting you several times with my guardian angel.

I sent you my New Year's wishes at La Mure and offered you both to our Lord, so that you would truly love him and that this year might be an important year of virtue and merit for you. I don't wish heaven for you yet, my good sisters, but that you would do great things for heaven, for the love of God, and for the glory of Jesus and Mary. You will indeed be doing great things simply by finding in your situation of suffering and sorrows, the opportunity to practice the great virtues of Jesus. God has given you a life of suffering that you might be worthy spouses of Jesus crucified. Calvary is the Tabor of great souls. However, may divine love sweeten your sufferings, and may a desire to give him greater glory enable you to esteem them above all else.

As for me, I am well and I'm working a great deal for God's glory. I'm happy that my days are too short for all the good there is to do.¹³⁵

I will leave in two weeks for Chalon-sur-Saone, to preach the Lenten [mission] at St. Peter's church there. I will write to you from there. Take heart and have a good Lent, but while serving God peacefully.¹³⁶

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. I will write to Miss Berthier. She wrote to me, she is pleased.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

¹³⁵ The sense might be: I'm happy that my days are so short because of all the good there is to do.

¹³⁶ French: *doucement*.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 2/28)

J.M.J.¹³⁷

Lyons, February 7, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I abused the latitude given me by your good letter. I brought it with me on my travels to Southern France, hoping to find a free moment to answer it and now it's already February! Once again, please forgive me. I hope you will write to me with the same simplicity, convinced that you will always find me to be a very devoted father.

Now I will reply to your letter.

1. I give you full permission to share the minutes¹³⁸ with your friend. I would be happy if she can find some spiritual help [in them]. You are being too kind when you give them so much value. Only ask that I may have the love of our Lord, because everything flows from this infinite source and must return to it.

2. About [your] vocation, I continue to have the same feelings. Rather than to make a total break and cause frustration in your family, wait. Besides, you are free to perform your religious exercises, and in God's sight you can be a perfect religious, since he alone possesses the secret of your heart and the tribute of your life.

Then, you have such a fine sister!¹³⁹ She is following the same spiritual path, although under a different banner.

Oh! No, stay yet awhile; but pray a lot, and accomplish all the small sacrifices your situation provides, seeing it as the holy Will of God.

You want to love the Good Lord very much. Often throw kindling into that small fire, so that it may become a blaze, a devouring conflagration. This kindling wood is constant self-denial.

Goodbye, my dear daughters in our Lord. I bless you wholeheartedly.

Eymard

P.S. I am leaving Saturday the 16th for Chalon-sur-Saône to preach the Lenten devotions at the church of St. Peter. I would be happy to receive news from you there.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhône)
- Miss Bost

Feb. 17 - Fr. Eymard preached the Lenten Mission at Chalon-sur-Saône.

¹³⁷ Abbreviation for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

¹³⁸ See Appendix 2 for an example of these minutes.

¹³⁹ Mme. Tholin-Bost.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 35/395 VI 2)

Chalon-Sur-Saone, February 28, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I received your two letters: the first one pleased me. I was expecting it to be the first from Lyons. The second one left me very sad and still does because it's an ominous sign of distressing news. Does it mean that I will never see your dear mother again? I had no reason to expect such sad news. I would so love to relieve her sorrow, and to receive her beautiful soul for God. But then, I prefer to believe that your letter is only a false alarm. However, I am joining my prayers and Holy Masses to your own for your mother. Please tell her my feelings of sorrow and fond devotion.

Now to reply to your letter.

1. Health. Neither good nor bad, but sufficient to carry out my duties. However, I'm not as tired as I was the first week.

2. Miss Regnier's address is rue Puy-Guillot, 17, 3rd floor. (There is a bend as you enter the alley.)

3. The Rule of the Third Order for Priests is not yet approved. So, I'm waiting patiently. God's time hasn't yet come!

4. No new permissions for penances, except the ordinary ones which we have already agreed upon. Mortify the body, but don't kill it. That's a principle of poverty, so as not to require costly treatments later.

5. One hour at night, provided there is no high fever, physical exhaustion or headaches.

6. An expense of 5 francs, yes; pictures, yes.

7. You must receive Communion just the same; do so especially with a great sense of need and humility. Go to our Lord like Magdalen did the first time she threw herself at his feet. Scoff at your struggles, temptations, fears, even your sins. Go to our kind Jesus in rags. This attitude, or at least this obedience is all that our Lord wants from you.

8. Let me offer you the alms of 20 centimes for your letters, and [I will] receive them without the stamp.

Write to me when you need to, every week. Oh, dear daughter, I would like to be the instrument of God's graces for your poor burdened soul! But what can a poor insignificant man do?

I bless you all in our Lord, and you in particular.

+

Excuse me, as you must have received my first letter.

184

CO 182

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 73/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

Chalon-sur-Saone, March 9, 1850

My good sisters,

I'm putting everything aside to send you a brotherly greeting. I was longing to find a moment to be with you. I hear that you are both continuing to be in good health, as I had asked from the Good Lord. May he be blessed! Take care of this slight improvement, for it only takes a small breath to put out a little flame. If you feel weak in the springtime, see Mr. Telmat.¹⁴⁰ He is well educated. And please present him my regards.

I am well. I'm not overburdened, though very busy. The Good Lord is blessing some of his poor priest's works. Pray for him since he is your brother and we divide in half the benefits of the work for heaven.

Things seem to be calm now. So, put your trust in God and the Blessed Virgin.

At this holy season, concentrate your piety and your love on Jesus crucified, on the mysteries of his Passion... That is the grace of the season.

I embrace you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure (Isere)

185

CO 184

TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 2/8)

Chalons S.S., March 10, 1850

Madame,

I am writing to thank you for your welcome letter. It made me very happy. Sometimes we need a consoling thought, and it consoles me to think about you and your prayers. I like to tell our Lord my wishes for you every day, so that you may love him more, that you may be strong in the trials of life and of the heart. - You see Madame, you must always be attached to our suffering Jesus, otherwise your love would become weak. When we love, suffering is both sweet and painful at the same time. I am happy that my last endeavor in Lyons was to guess your needs.

I wanted to bring this to you. Our Lord didn't give me that satisfaction. Courage! Between Chalon and Lyons, there is a divine heart the limits of which touch and unite us.

Goodbye in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

¹⁴⁰ Perhaps, Doctor Delmat.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

P.S. You want news about me. - At first I thought I would not get to the end of the day. - Now, I am fine. - Oh! It isn't [my time for] Heaven yet!

186

CO 183

TO MR. BLANC DE SAINT-BONNET
(VII 1/4)

Chalon-sur-Saone, March 10, 1850

Sir,

You were so kind to send me your precious book with its lessons in suffering. I am writing to thank you for it. I had already come to appreciate it and its humble Author, feeling a great love for him and hoping to have the happiness of meeting him someday. I love an Author who has the courage to think and write his personal and apostolic thought. I like a book that is original as a book needs to be, so to truly reflect the Author and reveal something about myself to me. But, Sir, when one begins from your starting point with such a great and beautiful principle to en flesh, such as Religion - we must expect blind contradiction which refuses to investigate further, systematic opposition from those who do not want to believe in this new work, and then, vulgarity from a clique of slaves.

If I had any standing in the world, I would tell you: you have a precious mine to exploit, a beautiful Christian mission to fulfill. Do not stop on [such] a good path. The pinnacle of success for a Christian comes only on his grave, or better, in the fight for truth and the noble demonstration of the divine benefits.

When I get to Lyons, I will not hesitate to come thank you personally; and I beg you to please forgive my delay, my heart was not at fault. With my expression of dedication, Sir, I am,

Your very humble servant,
Eymard, O.S.M.¹⁴¹

187

CO 185

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 6/33)

JMJ

Chalon, March 11, 1850

Madame,

I don't understand how it happened that I haven't written to you until now as I had promised. These poor minutes are still incomplete,¹⁴² that is the first and only reason, because I could never get to finish them. Finally, I am sending them to you as my excuse. When it comes to remembering you before God at the Holy Altar, oh! I am not late. I have offered you so often to our Lord, in order that he might support you and protect you in his holy service and his crucifying love. I like to think: this dear daughter is generous. She knows where to find her heart's strength and divine love; she fears nothing.

Our good Master cannot neglect a heart that wants to belong entirely to him. Then, I learned that you have excellent preachers in Lyons and I praise God for it. I wish that the world was filled with zealous apostles to shake it from its lethargy and laziness.

¹⁴¹ Initials puzzling.

¹⁴² Minutes of the Third Order meetings.

What are you doing at Chalon?

Oh, I may have caused a stir, but, as for its fruit, I will wait until my good daughters in Lyons obtain conversions. There are few men; a sad city!¹⁴³ The men are not worth the children! I am afraid that the wrath of God will fall upon them. Alas, divine justice would have to strike too hard. However, there is a good core of devout persons, and that is what is consoling. The Church is full when I have 40 to 50 men; that's a lot!

It's late; I am tired. I have just finished preaching. If I have a moment tomorrow, I will add a few lines.

I received and read your letter, but it is so sad!

I hope that you have told me and given me all your sadness. I presume that there are three sorrows in one: dreariness of body, heart, and spirit. Let it be a generous subject of virtue, and love God just the same. Such spiritual distress cannot be reasoned out nor analyzed, but offered simply to God and then set aside.

I wish I could remove it from you; but God wants you to bear this heavy cross. Your love will end by making it light. I leave you in the keeping and grace of our Lord, and recommend myself to your good wishes in prayer.

Eymard

188

CO 186

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 36/395 VI 2)

Chalon, March 16, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I've been very busy, and will be so even more next week. It's the week of the long Retreat. I recommend it to your prayers, as well as a poor soul whose condition is quite like yours.

I'm very happy about your dear mother's improvement, and about your sisters' good sense. May God be praised and glorified for that!

A few words for you:

1. Receive Communion like a poor humble leper. Offer Jesus all your temptations, all those horrible things, as your rags of poverty. However, don't dwell upon nor think about these struggles. It's sufficient to feel your poverty.

2. I am granting you permission for the novena and I ask our Lord to make you strong with him in the Garden of Olives.

3. Permission for the bonnet.

4. Give nothing more to the brother, I absolutely forbid it.

5. I am quite well, they say I'm very well, because my voice is strong. It's true that it's almost a miracle how the Good Lord is sustaining me.

Goodbye my daughter. Be very humble, poor, patient, and gentle toward your poor heart. Don't torture it so much, rather, encourage it.

May our Lord have pity on you... yes, he will have pity.

Eymard

¹⁴³ probably: in church.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

P.S. I wrote general news to my sister, I don't have time right now....

Excuse me for closing so quickly, I am wanted on all sides. I will offer Mass for you on the Feast of St. Joseph. Then, send me news about yourself.

189

CO 187

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 3/28)

Chalon-sur-Saone, March 24, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I have a moment, I am pleased to make it yours, to prove my desire to help you, and to prove my dedication to you.

So then, I thank you kindly for your letter. I was expecting it and I was expecting it as it is.

Holy Day of Easter:-

Alas! Mademoiselle, I was forced by the engrossing tasks of my sacred ministry to leave my letter incomplete until today. I didn't have a single moment. But you will find it in your heart to forgive me. My first free moment after holy Mass is yours.

I blessed you today more than ever, you and your dear sister. I presented you to the risen Jesus in order that he might communicate his divine life, his glory, his happiness, his love to you. Today is a beautiful day! How happy we are to be children of Jesus Christ!

You opened your heart to me like a child, and I praised God that I could read into it his love and a great desire to serve him alone. Your poor heart has suffered greatly and will suffer again, because divine Love is like a press which continues to bear down, to remove from your soul whatever might be too human or too natural in order to make space for divine love. That is how God leads his great souls.

What I mean, Mademoiselle, is to find your center always in Jesus, and go from him to human beings, and you will always be happy. It is by his plan of love that he allowed you to be so deprived of the help to which you really had a right. Our Lord wanted to be your only walking staff. However, continue to ask for it.¹⁴⁴

Yes, stay with your parents, live there as a religious, simple in the sight of God.

Let your dear sister be like a Mistress of Novices: God loves her very much. I was grieved by the news you gave me about her illness. I don't pray that she have Heaven yet, but that she may have an active, great and unlimited love for God. This is the time for our love to glorify God. Tell her that I am praying for her. And as far as you are concerned, you know you have double rights.

Have courage! During the time of famine, go to Jesus and Mary; in times of desolation cast yourself upon their hearts; during times of joy, store up your strength.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. I have the right to my grace, to your prayers.

Eymard, P.M.

P.S. I am happy to learn that dear Fr. Tisseur helped you. He is preaching a Lenten Mission. I know him by reputation.

¹⁴⁴ The help she needs.

190

CO 188

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)¹⁴⁵
(IV 1/75)

*Chalon-sur-Saone, March 14, 1850*¹⁴⁶

Madame,

Always behind, always in debt: Father Eymard never changes. But, when it comes to remembering the other in God's sight, oh! then, I'm sure that I've thought more about you than you have about me. Besides, every day I would say to myself: Alright, today! And then, a thousand and one things would come up. I haven't had a single moment for myself in the last two weeks; always in the pulpit or in the confessional. I've just finished the exercises of the long retreat today and I am yours, so where should I begin? By thanking you for your letter and especially to let you know that the weather is beautiful, calm and serene.¹⁴⁷ I hope that it won't be clouded over, because I had written to Mr. Marceau that he had healed you! Then also, all those fine preachers must have helped you a little, and so this [letter] will find you very fervent. May God be praised for it!

My Mission in Chalon was rewarding as regards the women but not as regards the men. Sad to say, when there were sixty, they were satisfied with that. Poor men! worthy of their reputation. When the time for God's justice will come, I don't know what he will do about that godless bourgeoisie in Chalon! But it's so sad...

I expect to be in Lyons Tuesday evening and to greet you Wednesday morning. In the meantime, continue to pray for your Dauphinese brother;¹⁴⁸ he needs it.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

191

CO 189

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 37/395 VI 2)

*Holy Day of Easter, Chalon, April, 1850*¹⁴⁹

Mademoiselle,

This morning I already wished you the Good News: the Holy Resurrection of Jesus, his grace, his strength, his happiness, his love. I really hope that our dear Master will hear me, for he knows how much I wish you to be his and entirely his. Your condition both saddens and consoles me. I see that you are on the cross, but I hope this cross will turn to God's glory and your holiness. Poor daughter! If only I could take away this heavy cross from you! Bear it with our Lord...

My paternal best wishes to your household. May our Lord change it into a Sanctuary of grace and holiness as he did his tomb.

¹⁴⁵ The first of seventy-five letters to Mme. Natalie Jordan (Mme Camille nee Brenier de Montmorand), 10 rue des Castries, Lyons.

¹⁴⁶ Perhaps March 24.

¹⁴⁷ Is he referring to his spiritual frame of mind? Ed.

¹⁴⁸ Dauphinese brother - they were both natives of the Dauphine, a section of France.

¹⁴⁹ In 1850, Easter was March 31. Troussier.

Lyons: 1844 - 1850

I will leave here Tuesday or Wednesday. I am well. Thank you for your letter. I am leaving you to hurry to High Mass.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Guillot

192

CO 190

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 4/76)

Chalon-sur-Saone, Holy Day of Easter, 1850

Madame Gourd
Madame,

I would have liked to answer your good letter right away. I couldn't. When I was about to do so, a passage from your letter saying that you would be staying only a week in Lyons caught my attention. I'm sending this letter in the care of Providence.

I blessed [God's] fatherly Providence for the coincidence of travel, which made it possible for me to give you a little more time. I would so like to see you progress in his holy love by your life's gentle self-denial and continual dependence on his ever gracious Will.

A few moments ago at holy Mass, I asked for the grace of the spiritual resurrection of Jesus in your soul. May he increase within you the divine life for which he died and rose. I didn't forget Miss Stephanie. Holy Mass is the place where I pay all my debts.

I do approve the vocal prayers you indicated, especially to recite them as early as possible as you come and go. That will protect your freedom in love when you are able to go before the Blessed Sacrament.

What can I tell you about this retreat? The Good Lord really blessed it a hundredfold! There are beautiful souls at Chalon. God has chosen ones here. They will save the city. I don't know whether I saw your woman friend. I asked for her, but they didn't know her.

Goodbye my daughter. Send me news about yourself, even if it is cut into a hundred pieces.

I'm leaving here Tuesday, or next Wednesday at the latest.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 4/52)

Chalon, Easter Day, 1850

Miss Stephanie
Mademoiselle,

On this beautiful day I am writing to wish you a beautiful and holy Resurrection of Jesus, tell you that I read your letter with pleasure, and express my wishes that you may ever be a worthy child of Jesus and Mary.

Well, what do I wish [for you]? As follows:

1. Always write what you are thinking, without wondering whether it is too long or expressed inadequately. It's always fine for a father who wants only the welfare of his child in God.

2. Always continue to be faithful to your meditation. At a time you do not expect, our Lord will give you the great grace [sought after] in all your halfhearted attempts.

3. Work hard at humility: it's the queen, but a genuine humility, that is, draw humility from yourself, let it feed on your weaknesses, cover it over with your faults; be patient and peaceful toward your poor weak human nature. However, let your humility be simple like a child's, without self-consciousness and without frustration.

4. When you notice that your mind is at work to plan the future, build castles in Spain, as you say, pretend you haven't seen it, and withdraw it very gently. To avoid this, it's well to center our thoughts outside of ourselves, such as by the habitual reading of a good book which helps reflection.

5. Keep in mind that our Lord's greatest graces for the sanctification of a soul are contained in the opportunities to sacrifice our will to God's or to someone else's. When you can say: I renounced my will, our Lord tells you: My daughter, you have performed an act of pure love.

6. Thank God when he lets you discover one of your faults. We ask a doctor to tell us our illnesses.

Goodbye my daughter, I may be writing to you in haste, but [I do so] with heart. I am pleased that my blessed medal gave you a privilege which I have been wanting for you for such a long time.

Goodbye in our good Master,

Eymard

TO BR. GABRIEL^{150 151}
(VIII 1/4)

Dear Rev. Superior,

I was very sorry to leave Belley without saying goodbye to you, and even more for not replying to you for so long. Your charity will pardon this tardiness caused by a thousand and one things, especially a Lenten Mission which, for more than two months, has left me no time to breathe.

I have had news of you from many quarters, and you know, Rev. Superior, of the esteem and affection in which I hold, and will always hold, the admirable and imperishable Work of the Holy Family. I give heartfelt thanks to the Good Lord for all the graces he has given you; to learn that your novitiate is still increasing, and growing in perfection. Indeed it is the spring flowing into the river which will nourish so many young men.

I still hope that France will be at least as generous as the princes and the powerful Catholic kings, as the King of Sardinia.

Rev. Superior, what immense good can be achieved by your Institute in the Church of God. How many good parish priests are longing for the time when they will receive some of your good brothers! Even the Vicar-General of Grenoble has written to me, and I can do no better than to send you his letter. Satisfy him if you can, for he wants the best for you and can really help you.

Another pastor has asked me for one of your certified men for next year; he would be very happy with him - he is a (illegible). What am I to tell him? I had spoken to you about this already. Be so kind, if you please, to send me a copy of your prospectus, as I am often asked for information and I like to be exact.

Forgive me, Rev. Superior, for this insistence which you have authorized me to make, and believe me ever, Rev. Superior,

Your most humble and obedient servant,
Eymard

¹⁵⁰ Founder and Superior-General of THE HOLY FAMILY OF BELLY

¹⁵¹ Probably 1850 after the Mission at Chalon-sur-Saone Feb. 17-Mar 31.

CHAPTER IV

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Substitute Novice Master for the Marists

Novice Master

Parish Missions

Third Order of Mary, canonically established

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

April - Replaced Master of Novices at La Favorite.

195

CO 192

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 38/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, Monday, April 25, 1850¹

My daughter, I wasn't able to go down to Puylata these last few days. For three days now I've had a head cold and... I have a toothache. So, don't come. I can't foresee which day I'll come down. Continue as usual. I needed a little retreat of suffering...

I beg you to pray particularly for the healing of a Third Order member, the mother of a family.

If I go to the house during the week, I'll let you know.

In our Lord, I am

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

196

CO 193

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 39/395 VI 2)

Tuesday, April 24, 1850²

I am better. Tonight I'm going down to Lyons and I'll stay there until Thursday afternoon. So you may come either tomorrow, or Thursday morning. I'm sorry to inform you so late, but I've just now decided to go there.

I am,

Devotedly yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

¹ Fr. Eymard wrote "Monday, April 25", but the 25th was a Thursday. Troussier.

² Fr. Eymard wrote "Tuesday, April 24", but the 24th was a Wednesday. Troussier.

197

CO 194

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 40/395 VI 2)

Lyons, Thursday, April 26, 1850³

I am going to La Favorite. I'm sorry I can't come see you!
I am feeling better. I'll write to my sister. I'm so negligent!
I finally found the red curtain. I put it in the cupboard. I also found the laces. They will bring them to you. The porter has them.
I bless you.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

198

CO 195

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 74/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.⁴

Lyons, April 26, 1850

Dear sisters,

I'm very sorry to have made you wait so long for my letter, I was so burdened with activities that I didn't have a moment. On the other hand I was comforted by the good news I was receiving from you.

As for me, I am well except for some toothaches. I am at our novitiate five days a week. It makes me very happy because I am quieter there with some solitude. I do thank God for it.

I believe you received news from the Mles. Guillot. They are all ill. These good women are severely tried, the Cross is really their lot, especially Miss Marguerite, but she is so generous! These good people would greatly desire to have you come to Lyons. They would even like to have you live together with them. I really admire their openheartedness, for I have never found anyone who is so devoted, so discrete and so virtuous. I even think that this meeting would be good for everyone. These ladies prayed and had others really pray for that. They asked me for it, as a grace. I really don't know how to answer. On the one hand I see that you have your difficulties at La Mure, many worries from your farmers and the petty jealousies of devout people. Here you would be freed from that and would have more religious support. My desire for your happiness and perfection surely makes me wish to see your situation improve. On the other hand, would a stay in Lyons, with a climate so different from La Mure, be good for your health? There are many people here who cannot get accustomed to it, and it was even very difficult for me; then the loud noise of the city, a new way of life. And if some political catastrophe happened as we are expecting, Lyons would surely not be quiet. For ourselves, having several houses, we can leave. But where would you go in such circumstances?

³ The 26th was a Friday. Troussier.

⁴ Abbreviation for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

For myself, I wouldn't advise you to enter a convent, because of your age and infirmities. Convents are often very hard Calvarys. I see it every day in women's convents.

You will tell me: but in Lyons, we would at least be near you. That is true, and if I could help you, I would do so gladly. But I am absent so often and so busy! However, I would always be a brother to you.

If I thought that a trip would do you good, I would ask our Lord to grant it.

Now I come to the difficulties you are having with Miss Fribourg. It made me very sad; I certainly didn't expect such a scene, to say worse, such ingratitude.

I consulted knowledgeable men, and here is what they all said:

1. You have the right to put a stairway in the kitchen, whether she wants it or not, because it is an essential repair.

2. If you spoke to her about it beforehand and she consented, even verbally, she has no right to any compensation. Even without her consent, you would have the right to do it, except then, it would be up to her to claim compensation before the court, and that compensation could only be very minimal because it makes her rent more convenient.

Now, since everything is ready, I advise you and urge you strongly to have it finished, telling her that I desire and want it, and if necessary, require a visit on location by the Justice of the Peace who will surely declare that you are in the right.

But you don't dare, because of the bad grace Miss Fribourg will cause you and the gossip that will result. Go forward: justice favors the weak and oppressed. One must not abandon one's rights. People here go willingly before the courts. Let people be scandalized, if they will. Take care of your affairs and let people talk.

Now, another question.

1. If the lease for the rent has expired, and there is only a friendly agreement, you can dismiss them with a bailiff. At the end of three months, they are obliged to leave.

2. If the Fribourgs hadn't paid their back rent, you would still have the right to send them away.

I know that these are all drastic means, but just, nevertheless.

199

CO 197

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 7/33)

[La Favorite], May 12, 1850

Madame,

I forgot to ask you to tell Mme. Lambert about her admission to the Third Order and to bring her to the next meeting, if she accepts. It is from my solitude that I am writing today to ask you to do this. I am so happy to be able to converse with God alone; but I do not forget my children, especially your soul which I would like to see on fire with divine love.

I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your very humble S.⁵
Eymard

⁵ Probably: Servant.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 41/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, May 18, 1850

Mademoiselle,

Our vestments really need your attention. You'll see by what I'm sending you. One would not dare use such dirty things in the world!

I hope to see Mr. Gaudioz⁶ tomorrow with news about you. I couldn't go down to Lyons. I hope to go see you at the beginning of the week.

If you should need to come here sometime, you should know that the buses from Point-du-Jour pass at the Chancery Bridge at 8, 10, 12, 2 and 4 p.m.

I am devotedly yours in the Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I'm the same as usual. My regards to your sisters.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 3/52)

At la Favorite
22 Saint Irenaeus

Lyons, May 23, 1850

Madame,

One of our young priests is going to Tarare, his hometown. I am giving him my letter. I hope he will bring me news about you and Miss Claudia.

No need to tell you how sad I felt to learn, when it was too late, about your arrival in Lyons with your sister.⁷ When I received your letter, it was too late for me to get from here to Lyons in time. I could only say: "It isn't God's will. My God, do for them all the good things I desire for them!" I would have been so happy to see Mr. Tholin! In a word, there are some sacrifices which God obliges us to make, so true is it, Madame, that only God is ever accessible! ever kind! ever magnanimous! He alone is necessary!

I was very sorry to learn that you had been sick again. Oh! You really are a disciple of the Cross. Our Lord has granted you many graces and, in order to repay himself for them and to make them bear fruit, he follows them up with a few particles of his beloved Cross.

Still, I ask him to soften and diminish it, to keep you for your dear family. I don't like to pray for Heaven for my daughters in Mary. Heaven is eternal; but this lifetime is short and consequently very precious to obtain merit, holiness, God's glory, to love and be zealous for our Lord. It would be better to live and suffer a bit longer for God.

⁶ her brother-in-law.

⁷ Antonia Bost.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

And what is your dear sister doing? She really loves our Lord, she is surely a fine child of Mary, she dwells within her inner convent. - Be like two flames joined by divine love.

I recommend myself to your prayers and I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your ever devoted,

Eymard, P.M.S.M.⁸

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhône)

202

CO 200

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 75/145 VI 10)

Lyons, June 2, 1850

My very dear sisters,

I am taking advantage of a quiet moment to give you news about myself. I am the same as usual. I'm presently out in the country at our novitiate, where I'm very happy because I see fewer people and have less business on the outside. How good God is toward me! He always gives me what is best and most useful. So I ask only for his holy Will and the grace to fulfill it.

I don't know when I shall be able to go see you at La Mure. I cannot leave at this time because the Superior is very sick.

I would really be so pleased to go and encourage you, but God doesn't will it for now.

I hope that all the little problems you had mentioned to me have passed. If Miss Fribourg leaves, so much the better! You will find a better replacement later.

I don't know if you will have a lovely procession today. There was a magnificent one at the Cathedral this morning. Lyons is very peaceful. Don't let yourselves be alarmed by the newspapers, nor by exaggerated news; they lie. Some people see everything in black, as an uprising, and as a massacre. May God protect us, and Mary will save France.

The wicked are already vanquished and their evil plans will fall on their own heads.

Always be happy about everything, like daughters of your loving Father in heaven. Look at his goodness and his graces, rather than your faults and weakness.

I am in our Lord,

Dear sisters, all yours,

Your brother,

Eymard

P.S. The Miles Guillot are still ill, especially Miss Marguerite. They asked me to let you come for a visit to Lyons. I answered that I desire it. But, my sisters, on your part, consult your own strength. You would surely be giving them great pleasure. They are so kind!

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isère

⁸ Marist Priest of the Society of Mary

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 4/52)

June 2, 1850

Madame,

Your note gave me joy in the Lord: and I ask our good Master that his love may complete what his divine goodness has begun in you. Yes, Madame, unite yourself more and more to his love by means of his holy Life. - Become one with his mind, his heart. Go to Jesus through Mary. That is your most effective and precious right. You are his⁹ beloved daughter!

I was so happy to see Mr. Tholin and receive him as a novice¹⁰ - Brother Marie-Jean-Joseph: beautiful names.

Pray a little for me to our Lord. I constantly do so for you. When you want to write to me, address it to La Favorite.

I am in his love,

Madame,
Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P.S.M.¹¹

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 42/395 VI 2)

Monday, June 17, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to tell you that I won't come for confessions this week... I'm deaf in one ear and I'm taking medicine... May God be blessed! It's not my fault, so our good Master wants me to stay here quietly. Remain very peaceful within yourself with our Lord and your Garden of Olives. Only, remain very close to our Lord.

Keep the objects as long as necessary. We don't need them.

1. Concerning the piece of blue silk, I don't think it should be sewn to any trimming. Leave it free.

2. Miss David, at Mr. Richard's, Pastor of Jouzieux, via St. Etienne (Loire).

3. We will be grateful to receive your little crucifix. I haven't been able to examine the other things yet.

4. We have three altars of the same width and length as the cloth which I'm sending you.

I haven't been able to write to my sister yet. I'm so negligent! Not true?

⁹ His or her, unclear whether it is Jesus or Mary. (FR)

¹⁰ As a member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹¹ Marist Priest of the Society of Mary

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

I have so much to do here. But there is still time for little sufferings. How good God is to give us work to do!

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

205

CO 203

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 9/10)

Lyons, June 20, 1850

Excellency,

Last night I received the package you kindly sent me postmarked the 5th of the present month. I don't know how to thank you for so much kindness. Everything that comes from you is very dear to me. The biography of the dear Saintly woman which you sent me both edified and made me happy, as it did to those with whom I shared it.

It seems that two of my letters of this year were lost, or two of yours, for I didn't receive any answer from you to my first two letters. I was beginning to worry, afraid that you might be sick or absent. I won't give you news about our men; one of our Fathers is arriving from Oceania and is leaving for Rome. He will give you some news, I mean Fr. Bernin from Lyons.

All our Fathers are well, except our master of novices, Fr. Maitrepierre, the first Provincial of the Society. He is seriously ill. He is suffering from a chest illness which is almost incurable. Please, Your Excellency, pray for him and for us, for it would be a great loss for the Society.

At the beginning of the month of July, the ecclesiastical Province of Lyons will celebrate its Council. All Catholics are working toward it and praying for it. These provincial Councils are rekindling the faith. Faith is still triumphant in France. There were many conversions everywhere at Easter this year, especially among educated people. Suffering makes people reflect, and the sad consequences of false principles put forward until now frighten those who had proclaimed and encouraged them.

In Lyons I am directing the Third-Order of Mary which already has more than 300 very devout members, among whom there are certain number of Priests and especially men. I would really like to obtain a few indulgences for this Association.

I have come back again from Mr. Favier, the goldsmith, about your chain. He wasn't able to sell it yet. It has been on the market. It's really too bad to sell it only for the value of the gold. We will write to Paris to find something better.

Your Excellency, I am pleased by your trust. Do not hesitate to request favors from me; we will always be in your debt.

It is my honor to be, with deep sentiments of respect, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard

P.S. The package for Madame, your sister, is leaving tomorrow.

206

CO 204

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 43/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, Tuesday, July 2, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I am going to Puylata immediately. I'll stay there today, perhaps tomorrow. Try to come today, whenever you wish.

I'm sending the brother for our things... We need the amices first. Please keep all the linen for them, and for about 40 purificators.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Third Floor
Lyons

207

CO 206

TO BISHOP JEAN LUQUET
(VI 10/10)

J.M.J.

Lyons, July 15, 1850

Excellency,

I am happy to tell you that your gold chain was sold for 340 francs which, together with the 60 francs for the chalice, total 400 francs which you can draw from Mr. Andre Favier, the goldsmith in Lyons.

If you need me to apply for this money, I am entirely at your disposal.

Your Excellency, I suppose that you have not yet been able to offer the Sovereign Pontiff the works which Mr. Mulsant is offering to His Holiness.

This fine Christian is the naturalist scientist of our city and he would be so happy to have the signature of Pius IXth in return. He is truly at the service of religion through apologetics at every scientific gathering.

I wish to recommend myself to your prayers and I beg you to receive my very respectful sentiments. It is my honor, Your Excellency, to be,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, P.S.M.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 44/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

La Favorite, July 30, 1850

Mademoiselle,

You certainly may act upon it, and recommend M.C.'s shop.¹² What we both hope for doesn't change the fact that it's still one of the best for this type of work. So, go ahead and don't be afraid.

As for Fr. Lagniet's note, I'm happy about it, and if that could... for you, I would even be happier. I had spoken to Fr. Lagniet about... He was very... I told him how this affected you, and he laughed. He isn't thinking of the Marist Sisters at all for our linens, because he is quite satisfied with the present arrangement. As for the surplus in your account, be at peace. I'll arrange everything. If you come to Puylata Saturday, as I hope, I will...

Until then I'll pray that our Lord give you strength, courage, and especially love for the holy cross.

If only you paid less attention to all that interior noise, all those impressions, and lived in peace in the midst of war, it would be a consolation. So then, don't forget that our Lord is the one who wants you in this condition. You are giving him more glory thereby than in some other way. Your weaknesses and infidelities can even become beautiful reasons to trust in his goodness.

Besides, you know that I've given you a general permission to come here when you need me. I would thank our Lord if I could help your soul.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard
S. D. M.¹³

P.S. I will come only Saturday... and leave before dinner. I will be free at 8:30.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 76/145 VI 10)

La Favorite, 22, St. Irene-Lyons, July 31, 1850

My very dear sisters,

I am writing a few words to you since I can't come see you yet, as you and I wish.

I must remain at the Novitiate, since the Superior is still sick. However, he is a little better and we hope that God will send him back to us [healed]. We have just sent him to the Springs at Allevard.

¹² Perhaps Mr. Claude, her brother-in-law?

¹³ Initials: meaning unknown.

As for me, I'm still happy at the novitiate. I have fewer worries here and I am well. Truly the Good Lord spoils me with his special graces. At least I can pray a bit more here than at Lyons and I am able to work. The result is that the days seem too short.

I received news about you several times indirectly. I thank God for having given you back your health, though [you are] very weak, and I pray that he may keep you well.

As for the house repairs and the choice of leases, I leave all that to your good judgment. The essential thing is to notify Miss Fribourg of her dismissal. I remember that one of her landlords had every possible kind of difficulty to send them away and that it had been necessary to send notification by bailiff.

It seems to me that we should not be so afraid of them. If I go to La Mure, I will spare you this burden.

If you could have the house fixed nicely without too much expense, the revenue would be larger than everything you are drawing from it now, even with the press, and you would especially be more at peace.

Continue to work at becoming saints and use all these difficulties for the love of God.

It is necessary to suffer in this life, it is characteristic of our Lord's beloved disciples. You have already suffered a great deal. That is what will give you a large share in the glory of Jesus crucified.

Find your peace in God and not in human beings. Let people talk and judge as they will, and follow the path that God has traced for you in freedom and holiness.

I am affectionately in our Lord,

Dear sisters,

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

210

CO 209

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 45/395 VI 2)

[La Favorite]¹⁴, August, 1850

Mademoiselle,

One of our priests would like to have an alb bleached, and have another one finished. He has only half. I am sending both; they are made of embroidered tulle. Buy what you need, he'll pay for everything. He would like a decorative lining for the sleeves. There are two plain albs; one is too short, the other is torn. The first two albs I mentioned are urgent, because he has to leave in a week.

I will send you a letter for Miss Jenny soon.

Continue to be generous and devoted to holy obedience and God will bless you.

Eymard

P.S. Excuse my shabby letter, I don't have time to do it over.

¹⁴ According to Fr. Troussier.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

211

CO 210

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 5/52)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons, August 5, 1850

Madame,

I am writing to thank you for remembering me in God's presence and tell you that I like to repay you in kind, praying that your love for God may be ever growing, ever longed for. Love has no limits nor boundaries. It is infinite, like God, its center and purpose.

Love is a consuming fire, everything ought to sustain it; especially what surrounds us, crucifies us, fills our life. We only need to give back to God everything he gives us, making it pass through the fire of love. As you know, love is active, enterprising, while being calm and peaceful.

It [love] wants to embrace everything, do everything; while at the same time let go of everything, leave everything behind.

It [love] prefers to suffer rather than to enjoy, Calvary over Tabor. It wants to tell everyone to love God, while escaping from the social world and its glances, smiles and affections. Love is the mystery of God's grace. We must let ourselves be burned and consumed.

The altar of divine Love is the Cross. Our own cross is ourselves: our poor body with its suffering, our heart with its excessive longings, our will with its unfortunate fears! A great cross, which, however, is mitigated by the grace of our Lord. Please, let yourself be led by our dear Master like a child who has no will, with no other love than his love, which makes all things lovable.

I very willingly receive Miss Maria Collongette as a novice.¹⁵ On a set day meet with her and your sister; have her read the formula for the consecration for novices.

I keep Mr. Tholin in mind, especially now that we have this beautiful bond in Mary.¹⁶ I remember your children and your sister.

May our Lord bless you and keep you all in his holy grace and divine love.

All yours in Jesus and Mary.
Eymard, P.S.M.¹⁷

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhone)

¹⁵ Member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹⁶ As a member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹⁷ Priest of the Society of Mary.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 4/28)

La Favorite, August 5, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I am very pleased that you have a copy of the “*Regle des Vierges Tiercaires*”¹⁸ and I would be even more so, if it could help your soul a little and help you become even holier in your present position.

Find God in this Providential position of yours. God wants you there: he has put into it all the graces, virtues, and love found in the most sublime vocation.¹⁹ However, love the Good Lord there with all your strength. You are made to love him. May he be praised for having given you the kingdom of his holy love!

Have a real love for your dear sister, without scruples or worry. The Good Lord wants it.

To love her means to love the graces the Good Lord has given her and those he gives you for her. Love her with an affinity of heart, just as the feelings arise. I know that God has made your hearts one.

Love your family in God.

I applaud the idea that God has made your heart very large. Oh! It’s really true and if you were still holier, it would be even larger and even more loving.

Always mention me to our good Master, so that I may not be unfaithful to the graces he has given me.

I bless you in his love.

All yours in Jesus,
Eymard, P.M.

Miss Antonia Bost
at Tarare

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 46/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, August 12, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I’m afraid it is I who didn’t explain myself well about the albs. The one with a black lining, and the one yet to be made, for which you have only the bottom, belong to a novice. He will be leaving for England to found a house of the Society there. The other three belong to the Novitiate. We don’t need a lining for the sleeves on ours. I don’t know what needs to be done. They may be torn. One of them is too short, the one with the big tuck. Just unsew it.

¹⁸ Rule for the Third Order Virgins.

¹⁹ He never encouraged her desire for religious life.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

For the first two, if you think it would be enough to iron them, and would be less likely to spoil them, do it that way. I leave that to your experience which is perfect in this regard. But don't rush too much. I don't think he will leave before a week.

I'm praying to St. Philomena to obtain all that you desire and all that I desire for you.

St. Paul says that we enter into the kingdom of Heaven only through many tribulations, and you aren't lacking those. In heaven on judgement day, at the moment of our death, it will be so good to have had something to suffer for the love of our Lord Jesus! Be strong in your weakness, generously faithful to little things, prompt in practical obedience, eager to sacrifice your will over your freedom, glorifying God as he wills, in the manner he wills, that is, by means of your distress, poverty, temptations, I would almost say by your sins - humbling yourself, casting yourself more trustingly into our Lord's fatherly and merciful arms.

Learn to bear your heart's coldness, the absence or the inability of human beings to bring you relief. May Jesus crucified be enough for you, so that you will stay at the foot of his cross, with Mary his divine Mother.

God alone! It's the highest learning! What divine strength! What a priceless treasure! What profound consolation! May his divine and infinite goodness grant it to you!

Eymard

P.S. I told your sister to come for the patronal feast, August 25th.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
3rd floor
Lyons

214

CO 213

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 47/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, August 21, 1850

My dear daughter, I'm sending you a letter for Miss Jenny. Read it first. Yesterday, I was sorry I gave you so little [time], with regrets you can be sure. If you need me, I'm totally at your service. The best time would be from 1:00 to 4:00. There are departures passing at the Chancery Bridge at noon, and at 2:00.

I felt so sorry for you, yesterday. Take better care of yourself! Could it be that our poor chapel has worn you out!

Suffering is worth more than prayer. So! Be pleased to suffer in union with our Lord. Take courage, time is passing, Heaven is approaching and also our eternally loving God.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

215

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 6/52)

The document is deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume I Doc. #377 (CO 375)

216

CO 214

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 77/145 VI 10)

Lyons, September 12, 1850

My dear sisters,

Before beginning retreat, I want to send you this short greeting; our retreat begins today and will last 8 days. We really need it, for, the more we mix with people and continually work for others, we ourselves end by becoming depleted. So I am very happy to see the approach of this retreat. Please pray to God that I may make it well.

I would have liked to go see you, but Fr. Superior General needed me and I wasn't able to leave Lyons. I am replacing the Superior of the Novitiate who has been sick for several days. However, he is better now.

I will go to preach the retreat at the Major Seminary of Grenoble at the end of October. From there I will have the pleasure to go see you, at the beginning of the month of November.

I have often had news of you from several of our Fathers and others who were so kind as to go see you. I was truly grateful to them for it.

I will leave you now my sisters in the love of our Lord, and ask him to watch over and sanctify you ever more and more.

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

Sept. 27 - Communication for Rome regarding the Third Order.

217

CO 216

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 48/395 VI 2)

Saturday, La Favorite, September 28, 1850

Mademoiselle,

Come here tomorrow night or Monday morning, if you can. I will try to have everything ready for your retreat. I bless it and I'm very pleased about it! I have all that you wish; so don't worry.

I don't have time to answer Miss Jenny. Please tell her to be at peace, that I am taking full responsibility, and I will answer her later.

Goodbye in Jesus and Mary,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

218

CO 217

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (MME. CAMILLE, NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 2/75)

St. Irenaeus, 22, chemin de La Favorite, October 7, 1850

Madame,

Thank you for remembering me. I likewise remember you graciously in God's sight, and I ask our good Master to keep you ever faithful to his loving service. Then you will always be happy because God is the center of supreme happiness.

I feel that I can picture you being very happy and joyful in your dear countryside; that a happy heart and a rested mind make the practice of virtue more natural and gentle.

Madame, you can see that you will never be fully happy except in God. Your heart is too big for anything else. It might enjoy these things in passing, but it will not find its fulfillment there. You do know this, and I praise God for it.

I'm going to preach the retreat at the Major Seminary of Grenoble, from the 26th of October to November 1st. I expect to leave here around the 16th. I will only be able to bless you from a distance when I see the beautiful plains of Tullins.

I am settled at La Favorite for this year. The former Superior is feeling better, though. From my little fortress I am always happy to go down to be with my dear sisters of the Third Order.

It would make a nice outing for Mme. Jordan, to come see the hermit.

Please Madame, continue to be kind, faithful, joyful, courageous, etc., and pray a little for the one who likes to pray for you and your whole family, and especially for my little daughter of Mary from whom I ask a remembrance to our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.P.M.

219

CO 218

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 49/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, October 16, 1850

I am leaving tomorrow, Thursday, at 7:30 a.m. via the national messengers, Place des Terreaux. So then, please have your box brought there, at least by 6:45, addressed to me. Later today I'll write to tell you what you have to do.

220

CO 219

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 50/395 VI 2)

La F., October 16, 1850

Mademoiselle,

As I am about to leave I am writing you a few words, sorry that I couldn't come to see you. The Good Lord didn't give me time to do so.

1. Miss David may tell the Marcel ladies that I decided to postpone Miss...
2. I had thought of including the directress to study the question of the six months' absence.

Be at peace about anything that Miss... may have said and done concerning me and the Third Order. She is highly esteemed by the Superior General, and everything was taken in good grace. In general, too much importance was given to Father Superior's words. After all, it's the Good Lord who does and determines everything.

So don't let yourself worry about such things. Just remember you are the disciple of God's will at each moment. What the Good Lord wants of you: to be a little child at his feet.

You need to be really united to our dear crucified Master, divinely united with his adorable, will of love. All your strength lies there.

So then, never stray from the Jesus of your heart: be entirely his at all times. It is always fair weather for the one who lives under the rays of divine love.

Your grace is still untested. Don't use it right away. Remain quietly recollected in our Lord; and stay close to your good Father.

About your topic for prayer, I told you, stay humble, poor and small at the feet of our Lord, like Magdalen, and be content that he lets you be there. Blessed be your temptations which purify you and martyr you by inner groanings! It's your best time.

Goodbye. It's 9:00 p.m. May our Lord keep you, preserve you, as well as your good sisters in his holy love. Continue your Communions until I return.

221

CO 220

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 51/395 VI 2)

La Mure d'Isere, October 25, 1850

Dear daughter,

I am writing to give you some news about us. The Good Lord blessed my trip. I had the pleasure of going to Laus and spending two days there. I don't need to tell you how many times I presented you all to our Good Mother, especially our dear patient. I asked her to give each of you the graces you need to be worthy spouses of Jesus crucified and worthy children of his heart.

The plan for a foundation at Laus is postponed. That is how God wills it, and so do I, with all my heart. Your statues arrived in good condition. I can't tell you how happy and pleased my sisters were. They are fine and ask me to tell you of their love and gratitude.

I'll leave for Grenoble tomorrow and stay there until All Saints Day. I'd be happy to receive a letter from you at the Major Seminary. Your letter to my sisters, about Miss Claudine, left me sad. We will renew our prayers for her healing.

I leave you in the holy hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and I bless you in their love.

All yours in Christ,
Eymard, S. M.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

October 26-November 1 - Retreat preached at the Major Seminary of Grenoble.

222

CO 221

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 78/145 VI 10)

Grenoble, October 31, 1850

My very dear sisters,

The Good Lord doesn't want me to go pay you a second visit. The father of my substitute at the novitiate is dying and I must return immediately on Saturday so that he may go to offer his last respects. It is at least a duty of charity on my part to do so.

The matter of Gap is coming to a conclusion, and so I hope to be able to see you in the springtime. But may the holy will of God be ever done. I am well, the Good Lord has sustained me, he has done everything. I spoke in favor of Fr. Faure, but then, I am not telling you anything new.

Take care of yourselves during the winter, carefully avoiding the [extremes of] heat and cold.

I am in our Lord,

Dear sisters,
Your very loving brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

223

CO 222

TO BR. GABRIEL
(VIII 2/4)²⁰

Dear Rev. Superior,

I saw your fine brothers at the minor Seminary of Grenoble. They seemed to be content. It's true that they have many difficulties, and the servants eyed them with jealousy and (illegible). They handled themselves very well and we are pleased with them. The Rev. Superior has told me of his plans, in order to give them more freedom: he asks you, through me, to keep a few more candidates for him - he would like five more. In that way, the brothers would be by themselves and thus more independent. Since you told me that you had some, I informed him of this and he hopes you will be able to oblige him by strengthening this establishment.

In any case I shall have the honor of seeing you when I come to Belley.

Be assured, Rev. Superior, of my most sincere respects.

Eymard

224

CO 223

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 52/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, November 13, 1850

My dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to answer your letter dated the tenth.

1. Write or come when you need to [do so]. If our good Master gives me something to give you, I'll do so with his fatherly love.

2. Make the novena that you mention, if you aren't too tired. 1) For the Holy Hour, 2) the Stations of the cross, 3) Communion at Fourviere (which is close to us), 4) for the five Our Fathers at night: once or twice are enough. Poor Third Order! I'm very happy that the Blessed Virgin gave me such a beautiful Work for her glory. How can we complain about the small difficulties, when we see the saving blessings which it bestows upon souls. I understand that crosses which come from outsiders seem very small when compared to those that come from our own. But if we love our Lord, we should be content, for they immolate our poor natural feelings more completely. Actually, I expect only thorns and nails from human beings, whoever they may be. All I ask from

²⁰ Probably after the Retreat preached at the Major Seminary of Grenoble, Oct 26 – Nov 1, 1850

Jesus, is that I may let myself be crucified as he was, like a silent, gentle lamb. The cross helps me to go directly to our Lord.

3. Let your prayer be a prayer of silence before God, forgetting yourself before such a good God, as much as you can. Therefore, follow the grace of the moment. Follow God's will upon you whether mysterious or clear. Don't cling to any particular means which are only to be used. God will always be there.

The grace of love progressively destroys self-pride, by immolating our own will. We must let him act, our good Savior loves to turn everything upside down in his temple of love. He takes his whip to chase away from it everything that isn't himself.

4. Continue doing the minutes as you have done.²¹ Obedience wills it. The rest should be foreign to you. Don't even be concerned about it.

5. About Miss C., listen to her with charity. Don't take responsibility for any of her errands. Don't give any importance to what she may say. Don't downgrade what she says, but believe in her good intention. In order to accomplish this, do nothing without submitting it to the grace of obedience. She sins more with the head than with the heart. She should be held back rather than encouraged.

6. I will ask Miss C. for the Minutes. As far as the others are concerned I'll leave that to your prudent judgement. You can give them to Miss Gal on condition that she returns them to you. I remember that she had asked for it. I'll speak to her...

7. Keep your freedom toward Miss Camus. It isn't your responsibility to go see her. Then also, I prefer that you shouldn't tie yourself down to those visits. As for those who don't accept you as you are... leave everything to God. Excuse yourself because of poor health, yours and your sisters.

8. Imitate the gentle charity of our Lord toward his rude and coarse apostles. That is the beautiful benefit of dealing with others.

9. My sister's veil should be dyed red.²² Courage! my daughter. Live by our Lord, in our Lord, for our Lord. Surrender ourselves entirely to his sword of love. The best and strongest life comes through death for love.

Eymard

225

CO 224

TO FR. MARIE CHIRON²³
(VI 1/2)

Lyons, November 13, 1850

My dear Father,

In your charity please forgive me for my delayed reply. I have been away for several weeks, and have not been able to prove my affection for you.

If the good Master wants to use me to help you, I wish it with all my heart; but do ask him for the graces and insights which I can only mediate as a poor limited instrument.

I have been praying hard before giving you my answer, and here is what I wish to say to you:

- (1) Blessed are the poor in spirit. They are the friends, the brothers, and the favorites of our Lord. So you must love holy and divine poverty as a kind, tender mother. It will be the source of all your wealth.
- (2) The time given for rest, and for prayer, is sufficient. Give what time you can also to sacred study. Remain ignorant about all the worldly sciences.
- (3) As for the crucifix and stole, I think it is according to the spirit of God to obtain permission

²¹ Minutes of the Third Order of Mary.

²² Perhaps a symbolic statement - sign of the Cross and the Precious Blood.

²³ Founder of the Congregation of St. Martha of the Assumption for the care of the mentally ill.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

from the Bishops of those places you visit and where you stay, and to leave if they aren't accepted.

(4) We are praying hard for the poor possessed man. One must beware of the evil spirit, keep him in the humility of silence and not give him the opportunity to become proud.

(5) The Glory to the Father is not necessary for the crosses. All the crosses I have indulgenced carry a personal indulgence for a happy death for the person who has it.

Pray for me, very dear Father, that I may learn to let myself be crucified with our good Master, and draw real profit from his divine cross.

I am, in his divine love,

All yours,
P. Eymard

226

CO 225

TO FR. ANTOINE BERTHOLON, S.M.
(VI 1/2)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus, Lyons, November 16, 1850

Very dear colleague,

I have some good, comforting news for you, as well as for Sister Threse of Jesus [Miss Theodelinde Dubouche]. His Eminence called me to ask for information on the new work of perpetual adoration and reparation of Miss Dubouche. He told me that his great desire is to establish Forty Hours in Lyons as it is in Rome in the Community of the sisters of adoration there. The Cardinal added: I would be very happy to receive the good sisters from Paris, but first, I would like to have some precise information on their purpose, on their way of doing things and establishing themselves. In Lyons we would be happy to grant them exposition like a continual Forty Hours, etc....

With that in mind, very dear Father, discuss it with Mother, and answer me immediately with a letter that I can show the Cardinal because this thought is very much on his mind, and he is impatiently waiting for this answer. If you wish, send me an explanation of the Work. - As for the foundation to be established, my thought is that we must begin with Bethlehem to finish in the Cenacle, but don't mention the house of Miss Perrin. The Cardinal doesn't like it.

I am expecting your answer by return mail at the above address.

Please ask for a novena from your dear daughters for my intentions, for a very important matter. Everything is going well in the Novitiate.

