

Life and Letters
of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Volume Two
1853 - 1857

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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INTRODUCTION

“I have been a little like Jacob, always on the way”... If St. Peter Julian characterized his own life as Jacob’s journey, then certainly this second volume of his letters, from 1853-1857, brings us the high point of that drama.

These were the years of transition and of the foundation of his Congregation. These were the years of anguish and discernment in the search for God’s Will.

These were the years of consultation, reaching out for the “Ananias” who would show the way, the “Voice of God” who would settle his conscience, the sure guide who could interpret his dreams for the worship of the Eucharist and put the seal of approval on the “*pensee eucharistique*”, variously translated as Eucharistic thought, idea or project.

But ultimately these were the wrenching years of fidelity to conscience which required that he burn his bridges behind him: “burning his ship,” as he called it. There was no turning back. Ultimately, like Peter and John who prepared the Cenacle for the Passover meal, St. Peter Julian Eymard knew that the road to the Cenacle would lead him to Calvary. He accepted the agony and proceeded with heroic faith, trust and love.

His humility is characterized by the expression he used to explain his role in this lofty venture: “to be manure for the tree.”... “If at least I can see the mustard seed grow.”

It seems appropriate to begin this volume with a prayer to St. Peter Julian which was published in the recent biography of Fr. Norman Pelletier, SSS, the Superior General of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, “Tomorrow Will Be Too Late” (St. Meinrad, Ind. 1992).

PRAYER TO SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMARD

The God of our ancestors led you, Peter Julian,
like He did his servant Jacob in times past,
on a journey of faith.

All your life long you searched for a deeper union with God
and for an answer to the hungers of humanity.
You discovered in the Eucharist the answer to your quest.
God's love was there available to you and to all mankind.
In response to this unearned love
you made a "gift of self" to God
and tirelessly spent yourself to serve His people.

Your life, modeled on the Cenacle where Mary and the
disciples gathered in prayer and celebration,
inspired your own disciples, as it does again today,
to a life of profound prayer of contemplation
and of apostolic zeal for building Christian communities
where the Eucharist is source and center of life.

St Peter Julian, assist us in our own journey of faith
to pray more fervently and to serve one another more
generously so that our lives may witness to a more just and
peaceful world. May our celebrations of the Eucharist proclaim
God's liberating love for the renewal of the Church and for the
coming of the kingdom. Amen.

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 1845-1852; II 1853-1857; III 1858-1861; IV 1862-1864; V 1865-1866; VI 1867-1868.

CHAPTER I

La Seyne-sur-Mer Part II 1853 - 1854

Transition years

Director of the Boarding School

Adoration Society in Toulon

**Spiritual correspondence with Third
Order Members in Lyons**

**New Leadership of the Society of Mary
and the Third Order**

**A “beautiful and noble thought” for the
worship of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**

Prophet of Holy Communion

January 1853 seems to have been a particularly busy time for St. Peter Julian. He began five letters on New Year's Day which he was to complete only by the end of the month. He excused himself on the basis of work to be done replacing the community treasurer, administering school tests, handling New Year "confusion" and illness.

Two letters addressed to Marguerite Guillot are dated Jan. 31, 1853.

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CO 387

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 94/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, January 1, 1853

Very dear Sisters,

It's only fitting that my first wishes of the day and prayers should be yours, and that I should fulfill my long standing duty as your godson and brother. To begin with, I wished you a happy New Year at the crib of the Christ Child. You know that it has been my custom every year to say midnight Mass for the two of you. So then, I did offer you to our Lord so that you might be his worthy servants and spouses, and that if his divine Providence should have you pass through Calvary, it would be, my dear sisters, to have you in heaven sooner, and closer to Himself. The years pass quickly and at the end even a long life will seem to be only an instant. However, we find our consolation in knowing that the good works done for [the love of] God and God's own love will always remain. No matter if the world should forget us or try our charity and patience, therein lies the fruit of Christian life.

January 22nd - My dear sisters, I was unable to finish my New Year's letter; I was so busy that I didn't have a single moment and I did not have a treasurer, as he had to be replaced, and it was that time when the accounts and examinations [were to be done], add to that all the confusion of New Year's day.

The days are always too short for the things I need to do. So my letters have all been left aside for over a month. - However, my health has kept up. It must even be strong to be able to sustain everything. However, now that I no longer go to preach to the Adoration¹ of Toulon, I am freer.

Our children are fine and give us many consolations.² They truly love the Blessed Virgin.

The weather here has been very beautiful. The trees have been in flower for some time, the wheat is tall and already beginning to mildew: people are afraid it will be a bad year. You would do well not to sell yours, if you have any left. Oil is very expensive and not good. The price of wine has tripled. Because of all this we have huge expenses. I would really like to know the price of butter at La Mure. We could perhaps send for a crate.

Finally, I am finishing this letter. I've come back to it at least ten times. Fortunately you know all my affection for you and that you are ever present to me in God's sight.³

Your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

I've just received your welcome letter. Thank you, my dear sisters, for your wishes for me;⁴ they are what I treasure most.

¹ A group of adorers at Toulon.

² The students at the Boarding School of La Seyne.

³ Perhaps at prayer?

⁴ New Year's wishes.

I have given the faculties to Fr. Girolet. Now he may receive whomever he will judge to be suitable for the Third Order.

I do so regret not knowing sooner that they wanted to transfer him! He would have done so well at Monteynard! I had bad luck in Grenoble; I didn't find Fr. Rousselot, nor could I see the Bishop who was ill.

Concerning the Pastor, a good explanation might be in order. This good man let himself be disturbed by his correspondents. What can we do? Be at peace and don't believe all the terrible things he had the audacity to say to you, but bear it patiently. The Pastor doesn't have the right to judge your conscience. It is often true that souls beloved by the good Lord suffer from those who should be consoling them. So then, have patience and forget it. But if the opportunity should present itself, present your side of the story. However, until you are advised to the contrary it would seem better not to confess to him. You know how he can hurt.

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CO 386

TO GUILLOT FAMILY

(II 98/395 VI 2)⁵

La Seyne, January 1, 1853

My dear daughters,

My choice comes straightaway to you ahead of any others. I am stealing away for a moment to write and wish you all a happy New Year. What can I wish for you my dear daughters? Worldly possessions? No, the good Lord wants you to be like his Holy Mother was in Nazareth. It's the most beautiful stance we can have in God's sight. It is true, it's a daily martyrdom; add to that, crosses, illness, trials from God and man, then it becomes a genuine Calvary. Oh! You certainly are all on a sacrificial Calvary, and have been so for a long time. I would be overwhelmed with sadness if I didn't know that the good Lord loves you, that you love him and will always love him through everything. So then, be a perfect house of Nazareth.⁶ May Jesus be the King, the divine Spouse of your souls! Mary, the good Mother of your family! St. Joseph, its Protector! and St. John, its beloved Advocate! Live in community, in the spirit of the life of Nazareth. To make it a reality, let your virtues be ordinary virtues, wholly based on charity which means living more for others than for self, on the gentleness of Jesus and Mary who have only blessings [for others], and on a magnanimity which stretches the heart and considers the daily sacrifices of community life as small and hardly worthy of that name. Especially, practice a kind of charity which is ever noble, marked by propriety and thoughtfulness. That is the fragrant flower of charity....

⁵ This fragment of a letter dated January 1 was sent with the letter of January 31.

⁶ The Guillot family had been established as a "House of Nazareth" with a schedule of spiritual practices.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL NESC
(VIII 3/26 VII 17)

Boarding School, La Seyne, January 1, 1853

Dear sister in Mary,

Why have I taken so long to answer your kind letter? I don't really know. I have been swept up in a whirlwind of activities. Still, your letter gave me great pleasure. Well, now I shall pay my debt on this first day of the year, when you must be crowded by many visits. You would certainly have received mine - you have every right to it, and I consider myself among those who take precedence with you in God's presence. What can I wish for you, dear good sister! Heaven one day, of course, but not yet. You must weave and adorn your crown every day, with the thorns of your divine Savior and some fragments of his Holy Cross.