Goodbye, dear Father,
All yours,
Eymard

Father Bertholon
Marist Priest
rue Montparnasse 31,
Paris

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ

(B-6 129 III 3 VII 1)

MME. GAUDIOZ

(B-6 129 III 2)

Charter

1. Agree on the work assignments of the workers and sending them on errands in the city. When one leader must use a worker, inform the other leader in order to know whether an order has already been given.
2. Never publicly contradict the orders given by another leader; make your observations only in private.
3. Complaints between the two leaders should only once a month be brought to the Justice of the peace.
4. The two leaders should be attentive, especially in public, to show respect for one another in their language and relationship.
5. When one leader is busy at a sale or business matter, the other will not interfere unless his advice is sought.
6. Never go to bed angry, says the Holy Spirit. The more generous of the two shall take the initiative in the evening.
7. When a fault has been forgiven at night, it shall not be raised again, except before the Justice of the peace.
8. Only the two leaders will receive the money.
9. They will not absent themselves from the house without telling one another.
10. The workers will be treated honestly, correcting them by reasoning with them.
11. In the winter, the two leaders would do well to go to Mass separately - but when business is not too pressing, to the 6:00 a.m. Mass.

Lyons, November 24, 1850

Eymard

Gaudioz

f. Gaudioz²⁴

²⁴ The signature of Mother Marie Clemence du SS, the second Superior General of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, is also appended to this document.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 5/52)

J.M.J.

November 25, 1850

Miss Stephanie
Mademoiselle,

Your letter pleased me, especially when I learned about your fidelity to meditation and your other practices of devotion.

Your method for meditation is a good one. Accomplish this holy practice only to do the holy Will of God, to consecrate yourself to his service, humble yourself at his feet, present your needs to him like a poor little one, tell him your gratitude, your love. Love is the purpose of everything. So consider the reflections, affections, resolutions of your meditation only as means to lead you to the union of divine Love.

Let love therefore be the soul and foundation of everything. When this feeling predominates, put all the rest aside. Means are useless when we achieve the goal.

But as you know, divine Love is as insatiable as fire, always wanting more, and causes suffering by burning whatever is extraneous to it.

Keep your soul at peace, in order to be able to be very attentive and very faithful to the inner movements of the Holy Spirit.

Your soul will be in peace if you constantly renew its generous willingness to suffer anything, to set anything aside for something else, in a word, to sacrifice your will when the Will of God asks for something else.

What irritates and upsets us is our miserable will with desires that are too strong, or a feeling of independence which is too fearful of the holy bondage of the cross.

So, always keep your heart united to the divine Heart of our Lord, in order that his love may become the life, the principle of your actions, and the center of your rest.

Goodbye my dear daughter. Go anywhere joyfully when God wants it, and the Tabernacle, Heaven, God, our love can be found everywhere.

Eymard

TO FR. MARIE CHIRON²⁵
(VI 2/2)

Lyons, November 26, 1850

Dear Reverend Father,

Yes, let us adore the holy Will of God in everything that happens.

By the refusals you are experiencing, you can see how the spirit of God has withdrawn from those who ought to be filled with it, and how far materialism has spread its damage. It is time for God to come to the help of his Church; he will not delay.

²⁵ Founder of the Congregation of St. Martha of the Assumption for the care of the mentally ill.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

I urge you not to think of a trip to Rome. Events will happen sooner than you may think. They would overtake you on the way.

After these events, everything will change little by little and you will obtain easily what was refused to you until now.

Pray always, pray a great deal for me, and for all.

I am affectionately in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary your devoted servant,

Eymard

230

CO 229

TO FR. ANTOINE BERTHOLON, S.M.

(VI 2/2)

La Favorite, St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons, November 30, 1850

Very dear colleague,

Last night I saw his Eminence. I gave him your letter and the notice. The Bishop is well disposed toward this foundation. You know that devotion to the Blessed Sacrament is the privileged devotion of his Eminence. So all he wants is to see it strengthened in Lyons and in the diocese.

About the possibility of a trip by Sister Therese, his Eminence replied: The Superior is right, we can communicate better in person, so I will be happy to receive her.

Then the Bishop asked me to look for some locations so that when Sr. Therese arrives, we can show her something. I will start looking today. Pray and have others pray that I may succeed according to God's good pleasure; especially novenas for the souls in Purgatory.

For this new foundation I would advise: 1. not to go outside the city, or to places that are difficult to visit, so that the people of the city may go to adore the Blessed Sacrament easily;

2. Choose a place with possibility of expansion and begin little by little. With the Cardinal, we must be direct and trusting, yet make this foundation as if we expected nothing from him, although that will surely come for he is so good! Then, the devout people of Lyons will be generous;

3. Concerning retreats to be made in the house by outsiders, it would be better not to emphasize that. It will come later naturally.

Assure good Sister Therese of all my dedication, and believe me ever, dear Father, your very affectionate colleague,

Eymard P.M.

Father Bertholon
Marist Priest
rue Montparnasse 9 or 35
Paris

TO FR. JEAN CLAUDE COLIN S.M.
(VI 3/6)

Lyons, December 1850

I am writing to place the Brief from the Pope for the Third-Order into your hands. His Eminence, the Cardinal Archbishop of Lyons, sent it to me; he calls it a Canonical Institution. It seems that the Cardinal was flattered by this gesture of confidence from the Pope toward him, and of the power which he was giving him. Hardly had he read the Brief and the letter from Father Theiner explaining it, he added: "Well, we will forward this Brief with pleasure. We need to write a report with the *attentis* and dispatch an official certificate. I will do the rest later." And I answered: "His Eminence will do as he judges necessary."

So that is how I received this Canonical Institution with all its formalities. When I received it, a feeling of joy and of sadness both filled my heart at the same time, especially when I read #4 where my name is written. I really do want to tell you, as my Father, that I am very innocent in this matter. If I could have foreseen that, I would have been quite opposed to it. We could solve this problem as follows: These fundamental articles relating to the Third-Order could be requested only from you.

Truly, Father, I can only be amazed, and adore God, when I consider how the Third-Order has moved forward. Its trials (and I must admit that they closely resemble those of the Society), when I see this approbation from the Sovereign Pontiff come, as if by an exceptional favor, the Cardinal who until then had been quite cold, become so interested at the very time when I thought the Third-Order was at death's door.

I must admit that I was so frustrated and sad that I hoped it would die, especially, Reverend Father, after I heard about your disappointment, which the indiscretions of a few Fathers spread among the public. All that had saddened me to the point that I had put off spiritual directions at intervals of two or three months. I was receiving no more new members, and I didn't dare encourage anyone to [join], I was letting Providence act... and now I see that the blessing of the Church is coming to strengthen what was unsteady, giving it the time and freedom it needs to be perfected.

At the sight of this, I cannot help saying: *Digitus Dei est hic!*²⁶ You shared your ideas about the Third-Order with me. Be sure, Very Reverend Father, I will not stray from them and I will ever be your loving and obedient son.

J. Eymard

²⁶ The finger of God is here.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 5/76)

La Favorite, 22 St. Ireneus, Lyons, December 4, 1850

Madame,

I would have been so happy to see you before you left for Paris. However, since he didn't let it be so, may he be praised!

I couldn't answer you sooner. A thousand and one things have just come up.

As for the young man, it would have been desirable that he remain at some distance. Prolonged absence corrects the foolishness of that illness. You did well to try to reason with him. But what should you do now? It seems to me that you fulfilled your responsibility in charity, and your only responsibility now is unquestioning silence. You cannot count on the father's weakness for support. In your situation, I would let things go awhile, while giving prudent advice. When I say "let things go", what I mean is to be a bit passive and let them struggle a little between them. As you can see, I am a bit unsure, as I don't know the persons, or the heart's pain, I almost don't know what to say. If you were staying at Thorins, you would be able to save everything by following it up. But since you must leave, I can only see what I said above.

The new details that you gave me, Madame, about Mr. B., only confirm my thoughts expressed in the first letter: that is, that Mr. B. should do good [deeds] according to his present grace. We should never rush to set up a foundation. Somehow God must push and press us; we shouldn't rush his time. So, let's wait a while longer given the difficulties related to [finding] the location. That is nothing at all when establishing a school, especially a free one.

Live of the Good Lord, Madame, of our Eucharistic Lord. Otherwise, you cannot be a constant victim of love. Observe carefully how divine Providence guides you. God does everything, organizes everything, foresees everything to lead you to him. So, therefore, be without a past, without a future, but ever present to the divine will of our good Master. He will lead you by the hand through every difficulty to the grace of his perfect love.

Goodbye Madame, may our Lord be your way, your truth and your life. My respects to Mademoiselle [Stephanie] and a remembrance in her prayers. I'm happy to hear the good news you gave me about her.

For Mademoiselle, love consists in the joyful loving self-denial of her will to God's.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame,
Madame Gourd

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SISTER JOSEPH DU SS)
(VI 1/1 V 76)²⁷

----- SPIRITUAL COUNSELS -----

Receive Communion, pray, act like God's poor one, and God in his mercy will make up what is lacking.

May God bless you and lead you by the hand!

Distinguish carefully what comes from God, from reason, from the imagination - from what remains from scruples or from the devil. - And judge each thing by its own cause and principle.

Go to God through everything that happens, without being attached to anything except his holy Will and his good pleasure. If the opportunity to practice some virtue presents itself, use it to please God; but do not make an occupation of it - it's a visit from a heavenly messenger, that's all.

Focus your spiritual life in your heart, in the desire to be wholly God's and for God. As for your mind, intelligence, memory, even reflection, - leave them at the door of the sanctuary of divine love. Don't struggle directly against your distractions, or the wanderings of your imagination. See it all as something foreign to your desire to love and serve God, and then, if you are not troubled or anxious about it, your heart will gently draw all your faculties towards God.

Dec. 5 - The Archbishop of Lyons decreed the canonical establishment of the Third Order of Mary.

TO FR. AGOSTINO THEINER
(VI 1/2)

J.M.J.

Lyons, December 16, 1850

Very Reverend Father,

The two scholastics you sent to me brought me the precious Brief which you obtained from His Holiness for the approbation of the Third Order of Mary. It is impossible to tell you the joy and happiness it gave me. But how can I express our gratitude to you. I can only do so by calling you the Father of the Third Order and its first Founder in the Church. May the Blessed Virgin repay you for all the good that you have done and still desire to do for us...

The whole Third Order is praying and will pray for you for a long time to come.

His Eminence Cardinal de Bonald was very touched by your remembrance and the work you sent as a gift. He asked me to convey his affection and special thanks.

His Eminence, in virtue of the faculties obtained, instituted the Third Order canonically as a delegate of the Holy See, and gave it the indulgences indicated in the Petition. So now we are really in order, and I hope that the blessing of the Church will be a source of life and graces for all the members of the Third Order.

It is with regret that I tell you that today your two proteges, Mr. Mangold Desmas and Father Xavier Valdogl, had to leave for Bavaria. Last night they received a pressing and threatening letter from their families so they had to return to their country immediately. They had received similar

²⁷ There is no indication of place or date for this Document. However, around this time Eymard's direction to Mme. Gourd seems more substantial. Therefore, this document is placed here. (Ed.)

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

letters several times before because of the debts that had been contracted for them. I did all I could to keep them, but it was impossible. They left and we are grieving for them, for they both edified us all. They are learned and holy young men; they promised to return later.

Since I could not show my gratitude to you, very Reverend Father, I tried to do so toward them because of you, for they were under my immediate direction. I gave them some of the means for their trip. If one day I have the joy of seeing you, I would like to ask you some details about the grace you obtained for us from the Holy Father for the Third Order.

Together with my expression of deep gratitude, please receive my profound respect by which I am, in our Lord, Very Reverend Father,

Your humble and obedient Servant,
Eymard, Marist Priest

(My address is: La Favorite #22
St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons)

P.S. Please excuse my delay in sending you my letter of thanks. I was waiting for an opportunity - If you could help Bishop Lucquet in favor of a learned man who has just offered all his works, four volumes in 4° as a tribute to His Holiness Pius IX.

Believe me ever, Very Reverend Father, your ever grateful servant,

Eymard

Lyons, March 16, 1851
To Very Rev. Father Theiner, Agostino
Oratorian Priest, at the Chiesa Nova
Rome, via Marseilles

235

CO 233

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 1/14)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons, December 19, 1850

Dear Sir,²⁸

I was immensely pleased to receive your fine letter. I have often thanked divine Providence already for giving me the blessed opportunity to meet you. When the same spirit is discovered between the hearts of two strangers, a bond is quickly formed. When God is this bond, it becomes very beautiful and strong. Therefore, I am happy to receive you as a novice in the Third Order of Mary. In keeping with the faculties I have received, I delegate your fine director to receive your first consecration, which I am sending you herewith, and even to receive your profession communicating all the indulgences which we have just received from the Sovereign Pontiff. That is: a Plenary indulgence for the Third Order Members on their profession day, twice a month on the day of their choice on the feasts of Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost, the Holy Name of Jesus, the Heart of Jesus; the feasts of the Immaculate Conception, the Nativity, the Holy Name of Mary, the Presentation, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Assumption, the Transfixion (Passion Friday), Our Lady of Seven Sorrows (third Sunday of September), the Most Pure Heart of Mary,

²⁸ First of 14 letters addressed to M. E de Leudeville, at Leudeville, near Marolles-en-Hurepoix (Seine-et-Oise)

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Our Lady of Mercy; All Saints, on the Feasts of St. Joseph, the Patronage of St. Joseph, St. Michael the Archangel, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, the holy Guardian Angels.

These indulgences can all be applied to the souls in Purgatory; but they can be gained only after profession has been made.

I would advise you to make your consecration as a novice at Christmas and your profession at Easter, and dispense you from the rest of the time [required]. If the times should become stormy, you could be received when you wish.

Dear Sir, I would like this favor to remain secret, because we don't want to make the Third Order public yet. And if O... wanted to join it, I very willingly give your director a second delegation, with pleasure.

Thank you for the precious news you give me about him, and I pray for him daily at the holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

I carried out your errand to Miss Chauda, and fine Mme. d'Apohier, whom I respect very much.

Later, I will send you what I can about the Third Order. I associated the child whom you recommended. The conditions are: (1) That the child will bear the name of Mary at its baptism; (2) that they will recite a Hail Mary or a *Memorare* every day until it is baptised with this invocation: "Oh Mary, Mother of holy Hope, pray for us."

You are in good hands, dear Sir, your soul is well-guided. I hope that this new bond which you are contracting with the Blessed Virgin will be a treasure of grace and merits for you especially, a powerful shield in the midst of dangers.

I can only encourage you to mental prayer, in all simplicity and surrender to divine goodness. It's true that meditation is hard work, but it's always fruitful. The difficulties which accompany it become the source of greater virtues and the source of precious graces. When we have a spirit of prayer we have everything. It's the remedy for every evil.

Go to prayer like a poor child, and you will always be well there. Prayer is not and cannot be other than the humble and trusting exercise of our spiritual poverty. The poorer we are, the more right we have to divine charity. This thought has enriched many suffering souls.

Please receive as a brother the fond and ever devoted feelings of the one who is happy to be,

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard

(My address is: at La Favorite, #22 St. Irenaeus Quarter, Lyons.) I will send you the formula for profession later. Excuse my haste. I want to send my letter today.

236

CO 234

TO MISS DAVID²⁹
(VII 1/2)

La Favorite, December 19, 1850

While praying particularly for our dear Third Order during my thanksgiving, I felt strongly urged to write my thoughts to you about reparation through Adoration.

For a long time I have wanted a regular center for the Third Order, because I could see the future impossibility of our being the center at the Mother-House of the Society. Sooner or later, it will be necessary to leave there, as the number of Third Order members grows. But the Third Order needed to spend its stormy childhood near its mother, under the same roof, in order to be able to

²⁹ Directress of the Third Order of Mary.

live by its spirit and grow in its shadow; it needed this proximity, so that it could be cared for and blessed at the sight of God's blessing. But now, the Third Order has become a child of the Church. It must be allowed to root itself more deeply. It needs a permanent center of action and support. I dreamed about such a center. I was asking God for it. Nothing of what was proposed satisfied me. I had even suggested this idea to the Marist Sisters, but they did not enter into it. They preferred a beautiful name, perhaps, but which never left the cradle. Their beginnings do not have and do not provide enough help, enough exercises. So God used me [to bring] these Ladies from Paris to Lyons. His Eminence is calling them to Lyons as belonging to the Third Order of Mary. Father Superior is recommending their establishment; he accepts them as Third Order Members. He wants to make them the regular center of the Third Order. Seeing such great signs and strong proofs of divine Providence, I couldn't help weeping with joy. For the last three years I had had this thought and I was asking God to bring it to fulfillment, if it were for his greater glory. The character of the Work of the Sisters of the Reparation will serve very well as an exterior mantle to cover and hide the Third Order, if it must. I would like these Ladies to have this name while being regular Third Order members. Reparation by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament would be the means, nourishment, exercise of the spiritual life of the members in the world, but not their name. The vocation and the religious bond between the members of the secular Third Order, reparation by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament could only be established where regular Third Order members would have houses. The main thought which strikes me in this, is that the regular Third Order would be like the eucharistic Cenacle of the secular Third Order existing as a Congregation.

And so after Pentecost the Blessed Virgin spent her life (ever simple and hidden) at the foot of the divine tabernacle and it is the place of honor of a daughter of Mary next to her good and tender Mother, and the Third Order would keep its title, which has and continues to make it so precious. It would remain the Third Order of the Interior Life, because it is all of that and it is only that. What would the relationship be between the Secular and the Religious Third Order members? The closest and most sisterly ones, since all would have only one spirit, one family, one purpose.

Some may say: but the Fathers are forsaking us! No, no, never. They would be even more devoted to the spiritual welfare of the Third Order. This is my profound conviction and Rev. Father Superior General's word.

In this way, do not fear, Mademoiselle, to come into close contact with these Ladies, have a common and sisterly purpose. Consider them as your sisters, your mothers even. The Blessed Virgin will use them to help you and will use you to support and strengthen them.

Even if they had not been members of the Third Order of Mary, I would have told you: "Come to their help, support their work"; but as your sisters, I tell you: Love them as sisters. I would almost say as tender daughters as they are the ones who will receive your last years, your final breath.

This thought suddenly comes to me, I will share it with you simply and leave it to your wisdom and prudence. I would prefer if the sisters were not as generous as they were for our Society last year. Our great reward is to help you in a fatherly way and to see you all progress in the virtues of Mary and in the love of our Lord. What I would prefer, what would surely be welcomed if you ever wanted to show gratitude (and you do so too much, for us who do so little for you), do so by coming to the aid of this new foundation, rather than to us. Raise a tabernacle of love for Jesus, that would be worth infinitely more. - Oh! I beg you, do nothing for us. I don't think it would please Father Superior. It would even hurt him. It isn't that I am hiding something, no. But knowing the kind heart of the sisters,³⁰ I'm always afraid that these kind hearts try to be too generous.

So this is a long letter, I am sending it to you and I beg our Lord to be your life, your center and your happiness always.

³⁰ The members of the Third Order.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 53/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, December 26, 1850

Mademoiselle,

I've just seen Miss Jenny. She was up. She feels a little more pain. The Ladies told me that they found her a little better. I told her what she should do, I ordered her especially to follow the doctor's instructions. She promised me she would. I reassured her a little about your household. She was worried and especially sorry for having left you and Miss Claudine so tired. She admitted to me that it would have been very imprudent for her to go to Chasselay alone. I tried to have her see her illness as an act of Providence.

How are you? Are you better, especially a little stronger? What is there between us then? I don't understand anything about it, anymore. I make you suffer without wanting to, without knowing it. What does that come from? It's a mystery to me. I prefer to think that God allows it, since it seems to me that I desire only what is good for you, and to help you as best I can on the thorny and crucifying path of your daily life.

What should be done in the midst of these difficulties? Oh! Be patient, remain yet more closely united to God and his holy cross. Wait with love for God's moment. I know very well that when we are on the cross, in the midst of the pain of being crucified, we are capable of only one thought, a feeling of sacrifice. Then everything causes us to suffer. Everything becomes a suffering and increases our trials.

Courage, poor daughter. We must love Jesus on the cross through death, burial, resurrection and triumphant ascension. I pray very much for you, that the Good Lord will give you good things in return for the cross I gave you.

Eymard

Your letter arrived on December 27th, when I was sending you mine. I read and reread it. Thank you for it. All I saw in that was your love for the Third Order and your charity for me. What you tell me is right, and I really appreciated your remarks. I had already taken steps and had received serious explanations from the Superior on what had struck you about that Work of Adoration. It would be too long to explain it to you here. Yet they are leaving the Third Order its full nature, its spirit of an inner and humble life. - In a year, when these women are well established, when we have seen them at work, then we could seriously consider a merger. We are approved and those women are not. They still have nothing. However, God has blessed the little mustard seed of the Third Order. - So, in a year, we can see many things, and there is time to study the matter. As for me, as I have said, for the moment, I consider the Work of Reparation as a Work separate from the Third Order. However, I would be very pleased to see the Third Order members join it freely. Still, a person could belong to the Third Order without belonging to this Work.

So, I praise you for your honesty and openness of heart with me. It's what I esteem the most about you. Ask the good Master that I be not too zealous and eager. It's true, our poor human nature would like to be freed from its difficulties and trials at the first possible opportunity.

Pray especially to the Blessed Virgin that I may be a little more generous, or rather, that I not pull back from sacrifices, because our human nature sometimes does so.

As for the positive response you are requesting from me, I have none other to give than to bless you and ask our Lord that you may let yourself be immolated by the two-edged sword of his love. May natural feelings not spoil what grace has done in you! Why are you surprised that I crucify you? It's necessary since the Good Lord wants it and does it in spite of me. Complain to our good

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Father, and not to me, since I am already suffering enough to see you suffering and troubled. Take heart! Paradise for you, perfect solitude and oblivion for me, and we will both be happy.

P.S. You are ill-at-ease concerning what you should write about? Whatever you want to, are able to, are thinking and suffering. What a child you are, sometimes!

238

CO 236

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 79/145 VI 10)

La Favorite, 22, St. Ireneus Quarter, Lyons, December 31, 1850

Dear sisters,

I'm writing to thank you for all your good wishes, to ask you to forgive my delay in writing to you. I don't know how the days, the weeks and the months pass. My life is so busy that I keep waiting in vain for a nice free moment to write you a long letter.

What consoles me a little, is that our kind Miss Guillot writes to you more often. I don't think that I, nor our Fathers, will be able to go preach the Jubilee at La Mure. I cannot leave the novitiate, because the former Superior is still not well.

I offered myself twice to our Superiors for La Mure when I saw their difficulty, but it's impossible for the moment. I regret it for the pastor's sake. It's just that the Jubilee at Grenoble was announced later than that of Lyons, so the Pastors at Lyons had precedence. The Pastor of La Mure wrote me his difficulty. I understand it. He is right. But when faced with the impossible, what can one do?

I am always very happy at the novitiate and am even better here than at Lyons. Miss Guillot told me that the number of Third Order members at La Mure is increasing. Oh! please, be prudent, because it could cause me difficulties. I even wish that there would be delay in receiving new members, because new faculties are needed now that the Third Order has been approved. Then, do not have Third Order meetings at home, nor elsewhere. The stones speak, and you know how touchy it is. If someone speaks to you about it, say that it is only a personal affiliation, and in fact it is only that.

What can I wish for you, my good sisters, during this new year? Nothing other than the growth of God's love in you, great faithfulness to God's graces and with that you will be perfect.

Every day, let us become detached from some aspect of this miserable world. Let us distance ourselves from it every day, withdraw in God, live in our Lord's peace, and we will be happy.

The world is passing away! it is like smoke, life is like a single day, and our life is almost over. Oh! dear sisters, let us live for heaven, in heaven. That is worth more than anything.

As usual I said Christmas Mass for you. I like to present you to the Child Jesus.

May he bless you as I love you! I am in his divine love,

Dear sisters,

Your very loving brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 54/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, January 1, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I've just seen your sister,³¹ and she is still the same as she was the other day. She was very upset by the unsealed letter. It would be wise to guard against anything upsetting. The poor girl is so weak! What encourages me is that she is well cared for. You may burn the letter that she gave you for me. She told me its contents. I saw Mr. Belioz who told me that her illness comes from the liver. That is the source of her melancholy and distress. However, there could be a remedy.... Oh, I understand it and so do you, but the Good Lord seems to really want this Calvary, since any other means is impossible. In this case we need all the love we have to conform to God's will, to accept one's daily dying with love.

I am expecting you Sunday around 9:30.

I wished you all a happy New Year this morning at Fourviere, at 5:00. I am the one who said the first Mass. I wanted to do so. What did I ask for you in particular? that you would be very faithful to the grace of self-sacrifice that our Lord renews in you daily; that you become a lamb with the Lamb of God; that you let yourself be sacrificed like the divine Spouse of your heart: the divine Lamb is both meek and humble.

I also asked him to give you relief from all your difficulties, or at least, the grace to sanctify them. Everyone is giving you trouble; the mysterious grace of love is gradually stripping you of your old self. Let's always remember the beautiful answer given by St. John of the Cross when, as a reward for his love for him, our Lord asked: "What grace do you want from me?" - "Lord", replied this great soul, "the grace to suffer and be despised for love of you." Sunday, we will clear up some of your difficulties, if the Good Lord gives us the grace [to do so]. Sincerely believe that I am not acting secretly, nor distrustfully toward you: oh no, no! It's just that I don't think of certain things to say or to teach you. I'm naturally very distracted, and my mind is absorbed in thought.

I understand your troubles like a doctor understands an illness he hasn't had. He treats it according to the principles of his art. But what I do know, and that I am sure of, is that I take responsibility for your direction and the rules that I give you. By following them, you will have more merit before God than if they seemed more satisfying. But what I ask of you please, is that you should always try to see the good side of things and presume that they always come from a tender charity, which seeks only the greater good of its children.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

³¹ Jenny Guillot.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 55/395 VI 2)

Tuesday, Fourviere, Lyons, January, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to you from Fourviere from Miss Jenny's. She is well. I told her everything, that is, about the house rented from Miss Jaricot. She is very happy about it. She'll stay here until you let her know. Yesterday she saw Miss Berlioz.³² She will not take her treatment³³ until next week.

I've just come back from Miss Jaricot's. She will receive you with open arms. She wholeheartedly offers you her two chapels, especially the inside one. She is allowing you to choose the two rooms or those which are in the library, on the first floor, or the house of St. Joseph which is a hundred and fifty francs. The library is better and I would advise you to take that one. But Miss Jaricot has set a condition; that is, that if she should rent her large house, she would like to have the library rooms. In that case, you would go to the house of St. Joseph. She will provide a few bed frames and a few chairs. I settled it for you. The business is taken care of.

Yesterday, I went to see two houses at St. Ireneus. But everything is more expensive than at Miss Jaricot's.

I was hoping to come see you today. I stayed too long at Miss Jaricot's; all my time was spent there. May God be praised, and also all of you, in his divine love!

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 1/9)

Lyons, La Favorite, Jan. 3, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to tell you the sorrow and sadness [I felt] in my heart when I learned the sad news about your dear father's death, and I shared in your [sorrow], if that were possible.

Christian faith and hope were your strength on that calvary. Alas, you will continue to need them now doubly an orphan! But our Lord is there, and you are his daughter and spouse; it is in his love that your pious father rests and that you will always find him.

We prayed for him and we will continue to do so, especially in the Third Order of which he was the first member.

³² Perhaps a misprint for Mr. Berlioz, the doctor. Ed.

³³ literally: purge.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

When we pray for your father we will pray for his daughters, so that they may always be the heiresses of his strong faith and tender piety.

Believe me ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P.M.

Miss Agarithé Monavon
rue des Castries, 10
Lyons

Jan. 21 - Profound experience at Fourvière in relation to establishing a Work to honor the Holy Eucharist.

242

CO 239

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 6/76)

January 26, 1851

Madame,

Your letter led me to thank our Lord, I was worried about you and your [loved ones]. Now you tell me that you have been ill, and I would like to scold you for neglecting to take care of yourself.

Sometimes our good Master is the one who isolates us through illness, to be able to speak to our poor soul which continually flees him. Then, a little suffering wonderfully disposes the soul to receive the touch of grace. Madame, I hope that you may often have two hours of rest at the feet of the divine Master, in order to find yourself fully at his feet, be filled with his spirit and love, [to compensate] for the rest of the time when you must be available to others. Let's learn how to do as the Saints did: to be with God first, and then for others in God's presence. You tell me: "But I don't know how! I don't think about it!" It is so easy to cast a simple glance towards God, who is present in us or around us, an interior act of offering, of petition, of acceptance of everything. Happy is the soul who lives thus with God. What a beautiful friendship! Then heaven is everywhere. Let us bear well with the ups and downs of life, of our interior state, of our heart, by our love for the holy Will of God. When everything seems to irritate and frustrate us, let us take a firm hold on our poor heart, without letting it examine the cause of its frustration, and encourage it with the thought of doing something for the love of God.

As for confession, I would prefer to see you both choose the Pastor. You can see the reasons for it, the stability, the trust. So when you return, see whether he is a man of prayer.

May our Lord always keep you in his holy care and bring you back safely.

I present you and all your loved ones to him daily.

Believe me, in his divine love.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame
Madame Gourd,
Paris
Please hold

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 6/52)

January 26, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Continue to let the holy and ever-gracious Will of God be your rule, your center and the purpose of all your actions and desires. Our dear Father who is in Heaven keeps his loving glance fixed upon us, and his divine Providence foresees and ordains everything for our greater good.

Don't be surprised by the changeability of your soul. It comes from God who wants us to practice some particular virtue, like gentleness, patience, humble acceptance of ourselves. So, when you feel so sad, or ill humored, don't allow these feelings to enter into your heart; pretend that you do not see it. It is a passing cloud which veils the sun of charity as it passes. Treat it like a rheumatic pain and act the same as usual exteriorly. However, if it should last too long, causing anxiety and a certain frustration, you would do well to mention it to your dear mother, more as a difficulty than as a feeling from the heart.

It would be wise not to mention the apparent reason, for fear of awakening natural hostilities. However, if it torments you, say everything.

Continue to go to Communion because you are weak, and then because we must live in our Lord and receive him in order to do so, because our kind Savior has said: "Whoever eats me will live for me; the one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him."

It is better to go to holy Communion with your weaknesses than to distance yourself from it through fear or humility. Love expresses itself more through surrender than through respect, more through trust than through fear. Receive Communion with the desire to love him ever more; that is the best disposition.

For meditation, I advise you not to do it during the day in order to do it with greater attention.³⁴

The morning is sufficient and the morning meditation should center on the Tabernacle, or on your Jesus in your heart, using this profound and eternal phrase: "Jesus is my God and my all." In this effort of love, don't always speak, but be silent at the feet of Jesus, be happy to see him, look at him, hear him, know that you are at his feet. The true word of love is more interior than exterior.

Please! Have courage on this road to Heaven! Let us continue to walk on the rocks and thorns of life in the desert.

Thank you for praying for me. You know that you are present in my thoughts before God.

Eymard

Jan. 29 - First exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by the Reparatrix sisters in Lyons.

³⁴ literally: more formally.

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 2/7)³⁵

Lyons, January 29, 1851

Reverend Vicar General and dear Father,

I am writing to thank you wholeheartedly for your 2 letters. They only confirmed my first conviction about the truth of the apparition of La Salette. I professed it toward and against all its enemies. The incredible thing is that by trying to be prudent, learned clerics are becoming unbelievers. They have done so much harm to weak and indifferent souls.

I really like the saying of the Bishop of Belley to one of his friends: "What happened at Ars is only a trial, a storm created by the devil. The fact of La Salette will emerge only the more brilliantly." Those who speak against La Salette were pleased to be able to justify their unbelief and did not notice that to avoid the credulity of women, as they call it, they fall into a strange contradiction. They base their judgment on a fact which is ridiculous to the eyes of reason and common sense such as the one of Ars, without proof, without study, without dignity -- Now they are beginning to be silent and say, "The truth will come to light."

Now about your young man. It is with much regret that our Society cannot take care of him. A man can enter here only during philosophy. Until now, we have refused all requests made by those below this class.

I have a suggestion for you. I could recommend him to the Seminary of Belley or Meximieux, and I could hope to obtain his entry for 300 francs a year if you would like that. I would be very happy to show you a new proof of my gratitude and entire filial dedication.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Fondly,
Eymard, PM.

Feb. 1 - Death of Captain Marceau, Fr. Eymard's Directee.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 56/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, February 2, 1851

My respects to your whole family. May our Lord bless it on this holy day! Be sure to offer yourself with the child Jesus through the hands of Mary,³⁶ to God his Father.

Offer yourself for whatever he may desire, for whatever may please him most. A soul's only true happiness is to rest in God's holy will; should this divine will be crucifying, it is love's most beautiful triumph.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eyd.

³⁵ Vicar General of Grenoble

³⁶ Feast of the Presentation.

TO FR. JEAN CLAUDE COLIN, S.M.
(VI 4/6)

*La Favorite, February 3, 1851*³⁷

After mature reflection, after much prayer of my own and asking others to pray, and after consultation, I have finally decided to open my heart to you about an idea I have been struggling with for a long time, which is constantly pursuing me, reproaching me for resisting God's voice. The idea is the following:

One day I was at Fourviere in passing (Jan. 21), and I felt strongly moved:

1. By the spiritual neglect of secular priests in the midst of their ministry and of devout lay people; the complaint that some priests had made to me, feeling so alone and isolated from all special help; not having for themselves the help which even lay people have in the world, in devout associations which fill our cities.

2. By the lack of spiritual direction for most devout people especially on the interior life, which is obvious to every priest in the Sacred Ministry; also that there are so few people with solid virtues, with well-defined piety!

3. By the small amount of devotion shown toward the Most Blessed Sacrament, which I believe is the primary source of so much indifference and lack of devotion.

4. By so many sacrileges committed against the adorable Sacrament.

Moved by all these thoughts, another came to me: it would be necessary to establish for men what is going to be established for women, a body of men for reparatory adoration - this body would form a community, and this community would have associates in the city, who would come to renew themselves in the community, share their adorations, and come for private retreats.

The church and the community would be open to men only.

The priests in charge would exercise their ministry in the house and labor only for the progress and strengthening of the Work.

This special group would be bound to the Society of Mary by a spiritual bond; it would be its Third-Order but with an independent existence.

Would this work succeed in Lyons? - I believe so. All devout people feel this vacuum. But how? - If God wants it, he will surely provide the temporal means. If the principle is accepted, the rest is only a matter of Providence.

So, dear Father, this is the simple presentation of my feelings. I submit them to you as my father, praying and urging you to study them before God. The matter is serious, and that is why I don't want to take it on myself, and so I place it on your conscience, for you only want the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.

It seems to me that I can say that it is by no merely human motive that I am writing you all this, and that no purely natural motive led me to it. If I consulted only my tastes, my desires, I would prefer a life of complete retreat and solitude. God has allowed me to taste its peace and happiness. But if he wants this sacrifice, this immolation from me, I will ask him for the grace and you will ask it for me.

- Third-Order of Reparatory Adoration -

Its purpose. The Eucharist [is] the whole religion of love. The Eucharist is Jesus Christ himself, substantially present in our midst with his graces, his virtues, his love.

It is the perpetual and consuming fire of divine love, the divine victim which is still the victim of reparation for the salvation of the world.

To rekindle faith, devotion, love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

³⁷ This outline was in fact not sent to Fr. Colin.

To sustain, feed, perfect the Christian perfection of the laity by the adorable worship of the Eucharist.

To become a victim of reparation for so much indifference, so many sacrileges against Jesus Eucharistic.

That is the work par excellence. All others flow from it as from their source and flow back to it as to their goal.

It is the Work for our times. Great evils require great remedies. We need Jesus Christ as Host and Victim. At the time of public disasters, the Church orders forty hours. Today these disasters and crimes are covering the world. We need for Jesus Christ to be always exposed, always a Victim, before the face of his Heavenly Father, and ever exposed to rekindle our faith, our piety and our love.

Great sacrifices require great courage, a strong and generous virtue. Today especially, every Catholic is not only a child of faith, a disciple of Jesus Christ, but to keep his faith pure and his heart faithful, he needs great help. Otherwise, he will give in to difficulties in the midst of the struggle. Well, it is in the Eucharist that the confessors³⁸ went to seek and draw this strength which astonished their powerful enemies, triumphed over their seductive promises and terrible wrath.

We are in the same conditions, worse perhaps, for hidden, astute and hypocritical enemies are more to be feared than tyrants and persecutors.

And the devil has won more victims of apostasy and unbelief by contact with those who are indifferent and wicked than by means of torture and death.

A Catholic Work! It would not be limited and must not be limited to one place, to one Congregation, to a few classes of people. It would be the Work of all people, - because Jesus Christ is the property of all, the Host and Victim of the salvation of all, the divine possession of every heart that wants to love and follow him.

To be received, only one request would be made: "Are you a Christian; do you want to be so in fact?" - "Yes." - Come in. A Christian must be another Jesus Christ, - a Saint, a Victim for the glory of God and the salvation of the world. This is his Calvary of reparation and love, for it is love that crucifies us here with Jesus Christ."

247

CO 244

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 57/395 VI 2)

Friday, La Favorite, February 8, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Yesterday I saw Miss Jenny. She is fine and willing to accept the apartment we choose. I told her that the Ladies of St. Regis couldn't rent out rooms. It's against their rule. The Superior would have been happy to do it. She is sorry that she can't, but she will keep Miss Jenny as long as necessary.

I saw Mr. Benoit. It was high time. Many unsuitable requests had been refused. But for you, he will lease both rooms for a hundred and sixty francs. That is his final price. He will receive you gladly. I am sending you his letter.

I'm rushed, excuse me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁸ The first Christians. Ed.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

248

CO 245

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 58/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, February 10, 1851

Dear daughter,

I was hoping I would be able to go see you. I wasn't able to do so. Fr. Lagniet came for the visitation of the Novitiate during these last few days.

The news that you had fallen made me very sad. Take care of it so that it won't become serious. It's better to nurse it right away.

Tonight I am planning to look at one or two houses near St. Ireneus for you. If you hadn't rented, it would be an option.

Tomorrow, I hope to go see you in the afternoon.

Don't worry. For me, your letters are always letters from a dear daughter, in our Lord. All these little fears should be considered as weaknesses to be overlooked.

Until tomorrow, God willing.

I took care of the errand for Mr. Benoit. I approve you in this matter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Monday
Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

249

CO 246

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 59/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

Sunday, La Favorite, February 18, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Yesterday I had hoped to go to Miss Jaricot's, and I wasn't able to [do so]. I didn't have enough time. I'll go today or in a few days, at my first free moment. I'll see the small secluded house. That may be where the Good Lord wants you. But would Dr. Berlioz go there to see you?

As for me, you know my feelings toward all of you. However as a religious, I can say nothing about the future. I leave it all to God's good pleasure. Nor should that be the determining factor. I cannot be counted on, nor should anyone depend on a poor man like me. I don't know anything about the future; I see my future only in God, and my present exists only in the desire to fulfill his holy will. For whatever the Good Lord wills is what is best and most perfect.

Your eagerly awaited letter dispelled my anxiety about your accident; may the Good Master heal you, or rather, let you suffer otherwise. Don't say: It's a punishment. No, my daughter, it isn't a punishment; it's a share³⁹ in our Lord's cross. When the cross comes, its divine origin should never be denied. Rather, receive it as a worthy disciple of Calvary, as a drop of blood from our dear Savior. Rather, I am the one who should be saying that. For, ever since I have been directing you, I have been a calvary for you. What a poor calvary that is, that doesn't even have a tomb to offer those it crucifies! So, don't set your dwelling on that thorny calvary. It's enough to pass it by and proceed to the Mount of Olives of the Ascension.

Your thoughts about Miss D's words to you strike me as pessimistic. However, I'm asking the Good Lord that they should be like a mist which is scattered in the sunlight of his grace. I would be satisfied with anything if I could see the will of God clearly in it all. I don't see it. I let things be within the limits I had told you, that is: that I considered it all to be only a personal matter, separate from the Third Order. Provided that the grace of the Third Order be kept within, even if only a few Third Order members were left, a sowing, that would suffice to raise it up on the day of Resurrection. Poor Third Order! See how low it appears to have come. It must pass through a purifying fire. Just ask our Lord and his good Mother that I may always be very closely united to the divine will, that I may do nothing that would conflict with his grace and his work.

Courage please! I bless you with all my heart as a reward for your charity.

Eyd.

P.S. I don't and haven't had anything,⁴⁰ since I am continuing at my usual pace. So, cry over yourself rather and don't be imprudent. Thursday I saw Miss Jenny; she is fine, I'm pleased with her. She expects to leave next Sunday or Monday. I promised to go see her and advised her to make arrangements with you....

My devoted and respectful regards to your whole family.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

250

CO 249

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 3/7)

La Favorite #22, St. Irenaeus, Lyons, March 6, 1851

Reverend Vicar General and dear Father,

I was absent for a short time. Therefore, kindly accept my regrets for delaying my answer to you.

Thank you very much for your brochure on La Salette. It pleased us all greatly. It will probably help good people and those who are in doubt, but as for its enemies, I doubt it. These people do not want to study the facts; they only have objections or arbitrary suppositions.

I saw many people in Lyons who are upset by all the superficial matters from Ars, as they know the position of the Cure and his state of indecision; they quickly return to the truth of La Salette. And now they believe as they did before - I would even say, more strongly. The

³⁹ literally: piece.

⁴⁰ illness.

champions of Ars are either silent or criticize. Now I can say that the fire is over, that there is only a little smoke. Your response will finish clearing things altogether. I believe it will be read favorably in Lyons; and it can do more good than the one by Fr. Beze because it goes to the heart of the matter.

The most effective route I believe would be to place it with a notice in one or a few places in Lyons. You would need to have a few at Fourviere. I could take it to two or three merchants, and recommend it to everyone I know. Father! I am your faithful son: tell me what more I can do, and my heart and voice will respond immediately.

I informed myself about the Ars pilgrimage. It is exactly the same information as I was given. The conclusion of public opinion is as follows: The good Cur said his Yes and his No. Incidentally, too much weight is given, at a distance, to the opinion of the Cur d'Ars. Here it is seen as quite ordinary with regard to discernment, and often as less. I cannot send you the written testimony of a witness from Ars, as there is none here. Mr. Thibaut was not on the journey, only the two Parisians.

I shall write at once to Belley, and tell you immediately if I have any success. I think it is the right moment, and since that good young man happens to be with the Marists, it will be easy for him to see them and introduce himself.

Be confident, dear Father, as dear Father Cholleton has just told me again, "I have always believed in the event of La Salette, and today I still believe in it as before." So do I, more firmly than ever.

Please think of me ever in your fatherly way, and believe me eternally,

Your son in J.C.
Eymard, PM.

251

CO 250

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 8/33)

JMJ

La Favorite, March 21, 1851

Madame,

I took a short trip this week and returned only last night. I am hurrying to ask you to forgive my delay. It was impossible for me to find a moment. I am burdened with business. May God be praised! I must consider myself fortunate to work for his glory and the salvation of souls. But you are going to say: it takes no time to write a word! That's true. I have had a bad migraine headache for the last three days, and it was impossible even to pick up my pen. I tried, but I had to put it aside. Now about you. Your letter pleased me. You know why, I love to see you magnanimous, strong, in control of all the waves and the frenzy of the storms, generously holding on to the anchor of God's will: strength comes from sacrifice.

Be assured, Madame, that storms do not last. Winter purifies the weather, kills all the little insects which devour the plants. Your soul seems to be dying in the midst of suffering. That's true, but it is in order to be reborn from its ashes. A soul which loves God lives through death. So have courage!

[When we are] on the edge of a precipice, we must not look at the bottom, but look determinedly above; otherwise we become dizzy. Fix your heart on our Lord. Rest assured that he is there within you, contemplating your struggles and preparing to reward them.

For the trip on the 25th, I am weighing the joy of your dear Charles against my desire to help you. A mother's joy in her child must pass first. I would advise you to go.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

It will be a beautiful feast. However, I leave you free. Please believe that your soul is always very dear to me in the sight of God.

Eymard

P.S. Tomorrow, I will be at Puylata. In the morning I will be free from 9:30 till 11:00.

252

CO 251

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 80/145 VI 10)

La Favorite, March 26, 1851

Dear Sisters,

I'm very lazy about writing to you, am I not? It has been my daily desire to do it, and I never find a free moment. I was so busy until now that I put off all my correspondence for later, but you know that my heart writes to you every day and is always with you. What consoles me, is that Miss Guillot writes to you from time to time. She does it for both of us.

This good woman has been sorely tried. She seems to be better, her arm hurts less. Her other sisters are not well either. Poor family, how tried they are! but they bear their trials well.

I will leave tomorrow for St. Chamond, a city which is about ten leagues from Lyons. I am going there to preach the Jubilee until Easter. I am being sent because of the need, there are so many requests. It has not yet been possible to go to La Mure for the Jubilee. I am insisting very much so that we may be able to go at the end of the year.

I am well, pray for me. Take care of yourselves. Continue to love the Good Lord well, and we will find our rest in paradise. Then we will be able to converse together eternally in the love of our God.

Goodbye, I will write you a longer letter at another time.

Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

I received your fine letter; it made me very happy. I am pleased that you leased out to Mme. Seymat; the repairs you did were necessary. It will come back to you later on, you did well. Only be sure to have the latrines done neatly; that is the most urgent thing. Then, have the tree in the yard cut down. Remove or repair the old dilapidated cottage in the yard. Do only what is needed, however, because one repair calls for another.

Yesterday I saw the little Reymond boy. He is well; he has really improved this year. He is not the same. He is fine. They are pleased with him.

Fr. Dumolard is fine, and he preaches well; that was an unfounded rumor. How distressed I was to learn about the death of my old friend, Mr. Fayolle. I had written to him this morning, and my letter is still here. Alas! what a loss! but what a saint!

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

**TO MME. THEODELINDE DUBOUCHE (MOTHER MARIE THERESE)
(REPARATRICE) (VI 1/2)**

La Favorite, March 27, 1851

Dear Madame,

I have a free moment - I am giving it to you. I am going to St. Chamond (Loire) in a few days' time to preach the Jubilee (which I commend to your prayers).

Your letter reassured me. I had been grieved to hear that you were suffering greatly! Alas! these are the labor pains of Calvary; there is no good work which is not sprinkled with the blood of our Lord and the sweat of his disciples.

The Work of Reparatory Adoration is my favorite Work. Every day, at the Holy Sacrifice, I bless it by name.

Now, here are my thoughts about the work in Lyons; I shall express them to you very simply, from my impressions alone.

It can do much good in Lyons, and already it is doing much, but in Lyons more than elsewhere, great prudence and great charity are needed. I know of no city where new works are so difficult to establish as Lyons. Piety there is materialistic, demanding, and egotistical, as in all cities with countless resources. The secular clergy want to concentrate everything on the parish Church.

Some parish priests are already protesting that they are being invaded by the work of reparatory adoration.. At the moment all these complaints are beginning to subside a little. I find the reason for this to be in the external direction of the work and I admire the work of Providence. If the work had had Jesuit, Marist or Capuchin directors, it would have become the focus of everyone! But it is his Eminence's chaplain who is there, Fr. Cholleton, who hears their confessions. These two men have the general confidence of all and cover the work. Later it can be perfected. It was necessary to begin this way. Fr. Mayat is a very fine priest and very helpful. Your Sisters needed all that.

It is true that the Cardinal has restricted the Sisters at home a little, has forbidden the Superior to be in the parlor all day, to give herself totally to a few gossiping devotees, who are only looking for secrets to mysticism - He wants their life to be more recollected. On that point, I understand clearly that the second purpose of zeal for souls is not complete. It will come later. But I believe that it would be better not to aggravate his Eminence. He has given permission to continue the little retreats, but even there prudence is necessary.

We must really avoid anything that would create unfavorable impressions to his Eminence, because impressions last.

For Sister Anne⁴¹ I recognized her particular attraction to the contemplative life, and I told her not to give into it too much. She has two purposes [to attain], our Lord Reparatour and souls in need of reparation. However, I warned her against certain devotees who would enslave her.

I was afraid that she was not seeing the retreatants often enough. - She told me that she saw them twice a day - and that is quite enough.

In general, I believe that Sister Anne has good judgment. She appears to be discreet and especially totally dedicated to her good Mother Marie-Therese. I think she will be appreciated when she is known better.

These, Madame, are my unorganized thoughts. I know we must found on a solid basis. But the Work has a great grace; it was blessed and I hope it will always be so.

Believe me, Madame, in our Lord,

Your ever devoted
Eymard

⁴¹ Miss Virginie Danion, later foundress of the Congregation of Thanksgiving, at Mauron (Morbihan).

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Mar. (date?) - Released from responsibility of the Novitiate. Sent to preach the Jubilee and mission at St. Chamond.

Mar. 29-April 30 - The Jubilee at St. Chamond

254

CO 253

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 9/33)

St. Chamond, March 29, 1851

Madame,

Your dear little Charles is fine, very fine. He is expecting you Tuesday, like one expects a dear mother. I am writing to ask you to render a service: please bring me the notebook with the minutes of the Third Order. I will be very grateful to you. I would really need them for a few days, because I must speak more often than I had expected.

See you Tuesday! May the Good Lord watch over you.

Eymard

255

CO 254

TO FR. CYR ARMAND CHAMPION, SSS
(VI 1/2 I 5)⁴²

*St Chamond*⁴³

God be praised! I am in the thick of the battle. I have no time to count the hours, and scarcely time to take my meals.

It is harvest-time. I shall get some rest at La Favorite, if God wills. I feel disposed to die here on the battlefield. When one has grasped the great geometric principle, there is only one line to draw, from earth to heaven; from one's own heart to the heart of God, we are free and happy. It is the happiness that comes from sacrifice.

Goodbye. I am off as into battle, on fire with courage, and above all sustained by the grace of God. I am astonished at my strong weakness.

⁴² This is the first of 7 letters to Father Armand Champion, Assistant Master of Novices at La Favorite at this time. He later joined St. Peter Julian in the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁴³ March or April 1851

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 61/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

Saint Chamond, Wednesday, April 23, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to give you a sign of life and tell you that, if I didn't answer you, it's because it was impossible to do so. I wasn't able to answer anyone, you are the first. I didn't have a moment to myself. I was even very disappointed that I couldn't take [care of] everyone, even by hearing confessions as late as 9:00 or 10:00 o'clock. How good the Good Lord is in his divine mercies! Many came back to God, but there are still many left.

I will be here until Quasimodo Sunday.⁴⁴ I'll be leaving on Monday and will stop at No. 9,⁴⁵ about 4:30 p.m., I believe.

I'm feeling better than when I began. God is sustaining me. I don't feel very tired.

I received your two letters. But I must admit that for some time now I didn't even have time to read my letters. I didn't read any; I kept them until later. That will perhaps surprise you. Well, it's true! I read yours today. I would return from church at about 10:00, 11:00 o'clock at night, with my office yet to be said. I put everything aside for souls.

I haven't even read the letter from Miss David. I'll save it for later, for I see that they are now waiting impatiently for me.

Goodbye. I bless you and all the others. Be trusting. How could you suppose coldness on my part? Oh, no! Our Lord knows it well.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

⁴⁴ Sunday after Easter.

⁴⁵ her house.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 60/395 VI 2)

*La Favorite, April 1, 1851*⁴⁶

Mademoiselle,

1. News about you?⁴⁷ - A slight cold, slightly ill.
 2. Mother's Jubilee.⁴⁸ - She may attend Mass on any other day of her choice. I had left her entirely free. Her jubilee will be a good one.
 3. What should I do about the Directress? Nothing. I read her letter, she is ruffled. - A misunderstanding is possible, but I didn't grasp it. I'm writing to her to mention the difficulties without referring to you. This is my reason: if we should name Miss C., the others would have to be renamed.
 4. If she should inquire whether I had sent her letter, or whether you know about mine to her, what should you answer? - No, that you wouldn't want to cause me that sadness, that I shouldn't be informed about these little internal difficulties.
 5. Return hers to me.
 6. Would you exclude me from the Council? - No. No. If you weren't in it I would put you in... to help you earn your Heaven[ly reward]. For the moment, don't spoil anything. Be as magnanimous and as kind toward Miss D., as she is. Avoid any blame that could wound.
 7. Will you exclude Miss C. from it? I'll consult Miss David on that point. She'll find that very difficult... We must pray.
 8. Will you find two for me? - You should point them out to me. Look for them.
 9. Mass - I'll keep you informed. Come on now, be strong. Good only happens in the midst of difficulties.
- Don't worry about the repairs at Miss Jaricot's. Let them do as they wish. We will manage very well.
- I bless you with my whole soul.

Eyd.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

⁴⁶ Probably May 1, 1851. Fr. Eymard wrote "April 1, 1851, La Favorite", but in April Fr. was in St. Chamond. Troussier.