You are a disciple of Calvary; you have been sacrificed there for a long time. Continue to let the good Lord do his work: he purifies, cuts away, clears the ground, and removes dangers. He wants to reign alone upon this throne of love in us, for which he paid so dearly.

But dear sister, I still have one word to say, it is this: Be a disciple of prayer - to say that is to say everything - for prayer is the mystic ladder which reaches to Heaven, it is the Cenacle⁷ of graces and of love; it is the golden chain which unites us to Jesus Christ; it is life for our hearts, strength for our souls, the measure of our graces and perfection. Therefore, it is the most [beautiful] wish I could make for you. You formulated a wish for me. You will tell me [what it is], and I will thank you. Goodbye for this evening; it's too late to finish my letter. I wanted to tell you that I placed you on the paten⁸ this morning. Till tomorrow, then, if possible.

January 21st

I am ashamed to be so late to finish my letter and send it [to you], especially at finishing it on such a sad date - January 21st!⁹ I am sure we were praying together this morning with the same intention, poor France! Since that 21st January, what upheavals! what crimes! so many tears! At least if it were over. I am afraid that people are forgetting God, since they have a man [to lead them] and think themselves saved once and for all; alas! how great is our need for prayer, both for France and for the new Emperor!

Well, dear sister, what can I say! Your letter was like receiving news from a shipwrecked person. I was beginning to believe that you were close to the shores of the next life, and I was extremely anxious. Then, waiting for news day after day led me to imitate your silence.

Well, I have met Mr. and Mme. d'Averton, with their mother and sister. They made me most welcome. Mr. d'Averton is pleasant; Madame struck me as somewhat timid. His mother was so kind, but as I found myself in a delicate situation, I didn't tell them my name (I don't think they know me). We spoke of you and they were most proper. The whole family returned my visit, and this time we spoke of your dear brothers. They were tactful, and thanked me for my kindness and friendship towards him; but since the mother was there, I felt hampered.

Mr. and Mme. d'Averton came to see me when they returned from Avignon. Unfortunately I was out, but I shall go to see them, and if I can be of service to them I should be happy, for a naval officer needs a great deal of courage to sport the Catholic flag. We have just had a mission in Toulon, given by 16 Capuchin Fathers. There were some fine conversions, and we counted 2800 men at the General Communion. However, return to the faith has not been particularly impressive

⁷ Meeting place.

⁸ offered you to God.

⁹ Anniversary of the French Revolution.

among the naval officers, though there are already a certain number who practice.

I have also seen Mme. Spazzier. I went to see her in Hyeres. That dear fine lady is still far from well. Her precarious health makes me sad, and yet she was so kind. We spoke a lot about you, which was quite natural. I also saw Mr. de St. Simon. He was most friendly. What a pity this gentleman does not have faith - he would [then] be so content in his solitude and privations. Alas! he knows a little about everything, and I fear he is somewhat in favor of everything.

I think that if you were here we would [win] them all over, but especially Mr. de St. Simon. You would have the courage to tell him to return to the practice of faith.

Now, dear sister, what about you? I pity you with your two villages. So many celebrations must have been wearisome for you - there is so much emptiness and futility. But it was inevitable, as friendship always pays its respects, and it is often your turn, because you do not lag behind with your obligations.

I am very glad to hear that Mother St. Eudoxie is well. It was a sore trial for her and her sisters. Another good Work - thanks be to God. I sometimes have news of those good ladies through one of their boarders whose brother is with us - Miss Saurin. When you have an opportunity, please ask them to remember me in their prayers.

As for Father Philippe's request: it is easy to get authorization to enroll [people] with the Scapular of the Immaculate Conception, but someone would need to go to Rome and present a petition to the Holy Father, to obtain this faculty from the General of the Theatines. I will arrange it. I'll try to find someone, there is no problem. For the ladies, the statue you mention may be enough.

You are faithful, I see, to the meetings of the Third Order. Fr. Favre, whom I met here, is replacing Fr. Lagniet. He is to take charge of the Third Order. I am pleased about this: he is a servant of the Blessed Virgin, the man I would have chosen above all others. But, my dear daughter, get yourself an alarm clock. Then you won't have to worry so much about Tuesday. Do this to please me; a bad night is like an illness for you.

I don't need to tell you about the novena for your dear brother. His soul is very dear, ever present to me. At Mass I include him in the memento¹⁰ each day, and when I pray for your brother, I bless his sister.

Keep on serving the good Lord in the simplicity of faith and the confidence of love. Do not seek yourself in your prayers or your Communions, but as they say in the Navy, always go forward, even when the wind is standing; fidelity is the chief merit in piety. Then as we get older, we know ourselves better, and we are more aware of our failings. In youth, piety is energetic, ardent and impressionable; in the prime of life piety consists of sacrifice and the use of reason; later in life is the time for humility and trust.

I always have your retreat before me; I have prepared 5 or 6 meditations, and I am doing my best: I promise you will have it.¹¹

Dear sister, I need not tell you to pray for me - if you knew how much I need it! my soul is as dry as the dust on the highway; so many people, so many things travel over it every day. Alas! where has my time at Lyons gone? That was a time of rest compared to this! The good Lord wants me to be available to 130 people inside, and 200 outside; the parents, the administration, the direction of studies, not forgetting my precious migraine which has kept me faithful company since New Year's day. And yet, it's kind, as it doesn't oblige me to stay in bed.

How time flies! 8 pages, and it seems that there is hardly one. So please forgive my tardiness in writing!

Goodbye, all yours in our Savior,
Eymard

¹⁰ Commemoration of the living and the dead at Mass.

¹¹ In the margin before this paragraph, "I am waiting!" is written vertically.

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TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 96/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 19, 1853

I am writing you a few words in haste, my dear daughter, so that you won't worry. I have a letter here that was begun on the 1st and I still don't have time to finish it. I didn't have a minute: the accounts, the bulletins, the confusion of New Year's Day, and the examinations all kept me busy. I haven't answered any New Year's letters yet; you always come first for everything, so be patient. My health is sufficient to sustain the work I have to do. I don't have a treasurer. We spoke a great deal with Fr. Favre about the Third Order. I hope that everything will go well, he is well-disposed toward it and he promised me to compose a Manual for the Members.

Fr. Poupinel is also fond of the Third Order. It would be important to show him some confidence.

What sad news you give me about Fr. Ch.¹² (his departure for London)! It may not happen. However! God is there, my daughter, even though his instruments¹³ change. Don't let yourself be too disturbed by these sacrifices. I have spoken to Fr. Favre about you and he will receive you as I have. He will help you, for he is even more spiritual than scholarly. His is the most simple and most enlightened heart I know. So, I advise you to go to him if you need to [do so].

Goodbye, my daughter. My respectful and fond greetings to your whole family. I will say holy Mass and pray for all of you.

Eymard

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CO 388

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VII 2/5 IV 75)

La-Seyne, January 1, 1853

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I cannot neglect my dear sister secretary, and I mean to convey, on this beautiful day in the sight of God, everything that Father Eymard could possibly say to his dear sister and daughter in Jesus and Mary. You know my wishes; you have known them for a long time. Continue to grow in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the purpose of time and eternity; it is life; it is happiness in exile. To succeed in it, become a disciple¹⁴ of prayer; prayer is the golden chain which binds us to God, it is the hearth of the divine flame, the nourishment of the inner spirit.

However, to become a disciple of prayer, this precious gift must be requested. Patience, humility, simplicity, surrender must be practiced... In a word, we must be the good Lord's beggars. Being so, you will be the richest in God's gifts.

¹² Probably Fr. Champion.

¹³ Change of spiritual director for the Third Order; also change of confessor.

¹⁴ Literally: daughter of prayer.

My dear daughter,

I am ashamed to send you such an old letter. At least it will show you that I didn't forget you, and that the thought of you is ever present to me in prayer. I have been so busy during this time that I barely have time to pray.

I was happy to receive your letter of the 12th. - You know that letters are a reminder. But there is another letter [written] in prayer¹⁵ which is always in process.

I am very grateful for your wishes. Ask that I may become a saint. That is all that matters. - I am somewhat as you were when you were disgusted with the world. I see too much sadness in life. Oh! The more aware I become of human weakness, the more I feel that God alone is father, mother, is kind, is gracious, the Sovereign good and pure joy. Yes, when will we reach heaven! no longer able to offend God and no longer walking on this shifting vicious earth!

I often pray to our Lord and his divine Mother to heal your dear husband and to watch over your wonderful daughter. Please remember me to her.

It is necessary to love God's gracious will in order to [be able to] bear this illness called sadness. One day it will be changed into joy.

You make me happy when you tell me that you are still dedicated to the Third Order, the dear Third Order. If only I could have devoted my life to it!

I will work to prepare your gifts, but you must give me until Easter. If I can pay you sooner, I will do so gladly.¹⁶

If you were here I would give you a good book called: "*Meditations of St. Thomas*" by Fr. Antoine Massoulier, available in Paris, at Sagnier, rue des St. Peres, 64.

Toward God in God.

All yours,

Eymard

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CO 391

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 97/395 VI 2)

T.P.D.S.¹⁷

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 31, 1853¹⁸

In this letter, my dear daughter, I want to answer all your previous letters. Even if I should have to come back to it twenty times, no matter! I kept waiting to have a few hours when I would be more or less free and alone. I'm still waiting for it to happen. I did the same thing here as I used to do in Lyons. In order to give you more time, I kept asking you to wait and then was rushed at the end. "What can I do?" - Assume that I am always fully dedicated to your soul, and that my care for your spiritual [journey] comes first. Besides, you are the only one that I am guiding step by step. To begin with, I must thank you for your two notes, the one for Christmas and the other for New Year's. They really touched me, as they express what I want to strive for. They were quite helpful: something like the star.¹⁹ It showed me that I am always part of your spiritual feasts and graces of the moment. The same is true of me toward you. I can't leave you out of my petitions, it's only

¹⁵ Literally: in God's presence.

¹⁶ Spiritual gifts? Ed.

¹⁷ All for God alone.

¹⁸ The fragment addressed to the Guillot family on January 1st was sent with this letter.

¹⁹ Light on the way, like the star of Bethlehem. Ed.

right, it's promised. I don't know if I told you that I had celebrated Holy Mass for you on the Holy day of Christmas. This is my annual gift.

Did I tell you that we had spoken a great deal about the Third Order with Fr. Favre? What makes me happy is that he seemed to esteem this Marian work, and wants to work for its growth. Poor Third Order! It certainly has made you suffer! But if Jesus and Mary are glorified by the members' growth in holiness, we are well rewarded. I never told you about a sacrifice that the Lord required of me for the Third Order. It will explain a restriction I had made in your regard. Reverend Father Superior had told me absolutely that I should not deal with the Third Order of Lyons, and Fr. Lagniet repeated it. That being the case, I could do only one thing: pray for it and refrain from giving advice for its administration. So, my daughter, don't hold what I told you against me; continue to ask me for the advice you may need for the Third Order; however, I can only answer you as your director and no more. What can we do? It's all we needed, but no matter! Let me die as long as he may live and grow; that is my only wish!

Let me tell you about myself: I don't know what to say about my health. My migraine headaches have returned quite frequently since Christmas. However, I can bear them and do some work, although without enthusiasm. I still don't have the courage to begin answering the stack of letters I have on my desk; it frightens me just to see them. I hardly have time to pray to God. If I didn't rise at four o'clock, it would be nearly impossible for me to recollect myself. Then, I feel that with all these people, the spirit of recollection leaves me.

Oh! At least, I can really practice the spirit of self-denial... sometimes it makes me sad; if I dared to hope for solitude or heaven, I would do so wholeheartedly. However, I promised the good Lord I would not ask for anything, or refuse anything. So, you can see that you need to pray for me. You do so, I'm sure. Then we must preach on Sundays and every day speak to the children. However, that agrees with me; at least we are speaking about God. So, that is what my life is like. Then [as you know, there are always] little domestic problems due to character defects and human weakness which can be found everywhere. Oh yes, how far-reaching they are! God is so good to love us in spite of them, urging us to practice charity and patience!

Poor letter! How many times it has been put back on the drawing board! However, that shouldn't stand in your way, nor decrease your writing by even one letter. Your letters always please me and they always come first.

1. You are upset because my answers are vague. You are afraid that it might be²⁰ no, no, besides you aren't obliged But you know that one of my principles is to leave the soul somewhat to itself, in order that it may be freer to follow the impulse of grace. In case of doubt, I can also know the soul's feelings and needs better by its repeated requests.

I don't mind your having a Child Jesus.²¹ I forgive you for it, provided that you don't go back to that.²²

However, it's time for me to close my letter. I read your last note, my dear daughter. You are quite right to scold me a little. This time, I disappointed everyone. I've just finished a letter to V. R. Fr. Superior which was dated the first. No, no, I don't forget you... All the other letters I write are not worth the half of yours. I repeat again, you are the only one that I am guiding step by step.

Sincerely yours in our Lord, your devoted Father, united in the love of God,

Eymard

P.S. Be assured that your letters please me very much. The longest ones are the best. Let your pen and your soul flow as they will.

I am sending you a little letter . . . and I am including one for Fr. Champion. So you are still enduring mental suffering, my poor daughter! So many crosses, so much anguish! Bear them well

²⁰ The suspension points in this letter and in many others to Marguerite Guillot indicate that the text was erased or rendered illegible.

²¹ A small statue.

²² Certain devotions and practices.

for God, in union with Jesus tempted in the desert, sorrowful in the Garden of Olives, alone on the cross. Don't let yourself be upset by self-examination or by reasoning over your temptations. Leave the house when fire is in it, and go hide yourself in the wounds of your divine Spouse. May all possible glory come to our good Master through you. May he sustain you in this difficult war. Take heart! The day of victorious love will come some day!

I won't send you my letter dated the first. However, on second thought I will send you a fragment of it, as proof....

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CO 392

TO MISS CLAUDINE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 99/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, January 31, 1853²³

It has taken me until January 31, my dear daughter, to answer your kind New Year's letter and the preceding one you had sent me with Fr. Champion. Thank you very much for both. If I have been so long in answering, it's because time has been so short for me, that is, so full. I can hardly believe that I have owed you an answer for two months.

Thank you for your wishes and those of your household. It means a lot to me. Pray very much for me. That is all that I expect from your charity!

I'm very happy to learn that you made a retreat, and that good Fr. Champion directed it. Then I was overjoyed to learn that a house of Nazareth would finally be opened and that you had gone back to the Rule. It is well that you were chosen as assistant. Under the heavenly Superior, you have nothing to fear. Our good Mother will do everything. You will need to change something in the first Rule, since your situation has changed: i.e., the Sunday council, and the accusation of faults at direction. What you are doing is very fine.

By entrusting you to Fr. Champion, I was sure that you would find him to be a good father, and a "Master Conrad."²⁴ I am grateful to God and very much at peace to realize that you are in his care and that he is wholly dedicated to your spiritual good. Be very obedient and humble, and you will find great peace.

Praise God for your difficulties! Martyrdom is the most beautiful triumph of divine love, and spiritual martyrdom is the greatest of all.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Continue to pray for me. I need it. My health is not good, but I keep on going. The good Lord knows what I need. Pray for our Boarding School; things are going reasonably well.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. My respects to your whole family.

²³ It is difficult to follow the Saint's correspondence for January 1853. This appears to be the second letter of Jan. 31.

²⁴ evidently a colloquialism.

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 2/21 VI 1)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 31, 1853

My dear daughter in Jesus and Mary,

I was very pleased to receive your welcome letter, I was expecting it. I read it and understood it easily. So put your self-love aside. It was much easier to read than my sister's.²⁵

I am very happy to learn that you are now back with your sisters. You really need that. Now you will be a little calmer and have fewer worries. However, my good daughter, remember that you will be happy only in heaven, and that we will always suffer on our Christian Calvary in this land of exile.

You made a retreat. Thank God for it. We always benefit from it. Then also, you are now a member of the Third Order of Nazareth. Yours is the first convent.²⁶ Be very docile and obedient.