⁴⁷ He repeats the questions from Marquerite's letter.

⁴⁸ Jubilee: Lenten celebration.

TO MR. LEO DUPONT
(U1 VII 2)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus, Lyons, May 10, 1851

Dear Sir,⁴⁹

I am writing to thank you for remembering me and for the precious letters of our mutual friend: their sentiments are sublime, immediately revealing the heights of perfection which would stop at nothing but heroism. As soon as our work is finished, I will share it with you and you will be even more edified to learn so many details which the modesty of our revered friend hid so well, but which could not be hidden from the one whom he called his Father.

I am happy for this opportunity to recommend myself to your prayers and to ask you to believe that I am in our Lord,

Dear Sir,
Your ever devoted and loving servant,
Eymard

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 2/14)

La Favorite, 22 St. Irenaeus, Lyons, May 11, 1851

Dear Sir,

Forgive me for delaying my reply. I've just returned from a Lenten Mission and Jubilee where I was busy and burdened with work.

I am really sorry that I couldn't write to you by the date you wished. In your charity please forgive me. So, you will complete the gift of your entire self to God through Mary, our divine Queen during the beautiful month of Mary. You yourself will be the beautiful flower [offered] for her beautiful Month, and our good Mother will transform this flower of love into fruits of grace, peace and holiness; and I trust into fruit for eternal life.

Then, given the evil days which seem to be rapidly approaching it is good to bind oneself with the cord of hope, with the protection of Mary, and to enroll oneself under her ever victorious banner.

Dear Sir, continue your daily meditation. It's the compass for the journey, the bread of life, our rule of holiness.

Meditation is ordinarily hard work. If we sow in sorrow and tears, its fruits are delightful. The astonishing thing is that the more a meditation is dry, arid, and accompanied with temptations, the more fruitful and perfect it is. That's because it is a Calvary of expiation and sanctification.

⁴⁹ Letter to Mr. Dupont about Captain Marceau, who had died on Feb. 1, 1851. Father Eymard collected testimonies about his directee, a Third Order Member, in order to write a biography.

Later, he was unable to continue the work and had to give up the project. His friend Fr. Mayet completed the work. The biography was published anonymously in Lyons in 1859, under the title, *August Marceau, frigate Captain, Commander of the "Arche d'Alliance."*

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Therefore, never become discouraged by this fundamental exercise, dear Sir, and don't be astonished if the devil, our enemy, attacks it so violently. St. Therese said: "The devil considers as lost to himself a soul which perseveres in prayer." St. Ligouri says that it's an infallible means to holiness. He says: "Meditation and sin cannot dwell together."

To succeed, never forget these two great principles: the first, that the state of our soul in meditation is the result of God's Will; and consequently, we must meditate in keeping with our present reality which then becomes the rule and form of our actions.

The second principle is that the supernatural success of our meditation depends solely on the grace of God. Consequently, we should not let it depend on beautiful thoughts, nor fervent feelings. We must surely use our faculties in prayer, but as a means to his grace.

Thank you for the news you give me about O... I pray very much for him, for his trials, his sufferings, etc. Fortunately, Heaven is the most beautiful and the richest of all kingdoms.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Sir, your ever dedicated and loving servant and brother.

Eymard

P.S. Your letters will always be very dear and precious to me.

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville near Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seine et Oise)

260

CO 259

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 62/395 VI 2)

La Favorite, May 15, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I'm coming to tell you that I haven't and won't be leaving for the trip I had mentioned to you yesterday. Last night I received a counter order. So here I am at La Favorite, and if you should need me, you will always find me at your service.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,

Eymard

P.S. If you see Mme. ... tell her that she will find me here.

Recommended to the Sister Portress.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
at Miss Jaricot's
Montee St. Barthelemy
Lyons

261

CO 260

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 63/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 29, 1851

My dear daughter, I am writing to give you some news. The Good Lord protected me during my trip and assisted me in my visit. I really needed it, as I had many crosses both to bear and to lighten. Today, I thank him for it.

I'm leaving tomorrow for another visit. I'm going to visit another house at Digne. From there, I hope to go to Notre Dame du Laus toward the middle of next week, to spend at least half a day. There, I will offer all of you to the good Mother of Laus, as I have already done at Notre Dame de la Garde. It's like a feast for me to think that I'll see the Blessed Virgin once again at Laus. This thought follows me everywhere, comforts and strengthens me. Oh! how happy it makes me! Mary is such a Mother there, so kind and so tender! I will ask her to heal all of you, and above all, that you may be worthy spouses of our Lord.

I'll spend a few hours, one day at the most, with my sister. Then I'll be in Lyons towards the end of next week; at least, I hope so.

Continue to pray for me. My health is the same as usual, the Good Lord doesn't seem to want me yet. I assure you that every time I go to Notre Dame du Laus, I say to myself: Oh! If I could die here, be buried near this blessed sanctuary, how happy I would be! but if the Good Lord wants me to continue to work, may he be praised!

I bless you all, and you in particular.
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

May 30 - Visitor to the Major Seminary of Digne. to La Seyne via Laus and La Mure.

262

CO 261

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 4/7)

La Favorite S. Ireneus, Lyons, June 24, 1851

Dear Vicar-General and Respected Father,

I am happy to have the opportunity to offer you my [expression of] ever deeper respect and heartfelt gratitude, and to beg you always to remember your son in our Lord. Here is the reason for my letter: a very distinguished English priest, who is the Superior of missions in his diocese, and friendly toward us, has asked me to appeal to you for an explanation of something concerning La Salette. Two months ago he passed through Ars on his way to London. And Father Raymond told him that the Pope "had issued a formal command that the 2 children of La Salette were to reveal their secret to you, by his orders; and if they refused, then all that has happened in the past would have to be considered a hoax."

The same rumor is circulating in the city of Lyons, but here they add that the children made no difficulty about revealing their secret to the Supreme Pontiff, or to a delegate. It is even claimed that Maximin said: "I do wish that this delegate from the Pope could be Father Rousselot or the Cardinal of Lyons."

I must tell you, Esteemed Father, that many people who were led astray by the unfotunate behavior of Ars have returned to their original belief. Your brochure has done much good, and the copies I received have nearly all been distributed. *Post tenebras lux.*⁵⁰

I have some more sad news for you: Monteynard, my former parish, is in great trouble. I fear a scandal may break out soon. The parish priest continues to frequent the Colonel house. This is evidenced by the fact that the Colonel woman was in the priest's parents' home on the Pentecost Day, and on June 9th. I saw her myself on my way back from a trip. I was in a coach; she recognized me and came to see me at the hotel, but I anticipated her and had already gone to see the parish priest.

If I may suggest a suitable person to save⁵¹ this poor parish, I would choose Father Girolet of la Mure - [who is] so devout and so prudent - but I must be content with praying for that dear parish which has so many good people and had given me so many consolations!

Believe me ever, dear Father,

Your devoted and ever grateful son,
Eymard, P. Marist

P.S. Dear Father Cholleton asks me to remember him to you and to offer you his fond respects.

263

CO 262

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 64/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

Lyons, Friday, July, 1851

My dear daughter,

I received your sad letter. You did well to write to me, and if I could do so, I would go see you, but I can't do so at this time. But when you need me, come, and I will always receive you with a Father's love.

My daughter, adore the holy will of God. With Mary, follow Jesus going up to Calvary. Be like a little child in obedience.

1. You are in a state of temptation... humble yourself, that is the glory which God expects from it.
2. I take upon myself the responsibility for everything. Continue your Communions, you really need them. Go through obedience, like the least of the poor.
3. Offer your day, recite the three Aves of the Third Order.
4. Go to Holy Mass, if your health allows.
5. When you are with your sisters, recite the *Angelus* and the meal prayers.
6. I desire the Rosary.

For the moment I dispense you from the examen, the reading, night prayers. But if your health allows, I want you to visit the Blessed Sacrament in the afternoon, when you are at St. Joseph's.

⁵⁰after darkness, light.

⁵¹literally: restore.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

7. I've given you permission for an hour at night [prayer] twice a week, health permitting. Please! My dear daughter, this is just one more storm through which the Good Lord will do his work. Surrender and obedience.

I bless you. Give me news about yourself. Your condition awakens my compassion.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

264

CO 263

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 3/75)

La Favorite, July 7, 1851

Madame,

I must begin by telling you about the bad luck surrounding your letter. It's by way of excusing myself. I had lost it, I only found it the night before last; imagine how badly I felt... They were constantly telling me that you would be returning to Lyons soon and I was expecting you, and I still expect you. However, I can see that the weeks and months are passing and Mme. Jordan hasn't returned yet. She is so happy in her Hermitage, surrounded by her summer cottages, among the dear native people whose friend, nurse, and mother she has become! It's true that Lyons doesn't charm the heart in the same way, but it has the charms of faith and sacrificial love.

However, Madame, I expect you to come back in good health, very spiritual, joyful and generous. It's good to vary our state of life. The heart is always looking for something new and God as well. I like the thought you expressed: to lend oneself to things without giving oneself to them; and so to protect one's freedom and presence of mind. Do continue to be like our divine Master who passed by while doing good. Thank you so much for your prayers for the Jubilee [I preached] at St. Chamond. God blessed it beyond all hope. His grace is so powerful! I was aware that so many beautiful, consoling conversions could not be the fruit [only] of human words, but of a hidden grace; may God be ever glorified!

I associated the persons you recommend to me, as requested. I knew their reputation! Poor blind people who deserve to be pitied! If they knew God's gift, his goodness, his love, the happiness of hope... They would be so happy!

Now about your young man. It would be easy to receive him as a brother with us at this time, if you present and sponsor him, Madame. I'll make it a duty to recommend him. We need to know his age, moral qualities; or better, have him come visit us in Lyons, because we do not ordinarily receive postulants sight unseen. If we did not accept him, he could apply to Fr. Rey at Tullins or the Marist Brothers at St. Chamond and I could give him a letter of recommendation.

The Third Order continues to be a comfort and a source of edification; several members are like my good Dauphinoise⁵² meditating at the sight of nature's beauty amid the peace and quiet of the valleys and hills. Don't forget my rock, its chapel, its beautiful view. Oh! What a delightful hour I spent there a few years ago, toward the close of a lovely day! I felt my soul enjoy a peace and meditation which are never forgotten.⁵³

⁵² From the Dauphin, a section of France.

⁵³ At St. Romans, when he was curate at Chatte sometime between 1835-1839.

La Favorite: April 1850 - 1851

Goodbye, Madame, you know how I name and bless you every day at the holy Altar, you, your dear daughter and fine husband.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.

Mme. Jordan, at the cottage
at St Romans via St. Marcellin
(Isere)

265

CO 264

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 81/145 VI 10)

J.M.J.

La Favorite, July 10, 1851⁵⁴

Dear sisters,

I hope that everything is going well at La Mure and that you arrived safely, on the wings of divine Providence.

Here, very simply, is the purpose of my letter. Fr. Cat knows about the existence of the Third Order at La Mure. He knows all the details about it: the monthly Mass attended by all the affiliates, the exhortations by Fr. Pillon who is spoken of as director, etc. He sees it as a clique, or at least as a possible cause of little troubles in the future... I answered that it is only a private affiliation, for in fact it is nothing else, as I have never wanted any meetings, nor organizations at La Mure. It seems that someone from the Third Order must have told the Pastor everything. I would not be surprised; all it takes is one indiscrete or gossip person.

What needs to be done now, dear sisters, is not to communicate to them what you receive from Lyons concerning the Third Order. Do not trust pietistic persons. They keep no secrets from their director.

What I mean is, do nothing which gives the appearance of a meeting.

As a private Third Order the Pastor could say nothing, but if it becomes a society he would have the right to complain. I wish that Fr. Pillon would be very prudent, putting all that aside. I fear slander by the devotees of La Mure. I leave it all to your great discretion. You are familiar with the terrain and the sensitivity of the people involved.

Live happily in your little corner, but don't worry about it all, it is nothing. The Pastor was very nice to me. I am well and pray for you, dear sisters.

All yours in J. C.
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

⁵⁴ Volume III of the French Letters says July 20. It must be the 10th because the postmark reads the 11th. Troussier.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 7/76)

J.M.J.

July 18, 1851

Madame,

Thank you for your prayers for me, especially to my holy patron. If only I resembled him a little in his love for our Lord and for his glory! But alas! I'm so poor and so cold [spiritually]. I need to receive alms⁵⁵ from my daughters. Strangely enough I think of their good more than of my own.

Now about your letter. Advise the distraught pitiful mother: 1. to remain always in the state of grace, so that the devil, who seems to dominate that man, may have no power over her. That is the important point.

2. Let her offer her sufferings to God for her husband's salvation. Because alas! he is really in danger.

3. She would do well to replace the precious relic of Venerable Gaspard de Buffalo, reciting some prayers in honor of the Precious Blood, daily, through the intercession of this great Servant of God. Here, we will join our prayers to hers and to yours, Madame.

So then, you are still very busy, always caring for others! Praise God! We can never be more certain of doing God's holy Will than when we aren't doing our own. We are never more free, nor more peaceful than in filial surrender to the most gracious Will of God. Be very happy, therefore, when you can say to the Good Lord at night:

"My God, I gave you my own will all day long."

However, don't forget that a spiritual person shouldn't become completely external, but always keep her eye on the presence of God and on her duty.

Speak interiorly with her good Master and so find God with people in the midst of the world.

See to your vocal prayers of devotion during the day, as much as possible, in order that you may be free in the evenings.

Goodbye Madame. My regards to Mademoiselle [Stephanie]: May she always be simple with the Good Lord, with herself, with you. May her road toward divine Love consist of the purity which results from sacrifice of heart and will.

All yours in our Lord

Madame Gourd,
at Romaneche
(Saone and Loire)

⁵⁵ prayers.

CHAPTER V

LA SEYNE-SUR-MER PART I 1851 - 1852

Director of the Boarding School

**Spiritual Correspondence with Members of the
Third Order of Mary - Lyons**

Chaplain to the Navy and prisoners

Coup d'Etat - Uprisings (continued)

Spiritual Guide to Adoration of Toulon

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 65/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, near Toulon (Var), August 7, 1851

I am writing, dear daughter, to give you news about myself, and tell you that I will be staying here through obedience until the end of the month of August to organize a new house. I didn't expect it, but the Good Lord awaited me here, and I am here, as at Lyons, with his holy grace and his eucharistic presence. I am very quiet here, knowing almost no one. I'm busy with material things, repairs, etc... However, I'm often thinking about Lyons and the little house of St. Joseph.¹ I pray for everyone, especially for you, in order that our good Master may carry you in times of weakness, sustain you in frustrations, be your strength and your love in everything. May your faith keep you ever mindful of the love and mercy of our Lord; let it be your life. I hope that in his kindness our Lord will never abandon you.

While I was praying for you particularly during these last few days, a strong thought came to me, to advise you to confess to Fr. Rousselon during my absence. He is Miss Jaricot's chaplain, a holy priest who is very spiritual and very learned in the ways of God. Go to him with confidence. Since I am sending you, he will not refuse you. Tell him whatever you can, without trying to explain the state of your soul to him; tell him your temptations. That will be enough for him to know you, but be sure to tell him how I am directing you and what I want from you, as regards Holy Communion. In your sensitivity of conscience, you are dispensed from explanations. You are like a sick person who can hardly speak, but the Good Lord sees the feelings of the heart.

I also recommend that your sisters go to this fine priest. It would be too long to wait for my return.

What else could you desire, my dear daughter, other than God's holy will? For it is that adorable will which is keeping me here and requires this sacrifice from you. Our Good Master is ever kind and deserving of our love in all things. How happy we are to find God everywhere, to be able to live always in him; there are no more foreign lands then, no more separations! God is all in all.

I was truly sorry that I wasn't able to see Mme. but the Good Lord hasn't yet willed it. So be it.

My best wishes to your whole family, to your dear mother. May she bear everything for the love of God; to Miss Mariette, may she work generously for God and consider herself fortunate to be the Martha of the house; to Miss Claudine, a simple and filial love for Jesus in Nazareth and on Calvary; to Miss Jenny, trust and surrender to whatever God may send; and to you, poor, deaf, blind and mute in the service of our Lord, let yourself be led where he wills and as he wills.

I bless you all in our Lord,
Eymard

And your number?

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhône)

¹ Reference to the Guillot family.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 10/33)

La-Seyne, August 8, 1851

Madame,

Man proposes and God disposes. I am still here at La-Seyne. I expected to stay only a few days, but I must stay until the end of August. God wills it, so do I, and so do you.

How many times I asked God to watch over you and to strengthen you in your good desires, to form in you his spirit of love and holiness! You are made for him. Human beings may tease your heart for a moment, distract your mind, but never fill or satisfy them!

This is the sure and necessary way: go to God by self-detachment, by the sacrifice of your whole life. Evangelical Holiness consists only in immolation, a holocaust, death and life joined in love crucified and crucifying. Well Madame, you know that God is calling you to him by this path. It is very steep, sometimes very thorny, very frightening. But how beautiful to the eyes of love, was Jesus in that sad garden, humiliated in Jerusalem, climbing Calvary in pain and letting himself be consumed there in love. Love is always a martyrdom, but the flame of sacrifice is always love.

Courage, my daughter. Let us not stop on the way. Let's not look too far ahead; it's a mystery. Let's not dwell in our crosses and trials, but in Jesus with our crosses. Remember that God asks only for our will, that is his throne. The rest is the battlefield.

My daughter, let me repeat to you once more, a thousand times more! Ignore lightning and thunder; they cannot touch you. Don't give any importance to your interior trials, in a word. Receive Communion, that is your strength, your victory and your path. You are doing it and you will [continue to] do it. A day without sunshine is like a stormy, dreary night.

Goodbye, I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I am opening my letter to tell you that I received yours, and to tell you that it brought me joy and comfort. You are suffering a great deal, it's true! But I don't dare tell our Lord to take away your sorrows. It seems to me that it would make you barren and sadden Jesus our Master. Divine love always bears its children in sorrow. Perfect union only takes place on the cross and through the cross. So, dear daughter, forgive me if I praise only your sufferings and pray for you and your fidelity. However, ask our Lord to veil its exterior effects and if he wants your heart to be crucified, let your exterior express a gentle charity and the peace of the Holy Spirit. Let it be your secret. Let this thought: God wants this from me, be stronger than anything else. You have never been more pleasing to God than you are now.

Yes, receive Communion, and receive Communion as I have told you. Your heart is better than your head, and God wants the heart.

Embrace your dear son for me. May God always keep him docile. My fraternal affection to good Mr. Franchet.

Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 66/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, Near Toulon (Var), August 18, 1851

My dear daughter, I received your letter dated August 10. I was expecting it, but I wasn't expecting you to be suffering so much. I wish I could help you in your extraordinary state of suffering. You know my love for you. And I pray that God may make it increase even more. My suggestion that you go to Fr. Rousselon came only from this principle: as I had just received the order to stay here until September 5th from the Superior General, I felt that it would be too long. And also, it distresses me to know that you are alone, a prey to so many storms. It surely would be a great comfort for me, the greatest you could give me, to hear that you are not alone. The fear of being in a worse state after, is a suffering. In fact, you are not obliged to convey your inner state [of soul], but only your sins, .. and your sins only as you can say them, without trying to explain them. The precept of confession is very simple. We should confess ourselves as best we can at the moment, even poorly. What we ought to desire above all is the grace of absolution. This grace is the grace of God's mercy and goodness. In this way, your confession will be like the confession of the poor publican who was humbled by the awareness of his sins; or of Magdalen, humbled and weeping at the feet of our Lord, unable to express her feelings. So I can only advise you to go. And who knows? The grace of God may be awaiting you there. You know how difficult it has always been for you to change confessors. The Good Lord has his mysteries of grace and timing. So, surrender yourself a bit more to the grace of the moment.

As to your state [of soul], I have always told you, it is a divine state, where you can glorify our Lord very much by the way of inner humiliation and suffering. Don't try to reason about this state. Be satisfied to know that it isn't an obstacle to God's love. It is even the particular means God has chosen to lead you to holiness. It seems to me that this definite decision should bring you consolation. So, go into the desert, eyes closed. To see God in everything, to go to God through everything, to surrender oneself entirely to his will at every moment: that is the unchangeable Rule of a spiritual person.

Write to me. Do I need to tell you? but especially, pray for me, so that God's holy will may be fulfilled perfectly in me. I am here as I would wish you to be: living from day to day, without knowing the future. However, the Good Lord is thinking about it for me.

I continue to pray for my good daughters who become ever dearer to me, and for our beloved Third Order, and for you in particular. My respects to your dear family.

Goodbye in the Lord,
Eymard

P.S. It seems that I will be going to Lyons only around the 5th or 6th of September. If, however, it should be impossible for you to overcome your reluctance for confession, I grant you your ordinary permissions.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhône)

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 82/145 VI 10)

At the college of La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), August 19, 1851

Very dear sisters,

I've been here in Provence almost four weeks now and I must stay here until the 5th or 6th of September. I am having repairs done to our property. My health is good, I have no problems, and I'm very quiet here. The astonishing thing is that I'm becoming lazy and [I] don't find time to do anything; this extreme heat burdens body and spirit. I received news from the Miles Guillot; they are the same as usual. They tell me that they wrote to you.

About the Third Order and the Pastor: I advise you not to do or say anything. The Pastor is cold; he might say something which would hurt you. Let the matter drop. I will handle it myself with him. What would upset me, would be if good Fr. Pillon had to suffer because of it. Let him be careful about it and ignore all the gossip of devotees who tend to cause disunity between a Pastor and his curate. I also advise you to give up the sacristy and the church ironing if that is causing you any problems with the Pastor. Peace comes first.

Alas! It is not so much with the Pastor as with the persons who stirred him up, that we should be upset. Trials always accompany even the best things, so don't get upset over it. You belong to the Third Order; you share in all its benefits. Live quietly at home; that is the best way to be happy.

I suppose that all your repairs are finished now and that you must be resting a little. It is high time. Write to me at the address at the beginning of my letter.

I am in our Lord, dear sisters, all yours,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 1/8)

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), August 19, 1851

Very dear friend,

I have just received your letter here in Toulon, and I don't want to wait until my return to reply. Your letter brought me joy in our Lord. I can agree in God's sight with everything you tell me, but my conclusion remains the same: I want you to be, and I like you to be, Master of novices. Even if it were time for a renomination, you would be my first choice. All that was said is nothing. I am not the one who said it, and I will never say it. And I must tell you that I would certainly have preferred that Mr. De Fayette keep still. There is one good thing in it: it is that you benefitted from it in God's presence, and I am benefitting from it to repeat my desire and [express] my affection.

They say you do not have the necessary qualities or virtue. So much the better! You can ask God for them and his grace will do everything and will do better. Alas! dear friend, you are

humiliated by it.. I am the one who ought to hide my face in my hands, when I see the outstanding honor which God is giving me to use me for the salvation of the souls chosen by his love. If we had to start counting, I would infinitely outdistance you in lack of ability and limitations. I console myself by telling God: I have nothing, I know nothing, I can only ruin everything. Do everything, arrange everything. And then to the Blessed Virgin: Dear Mother, it's your work; watch over it carefully.

So, dear friend, surrender to the goodness of God and the protection of the Blessed Virgin, and continue.

I was really sorry that I was not there for your August meeting, and I am really sorry that I cannot be there for the one in September. I am held here through obedience until the 5th or the 6th. No, I am mistaken: I hope to be there for the September meeting since it will be only on the 6th.

Pray for me, dear friend, so that I may not place any obstacles to the graces of God upon me. Recommend me to the prayers of your good wife, and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Marist Priest

Mr. Creuset
Place and rue Bellecour
13, Lyons (Rhône)

272

CO 271

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 67/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, Near Toulon (Var), August 22, 1851

I'm writing to give a brief answer to your last letter which, however, was so sad! Since our dear Master healed Miss Claudine, he is showing you how much he loves you, and how fatherly is his divine Providence. That was the best news you could give me, because I felt very badly about it. So your dear one is healed. Oh! how good the Good Lord is! I am looking forward to seeing her. But we shouldn't cast a shadow over this beautiful feast with tears. - How could I tell you that I am named Superior here, since all I know is that the nomination hasn't been conveyed to me, and that I'm scheduled to go to the retreat in Lyons. It's true, I know that they are looking for a Superior for La Seyne and that I'm being considered, nothing more. I leave it all to the holy will of God, without worrying about it.

So tell Miss Claudine not to upset me by being upset herself. I'll begin your novena tomorrow.

About your question: all I can advise you is not to worry. I know positively that the Superior General doesn't want to forsake the Third Order and that if he should remove me, he would probably bring someone to Lyons especially for that. Those good women become too anxious, and it would all amount to nothing. If they hold to their opinion, let them be; the Good Lord will do the rest. After you have expressed your way of thinking, be at peace.

If you see M. G. give her my respects. I'm doing the same as she is, I'm sailing under the wind of divine Providence...

Take heart! And what about kind Fr. Rousselon?² - How childish you are! Have courage now! I bless you in our Lord.

Eyd.

² He had advised her to go to Fr. Rousselon for confession Aug. 7, 1851.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

273

CO 272

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 5/28)

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), August 22, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter here in the deep south at Toulon. It came to me under this burning sky, and I am hurrying to answer so that you may not have the same temptation again.

You are sad! And with an indescribable sadness! You feel a distaste for everything. That's a very painful state. We really need God's grace to bear with ourselves in this condition. Then, what is more upsetting is that nothing consoles us or seems to strengthen us. Oh! I really understand that condition. The Good Lord makes me pass through it from time to time.

Well, believe me, we must thank God for it as if it were a great grace. Under such a press the soul is in agony, it's true; but it is in order to be clothed with new life. God lets it be weary and detaches it in order to attach it more strongly to himself.

He shows it the emptiness of everything which is not himself.

At such times of inexpressible pain, offer yourself to our Lord and tell him: "I am suffering, I am dying, but it doesn't matter. My heart and life are yours. I will love you more than my pain and sadness," and you will see a new horizon of hope and love open before you.

There is one point on which we don't agree. You don't like to be an old maid in the world, while I prefer her to an old religious, or to the most deserving mother. It is because she is both virgin and martyr at the same time. She carries the virginal banner of our Savior in the midst of a pagan or indifferent world. She is the beloved apostolic disciple. So, Mademoiselle, think as I do. An old maid is like an old imperial guard covered with the wounds of glory, resulting from a thousand and one battles. We bow respectfully in the presence of this old veteran. Well, what do you think of that? At least, console yourself with the thought that you are where God wants you to be.

I am pleased by your faithfulness to your exercises whatever the cost; only then can you say: I love God more than myself.

Please present my respectful regards to your dear sister: tell her to pray for me. As for you, I count on it.

I was happy to receive Mme. de Chatelux, your fine friend, as a professed member of the Third Order. At first, I was uncomfortable because of the presence of a woman I didn't know, who came with her.

All I have at hand is a poor holy card; I am sending it to you just the same.

I entrust you to the grace of our Lord, and I ask him to make you entirely his and to rule supremely in you.

Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost, Negt.³
at Tarare (Rhone)
Miss Bost, P.A.B.⁴

³ Merchant.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 11/33)

La-Seyne, August 25, 1851

Madame,

I have just received your letter expressing so much sadness and tears. My God! What troubles! When will they be lightened? Poor little boat, how shaken it is! And then, the shore is still far away and heaven is still in the shadows, and no help [forthcoming]. What a situation! What can be done? Always stay at the steering wheel, throw out the water which is seeping into the little boat, and then surrender to Providence. Madame, your little boat is safe. It cannot sink or perish. No, no, God is blessing it every moment of the day, but you are not a good passenger yet. You are too afraid. Then, your heart is dying because it can see only the sky and the desert. What can I say? Don't be too upset with it for that reason. It is suffering; it is ill. It seeks relief by complaining a little. But when it wants to go further, you must say: be quiet, my heart, you are misbehaving. You will displease your God and make yourself unhappy. For love of him, you will go no further; and for his love, you will suffer yet a little. Then this heart, which is basically so good, will surrender and return to Jesus' path, following wherever it pleases him to lead it, and it will find peace and freedom once again with strength and love.

Receive Communion, my daughter. The person who is ill needs food. Receive Communion in spite of your faults. They don't destroy the life of divine love. They only test it, purify it. Fruit which grows in a hot-house is always a bit flat and the tree which produces it, very delicate and weak. But the fruit which grows in the high winds, which ripens in its own time, is the best. Receive Communion, and our Lord will be your strength during your great trials. In great temptations we have a need, I would almost say, a real necessity for our Eucharistic Lord. It is the moment of the struggle and if Jesus seems to sleep in the midst of the storm, it is only to try our confidence. So then, be content to stay at his feet. His love never sleeps.

Poor daughter! The feeling you describe in your letter is nothing. You have given it too much importance, and especially, you have analyzed it too much. In confession say only a passing word about it.

Oh! you live too much in your heart! I wish that your heart would live entirely in the divine heart of our Lord. - "I cannot!" - Suffering is the beginning of this divine life. Fidelity in suffering is its strength and bond. Courage! You will love the Lord Jesus with your whole heart, your whole mind, your whole will, and all your strength. Both heaven and earth will praise you with me!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁴ Meaning unknown.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 68/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, Wednesday, September 3rd

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter. I'm sorry I don't have time to answer the first part: you will probably say that you haven't received anything.

About your personal question: Oh! May the Good Lord come to your help!

Yesterday, I received the order to go to Lyons for the retreat. I'm leaving tomorrow morning. I'll arrive in Lyons Saturday. I'll go see you Sunday or Monday, I hope. So, be ready. I'll be happy to see Miss Jenny.

I am deeply touched by your sister's greetings and those of your whole family. You know how much I love it in our Lord.

Goodbye, time is pressing.

Eymard,

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

At the annual retreat of the Marist Fathers in Lyons, St. Peter Julian was named Superior of the boarding school of La Seyne. The first reference to this nomination is found in his letter to Captain de Cuers, September 12, 1851. We owe to this assignment away from Lyons a treasury of the most beautiful letters of spiritual direction written by the Saint to his former directees in Lyons.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 1/181)

J.M.J.

Lyons, September 12, 1851

Dear Sir,⁵

I was very happy to receive your kind letter. I thanked God for it. You may become God's chosen one to organize this apostolic work which is so necessary for the missions and which would be so useful to the Church.

I hope you will stop in Lyons when you pass through. We would speak together here, and you would be able to discuss it with our Rev. Fr. Superior General, who knows about your letter. This project deserves consideration.

If you are staying in Toulon this year, I will have the pleasure of seeing you there. Obedience is re-assigning me to the boarding school of La Seyne. I will be there toward the end of September.

⁵ First of 181 letters addressed to Rev. Father Jean Raymond de Cuers, retired frigate Captain, later Fr. de Cuers, and first collaborator with Father Eymard in the foundation of the Institute, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Goodbye in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.M.

Mr. de Cuers, frigate Captain
Place Vieux Palais, 6
Toulon

277

CO 277

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 69/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, October 5, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I have time only to send you the minutes.⁶ I found them well done. However, it's too bad that they still refer to me.

The thought of you is ever present to me, and I present you all to our Lord every day. Pray for me, I need it. I'm very busy and especially very involved. My health is the same as usual.

Goodby. I'm afraid of missing the mail.

Eyd.

P.S. I'll write you a long letter, one of these days. My respects to all.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

278

CO 276

TO JACQUES GINOUILHAC (BISHOP OF GRENOBLE)
(VIII 1/1)

La Seyne-sur-mer, Oct. 7, 1851

Your Excellency,

It was with a deep feeling of respect and gratitude that I received the letter which Your Excellency was kind enough to write to me, offering the Society of Mary the former minor Seminary of Bourg d'Oisans: I told our Superior-General about this, and he was profoundly touched by your paternal benevolence for a Society which you blessed, Your Excellency, 16 years ago, and which, upon your Petition, Gregory XVI approved on April 26th 1836.

⁶ Minutes of the Third Order meetings.

Your name, Excellency, is inscribed in our Constitutional Brief, as perpetual proof that you are one of our first Fathers.

Our Superior-General writes me at Toulon, where I have been for several weeks, that he would be happy to respond to your gesture of confidence. He greatly regrets [however] that two new foundations which he has made this year make it impossible for him to accept your house this year. He begs you to accept his deep gratitude, and as for me, Your Excellency, I am still your son and every day I pray the God of goodness to keep you for a long time with your flock.

Bless again one who is still happy to be

Your Excellency's very humble son,
Eymard, P.S.M.

279

CO 278

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 70/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), October 15, 1851

I will begin with you, my daughter in our Lord, to break such a long silence. Until this very day it wasn't possible to find a single moment for myself. Add to that, organizing a house, and the Retreat I preached to the children, etc.... so, you are the first one I am writing to. So you see, I'm not forgetting you. Oh! how could I forget my suffering family which is so loved by the Good Lord, for which he has given me a father's heart! so you are all ever present to me before God, as well as your trials and difficulties. It's my weak point. Sometimes I would like you to be without crosses, but our Lord wills it otherwise. So, may his Holy Cross be blessed, loved and glorified in us!

So here I am among children. I praise God for it, since it is his holy will which has sent me here. That's what gives me strength and a little good will. I'm trying to lock myself in here with my duties, because I'm afraid to make acquaintances. Unfortunately, it's myself I am afraid of: until now I'm still free. But there is so much to be done here! I need so much patience, prayer, and love of God! And my poor Third Order! oh! may the Good Lord bless it always and make it flourish by his holy grace! I have a weakness for it, but I would be so happy to know that it belongs entirely to God! Yet, I can only will what God wills, and if he should want it to terminate, may he also be blessed!

Now about you. About the anonymous letter: it is more a counsel than a correction; that is how you took it, fine. Since you were attacked on your strongest point, it will make you even stronger. Personally, I don't believe that that letter comes from a woman. I believe it comes from a man, from some devotee who might have heard some calumny against you, and who, through charity, would foolishly have thought to perform an act of charity. That writing is not unknown to me, but I can't remember it.

About your temptations in regard to your confession - don't trouble yourself so much. Accuse yourself in a general way about whatever may have offended God in your humiliating temptations; those against faith, charity, despair, and that will be enough, even according to the strictest theology, and following the strictest authors. Don't worry because you cannot explain yourself, give a clear account of your failings, or distinguish where guilt lies. No, no, the Good Lord doesn't ask that. Let obedience override all such concerns. Then in spite of it all, continue to receive Communion. Trials of conscience that can neither be explained nor well understood are among the greatest interior trials. God often reserves its secret for himself to maintain the person within the mystery of obedience and total submission of mind. In this crucifying state, the soul is purified of whatever is yet too natural within it. I believe this is the more perfect way that was shown you in prayer; because then interior peace no longer rests on a person's actions nor on the interior witness

of conscience, but only on a blind act of faith to obedience. Keep to this rule, my daughter. The Good Lord has left you in this state for a long time now, and he asks this sacrifice from you.

About which sins you should confess, don't worry so much. The precept for the accusation of venial sins is broad and forgiveness is easy. "But in doubt whether my sins are mortal or venial, what should I think?" - Consider them as venial always. And even if you should be troubled, ignore and pass over them. That is clear. - "But if I'm almost sure of having consented?" - Same answer. We must not judge our consent by impressions, worry, feelings, but by the judgement of the will. A concrete reason would be needed. Don't examine those troubling temptations; pass over them like burning coals.

Then, when your confessor stops you, obey very simply and don't try to come back on the matter. Make a sheer act of obedience saying: the Good Lord is satisfied with my good will.

Now, about the Third Order. I'm very happy to see that you are wholly dedicated to the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin. She will bless you for it. When you are consulted, answer as you see fit at the time. Encourage them to be calm, and not so agitated; to be content with what they have, I mean, to learn how to wait for God's time. I find that these good women are too restless.

In all matters, my dear daughter, carefully evaluate each thing. Give all the talk, complaints and worries you hear from others, I say, give them only the weight they have before God. Judge them only as God judges them in the light of truth. When someone speaks to you, consider that person's bent of mind, their temperament, how upset or emotional they are. After stripping the question of what is merely human, it will appear to you in all its simplicity, and often as invalid.

Take heart! I leave you in the love of our Lord. Your letters please me, they really please me. I received them all and read them with greatest interest.

May our Lord bless you and keep you in his holy grace!

Eyd.

P.S. Would you like me to write to the pastor I had mentioned to you, about placing Miss Jenny in his convent as a boarder? This pastor is Fr. Dupuy, at St. Maurice, near Rive-de-Gier.

I am writing to Miss Jenny at Chasselay. My best wishes to the Gaudioz family,⁷ which is one with yours.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

280

CO 280

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 4/75)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, October 16, 1851

Madame,

I feel as if I am coming out of a chaotic storm, as you can imagine, after two months in the midst of all kinds of people, workmen, etc., and then sent back here to head a Boarding school, organize it, prepare the opening [of the school year], the retreat, etc.... The conclusion is: I deserve your indulgence.

⁷ Her sister and brother-in-law.

I was sorry I could not see you. Miss Agarithe must have told you so. On returning from Toulon, my thought was to stop and greet you while passing at Valence; but they told me you weren't at Romans, but in the country. So, I had to give it up; I didn't have enough time.

Well! Madame, so many things [have happened] since our last conversation! So many difficulties and sacrifices were awaiting you! How sad! I felt so sorry for you! I was almost afraid you would be discouraged. However, one thought reassured me: this good sister belongs generously to God. No, she will not weaken; she will attach herself more strongly to God alone. Poor Pastor at St. Marcellin! This news pierced my heart. He was and has been so kind toward me. He helped me so much at the beginning of my ministry! heaven must rejoice, but it is a great loss for us, especially for you, Madame. Then, this was followed by your friend's sad death. Let us adore God's plans and hope again in his mercy for this poor soul. God is so good! To think that in order to be saved we only need one sigh from the heart, one act of love, of repentance, of trust! Oh! how good God is! He wants to save us almost in spite of ourselves. And so, Madame, put aside all your worries, self-blame about your cowardice, etc.... You know that in this case, you could only advise and do no more. Be at peace about it; this is my advice. Anything else would become a temptation.

Madame, always be watchful against interior turmoil and sadness of heart; the devil will use that means to harm you. It is his way of blinding you like Samson of old. Keep telling yourself: If I am upset, there is a hidden temptation under the appearance of good. Then, go forward. Oh! Please don't put aside your Communions; you would be putting down your weapons; you would fall into inaction. Feed yourself; you are weak, and then you will be strong. Remember that holy Communion is a great fire which destroys the straw of our daily imperfections in one instant. In daily meditation, glean a few divine particles from our Lord. In the morning take your supply of manna and you will never lose your peace and strength.

I also have a teaching for you which is a bit harsh: Seek strength, joy and consolation in Jesus alone. Oh Madame! May God help you to understand and appreciate this hidden treasure which puts us beyond the realm of storms and the shifting circumstances of this passing life.

Goodbye, dear Madame and sister. This has been a long letter, but my heart tells the Good Lord even more on your behalf every day. He knows how much I desire his grace and love for you.

Regards to your dear daughter. May she always be simple and kind toward you.

Pray for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. And the Third Order? Support it together with Mme. David, and the Blessed Virgin will repay you a hundredfold. I will write to dear Miss Agarithe. Providentially, I had the pleasure of traveling with her.

281

CO 281

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 2/9)

All for God alone

La Seyne Sur-Mer (Var), Oct. 17, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I often like to recall that providential journey. I often thank God for it, and I was beginning to complain when your dear letter arrived. Thank you; it did me good and made me happy. I think that your temperament and your way of seeing things would soon make you friends: but, let's come to the point!

I find peace and confidence in the thought that you are the one whom God has chosen to write the life of our mutual friend.⁸ I had been searching until now. Very many distinguished persons had been mentioned to me but an uncomfortable feeling kept telling me: No! No! That isn't the David of God's heart! and now he is found! He must work to raise a temple to the glory of God. - And so, Mademoiselle, I will wage war with you and a just war. Please don't go back on your word; you would be responsible for my discouragement. So, I am still counting on it.

I wrote to good Mme. Jourdan. I would miss her, if I didn't know the generosity of her heart for God. She has made and will make great sacrifices, because God is calling her to perfection. You can help her a little, because she has great confidence in you.

If I didn't have so much ministry, I would envy your situation. You can do an immense amount of good, and God is doing so through you. Continue the magnanimous and solid direction you give your young people, it's the evangelical hundredfold. It's true, it's a difficult existence, from morning till night. But it's also the application of the great divine principle: "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself and follow me."

This self-denial at every moment of the day is what I find difficult: to give oneself to a thousand and one things, to hear things that are foreign to my taste and attraction! God wants it: That's my only consolation among all these little people, and this crowd of parents, who, alas! are for the most part, without a solid Christian education.

If you wish, I will write to Mr. Danjou from Montpellier, and I will put you in contact with him to study education. This good man has founded a newspaper which is concerned only with education and its true principles. He is fighting to extremes against the pagan teaching which is being given to youth. Mr. Alzon from Nimes has spoken and shares his feelings. They are beginning to battle in the breach against paganism in our institutions.

I don't have anything to say about my stay here. I haven't even taken a walk outside our property. I stay at my glebe⁹ from morning until night. The poetry of the sea, of the squadron, of the beautiful sky of Provence haven't brought me joy yet! There is so little poetry in the practical matters of a house of education, in reading through dead authors, Grammar, Greek and Latin!

Pray for me, and I will repay you the same as a good brother [should].

When will you write to me? When will your need for repairs make you impatient! I really laughed because that had been my daily cross for the last two months.

Goodbye in our Lord,

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard

282

CO 282

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 8/76)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), October 18, 1851

Madame,

I am somewhat free from responsibilities of a house to organize, the opening of the school year, etc., and I am turning to you. Your letter pleased me very much. I was hoping to see you in Lyons, but the Good Lord didn't will it; may he be blessed nonetheless! Well, Madame, we are now 140 leagues apart, separated forever, perhaps. Such is life! A transitory life of exile! The consoling

⁸ Captain Marceau.

⁹ obsolete.

thing is that our good Father is between us and his grace, his love, and the same hope unite us in his divine heart.

I must admit to you, Madame, that I thank the Good Lord for being away from Lyons. I believe it's a grace for me. God wanted to force me to live for him alone. In the midst of my occupations in Lyons, I also experienced great consolations from my daughters. He wanted me to make that sacrifice. Oh! may he be blessed a thousand times! Provided they serve and love him wholeheartedly; that is all my joy. As for you, my dear daughter, you will always love our good Master and have others love him in the midst of your problems and difficulties. Graciously let everyone steal your time, your work, your preferences. But your heart will belong to Jesus and to self-denial through love. I will always be pleased to receive your letters. If I can help you from here, you know how much I want your spiritual good, as my own.

Now about your letter. You blame yourself for negligence in God's service, in your duties towards your servants. You experience sadness about your Communions. It's true, we must struggle against negligence in God's service, because it quickly produces spiritual weakness, loathing for sacrifice. The soul becomes weak like a plant without sugar. Yes, struggle gently but strongly against spiritual negligence. That is the side from which the devil would attack you. Economize your time, your means, but always find a moment for God alone. Contact with the world, even the pious [world] has this in common: it uses up the interior strength of the soul. Sometimes we must do like our Lord: when our day was spent entirely for our neighbor, we must go up on the mountain, and there, in solitude of heart, converse a little with God alone. So also, my daughter, when our good Master places you in an extraordinary situation of charity towards your neighbor, then you must leave everything for this dear neighbor; but I said "in an extraordinary state", and even then, the more we expend exteriorly, the more we must feed our inner life by its union with God.

Oh! If we could be like the guardian angels! They see God continually while at the same time they are always concerned with us. That is because God is their absolute center.

And your distractions! Oh! I don't worry about those. It's like rheumatism that we must bear in this life. It's the poverty of our poor nature. Oh! How humiliating it is for a heart, which should live only in God! So then, do only one thing, when your soul has forgotten the Good Lord for too long, bring it back gently to his feet, in humility of heart, like a poor sheep which has strayed far away from the Good Shepherd.

As for your duties as Lady of the house. If you have faithful and dedicated servants, depend on them a little. However, always keep an eye on them, and keep yourself informed, at least in general, about your house. Otherwise you will be correcting them too often. Pray a great deal for your household and for all those who serve you.

As for Communions, don't let any pass by through your own fault. You need them. When our Lord is calling you to come toward him in spite of your weakness, it would be very wrong to choose to stay away from his eucharistic table through humility. So then, my daughter, go in spite of your weaknesses. I mean, rather, go with your weaknesses and poverty. This is your admission ticket to our good Master.

I'm sorry that I wasn't able to see the good woman whom you sent to me several times. Really, we must say that the Good Lord didn't will it, as she came so often. There is nothing dangerous about the medicine. It would be good if it cured such a hopeless illness. Yes, she can pay her debts, as you say, in spite of the anger, etc. Poor woman. Have her pray a great deal, because there is something diabolical in it all.

And you, my poor daughter, you now have a new cross! Mr. G. is ill. Yes, I have prayed and am praying very much for him and for you. This news made me sad. Please give me news about him when you can. Won't you come to spend the winter at Hyeres? I would go see you there, if possible.

Goodbye. I entrust you to divine goodness and believe me ever in our Lord,

Totally yours,
Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 7/52)

All for God alone

October 19, 1851

Miss Stephanie,

My daughter, I am writing to answer your letter with a few words. I don't need to tell you that I read it with the greatest interest. You know all the good I desire for your soul and how I would like to see it belong entirely to your divine Spouse. Oh! yes, belong entirely to our Lord as he is entirely yours. [Let there be] no reservations in your gift, no sharing in your heart, no other center than his adorable and ever gracious will.

When we really know this dear Jesus, can anything compare to Him? And when we have enjoyed the delights of his love, can we live without Him? Oh! no! never, we would be too unhappy! How blessed you are, my dear daughter, to belong to our good Master and to desire to be his forever! This choice is worth more than any crown or any of the world's best possibilities. The one for whom Jesus is everything is very rich. However, you are not satisfied with yourself, meditation leaves you dry and cold; it seems fruitless. The thought of God is not coming naturally, you are at war with pride. These are great troubles, and these troubles will accompany you throughout the desert of life. - What can be done?

Correct what is imperfect and humbly bear the effects of humiliation. Know and admit to God and yourself that you are full of pride, that this is your nature, that you love the Good Lord very little, that you are not very fervent in his holy service. Cover yourself with these rags as proofs of your poverty and present yourself as such to God with full confidence. Then you will change evil into good and you will find grace in the presence of the God of kindness. He rests his indulgent glance on this poor weak child and wants to lift her up to his privileged love.

My dear daughter, let us learn how to draw out of our very faults the remedy which will correct them. We must not live with them peacefully, but live in peace in humility; "Learn from me," says our good Savior, "that I am meek and humble of heart."

If you notice that your meditation is always vague and that it never captures your attention, change your topic. At ordinary times, usually make your meditation on the *Imitation*; but prepare yourself at least by choosing the chapter or the verse.

If you are in an exceptional state, choose a subject which suits your condition. So, in desolation, Chapter 21 of the first book; Chapters 9, 11, 12 of the second book.

When you feel a resistance to sacrifice, the chapters on love, the three on Heaven: 47, 48 49.

When you feel scattered, the 1st chapter of the second book, the first chapters of the third book.

In these states we mustn't treat our soul like a sick person who is disgusted with everything. The main resolution to take is to accomplish promptly and through love the sacrifices of self-denial which God will ask of us during the day as soon as he lets us see them.

So then, there is only one thing for us to do. Remain vigilant for the time of sacrifice, or better, always be prepared to say to God: My heart is ready, oh my God, to accomplish your holy Will in everything. But this vigilance must be free, without bondage, without stress. It is the vigil of love, and love doesn't tire. It watches while it sleeps, it watches while it works.

Always be even-tempered toward your good mother. Be like a little girl in your heart-to-heart relationship to such a degree that you will not even feel the need for another heart-friend. Only merit and good can come from revealing your transparent heart to her.

Oh! Thank God for giving you such a mother! She is more valuable to you than all the convents and religious of the world.

Continue to pray for me, my daughter. There is no distance for spiritual union in God. Actually, distances only strengthen relationships in his divine love.

I leave you in his divine grace.

Eymard

284

CO 284

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 6/28)

All for God alone!

October 21, 1851

Mlle Antonia,
Mademoiselle,

The few words you wrote brought me joy in our Lord. Continue to pray for me. You will continue to love and serve your divine Spouse with your whole being. He will always rule alone over your heart; what joy!

I believe that our good Master will always continue to purify your heart in order to attach it more closely to himself.

So, let him act. He will be removing foreign matter mixed with the gold, so that it may become purer.

Remember that sufferings of the heart are the fire of divine love. Yes, do love your dear sister, your good parents, but in divine love. Love Jesus in all the states of his love. When you feel sad and distressed, love together with Jesus who is distressed, who continues to love more and more.

My respectful regards to our fine sister, Mme. de Chatelux.¹⁰ I will at least be able to recognize her in Heaven. Her visit was short.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. Always remain calm in your desires, peaceful in your sorrows, exteriorly gentle and more so within.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

285

CO 285

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 12/33)

All for God Alone!

October 21, 1851

My daughter,

I am writing to thank you for remembering me. Why are you always giving me this duty?¹¹ In this I know your good heart. To sum up, may God repay you! I cannot.

I couldn't write to you sooner. I was so busy with a thousand and one things that I could hardly get above water. But if I haven't written, I prayed and do pray for my poor discouraged daughter who is crucified, and yet ever living for God and his holy love.

¹⁰ A member of the Third Order of Mary.

¹¹ to express gratitude.

See, there are some souls who can belong fully to God only by the way of suffering and be united to Him only by attachment to the Cross. Well, that is your lot in the life of divine love. God has given it to you. Receive it from his beautiful and beloved hand. This path is sometimes bloody, but it is a noble one, worthy of great souls. The one who loves God needs sacrifice and suffering. Otherwise, the heart alone, without this activity, would make it suffer too much. For sorrows detach us, strip us of our former self, make us long for the Homeland, lead us to press to our heart Jesus crucified, the one we call our God and our all.

Courage, my daughter, you have already accompanied Jesus to the garden of Olives, even to Calvary. Don't turn back; continue always to go forward. Life, death, burial, resurrection, everything can be found on Mount Calvary. - I was a cross for you. The Good Lord willed it. Say: Oh! May the Good Lord be praised for everything! I still have him!

Now I will answer the details of your letter.

1. About a director close at hand. I hope you will find one who knows you and who helps you as much as I would wish. If our Lord could be enough for you in many things, that would be the best, but sometimes he wants us to humble ourselves to an Ananias.

2. About the delicate question. I wish to remind you what I told you. Don't torment yourself about it, especially, do not weary your conscience so much. As I see it, you are ill.

3. For your dear Charles, his health comes first, poor child! He is so good! He must be a comfort to you. Greet him for me. So you are praying for me, thank you! I need it. You didn't mention my dear Third Order. Continue to be ever faithful and dedicated to it! But I would like to scold you! What! Our Lord tells you, "Poor suffering and unhappy daughter, come to me and I will comfort you." Then you don't go. You are no longer receiving Communion! Please, go back to obedience on this point. Go to find strength at the divine Source of strength.

I leave you to God's grace and I bless you.

Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you that I am well and that I would have many opportunities to gain merit if I knew how to benefit from them.

My fraternal respects to your dear husband, please.

286

CO 286

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 7/52)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), October 22, 1851¹²

I received your dear letter dated the 1st. Needless to say how happy it made me in our Lord. I really thank him very much and blessed you, as well as your kind sister for it. I've been busy until now organizing the house which was entrusted to me by his holy Will. I regretted that I couldn't answer you right away, but please forgive me in your charity. Next time I will be more prompt.

So then, I am here now, far from my dear daughters in Jesus and Mary.¹³ I accepted this sacrifice, willed by the Good Lord, and I renew it every day by offering everyone to our good Saviour in the holy Sacrifice [of the Mass]. I often go to visit and bless them,¹⁴ and you know that you are one of the first.

¹² The French edition lists the date as October 20, 1851. Troussier lists it as the 22nd.

¹³ Members of the Third Order of Mary. In September 1851, he was named Superior of the College of La Seyne.

¹⁴ in spirit.

Now I turn to your letter. You may write to me about your spiritual life. If our Lord gives me any insights, I will share them with you. I don't know whom to indicate as a director in Lyons at this time. Pray.

As for the Work of the Association of Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament,¹⁵ the best answer I can give you is to say that I take the hour from nine to ten myself. Two navy officers who are fine servants of God want to have an hour: Mr. de la Sachette and Mr. Lacroix. Yes, yes, spread this fire to icy hearts, rouse the dying spark in [these] disheartened people: our Savior wants nothing more.