Yes, my daughter, continue to receive Communion, as I had told you. Don't be scrupulously attached to certain days, but replace them when you haven't been able to [do so] on the ordinary days. But you are so poor! So much the better! Be convinced that this is your ticket of admission with Jesus, the King of the poor. - But I am full of faults! Thank God that you know them. Bear them humbly and patiently, as being the cross of penance which God is giving you. Oh! Be sure that the most sublime virtue is the one which helps us to carry our cross and keeps us humble and confident at our Lord's feet.

Since I know you well, I can say that to please God you need only to imitate St. Martha's role, to do everything to please God without examining things too closely. Do the best you can, and everything will be better. The love of God, like faith, has its own mysteries. - Goodbye, my good daughter, be assured that you and the others²⁷ are always very dear to me in our Lord, and that you are always present to me in God's sight.

A thousand fond regards to your kind and dear mother. Tell her that I think of her every day, and that I will always love her family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Mariette Guillot
Lyons

²⁵ His sister did not know how to write correctly.

²⁶ Because all the members of the Guillot family were Third Order members, their household was constituted as a "Nazareth".

²⁷ The Guillot family.

TO MR. LEO DUPONT
(U2)²⁸

[La Seyne], January 31, 1853

Dear Sir and brother in our Lord,

You were so kind as to write to me at the time of the death of our dear esteemed friend, Mr. Marceau. I have been deeply grateful to you for it ever since. I kept hoping that the good Lord would give me the opportunity to go to Tours to see and comfort Mme. Marceau who is like a mother to me, and also to see you. Our Lord did not will it. May his holy name be blessed!

You may know that we are busy gathering a few details of the holy life of good Mr. Marceau, in order to make it known to the faithful and especially to his companions in arms. Pray that if it is for the glory of God, everything will succeed. We would need to find an experienced and very Catholic author²⁹ to put the final touches on it.

I was happy to learn that Adoration is established at Tours. We also have it at Toulon and our Lord has willed to give me the honor of working for this beautiful Work. We have eight hundred women adorers and one hundred men.

What happiness if devotion to the Blessed Sacrament were to spread everywhere! We need divine fire to wake up so many drowsy Christians.

Dear Sir, I wish to ask you to be kind enough to make a novena for the healing of the President of the Women's Adoration of Toulon.³⁰ She is very ill and is unable to walk as a result of rheumatism. I promised her that you would begin it on January 25th and finish on Feb. 2, the feast of the Purification. I was counting on your charity. Then I recommend to your prayers the [members] of the Third Order of Mary of the Interior Life in order that Mary may perfect them, and spread this work.

Finally, I really need your prayers (for myself) since I am responsible for a large boarding school at La Seyne near Toulon, where we are educating many children for the Navy [personnel]. I lay claim to your help because I hardly have time to think of myself. Please ask our Lord for me for his holy love and for the spirit of the Interior life.

As for me, I can only ask the good Master to accept your sacrifice for his glory and for the salvation of souls and to fill you with a thousand heavenly blessings.

I am in our Lord, dear Sir,

Your very humble servant,
Eymard,
Superior of the Boarding School
and Marist Priest

Mr. Dupont, Tours
Oratory of the Holy Face,
kindness of Mme. Marceau

²⁸ Previously unpublished

²⁹ Literally: pen.

³⁰ Mme. Duhaut-Cilly.

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CO 397

TO MR. BETHFORT³¹
(VII 3/3)

February 8, 1853

Dear Sir,

How good of you to remember me so kindly! It's a pleasure for me to repay you in kind and to wish you all the blessings of Heaven and earth. You deserve them so! God loves you.

I would have been so happy if I had had the pleasure of welcoming you and having you [here] with us a few days. I am grateful that you thought of it, and if the same opportunity should recur, think of Toulon. If I were to go in your vicinity during the holidays, dear Sir, be sure that you would have my first visit. My prayers are for the protection of your little Angel: may God watch over her, and one day, may she be your consolation.

Please remember me to Madame and to Madame her mother, and believe in my sentiments of esteem and affection, I am

Dear Mr. Bethfort,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Please give me news about yourself from time to time. It will always please me. As for me, I am fine as well as my 112 children. I have a beautiful mission here. - Pray for me.

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CO 395

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 6/17)

La Seyne, February 8, 1853

Dear daughter,

I am writing to thank you for your very kind letter. It really pleased me, because the whole Mayet Family is so kind. So I love it as my own. All the news which concerns it interests my heart. I went to see dear Fr. Mayet at Hyeres. He is the angel of the house. Everyone loves and esteems him. He is like a good father who sets everything in motion; how fortunate they are to have him! He is portly and joyful. However, his poor voice can not vibrate yet.

Oh! What a sacrifice. I scolded this dear Father, he speaks. [a lot?] I refrain from going to see him too often, pleasure hurts him.³²

I received a charming letter from Mme. Emma. I am lazy, I haven't answered her yet. Today, I am paying all my debts.

So, dear Mme. Chaudier is now in eternity. What a holy soul! She will pray for the Third Order. I recommend it to her so often.

And so the dear Third Order will have two Directors instead of one: Fr. Favre and, in his absence, Fr. Poupinel. What a consolation for me! May I die, provided that it grows, spreads the

³¹ Lawyer, Chalon-sur-Saone, member of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons.

³² Makes him speak in spite of his larynx problem.

love and praise of Jesus and Mary! Then, they wrote to tell me that they will gather the children of Mary for a meeting from time to time. That consoles me.

As for you, dear daughter, be the simple child of the Blessed Virgin: simple, poor, always happy with everything, always gracious toward all the Angels whom the good Lord sends to you, to bring you his orders, or a cross. The most beautiful life is the one which makes us love more perfectly both Jesus crucified and Mary at his feet. Well, this has been your path for a long time. May the grace of our Lord sustain you and lift you to the burning heart of your divine Spouse.

My fondest and most devoted respects to the whole Mayet Family, to whom I wish heaven and earth, the blessings of Abraham and those of St. John.

Goodbye, my dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

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CO 396

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 5/7)

February 8, 1853

I thank you kindly for your letter, my dear daughter. I can't tell you how pleased it made me. I love your family and your soul like my own soul.

Thank you for your wishes and prayers for me. I need them in the midst of my 110 children, but God supports me. I have all the strength I need for my duties, I surprise myself. Migraine headaches visit me from time to time; it's a good thing. It obliges me to make up for lost sleep and get some rest. The pain has left me. I only have one: that of not serving the good Lord as I ought. This place teaches me my faults and weaknesses. I understand better than ever the needs of the poor mother of a family, busy all day with her household and with everyone.

I understand that if we do everything for God, for his Love, these constant sacrifices must make us very pleasing to him. Therefore, my dear daughter, do everything for God, in union with Jesus and Mary. Work in God's presence. Give him honor and praise for all you do and you will be a disciple of Nazareth.

As for your direction; it is very simple because it is easy to know you. When you go to Lyons, try Father Favre. He is a holy Priest who is very enlightened. He is very simple, very gentle; he really understands the human heart. However, if you should be afraid of him, put direction aside. - He is a close friend of good Father Mayet. Stay with Father Neron. He knows you, introductions are unnecessary. The details of a good direction are simple:

1) We give an account of our state [of soul], our occupations, then of our exercises of piety, especially our meditation, how we do it, what we experience, how we fail, and then, ordinarily make a resolution.

2) We speak about our temptations and difficulties, and ask about the best way to benefit from them.

3) We speak about our [spiritual] attraction, whether we feel some urgings of grace which are strong and gentle, constant and spontaneous, that is, if we feel some inclination toward a virtue, or a mystery of our Lord.

Well, when a director understands the interior life, the character of God's graces, he can direct a soul well.

Yes, my dear daughter, receive Communion and steal a few moments from time to time to gain strength. Our Lord can do a great deal in us in a short time. Then he has such a great love for the poor, for Christian mothers, that you will be well received.

Always go to the good Lord very simply but generously, firmly and gently. Keep an open account with divine mercy³³ and God will be pleased with you.

At Hyeres, I saw good Father Mayet³⁴ - I found him well - but especially loved, cared for and respected. The most tender mother could not do better. He really deserves it. We correspond. I have news from him often; he is happy. I'd like to see him more often because he is so kind!

I am pleased with all the news you give me about good little Marie. She is your Angel. Keep her with you as long as you can. - This is not in view of loving a child for oneself: but where could she be better? For her own happiness, I hope that this dear little Marie will never leave you.

A thousand and one regards to good Mr. Perroud,³⁵ our dear brother in Mary. Yes, he is a Third Order Member, the medal is only secondary, and it's so easy to obtain one and to request one from Father Favre or Father Poupinel.

Goodbye, my dear daughter, be assured that I am very happy to receive and get news about you. We prayed very much for your dear husband. Thank God for leaving him with you. May he watch over him and bless him always.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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CO 398

TO MME. GAUDIOZ
(III 2/2)

February 9, 1853

Dear sister in Mary,³⁶

Thank you for your kind letter, for your wishes³⁷ and prayers for me. I like to offer you the same and to bless you. You know that I cannot pass Bellecour³⁸ without stopping to say hello on the way. It is my favorite house. The thought of a retreat for you and Mr. Gaudioz really pleases me. It is a good thing. We need it, especially when we have so much business and responsibility.

Dear sister, continue to make the good resolution to never be discouraged, to always renew your confidence in God. Then, begin and say: take heart! Today I will be gentle, generous, faithful to my prayers, and at night the good Lord will fill you with his divine consolations.

Alas! My daughter, life is such a Calvary, a state of continual sacrifice. To remain faithful we cannot lose sight of heaven above and of Jesus, our good Savior, who loves us and helps us to follow him, of Mary our good mother who precedes us and helps us to Calvary and leads us to Jesus.

Thank you for your lovely picture. It made me very happy. As for me, I can only bless you, you and your family, and say that I am ever in our Lord, dear sister,

Devotedly yours,
Eymard

P.S. My profound respects to your dear sisters.

³³ Perhaps: to receive divine mercy.

³⁴ Her brother.

³⁵ Her husband.

³⁶ The sister of Marguerite Guillot.

³⁷ New Year's wishes.

³⁸ Home of the Guillot family.

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CO 399

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ
(III 1/3)

February 9, 1853

Dear friend and brother in Mary,

I am truly sorry that I kept you waiting for an answer. You are always papa Gaudioz to me. Recently I've been very busy with sick people and business of every kind. Excuse me, for friendship's sake.

It certainly would be very comforting to see you, to share your sorrows and joys. I can only share in them by praying to God for you and your dear family, calling the blessings of God and the Blessed Virgin upon your work.

Your thought of making a retreat, dear friend and brother, really pleased me. Oh, try to steal a few days from your numerous occupations, and go close yourself in for five or six days at La Favorite, under the direction of good Fr. Maitrepierre or Fr. Champion. There, your soul will rest a little in prayer and pious reflections. Then, you can cast a glance on the principal failings of your life, but briefly and without anxiety, and it will help you. When we are constantly in the midst of society, we become weak. If we, in spite of the holiness of our sacred ministry, didn't make a retreat every year, and brief ones during the year, our souls would dry up. And then, at the moment of death we will be so happy to say: I made a good retreat!

On the first days of the retreat be careful not to weary your mind. Go into it simply and with good will. I will pray very much for you. I would be happy to learn that the role of the Justice of Peace would only be one of encouragement.

Love one another. Bear with one another. May the more perfect one anticipate the needs of the other in order to have more merit, and all will go well.

I embrace you with my whole heart. From time to time give me news about yourself and believe me ever, dear friend and brother,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. My religious regards to your sisters. Poor women! They must really need you!

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CO 400

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 11/52)

All for God alone

February 9, 1853

My dear daughter,

I am also writing to tell you my wishes and hopes³⁹ at the feet of our Divine Master, the offering which I renew every day at 7:00, when it is my honor and happiness to serve as a priest at the altar of love, on the mystical Calvary. Therefore, I ask that Jesus may rule and live in you in the fullness of his spirit and love. Oh! How joyful Heaven must be, how pleased the Blessed Trinity

³⁹ Evidently New Year's wishes.

must be to listen when a Christian soul cries out: “No, it is not I who lives within, it is Jesus who lives in me! His truth, whether veiled or luminous, lives in my mind, the reflection of his virtues and sufferings come alive in my imagination; his heart crowned with thorns, opened by the lance, burning with love, his divine heart absorbs, penetrates, enlivens my heart; the sacred wounds⁴⁰ of his body impress themselves on my body like a divine seal of his eternal covenant with me. His will is the rule, the life, the instinct of my will. I abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in me. As long as there is a single suffering, feeling, desire, or affection to sacrifice to you, oh my God, leave me on the Calvary of life. I will have time later for joy, now I want to suffer with you, not to say, because of you; but then! Yes, because of you, oh devouring and consuming fire!”

This, my daughter, is what we ask our Lord to become through his grace and love; ask it for me. Oh I need it so! I would need to sleep very few hours, in order to be able to renew my strength⁴¹ at night, for the losses of the day. The soul suffers and loses touch with itself when it is involved in a way of life which is too externalized.

I’m very happy with the news you give me about your children; you are their best teacher. The three first classes of Latin consist only in studying and applying principles of Grammar. Write and tell me how far they have progressed and I could suggest some helpful book. The essential thing is to make them report everything by means of grammatical and logical analysis. To make them apply the known rules of syntax in essays and train them always to speak French correctly, to avoid trivial expressions in conversation because that would warp their taste. I’m happy to hear the good news you gave me concerning Mr. Tholin. May our Lord help him to grow more and more in the knowledge of his love! I wish your good sister were happy, but do not press her too much. This heartfelt sorrow happened for her own good, in one sense. God will complete the good begun.

Goodbye, my dear daughter, I don’t need to tell you that your letters are welcome.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. You would do well to buy the little book: *Elementary Latin Exercises and Methods Applied to Latin Grammar* of de Lhomond, by J. Geoffroy, Paris, from the author, rue St. Louis 27, at the Marais.

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CO 402

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 5/8)

[La Seyne-sur-Mer], March 17, 1853

Very dear friend and brother in Mary,

Thank you for your letter, for your kind greetings. They touch me deeply and I wish you the same with my whole soul.

What sad news you are giving me; your wife is very ill! Oh! Oh! What trials you are experiencing from our Lord! How heavy the cross must be! As you know, St. Paul says: *Quoniam per multas tribulationes oportet nos intrare in regnum coelorum.*⁴²

That is the path to Heaven for the one who carries the cross with Jesus! Bear yours well, dear brother. The way is not long, the rest is eternal; the crucifixion last a few hours, the glory which follows it is eternal! And then: God wills it. May this divine word sustain, strengthen and console you...

⁴⁰ Literally: stigmata.

⁴¹ Spiritual strength through prayer.

⁴² “It behooves us to enter the kingdom of heaven by means of many trials.”

We will all pray for the healing of your dear wife. On the feast of St. Joseph, we will begin a novena to obtain that grace.

You did well to leave that small place at St. Regis. Providence is very kind; trust in its kindness, it will always go before you.

Continue to be a good Third Order member, all good things will come to you from it. It is true that the duties of [your] state [in life] must pass first.

I am writing a few words to your dear wife.

Goodbye dear friend, news from you will always please me.

All yours in *Christo*,
Eymard, S.M.

Mr. Creuset
rue Louis-le-Grand, 12
Lyons

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CO 403

TO MME. CREUSET
(V 6/8)

[La Seyne-sur-Mer], March 17, 1853

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I am very sad to learn that you are ill, and I would really like to be in Lyons to go to comfort you and help you to carry your cross.

Trust in Jesus and Mary, my dear sister. Unite your sufferings to our prayers: on Saturday we will begin a novena to St. Joseph for you and for your healing.

Your part, my dear daughter, is to draw all possible profit from your sufferings. Unite them to the sufferings of Jesus and Mary. Christian suffering is the purgatory of the faithful soul. When we are suffering, we don't have the courage to reflect, nor to pray, but we can bless God, and honor him even more perfectly by submitting to his holy and ever gracious Will. Please, my dear daughter, look at Heaven, the eternal and divine [Heaven] which Jesus is giving you. Take courage and have confidence. In Heaven you will be so happy to have suffered something for the love of our Lord Jesus!