The explanation you sent me is fine. I don't see what could be added or deleted. There is no need for an approbation to become associated. However, since some seem to desire it, let Mme. de Pomey present it to His Eminence. She can be sure to be well received and encouraged. Devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament is the preferred devotion of the Bishop.

I have often reflected upon the remedies for the universal indifference which is taking hold of so many Catholics in a frightening way. I can find only one: the Eucharist, love for Jesus Eucharistic. Loss of faith comes in the first place from loss of love; darkness, from the loss of light; the freezing cold of death from the absence of fire. Oh! Jesus didn't say: I've come to bring a revelation of the most sublime mysteries: but rather, "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and all I desire is to see it enkindle the whole world." Madame, light this divine fire all around you and you will have brought joy to the heart of our Lord. Continue to be true to the inner movement of grace. Let yourself be led by our Lord, like a child, without any other desire than his good will. Be sure that all you need to do is to follow our Lord who is ever walking before you. You will need only to place your foot in his divine footprints.

Pray for me, Madame, I need it. Pray that I may have a spirit of wisdom and the love of our Lord.

I am, in his divine love,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. At the boarding school of La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var)

287

CO 287

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 2/8)

*T.P.D.S.*¹⁶

La Seyne-sur-Mer, November 6, 1851

Dear friend and brother in Mary,

I am writing to thank you for your good letter and tell you how much it pleased me. You speak to me about the dear Third Order; what joy that gives me! I loved it and I will always love it, especially when I see its good spirit. Continue to sustain it by establishing spiritual bonds of brotherhood among its members, by keeping it always attached to the trunk [the motherhouse]. Some day the members of the Third Order of Mary will be very proud of their title.

Establish branches to communicate news quickly, should there be any to give. It would be very desirable that the members know one another. Father Lagniet will give you the list of all the members. You can complete them with the addresses. Mr. Carrel will give you his and Mr. Berger's; Mr. Gaudioz those of Mr. Bron and Bouru; Mr. Givemaud, a few others.

¹⁵ Adoration in spirit wherever the person may be, directed to the Blessed Sacrament.

¹⁶ literally: *Tout pour Dieu seul*. All for God alone. Tr.

I completed the council, and I know only too well the devotedness and good spirit of all the brothers who were named. [They will not] refuse their services to the Blessed Virgin.

And you, dear friend, consider yourself very fortunate to serve this good Mother. She will repay you a hundredfold even in this life, I am confident. I rejoice that I named you Master of novices. It will oblige you to do even more for those whom the Blessed Virgin entrusts to you and to tell her: Give, and I will give. - It will be a pleasure if you write to me. Please offer my respects and regards to your dear wife. I like to pray for your family.

Goodbye dear friend, may our Lord keep you always in his holy love.

All yours,
Eymard, S.M.

Mr. Creuset
rue Bellecour 13
Lyons

288

CO 288

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 83/145 VI 10)

*T.P.D.S.*¹⁷

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), November 7, 1851

Very dear sisters,

You must be complaining about me, and why I haven't written to you, and you are right. I really don't know how time passes. Every day I tell myself: see here! at the first free moment today, I will write to my sisters; and that desired moment never comes. It's true that I've been over my head with work until now. I had to organize one and almost two houses at the same time. One house consists of more than a hundred people. However, things are beginning to function now.

My departure from Lyons may have caused you some sorrow, especially because of the Third Order, but what could I do? Submit to the holy Will of God which settled everything.

I didn't want to come to the South, but since the Good Lord willed it, I find myself very well here. It's such beautiful country and the climate is so mild!

At this time you may already have snow and biting cold; while here, we haven't needed any fire yet. But as the saying goes, stones are hard everywhere, the world is but one large Calvary. Happy the person who knows how to suffer for Jesus and with Jesus.

I received news from Lyons. The Third Order is still functioning. That is what makes me happy, because after all, what we need to look at is God's work, not man's action.

The good Miles Guillot continue to have their little crosses, but they bear them so well!

And as for you, my dear sisters, you also have yours which are quite heavy. Bear them well with our Lord.

I have just read your kind letter. I really deserve your reproaches which I am also receiving from all sides, because I didn't have time to answer.

But don't worry about me, I am well. The climate is excellent, since sick people come here to spend the winter. Then, I will be quieter here than at Lyons. I will be praying very much for La Mure, for the success of the Jubilee, since we always love our own village dearly. The Murois are good people. I think they will send good Fr. Ducourneau and he will do some good there.

¹⁷ *Tout Pour Dieu Seul.* (All for God alone.)

Take courage. Always stay close to our Lord and may he watch over you with his holy grace.
I am in his love,
Dear sisters,

Your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

P.S. I will write to Lyons for the Reymond boy; my respects to this good family, as well as to the Fayolle family.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

289

CO 289

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 3/9)

La Seyne, Nov. 11, 1851

Mademoiselle,

Thank you for your kind letter. I always laugh about that providential encounter. We needed that to realize that we were still alive, because, when we were neighbors, we scarcely saw one another once every six months.

So then, I will have news from you from time to time because it isn't long to write a word on the run or while standing in front of the chimney. I thank God for that whole adventure. I was searching, then rejecting. Now I can rest in peace and trust.¹⁸ I found the person Heaven wanted. It's a sure thing; it seems as if it all happened for that alone. Briefly! That is your mission, you must fulfill it. It may be the most beautiful flower you can offer to the glory of God.

Some Navy officers read my notes and made their observations. At this time Father Marin, Mr. Marceau's director, is reading them, and as soon as he finishes, I will send them to you via the coach.

I will surely be happy if you would inform Mme. Jourdan if you wish. It will be a good thing for her. Then, she has such good judgment, and you would also be giving her something to do.

This good lady and fellow countryman has written to me twice already. She is surely the Lady I would miss most, if God didn't comfort me, because of her piety and her fidelity in serving him.

I am still praying for Miss B... Her illness is a grace from God. God wants her to be entirely his. May she give herself fully to his love; that is my prayer, and perhaps God will restore her completely.

So you are poor also, Mademoiselle! Oh! May the Good Lord be praised for it, a thousand times! Be very poor! Always serve our good Master with poverty of heart and spirit. Spiritual poverty is the strength and wealth of the spouse of our Lord. It is her dowry.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. I am going to say holy Mass and pray for you, for your children and for your work.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard, P.M.

¹⁸He was looking for someone to help him work on the biography of the saintly Navy Captain, Mr. Marceau.

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 3/24)

All for God Alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), November 13, 1851

Very dear friend and brother,

I can give you my full attention now. Until this time my head was bursting, so I waited a little to answer you more calmly. Alas! Dear friend, life is only a passage, blessed are we if we can pass while doing good as our Lord did; or rather, life is only a daily farewell. At least in Heaven, there will be eternal life with God and in God. But the Good Lord is so good to give us his Heart and his love as the center of our affection for our brothers, and to be the bond of union and life for our hearts! That is what does away with the distances between us, dear brother.

And my poor Third Order? Yes, it would have been very difficult for me, if God had not first blessed it through his Vicar on earth, if I had not had the happiness of seeing it established canonically. Now it has been founded by the hand which founds for eternity. And you, dear brother, were its first stone, its first apostle. The Blessed Virgin knows it and has written it in her heart. That ought to give you comfort. Now, uphold your work well: it is no longer a personal question. It's a question of God's work.

Now I refer to the details of your letter:

1. St. Therese has excellent counsels for perfection; but, without forbidding Madame, I would advise her [to look at] the works of Lombez, for the time being his *Treatise on Interior Peace*, the *Treatise* of Rodriguez, on *Conformity to the Will of God*, the *Practice of the Love of our Lord* by St. Liguori. Your wife needs to go to God by means of recollection, quiet, and the silence of divine love. The scruples you have noticed in her are a preparation of grace, a purification of the soul. I thank our Lord for what he is doing in her. She owes these precious graces to her life of suffering. Oh, blessed sufferings which unite us so divinely to Jesus! However, you do well to ask for her healing; it's often a proof that God wants to grant a grace when he inspires us with the confidence to ask for it fervently.

2. Dear brother, Communion is as necessary for you as breathing is for the lungs. Receive Communion in order to love, - receive Communion while loving, - receive Communion in order to love ever more. "Ask and you shall receive."... Since you expend so much of your life every day, you need to refresh it, and to increase it constantly at its divine source.

3. Pray a great deal for your Director, so that the Good Lord may enlighten him for your direction. However, dear friend, use a director and don't be a slave of one. That is, let him help you to know yourself, to understand and perfect the grace of God in you.

You speak to me about death and Heaven. Not yet, dear brother! We must put to death what is not yet spiritual within ourselves; we must establish the kingdom of God here on earth. It's better to be a conquering apostle than a disciple on Tabor.

Read carefully the little *Treatise on Prayer*, by St. Liguori: it is a delightful banquet. Read little, pray a great deal, love always.

Goodbye, dear friend. My respects to your wife, to your whole family and to Mr. Geoffray.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted and loving,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. When you go to Tarare, to Amplepuis, give my regards to the sisters.¹⁹ I will send you your crucifixes.

¹⁹ of the Third Order.

291

CO 291

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 1/17 VIII 26)

La-Seyne, November 13, 1851

Mademoiselle,²⁰

Are you in Heaven or close to it, or ill? No news. Well! I am taking the initiative, mostly to get rid of the thought of you which follows me everywhere, and which I redirect to God with a prayer for you and your needs.

How good the Good Lord is! When there was nothing left for me to do in Lyons, he sent me to the seaside in an unknown and semi-barbaric land - I dare not say, because of its morals.

A person suffers here after having lived in educated Lyons. So I don't visit anyone, or any acquaintance and when someone comes along, I say to myself: the Lyonese are so much better.

To tell you the truth, I praise God for my situation. Every day, it speaks to me of my exile, my journey, and that God is our one and only good. I don't forget the Third Order and especially yours. Oh! no. It has never been so helpful to me, obtained so many graces for me! So then, you also should love it dearly, and keep it pure. Sometimes, I fear that they may introduce a thousand and one things which are not the Third Order and its spirit. If the Blessed Virgin had wanted it otherwise, she would have made it so before the approval of the Sovereign Pontiff and its canonical establishment. I waited five years for it and there may be some who think everything is lost because of a few casual remarks or because it is without a person.²¹ Oh goodness! What is a grain of sand worth? We must build on God and his grace. Didn't the Blessed Virgin go to Egypt? I love the Third Order of the interior life with a simple hidden life in the God of Nazareth, because it is the better part in the divine service.

I know that you also love it. What are you doing? What is your state of health and what is happening to your poor soul? This is what I am waiting to hear from you. Otherwise I will believe you are in Heaven.

Goodbye, dear Sister, I am going to say Holy Mass and really pray for you.

292

CO 292

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 2/181)

All for God Alone

La Seyne, November 17, 1851

Dear Sir and friend,

I was very sorry I missed you. God wanted that sacrifice along with so many others. My first thought, on arriving, was to go see you in Toulon. You had just left. Toulon misses you. Your young people would like to have you among them. I saw a few of them. I gave them a short two-day retreat at La Seyne for All Saints' Day. It's a beginning, and I promised them, God willing, to give them an 8-day retreat during the holidays. They are fine young men, but they are left too much on their own and the clergy of Toulon has neither the spirit, nor the practice of zeal. It's too bad, because there is fine potential there.

²⁰ The first of 26 letters to Countess Adele de Revel de Nesc, Secretary of the Third Order of Mary in Lyons.

²¹ A Director.

The work of adoration continues as usual. How sad to feel that the original fire is not and will not be stirred up. That project needs to be independent and all-embracing.

Mr. Liotard is somewhat discouraged. You know the reason. Mr. Galon does what he can, but he is a layman. In all my words to them, I limited myself to recommending that they should protect the spark carefully, at least maintain the status quo, until more attention can be given to this admirable Work.

God has his plans, his means. He wants to be implored. Ask many people to pray for your poor Toulon.

From time to time I see Mr. de la Suchette and he is always kind and dedicated. I met Mr. d'Angeville and Mr. Lacroix. I praised and thanked God for this blessing. It makes me so happy to find souls that go directly to God.

I'm expecting a visit from Mr. Siccard, Mr. Marceau's associate on board the *Arche d'Alliance*. He spoke to me about a Society called "Catholic Marines", begun in Paris under the auspices of the Archbishop and of several bishops. He would like to join them. Are you familiar with that project? Does it seem worthwhile to you? From the heavenly heights our dear friend Marceau may be continuing his vast plan to extend and help Catholic Missions with "apostolic supplies" as he called them.

What are you doing at Brest? I hope you will do something fine there for the glory of our Lord.

Pray very much for me also. I am now in charge of a large household which is spiritually poor.

I like to recommend you to our good Master and to pray to him for you.

In his divine love, I am happy to be,

Dear Sir and friend,

All yours,

Eymard, S.M.

Mr. de Cuers

Frigate Captain at Brest

PLEASE HOLD

293

CO 294

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)

(VII 3/7)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-mer (Var), November 17, 1851

Madame,

I am truly sorry that I didn't answer your letter sooner. However, it did me so much good! I so love to have news about the Nazareth of Bramefaim! Your charity has already forgiven me; it's true, I need it.

I won't say anything about my situation, my occupations, my condition. You can guess, it calls for continual immolation of the will. Since God doesn't want me [to be] in a calm and peaceful situation may he be praised a thousand times! How great a virtue it requires to know how to give oneself equally to one and all! to crucify oneself and to let oneself be crucified graciously. Oh! How far I am from [doing] this. Ask [God] to give it to me, dear Sister!

All the news you have and will give me about yourself and your loved ones will always please me. Well! At 46 years of age we begin to serve God better and we need to tell ourselves to do so every day. Life begins in the morning and ends in the evening. Night is our Lord's tomb.

For your spiritual reading, you would benefit a great deal to read and meditate on the treatise of *Conformity to the Will of God* by Rodriguez. By itself it replaces everything.

Work hard to acquire this divine conformity and it will give you peace, evenness of disposition and especially, great confidence in God.

And then, our Third Order! Continue to love it. Alas! I am nothing; God is everything and does everything. How happy I would be to see it prosper and become strong in the spirit of Mary, in her love for the simple and hidden life.

My respectful regards to your good husband, our dear beloved brother. The Good Lord is leading him to Heaven by the cross; to your good little Marie, may she always love God very much, the Blessed Virgin and her parents -- to all your dear children whom God is blessing!

For the amount in question, if you can do it, it should be in the month of January or February, but don't put yourself in difficulty.

Goodbye, dear Sister.

All yours in Jesus and Mary
Eymard

P.S. Friday, it was my pleasure to see and embrace dear Tonny and our good Fr. Mayet.²² They had a good trip. Father is fine. I would have liked to have him near me, you can understand that. However, it takes only two hours from here to Hyeres. We will go to visit our dear Father, and he will come to see us. In one sense, it is better that he should be in Hyeres than here. The weather is harsh at La Seyne. Then Fr. Viennot was telling me that they were killing him here and that he was preaching too much. That is because he is so good!

Be assured, Madame, that I will keep my eye on him and that I will always be informed of everything. You may count on my brotherly and long-standing friendship.

294

CO 293

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 3/17)

All for God alone

La Seyne S. Mer (Var), Nov. 17, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am really late in replying to your kind letters. Your charity has already excused me a little. I have been so busy until now, that I hardly have had time to pray to God. I was about to reply to your first letter when Mr. Tonny asked for me in the parlor. Imagine my surprise, my pleasure, my joy to see and hug this dear, gentle friend. What brotherly dedication and generosity! He is a hundred times dearer to me, and God will repay him a hundredfold. "The Mayets love one another," Father Mayet would often tell me. I can observe and admire it.

We left together for Toulon immediately to see and hug your dear priest brother, to scold him for not coming to La Seyne immediately, to make him promise to come often, and to promise to visit him, to recommend him to our acquaintances so that he might be welcomed, well treated, well cared for

Mr. Tonny must have told you about the beautiful day we spent together with Mr. de la Suchette, visiting two establishments: the arsenal and the prison....

Father Mayet is fine. His trip didn't tire him. I really miss having him with me. That's easy to understand.... On the other hand, he will be better at Hyeres, the climate is not as changeable as at

²² her brothers.

La Seyne, where it alternates suddenly between extreme heat and cold. Then Father Viennot told me that if Father Mayet had stayed another year at La Seyne he would have died from fatigue, because he was called on to speak so much: a little word to each one becomes very long in the end.

Believe me, Mademoiselle, Father Superior's refusal isn't a personal matter, but a general decision not to place Fathers who are ill in our Colleges, because such a stay harms rather than helps them.

Similarly, at the holidays, I had requested one of our Fathers as a substitute, and Father Superior didn't want to give him to me, because he was weak, and he also withdrew Father Maitre-Pierre from here for the same reason.

Let us see, rather, let us admire the wonderful care of divine Providence which does everything for our greater good.

Ever continue to be the daughter of our Lord and his divine Mother. Approach his love through the mystery of his Holy Childhood. It's the shortest and most pleasant way.

Avoid anything that could disturb and upset you. Consider it as a temptation. True love is peaceful and active, silent and eloquent, long-suffering and full of joy. It proves itself at every trial. It sees everywhere the object of its love, Jesus the divine spouse of its heart.

Yes, pray a great deal for me. I need it. Now, I really regret that I was too lazy to go see you and your dear sister. She must be upset with me, and yet I do esteem her so much!

Continue to have a great love for your dear Third Order. It's the Nazareth of the devout soul. The Blessed Virgin will not forsake it. She will protect it even more.

Goodbye, Mademoiselle. I leave you in the hands of our Lord.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

P.S. I am reopening my letter to assure you that no one reads my letters.

Miss Mayet Elizabeth
Place St. Claire #1, 4th floor
Lyons (Rhone)

295

CO 295

TO COLOMB OF THE FIVE WOUNDS,²³ DOM GEA
(VI 1/1)

All for God Alone

La-Seyne S-M (Var), November 19, 1851

Good and esteemed Colleague,

I had been wanting to write to thank you with all my heart for some time for what your charity inspired you to do for me, for your good letter, for everything that your kindness led you to send me. The certificate which associates me to so many good souls who are entirely devoted to our Lord; the Heart, seal and sacred bond between us, and then, the promise you kindly make to pray for me, to put me in your Memento.²⁴

How good you are to remember a poor sinner! who did not deserve so many favors!

Yes, I greatly love the devotion to the Five Wounds of our Lord. It is my joy to have them honored. They are our strength, our hope, the open door to love.

²³ Canon regular of the Immaculate Conception (Dom Grea)

²⁴ Remembrance at Mass

You are fortunate, dear Colleague, to have received such a beautiful mission and even more fortunate to bear its apostolic stigmata. I am told that you have had great trials: may God be praised!

That is how all great works of a crucified God begin.

I have been wanting to make your acquaintance for a long time, especially since your cousin, the curate of Neuville, spoke to me about you; but the Good Lord has not willed it so. I am making up for it by the bond which now unites us in our Lord.

I am wearing the blessed Heart which you sent me. May it be the sign of an increased love for God! Thank you also for your Manual which you were kind enough to send me. I haven't yet read it all, but what I have read I have enjoyed very much.

I am glad that my three good Sisters of the Third Order are with you, and that in your charity you are able to do them some good. You know them, and they deserve it; the Good Lord visits them often with the cross of his Love. I don't forget them, and I offer them frequently to our Lord. Please remember me to them.

Miss Marie, who is, as it were, the mother of the family; Miss Pierrette, with her divine poverty; and Miss Annette, with her sufferings.

Goodbye, dear brother, ever in God, we have a common center in the divine Heart of Jesus.

All yours,
Eymard S.M.

296

CO 296

TO THE CHILDREN OF MARY
(VII 1/1)

La Seyne SM (Var), Feast of the Presentation, 1851

Mademoiselle and dear Children in Mary,

Your beautiful and touching feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin in the Temple has finally come and I won't have the pleasure of sharing it with all of you, of seeing you in the Blessed Chapel, of hearing your devout and lovely hymns, and of speaking to you about our dear Mother; but I am pleased to think that someone else will replace me and that you will celebrate your patronal feast, and that our Lord will bless you. Poor little Association of the Children of Mary! It is struggling so! And yet, [it is] ever faithful; it is in the desert and thinks it has been forsaken. No, no, I hope not. It's only a short stay in Egypt, one of those trials which root a shrub more deeply. However, my dear daughters, don't let yourself be dejected by the sound of storms. Pray and always have a childlike trust in God. I offer you to God every morning at 7 o'clock, in the Holy Sacrifice. That is where I like to pray for you, to bless you. What I ask most particularly for you is that you may be like a young Mary in your home, in the midst of your family, at your duties. That is, keeping the Blessed Virgin ever before you, as your model, you may ever have a simple soul, which sees only the truth and will of God; a simple heart which goes directly to God and its duties, with gentleness and purity, a simple and generous will, simple in desiring what God wants and as he wants it, generous by striving each day to immolate your will graciously to the will of God and for God to that of your Superiors. I mean, your Parents and teachers.

What I also like to ask for you, my dear daughters, is a true and solid piety, founded on a gentle and strong virtue, especially on divine love which is its principle and life. Devotion is only its beautiful, sweet smelling flower, the beautiful fruit of a daughter's love.

Oh, my dear daughters, love our Lord very much! You will never love him enough. Begin on earth what must become your eternal happiness in Heaven; and begin it even here below, on this land of pilgrimage and penance.

Have a great love for Jesus and his divine Sacrament of love; that is the divine oasis of the desert. It is the heavenly manna of the traveller. It is the Holy Ark. It is the life and Paradise of love on earth.

Have a great love for our dear divine Mary, Mother of Jesus and ours. Love her as a dear daughter loves her mother. You are her little family still in the cradle; you need her care and maternal love. Young and weak in life, you need her hand to guide you and sustain you. Living in an earthly and evil world, you need her powerful arm to defend you and strengthen you in battle.

Dear daughters, these are my daily wishes and prayers. Could I forget you? No... Also, pray for me so that I may truly accomplish the Holy Will of God, in God.

Goodbye, dear daughters. I leave you in the keeping and grace of Jesus and Mary.

Eymard, P.M.

297

CO 297

TO MISS CLAUDIA MOULY
(VII 1/1)²⁵

Miss Claudia,

Thank you for your kind letter in the name of all your friends.²⁶ It touched me deeply. I was going to write to them when I received yours. Encourage them, together with Miss Camus.

Present my respectful regards to your dear mother, to your dear sisters, and believe me ever devoted to our dear little association.

Eymard

P.S. A thousand and one wishes from me to your dear and devout aunts whom I bless wholeheartedly.

Miss Dumond, eldest
Former Quai of Orleans, #11 4th floor
Lyons (Rhône)
For Miss Claudia Mouly

298

CO 298

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 2/17 VIII 26)²⁷

La-Seyne, November 21, 1851

Oh! The cross is always the cross! That is your glorious and blessed lot from the love of our Lord. Accept it with love also [as he did], because this is the only currency which God accepts and your crosses are and will be crosses of the heart. It is the crown of thorns which guards and defends

²⁵ This note was attached to the previous letter.

²⁶ The members of the Third Order for girls.

²⁷ Fragment.

it. The world is not worthy of your heart. Oh! How good the Good Lord has been to you and how magnificently loving He will be in heaven for the one who never desired any other spouse than Jesus Crucified! You are too afraid of death. Let that thought lie. Love is eternal!

I surely shared in your sufferings and I would like to see you freed from them. And so I am praying and I will continue to pray. However, be prudent. At your age and with your ill-health, you must take care of yourself. In this case, generosity would be imprudent. The Good Lord is with you. He reigns in your soul. Find your devotion at home.²⁸

In the political world people argue cheaply. It is history, and past history is the field of discussion. They listen to an opinion which is contrary to theirs with charity, and as it is so easy to give a neutral answer, they leave the question unchanged. So, leave the dead alone. You did not do anything wrong. Let your politics be like divine Providence. It is ever calm, happy, sure and especially, sanctifying. That is mine. Have you read the *Universal History* by Bossuet? You must read it.

299

CO 299

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 5/75)

All for God alone

November 23, 1851

Madame,

I received your letter which was both sad and good. I find pleasure in rereading it, because I can see your soul in it. Oh! May the Good Lord bless and always fill your dear soul! You have been so tested, crushed, crucified! Our good Master has done it and will do it again to purify, simplify and unite it fully to himself.

Oh! Madame, isn't it so that when we have God we have everything? He infinitely replaces everything else. He is father, mother, friend, protector, consoler. My God is my all! as St. Francis of Assisi often repeated.

The immense emptiness shaping and saddening your soul is the wind which precedes grace. In the past, people would say that nature is afraid of a vacuum. But God loves an empty heart. He creates it when it doesn't exist. His love is so immense that he needs to establish his kingdom within us with the same immensity. He wants to surround our soul with his infinity, fill it with his divine love; that is why he is creating a void in you: it is both a lesson and a grace. Be on your guard against sadness and inner irritability which ordinarily accompany and follow this spiritual desolation. Some is needed for God's work to be done, but don't cultivate or feed it nor let it be an inner state. Oh! Keep away from it, like death. Better yet, endure it as you would the pain of an operation.

What are you doing now that you are in Lyons? Are you afraid? No, we have a God in heaven who is Father and Savior!

Are you calm, peaceful and following your ordinary routine? I want to think so. When we are happy with the Good Lord, we are happy with ourselves. Dear Madame, find your peace in God alone, and it will never be shaken or troubled.

As for your confessor, do what is easiest and closest. You need the Good Lord more than people, love more than advice, peace more than action, trust more than fear. So, when you've done all that, I will say: have courage, good sister, Heaven is bowing down toward the earth.

Do I need to tell you about myself? No, you are praying for me; I pray for you. I wish you all the good that God wills for you. Isn't that enough?

²⁸ literally: have a domestic devotion.

Oh! If you knew what I am doing here, you would come to see it if it weren't so far. Should I tell you? Yes, as a secret, except for Miss Agarithe. I am gathering up the life of our dear Mr. Marceau. What beautiful things there are to write! Yesterday, I spoke with his lieutenant on board the "*Arche d'Alliance*". He told me wonderful things about this good friend. That is better for me than all the sermons in the world.

Goodbye, I'm leaving you quickly to take care of a thousand and one things. My regards to your fine daughter, and to good Miss Agarithe.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting the Third Order. I charge you with it. Help it function well. If you can, collect the old Minutes. It might be well if a copybook were always used. Mme. Franchet had made one for that purpose.

300

CO 300

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 71/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, November 26, 1851

Dear daughter,

Kindly forgive me if I haven't answered your letter of October 12th, and haven't given you news about myself. I kept waiting for quiet time to study carefully the questions you are asking me about our dear Third Order. Then, perhaps also, the devil kept making me put it off. In short, I'm a bit negligent. So now, let's turn to your letter.

1. I am constantly thinking about our dear Third Order and offer it to God daily, during the Holy Sacrifice [of the Mass]. The good spirit among the sisters, the blessing of God and Holy Church, the generous and evident protection of the Blessed Virgin on the Third Order comfort me. They give me joy and confident hope that the Third Order can survive. I see that it will bear precious fruits of salvation some day; that many people will even owe their salvation to it; that our Lord and his divine Mother will be truly glorified by it. The Third Order comes from God. Yes! How many tangible proofs have been seen by the one who directed it from the beginning! How many difficulties from which it has emerged successfully! How fruitful it has already been in holiness! As for me, I owe very much to it and I consider myself fortunate for having been chosen to serve it. And I confess that I was always happy to work for it. For the Third Order, nothing costs me, nothing is distasteful to me. I love everything that refers to it, and I love it with a special love.

So, I believe that any sister who doesn't have some of this attraction for the Third Order, either hasn't truly cooperated with the grace of her vocation, or is still a stranger to it and not a daughter. Any sister who doesn't hold to the Third Order in its special spirit will never taste how good and sweet it is! Oh! If our sisters appreciated how beautiful and sublime is the title: the Third Order of Mary of the interior life! How much perfection is contained in the single rule of the Third Order: "To love the simple and hidden life of Mary with Jesus!" How powerful this is as a way to perfection! Oh! I say, our sisters should consider themselves very fortunate to be chosen by the Blessed Virgin to form her family at Nazareth and at the foot of the Cenacle! When a person is well, exercise and tiring work make her stronger. When a tree is well rooted, winds and storms only deepen its roots; but then, woe to the fruit which isn't firmly attached to the tree! which carries destructive insects! It will fall and be rejected by passerby But those which withstand the storm will reach full maturity.

The works of God are the same as souls whom God calls to high perfection. A work of God passes through several phases, several hands, to reach its pure and perfect state, so that God may be its only center and life. When a work reaches that point, it is secure against storms, against every change. Oh! Please God that the Third Order of Mary may reach that point! That is my hope.

If our sisters truly have the spirit of God, they themselves will be the strength and witness of the Third Order. The Church had its catacombs, its times of exile, its divestment of everything! And the Church was ever growing, becoming stronger. That is due to its grace of victory and immortality. And the Third Order of Mary is the blessed fruit of Holy Church.

In union with the sister Directress, you need to really encourage your sisters toward the holiness contained in their initial call. Don't make any essential changes to the Third Order: to destroy a work of God the devil often pushes it outside of its grace and spirit. Then, it can no longer progress. It is no longer on the right path. An individual person can search out what might be good. A work of God, however, must wait patiently, faithfully, for God's moments, for the signs of his holy will. Mature reflection is necessary before changing what was established at the outset of a spiritual work. What I am saying here isn't a reproach. May God keep me from that! But it's in view of the future.

What I greatly desire to always see in evidence among the sisters is a spirit of fraternal charity which makes you one in heart and soul in God. A charity which makes no distinctions between the sisters, except humility, which always speaks well of others, desires only their spiritual well-being, rejoices in their graces and good works. This is good and perfect charity. This is what can be called the simplicity of charity. It is what I wish for everyone. Pray for me also, and consider as done for the Blessed Virgin all that you do for the Third Order.

Now, Mademoiselle, I come to your personal questions.

1. The secretary: Since Miss Brison doesn't have time, she must be replaced. This fine sister has been very dedicated to the Third Order, and she is overburdened with family duties. "Replace her with whom?" You need a secretary who knows the spirit of the Third Order well, because it's easy to slip one's personal spirit into a text. And a secretary should analyze only according to the spirit of the Third Order. That is, if something should ever be said in opposition to the initial spirit, it should be passed over in silence. It's a stray flower, that's all; but it would not belong in the bouquet of the garden of Nazareth.

A secretary also needs some capacity for analysis, and especially for precision. - Miss Laval is perhaps too new in the Third Order. - If Miss Mayet were brave enough, I believe she would perhaps do well. But you could do well, if you dare. Substitute occasionally. Could Miss Tournu not also be named assistant-secretary? She wouldn't belong to the council. She would be capable. She has been in the Third Order for quite some time. As for Miss de Fevel, I don't think she could fulfill this role. However, I'm not against it.

2. I'm not in favor of private meetings. They would go well for a time, but would not last. In Lyons, more than elsewhere, strictly lay meetings are not thought of well. The idea of reading the minutes is a good one, also on the spirit of unity. But women are so sensitive among themselves! Postpone that for a while.

3. About the wax (candle), the Third Order was providing it, as you know. For the wine, it's not worth it; besides, that was unheard of at Puylata. For the small hosts, same thing. I believe there was a misunderstanding, as it's such a slight matter. The question of the wine and hosts should not even have been raised. Would the Third Order members then be of lower station than the strangers who come to Communion in the main chapel? The priest will always say his Mass, whether there are people or not.

For the Mass stipends: since each member has one celebrated yearly, it's better to give it to the one who presides over the meeting. Then, he says it for the deceased members of the Third Order and everything is settled. That is how I did it. The stipend could be set at 2 francs, as a suggestion, not as a rule. "But when and how should this Mass be paid for?" Let several get together and give about ten at a time... (ask Miss David to suggest this procedure to the Directress of the married Women's Group.)

5. I'll write occasionally, if it's possible to do so and if it is helpful. However, you can sense how delicate that would be, for the moment. It would seem that I want to be directing the Third Order from here.

6. As for direction: it will come of itself. It's one of the essential practices of the Third Order, not a precept for each member, but available for those who need it. Don't press too much for that. We must wait for God's moments and for the man of his right hand. That is why we must pray a great deal.

7. I would be useful to give Miss Olive a helper. I say a helper, for it is best that only one be in charge. I agree that you not take the responsibility for that, because of your health problem. You couldn't do it, and it's difficult to be asking others all the time.

These are my answers. I am hurrying to send them to you. Please tell our sisters, especially the sisters of the council, and our kind Directress in particular, my respect and dedication to the Third Order; and how pleased I am to see that they are all so dedicated. I am happy to pray for them.

I leave you in our Lord. Please do not forget me in your prayers.

Eymard, S.M.

301

CO 301

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 72/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

November 28, 1851

I received your letter yesterday, my daughter. I read and reread your writings, I can say, with pleasure. Your soul is dear to me and even more so here than in Lyons. However, I can only help you slightly from a distance. So, when you tell me that you are continuing to go forward in spite of storms, in spite of the frustrations of this exile and the inconsistencies of those you meet, I am happy, and I bless God for having entrusted your soul to me, as I see it becoming more perfect in obedience. Yes, find your life in obedience; you really need it. It's your strength and the condition for your progress and perseverance in God's service. So, continue to work at making obedience the rule for your judgements, the motive for your actions, the cause of your external deeds, and you will then be more like Jesus who was obedient unto death on the cross.

Let me begin with your last letter about the Third Order.

1. Don't try to know who wrote you that anonymous letter. Leave the secret of it to divine Providence which does everything for our good. Don't answer it; the Good Lord doesn't will it. See, my dear daughter, the Good Lord knows your need for appreciation and confidence in order to glorify him by serving your neighbor. So, if you should glorify him more through humiliation, you should rejoice in it. I would never have accepted your request to be replaced on the council. I saw in it a good means for you to die to yourself and glorify God by these little difficulties. It's a gold mine, and that's why I didn't change you. It's only your own interest that I am looking after. One day, our Lord appeared to St. John of the Cross and told him how happy he was for everything that he had done for him saying to him: "Ask me whatever reward you will, my son!" – "Lord", the saint responded, "the happiness of suffering and being despised for your love." You know how his prayer was heard! So, my opinion is that you should take no steps to free yourself; that you should remain Mistress of Novices until you are replaced. When a crucifying person comes to tell you something difficult, try to direct it immediately to your crucified Spouse as a token of love. Don't think about it. Quickly redirect the arrow.

I understand that it's too much to wait three or four hours for Fr. Colin.²⁹ It would be better to go closer, for example, to Fr. Burillot at La Charit; go in my name. If you need a letter for him, I will write it willingly. I don't know the gentlemen at St. Francois. But find one for your good mother. She has good cause. She was living in the country and doesn't have a confessor. So, your dear mother is weaker, I am sorry to hear it. I would love to visit and comfort her. Tell her that I am still praying for her and that I continue to love her dear family.

Try to have an Assitant-Rectress named so that the council may be complete; I don't see who it should be. If Miss de Revel were willing to accept, I would prefer her to many others. She has good judgement, and wouldn't do anything without consulting. You will say: "She might be feared?" - That may not be so bad for those who have strange ideas. She would be entirely on your side. There might also be Miss Crouette, but I would prefer Miss de Revel.

2. For Miss Jenny, she would be well at Notre Dame du Laus. She would be well there. I would entrust her to the Superior and to a few individuals. Let's think about it between now and then.

3. It isn't up to you to go visit the sick sisters of the Third Order, you are in pain and not well. It's just a matter of sending a member of the council. Or even, two sister nurses could be given this duty.

4. You will ruin yourself with Masses, a novena is too much. I'll say one Mass for you, and that's enough. You've just had some said for your parents. I have to watch out for your wallet. I will say those for Miss J., but don't be jealous, because it's for you as well.

5. For your ordinary confession, follow the guidelines I've given you; about negligence of, and sins against, your exercises of piety, it's enough to say: "Father, I accuse myself of any willful negligence in my duties of piety, of any infidelity to grace." As for pride, always accuse yourself of it; "Father, I accuse myself of all the sins of self-pride which I have committed in thought, word and deed, as the Good Lord sees them." For your temptations: "I accuse myself of anything which may have offended God in my temptations, especially against my neighbor, or against chastity. I don't believe I have consented willingly; I accuse myself of them to the extent that the Good Lord judges me to be guilty." If you are questioned about these temptations in detail, say that your confessor forbade you to examine them or to reflect on your doubts and fears, and that he wanted you to pass over it. Accuse yourself with simplicity for your acts of impatience. About your neighbor: when you have had the misfortune to commit some positive and certain sin, simply say: I have failed in charity in thought, or in words, against my neighbor. No need to relate the story or the circumstances. If you are asked for an explanation about a sin, answer as simply as you can at the time.

If you confess yourself this way, you will be following the principle St. Vincent de Paul gave his religious: "Accuse yourself," he said, "of four or five sins and everything is said." I am telling you the same. All your other faults will be forgiven at the same time. They are all included in this general accusation. Only, your mind won't be satisfied. So, make it submit to obedience in faith and to the grace of humility. The Good Lord sees your heart; humility and trust are what he wants to find in your confession. Always consider absolution as a Baptism which erases everything, and mark it as the beginning of a new life. You may perhaps tell me: "I'm deceiving my confessor. I'm telling him things which aren't true. I don't know what I'm telling him." - Suppose all that were true, then what? You didn't have full freedom or presence of mind, that's all. Consequently you shouldn't be troubled about it. The Good Lord will set everything right. - "Then what should I do?" - Nothing, continue as if you had confessed yourself well. It was a temptation, a trial.

My dear daughter, you try too hard to be known in depth by an ordinary and passing confessor. That is, you would want him to read your soul, to understand your condition, in a word, that he should be a director. That's not necessary. It's often dangerous for your peace of soul. You have my decisions and direction in writing. Until the Good Lord should determine otherwise, that should be sufficient for you. So you already learned a few hard lessons. I often told you: the Good Lord gives a director.

Concerning your temptation to despair and its consequences, be at peace, it is nothing. I am sorry about it though, and it hurts me to see you reduced to this pitiful state. However, you can see

²⁹ Perhaps for confession.

that the Good Lord hasn't forsaken you. Oh! How wicked the devil is and how much he resents you! If these temptations should ever return, write them to me immediately. I will pray for you and you will be relieved of them.

I reread your article about union in God. What a child you are! You are like a little child thinking about its mother...! The thought that came to me about all that, is that it would have to be our Lord himself. Nevertheless, you can at least let my insufficiency be a door to our Lord. You are linked to a poor ragged wretch, whom you suppose to be rich and holy, if you please. Let me tell you that I chuckled, and I'm still chuckling about it.

Please! Keep courage. Have patience in the midst of all your household crosses; those are the best; they don't breed pride and self-love. It's like dew for the garden of Nazareth; continue to float over all those little waves. Don't let all the little pin pricks make you sad or upset. Consider yourself as an anvil on which all have the right to come to hammer their iron; the more the anvil is struck upon, the better it becomes.

Courage! Goodbye in our Lord. I bless you in his holy grace.

Eymard

P.S. Yes, when appropriate, answer that my departure from Lyons was due only to necessity, and that is quite true.

Miss de Revel is fine.

Concerning the Third Order Annual, feel entirely free.

302

CO 302

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 9/76)

All for God alone

[La Seyne], November 28, 1851

Madame,

You pleased me very much when you sent me news about yourself and your dear patient through Miss Stephanie. Strangely enough, I was expecting some, not knowing where to find you! I can picture you around your patient and I bless the care you are giving and especially your holy confinement. Our Lord wants to reign in you through this continual bondage of self-denial. He wants your piety, virtues and love to have this universal aspect. Praise him for this path. It is a very precious one. It shortens the desert road and has fewer dangers. The Good Lord is and must be your sun each day. Every day it rises for you, but not in the same way. You must always love this divine Sun of justice and love, whether it comes up radiant, or veiled in the midst of summer heat, or changed by the winter frosts. It's always the same sun.

You certainly have your difficulties, and I sympathize totally. It's difficult for me that you are so far away, but God wants it. May he be blessed for it and you too.

Yet, how good the Good Lord is! He is the vigilant center of every union in him and for him. Oh, beautiful Heaven! I am beginning to hope for you, not to eliminate suffering, but to love God perfectly. My God! Madame, I am wrong. Suffering is such a beautiful thing, especially a mysterious, hidden suffering, veiled under the appearance of happiness! A fine suffering, which frees you from yourself, which sacrifices you to the pure love of Jesus. Oh! How I thank him for having sent me here! This good Master wants to force me to live only in him, to find my only consolation, strength, and rest in him. Sometimes I think, either the Good Lord will call me to himself soon, or when I have truly died to my selfishness, he will use my nothingness for his glory.

Oh! What am I saying? Forgive me, I let my pen flow too quickly...Don't think that I am ill or unhappy here. In general, I am fine. I have good colleagues. However, when God wants to immolate a soul, he has a secret way of doing so.

I learned through Miss G. that your dear patient is improving. Thank God for that! Now take care of yourself; take care to make up for your lost sleep.

Here is news about Fr. Mayet at Hyeres. I went to see him last Thursday. I hope that the climate at Hyeres will be good for him. The weather there is magnificent as it is here. It is like spring in our villages. The Jubilee begins Sunday. The Pastor told us that there is much apathy in his parish.

Goodbye, dear Lady, pray for me, and have someone send me news about you.

All yours in our Lord,
+ Eymard

P.S. My regards and best wishes to Miss Stephanie. Thank her for her kind letter. Tell her to keep on following the same path, going directly to God's heart, passing beyond everything without stopping or turning back.

Madame
Madame Gourd,
in Lyons

303

CO 303

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ³⁰
(VII 1/1 III 3)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, December 1, 1851

Dear friend and Brother in Mary,

Your letter made me very happy because your family is like my own and I love you like a dear and loving brother. From here, I often go to see you,³¹ to bless your store, your difficulties and your work. I do thank the Good Lord for the graces he is granting you and will grant you still in his kindness, because he loves you like a good Father. So, if he sends you a few little crosses, receive them well. They come from Heaven and from the love of our Lord. Unfortunate is the one who has no crosses in this world! It is a proof that Jesus our Savior doesn't find him worthy of himself.

But there is a secret about crosses; I mean to look at them, not from the point of view of suffering and sacrifice, that would frighten us, - but look at them in the will and grace of God. Then their nature changes; they become light and comforting.

The most painful crosses are interior temptations. All the Saints have had some. Do not be too saddened over yours. The Good Lord allows them to humiliate you, to oblige you to pray a bit more and to draw your strength from the Sacraments.

Don't be too afraid of them. Rather, reject them and do not examine them when your heart is troubled. You must be very careful about a temptation which the devil has in store for you. It is the temptation of turmoil and discouragement after the painful temptations which you mentioned to me. - Keep careful watch against it all and when there is no clear, definite sin, believe there is none, and reject your doubts and fears.

³⁰ The broche-in-law of Marguerite Guillot.

³¹ in spirit.

The Good Lord also allows these little clouds at home with your dear wife, in order that the most perfect one might be the most generous one. At heart these are only little weaknesses. So, a brief word, a little overture, a small sign of friendship suffice to clear the air.

You are both very fine people, but the devil is jealous of the beautiful harmony of your piety. Oh! It was easy for the Justice of the Peace to put peace between two hearts that are so Christian!³²

Dear friend, continue your little meditation regularly. We need to reflect on the great topic of our salvation.

Then the sacraments; - by a single Communion you strengthen yourself for several days and the Good Lord is kind; he requires so little from a heart which desires to act rightly.

You please me when you speak to me about the Third Order. Yes, it is a grace to belong to it. I hope that the Good Lord will bless it always. It pleases me to pray for my good brothers.

Goodbye, dear friend and brother. Give me some news about yourself from time to time. It will always please me.

Eymard

304

CO 304

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)

(III 1/21 VIII 1)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, December 2, 1851

My daughter, your kind letter touched me deeply. Don't be afraid to write similar ones to me from time to time; they will always please me, for you know that your sorrows are my sorrows, your joys my joy, and that I love your family as my own.

I am sad to know that you are ill, you the Martha, the mother of the house. Do take care of yourself for the love of God and your sisters. If homeopathy helps you, so much the better; some people are helped by it. Mr. Rapou is a good Christian; they say he is a good doctor. You could try Mr. de Fayette; I think he would be better. However, if you could do without any of them, that would be the best. You need peace, rest, and sedatives. In the end, everything adds up.

You tell me that your soul is ill. But, who is not infirm and suffering? Who loves and serves the Good Lord perfectly?

You've found the right remedy: wanting to do what is right, humbling yourself for your faults and spiritual failings, - and I add, love for the holy Will of God. Yes, have trust in God, surrender yourself into the hands of this good Father, entrust to him the paternal care of your future...*[three lines erased]* consider the future as the Good Lord hiding his goodness to make you long for and ask for it. The Good Lord will never abandon a soul which his love has placed on Calvary.

As for your Communions, yes, you can make them and replace them on another day of your choice. That is a rule for you. Don't leave them aside willingly; you need them too much. Go forward with humility and confidence, with a desire to do better and to love our Lord truly, and you will fulfill them very well. - See, my dear daughter, serve the Good Lord in fidelity, because it is his will, not because it is sweet and pleasant to serve him.

Do things because of duty, without turning in on yourself personally. The more we find that our heart is cold, arid, and suffering, the greater and more pleasing our sacrifice is to God. Have courage then, my daughter. In heaven you will have time for enjoyment and rest. But that heaven must be seen as the glorification of Calvary. Consequently, love the cross which leads to it, which is its door, its scepter and its throne.

³² Civil marriages are obligatory in France in addition to the Church wedding.

Goodbye, good daughter, may our Lord help and heal you.

Eymard

Miss Mariette Guillot
Lyons

305

CO 305

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 3/17 VIII 26)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, December 3, 1851

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to answer your last letter, and I do so with pleasure. Everything which interests you interests me. First of all, I wish to thank you for kindly remembering me. It is very precious to me, and I return it with a lot of interest. Prayer and Heaven are such benefits to friendship! We always meet on this path with the sweet hope of meeting again on heaven's day.

I will be very happy to say the novena for your brother and my dear son in Jesus Christ. I will begin it on the 11th of this month. I keep thinking about him. I feel like I can still see him. What a great grace God has given him. I believe he is saved!..

Goodbye, dear daughter in Jesus. Do not think about death, but about life in God. Our daily dying only proves and feeds it. Do not separate [the thought of] death from God our Father who wants it to consummate the union of his love.

Dec. 2, 1851 - There was a coup d'état. For an account of the events which followed on Dec. 4, 6 and 7, see Doc. 315, letter to Mr. Bethfort, Jan. 11, 1852 and Doc. 334, letter to Countess Adele de Revel, Feb. 24, 1852.

306

CO 306

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 73/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

December 6, 1851

I've just received your letter, my daughter. I read it with great interest. Your family's happiness is my happiness. You are on the cross, but with our Lord. Don't worry so much about me. My health is the same as at Lyons. You could say that I have everything [I need] here to be happy. When they say that I am lonely, they are wrong. That there should be sacrifices to make: yes, there are some. I need more graces here than elsewhere; so I count on the prayers of my good daughters.

1. Should my letter be given to each one to read personally? - If it can do some good, I would agree. I don't remember its content; all I know is that I was thinking of everyone when I wrote it.

2. As for Fr. Lagniet, he knew that I had promised you all a few words. I had begun it in Lyons, but I don't see much use in having Fr. Lagniet read it. It would mean giving it too much importance. Let wisdom guide you.

Yes, let the council be as you indicated. I would really like it that way. Miss de Revel would restrain some. That was my thought, and you guessed it.

4. The nurses also, but Mme. Gal won't accept, inquire. -

- God loves and protects France. - Mary is its Queen. - St. Michael its protector. - Have confidence and pray.

All yours in Christ,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

Dec. 7 - The College of La Seyne was threatened by rebels, who then decided to retreat.

307

CO 308

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 84/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), December 12, 1851

My dear sisters,

I thank you for your welcome letter. It made me very happy, as everything does that comes from you. I'm so sorry to learn that you have been tired, dear sister; don't be negligent about the pain in your side. A minor remedy applied promptly often forestalls a major illness, such as a few applications of mallow or flax flour, perhaps a few leaches. You would do well to keep some arnica water handy; it is excellent for cases like that. It can be purchased in Grenoble.

I hope that the Marist Fathers of La Mure may have the consolation of seeing their ministry blessed. The Murois must be very pleased with Fr. Ducourneau. He is very good. Fr. Dominget is a man of faith, Fr. Codina, a little saint.

I really pray for La Mure so that the Good Lord may make it holy and happy. The Jubilee is occurring during all these critical events, it will make our villages more peaceful. It is truly fortunate that the President was victorious over all those blind and guilty rogues. The Good Lord has preserved us from great dangers, for these evil men all had terrible plans. The Good Lord loves France and is not abandoning it. We must really pray for the President: that the Lord may direct and protect him. Yet, we must be prudent. Things are very quiet here, nothing has happened to us; so, don't worry about us. I decided to write to you right away to set your minds at ease.

Do what is right and let others say what they will. Keep this motto and don't worry about anything that might be said. You are the only persons whom I love in this world.

Goodbye, dear sisters, may Jesus and Mary keep you.

Your very loving brother,
Eymard, p.m.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 13/33)

All for God alone
(*Personal*)

December 16, 1851

Madame,

So you are still suffering and broken on the cross! Alas! It is also a great source of suffering for me to know that you feel so crucified! I know that you suffer more than others, and the misfortune is that you often suffer alone, turned in on yourself and your poor [human] nature breaks under the weight of so much pain. When temptations return like frightening storms, and when God's love is no longer tangible, when devotion itself becomes only a sacrifice of constant virtue, then I can understand how you must suffer, my dear daughter in our Lord. Your courage withdraws in fear, looking at a future which appears to be so dark and destructive.

What is comforting about you is that the Good Lord is always your good Father, and that, in spite of everything, you want to serve him and you will serve him always. In a word, it's just that your heart is better than your head, and your will for good is stronger than the movement toward evil. That is a grace from God. Oh no! my dear daughter, do not give up the service of our Lord, because you can find it only in the garden of Olives and on his Calvary of rejection. What, would you be less generous toward this good Savior than you were for your friends, I would even say, for those who have hurt you! No, no, that's impossible for a soul who has loved God above all and wants only him, which suffers only because it believes itself forsaken by God. No, my dear Sister, the Good Lord is not forsaking you. If you were in your original situation of wealth and good fortune, I would say, yes, you should fear, because you would not bear the seal of the elect and of great souls. You would be treated like a useless or idle member, but when I count your sacrifices, when I analyze your suffering, oh! then I bless you a thousand times more. I thank God for wanting to keep you so close to him on the path toward the Calvary of love. And if I were not so weak, I would envy your crosses.

See! My dear daughter, your sorrows are only sorrows of the heart! You will say: isn't that enough? Yes, that's true; but then the sacrifice is simpler, the remedy is swifter, the love of God is purer. To love God more than oneself, to love God by the loving sacrifice of oneself, to hope against hope, to love by means of the cross, to live by the cross, to unite oneself to Jesus only by the cross of the heart, makes the rest seem very insignificant, doesn't it? But you know very well that our Lord finds rest only in the heart. He wants to reign only in the heart, as on his throne. – "But I am suffering too much and [I am] too alone! I no longer feel the strength to continue my first style of life and it is becoming impossible!"... No, it is not impossible. On the contrary, it is the best means for you to find peace, in holy freedom, even to be strong in the midst of your sacrifices. Besides, you have experienced it yourself. To be at peace, you need to be obedient against yourself, to do things first of all through virtue in the midst of every sort of trial. Peace will follow... As for inner freedom, it is bound to the purity of your divine love. For you, strength lies in patience and in trust; and to tell you my whole thought, you need to suffer to be fully one with God. But, my dear daughter, you are still too enslaved by external helps. You live too much with your crosses as crosses. You live too much with yourself alone, or perhaps you desire too much to live alone with God. To live with God alone is perfect, but that is for heaven. We must live with God and with everything that God wants in his love. I do pray to our good Father to help his beloved daughter understand the full perfection of this thought. Everything is contained in that for the moment. Now let me tell you very simply: choose a director. Stabilize yourself; you need it.

I am not abandoning you, but you need someone close by. Then, be faithful to your spiritual exercises, according to your strength, but no more. Be a good nurse for the Third Order. I expect that from you. Goodbye, good daughter!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

309

CO 310

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 14/33)

All for God alone, and for you alone

La-Seyne, December 31, 1851

My dear daughter,

I read and reread your letter, and I am hurrying to answer it. Your condition awakened my compassion and made me double my prayers for your dear soul. I don't need to ask you to keep it a secret. I am so far behind to answer old letters.