I am leaving you to go to say Mass and to pray for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 100/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, March 17, 1853

I am finally free [to write to] you. Some of my professors have been ill, some of the children too. Adoration⁴³ to take care of, etc., etc., impossible to have a quiet moment to think. At last, I do have a moment and it is yours. I know that you are patient and compassionate in your charity and that your little reproaches are only rightful complaints, to make me remember you, as if I could forget you.

March 19 - Today is your feast day as a Third Order Member. I wished you well and wish you good St. Joseph's very special protection, his spirit and his love for Jesus and Mary. Our whole house is making the month of St. Joseph as devoutly as possible, and we are experiencing its very comforting results: our children are truly devout. I really love this great saint. - I assume that you prayed to him for me.

21st - Now about your letters. I never would have believed that I could be so far behind, and yet my thought goes to Lyons everyday.

1. Thank you for having thought about me on St. Agatha's day. It is indeed my beautiful baptismal day, and the eve, my poor birthday.

2. I liked what you told me about my spiritual needs, that is true charity. Yes my daughter, pray very much for your Father, he needs it and is very grateful. I don't need anything else, I have enough sufferings to constitute a small cross and enough strength to work: what a beautiful situation! in my opinion it's the most beautiful, and I thank the good Lord for it.

Good Friday - This poor letter is taking very long, isn't it? My dear daughter, you know it's only for lack of time that it is so. I have just finished the morning Offices, I have a brief moment, it will be for you alone.

The idea of a retirement home for the elderly single Third Order Members always appealed to me. I had spoken about it with one of the sisters who has had this thought for a long time, Miss du Rousset. I could see much good in it, but also, many difficulties. First of all it would require a good leader and money. Today, this thought still appeals to me, but I think the time for it has not come yet. It would require a Priest who would be wholly dedicated to it, and Fr. Superior General might not give one. Here is how I understand the Third Order in its full perfection:

1. To establish a Third Order religious house for women which would be like a center for the lay Third Order members, a place where they would come for renewal. And if they met the required conditions, they would be admitted into the community. 2. A similar house for men. Perpetual Adoration would be established there as the nourishment and center of piety. 3. Then houses of Nazareth for those who wouldn't have a taste for community life or who weren't able to leave the world. I would establish a house of Nazareth especially where it would be impossible to establish a Third Order community. The important thing is to have a center for the Third Order. Until now, the director has been its center in Lyons. He should be only its soul, to give it its impulse. A family center is needed.

My love for the Third Order leads me to wish that Father General would assign me to that branch with another priest, so that we might devote all our time to its direction. I would try to spread the work everywhere. That, my daughter, is my whole thought. The good Lord hasn't willed it yet. Shall he [do so] later! Whatever he wills and nothing other! One thing is certain, if they wrote to me saying: "Dedicate yourself to the Third Order," I would leave immediately and gladly. The good Lord sees my heart, he knows what I need. That another should do it, doesn't matter to me! provided that Jesus and Mary be loved and served, and that spiritual persons be sustained and strengthened.

⁴³ The Adoration group of Toulon.

Yes, follow your attraction. However, if the establishment of such a house depended on your consent, it would be well to give it. Works which are not proper to the nature of the Church itself, even those which come from God, begin imperfectly, and then gradually become more perfect.

Concerning your perpetual vow, so be it! May God give you grace and strength. I approve it.

In having the Rule observed in your house, you are doing something which is very pleasing to God. So even if it goes against your feelings, make this sacrifice.

The way of crucifixion is your way. Your love for our Lord must always be crucified, if you want it to be pure and united to its Spouse, that's how it was for Jesus and Mary.

Continue your direction on your knees; humility and mortification are the fruit of the cross. Your grace, your success and your peace are linked to your simple, blind obedience, and with our Lord Jesus Christ.

If Fr. Ch.⁴⁴ advises you to go once to Fr. F., in order not to stand out, do so. Mention me to him. Foreseeing this might happen, I had said a few words to him about you. He is good and simple. My daughter, your temptation is very distressing, God wills it in order to crucify you, to purify you as in a fire. Stay very close to Jesus by means of the cross, and you will come out of it triumphant and pure. Always be gentle, be a lamb toward your sisters and toward everyone. May an air of simplicity, and if I dare say so, of indifference, make you seem a bit unfeeling in the midst of opposition, as if you didn't notice it, or as if you were not sufficiently intelligent to see or grasp caustic words.

Yes, take steps about your business affairs, without being too brusque. Yes, you have the right to claim all the back rent. The note of 1851 is not retroactive: five percent is the legal fee ... [*two lines erased*]. This poor woman's work is a very good one. God will provide for it and will not allow anything to happen to you. If you can prudently do so, urge her to be prudently thrifty.

May God bless Miss Jaricot, that poor disciple of Calvary! Yes, God will bless her, for when the grain of wheat has died, it bears fruit and becomes a beautiful plant.

I come now to your letter of March 7th. Continue to love the Third Order. It's your crown, but 1. Don't give up the assemblies, that is your right. The rule sets the nominations for every three years; a change of director has nothing to do with it. 2. My opinion is that you shouldn't leave the Council on your own. You could go see Fr. Favre and offer him your resignation. If he accepts it, fine; otherwise, stay on. I will write to you again. I want to send this letter today, so that you may receive it on the holy day of Easter.

A thousand and one best wishes, in Jesus and Mary, to your household. My health is satisfactory.

All yours,

(...)

Eymard

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CO 404

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 101/395 VI 2)

May Jesus Eucharistic be praised and loved

La Seyne, April 30, 1853

Excuse me, my dear daughter, for such a long delay in answering you. It has been impossible for me to do so since Easter. I've been ill, and in the midst of many tasks. It was (so as not to leave you worried) a bit of everything: migraine headache, neuralgia, a cold. Now, I am better. So, I had put aside all the letters that needed to be answered.

Let me tell you that I wouldn't want to die before seeing the fulfillment of a beautiful and noble thought which the good Lord has placed in my heart, regarding the worship of Jesus in the Most

⁴⁴ Fr. Champion.

Blessed Sacrament. It is so great that my human nature is almost afraid of it; but so beautiful that I rejoice at the thought of it and I am encouraged to sacrifice anything for it. I'm not telling you what it is, but I am praying and asking God to make me worthy of it. I would like our Lord to tell you about it [himself] and make you know his will. Pray very much for it, and have others pray for me. I will to make the month of Mary for this intention.

Then, too, since it is for Jesus at the Holy Altar, please beg for a few silk robes,⁴⁵ whatever color (Mme. Gal had promised me one), beg for some altar linens, etc., that is like Mary's work of dressing Jesus. I'm sure you understand that I can't put my thoughts down on paper yet. Jesus must inspire you with it himself.

I'm very happy to know that you are in such good hands.⁴⁶ This thought comforts me and leaves me feeling peaceful in your regard. Have confidence, my daughter, Jesus will have his day and his hour for you.

Now I come to Miss.... 1. I found a good boarding school for the little boy. It would be with the Marist Brothers, either at Vauban, in the diocese of Moulins, or at Saint Paul-trois-Chateaux, diocese of Valence. The cost would be three hundred francs and I would see to it that they keep him for the whole year. As for our boarding school at La Seyne, it has become too expensive. Even if I cut the cost in half, there are too many incidental expenses. I will take the responsibility to inform the Brothers about everything.

2. The little girl would be fine at La Mure. I believe that board and room there are also three hundred francs. I will recommend her. Could she stay there until the holidays? When I pass through La Mure, if I see that isn't suitable, I will look elsewhere.

3. As for their mother, she should join some community, if possible. This good idea just came to me: send her to Notre Dame du Laus. Food there is inexpensive, lodging, too. She could have a little booth of religious objects. I'll recommend her to the Superior; that would be a good arrangement.

Now, don't be afraid, neither you, nor M. G.⁴⁷ Nothing will happen to you. You have performed a good deed which is outstanding and truly pleasing to God. Prudence is good, that's true. However, God is sometimes pleased to ask for a sacrifice which is even contrary to prudence. So, my dear daughters, God will bless you, and you will have saved three souls.

Please tell M. G. that I will send him a letter through you on my first free day; - tell him not to be anxious; - to leave everything to God's fatherly care - that everything works out for the good of those who trust in God.