You tell me that my letter did you some good. Oh! May the Good Lord be praised! I would like to help you so much! I won't say, to make you happy, you will be so only in heaven, but to make you more pleasing to the heart of God, then you will find peace in your heart and everywhere. Yes, your soul is very dear to me. The Good Lord had entrusted it to me, and so believe that I am now and will always be devoted to it and that you are among the first. Now, I will answer your questions:

1. To have a clear conscience, you don't have to review the past. I don't believe that such a review would be very helpful to you at this time. I will have you do it later, if God wills. "But if my confessions are bad?" No. "What if they are doubtful?" If they were so, the surest thing for you [to do] is to entrust them to divine mercy and to be at peace. They have been stormy, troubled, that is all that you would need to say. Strictly speaking, you could accuse yourself in this general way at the end of an ordinary confession. – "I accuse myself of all the failings, of the lack of preparation I may have brought to the sacraments of penance and the eucharist." That's enough.

2. It isn't necessary to speak about one's temptations in confession. It isn't a matter for the sacrament. It is only matter for direction; and direction is optional. "But I consent?" Then it would be a sin, and would need to be accused. Then also, if a confessor inquires, we must simply tell him the truth. But your temptations to remain troubled, anxious are only difficulties, and when you don't see clearly, it evidently comes from your freedom and will. This is nothing but ample matter for suffering and reward - flee this burning terrain. Don't look back as you flee, and turmoil cannot become permanent. Don't worry about your temptations, my dear daughter. Perhaps you worry about them too much. - You will say, "What should I do?" Say, oh my God! I prefer to die than to offend you. My Jesus, you know that I love you. Oh my Father, when will you deliver me from this body of sin. Oh, Jesus, let me suffer. Oh, Mary, comfort me. That is all that our dear Lord wants from you. Notice that these temptations often come only after having forgotten God, or are precursors of some danger. It is God saying, be on your guard.

3. I heard that they were going to give the Third Order a director. Try him. You torture yourself too much over your confessions. Here is a model:

1) I accuse myself for any willful negligence of my exercises of piety. I omitted them through negligence (so many times).

2) For all infidelities to grace, for my lack of mortification.

3) I... for whatever may have offended God in my temptations against faith, against trust in God, or against the Holy Virtue. I accuse myself of them insofar as the Good Lord knows me to be guilty. (I was forbidden to examine myself on it.) This should be the answer to any questions about these temptations.

Against charity, a few unkind words... Not sufficiently gentle with my family... I accuse myself of sins of self-pride. That is all, and is perfectly sufficient.

4. "Is it necessary to obey in conscience matters?" Yes, in order to put yourself under the particular direction of obedience. Do not rush. One must find one's Ananias from our Lord. Something is needed to open the heart, an attraction is needed, a grace from God. You have what you need in an ordinary way. What you need are the decisions you are given, your rule, the cross of our divine Savior. For extraordinary things, I don't dare say. You have me to help you, I am very far. But you always have our Lord and your cure is in his hands.

5. "What can be done to overcome this state?" Nothing, my daughter, wait patiently for God's time. Suffer for his love, whatever his love wants you to suffer, as much as he wills, for his greater glory.

That is what is called pure love. It is the most perfect, the most purifying, the most crucifying.

Courage, dear daughter, have pure and perfect love. That is what I wish for you in this New Year. I see that God is jealous of your heart, he wants it entirely, in solitude while belonging to all. The means he is using is interior suffering, especially isolation, the powerlessness of human beings to comfort you. Oh! Dear daughter, love which goes directly to God grows in readiness and purity. Ask our Lord for the science of the love of the cross. Let yourself be wounded by the divine arrows more peacefully, and avoid turmoil and anxiety as you would avoid death.

Goodbye then in our Lord. May his holy grace sustain you, and his love make you stronger than any storm or death itself.

Eymard

310

CO 532

TO FR. MAYET, S.M.

(VI 1/4)³³

[La Seyne, End of 1851]

Very Dear Father,

Thank you for your kind letter. It came like a friendly voice to console me a little in my cell where with God alone I spend my days and my nights. - I am happy here, since the Good Lord wants me here. I surrender myself to his holy and gracious will since he only wants my greater good. These little strokes of Providence do good to the soul; they free it and make it strengthen more intimately the bonds which bind it to God alone. I need all that to be happy here.

311

CO 311

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)

(V 3/14)

How kind you are, dear brother, to keep such good memories of me! Be sure that I am happy to do the same for you; and if I should go to Paris, you would hear about it first. Our acquaintance was so providential! Always be Mary's St. John, a good Third Order member. You will be so by continuing your meditation every day, poor but faithful. "Meditation," says St. Augustine, "is our position as a beggar with God." Well, how does a poor person behave and what are his qualities?

³³ A simple extract drawn from the notes of Fr. Mayet

First, it is humility. That is why he stays at the door; he uses only humble words.

The second is patience: He knows how to wait and he knows how to hope. He is not put off by anything. He uses humiliation and rejection to become more eloquent.

The third is gratitude: It opens every door to him and finally makes him loved and respected.

So, be a good beggar of God. Use your distractions, your dryness, even your sins, as claims to God's infinite goodness.

Are you familiar with the *Meditations of St. Thomas* by Very Rev. Fr. Antonin Massouille, printed in Paris, at Sagnier rue-des Saints-Peres, 64? - I advise you to get it. It is an excellent work.

I really thanked God and his holy Mother for that beautiful conversion. Yes, God is good and Mary all-powerful! I will also pray for the other person.

For your part, dear friend and brother, I place you on the paten³⁴ with myself every morning at 7:00. Your soul is as dear to me as my own.

Write to me from time to time. Your letters really please me.

Believe me ever, in Jesus and Mary,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Superior of the Boarding School
at La Seyne-sur-Mer
via Toulon, (Var)

312

CO 312

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 74/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, January 1, 1852

Now my dear daughter, I am writing to give you and your dear family the beginning of this, God's beautiful day. I want to tell you that this morning, I offered all of you to God in our Lord at the Holy Sacrifice. It was a comfort for me to name you at the Holy Altar, as my daughters in his divine love. My wishes for all of you are always and everyday the same: that you would love our divine Savior perfectly, as the only God of your heart. That, in his love, you would learn how to suffer the sorrows and crosses he sends. And that for love of this good Master, you would love suffering, especially what you have not chosen, but which the Good Lord sends you from his kindly hand. There is no virtue without love, and no love without suffering.

However, I see that the Good Lord has given you a great share in his love, that the fire of sacrifice is like the perpetual and holy fire which burned on the altar before the holy Ark. May God be praised!

However, your household, which is so beautiful to the eyes of faith, is sad to the eyes of friendship. It appears to be a painful Calvary, and my heart suffers. I would like to see more quietness and better health.... But oh! let us adore the holy will of God and look to heaven for courage and blessings.

Now I continue my letter. During these days, we are interrupted by a thousand and one things. I received your welcome letter with the one from Mr. and Mme. Gaudioz. It's a real pleasure for me to receive news from a family that I love as my own.

I praise God for the help given to the Reparatrix Ladies. They need someone to be assigned there. I believe it will be Fr. Barjot from Paris, the former director of the Third Order at St. Etienne. I believe he is quite spiritual. He is simple and prudent.

³⁴ I offer you to God at Holy Mass.

If someone asks you about the merger of the Third Order with the work of Reparation, I don't know how to tell you to proceed... Here is my feeling: I wouldn't like to see the Third Order merge with the work of Reparation. It would mean obscuring and destroying its primitive spirit. I would accept letting the Third Order members join the work of the Reparatrix Ladies freely; but each one according to her attraction. I wouldn't like to see the Third Order under the direction of the Reparation, but only linked by fraternal charity, if these women formed a section or branch of the Third Order. Let each one have her own attraction, her own vocation.

On the other hand, I love the Work of Reparatrix Adoration: and Lyons is not sufficiently grateful toward these dear religious. I'm not the one who spoke to the Bishop first about those Ladies. It was a woman who knew them and who had given the Bishop the outline of their Work. I only carried out his will, and I am happy to have done so, because it's a good and beautiful Work.

Don't worry. Everything will settle down about the Third Order. We only want the holy will of God. Until the matter is clear and evident, the Third Order should prefer what is sure to what is doubtful, what is certain to what is still under study.

Don't give any importance to whatever might be said for or against. They are only human beings. As for me, I accept whatever God may want for the Third Order, both as to its form and nature, provided it be the expression of his loving will.

I join with you in prayer for your sister Jenny. Oh, what a cross! Yes, promise her Le Laus. Her health may improve there, and then we will manage the rest...

I leave you for now. - I want to send my letter quickly; my health is good. As for your difficult temptations, consider them as your Purgatory.

Goodbye, I will write to you about that again. Only, pass beyond it. - And my gifts?³⁵

Eymard

A mold of the Blessed virgin will be sent to you from Paris. Receive it and pay for it with the Third Order money: thirteen francs for cost and postage, I believe. Mr. Perret is sending it.

Thank you for the receipt.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

313

CO 313

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 85/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne, January 1, 1852

My dear sisters,

As a good godson I owe you at least a New Year's letter, with my wishes; but, what shall I wish for you? Heaven one day, in this world, greater love for God; and especially a great love for God in suffering. That is the sure way, the quick and perfect way, the one by which all the saints have passed, all the souls favored by God. This daily martyrdom prepares us for heaven. But we know that the cross will always be heavy and painful for [human] nature to bear. We never become used to suffering. The Good Lord allows it to increase our merits, by giving us new sacrifices. My

³⁵ New Year's wishes.

dear sisters, please have courage! We will soon reach the city of heavenly peace and happiness. Let others crucify us, but let us keep looking toward heaven, its end.

I prayed a lot for you on the holy day of Christmas. At Midnight I said Mass for you as usual. On New Year's Day, I went at four o'clock in the morning, to wish you a happy New Year before the Blessed Sacrament, repeating the prayer that you had taught me in my childhood: "My God, I adore the first day of the year, grant me the gift of a heart burning with your love."

I was sorry to learn that you had been ill. I praise God that you are better. Take care of yourselves on these cold and icy days. Take care of yourselves in order to serve the Good Lord even better.

I received news from the Milles Guillot. They have their crosses. Write to them from time to time, it pleases them.

As for me, I am well. We have very nice weather. It is as warm here as at La Mure during the month of May.

We have been very quiet, nothing has happened to us. So don't believe all the bad news you might hear.³⁶

Continue to pray for me; I offer you at the Holy Altar every day and I am in our Lord,

Dear sisters,
your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

cf. footnote³⁷

314

CO 314

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 75/395 VI 2)

All for God alone.

La Seyne, January 10, 1852

Dear daughter,

I need someone to do me a favor, and I couldn't ask anyone better.

I would like to have two statues of the Blessed Virgin to put in our children's playground, so that this good Mother may protect them, and that these little children may honor her as their Mother. The first statue would be like the one at the Cathedral. I would like it to be in stone-plaster. You will find it at Gaspari's, No. 11 rue St. Dominique. It is the same as the one at our boarding school at St. Chamond. The man wants 75 francs for it. See whether you can get it for less. The other statue would be in oil-treated plaster. I would like one of the Immaculate Conception with open arms. That gentleman wants 50 francs. If it could be had in stone-plaster for 60 francs, I would prefer that. In any case, take the first one for 75 francs, if he doesn't want to lower the price, and the second one for 50 francs. He will crate it and bring it to Mr. Perret. Please give him my regards. Kindly pay with the money you have on hand for me and we will keep an account of the surplus. Ask Mr. Perret to send it to us quickly, so that we can have it by the end of January.

³⁶ Reference to the social uprisings.

³⁷ French edition: Letter to Stephanie Gourd, published as Jan. 3, 1852, corrected to Feb. 13, 1852 (Troussier).

I am hoping to receive good news from Notre Dame du Laus.

I haven't answered Miss David yet. Thank you for your letter about the Third Order, it made me happy. In fact I would love to see Miss de Revel on the council, for the reason you give: the weak-minded who are easily influenced need to be kept aware of their duties, sometimes a bit through fear. Nothing new here. I am well. Miss du Rousset is in Toulon, I saw her. However, she came at a bad time, as I was very busy. She is a good person. Goodbye, I bless you. The mail is leaving.

All yours and your dear ones in our Lord,

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

315

CO 315

TO MR. BETHFORT³⁸
(VII 2/3)

La Seyne sur Mer, January 11, 1852

Dear Sir,

How kind you are to remember me once more. I was and I am deeply touched by your feelings of friendship for me. Yes, may God bless and protect your dear little daughter. She is a child of prayer and trust. She is a miracle child. I often thought about her and I will pray even more, that she may one day be your consolation and glory. Madame must be happy, God loves her dearly and you make her twice as happy. A double bond unites you. May God keep it so: Religion alone can make two hearts happy by making them holy.

Things are peaceful here now, but it is impossible to imagine the lack of morals into which ignorant and indifferent people had fallen. One must be on the scene. I was nearly massacred and burned with the whole boarding school which I direct. These monsters wanted to play ball with our children's heads. Two thousand men were coming toward our school on Dec. 6th at 1:00 a.m. They were only a half hour away. Because a leader missed the call, they decided to put it off until the next day - and on the next day we were saved.

The prisons of Toulon, the forts, are bursting with prisoners. Three days ago they brought 40 women who were in jeopardy. It was horrible to see. Dear Sir, how we must bless and thank divine Providence for having protected us!

Please offer my fond respects to the kind pastor of St. Peter's. When you have a moment to spare give me the great pleasure of receiving news about you and your dear family.

Please receive and offer to Madame my ever devoted respects with which I am, Dear Sir,

Your ever humble servant,
Eymard

³⁸ Lawyer Chalon-sur-Saone

316

CO 316

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 76/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 13, 1852

Dear daughter, I have time only to send you your direction. I must leave for three or four days. I'm going to see the Bishop of Frejus. When I return I'll write to you about your spiritual life. I am well, since I am getting up at 4:00 and getting to bed at 9:30 or 9:00. With God's help, I'm working a lot. Besides, my life here is only a continuous act of the virtue of self-denial. May the Good Lord be blessed and glorified by it! Dear Third Order! So much agitation! Nonetheless it is loved by the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin!

Eymard

317

CO 318

TO BR. FRANCOIS³⁹, S.M.
(VIII 1/1)

La Seyne-sur-mer, Jan. 22, 1852⁴⁰

Very dear Brother,

I have a mission full of consolation to fulfill with you. The Mayor of our city came today to ask me to write to you, requesting four brothers for the city. The Pastor wishes for nothing better. All decent people here are longing for such a grace of salvation for abandoned youth. Up to now we had no success, as the municipal council would not hear of it, but now we have some excellent Councillors in office, and we must make the most of this. Before speaking of it to his municipal council our excellent Mayor would like to know if he can count on four brothers for the holidays this year - that is, at the beginning of the school year [blank] - the conditions for the foundation.

If I might join my prayers to his, I would beg you, very dear Brother, to do the impossible and grant this favor to this city, which needs it all so badly. It will do immense good; they are nearly all sailors. Also, being close to you would do us much good, and we would endeavor to be grateful and take good care of your brothers. This foundation would open the whole region to you - I await your reply as soon as possible: may it be positive and reassuring, even if it must take precedence over another.

All is well here - we are very quiet.⁴¹ - I ask for your prayers, and ask you to convey my affectionate good wishes to all our good Fathers and the dear Brothers Louis-Marie and Jean-Baptiste.

I am, in our Lord, very dear brother,

Your very devoted,
Eymard, Sup. of the College

Urgent to
Rev. Brother Francois
Director-General of the Marist Brothers
at the Hermitage, near St. Chamond, Loire

³⁹ Second Superior-General of the Marist Brothers.

⁴⁰ Date taken from Postmark.

⁴¹ Reference to the uprisings.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 6/75)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne, January 22, 1852

Madame,

I wished you a happy New Year on New Year's day. I wish it for you every day at the holy Altar, and I will do so until I die as I promised because your soul and your salvation are as dear to me as my own soul and salvation.

You wrote to me and your letter is always before me, waiting for an answer. I know your charity and you know very well that I don't forget you. What I would like to ask God for you is unchanging fidelity in the love of his ever holy and gracious Will, especially upon you. Whether it be consolation or desolation, joy or sorrow, the presence or absence of human beings, let these not change your interior life. Place your soul above the realm of storms and atmospheric changes; on the contrary, may events only produce outward changes, leaving your will always united to the holy Will of God. Oh blessed, a thousand times blessed is the soul that lives in this divine life! Then, it understands the burning words of St. Paul: "Who will separate me from the love of Jesus Christ? Nothing." The fruit of this divine conformity is first of all patience, an even tempered disposition, and inner peace, followed by strong and generous action. A soul that wants to live in God begins by consulting his holy Will; it hesitates to begin by consulting its own heart or its own judgment. It mistrusts them. For this soul the known will of God is its supreme law, its unchangeable rule and its first science. Madame, ask the Good Lord to give me this queen of virtues. It would be the greatest grace you could give me.

You want me to speak about myself; my life passes and flows like running streams, hurriedly, noisily, and tumultuously. A house of education has so many events, changes, visits! May the Good Lord be praised for it! There is certainly enough material for a constant abnegation of my own will.

On the other hand, the climate here is very pleasant, the sky is very beautiful, nature is very plush, always green. We might think it was a perpetual springtime. I won't say anything about the customs of the South; I don't know them well. The Good Lord has beautiful and very generous souls here. We can admire the power of grace here, more than in our region because these Southerners, with their fiery minds, their light spirit, their sensitive hearts, become saints and great saints. However, for us Northerners, it's hard for us to adjust to them, but when the Good Lord sends us here, we have a grace of state.

I have hardly been able to give any attention to the Biography of our good Mr. Marceau because I'm continually gathering notes about his life. I will share them with you. My ever devoted respects to your fine daughter. I bless you with my whole soul. I will write to Miss Agarithé.

Goodbye dear sister, pray for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Jordan
rue des Castries, 10 2nd
Lyons (Rhône)

To MISS DAVID
(VII 2/2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, January 26, 1852

Finally, my dear sister, I am writing to answer your good wishes⁴² for me. Those you offer me are very precious and especially touching, because my dear family of the Third Order is very dear to me and will be so until death. I consider myself fortunate that I was able to consecrate a short span of my life to it. Besides, it wasn't difficult. When the heart loves, work and suffering are spiritual joys. I also thank God for having given you the same feeling for the Third Order, and greater dedication. That is the proof of your vocation. Always maintain the initial spirit of the Third Order. The original spirit is the first grace of a divine work. It is its element, its character, its strength and its glory. What could be more beautiful and more delightful than the spirit of the simple and hidden life of Mary in Nazareth living in her divine Son with St. Joseph! What is more perfect than the interior life! What is more necessary even to apostolic charity, than this interior life under the veil of simplicity and modesty! What is broader than the scope of the Third Order? It embraces all vocations, it identifies itself with all attractions, it sympathizes with all the works of charity, without binding itself to any. It is jealous of only one thing, its name and its spirit. So, maintain the spirit of charity among your Sisters. If each one tends to her own affairs, to her love for the Rule, everything will go well. - But take care that those who are not members of the Council should not interfere in the governance of the Fraternity or approach ecclesiastical Superiors. God does not bless such things because they do not follow the order of Divine Providence.

Surely they have good and holy intentions, but since they don't have the grace of state, they create a thousand difficulties and expose the life of the fraternity. So, I would not be in favor of uniting the Children of Mary with the Fraternity of Christian Virgins. - Let them be received separately, when they are twenty-three or twenty-four, and it seems likely that they will not marry, then it is fine. To act otherwise is to fall into childishness and to take away the true character of the Fraternity. And so, if someone brings it up to you, you know my thought. I was preparing the core of the Third Order by inculcating its spirit and its practices during their youth, and I believe that it is still the best means of forming good T.⁴³ The early lessons of childhood are never forgotten.

As for the Reparation, I love it very much as a Work. I regret that the Superior and I moved too quickly at first, about the question of the Third Order of Mary. I acted like someone who, seeing himself die, latches on to everything in order to live. However, the Good Lord allowed it all for the good of both parties. - As for me, until the Sisters of the Reparation become members of the Third Order of Mary, making profession in the Third Order of Mary, I would not want a merger, which would only become an absorption. For finally if the Blessed Virgin had wanted her Third Order thus, it would have been so since its beginning (and so your answer is clear: "when you become members of the Third Order of Mary, then we will see.")

Let each one have its life, its spirit, but for all, the love of God and his glory. Poor Third Order! Everyone argues over it! They are condemning it to death. If it comes from God, if it is Mary's Third Order, it will pass through showers and storms.

What I would like would be to give the Third Order sisters full freedom to follow their attraction. That would be helpful to such a beautiful work! One can belong to the Third Order of Mary and still be part of the Work of reparation.

For the Congregation of the Ladies, I hope that the Good Lord will bless it. But you know that discretion is the soul of great things, and so I think that the best means of uniting with these Ladies is to let them govern themselves, and to leave you independent as well. When you have some

⁴² New Year's wishes.

⁴³ Tertiaries: Members of the Third Order.

suggestions to offer Mme. David, let her use them as if they were her own. The Ladies must have the same spirit, but the application and the vocation are entirely different. What must unite the Third Order members is love for the simple and hidden life, the spirit of prayer - in a word, the interior life of Jesus and Mary. That is the banner and the motto.

Good Father Viennot received an offer from Mr. Perret for a beautiful mold of a statue of the Blessed Virgin and he allowed me to ask Mr. Perret to give it to the Third Order. Mr. Perret kindly sent it to us. I had them address it to Miss Guillot. This statue was given by St. Louis of France to some religious sisters.

You can have some made when you wish, but keep the ownership. Let it belong to the fraternity of Virgins.

As for the register of the Associates, I sent it to Father Preuvot via Father Viennot. He will inscribe all those you wish. The children are separate, in the same register. I had brought it here to complete it.

Encourage Father Preuvot by bringing him up to date, and may he do good in the midst of little difficulties. Provided that the boat sails toward the beloved port, it doesn't matter if it is tossed by the inconstant forward-flowing waves which accompany it.

Goodbye dear sister, pray for me. My loving regards to your dear family, to your dear Mother who promised me her prayers and for whom I love to pray, to Mademoiselle your sister, may she always love the Good Lord, to your fine father, to your dear sister-in-law, and believe me in Jesus and Mary,

You ever devoted,
Eymard, PM

320

CO 320

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON
(V 4/9)

All for God alone

La Seyne, Jan. 28, 1852

Mademoiselle,

It is still time to offer you my New Year's wishes. Well, these wishes are that you should go to heaven one day, with a very high place in the glory of love; that in this poor and sad life you should love the Good Lord dearly, and that you would make him loved even more by others. Finally, that you should fulfill what you promised to our mutual friend. Aesop would ask for materials for his city in the sky; and you are waiting for mine to prepare the heavenly life. You will have them soon; I am waiting for more [information] from a Sergeant who was converted by good Mr. Marceau and was his companion when they returned from the Marquises. Then, if you would get in touch with Mr. Marceau's good and holy mother at Tours, at the Presentation convent; or better, you might go to see her during the holidays.

Miss du Rousset gave me some news about Miss Brosset, Oh! How sad, it seems that the poor child has died! Oh! she was too frustrated; it would have been better to leave her a bit freer. But, unfortunately! she may already be delivered from the bondage of this exile. I was very interested in this dear soul because, Mademoiselle, you had entrusted her to me, and I could how great her needs were.

Miss Agathe wrote to me. I will answer her at my first free moment. I really agree with your opinion: she needs to get out of herself a little, and to expend externally the superabundance of her personality's activity and energy.

And you, Mademoiselle, what are you doing? How are you spending your few free moments? Suffering perhaps, or philosophizing on the instability and nothingness of human reality. What

incredible things in this century of revolutions! I think as you do: What has happened is only a warning, and perhaps one of the precursing signs of the great signs of the end times. Oh! If unbelievers don't recognize the finger of God, if indifferent people do not wake up in the midst of this upheaval, if the wealthy do not become practicing Christians, we must prepare for the blows of divine vengeance. The uprising was vanquished, but not destroyed. Arrests were made, but the source remains: the lack of religion, evil passions. In our Var, they stopped two thousand insurgents, I believe; and I have just learned from a prominent civil servant that secret societies have 30,000 affiliates in our department.⁴⁴ - Now we need to preach penance. What I have just learned makes me desolate. They say that Lyons is beginning anew with greater enthusiasm its balls and worldly feasts. Oh! Oh! And the ground is still burning...

You are sad, and that is all you tell me. What is the cause? Why? Is there a remedy? I wish I could have helped you in a more practical way. At least I will pray for you, and you will do so for me.

Goodbye, I leave you to the grace of our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. I am waiting for the eve of the Greek Calends for news about you.

Mademoiselle,
Miss Agarithé Monavon
rue de Castries 10,
Lyons (Rhône)

321

CO 321

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 77/395 VI 2)

All for God alone.

La Seyne, February 1, 1852

Mademoiselle,

Yesterday the two crates of statues arrived on time. The registered delivery arrived the 30th, thanks to you and kind Mr. Perret. Please convey my sincere thanks to him. I'll do so in writing. Now, did they arrive safely?⁴⁵ There are some good and some bad, but all can be mended. The statue of Valbenoite is slightly damaged; a piece of her mantle is broken. Aside from that, the face, body and hands are fine. The statue of the Immaculate Conception was damaged. The whole head was broken in a hundred pieces, and some of the pedestal too. Judging by the rest, this statue must have been well made. Now don't worry too much about it; this is how it can all be taken care of, at low cost:

1. First, ask Gaspari who made it, for another head. Ask him to package it well, without putting threads on the face to hold it. Then have him send it to us by the general or national Messenger's coach.

2. Ask him how it can be fixed. We have a good plasterer and sculptor here. He told me that everything could be fixed with plaster. If plaster isn't enough and stone-plaster is needed, Mr. Gaspari could put some in the small crate with the head. But I don't want Mr. Gaspari to come here to fix it. That would cost too much.

⁴⁴Sector of France, like a county or a state.

⁴⁵He expresses her question.

I only have time to thank you for all the trouble I have given you. Please offer my best wishes to your whole family, especially to good Mr. Gaudioz and to Mme. Gaudioz.

I am in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

You humble servant,
Eymard

P.S. I read your welcome letter with greatest interest. The Good Lord is the one who allows everything that might humiliate and oppose our poor human nature: let's forget poor human wickedness. Its words, intentions, and actions don't weigh as much as a single hair in the scale of divine Providence. Let's try to see in everything, only what the Good Lord wants from us, the acts of virtue which he brings forth with the help of human freedom and divine grace.

I will answer you shortly. I am fine. You will soon be receiving money for the painting; then please give the note to Mme. Perroud.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

322

CO 322

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 86/145 VI 10)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne, February 4, 1852

Dear sisters,

I was very sorry to learn about your illness and that you were very sick. Oh! My heart is really upset by it and the thought of you doesn't leave me. I pray for you constantly. I said holy Mass for your healing on the feast of the Purification. I unite myself with my whole soul to the novena which is being said for you at Notre Dame de la Salette, and I am having our community pray for this intention.

It would be a great consolation to go see you during this time, to leave right away; but I am alone at the head of such a large house. My assistant is absent and I cannot leave now, but I am always present to you, and my soul blesses you constantly, as well as Nanette, your guardian angel and consoler.

This is the day on which I was born and tomorrow [the day] when I had the joy of becoming a Christian, of having you as my godmother. May the Good Lord reward you a hundredfold for all the good you have done to me.

Profit well from your sufferings, dear sisters. Use them to unite yourselves more and more with Jesus our good Savior. Sufferings are the purgatory and perfection of divine love in our souls. It is the slow martyrdom of charity. It is by the cross that our good Master chose to save us, lead us to heaven, while leading the way.

In the midst of your sufferings, often tell the Good Lord: "Oh my God, I love you more than anything!"

I was also sorry to learn that Miss Guillot, Marguerite, was sick and bedridden with acute rheumatism. See how the Good Lord tries his children.

I am very grateful for Fr. Faure's kindness in writing to me. Let him know that I am deeply grateful.

And you, good Nanette, keep well in the midst of all your difficulties. How grateful I am for everything that your friendship leads you to do for us! The last letter reassured me a little.

Goodbye in our Lord,

Your very loving brother,
Eymard

323

CO 323

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 78/395 VI 2)

All for God alone.

La Seyne, February 6, 1852

I received what was close to being a farewell note from you, dear daughter. I felt terrible about it, and I still do, naturally speaking. Surely I would like you to be in heaven, happy in the joy of divine love, united forever with your heavenly Spouse, freed from this body of death, liberated from the slavery of exile. One day that happiness will be yours. However, I'm inclined to ask the Good Lord to let you suffer yet a while for his love and glory, if it should be according to his divine will. Oh! May his holy will be done! Still, if the Good Lord should call you to him, dear daughter, think of me, of the Third Order, and of your good sisters... However, if our Lord should leave you a little longer on earth, may he be blessed and thanked!

I won't write any spiritual direction to you here. Our Lord is directing you himself. He asks only one thing from you, one thought alone: to be united with his love by means of the cross and total surrender, with the lack of any external help. How fortunate and how beautiful it is to become one with him by such a total sacrifice of oneself.

I heard from my sister. She still is not well. She wants me to come, but the good Lord is tying me down to this place, since my substitute is away for three weeks, and the whole house rests on me: May God be praised!

You may always write to me here, no one sees my letters. They are left waiting for me. For greater assurance, you may write "Personal" on the address.

The statue of Valbenoite has been repaired. We will put it up on Monday, so don't worry about it.

Goodbye. The mail is leaving, and I want to send you this little note. I am the same as usual, with a migraine headache from time to time. Write to me, or rather, have someone send me news for the love of God, as I am worried. Tell Miss Claudine that I'll write to her shortly; in the meantime she should go to Communion with simplicity. She needs it immensely, and the Good Lord wills it.

May our Lord bless and sustain you, dear daughter.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhône)

TO M^{LE} CLAUDINE GUILLOT
(III 1/2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, February 8, 1852

Mademoiselle Claudine
My good Daughter,

I was going to send you my letter when I received yours with the little case. May the Good Lord repay you for it! everything arrived in good condition. Now you can have them pay the poor man; he had enough troubles. If you are the one who paid the postage, I absolutely want to repay you. It would really be up to Gaspari to pay for it, but don't have any problems over it. We will pay for it if he doesn't want to.

1. I share your opinion about Fr. Collomb's letter, concerning the biography of Miss Favre which I haven't received, except for a letter which was quite detailed at first, and which I haven't and will not answer. It should not be read. It is too soon to write an apologia about a sister; then, it isn't up to an outsider to do it; especially not in the spirit of another Work. I am quite surprised that they could have thought I had ever considered uniting the Society of the Five Wounds with the Third Order, or to unite their goals. Let each one have its own vocation and specialty. Fr. Collomb has excellent intentions, but we aren't obliged to follow them nor to endanger the future of our Third Order.

2. About going to Fr. Preuvost for direction, you don't need it. You might try him simply as a confessor first. Since he has the grace of the Third Order, he might help you, perhaps more than Fr. Colin. I advise you to try it.

3. I haven't received any news from my sister for a few days. The last gave a ray of hope.

4. To Miss Marguerite, all my blessings. Alas! How she must be suffering! May her suffering be in union with and for the love of our Lord. Suffering replaces all the other spiritual exercises, except that of offering. Let her offer herself often to our Lord, as a victim of love, for his greater glory and that of his holy Mother.

Goodbye, the mail is leaving; until later.

Eymard

Miss Claudine Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 8/52)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 11, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am writing to thank you for your letter, your remembrance and your prayers. I was eager to have some news about you, for it is always very dear to me in our Lord. It's a comfort for me in the midst of my little troubles.

I was filled with joy to learn that the initial idea of home adoration to our eucharistic Lord had been welcomed by His Eminence who blessed and approved it. Now we must quickly get to work to save souls by the divine Eucharist, to awaken France and Europe numbed in dormant apathy because they don't know the gift of God, Jesus, the eucharistic Emmanuel. This is the torch of love which we must carry to tepid souls who think they are devout, and are not, because they haven't made Jesus in the holy Tabernacle their center and their life. Any devotion which doesn't set up one tent on Calvary, and one near the Tabernacle, is not a solid piety and will never do anything great. I fear that people are wandering too far from the holy Eucharist, that this mystery of love par excellence is not sufficiently proclaimed. So souls are suffering, becoming more sensual and materialistic in their devotional life and inordinately attached to human beings. It is because they don't know how to find their consolation and strength in our Lord.

Adoration is on the increase in Toulon. If you could send me a few leaflets, I would distribute them among our fervent sailors and even in the jail, where four thousand convicts could become good adorers, because there are some beautiful souls in chains.

One thought kept coming back to me about you during these past few days. It is this: since our Lord has inspired you with the idea of home adoration to Jesus Eucharistic, you would do well to compose a few meditations on eucharistic love for your friends in order to help them sanctify this holy hour, and sub-divide eucharistic love into specific virtues and special practices. I am suggesting this idea to you. Consequently, I really approve and bless what you've done for your friends. Remember that when we have put a eucharistic spark into a soul, we have planted a divine seed of life and all virtues in its heart which, so to speak, will be sufficient unto itself.

I've been comforted by your news about your dear sister. Oh! Her ardent heart has such a need for our Lord! How fortunate she is to be unknown by the world, that she didn't fall into worldly hands. Madame, I'm very happy to pray for your dear husband, your dear children, and especially for you. Don't forget me in your prayers. I have great duties to fulfill and I can feel the burden of my weakness and faults. You would do well to go see His Eminence; that is the way to spread the Work. I would almost advise you to write and thank him for his approbation. - I sympathize with the great cross suffered by Mr. Lagoutte and his children. Our Lord wants them all for himself.

Goodbye, Madame and dear sister, our eucharistic meeting-place is from 9:00 to 10:00.⁴⁶

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard, P.M.

⁴⁶ Probably an hour of home Adoration.

To MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 7/28)

All for God alone!

La Seyne, February 11, 1852

Miss Antonia,

I received your note with joy and thanksgiving, dear daughter. I thanked our Lord for receiving you and for drawing you more and more to his service and love, for putting in your soul a great desire to belong entirely to him.

Oh! Poor daughter, whom could you belong to, who would be more tender, more loving, more gentle than Jesus? How blessed you are to have chosen this divine Spouse, or rather, for having been chosen in preference to so many others! Yes! In Heaven, you will know all the wealth, the greatness of this grace!

A bride needs a dowry: the one which our Lord wants from you is interior poverty. To enrich a soul, our Lord creates a void. He wants to reign alone; it is toward this purpose that he directs all his arrows. Let yourself be wounded: life follows death, love enters through suffering.

But, notice what I say: let yourself be wounded. That is: let the Good Lord act, let him turn you this way and that, speak or be silent, visit you or hide from you, test you by means of his creatures or by himself. What does it matter to you! Provided that you love and are loved by this good Savior. Well, he loves you with infinite love.

Dear daughter, don't put aside holy Communion because your heart is cold or your weaknesses are great. Oh! That would hurt him. No, take your heart with both hands and cast it before your good Master. Oh! What a wonderful thought!

Love gives without counting.

Love gives itself without reasoning.

Love suffers without complaining.

Love finds joy and development through sacrifice.

My dear daughter, I hope that is your story. But remember that our natural feelings don't like suffering, they fear God's reign in us. If they cry out, if they are afraid, don't be surprised. Don't rebuke them too much, but say with the royal Prophet: "My soul, why are you sad? Why this distress? Hope in your God, he is so good."⁴⁷

I will stop now. You might say that I am always moralizing, but it comes from the heart and I'm so happy to see that you are serving God well!

I need to have my daughters serve the Good Lord for me because I hardly find the time, or rather, I'm a bit lazy.

I may not be in Lyons when you go with your dear sister, but you will find good sisters there.⁴⁸

Continue to pray for me and be sure that I don't forget you.

Goodbye dear daughter, until we meet in Heaven.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.M.

⁴⁷ Psalm 42:6.

⁴⁸ Third Order members.

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 4/7)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 12, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter awakened all the feelings of a heart which loves a family of friends - the joy of having news about all of you, and learning that you are all serving the Good Lord - even in sorrow! The cross is also planted in your Nazareth. Your motherly heart suffers with the pain of all the others. Its maternal suffering causes it to suffer even now over its fears for the future. A mother is a Calvary being crucified for the salvation of all her loved ones. Madame and dear sister, if your heart suffers, since it cannot do otherwise, don't let your spirit, your reasoned will anticipate crosses. They come one day at a time from Heaven, fresh and empurpled with the warm blood of our Lord. Crosses are only heavenly messengers, proofs of love.

My good sister, do not dwell on your crosses, but in divine Love and holy surrender.

So Miss Marie is still well-behaved. She really loves the Good Lord, the Blessed Virgin, her dear Parents. May God be praised for it, and keep this dear child for the consolation of your old age. I bless this dear daughter with my whole soul.

As for that small amount, I would be happy to leave it with you forever. If it is a problem for you at this time, we will wait. - Have Miss Elizabeth return it to Miss Marguerite Guillot on Bellecour Place, facing the Rhone, #9, third floor. Your sister and her friend know her well. It's for a painting for the Third Order which I am told is now complete.

From time to time I have the pleasure of seeing good Father Mayet. I go to see him and on the day of the Purification he came to spend three days with us. He is dearly loved and cherished at Hyeres - He is so kind, so agreeable, so devout!...

I think he is putting on weight and gets over his weakness more quickly⁴⁹ when he can talk a little - But in our affection, we would like to see him healed quickly. If we did not know that the Good Lord has his own mystery of love, we would complain to see this dear Father burn himself out serving in solitude.

My fond regards to dear Mr. Perroud. I would be so happy to see him at Bramefaim, as I keep promising myself to do. But now, I am on the shore, soon to embark for the next world.⁵⁰

Continue to pray for me, dear Sister, and believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, SM

⁴⁹ over-eating?

⁵⁰ Ill enough to die.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 79/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, February 13, 1852

Today, my dear daughter, I received your thoughtful and touching letter. I bless the Good Lord and his holy Mother that you are feeling a little better. Stay with us a little longer to suffer for love of our divine Savior, to pray and suffer for the Third Order. Eternity, in Heaven, will be long enough to enjoy God. I really sympathize with your disappointments, they touch me deeply. I would be so happy to lighten them for you. However, the Good Lord still wants me here, far away from your Calvary. I'm praying for you. As a disciple of obedience, you will hold to my decision.

1. Don't pay any attention to this worry and fear over your feelings of guilt for the humiliating temptations. No, no, there is no mortal sin. The devil wants to trouble you, I am sure. When you confess yourself, say simply: "Temptations against C.; I was forbidden self-scrutiny on this point. I accuse myself to the extent that God knows me to be guilty." In the meantime, be at peace, you haven't lost God's grace.

Fr. Preuvost should go see you to comfort you. He may not know that you are ill. I'm sorry about that...

Concerning Fr. Collomb, Fr. Lagniet wrote to me from Puylata. I answered him that I had never advised uniting the Third Order with the Association of the Five Wounds, that I hadn't answered his last letter about Miss Fvre, that insofar as it would depend on me, I would never advise uniting the Third Order to any Work.

I believe that Miss David is speaking against Fr. Collomb, because of some past impressions from the Chancery. To some extent, the Archbishop has reversed himself on that now, but things are taken too literally.

For Miss C..., leave her alone, she is a troublemaker. I didn't answer her either. I dare think that hers is a devoted zeal, but a zeal which is neither enlightened nor prudent.

I had urged the Fvre Ladies to continue to be open with Fr. Collomb. He helps them, so he is good for them. No, Fr. Collomb isn't good for the Third Order, but I believe that he is a good priest, with fixed ideas.

Goodbye, good daughter, may our Lord comfort and strengthen you!

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. My thanks to the kind secretary, to your sisters, to your good mother. - And, news about you. - Thank you for the news from La Mure. My sister is better.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 10/76)

[La Seyne], February 13, 1852

Madame,

I received your letter of January 6th three days ago. I was eager to receive news about you, but I knew the reason for the delay. You can write to me directly whenever you wish. I don't leave La Seyne, and even in case of absence, my letters are not opened, especially if the word personal is on the address. I forgive you a little, Madame, because I understand your situation, but I want you to know that your letters please me greatly in our Lord.

I really thanked our good Master for healing your husband. May he heal his soul, enlighten his mind, fill his heart with his love. That is my daily request. What happiness it would be for him, for you, dear daughter, and for everyone, if a single spirit and bond of holiness united us all! May God's infinite mercy grant you this joy one day.

Thank you for your wishes for me.⁵¹ Ask God for them on my behalf as I ask him for them everyday for you. The total and perpetual fulfillment of God's divine pleasure in us is what is the most perfect [gift] in heaven and on earth. Oh! my good daughter, if we didn't have that comfort in this land of exile, we would be most unhappy. Life would be a hopeless agony. But when we can say: I'm doing the holy Will of God, I'm sure of pleasing him, of glorifying him better in my present situation, -then we desire only one thing, that is to be very faithful to this grace. We make it our center, our rule, our consolation, our whole world.

I hope that my stay here will be very useful for me and help me to die to my selfishness. I really need it, and the Good Lord treated me like a beloved child. However, I continually need the virtue of self-denial. Sometimes my human feelings dislike this slow and hidden Calvary. Please request this grace for me. It is difficult to be gracious when we are immolated, free when bound, gentle in suffering and frustrations, patient in the midst of youngsters who want to do everything in one day. Once more, thank the Good Lord for me, my soul needs it. I see that my stay here is a great grace. In Lyons, people thought I was sent here for human motives. Oh! a thousand times no. My Superiors did everything to keep me there, but necessity forced them, and I say: the Good Lord willed it for the good of all.

You tell me that you don't like suffering. That's very natural, the saints didn't like it either. But have confidence: suffering which causes our selfishness to moan and struggle is often the most perfect. So we act like poor sick people, we gather up all our tears, our sobbing and sighs and throw them at the feet of our Lord to offer them again as a tribute and reparation. It is the pauper's love.

When you feel distant from God, make this act of poverty. There is nothing like it to touch the heart of our Lord. So let us remain at the door of his heart when he allows us to be there: he prefers this tribute to all others. Try to find time to rest a little at the feet of our Lord, especially in the holy Eucharist, because the soul needs it to maintain social interaction without falling into a state of inner weakness. We can't always consult only what pleases others, but also our own needs. There is a time for virtue which sacrifices itself, which controls itself, which is totally condescending; but there is also a time when virtue is prudent, and must yet be strong and decisive; God's spirit determines it. So pay attention to your inner direction, and I assure you that the divine Spirit will arrange everything for the best. You will find the necessary time to belong to God, to yourself and to others.

Goodbye, dear daughter in our Lord. Don't leave me too long without news.

Eymard

⁵¹ New Year's wishes.

Madame
Madame Gourd
at Thorins,
Romanche, (Saone and Loire)

330

CO 330

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 8/52)

All for God alone

February 13, 1852⁵²

Miss Stephanie,

My dear daughter, I am writing to answer your letter briefly. Thank you very much for your spiritual wishes⁵³ for me. I do need to have my daughters pray for my needs; they are great, very great!

Pray that I may have a little more love for God and his beloved Cross.

My daughter, continue to serve God for God alone; may his service pass ahead of our preferences. May fidelity in fulfilling his holy Will be our primary virtue, the principal deed of our love for God. Never forget that the love shown in the Garden of Olives and on Calvary is greater than the glory of Tabor.

To remain faithful to Jesus who is sad, alone, forsaken is proper to perfect souls: the Blessed Virgin, St. John and Mary Magdalene.

Don't be surprised by your dryness and spiritual aridity.

It's the desert of the promised land. It's the furnace of purification.

Then, we love the Good Lord more than ourselves.

However, you are upset because your meditations are often dry and find you sleeping; your Communions are cold. You must still continue. The day will come when our Lord, who is pleased with your patient waiting for him, will change these clouds into a beneficial rain.

When you find yourself in these states of powerlessness, rather than trying to reflect and meditate on truths, produce acts of the virtues of faith, trust, humility and love, as if you were very content.

The more these acts seem cold and dry, the more perfect they will be, because at least they will be free from all considerations of pride.

In these periods of sterility you might do well to choose a chapter from the *Imitation* parallel to your current dispositions and read it quietly in order to let it gently penetrate your soul. Try this during your meditation.

For holy Communion, use the formulas when you cannot do better. My daughter, never strain your mind, or force your heart. That would only trouble and wear out your soul, draw it away from the state of peace and recollection which is more valuable than anything else.

Continue to be like a little child in a boat which God is navigating. Leave the care of the future to the Good Lord; yours is to be ready to fulfill his holy Will.

Goodbye, dear daughter; may our Lord always be your center, your joy, your Spouse.

All yours in his divine love,
Eymard

⁵² Published as January 3, 1852. Date rectified by Fr. Troussier.

⁵³ New Year's wishes.

331

CO 331

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 4/14)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), Feb. 16, 1852

Dear Sir and brother in our Lord,

Your letter did me an immense amount of good! I wanted news about you and didn't dare ask for it. It reached me in the South, near Toulon, where I have been directing one of our colleges since the month of September. I praise God for this new position. A mission with youth is so beautiful! but I feel that it requires many qualities and virtues which I don't have.

I am happy to learn that you are well and I like to consider you among the most noble soldiers of the Blessed Virgin. Our good Mother will help you to grow in the spirit and life of her divine Son. However, always go to God, to Mary, with a great simplicity and with total surrender to his infinite goodness.

I thank you for the news about O... I was quite worried. May the Good Lord shield him with his divine protection! Oh! So many crosses and trials! It's the grain of wheat which is rotting in the ground to emerge full of life. Trust in God alone!

I inscribed the child of blessing on the register of the Aggregation. May it be Mary's child!

The other names are there, and I am listing them a second time, to be sure.

Dear Sir and brother, don't forget me in your prayers. It's a pleasure to do so for you.

God loves France; but unless wealthy people return to God, unless Heads of State work for God's service, oh! what a future!

Goodbye, dear brother, give me news about yourself from time to time, and believe me ever, in our Lord,

Your ever devoted and loving,
Eymard, Sup. of the Boarding School

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
via Marolles-en-Hurepoix

332

CO 332

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 4/17)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 17, 1852

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

It has been a long time now that I owe you a letter of thanks for your kind memento, prayers and wishes for me. My heart offers them for you daily, because the Mayet family is my beloved family.

Then, your soul and everything which concerns it is very dear to me. I was very happy that, for the love of the Blessed Virgin, you kindly accepted the charge of secretary.⁵⁴ That will double your merits and the love of the Blessed Virgin for you. Besides, you have every needed [quality] for it.

⁵⁴ For the Married Women's Branch of the Third Order.

From time to time, I see our good and beloved Fr. Mayet. He came to spend three days with us at the feast of the Purification. I find him a little better. However, his voice is slow in recovering. Alas! We are praying, we are doing everything to obtain his healing.

He is perfect at the Hospital of Iles d'or. Everyone esteems him at Hyeres. If he could be a missionary, he would bring back many souls, whom even now, he is edifying and touching profoundly.

You still have your crosses, dear sister! Since our Lord espoused the adorable cross, it has become more beautiful and endearing to the life of faith, it's true. However, when our nature is being sacrificed, suffers and cries out, we only half-surrender. We shouldn't be surprised, it is the overflow⁵⁵ of the sacrifice, its most beautiful side. Love this hidden cross, it's a wedding band with our Lord.

Pray very much for me. I am fine and the Good Lord is giving me much satisfaction in my new position. One of the greatest is to learn that the Third Order is doing well. I learned that a few tongues were saying too much and speaking imprudently, but the Good Lord will draw his glory from everything. It's true, it is out of zeal but without charity or with an ill-directed charity.

As for you, my dear Sister, listen to everything, but be slow to speak your thought. When you see a lack of charity, as true as it may be, - at that moment, it is premature.

So, discretion is needed. Remember that there is nothing like a little clique of devotees for gossip. I tell you that, not because I am hurt, oh! not a shadow! I love all my daughters, but so that you might know the ordinary way of the world, even of a certain pious world. Don't confide in anyone, unless you see that they have the virtue of discretion. On that point, I recommend to you Miss Marguerite Guillot.

My respectful and devoted regards to Miss Melanie, to your dear brother, to Mme. Clara. Believe me ever in our Lord, my dear Sister and daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, p.m.

333

CO 333

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 87/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne, February 19, 1852

Very dear sisters,

How grateful I am for your kind letters! They bring me a great deal of comfort, especially at this time, when I cannot leave the house, since I am alone to direct it. Otherwise I would have done everything I can to come see you and comfort you. It's a sacrifice which costs my heart dearly that I am not able to go see you. I am praying and having others pray very much for you, so that the Good Lord may heal you. I thank him for the improvement he has sent you. Dear sister, be very obedient to Nanette. When we are sick we must practice religious obedience; and you, dear Nanette, take care of yourself, for you need it.

As for me, I am well, better than at Lyons. I received news from the Miles Guillot. They also seem to be improving. These good women are also on the cross.

Dear sister, may our Lord help you strengthen and console you.

Your very loving brother,
Eymard, p.m.

⁵⁵ literally: drippings.

P.S. My friend Fr. Baret has written to ask me to ask the Superior of Belley to receive his niece, Miss Marie Laval. I did write, and they answered me that she could not be received because she had some mental illness in the past. Is it true? Please let me know.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

334

CO 334

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 4/17 VIII 26)

La-Seyne, February 24, 1852

They frightened you about our situation. Yes, we were in great danger: over a thousand rebels were fifteen minutes away from our house and the city. At 1:00 a.m. on the seventh, they were waiting for a leader who didn't come. They put the event off until the next day, but it was too late and the Blessed Virgin saved us.⁵⁶ The evening before, a frightened curate had come to speak to me about all these plots; the Good Lord gifted me with trust in his fatherly Providence. I remained peaceful. How good is the Good Lord to have saved our village, for these men were evil! I am their chaplain in a certain way, at least those who are on board the ship *Generous*. The captain is the father of one of our students. On Sundays I go there to say Mass, to preach and visit these poor wretches who number three hundred. We gave them medals. They became totally different. Many of them are repentant. I walk among them; they surround me and we talk. But, alas! How sad it is to think: there are assassins, perjurers, men of blood among them. Oh! The leaders and chiefs are quite guilty for having taken advantage of the ignorant and fiery people of the South, who are three centuries behind the men of the North, as they call us. Then, I go to the jail from time to time, but only to cry over these poor people, over these four thousand prisoners from every class of society, wearing that hideous uniform and dragging that long heavy chain.

How sad is Toulon! I always return crushed with sadness.

So let us speak a little about you, about your health. It seems that you are still weak and ill. Alas! That makes me very sad. May God relieve and heal you; that is my prayer.

Your soul is also suffering, but a kind of suffering which glorifies our Lord and purifies the spirit. Don't worry about your heart which is ice-cold toward God and his service, while it is on fire for its friends.

The purest and most perfect divine love is the one which becomes one with the love of Jesus who is sad, distressed, forsaken in the garden of Olives and on the cross. Then it becomes pure with faith and devotedness. We love God more than ourselves. When St. Bernard experienced this condition, he thought he was blind, hardened and forsaken by God, and this great saint was actually on the way of perfection. - That is my reply to you, my dear sister.

We work hard in the winter. So continue to work, do not put anything aside out of fear for your state [of soul]. Oh! Don't talk to me about your death, but about the love of Jesus Eucharistic, of his divine cross crucifying you to the world. Be on guard against a kind of humility which refuses to feed on the humiliation of its own limitations, even of our faults. It is not truly Christian. It would be angelic, which is not suitable for such poor creatures as ourselves who have a sinful origin.

What good news! Mary Anne is Catholic. Hers is such a beautiful soul! She must be pleasing to God.

My respectful regards to all the good people you mentioned to me.

⁵⁶ December 8th, feast of the Immaculate Conception.

TO MME. GAUDIOZ
(III 1/2)

La Seyne, February 29, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,⁵⁷

You were so kind to write to me on New Year's. Your letter, your wishes, and your good prayers for me brought me joy in the Lord. May our good Father repay you with all the good you wished upon me, and which I in turn wholeheartedly wish upon you.

I really thanked the Good Lord to see that you are faithful to your promise, whatever it costs. It must sometimes cost you a great deal, especially when your heart has been hurt and pained. Oh! Then, dear sister, how pleased the Good Lord is with you! How happy he is to show you to God his Father! How he loves you! Please, always be very generous, magnanimous in your sacrifices. God has given you a great heart and great strength of will.

Because you can't do things by halves, I am sure that, if you give yourself fully to the Good Lord, you will be flooded with his graces and favors. But remember that the Good Lord wants you to be always happy, gracious, in spite of the distress and sorrow in your heart. When the sun can break through the clouds covering the earth, the clouds are quickly penetrated and scattered. So, when peace and joy issuing from the soul and from grace enable us to carry our crosses and our sorrows, their nature quickly changes and they become beautiful and lovable. However, receive Communion often; you need it. Reject all those little impressions or temptations which would tend to keep you away from it.

I was happy to bless you all on New Year's Day. I said holy Mass for you, and I renew it each day. Goodbye, dear sister, and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

My respects to your good sisters. Alas! Those good women have been crucified so! It makes me sad.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 15/33)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, February 29, 1852

Dear daughter,

Your letters are so sorrowful and depressing... Oh! It seems that you are always on a new calvary! And you are undergoing all the phases of divine and human trials. My God! I often pray that you may have more consolation and joy or even more strength and courage. And yet, you are still in the throes of death. Oh! Not only do you have my sympathy, but all my charity. If I don't write to you often it is because I am so involved. But I don't forget you in the presence of God, and

⁵⁷ First of 2 letters to Mme. Gaudioz, sister of Marguerite Guillot.

you know what I ask him for you: a bit more love - I mean love from the heart by which he becomes its center. The *Imitation* says: "That person is very greedy for whom God is not enough."

I mean a strong love, stronger than trials, than temptations, than ice coldness, stronger than death. We love God to the extent of our union with Jesus crucified. I mean a simple love which goes to God just as we are, with an abundant offering when we are rich, with the surrender and gracious poverty of a child when we have nothing.

See dear daughter, you do love the Good Lord, but you have an excessive desire to know and feel it.

Courage! The mystery of the life of love is better for us in this life of exile than to know and feel love as do the angels and Saints.

You are as our Lord wants you to be, but focus your life in his divine will. What you tell me about the Third Order saddens me. Love it nevertheless as a bond with the heart of Mary.

Goodby, dear daughter. May our Lord heal and possess you.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I am fine. Do not entrust your secret to anyone other than another self. There are some devotees who are so imprudent and so indiscreet. I have learned some good lessons on that point, so I want to apply them. They made you suffer. Forgive them, because they often do not know what they are saying, or what they are doing.

337

CO 337

TO MME. THEODELINDE DUBOUCHE (MOTHER MARIE THERESE) (REPARATRIX)
(VI 2/2)

La Seyne, March 1, 1852

Madame,

I am writing to thank you for your kind wishes and the news you give me about your dear community. They brought me joy in our Lord. My most sincere wishes are that your community may be firmly established, increase, and carry the divine fire to the four corners of the earth. It is upon the Cross that you were founded; it is by the Cross that the work of God can be known, is tested, and attains completely the will of God, that it frees itself from all alloy, all human perspective. And from this point of view, Madame, your family has the seal of grace, and you must thank the Good Lord.

We both wanted one thing⁵⁸ but our Lord wanted [to keep] his works simple. Be that as it may, please believe that my feelings for you and your community are ever the same.

I bless God for giving you Fr. Bertholon in Lyons. His presence, assuredly, will do much good.

I commend myself to your prayers, and to those of your community.

I have the honor to be, in our Lord, Madame,

Your most humble S.
Eymard, S.M.

⁵⁸ Cf. letter from Fr. Eymard to Miss David, Rectress of the T.O.M. dated Dec 19, 1850, and also that of January 26, 1852, addressed to the same person.

P.S. One thing in your letter disturbed me - the desertion and sorrows of Gethsemane. - I believe it is only a trial.

338

CO 339

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) (II 80/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, March 4, 1852

My dear daughter, I've just received your short note and Miss Claudine's. I was beginning to worry about you, and you about me. Oh! If only you could be as well as I am, in spite of the migraine headache I have, especially today! - I wrote to you yesterday.⁵⁹ I cannot let this one go unanswered. Your last word upsets my heart. I feel that you are so alone, so isolated. I'm writing to Fr. Champion today [to ask him] to go see you.

I understood your suffering very well. My dear daughter, bless God in the midst of this new crucifixion, in the midst of all these terrible temptations, in the midst of hell. The Good Lord will be glorified by it, and your love will become purer. For my part, while I really feel sorry for you and suffer with you, I consider this state as a great grace. Consider it in the same way, my dear daughter, because it is so.

Don't worry about your feelings of dislike and hatred, but don't examine them either. Let it be enough to humble yourself at the feet of our Lord and to say often: "May Jesus Christ, my Savior and my God, be forever loved, praised and blessed!"

Don't become tense about the temptation to suicide, nor about anything you may have done. The Good Lord is watching over you, as well as the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, I'm sure of it.

No, no, you will not be damned, but really saved by the infinite mercy of our good Savior. He wants to unite you to himself, to his glory, to his perfect love for all eternity. The despair which is plaguing you should incline you to a boundless trust which is as great as the infinite goodness of God.

Your dear neighbor also makes you suffer. Offer all your suffering to the Good Lord for (her). Then you will be imitating our Savior who offered his sufferings for the salvation of those who made him suffer.

But how upsetting those mortifying temptations are! It's a real purgatory for the virtue you love the most. In this matter, my daughter, make an act of pure obedience. Don't reason about your difficulties. Don't examine your turmoil. Let it be enough for you to say to the Good Lord: "Oh my Jesus, forgive me for everything that may have displeased you. I prefer death rather than sin." Then, rest peacefully on the bosom of divine mercy. Remember, my daughter, I take responsibility for your soul.

You will please God more if you don't look back to see Sodom and Gomorra on fire. Always look at the cross and the love of Jesus which goes before you, and heaven which is the goal of your journey. Oh! My God, save my dear daughter, give her the strength and grace needed to fight and conquer the infernal dragon. I ask this of you through the Holy and Immaculate Conception of Mary and through your love for St. Joseph.

Have someone give me news about you. I hope it will be good news.

Goodbye in Jesus Christ.

All yours,

Eymard P.M.

⁵⁹ We do not have that letter.

P.S. I will begin your novena on the 10th, and finish it on St. Joseph's day with Mass on the first and last days. - Mme. Perroud, Miss Mayet's sister, should be bringing you the thousand francs. Then give her her note. Kindly deliver this money, not to Miss David, nor to anyone else, but to Mme. Spazzier who did the painting. This lady is paying for the frame. She has already received fifty francs... give her only one hundred francs... instead of a hundred fifty. Kindly keep the remaining fifty in my account. No one needs to know about the money for the painting; it was a conscience vow. No one knows about the hundred gold francs, so keep them in deposit. I'm so upset by this inconvenience, and Miss David's lack of discretion, or rather by my naivete in having told her! I had forgotten. If they keep after you, cut off the back of this note, the p.s., and show it to them.

339

CO 340

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 3/8)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 4, 1852

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I don't know how I have reached [this date] without answering your dear letter. It was neither forgetfulness nor indifference. It's because a thousand and one things have kept me busy. I am making up for it by praying for you and your family.

Dear friend, I really regret the sad situation in which you are living. Alas! The cross is heavy to our natural way of looking at things, but you are a man of faith and trust in God. So, like the apostles, you glorify God in your sufferings. Dear friend, provided that we may soon go to Heaven, what does the rest, or the nature of the road, matter! ... What is more, this road must be very precious to us; it's the surest and the shortest [way] to reach the goal.

Don't let yourself be cast down, nor upset by your financial difficulties. God will enrich your children with [the lesson of] their father's trust and holy surrender.

I was very happy to learn that the Third Order is doing well, and that Fr. Lagniet is concentrating his great zeal on it at Puylata. May the Blessed Virgin always bless her work and her children! My faithful respects and greetings to your dear wife, to your dear friend Mr. Blanc. And believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear friend and brother,

All yours,
Eymard, P.M.

Mr. Creuset
place Bellecour, 13
Lyons

Mar. (date?) - Inaugurated "domestic adoration" among prisoners.

Mar. (date?) - Named to be chaplain of the Nocturnal Adoration of Toulon.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 81/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 8, 1852

I'm writing to reply to your excellent letter, my dear daughter. I am really grateful to our good Master for the peace and calm he has given you. Oh! May he be blessed a thousand times over! See what results and success come with holy obedience. Now you know the tactics of the wicked serpent who wants only to disturb and worry you. So you will be stronger than this enemy of God, and you will overcome him through our Lord and the Blessed Virgin. We are now in the month of St. Joseph, your good and dear patron saint. Let us have a great love for him and pray to this kind Protector, asking for his gift of surrender to divine Providence, his faithfulness in carrying out God's commands, his love for Jesus and Mary. Then you may ask him for whatever you wish for me.

How happy I am to be here! I had never been so aware of my deficiencies and limits. Now that I am faced with such a variety of duties, I feel keenly what I lack and that also keeps me humble. I'm not orderly enough, disciplined enough to carry out my initial plans. I'm negligent and lazy about many things. See my poor daughter, how many needs I have, without counting all the frustrations of life! Oh! If I didn't have so much self pride, if God were my only thought and desire, I would be more faithful. So then, please ask for this grace of fidelity for me, through St. Joseph.

The more I think about it, the more I see that my stay here is a grace. Here, I can work peacefully on the Biography of good Mr. Marceau, and I can obtain all the information on location. This poor house had many spiritual needs, and I am working at it. Toulon wants me for a beautiful Work, which began nearly a year ago. It is day and night adoration by twenty-four men. It's very edifying. This adoration takes place once and sometimes twice a week. The Bishop and the Superior General put me in charge of it. It is just for one night. However, I don't mention the Third Order here. The Good Lord isn't inspiring me with that desire nor that attraction.

I'm happy with my position. There is so much good to be done from morning to night, especially by self-denial. Now let's talk about you.

1. See whether Fr. Preuvost would come. But no, on second thought, this might be better; I will write to Fr. Champion at La Favorite. I feel safer and more at ease with him. He does not need permission and he will go to see you. I am enclosing the letter to be given to him personally.

2. Fr. Lagniet has mellowed a little in regard to Fr. Collomb. My letter enlightened him. He is leaving things as they are and tells me, in his letter of March 2nd, that the Cardinal doesn't want the merger of the two Third Orders, but that each should maintain its own life. My letter was such that they would know my esteem for Fr. Collomb as a priest, but that there was no reason to merge. However, I had seen from Fr. Collomb's letter that he was over-committing himself and would willingly have moved into it... Like you, I think he is a bit over-zealous.

3. I wrote to dear Mr. Gaudioz.

4. About Gaspari's bill, it's fine. We are quite satisfied with the statues. They are well made. However, I absolutely do not want you to advance the ten francs. Oh! I wish I had some for you, but I trust completely in the care of divine Providence for you. Your sister Jenny mentioned to me that you had paid the postage in Lyons for the little case containing the head.⁶⁰ I don't think it was true, because I was asked to pay for it here.

5. Let time and divine Providence determine the advice Fr. Preuvost should be given. I'll try through Fr. Champion. I don't know enough yet about Fr. Preuvost's discretion and prudence to deal directly in Lyons. I mustn't offend people's sensibilities. I didn't write to Miss Camus yet. Oh! How prudent Miss... ought to be, what a narrow mind!

Montluzin is leaving you! So much the better, let them come to you.

⁶⁰ of the statue.

For Notre Dame du Laus, no problems after Easter.⁶¹ Expect to pay about 15 to 20 sous each day... at the most... some people spend very little... It's possible to live there quite inexpensively. They have milk products.

You have nineteen more Masses from good Marie. I will say them as soon as possible. Please keep the thirty-three francs you have in reserve. If I should die first, you would give them to La Favorite or here, as Masses already offered for the house of La Seyne.

May our Lord comfort and strengthen you, my dear daughter. Your union with him is a painful one at this time, as he shares his crown of thorns with you. Oh! In heaven you will praise God for these sufferings, for this crucified love! Stay closely united to our good Savior: that is [the fruit] you will reap from it.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Don't worry about me, I am fine. My migraine headaches are mild and don't bother me. I haven't received anything from La Mure for several days.

All yours in J. and M.,
Eymard P.M.

You did well to pay Miss David for the mold. I hope that they will stop bothering the Fvre ladies now. Miss Richard will enter at the Reparation. I encouraged her to do so, she will be settled. The Third Order Members who would like to join the Reparation should be treated in the same way as before, without giving it any particular attention, as an independent matter.

341

CO 341

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 88/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 13, 1852

Very dear sisters,

I was so anxious to receive your letter. I was really worried, especially since I couldn't go see you because my assistant was preaching a Jubilee retreat and I was alone to direct such a large house, a hundred and forty people. What consoled me a little was to think that the Good Lord would hear my poor prayers and restore you to health. Then, given the impossibility I was in, I was led to say: God wants this sacrifice from me, may his holy Will be done! So your letter really consoled me. Please write me often, even if it were only a few words, to have news about you. If you knew how worried one is at a distance! Now, my dear sister, take care of yourself, for it is very bad to have a relapse during convalescence. Your heavenly crown was not finished yet, there were still a few little flowerets missing.

Well, life is precious to the eyes of faith and love for God. A moment of suffering in this world, suffered for the love of God, gives him more glory than a thousand years in Purgatory.

And you, my dear Nanette, you must also be sick; so many sleepless nights and days spent in pain! May God sustain you and render you the hundredfold. The one who suffers, prays; and charity is first among the virtues, it is the perfection of piety. So, don't be worried if you can't be recollected and pray as you would like. The Good Lord knows your desires.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of seeing your cousin, Mr. Bernard. We spoke a lot about his sister, about you, about La Mure. He is delightful.

Please thank his fine wife on my part, for having reminded him that I was at La Seyne.

⁶¹ A meeting is arranged to discuss the Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

Goodbye, good and dear sisters. Send me news about yourselves, please.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

P.S. I am well.

342

CO 342

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 9/52)

All for God alone

March 16, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I received your dear letter today. To prove my good will, I am answering you right away.

First of all I join with you to thank our good Master for the precious graces he is granting you. Dear sister, let your life be a life of thanksgiving, as heaven and eternity will be.

You are on the right path by walking in the footsteps of love, the immolated love in our Lord's life. Let yourself be led as was little Isaac by Abraham, or better, as our divine Savior was himself.

You would do well to write down your thoughts when you feel inclined to do so. Do it first for your own edification, imitating the Blessed Virgin who pondered in her heart what she had seen and heard about Jesus, her love and her All. My opinion would be that you should accept the grace which that fine woman is offering you, provided it doesn't take you away from your simple and obscure life.

Then, pray a great deal for me. I hardly have time to do so.

You could read the book "*Le Chretien Interieur*", selecting only what suits the path mapped out for you.

I bless you twice over for beginning to train your children in Latin. The first lessons are easy; emphasize the declensions and verbs, that is the principal thing and you know it well enough. - Later on, I will send you a small book which is very helpful to progress in that language.

It will always please me to hear about your family. Everything which concerns you is very dear to me in our Lord.

Goodbye, dear sister. I am, in the love of God,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I hope I will soon receive the leaflets you so kindly left at Puylata. Thank you so much.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhône)

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 82/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, March 28, 1852

I'm sorry, my dear daughter, for this delay in answering you. I was waiting for a letter from the Superior at Notre Dame du Laus. It seems that he has been absent, I will write again. There is always space there and it won't cost you any more than at St. Francis Regis, even less, because the food is inexpensive there. As for us, we have some complications that keep us very busy: we have measles here, ten have it already... Then everyone comes, mothers, relatives. Add to that that I have had the flu for a few days. That's what makes me lazy. However, I'm not laid up. It's only right that I should also have a small share of our Lord's cross. Superiors don't need to be pitied, though, everyone rushes to take care of them. So, don't worry.

Now, I turn to your answers:

1. Silence. - Maintain it until the end of March. If the cause persists, you would do well to mention it.

2. Your letters console me, but I wouldn't want them at the expense of your health. Be prudent.

3. Yes, do as you say about the two confessors. However, Fr. Champion is a well-informed director, you can be open with him. I spoke to him about Fr. Surin's book which I had loaned you, regarding your spiritual trials. Speak to him simply. As soon as a director is informed about the inner state and its extraordinary trials, he knows all that. Speak to him about the temptation to suicide, this temptation is even ordinary in this state, as Fr. Surin says. Say ... "I accuse myself of anything I may have done which could have offended God. I was forbidden to examine it too closely", and that will suffice.

4. You may speak about the vow of chastity, it is ordinary. The rest is not necessary for the moment.

5. Your serious sins are well confessed in the way I explained to you, especially if the confessor, like Fr. Champion, knows your state. Poor daughter, all these enormous temptations are your purgatory, and make you more pleasing to God. Only don't analyze them, and don't accuse yourself about them in detail.

6. Your vocal prayers. - If it isn't tiring for you, you may continue the Stations of the Cross, and a few decades of the rosary. However, not too many vocal prayers. It would be too much, mentally.

7. Alms for the Jubilee. - This is optional. One franc is enough, even ten sous. The poor give...

Goodbye, dear daughter. Thank you for your note of a hundred francs. I will acquit the Masses for our dear Marie. Tell her that I'm not forgetting her.

I will really give thanks to St. Joseph, if he heals you and comes to your sisters' aid.

My sister's health is continuing to improve.

I leave you in the love of our Lord.

Eymard P.M.

P.S. I am reopening my letter to tell you that I received yours today. Oh! I wasn't expecting such sad news! This good father will be very indebted to the Third Order! The Blessed Virgin will not forget him.⁶²

Don't worry about the letter. I had asked him to burn it. Besides there was nothing compromising in it. They were simple counsels. Oh! I will say your Mass tomorrow. Offer the month of April and May for him.

⁶² The death of Fr. Preuvost, the new director of the Third Order.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

344

CO 279

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 3/21 VIII 1)

*La Seyne-sur-Mer, March 1852*⁶³

Mademoiselle Mariette,

Your letter, my dear daughter, made me both happy and sad. Happy to receive news from you, and sad to see that you are suffering so much and so upset. Alas! The Good Lord wills it, that is the whole of Christian consolation, and God wills it for our greater good. Our life might not be pleasing to him without these crosses.

So thank our good Father, even while he seems to crucify you a little together with his divine Son, who, however, was always pleasing to him and most dearly loved. Suffering replaces meditation, but do take care, my daughter, to make the offering of this cross together with the cross of Jesus. Offer everything that you are suffering and will suffer. This offering will be your meditation and the most excellent one of all. Try also, my dear daughter, not to dwell on your sorrows, you would be increasing them. It's difficult enough just to bear them patiently.

Be sure to receive Communion, you need it. And the Good Lord knows what you are like. Stop saying: I am not able to be interior, nor recollected. See, you can do God's holy will in everything, and consequently, be all that God wills you to be.

I think as you do about Chasselay and I ask the Good Lord to show you his holy Will.

You may perhaps try Fr. Preuvost. Tell him that I know you.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Yes! May our Lord comfort, sustain and strengthen you.

Eymard

345

CO 344

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 83/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, April 7, 1852

My dear daughter, I want to satisfy your wishes for news about me. The flu is over, our patients are almost all well again. We have only four or five convalescents left. Our little crisis is passing. You worry too much about me; in the springtime, there are always some minor problems.

I give you permission to make St. Joseph's vow and I pray that this great saint will kindly obtain for you what you are asking from him. Therefore: 1. Add St. Joseph's name to the *confiteor*. No problem. 2. the grace...3. A quarter of an hour each Wednesday. 4. A novena of

⁶³ Because of the content, Fr. Troussier determined the date to be March 1852, not 1854 as shown in the French Volume.

hours and Communions, when you are completely well; Communion, to thank our Lord for the glory and virtues shown forth in St. Joseph; the hours, to honor his spirituality and humility and to ask him for the gift of prayer.

I'm pleased about the graces which St. Joseph has kindly obtained for you already. Be strong and have trust! It's only the beginning. All your difficulties. . . keep you humble, and enable you to glorify God more in poverty than in peace.... Now please, my daughter! Remember that when the body isn't well, our human nature moans and groans. We mustn't be too harsh on it for that reason. It's so natural! Only we must always lead it back to God.

Goodbye, dear daughter. May our Lord heal you and fill you with his grace and love, you and all your dear sisters. Please give them my love. I share in all your suffering. You may write again ... that you hesitate to tie up his note, but that you will be forced to do so (Then you would reinvest this note in commerce or give it to someone else.) Miss de Revel gave me news about you. She told me that, realizing that visitors tire you, she hadn't dared to go see you, through delicacy.... The house of Fourviere is a very small loss, and perhaps a gain.

About the money for the painting, don't say who held the deposit for it. The person who gave it doesn't want to be known. You could give it to Miss de Revel so that she may pass it on to Miss Spazzier who has already received 50 francs. That way, it's no more than eleven hundred francs, including the frame which cost 150 francs and the painting one thousand. When everything will be finished, it would be well to have it brought to the Third Order Chapel. However, wait for a day when the Fr. Superior General will be away.

Goodbye, my daughter. I'll write to Miss Jenny. I received the answer from Laus. It is favorable.

All yours,
Eymard P.M.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

346

CO 345

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 89/145 VI 10)

All for God alone

Good Friday, 1852⁶⁴

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to wish you a happy Feast of Easter and Resurrection, for your health and for the increase of Jesus' life in you. It is only right that you should share in our Lord's happiness, since you have shared in his cross. That is the sign of his chosen ones, of the true spouses of the spotless Lamb who was immolated for our salvation. My dear sisters, let us take advantage of all these small crosses that God's love sends us! They will give us confidence at the moment of death, and glory in Heaven. The real value of our present life is in the opportunity it gives us to suffer something for God's love. And then, the Good Lord is giving you a great grace by detaching you from the world. The world is so insignificant! The Good Lord is yours, the holy Eucharist is your consolation and strength. If these Gentlemen⁶⁵ neglect you a little... it is often for a greater good. Jesus will be your whole consolation.

⁶⁴ April 9, from La Seyne.

⁶⁵ the priests.

May the Good Lord heal you, for your illness made me very sad. I am very happy to know that you are better. However, be prudent during your convalescence.

I am well. We are having magnificent weather. It is an excellent place.

Goodbye, good and dear sisters.

All yours,

Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. Alas! Our fine Mme. Fayolle died! I said Mass for this good mother whom I love very much. She was so kind!

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

347

CO 346

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 5/17 VIII 26)

La-Seyne, April 17, 1852

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter dated March 19th with joy and gratitude, as always. I was doing as you were. I was hopeful and anxious. How is it that I did not answer you right away? Your charity had already forgiven me, I'm sure. It's just that your letter found me in the midst of a thousand and one problems.

Measles were devastating our community. The flu was plaguing our professors and to tell you the whole of it, I have it myself. Then we had to replace the absentees, take care of the sick, and for over a month I haven't had a moment to take care of my friends on the outside.

Now our children are better, and only two or three professors are still ill. God sends these little painful trials for our good. I had one great regret: the captain of the *Genereux*, where eight hundred rebels are locked up, came recently to ask me for a confessor for his prisoners, saying that many of them were in a good frame of mind, and I couldn't go! Oh! that was so hard for me!

I spoke about it to some priests from Toulon, but they all have much to do. So, good Father Preuvost has died. Alas! This news saddened me because I felt he would be a good director for the Third Order. I hope that the Blessed Virgin will not forget her Work. God's works are fulfilled in spite of human weakness and in the midst of the thousand and one imperfections of his creatures.

This letter will be too late for Father Gelias. It is regrettable if I am responsible for some spiritual loss to your soul. But my great principle is that we should benefit from God's passing graces as much as possible and draw upon the virtue of a saint. Obviously we must feel an attraction in our heart, an indication of God's will, because that is the only way the heart can open. You speak about coming to La Seyne. I am willing, I would be very happy to be God's intermediary.

348

CO 347

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 84/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, April 24, 1852

It seems that you must be very ill, my dear daughter, since I haven't received any news from you in a long time, and that makes me sad. Please have someone give me news. I am worried. Oh! May our divine Savior's cross be blessed! It's truly your lot and your crown. Faith and hope love the cross, and love crucifies us there. But our poor human nature is subject to suffering. May our Lord's grace sustain and strengthen you, and may your love be greater than your sufferings! Now, please! My dear daughter, be a bit more patient toward our Lord, and he will come for his spouse who is crucified for him. All of hell was present on Calvary to torment our Good Master. But hell was vanquished there and the cross became a scepter of love and power.

As for me, I'm fine. Pray only that I may truly fulfill God's holy will. The sick children are better now, but three of our Fathers are ill with the flu.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Give me news. I heard from my sister, she went to Mass on Easter.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

349

CO 348

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 85/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, April 28, 1852

My dear daughter, I hope Miss Jenny received my letter last week. There was a little note in it for you. I was worried about your health, your letter brought me some relief. To come back to Miss Jenny, I hope she won't pass through La Mure without stopping a few days, I would even like to say, a few weeks. It would do her good, my sister would tell her about Laus. I'll write again to one of my friends at Gap, the Bishop's secretary. He goes to Laus often and he could help your sister, if she should need something. Please tell your sisters that I am still united and dedicated to them and that Miss Claudine's letter made me very happy. If I didn't answer, it's because I was overburdened with work until now, to the point that I hardly had time for my prayers.

As for you, it would have made me happy if you had gone to the country with Miss de Revel, I've wanted that for a long time. Your sisters find it hard to be separated from you, though it wouldn't be a separation. I assure you that all those reasons given about the Third Order, and about self-love don't impress me at all. In Miss de Revel's place, I would bring you and I would be deeply hurt by the jealousy of the Third Order. I would ignore it totally. There is only one thing I would see could delay Miss Jenny's departure for Le Laus, either your health, or if the trip were still too much for her.

I understand your embarrassment toward Miss That's our poor human condition. You do well to act as you do. However, you need to keep certain limits on your freedom.

I have time only to bless you.

Eymard

The letter here enclosed is to be shared.

350

CO 349

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 86/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, April 28, 1852

Mademoiselle,

I received your letter. Thank you for your kind regards. Your love for the Third Order pleases me. Love it well and be ever dedicated to it. Please don't say who gave you money for the painting; it's a gift, and no one knows but me. Inquiries about it would be very indiscreet and would upset me. They should be grateful for a gift to the Third Order and be discreet about it, under pain of losing it.

I will be happy to see you go to the countryside with Miss de Revel, but I'm afraid it is too soon. You would do better to wait a little longer.

I recommend myself to your prayers and am in our Lord,

Entirely at your service,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

May 1 - Bishop of Grenoble recognizes authenticity of events at La Salette.

351

CO 350

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 10/52)

All for God alone

May 2, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am sending you my reply to Miss Antonia. I ask our Lord to take full possession of her heart, and be sufficient for her. Sadly, she is suffering, but if she knew all the happiness, peace, strength, richness, and gentleness of divine love, she would be overjoyed by this jealous love. Pray.... As for me, I believe this is a great grace which our good Master is giving her. Right now her anguished heart is crying out, it is a moment of death... life will return later. Your dear sister is made for Jesus alone. Thank you for her kind regards; give me news about her from time to time.

May the Good Lord bless your efforts to train your children. You may be able to meet their needs for several years. If I am able during the holidays, I will share my limited experience with you.

Goodbye, dear sister, from 9:00 to 10:00, at the feet of Jesus. Adoration is spreading here; what a joy it is to be able to spread the knowledge and love of Jesus! But I feel sad; I'm doing nothing, my mind is too busy with this external life and its burdens. Make up for it a little.

Goodbye in his divine love,
Eymard

P.S. My respects and regards to your family.

Mme. Tholin-Bost, Ng⁶⁶
at Tarare (Rhone)

352

CO 351

TO FR. BARET
(V 3/6)

T.P.D.S.

La-Seyne-sur-mer, May 2, 1852

Very dear friend,

Your silence makes me fear that I may have hurt you. I would really be very grieved to have saddened you, because neither distance, separation, the world, or death can separate two hearts which God has joined. So, you should have written to me.

However, I didn't let your niece's vocation lie dormant, and I am happy to let you know that they will receive her. The Superior General [fem.] writes: "I can relate perfectly to what you tell me about Mademoiselle. You can therefore write to tell her to come when she wishes."

So, dear friend, my negotiations are over. You can write with confidence to Belley, to the Motherhouse of the Marist Sisters.

What are you doing? Did you have a good Easter? Is your health better? - If the Good Lord allows me to go to La Mure this year, I promise I will go see you.

Goodbye, dear friend, think a little about me in prayer, and believe me, *ad annos aeternos*.⁶⁷

All yours in Christo,
Eymard, P.M.

Fr. Baret
Pastor at La Motte d'Aveillans
via La Mure (Isere)

⁶⁶ Merchant.

⁶⁷ Eternally.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 7/75)

All for God alone

May 3, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

So you are now at St. Romans in your delightful and silent countryside, enjoying the pure air of Isere, the love of your good people, the distractions of a whole new little world! I imagine that I can see you no longer sad and suffering as in the religious storms of Lyons,⁶⁸ but happy and joyful. I wish you more joy than last year. How sad! You can see, Madame, that the world is passing by, as well as its pleasures and sorrows, and that eternity, the great rendezvous of the human race, is rising before us. We shall also soon go to see and dwell in that great divine center. What thoughts I've just written! But you love them and so do I; it's my dominant thought. To pass through this world, to glorify God and to die: this describes the human being, the Christian, and the elect. The rest is nothing, only child's games or adult foolishness.

Your last letter made me sad at first. Oh, so many crosses and turmoil! You will suffer, Madame, because you are created for the Heaven of Jesus crucified. Suffering is the seed of glory. Well, since Jesus wants to glorify us divinely and eternally, we must suffer. However, let us always suffer with love, suffer alone with God alone. Let others think we are happy and pleased when our heart is crucified and our soul desolate. Oh! How pleased God is with a soul which can say so heroically: My God, I love you above all things!

Out in the country one can make provision for the whole year, of thoughts for the mind, and for recollection. What joy! I would envy you a little except that the Good Lord wants me to be in the midst of the noise of bustling children. How good the Good Lord is! I needed this experience; I've discovered so many imperfections in myself! So many latent faults have been stirred up in this activity! I thank the Good Lord for it and ask you to do the same for me.

As for the Biography of Mr. Marceau, I haven't touched it for two months. We had cases of measles and the flu, and I needed to be everywhere at the same time. I am happy to think that you will work with Miss Agarithe. I believe you will be very edified; besides, you are interested in the subject.

Goodbye, dear sister. Don't be angry with me if I delay so much. My soul doesn't. Nor should you allow such long periods to give me news about yourself and all your dear family. Please present my respectful regards to them.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. Thank you kindly for your efforts to help that poor father of a family. I was forgetting to tell you that my health is adequate.

Mme. Jordan, at the countryside,
at St. Romans by St. Marcellin
(Isere)

⁶⁸Struggles related to the Third Order? Ed.

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 1/19)

All for God alone

La-Seyne, May 6, 1852

Madame,

I have been wanting to write you a few words for such a long time:

1. To thank you for the painting for the Third Order which gave you so much trouble! May the Blessed Virgin reward you for it!

2. To thank you for the watercolor which you painted for me. I am sorry that you put so much work into it, especially for a poor religious. Therefore, it does cost me a lot to accept it as it is! You understand my idea. May God grant me the grace to repay you somehow, some day.

3. I saw Mr. Martel, and he told me that you might perhaps be coming to Hyeres. I hope I will be more fortunate than last time. They told me that you are still ill. Alas, Madame, naturally speaking we have the right to complain; but may the love of God, the love of Jesus crucified let you experience how good it is to suffer and die little by little for him. Let us find courage on the way of the cross, it is the surest and shortest path to heaven. An hour of suffering is worth more than a thousand years of heavenly consolations. I may be wrong, when I pray for you, one thought keeps recurring to me, that you are in spiritual desolation and dryness. I feel inclined to pray that your love may be wholly pure, a complete holocaust, sacrificing one's whole self to the pure glory of God. Let us never forget that we come from God out of nothingness and that we are returning to God by human nothingness.

Goodbye, dear sister in our Lord. Continue to pray for me. It is my duty and joy to do so for you.

Madame, I am in our Lord, your ever devoted S.

Eymard, SM

P.S. I had asked a young woman to give you the money for the painting. I hope it has been done. I'm sorry that it is so little. Your painting is worth much more! For me, it is worth your admission to the Third Order.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 16/33)

All for God alone

[La-Seyne], May 11, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I do deserve your reproaches somewhat, but I have been so over-worked for the last two months, by [caring for] the sick and by business matters.

Now, things are going better. I am still late with everything and you know through experience, that I have never won the prize for promptness; I am always in debt. Alas! However, in God's presense, I pay you every day.

Until later then. Goodbye. It is time to leave.

Eymard

P.S. I wanted to give you this letter which may not contain much, because I finished it when I was about to leave. I wanted to give it to you myself. That is why it traveled with me to St. ... The Good Lord didn't will it. Don't judge me rashly. I was not guilty, either before or after. Please pray for me.

Eymard

356

CO 355

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 87/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, May 14, 1852

My dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to answer your welcome letters which always please me very much, and give me good news about you. This letter and my replies are for you alone. I cannot trust Miss D's discretion. Fr. Viennot, in his excessive zeal, could put me in a difficult position. Letters of direction from me to the Third Order would not be seen well at Puylata. Father Lagniet has already reproached me about it once and I understand the legitimate reasons for it all. That's why I don't want to answer Miss D. in detail. Everything is fine with these touchy people when things are going according to their views. However, when they become upset, they jeopardize everything. I know that Miss D. has good intentions, that she loves the Third Order very much and is entirely dedicated to it. As for her external actions, I have to be reserved. In your case, you know that I speak to you with an open heart and with all simplicity, and that is a grace. I love your reciprocity.

So in the first place, I should tell you:

1. That I burn your papers after having answered. If I should die, nothing of yours will be found among my things. I owe you that. I would be worried otherwise. Therefore, your conscience is clear.

2. The young men wrote to me today that they find the painting magnificent. What should be looked for in a painting is the inspiration. A bit more simplicity would be preferable. There are so many paintings in our churches that are less modest than that one! How many worldly Magdalens!

So be it. Mme. Spazzier will settle everything. Now that the painting is done, I would prefer a painting on the spiritual life. I wanted it then, but the difficulty of representing the spiritual life made me accept the Mother of Beautiful Love and Holy Hope. Because, after all, Mother of Beautiful Love certainly includes the spiritual life! The sinners and the just represent the successes of the Third Order.

3. For Miss My opinion is that she be courteously dismissed.

4. For a director, prayer and trust in Jesus and Mary will obtain one according to God's heart. Too much importance is given to such and such a Father's merits. Sometimes, if God heard our anxious wishes, it would be a punishment.

Let us keep in mind that good takes place in the midst of struggle and difficulties, by means which seem to destroy everything. Then, when human strength or weakness have reached their limit, God manifests himself and acts by his grace, for his glory.

You say there is a hope that I would be returning to Lyons for the Third Order. I would almost like to ask you on what you base that. For you must understand that naturally speaking I can hardly desire to go there. In spite of that, I don't worry about it. I leave it to the Good Lord to direct my

little vessel toward this or that shore. My only duty is to row following his divine orders. I love the Third Order! Yes, but in God. I beg you not to take up my defense and not to be troubled when I am on the carpet for discussion. It's only a light passing breeze and renews our desire to belong to God alone and to work only for him.

I'll say the sixty Masses for Marie, that dear daughter, as soon as possible. Remember me to her and tell her that I don't forget her. Keep the money until I tell you otherwise. How much do you have to send me?

On Ascension Day, we will have our First Communion here. I will say your Mother's Mass the day before.

My respects to Mme. Gou...; I'll write to her tomorrow.

Fr. Ch. could go to see you in the country. I would like Miss de Revel to meet him. What do you think?

I empathize with all the trials in your household, what misfortune! Sometimes I complain to God. I admit ... that is a great sacrifice for me ... as to that matter, I had thought about it before you did, and my plan was and is determined ... however, I still need to receive an answer which I expect will be favorable.

I am making the novena from Mme. G. for you and the Third Order. As for the Third Order money, keep it. If I should die first, you would use it for the Third Order as would seem appropriate to you, without rendering an account to anyone. For the fifty francs left over for the frame, ten francs have been put aside for Masses. Please include them among those you had indicated to me. If I should die, send it to the house of La Seyne, by Fr. Champion or someone else.

I have nothing to say on the subject of the funeral cross for Fr. Preuvost's casket.

Fr. Lagniet wrote to me that the Collomb affair is settled, and that the Cardinal has dropped his bias. He says, however, that we should be discreet about using this direction. I wish there would be great respect and deference for Fr. Lagniet and his feelings, for he is protecting the Third Order as much as he can. So, if he wants a reception for a few of the children of Mary, wouldn't it be good to keep this hope alive? Yes, I agree with you about those who are thinking of marriage. Then also, Miss Mouly, the eldest, doesn't want it that way. I understand that it's difficult, try to put it off.

May 15 - Now to return to the big question. I'll say Mass on May 16th and June 24th for your intentions. My opinion is that you should stay as you are.

It's true. Calvary stands in your home as if suffering is your lot; well! yes, I share your feeling.

Go to Fr. Champion with full confidence, he is the one that I asked from God for you, he understands your state, he is devout and learned. Be like a daughter to him, with all simplicity. It makes me happy to know that you are under his direction. You can be sure that it doesn't diminish my interest for you in any way nor my heartfelt dedication. On the contrary, because I want what is best for you, it comforts me to know that you are not left to yourself.

Goodbye, dear daughter, in our Lord I bless you and your dear family as well.

Eymard

P.S. I must tell you that Miss ... is supported by her brother who earns a lot. In fact, I believe that a short time ago ... very discretely offered them something to pay for a painting. . . .

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhone
Lyons (Rhone)

357

CO 356

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 6/17 VIII 26)

La-Seyne, May 15, 1852

My dear sister in our Lord,

Today is your brother's feast day. My wish for him was to attain the eternal feast. He is a dear son in our Lord. I was happy to say Mass for him today. The thought of him is ever present to me. He pursues me, I will never forget him. Yes, I hope that he was received in the bosom of the mercy of God. It pleases me to pray for him. He is dear to me; he is my son and your relative, my dear sister. He is very dear to me under both titles.

Your letters are good for me and I say to myself: I did nothing to deserve so much gratitude.

God is the one who did everything. It's true, my soul is ever dedicated to your salvation. I wish you all God's graces and his perfect love. Yes, the Good Lord loves you very much, dear sister.

He lead you by a path of thorns and sacrifices. Praise the Good Lord for his favors, how great they are! They were the means by which you won his heart and they set you on a path of greater detachment, consequently, of a purer and more magnanimous love. May God be blessed a thousand times for it. But let this good Master lead you. He wants you to die to all created things; to have no other consolation than his love and the cross of his love. Now that the nature of your sufferings has changed, since it is physical suffering and often heartache, prepare yourself for the coming of the heavenly Spouse. Rest at the feet of our divine Savior; however, let the lamp of charity always be lit. You need God more than God's creatures. It seems that the knowledge of God alone can be perceived through your needs. Death is perhaps still too sad in your eyes. I feel it very much, when you speak to me about it. No, your mission is not over, the mission of suffering, immolated through love for Jesus crucified. - If you were not the spouse of the Immolated Jesus, if Heaven were not the outcome and the eternal fruit of the cross, I would cry over you, and shall I tell you? The thought of your sorrows often leaves me sad, and then I pray for you.

358

CO 357

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 17/33)

All for God alone

May 16,

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I have one moment and it is yours. The other day I was sorry to let Father Marcel leave without a long letter. I didn't have enough time, but you know that if I am silent on paper, I make up for it in God's presence.

Your last letter made me very happy. It's one of the best that you have written to me. So I also want mine to bring you what I wish. - What was there about your last letter? It accurately describes your struggling and suffering soul, its desires and its needs. Then also, the work of grace in you. Well, that is what I felt.

God wants to liberate you, not from the world, you are liberated; but from yourself, from spiritual sensuality which devours your good intentions and sterilizes your immeasurable graces.

Remember that our Lord paralyzes people in your regard in order to force you to go to him alone. Don't get upset with these poor ones, but with God who wants to replace everything for you. - See, my good Sister, how dear your soul must be to me that I would dare tell you this. Oh! Yes, it is dear to me! It is at the foot of the cross; but not burdened or crushed, I hope, rather standing with the Blessed Virgin, in order to get closer to her divine son.

I do pray and I will pray for your good Charles. He is a child of blessing. I pray and I will pray for his good father, for his loving mother. I thank you for remembering me. The ship is moving under a favorable wind.

Goodbye, dear Sister,

Your ever devoted in our Lord,
Eymard

359

CO 358

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 4/8)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer (Var), May 24, 1852

Very dear friend and brother in Jesus and Mary,

Thank you for your kind letters. They are very precious to me and very touching to my heart. I am sorry that I didn't answer you right away, and yet my heart does so every day and several times a day before God and the Blessed Virgin. How often I ask the Good Lord to be your support and Providence! I can see that responsibilities are very heavy, and that the cross is deeply rooted in your house. A friend always hurts to see a friend on Calvary, even were he a saint, even were he God like our good Savior. How many times I regretted my powerlessness. It would be so good to relieve a friend!

Your letter consoles me.... Yes, dear friend, praised be the cross in this world! The cross that comes from God, the one which always comes to us from his Fatherly heart. It's hard for our poor human nature to depend on divine Providence from day to day; but since this maternal Providence will be there tomorrow and until death, let us surrender to it; the goodness of God is infinite. See the value of this world's possessions! God prefers an act of poverty, and he honors his saints with it. We will always be rich enough, if hope and love are our possessions.

Dear friend, continue to apply yourself to [acquire] the love of Jesus crucified, and you will find treasures and delights which are unknown to souls who do not dare to climb to Calvary. Job was great on his dunghill. He was a king there more than on his throne of shining gold. And Jesus was greater on Calvary than on Tabor; when he wants to help a Christian grow, he draws him to himself. He said: "When I shall be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all things to myself." And when you belong entirely to Jesus, he will perform miracles for you, if necessary. The angels served him when he was hungry after forty days of fasting and struggle.

Alas! Don't look at the natural side of the cross of your wife's suffering or your dear little child; your father's heart would be too upset. Look at this cross in our Lord, and its nature will change. I pray to the Blessed Virgin to heal your dear wife, and to come to your help.

The death of Fr. Prevost really grieved me. But I continue to trust that our good Mother will not forsake her family, and that if it has difficulty finding a director, that will be its last [trial]. That's all that was missing, it had had all the others! [trials]

Be ever devoted to our dear Third Order, and be convinced that you will receive a hundredfold.

Goodbye, dear friend and brother, my humble respects to Madame, tell her from me: Trust and pray.

All yours in *Christo*,
Eymard, S, P.M.⁶⁹

Mr. Creuset
Place et rue Bellecour, 13
Lyons (Rhône)

360

CO 359

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 88/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne-sur-Mer, June 2, 1852

I will always consider you as my dear daughter in our Lord. So, don't be troubled if I tell you to have great confidence in Fr. Champion and to open your soul to him. He is spiritual and learned, discreet and prudent. He will be a very good director.

I admired the trust you showed by telling me how badly you feel However, I expected it, because I know and value your simplicity of heart, so you pleased me very much. However, sometimes I chuckle at your fears of annoying me, of saddening me, etc., etc. The Good Lord has given me the heart of a father and a mother for you and your family.

I haven't received my answer yet from ... besides, if I don't succeed this way, I will try another ... I would really like that little sunlit house if possible.

I will write to Mr. ... but it shouldn't be put in writing; you would be fined by law. He must be bound by confidence in his word.

Miss B. should be dismissed courteously without any unpleasantness. It's useless.

So the painting has been corrected, so much the better! Fr. Lagniet wrote to me that it was he, not Miss David, who noticed the need for correction, that he is the one who asked M.D. to request a correction on the painting. May God be blessed and praised for everything!

It is good that Fr. Champion had seen your writings, there is no problem in his regard. I believe as he does that you should decrease your vocal prayers, especially in your present state.

Stay with Miss de Revel all the time you need to recuperate. Your dear sisters need to manage without you a little longer, in order to have you in better health, that would be a bit too childish.

I am the same as usual, thank you.

I've just received a letter from La Mure. Nanette was at La Salette on the 25th. The Bishop of Grenoble was there as well as the one from Valence, many people, everything was quite impressive!

Goodbye, dear daughter, may our Lord make you totally his!

Eyd.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
9 Place Bellecour, Facing the Rhône
Lyons (Rhône)

⁶⁹ Superior, Marist Priest.

361

CO 360

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 5/17)

All for God alone

La Seyne, June 2, 1852

Dear sister in Jesus and Mary,

I'm inserting a little word for you, in your dear brother's letter. I was very happy to see good Mr. Thonny, Mme. Clara, and the whole family. When we are far from a village that we love with our whole heart, we are so happy to meet someone from there, especially a friend. But it was too short. See what the joys of life are like; they pass you by with a quick hello. You had your trials in the Third Order, alas! So, it is always true to say that good can take place only with the cross, and that saints make saints suffer.

Yes, you do well to be reserved and discreet. I never would have believed there could be so much indiscretion, even in the pious world, if I didn't see it everyday. This shows how few are the solid and pure friendships based on virtue.

So you are still on the cross! Oh! How much the Good Lord loves the dear Mayet family! But then, it's so generous.

As a spouse of our Lord you ought to be where your divine Spouse is, be united to him. The pain of his crucifixion must find an echo in you. That is the perfect possession of divine love-- the cross -- love it well -- love it as Jesus has loved it.

I hope that the present trial of the Third Order will be its last. It hadn't experienced that one...

Continue to be devoted to it. I am happy to know that you are there. Don't become discouraged with all the human limitations which are stirred up in connection with the Third Order. It is like a flame which is purifying it. Goodbye, dear sister. My respects to your whole family and to Miss Guillot when you see her.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

362

CO 361

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 11/75)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne-sur-Mer, June 29, 1852

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I thank you very much for your two letters. However, I always find them too short. See what joy they give me. I praise our Lord for having given you his holy love and a great desire to do great things for his love and his glory! Oh! How blessed you are to have understood that God is everything and human beings nothing, that God alone deserves the sovereign tribute of your heart, your life, and all your possessions. Earth, life, and every talent are good only as a means to glorify God as we pass through this land of exile... Isn't it true, dear sister, that when we have experienced both the world and God, we can understand how right are the words: All is vanity, except to love and serve God?

Personally, I am afraid of death; I am asking the Good Lord to put it off for a while. When I think about the cost of this present life, what it cost our Lord, the glory we can bring to God, the

value and love in suffering, I cannot resign my soul to death, to go toward the God of eternity like a day-old child. It's a great and divine thing to suffer for the love of God and to sacrifice for him everything that we have and everything that we are.

To pass [through this world] to glorify God and to die: that is a beautiful motto. What symbol can we use to express it?

I know none other than Jesus crucified, or the soul on the Cross with Jesus.

You ask me to name your dominant fault. I don't know. However, I know the virtue which ought to dominate in you: with you it isn't humility or penance, but gentleness toward yourself, your neighbor and God, whether he treats you harshly or kindly. This is what I call childlike love, perfect charity. This is the virtue which I desire for you with all my soul. This divine virtue is difficult to acquire. It is the beautiful virtue of our Lord himself: "Learn from me that I am gentle," work especially to be gentle and kind in the midst of aridity, trials from your neighbor, a seeming harshness from God. I really pity your scrupulous friend, especially if she is still young. The best way would be to have her make a retreat with a skilled director who would treat her as a sick person, and during the retreat, would have her sacrifice her own thinking and judgment.

It's very easy to receive your friend into the Third Order: I will give to whatever priest you name all the necessary faculties to receive your friend's profession. Then tell me her name, and I will inscribe her in the special Register. She can be dispensed from doing the novitiate and in the same private ceremony profess her consecration both as novice and as professed.

I saw Miss Monavon. She spent two days at La Seyne and we have spoken a great deal, but especially about my good Dauphinoise.⁷⁰ She brought all my papers and I hope you will both be very edified by what you learn about Mr. Marceau. Then, you can work to complete everything and finish it soon. I advise you to read a small biography of a Marist Priest entitled: *Notice on the Life and Death of Jean-Marie-Anthelme Buyat, of the Society of Mary*. You can get it at Pelagaud.

Goodbye, dear sister. Pray for me and ask your dear daughter also to pray for me. I do not forget her.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

363

CO 363

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 89/395 VI 2)

T.P.D.S.

La Seyne, June 30, 1852

My dear daughter, I am a little behind in answering your last letter. It's because of a trip I made to Digne, where I visited our house. Then also, a thousand and one things come up at the end of the year. We expect school to be out July 29th; but don't let that prevent you from writing to me, even long letters, because your letters please me in the Lord.

I thank the Good Lord that you found a quiet house which was so favorable to your health. Then, also, you will be close to the chapel of the Incarnate Word. Fr. Champion knows the chaplain very well, he could easily go to hear your confession in the chapel, if it were possible. My dear daughter, please entrust yourself to our Lord and his paternal care. You will not lack anything, especially in the spiritual life, if you are closely united to your divine Spouse. A spouse must nourish, care for, defend, perfect his spouse. It seems to me that our Lord is now replacing many things for you, and that you no longer need so many external helps. As I see your state of inner freedom and peace in the midst of trials and difficulties, I am led to thank God for his goodness to

⁷⁰ Mme. Jordan herself.

you. Don't attach yourself to means for going to God, but to God alone and to his divine will of the moment. Let yourself be turned this way and that, taken or left, consoled or forsaken by our divine Master, as he wishes. Put your consolation in one thing only, in the love of his divine will.

It gives me peace to know that you are in Fr. Champion's care. Follow his advice as you would my own. When Miss de Revel asks you to pray with her, you would do well to do so, if your health allows. For then, charity requires it, and in that case charity passes ahead of your interior devotion. Confess yourself "foolishly", forgive me if I use your own word: humility is the measure of grace. What you seek in confession is the grace of absolution. What is important, dear daughter, is that you shouldn't try too hard to plumb the mystery of God's grace within you. Go to the Good Lord like a child who is surrounded by his parents' blessings, seeks to please them, and seeks every opportunity to prove his love to them....

I feel sorry for that poor brother! It's too bad that he is leaving La Favorite: Southerners find it difficult to get along with Northerners.

I am pleased that you told me about that unpleasant conversation. You did well to maintain a cool silence; if you had been in charge, it would have been good to change the conversation. I'm glad you shared your disappointment with me; unfortunately my daughter, that is what happens even to pious people when they frequent the world often. Don't try to know more about it and ask our Lord to be able to forget everything that you heard.

If the Good Lord should will that we meet at La Mure or at Le Laus I would praise him for it, I still don't have permission to go. I will write to you about it sometime in advance. You would come to the house as if you were at home, and if I should go to Lyons and have a quarter of an hour, it will be for you and for your conscience.

I've just received your letter dated June 28th. Thank you for your wishes for my feast day. May our dear St. Peter obtain for me a share in his love for our Lord and his cross. I had also received the note from Miss Vadoux.

I wrote to Mr. Gaudioz.

I'm sorry that ... hasn't received my letter, I'll write to her again ... there was perhaps a misunderstanding. But then, may God be blessed in everything!

Thank you for having spared me some visitors; I don't have enough time at the moment.

How good the Good Lord is to have let you find someone for your funds!...

A thousand wishes to your dear mother, and your dear sisters. You know my devotion to you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. Excuse my pen. The mail will be leaving and I want to answer you promptly.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC⁷¹
(VIII 1/26 VII 17)

All For God alone

La Seyne, July 5, 1852

Mademoiselle and dear sister in Mary,

I have been very slow in writing to you. In your charity please forgive me. You know that I am not slow to keep you in my prayers. I was traveling - and then a thousand and one things came up.

Thank you very much for your kind letter, and for all that you are doing for me. I was very pleased to learn that Miss Guillot is at your home in the country; she will bring God's blessings upon it, and our Lord will reward you spiritually for what you are doing for his spouse upon the cross. What troubles that family has had, and for such a long time! Miss Guillot wrote to me some time ago; she is at a loss for words to express her gratitude to you. She gave me news about you and the hope that you will visit the South. However, don't come during the hot months - July and August - a person who is not used to this climate finds the heat very oppressive.

I shall try to get to know Mr. d'Averton. It will be easy for me, as I know many naval officers through the parents of our students; also through the perpetual adoration in Toulon, of which I have just been made Director. It is a truly inspiring Association. The men spend the night at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament Exposed, and the ladies by day. There can be seen some most edifying men who belong to the upper classes, and a certain number of naval officers. There are from 300 to 400 people in this Work - a fine mission. I go there once a week, on Fridays.