Oh! Heaven is desirable, beautiful and sublime. However, my dear daughters, it's the achievement of suffering love. So then, treasure that suffering love! How beautiful it is that since God could not suffer through love in heaven, he came to be loved for his crucified love.

Yes, you may write to me ... [*three lines erased*]. In real need you can ... however ... I would advise you ... and I will ... made for that. So then save the fifty francs (if it's not too late) for my great eucharistic project.

I wholeheartedly approve the pilgrimage to La Salette. Do spend a few days at La Mure, there are beds for everyone.⁴⁸ Otherwise, I would be upset and would no longer call Mme. Gal my nurse mother.

Poor Third Order! It is pushing its roots deeply into the ground; it will grow very tall, continue to love it. Oh! How can La Puylata despise it?⁴⁹ They don't understand it; besides, those good fathers are afraid. Oh! If I had been timid, nothing would have been done. I used to tell our Lady: I will be blamed, but as long as this succeeds, it doesn't matter.

Come now! dear daughter of the cross. Attach yourself to our Lord, your thorn-crowned Spouse. That is the wedding band of divine union. I bless you and yours with all my heart.

⁴⁵ perhaps vestments?

⁴⁶ Spiritual director and confessor.

⁴⁷ Perhaps Mr. Gaudioz, her brother-in-law.

⁴⁸ at his family home.

⁴⁹ The Marist community.

To MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 8/28)

J.M.J.⁵⁰

May 8, 1853

Mademoiselle,

I am finally writing a few words to answer your dear letter and to tell you that while I was reading it I was praising God for you, for his gifts and graces, and especially asking this good Father to increase them and to make you very faithful to his love.

How fortunate you are, to have understood so young that Jesus alone is the only true and eternal God of the heart! So, conceal your heart in his divine heart, so that they may be united by the same life.

Yes, Mademoiselle, you are truly where God wants you to be and wants you in his love. Don't look for any other situation, but learn how to find in your situation the peace and retreat of Nazareth, the charity and zeal of Jesus our Savior in Judea. So then you also need to have your Tabor, your Cenacle; then, accept the Calvary which Jesus sets up around you, for there certainly is one. Then, too, the heart is always a living cross.

To love our situation and its duties, to sanctify its sorrows and sacrifices, this is what Jesus loves most. So be happy with his will.

I will pray with you for your dear mother: one more thought, one more step, and she will be a saint. But as for you whom Jesus loves, complain to your divine Spouse for leaving you sad and ask him for this miracle of grace. You have full power over his heart.

As for meditation, I would like you to be a disciple of prayer, because without prayer there is no habitual union with God. You need a type of prayer which is suited to your temperament, your situation, your inner inclination, consequently, your heart. Speak simply and candidly to our Lord as with another self, as with your sister. Be a child who is full of love and surrendered to her good Master. Let it be an interior conversation with God more than a work of the mind. Then, a scattered, distracted meditation will come together, because it will express all the thoughts and needs of your heart.

You must make your little meditation with our Lord every day.

Do ask the Blessed Virgin for this gift of prayer; also request it for me. It's the gift which encloses all gifts and this is the most beautiful of months.

Devout and heartfelt chats with your good sister are worth a meditation; but they can't replace it because after speaking joyfully about the Lord Jesus, we must still say to him: My God, I love you!

I'm sending you a [spiritual] exercise for the month for the sisters of the Third Order, a bit late, it's true.

My respectful regards to Madame, your sister. I can't get her off my mind. She is ill, something makes me think of her often. Do tell her that our Lord really loves her and that she in turn must love her situation and her cross in God's love.

I am in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Tarare (Rhône)
Mlle. Bost

⁵⁰ Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 102/395 VI 2)

*L.J.E.*⁵¹

La Seyne, May 10, 1853

I am hurrying to write to you, my dear daughter. I wasn't able to [do so] until now. We had First Communion, Confirmation, and Ordination during these last few days, and I haven't had a moment.

1. About the little child. Yesterday I sent the notes to the brother director at Saint Paul-trois-Chateaux (Drome), it is farther south than Valence. At the present time this brother (Br. Leonide), is supposed to be at the Hermitage, near Saint-Chamond, at the motherhouse, for a general meeting which is beginning Friday and due to last about ten days. If someone could go there from Lyons, no, rather, let me write to him, so that he may answer from there. He will send his answer to Mr. Gaudioz. I am asking him to keep the child during the holidays.

If Chambery were a possibility, that would be fine, or Notre Dame du Laus. What can we do? My dear daughter, don't regret the trouble [it has given you] and its consequences. It is a good work which you all took on [yourselves] and the good Lord will repay you for it. During the time of persecutions, the confessors of the faith were kept in hiding, in spite of the persecutor's threats and rage. I would advise St. Paul-trois-Chateaux as a preferred option; that would be safer than elsewhere.

My secret? I'm not going to tell you yet. I'm praying and asking others to pray. Does the good Lord only want me to have a desire for it? I would truly like to see it happen, if he wills it. Seeing that I am weak and ill, I would hardly dare think of it, except that I know that the good Lord likes to use what is unfit, unworthy and inept to show forth his grace and goodness.

You guessed part of it, but not everything: it is to establish the ORDER OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. That is my great dream.

I am leaving you to go for the May devotions.

Goodbye, good daughter, let yourself be truly crucified by holy obedience and for love of our Lord Jesus. Then, don't let your sorrows and temptations trouble your soul: God wants it.

All yours,
Eymard

⁵¹ Abbreviation for *Lou soit Jesus Eucharistique*, Praised be Jesus Eucharistic.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 4/26 VII 17)

L.J.E.

La Seyne Boarding School, May 12, 1853

Very dear sister in Mary,

How could I have waited so long to answer your letter, always welcome, long-awaited, and read with such pleasure! And yet, it's true, you may say I had forgotten you, or something else? Oh, no! That's impossible. On the contrary, when we have an outstanding debt, we are conscious of it all the time. If my prayers and wishes for you had been more perfect, you would have been aware of them every day. But, why this delay? For all sorts of reasons: I haven't written to anyone for two and a half months - I hardly had time to sleep - sick teachers to replace, Adoration at Toulon to direct in the absence of the Priest-in-charge, my 115 children, little spring illnesses.. 1st Communion, Confirmation, Examinations, Administration, etc., and on top of all that, migraines and neuralgia. You will agree that I deserve a little indulgence, but don't let this stop you from writing to me. It's over now, and things are better at the moment.

Dear sister, you should have written me a short, urgent letter, or reproached me, or come to reproach me in person.

Now to your letter: the bad news about your health made me very sad; now that you could have a more peaceful life, the good Lord is putting you on the cross, and you are ill with the prospect of continuing to suffer. Nature trembles and becomes frightened at the thought; but may the love of Jesus strengthen and lift you above the cross. The suffering of love is its very life and perfection. It seems that God wants nothing but this for our eternal crown. That crown is beautiful, because of its thorns and wounds.

Come now, dear daughter, let us change the color and perspective in this picture: do not let the sun of Calvary be its light, but the sun of Heaven. Let's change the names of the sacrifices and give them the beautiful and gentle name of the love of Jesus Crucified.

But do not think too much about death. No, no, that does not lead to much greatness. Think rather about the value of life, about grace, about the love of God sanctifying you, purifying you, and separating you from everything so that he may unite himself perfectly with you.

You must not die yet. I would like to be there - no one has more right than I. I would like to close your eyes and commend your dear soul, in all its beauty, to Jesus and Mary.

No, no, you have not been making sacriligious Communions. Do not torment yourself about it. Lukewarm Communions, alas! are the fruit of human weakness. "All you who are sad and heavy-burdened, come to Me," says our Lord and our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament - since that is the only place he is on earth - so Holy Communion is the table of the poor, the infirm, the weak, just as it is also for eagles and saints.

And so, my dear daughter, go to Holy Communion with your limitations and your poverty - that is the very best thing you could do, for it is life, eternal life! If you want to accuse yourself of anything, just do so in a general way, regarding your lack of devotion in Holy Communion - no more.

As for your direction: live from past experience, and if you need me, I shall be there at your service. I suggest a stratagem, tell me: "I await your reply by such-and-such a date;" and I will be there.