As for yourself, dear sister, what are you doing in Lyons? You really ought to take better care of yourself. Let me know how you are. Our holidays will begin at the end of the month, and I am looking forward to them. My soul is dried up and is in need of rest. I understand now that a busy exterior life is a burden that overwhelms a person of weak virtue. I am like poor day laborers who live from day to day, but who are reduced to poverty as soon as they stop working. That is exactly the state I am in - so pray for me, and believe me, always in our Lord,

Very dear sister,

Your devoted servant,
Eymard PRM⁷²

Miss de Revel
Rue Ste Helene
Lyons

⁷¹ Secretary of the Third Order

⁷² Perhaps: Pretre, Religieux, Mariste; Priest, Religious, Marist.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 18/33)

All for Jesus Crucified

July 7, 1852

The promptness of my reply, my dear daughter, proves my desire to help you, and how pleased I was by your last letter.

In fact, my greatest pleasure is to learn that my daughters in our Lord are faithful to grace and follow their divine Master unconditionally, whenever he calls them. Well, my dear daughter, Jesus is surely calling you to his holy love by the sacrifice of human help, by the daily sacrifice of feeling his consolations. Remember that every human being, no matter how holy, can only help you to the extent that she will lead you purely toward this good Savior.

So then, consider yourself very fortunate that you are called to the grace of perfection, and consider the stripping of yourself, the isolation, the human paralysis to be a necessary cure, an absolute condition. It's the Calvary of Resurrection.

I often told you, and I am convinced of it: our Lord is calling you to a great perfection, but by means of the Cross. Your heart is such that if the interior cross, especially, were not keeping it on Calvary, people would take it away from you or you would give it away. But our Lord alone will reign there.

There is another grace that I would really wish for you: that of seeing your crosses, sacrifices, rejection, as a great grace from God and to see them then from the precious side of love. - Yes, often meditate on the nothingness of human beings, of Allness in God. Surrender to interior silence, to detachment from your senses at the feet of our Lord. [Besides,] there is no illusion there, but a stronger, gentler life for your meditation.

It is quite possible that one day, when the world notices that you are managing without it, it will try to surround you. You will then continue to be charitable, generous, but you will guard your heart. Oh, praise be to God alone and to his cross!

As for meditation on our Lord, meditate especially on his spirit, his interior life, more than on the external aspects of his divine and human actions. You will draw more benefit from it. If divine Childhood suits you, that is fine. These are the wrappings of love, stronger than all other bonds.

For a confessor, go humbly and simply to confess your faults and to recover your purity by the grace of absolution and so be able to present yourself more purely to the Communion Table. Confession for Holy Communion and that is all. However, to find the advice you need, present them [your faults] such as you think they are. You would do well to prepare your subject before, in order to be more precise when you present them. Speak of everything, if you need to, but ask specific questions. For example, what must I do or answer in such a circumstance? - It takes a little skill to know how to draw a good reply from a director who would only offer generalities.

Have courage! I will no longer call you Madame, but my dear daughter in our Lord and you know well that you are. Thank you for your good prayers! I love them. They call you back to sacrifice, and I am its Minister. Sometimes I am a bit harsh on you; but I would be so happy to see you given entirely to God's Glory.

Goodbye, dear daughter. My respectful regards to your husband, to your dear Charles.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Do not worry about your letters. I burn all letters of [spiritual] direction immediately. It is a duty. As for delicate matters, do not be the first to bring them up. You mustn't worry about it. You have your primary decision.

TO MISS JOSÉPHINE GOURD
(V 51/52)

73

I received the news about you with great thanksgiving to God. May God confirm and increase this improvement!

Surely, may the holy Will of God be done! But, since he allows us to ask and pray for it, we are asking him to give you life and health, so that you may work a little more for his glory, the welfare of your dear daughter, and the spiritual welfare of your husband.

I would be grateful to receive a little note with news about you. I am in favor of the reception....

Remain peacefully united to our Lord in your state of weakness and suffering. Keep saying some vocal invocations such as the following to our good Master:

My God, I am all yours!

Lord Jesus, my good Master, I love you in your kindness and holy Will.

Life or death, my only pleasure is your good pleasure.

I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 9/52)

All for God alone

July 18, 1852

Miss Stephanie,

I have just read your letter, my dear daughter. It made up for such a long silence.

I was thinking: "Either my daughters are forgetting me or they have some great sorrow," and I could only pray. Therefore it is so comforting for me to learn that they love God and serve him with their whole heart, especially you, my dear daughter! It is said that the chaste lover of our Savior had chosen the better part. You also, you have the better part, the most noble, most perfect and most gracious Spouse. Do keep him and always be faithful to him. It is the most beautiful tribute you can offer him, the greatest proof of love you can give him. The wealthier you are according to the world, the more attractive partners you could have, the more you can say to our Lord: I love you more than all that, my heart will never have another Master, another Spouse, another King than you.

Think of the heroic struggles of the Virgins of the first centuries of the Church, of the magnanimous Roman Virgins who let themselves be stripped of all their possessions, of their titles, and of life itself rather than lose the halo of virginity.

⁷³ There is no indication of a date for this excerpt from a letter. This is a tentative placement. This letter is obviously to Mme. Gourd even though the French edition lists it under Stephanie Gourd.

Don't let yourself be moved, dear daughter, by tenderness and tears. No one can ask such a sacrifice from you, and no position in life can oblige you to take that step.

Don't let yourself be disturbed by the apparent or real good you could accomplish in such a situation. The greatest good you can do is to follow Jesus, and you are blessed that you have been called to follow the Lamb without stain and one day to sing the mysterious canticle.

You are a little like St. Catherine of Siena. Make a sanctuary in your heart and Jesus will let you find the delights of his love there ever more graciously.

You are so poor! Praise God for it: the poor person who wants to give and give from his own need has both rewards.

However, when divine Providence gifts you, receive with gratitude, fidelity and meekness. These are your two beautiful gracious virtues.

Fidelity to God, to his divine inspiration, readiness to say with Samuel: "Here I am Lord;" with St. Paul: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" With our Lord: "My heart is ready, oh my God, to fulfill your Will."

Fidelity in accepting interior sacrifices promptly, then begin by accepting frustrations, and do so for the love of God.

Fidelity to your spiritual practices. Prefer to do them together with your mother, it is even better.

However, keep your heart in continual thanksgiving. This way of praising God will make you respond more spontaneously and graciously to sacrifice, because you will consider it as a brilliant opportunity to show God your love.

Meekness, but not weakness, a daughter's meekness. You have full power over their hearts. You are loved. But when the question comes up, give a decisive answer, and say it hurts you. For the rest, be kind, thoughtful, gracious. One day you will need to use the power your love gives you to speak about God and salvation.⁷⁴ If the Good Lord is making you wait for this miracle, it is because he wants it to be a great one, and to make you earn it generously.

Goodbye my dear daughter, remember me in your prayers. You know how much good I desire for you in our Lord.

In his divine love I bless you. +

368

CO 367

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) (II 90/395 VI 2)

All for God alone

La Seyne, July 20, 1852, St. Marguerite's Day

It's your feast day today, my dear daughter, and a great feast it is in heaven, as I hope it is also on earth. I want to associate myself to all those who are wishing you a happy day in the divine love of our Lord. Your holy Patroness is a virgin and martyr, be both of these in the love of our Lord. Always be a virgin in your divine love, a virgin in your life, may our Lord alone reign in your mind, in your heart, in your will, in the crucifixion of your senses. Be a martyr in total self-denial, in order to do the will of your divine Spouse in all things; be a martyr by loving the crosses that our Lord is sending you, in a word, a martyr of obedience! So these are my feast day wishes. May we also celebrate it one day in heaven.

I still don't have permission to go to see my sister. So I am waiting for a yes or a no and I will let you know

May obedience to your confessors always be your rule and your peace. As for decisions of direction, follow those of the former director rather than those of a passing confessor who doesn't

⁷⁴ Her father's conversion.

know you. However, if what he tells you recollects you, gives you peace, unites you with our Lord, that is fine. Feed upon it. If on the contrary, it troubles you, draws you out of recollection, out of inner peace, leave it, while being grateful for the good will of the person who wanted to help your soul.

Ask Fr. Galtier, through Fr. Champion, for permission to use the chapel, or if you prefer, I will write to him.

I will say the five Masses for Keep the receipt ... until the next opportunity.

Goodbye, good daughter, don't worry about my health. God is sustaining me. Pray very much for the one who is in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. My love to your whole family: to your dear mother, to Miss Mariette, I wish persevering courage; to Miss Claudine, trust; to Miss Jenny, the joy of our Lord.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
33 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhone)

369

CO 369

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 2/26 VII 17)

All For God Alone

La Seyne, July 21, 1852

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

I have had no news from you for a very long time. This must mean you are ill: why hide it from me! You surely know that I am interested in everything which concerns you. Our holidays will begin at the end of this month, and I still don't know how I shall spend them. If I may, I shall pay a short visit to my sister. If you were as close as Grenoble, I would be happy to go to Grenoble. - As for Lyons, I shall go there only if I am told to go, as I have so much to do here.

I have not yet met Mr. d'Averton. I await your advice.

Fr. Lagniet writes that he would like to visit you. I'm very glad to hear this, as it indicates a renewed desire for the good of the Third Order. You will make him welcome, I know, for the love of God and the Third Order. Fr. Lagniet is a good man. So as to have an excuse, I shall give him a letter (unimportant) for you. Then send me news about yourself sometime before the month of August, and I shall bless you for it.

Goodbye, my good, dear sister. Believe me always, in our Lord,

Your devoted servant,⁷⁵
Eymard, P.M.

Miss de Revel
Rue Ste Helene
Lyons

⁷⁵ illegible mark.

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 5/7)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, July 21, 1852

Dear and Revered Father in our Lord,

I find it difficult to express how pleased I was to receive the Pastoral Letter and the plan for La Salette. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude. How kind you are to think of me, Father, you who have so many children! The Approbation of the supernatural happenings at La Salette has had a phenomenal effect in Toulon and throughout the South. The statement of approval has become well-known. Glory to God, and thanks to you, Respected Father, La Salette will become the great pilgrimage of France. What a fine, consoling idea of the Bishop, to set up a body of missionaries of Notre Dame de la Salette! If I were not a Marist, I would immediately beg the honor of belonging to it. There is concern in Provence: a strange disease is attacking the vineyards, the grapes and the shoots, and it is impossible to save them. The olive groves are affected already, and everyone is saying, "this is the fulfillment of La Salette." Alas, dear Father! the dreadful warnings of Providence have not converted the guilty. The Voltairian bourgeoisie of Louis-Philippe is still the same; the leaders of the Navy and the Army are anti-religious, as well as the leaders of the University and the special Schools of Paris. How we need the Blessed Virgin to save us!

I was very sad to hear about the death of good Fr. Albertin - it's a very great loss! Would you please, as a dear Father, express my thanks to Father Superior, who was kind enough to send me the death notice.

I hope to make a pilgrimage to La Salette during the holidays. Would you kindly give me the faculties for confession during my stay in the diocese? I have often been sorry not to have it for some suffering consciences.

If you need me in Toulon or for the Navy, I would be happy to be of service.

Please accept my respects, gratitude and filial affection, dear Father,

Your son in our Lord,
Eymard
Superior of the College and
a Marist priest

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 8/75)

Madame,

I cannot go to Fourviere tomorrow. It would have been necessary to reserve a place ahead of time.

I'll be happy to go on Monday for that intention, between 7 or 8 o'clock. I will be happy to help Mr. Jordan's healing and participate in the joy of a family which is foremost in my respect and affection!

I am in our Lord,

Madame,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. You are not well, convalescing; is it possible!...

372

CO 370

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 90/145 VI 10)

*J.M.J.*⁷⁶

La Seyne, August 9, 1852

Very dear sisters,

I am a bit freer now. We had so many concerns, so much business, that I wasn't able to write to you. We had the ordeal of losing one of the Fathers of the house. It made us very sad and it delayed me.

I will be leaving for La Mure this week. I may be with you by next Saturday, but most surely by Monday afternoon or Tuesday. I'm not giving you a rendezvous for Notre Dame de la Salette, because I don't know precisely the day of my arrival. I can't stay long at La Mure, because I'm expected in Lyons. Do nothing exceptional: the more simply you receive me, the happier I will be.

Goodbye, my good sisters.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

373

CO 371

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 91/395 VI 2)

T.P.D.S.

Marseilles, August 10, 1852

I am sending you a note from Marseilles, dear daughter. I'm finally on my way; I leave tomorrow morning for Gap. From there I'll spend three or four days at Notre Dame du Laus. I'll arrive at La Mure Monday or Tuesday after the Assumption. I'll spend five or six days there, and from there I'll go to Lyons, where I'll have the joy of seeing you, you and all your family. This shouldn't stop your pilgrimage to Notre Dame de la Salette. You know how pleased everyone will be, if we have you at La Mure.

Goodbye, dear daughter. It's getting late. I must hurry to take a few hours of rest. My health isn't strong. We lost one of our fathers last week. He died of cholera, and that is all a little trying on the body.

A thousand and one wishes to your mother, your dear sisters, and Mr. and Mme. Gaudioz.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
33 Rue du Juge de Paix
% the Religious of the Incarnate Word
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

⁷⁶ Abbrev. for Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

374

CO 372

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 7/17 VIII 26)

Marseilles, August 10, 1852

Mademoiselle,

I have arrived here in Marseilles; I am leaving tomorrow for Gap. From there I will go spend a few days of retreat at Notre Dame du Laus, if possible. Then, a few days at La Mure, and from there, to Lyons, where I will have the consolation of seeing you and sparing you a long trip. We have been grieving. We lost one of our Fathers. He died from cholera after being sick four days. Alas! This death really surprised me. - No need to tell you that I will pray for you at Notre Dame du Laus. - I don't feel the courage to go up to La Salette, I feel a little weak. News! Just now, I met the sister... in the streets of Marseilles on her return from Rome and right there in the middle of the street, she told us about a thousand things. I believe that you will see her.

Pray for me. My soul is suffering more than my body.

Goodbye, dear sister, it's late. I leave you to God, and I am in Jesus and Mary,

All yours

375

CO 373

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 11/76)

Notre Dame du Laus, August 15, 1852

Madame and dear Sister in Mary,

It is from Notre Dame du Laus that I am answering your good letters. I wasn't able to do so sooner. The tasks involved in the closing of a [school] year, the difficulties and fatigue I felt after the death of one of our Fathers, etc... But now, I have a free moment, it is yours.

Needless to say that I do pray for you, for your husband and for Mademoiselle. Tomorrow on the 16th, I will say Mass for you and yours so that they may all belong to our Lord and that the Blessed Virgin may obtain a holy and happy death for them. I'm leaving Laus tomorrow. I'll spend a few days at La Mure, from there I'll go to Lyons around the middle of next week. If the Good Lord allows me to see you there, it would make me very happy; otherwise, I will bless you always and everywhere.

Don't let yourself worry too much about your dear husband's future. He is a man who has received so many prayers that Mary will protect him and give him to you as a good Christian. Pray, give alms, offer your daily mortifications to God for him, and heaven will perform a miracle.

I inscribed your dear nephew in the Third Order... And so, continue his Hail Mary. Poor young man, oh, how you need to pray! He would need to have a few devout young people around him, if some from the Third Order could have influence over his heart. I will mention it to them when I go to Lyons. I would need to have his address. The Blessed Virgin is so good, that she will give him to you in return for prayer.

My good daughter, I am so sorry to be so late in answering your second letter! About that poor mother and daughter. Yes, you did well to advise the mother to keep her daughter with her, to keep

her always near. Contrary advice comes from a lack of reflection, it can only come from an outward impression. It's better for her to be without confession, rather than to be away from her mother. She would be very well with the G. Ladies.⁷⁷ You could mention it to them, or else I will do so myself.

You really need a little retreat. Make it interiorly; the more we use up our strength, the more we need to feed ourselves. The presence of God, the regular offering of your actions, a spirit of mortification, attention to the sacrifices of self-denial which God is asking from you at every moment, the wise use of your time: this, dear sister, is your rule. Do everything for God and everything will be to your own benefit.

My regards in our Lord to Miss Stephanie whom I offered to Mary.

Goodbye, dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Miss G.⁷⁸ just arrived at Notre Dame du Laus. She gave me news about you, I spoke to her about the little child. They will answer you from Lyons. It may perhaps be arranged.

Aug. 18 - First pilgrimage to La Salette. (He was to return ten times.)

376

Nil

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE⁷⁹ **(VIII 1/4)**

August 18, 1852

“If I did not have the happiness of being a Marist, I would ask my Bishop, as a special favor, to let me consecrate myself body and soul to the service of Our Lady of la Salette. I had the joy of being the first person, in Lyons, to proclaim the miraculous event of the Apparition, and I am happy today to kiss, with love and gratitude, this blessed earth, this mountain of salvation.”

Eymard, Marist Pr.

⁷⁷ The Guillot sisters.

⁷⁸ Marguerite Guillot.

⁷⁹ Text-Manuscript of St. P.-J. Eymard in the Album of the Sanctuary

377

CO 375

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 6/52)

Wednesday, September 1, 1852

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I have been here in Lyons for a few days, and will be for a few more days. - I would really have liked to go as far as Tarare, but I don't have time. Yet, it would be a great consolation for me to see you. If your business affairs should call you to Lyons this week, I would thank God for it and you could have them tell me the day and the time.

I am leaving you to have the meeting for the Ladies of the Third Order, and I will really pray for you and your loved ones. My respectful regards to Mademoiselle [Antonia].

All yours,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare

378

CO 376

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 91/145 VI 10)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, September 18, 1852

My dear sisters,

Here I am back to work and in good health. Our retreat has just begun but I don't want to wait until it is over to give you news about myself, lest you worry. - I believe the weather has changed up there, and that you are no longer having the continual rains which were devastating the countryside. Here, we had very little rain. The weather is magnificent and it's as hot as the month of July at La Mure. - I stayed about ten days at Lyons, and what I feared happened. I was overwhelmed with visitors. However, I was able to see the Guillot and Gaudioz families several times. They are always a dear family.

You will soon be receiving a beautiful gift from your brother, a magnificent picture of the Third Order, given to me as a gift, and estimated at 200 francs. It represents the Virgin of Love and Holy Hope, the Virgin of the Apocalypse. The group on the left with two priests kneeling, represents the Third Order members whose salvation the Blessed Virgin has requested from the Child Jesus, and which the heavenly Father is graciously granting. An angel holds a sword to defend and protect them... In the middle is seen a group of frightened and fearful people which the devil is seeking to swallow up: these are the sinners affiliated with the Third Order who are seeking refuge at Mary's feet. - The dragon with open jaws and fire in his mouth represents the devil who was chased from heaven by St. Michael the Archangel, casting balls of fire after the woman of the desert, who represents Mary.

I like to think that this souvenir will please you. It is a faithful reproduction of a large painting I had done.

I am going to give you great news. Fr. Cat asked me for the faculties to be able to receive members into the Third Order of Mary. So, he is completely converted, and that pleased me very much. I will write to him shortly, as I haven't had time yet.

Goodbye, dear sisters, may our Lord bless you and keep you in his holy love.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

379

CO 377

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 92/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, September 19, 1852

My dear daughter, I just received your letter and I am answering immediately. It was only right that the first letter I received from Lyons be yours. We are on retreat, pray for us. I had a good trip all the way to Toulon. My health is fine; the climate is perfect here, there is no rain, the sky is always clear ... and it is still quite hot.

Holy obedience still wants me to be here, may it be blessed! Pray that I may be faithful to it. Everything that was reported about me at Lyons is but a small frustration, to be heard and forgotten. It's true, I was sorry I couldn't go to see Miss Chollet, but I had such a headache, and so many obstacles, that I wasn't expecting the trip, and to tell the truth, I thought they would leave me alone and forget me when they saw it was impossible to see me.

I understand the difficulties that follow contacts with Mme. Franchet. I would really like to be freed from that poor woman, I will try to drop her. As it is, she mustn't have been very satisfied with my visits. Oh, she deserves pity more than blame.

I willingly excuse Miss David. It is her great love for the Third Order which led her to make so many little complaints, her heart is suffering. Poor Third Order! it really needs support. As for you, you are working for the Blessed Virgin ... [*five lines erased*].

Here enclosed is the letter for Miss Jaricot. Go with simplicity to Fr. C.⁸⁰

Goodbye dear daughter, my regards in the Lord to your dear sisters, your kind mother, to Mr. and Mme. Gaudioz.

Why tire yourself out on that notebook? it's too much. Come on now! the desire to please makes you imprudent. So be more sensible.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - Read and seal the letter to Miss Jaricot. I'll say the two Masses for Marie. In another letter kindly tell me how much money you've given me for Masses. Isn't it 44?

Miss Marguerite Guillot
31 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

⁸⁰ Fr. Champion?

380

CO 378

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 92/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, September 20, 1852

Dear sisters,

I obtained the admission of the fine young man from St. Peter's into the Society. We are helping him to have a good and safe situation. Send him my letter, and put the address on it, because I have forgotten it. It's thanks to you that he has been received over many others who applied.

In your next letter, give me news about dear Mme. Cros and Miss Victorine.

Goodbye.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Eymard, Marianne
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isere

381

CO 379

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 93/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, October 4, 1852

My dear Daughter, I am really late in answering you. I couldn't do so because of our retreat and the arrival of the students. The days weren't long enough, then I was numbed with pain from a toothache. (It's healed). So you must have done for the best.

Yes, I wanted to speak to you about Fr. Favre, he is very fine.

Miss David goes too quickly and too often to the major Superiors. With them, moments must be well chosen, because once a word is said, it's said. Besides, Miss David isn't highly regarded by Fr. Lagniet and doesn't understand his personality at all, so they hurt one another ... to all that I say: patience! The Third Order's time will come.

Fr. Favre will help her. On the cross and in the tomb our Lord was victorious over his enemies and his holy religion also rose with him, so have confidence.

About the Pastor of St. Nizier. - I gave him permission to affiliate a few persons secretly⁸¹ to the graces of the Third Order. However, it isn't true that he is receiving them publicly for the Third Order. He spoke to me about a few people to be presented to the Single Women and to the Ladies, because I had explained very clearly to him that they should be presented by a member; that if he received them beforehand, it would harm their admission in the congregation. You are right, the rest is only the gossip of a few devotees. I would prefer it if they were more prudent and more charitable, but what can we do? Do what is right and let others say what they will.

⁸¹ Alternate translation: privately.

It's taking so long to have those statues installed! You should have them sent to the men, - if they are in your way - or to the affiliates of Vienne and Amplepuis.

I wish you a good retreat. Yes, benefit by God's passing graces and return to the calm which is so necessary for a soul of prayer, the calm and peace which activity needs in order to be done well. Be attentive to God, and he will do everything within you.

Goodbye, dear daughter. My respects and greetings to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Don't include "via Toulon" in the address but simply: "to La Seyne-sur-mer, Var."

I forgot your number...

Miss Marguerite Guillot
33 Rue du Juge de Paix
Garcin House
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

382

CO 380

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 94/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, October 19, 1852

I have only a minute, dear daughter, and it is yours. I'll send your direction only later, I have too much to do at the moment:

1. About the cloistered sister's decision, I think that she didn't recognize you, or didn't know about the permission that had been given. It would be better to explain what happened to Fr. Galtier, because he is very good. I think it's only a misunderstanding.

2. Don't give up Fr. Ch. to go to Fr. Galtier. Not only would it be unchristian, but ridiculous, if the favors they are granting you were linked to that. As for me, I can't believe such a thing! There can only be some misunderstanding.

3. Fine for Miss Jaricot. That holy woman is suffering so much! I would surely like to help her, but I can't do so here. I approve what you are doing.

4. About mortifications. Follow Fr. Ch's. advice, he is prudent and wise. I understand his reserve about the refusal. It is out of charity. Then, too, he knows that the permission is an exception, requiring necessary grounds.

5. Yes, the poor man's heart is more grateful, I see it every day. So: blessed are the poor! Yes, accomplish this little task at your leisure, without haste or agitation.

6. I think that Miss de Revel will join in that good work, but not to any great extent, because I think she has many responsibilities. On the other hand she is a kind person and so she should know about it.

7. About the Third Order: I love it and I suffer for it. But at present, I prefer not to be informed about it. I prefer to pray quietly for it in oblivion. Since the Good Lord is no longer giving me responsibility for it through obedience, it seems to me that his will is that I should leave it to his grace. Please consult Fr. Ch. for any difficulties related to the Third Order. Forgive me for that, but this sorrow is one of those which is hardest for me to bear. So, out of consideration for my weakness, speak to me only about yourself and your family. For that, you know my great interest and dedication.

I won't mention my health. It is sufficient for what I have to do. May God be praised! If I knew how to do everything for his sake, I would be rich. Still, how difficult it is not to forget the Good Lord in the midst of everything!

My regards and remembrance in the sight of God to your whole family.

I am in our Lord,
Devotedly yours,
Eymard

383

CO 381

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 19/33)

All for God alone

[La-Seyne], October 20, 1852

I received your sad letter, my dear daughter in our Lord. Alas! What sad news it brings me. You don't ask me for a reply.

I understand that advice given from such a distance, without the grace of the Sacrament, cannot heal such deep sadness. Therefore, I will limit myself to telling you that I will double my prayers for you, so that our Lord may help you to be generous and [have] confidence in his divine goodness.

Your poor heart will suffer until it rests in God. People have made you suffer for such a long time now. Alas! When will you find peace?

Leave Father B. since he is not helping you, and go rather to Father Desch, because you need to live with our Lord.

I leave you in his divine goodness which is so kind toward you, and I am

Your very humble,
Eymard

384

CO 382

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 95/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, November 23, 1852

I don't have enough time to write Miss Claudine a long letter. I will do so as soon as I have some free time. Yes, make the retreat, it is a valuable grace on life's way, take advantage of it. It makes me happy to think that you will be getting back to your original way of community life and become the first house of Nazareth. If you are the one who will bear the burden of it, that adds to your merit. It's usually the weakest and least useful one who watches over the home! God wants his share in the direction of souls, he wants to be everything. So, believe in his holy grace. I will pray very much for all of you during this retreat, in order that you may all become true religious before God.

I don't dare write to Fr. Favre concerning the Third Order. You understand that it isn't my place to inform him. Besides, I had passed on some notes. My New Year's wishes have been put to the test, so let God act, but you might then perhaps offer your resignation, if your reluctance continues.

What you tell me ... makes me sad. The Good Lord is putting her to the test, but she must be helped to say what is making her sad ... it's a temptation.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Pray for me. Yes, I forgive you and bless you wholeheartedly.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
31 Rue du Juge de Paix
(Rhône) Fourvière, Lyons

385

CO 383

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 93/145 VI 10)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, November 30, 1852

My very dear sisters,

I have only one moment and it is yours. Thank you for your letters and news. La Mure is always La Mure for me, and news about everything that happens there interests me, and especially news about you, my dear sisters. I believe you are having cold weather and snow, but the Good Lord has provided you with fire for warmth. Here we are now having beautiful sunshine and warm weather like in the springtime. But we are often visited by the violent mistral, which is stronger than the strongest breeze of a cold region, so unlike the constant climate of our region. The Good Lord, like a good Father, has put both pleasure and pain everywhere in order that we might not become attached to this land of exile.

Our boarding school brings us many consolations. We have a hundred and twelve children from the leading families of the area. So we need the patience and kindness of a mother, and the firmness of a father.

We have just founded a house of missionaries at Toulon. That will relieve me somewhat, as the beautiful Work of Adoration was taking me two days each week.

I am writing to the Pastor about the Third Order. I gave him the faculties to receive privately and sent him a little book. He will surely be pleased with me, and I hope that he will be so with the Third Order. Besides, as the Third Order of Mary is not a confraternity nor a congregation, you depend on no one. If he wants to help you, be grateful. My good sisters, be like beggars are: they receive alms from everyone and belong to no one. We belong only to God: "Do what is right, and let others say what they will," St. Francis de Sales used to say.

I am happy that my painting pleased you. It is beautiful, and I could not give it to anyone better.

Take care of yourselves, my dear sisters, in this bad weather. If you should see Philibert Gros, tell him that I hope his brother will obtain his grace...

Goodbye, my dear sisters. I think of you constantly before God; do the same for me. I am well.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.

P.S. I was pleased to see Mr. Giraud, Mme. Bernard's brother-in-law. I recommended Bernard Bizot to him. He promised me he would keep him in mind.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
at La Mure d'Isère

386

CO 384

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 20/33)

All for God alone and you alone

November 30, 1852

I don't want to wait to answer you in turn, my dear daughter. I am answering immediately, because your letter reveals a soul of good will and a suffering heart.

In spite of my silence, I haven't stopped praying for you; but a human being can only help his equal to the extent that God gives it to him, and wills it. I felt that if I were to give you advice, I would perhaps prevent you from placing your trust elsewhere. So, as I want the best from God, you can understand my reservation.

See, my dear daughter, God wants you entirely for himself, though poor and weak, alone and empty of creatures and you should be happy about it. Ah! believe me, I know you as well as anyone, and your trust gives me the right to tell you very simply to love God and suffer for him, that is perfection. To love God alone and desire no other witness, consoler, or center other than God, that is the greatest love and you need it all. For as long as you are not satisfied with that, you will suffer. What you are seeking exists only in God. You have too much heart, too much feeling about your limitations. So you are alone to bear such a heavy burden, and you fall crushed under this indescribable weight, and that is the explanation of it all. God casts bitterness, coldness, a veil around you and other people, in order that you might go toward him to look for strength.

I like to think that you have gone back to your former rhythm of life, reread the prayer, [received] the sacraments, and come closer to God!

Read the twenty-first chapter of the 3rd book of the Imitation.

Goodbye my daughter. Try Father Favre.

Your ever devoted in our Lord,
Eymard

387

CO 385

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VII 1/5 IV 75)

La-Seyne, November 30, 1852

Madame and dear sister,

You must be complaining, and rightly so, about me and my laziness. Every day I was waiting for a letter of reproach, and then I would say: they have forgotten everything, both the man and his debt.⁸² So now I am writing to tell you that I will pay it well. I kept my word when I left you, since I worked [on it] even in Avignon, but I didn't have time to finish. These notes are always in front of me, they blind me and blame me for letting them sleep. I answer them that you know all that and that you [blame me] even more, that we don't teach the ABC's to the one who knows how to read. What do you think of that, dear Lady? Do you still want this prayer outline? If you still want it, I promise to send it to you as your New Year's gift. Otherwise my laziness would say: so much gained. So now you are in Lyons, in that dear city, which is so dreary in the winter, enveloped by

⁸² His promise to send her a prayer outline.

its white cloth and with its startling humidity which penetrates to the soul. - How are you over there? What are you doing? I don't think you need any more advice from us for the holidays, they are over now. You are now back to your simple and recollected life, entirely God's and entirely [dedicated] to your loved ones. Consequently you are calm. Recollection comes naturally to fill your soul. Your exercises of piety have fallen in place, at a regular time, place and goodness. Holy Communion, which you need more than others because you are weak, sad, crucified, isolated, you are receiving regularly, in spite of your daily faults, the dust of the road, your spontaneous impatience, the weaknesses of life. Yes, go to Communion, my dear daughter. Otherwise, your soul will be vulnerable, hungry, will have no more strength or courage. Good beggars are always welcomed by God. So, work hard to become patient, gentle, and humble in the love of our Lord in order that you may become like our Good Master, gentle and humble of heart. That is the condition of peace and rest for the soul. You want me to remind you of all that we said about the Stations of the Cross. So be it, and with pleasure:

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death. What is Jesus? He is goodness and holiness personified. He is my God, Creator and Savior. Jesus Christ is condemned to death. Who would have such horrible courage? The Devil? No, the devils tremble before him. - However, here are human beings, his creatures, the Jews, his privileged people, it is myself through my sins. (Act of indignation.)

How did Jesus Christ, the all powerful one, let himself be seized, bound, tied down, condemned to death for love of me? He replaced me, the guilty one. I would have been damned eternally were it not for the condemnation of my Savior. Oh my Savior. Oh my God, is it possible that you loved me to that point... and loved me even when I didn't love you, when I offended you, when I condemned you?

To what kind of death is he condemned? To the most painful, the most infamous death, to the death of the lowest slave, to the death of the cross?

But why desire to die such a death? Oh! It was chosen by the love of Jesus, because there was more suffering, consequently more love. Oh my God, I am amazed and terror-stricken when I consider my ingratitude and your love.

Second Method: Virtues.

What virtue does my divine Savior practice in this station:

Calm in the presence of his evil judges and torturers! A beautiful example for me, when someone humiliates or condemns me. Did I follow it?

Strength: Jesus Christ proclaims his truth. He preaches it without letting himself be intimidated or troubled, neither through blasphemy, nor evil treatment. Here is my model of fidelity to God in trials. Have I been [faithful]?

Gentleness: Jesus Christ does not become angry; he does not threaten his enemies. With gentleness he allows himself to be bound, tied and dragged before the courts like a lamb, without malice or defense. He gives no reply to the insults, he doesn't defend himself against calumny. He doesn't appeal the death sentence.

Charity: While this beloved Savior was mistreated, and when he was condemned to death, he offered the insults and humiliations to his Father for the salvation of his enemies! Yes, my Father, I accept this infamous death, but to obtain life for all sinners. That is how we ought to pray and suffer for our enemies.

Dear Madame, I will stop now. Pray for me, in order that I might really do what I say. Kindly tell me the name of the young lady from Romans where I had dinner.

Goodbye. My respectful and dedicated regards to your family and to Miss Agarithe, if you wish.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

APPENDIX I

Excerpt From the Journal of Marguerite Guillot addressed to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament regarding her first meeting with Fr. Eymard.

“Toward the end of February 1845, the promise of our Lord came to pass.¹ Reverend Father Eymard, who was then Provincial of the Society of Mary, came to preach the Lenten [mission] at the Hospice of Charity, very near to where we lived. Since my elderly mother could not go as far as the parish church (St. Francis de Sales) she followed Father Eymard’s conferences. After eight days she said to me: ‘Daughter, I want you to come and hear my preacher; he is an apostle, a saint.’ I did believe my dear mother, but I really felt frustrated and I told her that I wanted to continue the Mission at the parish. My mother said: “Come, that would really please me and you will like it.” I made my mother’s will my own. It was a Tuesday, and Father Eymard was speaking about the spiritual trials of the soul, the means the soul should use to benefit from them and, finally, that trials are always a proof of the love of our Lord toward us. I thought, ‘How is it that this priest seems to be speaking only for me?’²

“A feeling of respect and veneration took hold of me merely at the sight of this Priest. I thanked our good Master for what I was hearing which was so suited to my needs. Obedience had obtained this grace for me. I was left with this powerful thought. What a man of God! It would be so good to open one’s heart to him! but I left it at that. I even regretted the thought as I believed he was only a visiting preacher, and I continued the Mission begun at the parish.

“Our good Master knew what he needed to do. The first day of the month of March, consecrated to St. Joseph, the true director of souls, Fr. Eymard announced that he would hear confessions. My dear mother was beside herself. She said: ‘My poor daughter, I am timid, I want to go to confession to Fr. Eymard. Bring me and you can go first.’ At that same time the confessor of the Institute fell seriously ill. I wanted to go to the Jesuit Fathers and it was difficult for me to give up my desire. However, I brought my mother and just as she wished, I went to confession first.

“Oh! How great you are, oh! Kindness of God! How admirable you are when you pursue a soul! Who knows what took place during this first hour of conversation? Ah! God knows and so do I. All I can say is that Father Eymard was for me what the sun is on a dark place at high noon. He told me about my life, my spiritual state of soul, my spiritual attraction, my form of prayer, my sorrows, the graces of God to me and I had not said anything yet. I had only said the *Confiteor*. Oh! happy moment! fortunate hour! My heart was flooded with joy and gratitude. During my thanksgiving, these sentiments were sighed forth between God and myself. I kept my secret and I resolved to benefit from this temporary direction during Lent, as I did not imagine that Fr. Eymard was residing in Lyons, as the Society of Mary was then unknown to me.

“I felt sorry to see Lent moving so quickly and I was storing away my spiritual provisions. On Holy Saturday, Father told me: ‘You are going to make a novena with me to seek God’s will for you; whether he wants me to continue directing you.’ - ‘How can that be Father,’ said I, ‘Aren’t you a visitor?’ - ‘No’ he answered, ‘I live in Lyons. - ‘Where Father?’ - ‘With the Marists.’ - ‘What is that?’ - Father told me kindly about the Society of Mary and I said: - ‘What is your work?’ - ‘Alas,’ he replied very humbly, ‘I am the Provincial. I so young, at thirty-three years of age and without experience, I am ashamed to say it. Pray for me so that I may fulfill this task since it has been given to me.’ - ‘I am afraid,’ I said to him. ‘I am afraid of God, that he may ask too much of me, and you also.’ Father smiled and said: ‘Well, we both want only the will of God. I am also afraid, you don’t want anything to do with me, nor I with you - Therefore, we will do only what God wills. We must reject our fear and disregard it.’

“We made our novena, with a *Veni Creator* and daily Communion.

¹ Interior words: “Be comforted. I will soon send you a more perfect path of obedience.”

² This last sentence was added in pencil, perhaps under Marguerite's dictation when the journal was reread to her at the end of her life.

Appendix I

“The ninth day fell on Quasimodo Sunday.¹ I would find out the will of God for me. I entered the Church - Father was at the Elevation of the Mass. I begged our Lord by his precious Blood to give him light so that I might truly follow the will of God for that is all I wanted.

“After his thanksgiving Father came to the confessional and said: ‘My poor daughter, you caused me many distractions during Mass, especially at the Elevation, but what can we do - we must receive them when God sends them.’

“‘What distractions did you have about me Father and what does God want from me?’

“‘That I should continue with you, my poor daughter,’ said Father ‘and that I should care for your soul.’

“It was like Saul on the road to Damascus. Light had broken through. I understood the grace which the divine Master was giving me. From that time on, my soul was entrusted to him by God. The good Master gave me total trust to open my soul to him, absolute submission, respect and veneration for the smallest counsel. I became a daughter to him, giving thanks to our Lord, yes, his blessed daughter, submissive in every circumstance of my life, until the death of my blessed Father.

“If only I had in writing all the directions of this man of God. He considered only the well-being of the soul, he did not move ahead of grace but followed it. He communicated so much light, so many graces to the soul. He spoke little, but his words would touch, penetrate [the soul]. He was kind, gentle, and also strong and strict when it was a matter of correcting a fault. He never gave in when he asked for a sacrifice, seasoning it with a motive of love such as: ‘You would please our Lord - could you refuse Him?’ Once this love was understood, it was no longer possible to resist.

“He said: ‘If you only knew what a director must be like, concerned to pray day and night for the directee, and often prayer is not sufficient. We must join mortification and fasting with it. How I worry about you,’ he would often say. ‘My poor daughter, you alone make me work more than all the other souls which I direct put together.’ Oh, this is my embarrassment. I do believe it. My needs were as great as my faults.

“Father insisted that I give him an account of my soul in writing and that I should link my past direction to the present one. I would also write his counsels, the means to use for each [spiritual] state which the Good Lord led me through. It became easy. I did it for six years. I didn’t know that Father was keeping these notes. When he left Lyons he returned two large volumes to me and said: ‘I am going to give you a proof of my trust. These are your notes which I kept. Later they will help you. Keep them through obedience.’ I kept them secretly for several years and I must admit that I read them with spiritual benefit, but a serious illness led me to ask Father to burn them. He thought I was dying and he gave me permission.

“I often remembered his words: ‘They will help you later.’ It is true at this very moment when I am writing what I remember and then to direct my daughters, and finally to help them after my death.

“This digression is much too long. However, it will please you, my dear daughters. It will allow you to admire the ways of Providence which led my mother to bring her youngest daughter and more, who led her five daughters to be directed by this dear Father to fulfill God’s eventual plan. My mother was proud of it and our blessed Father would like to remind her, - ‘If I know your family, it is because you organized everything.’

¹ Sunday after Easter.

APPENDIX II

MEETING of the Third Order of Mary

December 2, 1849

(continued)

On Simplicity

Today, I am here to speak to you about interior simplicity, and its effects on the state of the soul - to mention two:

The first is to lead us to live in peace with ourselves,

The second is to make us forget ourselves.

To live in peace with ourselves is the condition of happiness on earth. Simplicity gives us this peace, even in the midst of our difficulties and imperfections. That is its secret: a secret known by very few devout people who are always agitated and troubled because the knowledge of their sins and imperfections cause them discouragement. At the sight of their ever growing imperfections they imagine that perfection is not for them. That is because they think it consists in impeccability and consequently in impossibility. Oh! my sisters, don't take this principle as your rule of life or as the condition for your peace of heart. On the contrary, take the principle of the *Imitation*. "All your peace in this wretched life," says the Author, "consists rather in humble patience." Well, these few words say everything. Patience supposes a struggle, a misfortune, a suffering which we could not avoid, but which is connected to our situation, our nature, and consequently, that it all comes to us from God.

You may say: But my faults, my imperfections, do not come from God! 'That's true, they come from our weaknesses, God does not want our faults, but once they have happened, he wants from us the humiliation of it; he wants its poverty; and when a poor sinner becomes more humble, more poor because of his faults, he only becomes more perfect [because of them]. Therefore, my sisters, perfection and progress in it can be found in humility which enables us to bear that state of humiliation, and what is more, to act and live in keeping with it. Here is an example to help you understand my thought. Look at a child. It is full of faults, it is ignorant, it does not have any skills, it ruins everything and falls at any moment into the same faults, and yet this child is candid. It lives in peace, it enjoys itself, it sleeps in peace. Do you know why? It has an interior simplicity and knows itself to be as he is and so he accepts peacefully the humiliation of his situation. He admits his ignorance, his inexperience, his faults. His response to every [accusation] is, that's true. And once he has made this admission, rather than blush, cry or pout over it, he goes to play. People discuss other things, as usual. That is the secret of interior peace: the simplicity of childhood.

Another example: Notice a truly poor person. To look at him is to pity him. We don't understand how he can still love life. He has only rags; he is covered with wounds and bruises. It is true that his condition is very repulsive. Well, however, this poor man sleeps peacefully. He is calm. He lives at peace with his rags and his infirmities. He is used to it. He considers the rejection and neglect of society as part of his poverty. He accepts everything and lives more peacefully than many others who are wealthier; that is because he has the simplicity of poverty.

Oh! my sisters! Believe me. Find your interior peace in simplicity -in simplicity like a poor man or a child, and it will be unalterable. If you place it in your correction, in your progress, in perfection, you will never have it. A profound reason for this is that the closer we come to God, the more we discover our weakness and our nothingness and that is why the holier a person is the more humble she is. Listen to the Blessed Virgin, recognizing that she had been raised to the divine dignity of Mother of God: "My soul," she said, "glorifies the Lord, for he has looked on the lowliness of his servant." That is perfect simplicity which praises God for everything that is due him, and keeps only "lowliness" for itself.

The second effect of simplicity is to make us forget ourselves. What destroys simplicity in us is the life of self-pride - because by it we refer everything to ourselves. We make ourselves the

Appendix II

rule and the center and when something frustrates us or contradicts our desires, then there is an interior sorrow, then hard feelings, finally, struggle and fighting. A soul that is not interiorly simple is almost always in this state.

But simplicity, on the contrary, pacifies a person, makes her even-tempered, and why? Because it makes us do things through love for the person who commands. So then, each thing is seen only in the pleasure it gives to the beloved person, and in the positive aspect of the thing which is suggested.

Therefore, a soul which is simple in the Christian sense, forgets itself; it does not begin by consulting its own feelings and preferences, but the will and good pleasure of God. There is nothing else for her, nothing that bestows any value on things.

It is the precious effect of Christian simplicity to bring us directly to God without passing through our self-pride. So then, temptation has no opportunity to ruin our works at their source. It was forestalled by our [aiming] immediately for God and his holy will. Then we will love everything equally because what gives each thing its value is not its intrinsic worth, nor its suitability to our personal wishes, or our personal tastes, but only our love for the will of God who wants or desires it.

Such is the life of the simple child. Things are nothing for him, nor does he worry about them! nor does he have any repugnance. That is why he is prompt in his obedience to his mother! It is because he is simple and acts without any return of self-pride.

So, my Sisters, become simple like children, like the Blessed Virgin. Simplicity is as great as love. Let us grow in Christian simplicity through divine love. Let us truly make God our center [of life]. Let us lose ourselves in his love in order to live by his Divine life.

Amen.

APPENDIX III

Preface by Fr. Edmond Tenaillon SSS,¹ to Volume IV of the French Letters

Letter of Spiritual Direction to Lay Persons
by St. Peter Julian Eymard, published in Paris in 1901.

FORWARD

When St. Peter Julian recommended in a letter:

“Keep in mind the three necessary qualities of a spiritual director,” he was unwittingly describing himself:

- “empathetic because of grace and because of the trust he inspires;
- strong inner life; (otherwise they are like train conductors)
- experienced; prudence requires it.”²

The three hundred and forty four letters of spiritual direction included in the fourth volume (French letters) of our Founder’s correspondence strongly demonstrate this self-description, and complete our picture of the Servant of God. They increase our admiration for his strong and tender piety, his noble view of life joined to an exceptionally practical mind, mature prudence, and genuine sensitivity which flow from a generous, thoughtful and faithful heart.

Like all the saints, Fr. Eymard had marvelous ability to attract others. Everything about him communicated the spirit of Jesus Christ. People flocked to him to experience a touch of heaven.

Few confessors in our century - other than the venerable Cure d’Ars - heard as many confessions, directed and comforted as many people as he.

He himself admitted with charming candor that he no longer knew how to ward off the flood of visitors and penitents who besieged him in the parlor and confessional. “As time goes on people in Paris absorb more and more of my time and steal it all... I am always in the pulpit or in the confessional... I am sought after on every side and hardly have a moment to recollect myself... in Angers, they laid hold of me and ate me alive... that seems to be my lot. I am everyone’s poor messenger. How fortunate I would be if at least I were God’s ambassador...”³

His charity for souls was boundless. As numerous and difficult as his responsibilities were as founder of two religious families, he never lost sight of those who entrusted themselves to his direction. He listened to them not only in the confessional where he strengthened and directed them, but he also worked to further their progress and perfection through correspondence. He responded to their fears and difficulties, clarified and supported past directions, and spread the fire of zeal and the ardor of charity far and wide. He didn’t rest until the person was totally given to the service of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

As extensive as this collection of letters may be, we know it is only a small part of his voluminous correspondence. So many treasures were lost, or bore fruit only in the private lives of individuals. Nonetheless, the collection is very rich and reveals Fr. Eymard as a director who was as sure as he was enlightened, as prudent as he was devout, as tender as he was strong.

It becomes evident that his heart was at the service of souls, his humanity at the service of his priesthood. Strength was born in kindness. He used to advantage the trust and affection given him to speak honestly.

Fr. Eymard’s direction had a single purpose: to lead people to unity of life, thoughts, feelings and discernment with Jesus Eucharistic. Diverse ways and means were needed to reach this goal according to the temperament, circumstances, situations and special graces of each penitent.

¹ Postulator of the Cause of Beatification.

² Letter 6 to Madame Jordan, December 3, 1864.

³ This thought is repeated often in his letters, especially toward the end of his life.

This was the principal quality of this prudent director. He was attentive to the grace of each one, their personal attraction, the special action of the Holy Spirit who breathes where He wills, and then respecting fully the freedom of souls and God's grace in them, he directed them strongly and gently toward the most Blessed Sacrament, which he justly called: "The center of everything."

When he was dealing with a generous person, he would ask and obtain a great deal. It was easier to deal with one who was just beginning and still knew very little about the spiritual life. What great prudence, sensitivity and perseverance he used when dealing with the conversion of a sinner!

For now, we will limit ourselves to mentioning the key points without multiplying details. But we repeat that a particular quality of his direction was its simplicity, whereby he opened his own heart to those who awakened his trust. He would admit both his imperfections and his spiritual joys to them with the simplicity of a child, asking for the help of their prayers. He wrote to one of his directees: "Everyday I find a nest-full of faults in myself, weaknesses which were well hidden, and I discover that when I thought I was adequate, I was only poor, weak and blind."

His letters are natural and without artificiality. He wrote without rereading his letters, often forgetting the punctuation. He often wrote his letters on the train while travelling. It's very likely that his many occupations and deep humility left him with little time and inclination to work on his style or to fill in the periods. Nevertheless, we find such a variety of noble and often sublime reflections about events and persons! Such a breath of eloquence and poetry flow through these letters! Like St. Francis of Assisi, he loved nature, birds, flowers, rivers and mountains. He easily became enthusiastic over the works of the Lord. All contemplatives have loved this way of speaking. Their purity of mind draws them to nature's beautiful scenes. I see Fr. Eymard as a poet, unknown to himself, a poet in the highest and most sincere meaning of the word. That is, he was gifted with deep feeling. He let his heart open up to express precise ideas, clear nuances of feeling, a song from his soul.

But first and above all, Father was a charmer of souls. If he sought them with such ardent, sensitive and persevering zeal, it was because he dreamed of "bringing about the beautiful kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth."

So, he was deeply venerated by those who had the good fortune of being formed in his school. They considered it an honor that he was the one who had won them over fully to the Eucharist; that they had committed themselves seriously to the royal service under the influence of its apostle's ardent words of love.

Those who outlived their holy director were unanimous in proclaiming his helpful and decisive influence in handing their lives over to God. That is Father Eymard's highest glory. We believe that readers will discover this for themselves in these letters.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

with document numbers and references to French edition

BARET, FR. JEAN-VICTOR

A childhood friend of Fr. E. with whom he had made his first pilgrimage to go to confession as a child at Villard St. Christophe. Eventually they became fellow-seminarians and were ordained the same day by Bishop Philibert de Bruillard. Fr. Baret became the pastor of La Motte d'Aveillans. Fr. E. tried unsuccessfully to draw him to the Marists.

(V 1/6) #0006 (V 2/6) #0008 (V 3/6) #0352

BERTHOLON, ANTOINE, S.M.

Initially, as a Marist, chaplain of the Sisters of Reparation in Paris, and spiritual director to Mother Marie-Therese Dubouche. Fr. Bertholon became highly involved in the discussions with Mother Dubouche, Fr. Cohen, Fr. E. and Fr. Colin to bring about a men's branch for perpetual adoration seen in conjunction with the Sisters of Reparation. His tendency to meddle caused a rift between himself and Mother Dubouche.

(VI 1/2) #0226 (VI 2/2) #0230

BETHFORT, MR AND MRS.

Parishioners of Chalon where Fr. E. had given a mission.

(VII 1/3) #0143 (VII 2/3) #0315

BLANC DE ST. BONNET, ADOLPHE

Brother-in-law of Fr. Michel Chanuet SSS and philosopher-writer. Born in 1815, this French philosopher is described as belonging to the "Mystical school of Lyons," and known as the "philosopher of sorrow." They became friends when Fr. E. was Visitor General of the Marists. In 1863. Fr. E. accepted his hospitality and it was at his home that he found the atmosphere and support he needed to draw up his Constitutions for the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. Mr. B. sent copies of his works to Fr. E. who always expressed a deep appreciation for them.

(VII 1/4) #0186

BONALD, CARDINAL LOUIS DE, C.C.M.

Archbishop of Lyons who signed the request and received the permission for the canonical establishment of the Third Order of Mary. He also requested that Fr. E. inquire into the sisters of Mother Dubouche, the "Adoration Reparatrice" and asked him to work actively for their foundation in Lyons.

He approved the Association for Home Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as developed by Mme. Tholin-Bost, the directee of Fr. E. He wrote a testimonial letter to the Holy Father to support Fr. E.'s petition for a blessing on the newly-formed Society. He did not respond to Fr. E.'s written request to unite his Work of First Communion with that of Fr. Chevrier (in Lyons) at the Prado, and in a personal interview deferred the matter.

(VI 1/1) #0115

BOST, ANTONIA (JULIE-ANTOINETTE)

The sister of Mme. Clotilde Tholin-Bost, who was closely associated to Fr. E.'s apostolate. Antonia was a lay consecrated virgin who belonged to the Third Order of Mary. She wanted to be a religious, but Fr. E. encouraged her to stay at home to care for her parents. She entered the Sisters of Charity in 1857 and was dismissed in 1864.

Fr. E. encouraged her when her mother died and supported her contacts with her brother, who was not church-going. He especially gave her rich counsels for spiritual life and prayer. In 1864, she went to Rennes to live with Mme. Lepage, a widow, who was also a correspondent of his, and

Biographical Notes

Antonia arranged for Fr. E. to preach a mission at the church of St. Aubin, Rennes, from September 8-16, 1864.

(IV 1/28)	#0109	(IV 4/28)	#0212	(IV 6/28)	#0284
(IV 2/28)	#0182	(IV 5/28)	#0273	(IV 7/28)	#0326
(IV 3/28)	#0189				

BRAMEREL, FR.

Former student of Fr. E., he eventually became a diocesan priest.

(V 1/5)	#0042	(V 3/5)	#0053
(V 2/5)	#0046	(V 4/5)	#0080

CARREL, MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE

A member of the men's group of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons. Mr. Carrel was a life-long friend. He was a textile merchant in Lyons. In his travels, Fr. E. often accepted hospitality in this family which he referred to as a "dear beloved Bethany." This family had been constituted as a "House of Nazareth."

(V 1/24)	#0087	(V 3/24)	#0290
(V 2/24)	#0090	(V 10/24)	#0091

CHAMPION, CYR AMAND, SSS

Born at Chanos (Valence) Feb. 6, 1820. Ordained at Belley in 1846 as a Marist priest. As a Marist colleague, Fr. Champion had served in England and had worked with Fr. E. at La Favorite as Assistant Master of Novices. During Fr. E.'s time at La Seyne, he recommended Fr. C. to Marguerite Guillot in Lyons as a confessor. Fr. C.'s area of specialization was Liturgy and Canon Law.

He joined the Society of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris in Oct. 1857. He was among the first group who made perpetual vows after the approval of the Society and participated in the first General Chapter, where he was named Assistant General. He was a faithful collaborator, always ready to render service where needed in any of the houses of the Institute as well as to the Servants. He was made Superior of the Brussels Foundation where his knowledge of English was particularly helpful. He became the third Superior General of the Congregation, from June 29, 1871 to January 22, 1881.

(VI 1/2 I 5) #0255

CHAVAZ, FR., S.M.

Marist, Superior at Verdélais (Gironde) and Pastor and Director of Pilgrimages. Fr. E. recommended that he delegate responsibility to others.

(VIII 1/1) #0093

CHIRON, FR. MARIE

Founder of the Congregation of St. Martha of the Assumption for the care of marginalized people.

(VI 1/2) #0225 (VI 2/2) #0229

COLIN, FR. JEAN-CLAUDE, S.M.

Founder and Superior General of the Marist Congregation. He received Peter Julian with warmth and paternal care into the Marist Society on August 20, 1839. A close relationship existed between the two men at first, if we can judge from the positions of responsibility he entrusted to him. Fr. E.'s initiative and zeal frightened him. He was favorable to the establishment of a men's group for eucharistic adoration and he was in dialogue with Mother Dubouche and Fr. de Cuers

Biographical Notes

for its realization. After his resignation as Superior General, he attempted to establish a Marist Work of adoration (Reparation) at La Neyliere. It lasted two years. Fr. Eymard presented his idea to Fr. Colin, who encouraged him to proceed and to request a dispensation from his vows in order to carry it out.

(VI 1/6)	#0039	(VI 3/6)	#0231
(VI 2/6)	#0054	(VI 4/6)	#0246

CREUSET, MR.

Resident of Lyons, a member of the Third Order of Mary. He fulfilled the function of Master of Novices for the men's group, though reluctantly.

(V 1/8)	#0271	(V 3/8)	#0339
(V 2/8)	#0287	(V 4/8)	#0359

CUERS, COUNT JEAN-RAYMOND DE (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

Born at Port de Ste. Marie in Spain on July 29, 1809, and baptized the following day. He was the eldest son of a noble family. He had made a career in the Navy, where he had engaged in military activities all over the world. He had been indifferent to religion until his conversion in 1848 after the death of his sister.

Ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Marseilles, June 24, 1855. First companion of Fr. E. They had met in Paris when Fr. E. was Provincial of the Marists. Count de Cuers and Hermann Cohen had collaborated to establish Nocturnal Adoration for men in Paris. He and Fr. E. met again in Toulon where the Count was involved in establishing adoration. Fr. E. was named chaplain to the group. Fr. de C. urged Fr. E. to join him in a project to found an Order of the Blessed Sacrament. His zeal made him impatient with Fr. E.'s slow discernment. He studied for the priesthood and was in Paris during Fr. E.'s discernment retreat. Shortly after the foundation he left Paris to begin the House of Marseilles and be its Superior. There he began the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament and dedicated a chapel to Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.

De Cuers was radical and ascetic, which made it difficult for others to live with him in such extreme poverty. He was sent to Rome and Jerusalem to explore the possibilities of a foundation at the Cenacle. Later he was to ask for the dispensation of his vows to begin Roquefavour, an experience of solitude. Permission was granted by Fr. E. to begin the Work without dispensation. He returned to the Congregation to be its Second Superior General Aug. 9, 1868 until June 21, 1871.

(I 1/181)	#0276	(I 2/181)	#0292
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DAVID, MISS

Rectress of the Third Order of Mary in Lyons. Fr. E.'s correspondence with her outlines the reasons for and against a merger between the Third Order of Mary and the Work of Mother Dubouche.

(VII 1/2)	#0236	(VII 2/2)	#0319
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DUBOUCHE, THEODELINDE (MOTHER MARIE THERESE)

The Foundress of the Sisters of the Reparation (Adoration Reparatrice). They met in Paris when Fr. E. was Provincial Superior and visited the Marists there. He was instrumental in bringing her Work to Lyons. He contemplated uniting the Third Order of Mary with the Reparation Sisters as a "Center" for the women. He eventually abandoned this idea and rejected the suggestion that he should join Mother Dubouche in a mutual project for Eucharistic Adoration.

(VI 1/2)	#0253	(VI 2/2)	#0337
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DUMOLARD, FATHER

A fellow seminarian from La Mure, who eventually became Pastor of Villard St. Christophe. He accompanied Peter Julian on his first visit to the Marists. Fr. E. tried without success to draw him to the Marists.

(V 1/2) #0004 (V 2/2) #0010

DUPONT, MR. LEON

Known as the "Holy Man of Tours," Mr. Dupont was originally from Martinique. As a young widower he dedicated himself to bringing up his only daughter who died at age 15. Mr. Dupont dedicated his life to good works, especially to spreading devotion to the Holy Face. His home became a sanctuary of prayer, devotion and healing. Fr. E. often stayed there when traveling through Tours and the men worked together to establish a group of Nocturnal Adoration in Tours and to strengthen the group in Paris.

(U1 VII 2) #0258

EYMARD, MARIANNE

Sister and godmother of St. Peter Julian Eymard. Born in 1799, the fifth and only survivor of the first marriage of Julian Eymard. She was the main source of the childhood anecdotes that have come to us regarding our saint. She was the first to learn of his desire to become a priest. She supported this desire in spite of their father's opposition. Marianne and their adopted sister Nanette left La Mure temporarily to keep house for Peter Julian when he was a pastor at Monteynard. She tried to oppose his Marist vocation without avail. Later, having returned to La Mure, she would be associated to the Third Order of Mary and become its president there. Later she joined and promoted the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

The La Mure family home became a center of friendship for those whom Fr. E. would direct to La Salette. So, friendly ties were established especially with the Guillot sisters, Srs. Benoite and Philomene, Mmes. Jordan, Tenaillon and many others. Marianne and Nanette attempted a vocation to the Servants, but did not persevere.

In September 1865, Fr. E. spent 2 weeks in La Mure because of Mariannes's long illness. He was to return to his family home to die in 1868. From July 21 to August 1, his sisters and friends cared for him. They were by his bedside in his last moments. Marianne died February 17, 1876.

(III 1/145 VI 10)	#0001	(III 20/145 VI 10)	#0030	(III 39/145 VI 10)	#0075
(VI 1/10 III 145)	#0060	(III 21/145 VI 10)	#0031	(III 40/145 VI 10)	#0078
(III 2/145 VI 10)	#0002	(III 22/145 VI 10)	#0023	(III 41/145 VI 10)	#0079
(III 3/145 VI 10)	#0003	(III 23/395 VI 2)	#0146	(III 42/145 VI 10)	#0081
(III 4/145 VI 10)	#0005	(III 23/145 VI 10)	#0032	(III 43/145 VI 10)	#0083
(III 5/145 VI 10)	#0007	(III 24/145 VI 10)	#0034	(III 44/145 VI 10)	#0084
(III 6/145 VI 10)	#0009	(III 25/145 VI 10)	#0033	(III 45/145 VI 10)	#0085
(III 7/145 VI 10)	#0011	(III 26/145 VI 10)	#0036	(III 46/145 VI 10)	#0092
(III 8/145 VI 10)	#0012	(III 27/145 VI 10)	#0041	(III 47/145 VI 10)	#0094
(III 9/145 VI 10)	#0014	(III 28/145 VI 10)	#0043	(III 48/145 VI 10)	#0098
(III 10/145 VI 10)	#0015	(III 29/145 VI 10)	#0044	(III 49/145 VI 10)	#0099
(III 11/145 VI 10)	#0016	(III 30/145 VI 10)	#0047	(III 50/145 VI 10)	#0105
(III 12/145 VI 10)	#0017	(III 31/145 VI 10)	#0049	(III 51/145 VI 10)	#0107
(III 13/145 VI 10)	#0018	(III 32/145 VI 10)	#0056	(III 52/145 VI 10)	#0111
(III 14/145 VI 10)	#0019	(III 33/145 VI 10)	#0058	(III 53/145 VI 10)	#0112
(III 15/145 VI 10)	#0021	(III 34/145 VI 10)	#0059	(III 54/145 VI 10)	#0117
(III 16/145 VI 10)	#0022	(III 35/145 VI 10)	#0062	(III 55/145 VI 10)	#0124
(III 17/145 VI 10)	#0024	(III 36/145 VI 10)	#0067	(III 56/145 VI 10)	#0128
(III 18/145 VI 10)	#0026	(III 37/145 VI 10)	#0069	(III 57/145 VI 10)	#0130
(III 19/145 VI 10)	#0028	(III 38/145 VI 10)	#0074	(III 58/145 VI 10)	#0131

Biographical Notes

(III 59/145 VI 10)	#0137	(III 71/145 VI 10)	#0172	(III 83/145 VI 10)	#0288
(III 60/145 VI 10)	#0138	(III 72/145 VI 10)	#0181	(III 84/145 VI 10)	#0307
(III 61/145 VI 10)	#0142	(III 73/145 VI 10)	#0184	(III 85/145 VI 10)	#0313
(III 62/145 VI 10)	#0150	(III 74/145 VI 10)	#0198	(III 86/145 VI 10)	#0322
(III 63/145 VI 10)	#0151	(III 75/145 VI 10)	#0202	(III 87/145 VI 10)	#0333
(III 64/145 VI 10)	#0154	(III 76/145 VI 10)	#0209	(III 88/145 VI 10)	#0341
(III 65/145 VI 10)	#0157	(III 77/145 VI 10)	#0216	(III 89/145 VI 10)	#0346
(III 66/145 VI 10)	#0160	(III 78/145 VI 10)	#0222	(III 90/145 VI 10)	#0372
(III 67/145 VI 10)	#0162	(III 79/145 VI 10)	#0238	(III 91/145 VI 10)	#0378
(III 68/145 VI 10)	#0163	(III 80/145 VI 10)	#0252	(III 92/145 VI 10)	#0380
(III 69/145 VI 10)	#0167	(III 81/145 VI 10)	#0265	(III 93/145 VI 10)	#0385
(III 70/145 VI 10)	#0171	(III 82/145 VI 10)	#0270		

EYMARD-GAIDAN, MARIE

Unknown.

A-14 F 14) #0066

FRANCHET, MME.

Member of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons. Mme. F. helped to copy the minutes of the Third Order of Mary for Fr. E. Her son Charles was a student at the Marist school at St. Chamond. He eventually came to Paris to study and was in contact with Fr. E. Mme. Franchet received many counsels from Fr. E., mainly to receive frequent Communion, to carry the cross, to seek her peace in God.

(VII 1/33)	#0174	(VII 8/33)	#0251	(VII 15/33)	#0336
(VII 2/33)	#0175	(VII 9/33)	#0254	(VII 16/33)	#0355
(VII 3/33)	#0176	(VII 10/33)	#0268	(VII 17/33)	#0358
(VII 4/33)	#0177	(VII 11/33)	#0274	(VII 18/33)	#0365
(VII 5/33)	#0178	(VII 12/33)	#0285	(VII 19/33)	#0383
(VII 6/33)	#0187	(VII 13/33)	#0308	(VII 20/33)	#0386
(VII 7/33)	#0199	(VII 14/33)	#0309		

FRANCOIS, BROTHER

Second Superior General of the Marist Brothers. Director General at the Hermitage near St. Chamond. Fr. E. corresponded to request more Brothers for the city of La Seyne.

(VIII 1/1) #0317

GABRIEL, BROTHER

Founder and Superior General of the Brothers of the Holy Family, Belley. Fr. E. corresponded praising the Brothers at Grenoble and Paris.

(VIII 1/4) #0194 (VIII 2/4) #0223

GALLE, MME. (nee DE VILLEDIEU)

Member of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons. Her son Paul had been a student of the Marists and would later become a cause of grief to his mother. She seems to have had a chapel in her home.

(VII 1/8) #0168 (VII 2/8) #0185

GAUDIOZ, CLAUDE-MARIE

Brother-in-law of Marguerite Guillot and wallpaperer in Lyons. He and his wife were members of the Third Order and Fr. E. wrote to encourage his desire for a retreat. He had two daughters, Jenny and Marie. His name appears on the affidavit as a witness to the miraculous healing of Marguerite by Our Lady of La Salette.

Biographical Notes

(VII 1/1 III 3) #0303

(B6 129,III 3,VIII1) #0227

GAUDIOZ, MME (nee GUILLOT)

Lyons. Sister of Marguerite, Claudine, Mariette and Jenny Guillot. Married to Claude Gaudioz. Fr. E. wrote guidelines for her and her husband on right relations in a business venture. She was a member of the Third Order of Mary, and they had two daughters, Marie and Jenny.

(III 1/2) #0335

GAY, FR. MARCELLIN, S.M.

A former student of Fr. E. at Belley. He later became a Marist priest.

(VI 1/1) #0013

GINOUILHAC, JACQUES, Bishop of Grenoble

Supporter of the Society of Mary.

(VIII 1/1) #0277

GOUJON, FR. S.M.

Former student at the Minor Seminary of Belley while Fr. E. was director of the school there. Later, he became a Marist priest.

(VIII 1/2) #0051 (VIII 2/2) #0055

GOURD, MME. JOSEPHINE (SR. JOSEPH du SS, nee MOREL)

Directee of Fr. E. from 1848-1868. He considered her as a saint, as his correspondence to her daughter Stephanie attests. He respected her as a mother. His correspondence is a constant support of prayer and sacrifice for the conversion of her father and her husband.

The Gourds were well-to-do. They had an estate in Lyons and a country residence, "Les Thorins," north of Lyons in Romaneche. At "Les Thorins" they had permission to keep the reserved Sacrament in their chapel. They were close friends of the Guillot sisters and the Mayet family. They met Fr. E. through the Third Order of Mary.

After the failure of Nemours, Mme. Gourd harbored Sr. Benoitte and Sr. Philomene at "Les Thorins." Her spiritual attraction to the religious life led her to make vows of poverty and obedience to Fr. E., even in her married state of life. She was associated to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament under the name of Sr. Joseph du SS. She was close to the sisters and present with Marguerite Guillot during her last meeting with Fr. E. at Vichy. March 13, 1861, in the Oratory of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Mme. Gourd and her daughter Stephanie made perpetual vows in the presence of the community of the sisters and of Fr. E., with the intent of entering community when they were free from other obligations. This did not materialize. But in 1874, Mme. Gourd donated a house in Lyons to the Servants.

(V 1/76) #0100

(V 4/76)

#0192

(V 8/76)

#0282

(VI 1/1 V76)

#0233

(V 5/76)

#0232

(V 9/76)

#0302

(V 2/76)

#0119

(V 6/76)

#0242

(V 10/76)

#0329

(V 3/78)

#0147

(V 7/76)

#0266

(V 11/76)

#0375

GOURD, MISS STEPHANIE

Stephanie received many letters of spiritual direction from Fr. E. which contain some of his most beautiful passages on prayer and the spiritual life. He encouraged her in caring for her sick parents and supported her choice for virginity during a time of testing. Stephanie and her mother were present at Vichy with Marguerite Guillot during her last meeting with Fr. E. to discuss a foundation of the Servants in Lyon.

On March 13, 1861, in the Oratory of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Mme. Gourd and her daughter Stephanie made perpetual vows in the presence of the community of the sisters and

Biographical Notes

of Fr. E., with the intent to enter community when they would be free to do so. Their plans to eventually join the Servants never materialized, but they donated a home in Lyons for a foundation of the Servants, which took place after the death of Fr. Eymard.

(V 1/52)	#0102	(V 5/52)	#0228	(V 9/52)	#0367
(V 2/52)	#0103	(V 6/52)	#0243	(V 51/52)	#0366
(V 3/52)	#0120	(V 7/52)	#0283		
(V 4/52)	#0193	(V 8/52)	#0330		

GUILLOT, CLAUDINE (SR. CLAUDINE DU SS)

Sister of Marguerite Guillot, Claudine left Lyons with Marguerite and Mme. Richard for the foundation of the Servants in Paris, invited by Fr. E. She remained close to Marguerite in secondary positions all her life. She was known affectionately in the community as “the Little Mother.”

(III 1/2) #0324

GUILLOT, JENNY (SR. JENNY SS)

Sister of Marguerite Guillot, Jenny was received as a Servant on her deathbed. She was never able to join her sisters in Paris.

(II 1/3) #0088 (II 2/3) #0089 (II 3/3) #0096

GUILLOT, MISS MARGUERITE (MOTHER MARGUERITE du SS)

The largest collection of letters by our Saint was addressed to Marguerite Guillot: 395 letters in all. They first met in Lyons when Fr. E. preached a retreat at the Charity of Bellecour. Her need became the incentive for his accepting to direct the Third Order of Mary in 1845. They worked together for the next 11 years, for its development and growth.

After the foundation of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, he invited Marguerite to Paris where she became the first Superior of the Servants. She was a discrete and attentive confidante. Their relationship, which was to last until his death, is characterized by openness and trust, of exceptionally high quality, not without suffering. Given the anguish of her soul, his letters often allude to Gethsemane and Calvary, but stressing always Christ’s love for us more than suffering and our response to his love more than the cost or pain.

Her sisters Claudine and Mariette (Sr. Anne-Marie) were to follow her on her spiritual journey as members of the Third Order of Mary, establishing a “House of Nazareth” in their home, then to Paris as Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Their sister Jenny, who was sickly, died an early death.

Fr. E. also corresponded with her sister Mme. Gaudioz, her brother-in-law Mr. Claude Gaudioz, and their daughters Jenny and Marie.

(II 1/395 VI 2)	#0065	(II 14/395 VI 2)	#0123	(II 28/395 VI 2)	#0149
(II 2/395 VI 2)	#0071	(II 15/395 VI 2)	#0126	(II 29/395 VI 2)	#0156
(II 3/395 VI 2)	#0072	(II 16/395 VI 2)	#0127	(II 30/395 VI 2)	#0164
(II 4/395 VI 2)	#0073	(II 17/395 VI 2)	#0129	(II 31/395 VI 2)	#0165
(II 5/395 VI 2)	#0076	(II 18/395 VI 2)	#0133	(II 32/395 VI 2)	#0170
(II 6/395 VI 2)	#0086	(II 19/395 VI 2)	#0134	(II 33/395 VI 2)	#0169
(II 7/395 VI 2)	#0095	(II 20/395 VI 2)	#0139	(II 34/395 VI 2)	#0173
(II 8/395 VI 2)	#0097	(II 21/395 VI 2)	#0141	(II 35/395 VI 2)	#0183
(II 9/395 VI 2)	#0106	(II 22/395 VI 2)	#0144	(II 36/395 VI 2)	#0188
(II 10/395 VI 2)	#0110	(II 24/395 VI 2)	#0148	(II 37/395 VI 2)	#0191
(II 11/395 VI 2)	#0116	(II 25/395 VI 2)	#0152	(II 38/395 VI 2)	#0195
(II 12/395 VI 2)	#0118	(II 26/395 VI 2)	#0153	(II 39/395 VI 2)	#0196
(II 13/395 VI 2)	#0122	(II 27/395 VI 2)	#0155	(II 40/395 VI 2)	#0197

Biographical Notes

(II 41/395 VI 2)	#0200	(II 60/395 VI 2)	#0257	(II 79/395 VI 2)	#0328
(II 42/395 VI 2)	#0204	(II 61/395 VI 2)	#0256	(II 80/395 VI 2)	#0338
(II 43/395 VI 2)	#0206	(II 62/395 VI 2)	#0260	(II 81/395 VI 2)	#0340
(II 44/395 VI 2)	#0208	(II 63/395 VI 2)	#0261	(II 82/395 VI 2)	#0343
(II 45/395 VI 2)	#0210	(II 64/395 VI 2)	#0263	(II 83/395 VI 2)	#0345
(II 46/395 VI 2)	#0213	(II 65/395 VI 2)	#0267	(II 84/395 VI 2)	#0348
(II 47/395 VI 2)	#0214	(II 66/395 VI 2)	#0269	(II 85/395 VI 2)	#0349
(II 48/395 VI 2)	#0217	(II 67/395 VI 2)	#0272	(II 86/395 VI 2)	#0350
(II 49/395 VI 2)	#0219	(II 68/395 VI 2)	#0275	(II 87/395 VI 2)	#0356
(II 50/395 VI 2)	#0220	(II 69/395 VI 2)	#0278	(II 88/395 VI 2)	#0360
(II 51/395 VI 2)	#0221	(II 70/395 VI 2)	#0279	(II 89/395 VI 2)	#0363
(II 52/395 VI 2)	#0224	(II 71/395 VI 2)	#0300	(II 90/395 VI 2)	#0368
(II 53/395 VI 2)	#0237	(II 72/395 VI 2)	#0301	(II 91/395 VI 2)	#0373
(II 54/395 VI 2)	#0239	(II 73/395 VI 2)	#0306	(II 92/395 VI 2)	#0379
(II 55/395 VI 2)	#0240	(II 74/395 VI 2)	#0312	(II 93/395 VI 2)	#0381
(II 56/395 VI 2)	#0245	(II 75/395 VI 2)	#0314	(II 94/395 VI 2)	#0382
(II 57/395 VI 2)	#0247	(II 76/395 VI 2)	#0316	(II 95/395 VI 2)	#0384
(II 58/395 VI 2)	#0248	(II 77/395 VI 2)	#0321		
(II 59/395 VI 2)	#0249	(II 78/395 VI 2)	#0323		

GUILLOT, MISS MARIETTE (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)

Eldest sister in the Guillot family, Mariette was a practical woman who cared for others. After the death of Jenny, she joined her sisters in Paris and became Sr. Anne-Marie.

(III 1/21 VIII 1) #0304

(III 3/21 VIII 1) #0344

JARICOT, PAULINE

Foundress of the Propagation of the Faith and Directress of the “Living Rosary” in Lyons. Fr. E. often visited her chapel on Fourviere Hill to lead prayers and celebrate Mass. He supported her through her financial crisis.

(V 1/1) #0159

JORDAN, NATALIE (MME. CAMILLE, nee BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

St. Peter Julian often referred to her as “my eldest daughter.” Born in March, 1810, she outlived Fr. E. who directed her personally from 1846 and by correspondence from 1850 - 1868. He appointed her as Rectress of the Married Women’s branch of the Third Order of Mary.

Both were born in the Dauphine Region of France and were proud of their common roots. They were close in age, conviction, feelings and ideals. On a visit to Lyons in 1865, Fr. E. told her that they were sister-souls going through the same stages of the spiritual life together. He kept her informed of the principal events in his life and visited her and her family in Lyons and Calet when he could do so. He also corresponded with her daughter Mathilde Giraud-Jordan and her niece Edmee de Montmorand.

(IV 1/75)	#0190	(IV 4/75)	#0280	(IV 8/75)	#0371
(VII 1/5 IV 75)	#0387	(IV 5/75)	#0299	(IV 11/75)	#0362
(IV 2/75)	#0218	(IV 6/75)	#0318		
(IV 3/75)	#0264	(IV 7/75)	#0353		

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE

(VIII 1/4) #0376

Biographical Notes

LEUDEVILLE, EMMANUEL DE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)

Member of the Third Order of Mary. The de Leudeville family offered Fr. E. the hospitality of a quiet place to write his first draft of Constitutions in 1856. They also gave the first monstrance and canopy. In 1863 when Fr. E. went to Rome to obtain the approval of his Constitutions, Mr. de Leudeville, then a postulant, financed part of the trip and accompanied him and Fr. de Cuers. Mr. de Leudeville did not persevere in the society.

(V 1/14)	#0235	(V 3/14)	#0311
(V 2/14)	#0259	(V 4/14)	#0331

LUQUET, BISHOP JEAN, M.E.P.

In Rome, Bishop Luquet obtained for Fr. E. a privilege reserved only for missionaries - to attach the indulgences of the Way of the Cross to a simple crucifix. When he was Nuncio to Switzerland, Fr. E. handled some of his business details in France.

As a longstanding and dear friend of the Marists, Fr. Favre consulted Bishop Luquet about Fr. E.'s request for permission to establish the Work of Adoration within the Marists.

(VI 1/10)	#0104	(VI 5/10)	#0132	(VI 9/10)	#0205
(VI 2/10)	#0113	(VI 6/10)	#0161	(VI 10/10)	#0207
(VI 3/10)	#0121	(VI 7/10)	#0166		
(VI 4/10)	#0125	(VI 8/10)	#0180		

MARCEAU, CAPTAIN AUGUSTE

A brilliant Navy captain who was converted in 1841. Resigned from the Navy to serve the transportation needs of the missions. Fr. E. considered him a saint and worked on his biography. He visited Marceau's mother in Tours. The biography was eventually written by Fr. Mayet, S.M., after Fr. Eymard's death.

(VII 1/1) #0179

A MARIST FATHER

(VI 1/3) #0140

A MARIST FATHER

(VIII 1) #0077

CHILDREN OF MARY

(VII 1/1) #0296

MAYET, MR. ANTONY

Brother of Fr. Gabriel-Claude Mayet. Fr. E's letters to Antony are playful, trying to tease him into a conversion. He offered him encouragement in his work as an investment broker, and supported his care for his aging father.

(VII 1/6)	#0020	(VII 3/6)	#0037	(VII 5/6)	#0040
(VII 2/6)	#0029	(VII 4/6)	#0038	(VII 6/6)	#0045

MAYET, ELIZABETH

Sister of Fr. Gabriel-Claude Mayet. One of the members of the Third Order of Mary. She was single. St. Eymard called her the heart of the Mayet family and encouraged her to find meaning in her role in keeping the Mayet home.

Biographical Notes

(VII 1/17)	#0035	(VII 3/17)	#0294	(VII 5/17)	#0361
(VII 2/17)	#0068	(VII 4/17)	#0332		

MAYET, FR. GABRIEL-CLAUDE S.M.

Fellow-Marist with whom he was especially close. Fr. Mayet's ministry was restricted because of chronic larynx problems. He became a writer, gathering notes on Peter Julian, whom he considered a saint. He eventually wrote a biography of St. Peter Julian. Fr. E. considered the entire Mayet family "as his own," as he often said in his correspondence to Fr. Mayet's brother Antony, his sisters Elizabeth and Emma (Perroud), and his brother-in-law, Mr Perroud. We have scant correspondence to Fr. Mayet considering their closeness and almost nothing after the foundation of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Either this was through discretion and respect for circumstances, or the correspondence was not made public. He visited Fr. E. after the events of Nemours to console him.

(VI 1/4) #0310

MELIN, FATHER

Pastor and Archpriest at Corps (next to La Salette). A testimonial letter regarding the miraculous cure of Marguerite Guillot by Our Lady of La Salette.

(VI 1/1) #0135 (VIII 1/1 VI 2) #0136

MONAVON, AGARITHE

Lyons. Her father had been the first member of the men's Third Order of Mary. She was a friend of Mme. Natalie (Camille) Jordan. A schoolteacher whom Fr. E. befriended in the hope that she would write the biography of Captain Marceau, about whom he had gathered many notes, testimonies, etc. She began but did not complete the work.

(V 1/9)	#0241	(V 3/9)	#0289
(V 2/9)	#0281	(V 4/9)	#0320

MORCEL, FR. FRANCOIS-JOSEPH, S.M.

Fellow-Marist, Superior of the Minor Seminary at Belley. At the outset of the correspondence, Fr. E. writes to him as Provincial Superior. In the last letter, the roles have changed and Fr. Morcel is Fr. E.'s immediate Superior.

(V 1/8)	#0050	(V 3/8)	#0057	(V 5/8)	#0064
(V 2/8)	#0052	(V 4/8)	#0061	(V 6/8)	#0063

MOULY, CLAUDIA

President of the Third Order of Mary for girls.

(VII 1/1) #0297

COLOMB OF THE FIVE WOUNDS, DOM GEA

(VI 1/1) #0295

PERROUD, MME. EMMA (nee MAYET)

Mr. and Mme. Perroud formed a "House of Nazareth" in the Third Order of Mary and theirs was a place of reflection for Fr. E. on what the ideal relationships between spouses should be. Mme. Perroud was the sister of Fr. Gabriel Claude Mayet, S.M.

(U1 VII 2)	#0025	(VII 1/7)	#0082	(VII 3/7)	#0293
(U2 VII 2)	#0027	(VII 2/7)	#0101	(VII 4/7)	#0327

PERROUD, MR.

Biographical Notes

cf. above. Mr. Perroud's premature death is recorded in these letters. He was never to attend the ordination of his son as a Marist priest.

(VII 1/2) #0048 (VII 2/2) #0114

REVEL DE NESC, COUNTESS ADELE DE

Rectress of the Third Order of Mary, Directee of Fr. E., Miss de Revel was a faithful member of the Third Order and supported Fr. E. and Marguerite Guillot in this endeavor. It was to her home that he suggested Marguerite go for some rest. Her loyalty to the Marist Fathers and the Third Order were constant. Fr. E.'s new foundation was difficult for her to accept.

(VII 1/17 VIII 26)	#0291	(VII 4/17 VIII 26)	#0334	(VII 7/17 VIII 26)	#0374
(VII 2/17 VIII 26)	#0298	(VII 5/17 VIII 26)	#0347	(VIII 1/26 VII 17)	#0364
(VII 3/17 VIII 26)	#0305	(VII 6/17 VIII 26)	#0357	(VIII 2/26 VII 17)	#0369

ROUSSELOT, CANON PIERRE, VICAR GENERAL of GRENOBLE

(VI 1/6)	#0145	(VI 3/7)	#0250	(VI 5/7)	#0370
(VI 2/7)	#0244	(VI 4/7)	#0262		

SALVIONI, FREDERIC

(U) #0070

SPAZZIER, MME. ISABELLE

Mme. Spazzier joined Mme. Duhaut-Ally and her companions from Toulon to form the nucleus of adorers waiting in Paris for the foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Mme. Spazzier did not have a call to community life. Her bad health and her temperament indicated that she should leave. Fr. E. tried to help her find a living situation near retreat houses of sanctuaries where she could exercise her talents as an artist. He encouraged her to put aside the idea of the religious life and enrolled her (as well as Mme. de Grandville) as the first Lay Associate of the Order of the Blessed Sacrament.

(VII 1/19) #0354

THEINER, FR. AGOSTINO, O.R.

Oratorian priest residing in Rome. Fr. E. turned to him when he needed an intermediary or a service rendered in the Holy City.

(VI 1/2) #0234

THOLIN-BOST, MME. CLOTILDE

From Amplepuis-Tarare. She and her sister were early members of the Third Order of Mary. Fr. E. had close ties with the Bost family. (cf. Antonia Bost) Mme. Clotilde helped to establish the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Chamond, Rouen, Tours, Amplepuis and Tarare. She was influential in bringing Fr. E. there for missions, etc. She established home adoration. In his correspondence with her, Fr. E. often discussed the Eucharistic apostolate and shared his spiritual insights and ideals with her. Her father (a widower) desired the religious life and entered the Carthusians for a short time.

(IV 1/52)	#0108	(IV 6/52)	#0377
(IV 2/52)	#0158	(IV 7/52)	#0286
(IV 3/52)	#0201	(IV 8/52)	#0325
(IV 4/52)	#0203	(IV 9/52)	#0342
(IV 5/52)	#0211	(IV 10/52)	#0351
(IV 6/52)	#0215		

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Acknowledgement of Sources for these biographical notes:

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L'Oeuvre Eucharistique Pour les Hommes, Fr. Donald Cave SSS.

New Catholic Encyclopedia, McGraw Hill, 1967.

Mere Marguerite du St. Sacrement, Henri Evers SSS.

Letters of St. Peter Julian.

Eymard as Spiritual Counsellor, Fr. Herve Thibault SSS.

St. Peter Julien Eymard, Fr. Troussier SSS.

TOPICAL INDEX
by Document Number
(Does not include material in appendices or Events boxes.)

Current events *cf.* especially Marianne Eymard, Adele de Revel de Nesc,

Miss Monavon, Bishop Luquet.

cholera 151, 171, 172.

political/economic: 37, 74-75, 142, 202, 307, 331, 347.

social uprisings: 92, 105, 107, 111-114, 117, 121, 141, 315, 320, 334.

Eucharist

Communion

frequent: 51, 71, 96, 106, 145, 155, 160, 170, 233, 267, 268, 282, 290, 303, 304, 323, 330, 344, 365, 387

in spite of weaknesses and faults: 188, 243, 274, 279, 280, 282, 285, 326, 330, 387

Eucharistic adoration: 41, 72, 179, 246, 286, 296, 325, 351

Eucharistic mission: 246, 276, 286

Holy Mass, mention of: 45, 98, 145, 227, 238, 239, 263, 265

Nocturnal Adoration Society: 142, 276, 292, 340, 364, 385

Reparatory Adoration: 226, 236, 237, 253, 319

family life:

cf. letters to Mayet family (Perroud), Creuset, Carrel,

Gaudioz

House of Nazareth: Perroud, Carrel, Guillot families.

family life: 27, 45, 303, 327, 359

Nazareth 25,27,90,101,109,173,179,290,291,297,298,319,327,384

paschal mystery 72,73,145,189,191,192,193,346

priesthood 46,53,55,80

principles of spiritual life:

Christian virtues (relations with others and service): *cf.* Stephanie Gourd, Natalie Jordan, Marguerite Guillot, 76, 193, 213, 227, 243, 266, 282, 283, 299, 300, 308, 362

Cross and Christian suffering:

path of identification and union: 32, 159, 184, 181, 185, 237, 324, 359

path of love: 3, 17, 60, 65, 108, 120, 181, 211, 268, 274, 308, 336, 348, 354, 356

path of purification: 19, 92, 127, 172, 201, 213, 229, 239, 285, 332, 334, 337, 339, 344, 353

Jesus center of love: *cf.* Antonia Bost, Mme. Franchet, 189, 251, 264, 283, 299, 326, 353, 386

prayer: *cf.* Stephanie Gourd, Natalie Jordan

meditation: 201, 228, 233, 243, 259, 282, 283, 311, 330, 365

schedules and plans: 13, 102, 117, 223, 224, 263, 282, 345

Providence of God/love: 100, 232

surrender to the Will of God: *cf.* Josephine Gourd, Marguerite Guillot, 91, 96, 147, 220, 233, 242, 245, 266, 283, 318, 323, 329, 367

Topical Index

temptation: *cf.* Marguerite Guillot, Mme. Franchet

call to spiritual childhood: 71, 280, 310, 303, 309, 328, 338, 343

confession and its difficulties: 99, 267, 269, 279, 301, 309, 343, 363, 368

Marian shrines:

Fourviere: 12, 40, 70, 111, 121, 125, 138, 160, 222, 237, 238, 244, 248, 345, 371

La Salette:

event and message: 79, 85, 244, 250, 262, 322, 370, 376

healings: 35, 128, 135, 136, 144, 145

pilgrimages: 83, 85, 128, 130, 163, 360, 370, 373

Laus:

place of blessings: 28, 75, 152, 153, 155, 165, 170

from Laus: 119, 120, 154

meeting at Laus: 340, 343, 373

Notre Dame des Victoires: 138, 139, 142

ministry:

to children: 36, 44, 49, 57, 279, 288, 329, 340, 341, 385

First Communion: 19, 72

gratitude: 67, 69

novitiate: 216, 238, 248, 294

provincial: 49, 56

preaching 56, 187, 190, 216, 218, 252, 253, 256, 259

spiritual directors: 249

Society of Mary:

as Director at La Seyne: 280, 314, 317, 321, 372

as Provincial:

activities and missionary work: 60, 62, 93, 140, 143, 221, 222, 230, 321, 234, 276, 277

administration: 50, 52, 180

adoration Reparatrice: *cf.* under Eucharist

Bishop Luquet, to: 121, 125, 132, 161, 166, 180, 207

history: 70

personnel: 63, 64, 77, 205

other communities, to: 223, 225, 234, 261

students: 178

vocations: 54, 57, 63

Sodality: 1, 2, 42, 46

Third Order of Mary:

as Director at La Seyne:

administration: 287, 300, 301, 306, 319, 332, 340, 356, 369, 378, 381, 382, 384

Topical Index

history: 343

Marian spirituality: 291, 293, 300, 319

meeting and minutes: 377

membership: 362, 375, 381, 385

trials: 279, 290, 291, 293, 296, 300, 301, 336, 356, 379

as Provincial:

administration: 173, 258, 265, 279, 271, 272

history: 70, 231, 234, 236, 237

Marian spirituality: 101, 109

meetings and minutes: 187, 214, 271

membership: 65, 67, 68, 79, 82, 90, 109, 126, 235, 238, 241, 264

rules: 133, 155, 158, 183, 234

trials: 220, 237, 272

vocational guidance: 55, 182, 194, 264, 273, 283, 326, 327, 351, 352, 367, 380

vocational journey: 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14,

VOWS:

life of Jesus in us: 76

Marian consecration: 73

obedience: 95

private vows *cf.* Marguerite Guillot

St. Joseph: 103, 345

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

EVENTS 1811-1822

1790	Nov 27	Decree of the National Assembly (France), requiring the clergy to swear allegiance to the Revolution.
1804	Nov 27	Marriage of Julian Eymard to Marie Madeleine Pelorce (second marriage).
1811	Feb 4	Birth at La Mure at 11:00 a.m.
	Feb 5	Baptism
1815	Mar 7	Napoleon passed through La Mure.
1816		Oblates of Mary Immaculate founded by E. de Mazinod.
1819		First confession of Peter Julian, which took place in the oratory of St. Jean-de-Vertus, where he accompanied his sisters.
1820		Pauline Jaricot began the <u>Propagation of the Faith</u> in Lyons.
1821		First pilgrimage to Laus where he spent eight days.
1822	May 21	Received the scapular from Father Marchand.
	May 22	Wednesday. Confirmation received from Bishop Claude Simon, bishop of Grenoble.
	Dec	To Villard with a companion to obtain the grace of absolution.

EVENTS 1823-1824

1823

Mar 16	Passion Sunday. First Communion received from Father Allard. Before his First Communion at the age of 12, Peter Julian composed a small book of prayers. Although this is not a "letter," it is the earliest handwritten document that we have of his, and is reproduced here as a fitting introduction to the voluminous correspondence which was to flow from his pen in the ensuing years. "Little book of Acts Before and After Communion, written by me, Julian Eymard. "Renewal of Baptismal vows. "I believe in God the Father almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ his only Son, both God and man, who redeemed the world by his cross. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the remission of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen. "I renounce with my whole heart the devil, his pomps and his works. I want to live and die as a true Christian, with the help of God's grace. "Act before Communion, of faith, of adoration. "My dear Jesus, I firmly believe that your body, your blood, your soul, your divinity are truly and substantially present in the Blessed Host which I am going to receive, because you told me so. I adore you with all the respect of which I am capable. "Act of hope, of humility - My dear Jesus, I hope that when I receive you, you will increase your grace in me in this world, although I am unworthy of it. "Act of love and desire - My dear Jesus, I love you with all my heart and above all things, I long to be one with you. "Act of petition - My dear Jesus, abide in my heart. Never leave it. Remove from it whatever displeases you and place in it whatever pleases you.
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“Act of thanksgiving (petition) after Communion - My dear Jesus, I thank you for the grace which you have given me that you have come to dwell in my heart.

“Act of offering - My dear Jesus, I give myself to you as you have given yourself entirely to me. End of the Acts.

“These acts are mine. My name and last name are Julian Eymard of La Mure.

Feb. 15, 1823

P.E. Julian

“My God, my all. Julian

Deus fecit mundum de nihilo. God made the world out of nothing.

Julian P. Eymard”

EVENTS 1823-1829

1823

Jul 12

Admission into the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart.

1824

At 13 years of age, pilgrimage to Our Lady of Laus for a general Confession. Received from Father Touche the order to receive Communion every week with the assurance of a priestly vocation.

Oct 4

Received into the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary by Father Second.

1828

Jun 30

Letter from St. Robert to his sister asking her to inscribe him in the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin at La Mure.

Aug 5

Learned of his mother’s death (at the age of 57). (concerning the consecration to Mary on this occasion, see the retreat of Rome, Feb 9, 3rd meditation, especially March 17, 2nd meditation).

1829

May

The Oblates of Mary preached a mission at La Mure. Father Guibert invited Fr. Eymard to enter their novitiate at Marseilles.

Jun 7

Pentecost Sunday. Beginning of novitiate at Marseilles with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate under the protection of St. Louis Gonzaga. Five months later, he returned dying to La Mure (Marseilles, Retreat of Rome, Feb 5, 2nd meditation.)

EVENTS 1831 – 1834

1831

Mar 3

Death of his father at the age of 65.

Sep

Entrance at the major seminary of Grenoble.

1832

Mar 17

Ember days of Lent. He received the Tonsure.

Jun 16

Ember days of Pentecost. He received minor orders.

1833

Mar 23

Saturday before Passion Sunday. He received the Sub-Diaconate.

Jul 21

He received the Diaconate.

1834

Jul 15	Beginning of retreat for priestly ordination.
Jul 20	Priestly ordination, second Sunday after Pentecost. The next day, departure for the sanctuary of Notre Dame de L'Osier.
Jul 22	First Mass at Notre Dame de L'Osier, where he stayed until Aug 23.
Aug 23	Ordered by his Bishop to return to La Mure.
Oct 17	Letter from the Bishop of Grenoble naming him associate at Chatte to be their "ardent and bright light."
Oct 26	First experience as Associate at Chatte.
Dec 23	The twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost.

EVENTS 1835 – 1836**1835**

Jun 10	Received in the Third Order of St. Francis at St. Romans.
Sep 1	Annual retreat preached by Fr. Benoit.

1836

Mar 14	Fr. Francois Richand died at the Eymard residence at La Mure. He had been a frequent visitor to this home.
June	"On the evening of a beautiful day," while he was assistant at Chatte, he received an extraordinary favor on the "mystical rock" of St. Romans

EVENTS 1837 – 1838**1837**

Jun 21	Personal retreat at Notre Dame du Laus.
Jul 2	Nomination from the bishop of Grenoble as pastor of Monteynard.

1838

May 6	He celebrated the solemn ceremony of First Communion at Monteynard for the first time.
May	Because of the presence of Father Touche, he was free to go to Lyons to study the Work of Father Colin more closely and seek admission to the Society of Mary.
Jul 28-Aug 2	Annual retreat preached by a Jesuit priest.
Oct 4	Letter to his friend, Father Dumolard, saying that the bishop of Grenoble is strongly opposed to his entrance with the Marists.
Nov 14	His bishop recommended that he should rather prepare to be part of the diocesan missions which he (the Bishop) had just created.
Dec 31	After a year of discernment he (Peter Julian) wrote to Father Colin to confirm his desire to enter the Society of Mary.

EVENTS 1839

Jan 9	Acceptance by the Marists - favorable reply from Father Colin.
May 4	Second letter from Father Colin to encourage him to renew his efforts with the bishop.

Jun 24	Msgr. Chatrousse, Vicar General of Grenoble, encouraged him to follow his missionary vocation.
Jul 4	Permission from the Bishop of Grenoble to enter into the Society of Mary.
Aug 16	A letter from the bishop of Grenoble announcing that his replacement would arrive on the evening of Sunday, Aug. 18.
Aug 18	Heroic departure from Monteynard for the novitiate of the Marists.
Aug 19	From Grenoble, a letter to his sisters to comfort them.
Aug 20	Tuesday. Feast of St. Bernard. Beginning of novitiate at Lyons.
Aug 27	To Belley for the annual retreat, then return to Lyons (Puylata).
Sep 18	Count Raymond de Cuers was created knight of the Legion of Honor.
Nov 16	At Fourviere, he consecrated to the Blessed Virgin "every physical thing."
Nov 21	Great grace at Fourviere. Father cast himself "into the arms of Jesus through Mary."
Nov 27	Named spiritual director at the College of Belley. He placed his new role at the feet of Mary.

EVENTS 1840

Feb 16	Septuagesima Sunday. After six months of novitiate he pronounced his first profession with a legitimate dispensation in the chapel of the residence of the Marists at Belley.
Sep 22-28	Annual retreat by Fr. Lallemon.

EVENTS 1841

Jan. 25, Feb 5, Mar 2, Mar 6, Jul 6, Oct 25, Dec 13	Personal monthly retreats noted in his note book.
Apr 28	Peter Chanel, a Marist, was martyred in the Futura Islands (SW Pacific).
Sep 21-28	Annual retreat (Personal).

EVENTS 1842

Feb 21	Monthly retreat.
Apr 17-24	General meeting of Marists - personal notes taken.
Jun 2, 3, 9	Retreat days.
Sep 20-27	Annual retreat by Fr. Favre.

EVENTS 1843

Feb 4, Jun 1, Jul 2	Monthly retreats - personal notes taken.
Sep 17-25	Annual retreat.
Oct 17, Nov 2	Monthly retreat - personal notes.

EVENTS 1844

Feb 5, Apr 11, May, Jul 12 - Monthly retreats.

Jul During the holidays he spent a few days with the Trappists near Avignon “for edification.”

Sep 16-20 Annual retreat preached by Fr. Maitrepierre.

Oct 19 Monthly retreat.

Nov Named provincial, he left Belley secretly to go to Lyons.

EVENTS Nov. 1844 – 1845

1844 Nov Named provincial, he left Belley secretly to go to Lyons.

1845:

Jan He met Captain Marceau.

Feb 22 Friday. Preached the Lenten retreat at the Charity of Lyons. Miss Marguerite Guillot attended his sermon.

Mar 1 First confession of Marguerite Guillot to Father Eymard (according to the memoirs of the Servants).

May 3 Inscribed in the association of Perpetual Sacrifice.

May 10 Retreat notes.

May 25 Sunday, Corpus Christi. He carried the Blessed Sacrament in the procession at St. Paul’s in Lyons. He felt a strong desire to preach only Jesus Christ.

Sep 12-19 Annual Retreat by Fr. Dominget.

Sep-Oct Presided over the departure for Oceania of thirteen of the colleagues who were embarking at Le Havre. (cf Letter Oct 25)

Nov 15 Departure of the sailboat, L’Arche d’Alliance, commanded by Captain Marceau.

Dec 10 First meeting of the Third Order of Mary for which he had just been given responsibility. He had accepted this charge in view of Miss Marguerite Guillot.

Dec 16 Monthly retreat: Meditation on Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Serious accident of Captain de Cuers, which was decisive for his vocation.

EVENTS 1846

Aug 23 Blessing the chapel of the Third Order under the title of “Our Lady of Beautiful Love and Holy Hope.”

Sep 14-15 Retreat by Fr. Chartignier.

Sep 19 Apparition of the Blessed Virgin at La Salette to Maximin Giraud and Melanie Calvat.

Sep 21 No longer Provincial, he became Assistant General and visitor until 1851.

Dec Monthly retreat - personal notes

Dec 8 He inscribed the Cure d’Ars in the Third Order of Mary. Cf. “Le Cure d’Ars” by Trochu, 1926, p. 140.

Dec 13 Letter to his sisters informing them that he believed in the apparition of the Blessed Virgin at La Salette.

EVENTS 1847

Jan 5	Authorization received to establish fraternities of the Third Order.
Jun 9	During the summer, visits to the houses of Bordeaux and Agen.
Aug 26	Fr. Eymard preached the annual retreat.

EVENTS 1848

Year of Revolutionary uprisings.

Jan 6	Personal notes.
Mar 13	Decree suppressing religious congregations.
Mar	In the city he was attacked by a band of rebels who threatened to throw him into the Rhone river.
Apr 2	Visit to the workmen at their factory. Letter to his sisters to reassure them concerning the incident at the beginning of March.
Jun 10	Saturday. Retreat at Notre Dame du Laus.
Jun 17	Returning from Laus, he “found” a pitcher of fresh water which allowed his travelling companions to quench their thirst.
Jul 16	Through Bishop Luquet, reception of a rescript authorizing him to bless crucifixes for the Stations of the Cross and determine the prayers to be said.
Sep 8	Miraculous healing of Miss Marguerite Guillot during a novena to Our Lady of La Salette when Father was celebrating Mass for her intentions.
Sep 13-19	Annual retreat preached by Fr. Maitrepierre.
Nov 26	Retained at St. Maurice (Lyons) where he went to compose the rules for the Virgin Third Order members.
Dec 6	The Work of Nocturnal Adoration was inaugurated in Paris in the church of Notre Dame des Victoires by Captain de Cuers, Hermann Cohen and Mr. Foge.

EVENTS 1849

Jan 5	Visit to the house of Moulins, departure for Paris.
Jan 16	Visit to the house of Paris, visit to Versailles to see the apartments of Louis XVI.
Jan 21	Visited the place where “St. Louis XVI” was guillotined. During his stay in Paris he met Mr. Herman Cohen and Captain Raymond de Cuers, who had just organized the work of nocturnal adoration for men, and authorized them to establish their work in the church of the Marists.
Jan (?)	Retreat to the Professors at Meximieux.
May 25	Blessing of the statue of Valbenoite on the eve of Pentecost.
Jun 18	Pilgrimage to Laus.
Jul 10	Tuesday. At Valbenoite flooding of the Furens river and preservation of the statue of the Virgin.
Sep 8	Captain Marceau received into the Third Order of Mary.
Sep 17-23	Annual retreat (personal notes).
Oct	At Laus to write the rule for the Third Order of Mary.

EVENTS 1850

Feb 17	Preached the Lenten retreat at Chalon-sur-Saone.
Apr	Replaced Father Maitre-Pierre as Master of Novices at La Favorite.
Jun	Named Master of novices.
Sep 8	The Pope gave the order to draw up an Indult of approval for the Third Order of Mary with the concession of indulgences.
Sep 12-19	Annual retreat preached by Fr. Dominget.
Sep 27	From Rome, Father Theiner let him know that the Holy Father had approved the Third Order of Mary.
Oct 25	At La Mure after having spent ten days at Laus.
Oct 26-Nov 1	Preached the retreat to the students of the Major Seminary of Grenoble.
Dec 5	In virtue of the faculties received from the Holy See the Archbishop of Lyons decreed the canonical establishment of the Third Order of Mary for Dec.8.

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EVENTS 1851

Jan 1	Celebrated the first Mass (5:00 a.m.) at the altar of Fourviere.
Jan 5-6	The Frigate Captain de Cuers inaugurated nocturnal adoration at Toulon.
Jan 21	Tuesday. Profound conviction received at Fourviere concerning the need for a Work for the Eucharist.
Jan 29	First exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by the Reparatrix sisters of Lyons.
Feb 1	Death of Captain Marceau.
Feb 3	Outline of a letter (not sent) to Father Colin concerning the foundation of the eucharistic work.
Mar	Released from responsibility at the Novitiate.
Mar 27	To Saint-Chamond to preach the Mission and Jubilee Retreat.
May 30	Visitor to the Major Seminary of Digne (the direction of which had been accepted by the Society of Mary in 1849), then to La Seyne-sur-Mer. Finally, he also passed through Laus and La Mure.
June	Return to Lyons by the 24th.
July	Return to La Seyne.
Sep 4	Departure from La Seyne for Lyons in view of the annual retreat.
Sep 9	Annual retreat preached by Fr. Rendu.
Sep 12	At 2:00 p.m., nomination received as Superior of the College of La Seyne.

EVENTS 1851

Nov 23	Expressed the intention of writing the biography of Captain Marceau who had died Feb 1, 1851.
Dec 2	Coup d'Etat.
Dec 7	The College was threatened by the rebels numbering 2000. Father spent the night in prayer. They retreated.

EVENTS 1852

Mar	Inaugurated domestic adoration to Jesus Eucharistic among the prisoners.
Mar	Placed in charge of the nocturnal adoration of Toulon inaugurated by Captain de Cuers.
May1	The Bishop of Grenoble recognized the authenticity of the apparition of Our Lady of La Salette.
Aug 18	First pilgrimage to La Salette where he was to return ten times. Then to La Mure and La Seyne.