The promised retreat is as good as finished. I must bring it to you and direct you in it.

Keep the good works going, but without tiring yourself. Never leave a good undone for fear of doing it badly or causing harm by it.

Mme. Spazzier has sent me the 20 fr you mentioned. Many thanks for all the news you give me from Lyons - about your friends and mine; everything is interesting about a place one loves, and

I love Lyons more than anywhere else. No doubt about it: Lyons, and my daughters in our Lord will always have pride of place. I hear very few Confessions here and prefer to hear very few.

You did well to sacrifice your natural feelings to grace which goes beyond nature in your relationship with Mme. de Revel⁵² - good, I am pleased with you: once more, and you will be victorious.

Poor Mr. Gabit! Is it possible that his brother has caused him such a heavy cross! Alas! Wealth is like a house exposed to storms and tempests; fortunately, he is rich in the love of our Lord.

My fond regards [to you], as well as to your good friends, Madame Louis and Madame Hippolite⁵³ whom I would have been pleased to see.

I asked Fr. Hermann to go to see you and to give you my greetings. I am sure he will have found the time.

Goodbye, my good daughter and dear sister; pray for me, obtain for me a special grace towards Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Write to me as if you were talking to me, and believe me, ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

410

CO 407

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 103/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, Wednesday, May 18, 1853

My dear daughter, I wrote to Brother Leonide at the Hermitage, at Saint-Chamond, asking him to answer Mr. Gaudioz. If he hasn't done so yet, you would do well to send someone there and bring this matter to a close. I believe they would also take him at Vauban, near Moulins, but since it's too close to the department of Sane-et-Loire, it might be better to place him at Saint-Paul-trois-Chateaux.

I was very pleased to read and reread your last letter. The poor Third Order needs something, it's true. The Blessed Virgin will give it Jesus.

Pray very much about what I told you, and especially for me. I am doing well, my cold seems better, and my migraine headache is fair. Manure is needed at the base of the tree. If at least I were good manure!

Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

My fond regards to your dear mother and to all your dear sisters.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de paix
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

⁵² Perhaps her sister-in-law.

⁵³ Spelling not clear in original, perhaps Hippolyte.

411

CO 408

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 104/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 21, 1853

I've just received, my dear daughter, the letter of admission for the young boy. I am enclosing it here. So you can send him whenever you wish. If they can wait for Brother Leonide, he would take him with him; it would be that much less cost and worry. Or if you need to send him away sooner, you could send him with the letter from Brother Jean-Baptiste, the Provincial of the brothers.

I have time only to ask you to give my love to Fr. Champion. I know that he is wholly dedicated to you and that he will help you all that he can. Be like a child toward him, childlike obedience is God's way. It is truly a great gift of Providence for you. What you see happening is what I told you: God never forsakes those who belong to him. He always sends an Ananias to lead them on their way. The last one is always the best, because he is the one who has the grace of the moment; he is the pilot for the journey.

We must also pray very much for the Third Order, so that it may be what Mary, its Queen, wishes it to be. Pray for the idea I mentioned to you. Ask dear Fr. Champion to pray and to have others pray.

My respects to your whole family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de paix, 33
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

412

CO 409

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 105/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 25, 1853

I am writing to tell you, my dear daughter, that I received your last letter containing the note for the Masses. Thank you.

Oh! What a cross and what troubles you have had about that poor family! Yet, that charitable deed must have been pleasing to the good Lord: to withdraw the poor mother and her children from scandal and abuse. But the good Lord has his inscrutable designs, we must adore them. I sympathize with all the difficulties it caused you. I really prayed for all of you in that sad situation.

We will do as you say, but I repeat, you can write me your difficulties ... if you should need to, and you know how dear your soul is to me in God's sight. So I present you to him often, even daily, that you may be worthy of his love and his graces. Fr. Champion's direction will greatly benefit your soul, it is forceful and selfless. You needed that, profit from it. Suggest the thoughts to me . . . write and tell me how things stand, because I am still worried. I believe you must have received my last letter, in which I had inserted the one from Brother Jean-Baptiste.

As for me, [my health is] not bad, I still have some chest pain, it will pass, if the good Lord wills. I am still able to work as usual and rise at four.

Are you praying hard for the Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament? We need men and priests of fire. We must ask for them from our Lord, especially during the beautiful eucharistic octave.⁵⁴

Goodbye, my daughter. I bless you all in the divine love of our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

413

CO 410

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 7/17)

*L.J.C.*⁵⁵

La Seyne, May 25, 1853

Mademoiselle and dear sister in Mary,

I received your kind letter this morning and I am hurrying to answer you, to curb your sadness.

Fr. Colin, [our] Superior General, has just written a delightful letter full of sensitivity and gratitude toward good Mr. Tonny, and of affection toward dear Mr. Mayet.⁵⁶ He tells him that he can come when he wishes, that he always considered him as a son, etc....

So now the matter is settled. However, since it is to Mr. Tonny that he gave the permission, he advised him to write to him himself,⁵⁷ so that Mr. Tonny need only leave Father free to return, that is all. For my part, I will write to Father Superior to ask for Fr. Mayet here at La Seyne.

Urge Mr. Tonny to let him come back. This isolation is not healing him. He is always the same; our dear Father's physical condition is fine, but not his poor larynx.

My respectful sentiments to all your beloved family, and especially to your good sister.

Pray very much for me, so that I may correspond fully to everything God wants from me.

Goodbye, my dear daughter in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.

414

CO 411

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 106/395 VI 2)

J.M.J.

Maubel, June 17, 1853

I am writing you a few words from Maubel, my daughter, a house of ours [which is] four leagues from La Seyne. I arrived here yesterday, I'll be spending a few days here to gain a bit of strength. For the last ten days my head, my chest, my whole body have been overtaxed. I am better now. Since the whole rhythm of the house of La Seyne was too tiring for me, I came here. In

⁵⁴ Octave of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

⁵⁵ Abbreviation for Praised be Jesus Christ!

⁵⁶ her brothers.

⁵⁷ Fr. Mayet.

Lyons, they don't know that I am not well.

1. If you are questioned about the Third Order, say what you know and answer whatever you are asked.... If they want to give you a responsibility, ask them not to consider you; if they insist, give in.

2. No doubt, your form of direction can only be a great means for you to overcome the devil, and submit [your] rebellious nature to grace, but do so gently and calmly. Have no doubt about it, you can tell me your fears and conscience problems without Fr. Champion's permission. You cannot be prevented from doing so ... [*two lines erased*], not even in the case of vows.

3. Suffer for love of our Lord Jesus Christ, that is your Calvary.

4. I often think of you, especially about your material problems.

Goodbye. Don't write to me before a week.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 31
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

415

CO 412

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 12/52)

May Jesus Eucharistic be praised and loved

Maubel, June 23, 1853

My dear daughter in Jesus,

I am writing to you from Maubel, a new house of the Society where a novitiate is beginning. I had been worn out for some time, since Holy Week. For the last two weeks the fatigue has increased. Then the doctor decided to send me to the country. (I hope to be in La Seyne in four days.)

I don't know what will happen to this chest ailment. If this is the first message to prepare me for my departure,⁵⁸ may God be blessed a thousand times over. Some say that it's a chest inflammation, others an excess of fatigue, others a sinus infection. As for me, I leave the secret to our good Master and his divine Providence. But to finish my apostolic career without having done anything great for our Lord, to have led only a very tepid life, that, my dear sister, sometimes makes my poor heart sad. And this illness happened at the exact time when I was going to make you happy by sharing great news with you and then I had to give up everything.

Here is the substance of it (but please don't say anything). On April 18, during thanksgiving after holy Mass, I was seized suddenly by a strong feeling of gratitude and love for Jesus, and so said to him: "What great thing could I do for you?" And a sweet, peaceful, but strong and stirring thought made me happy to think of devoting myself to the service of the Most Blessed Sacrament, to ask permission to do so, to seek the means to support and form the great work of perpetual Adoration, to press for the establishment of a religious order of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Isn't that a beautiful thought, my daughter! Isn't it surprising, that since the foundation of holy Church, the holy Eucharist hasn't had its own religious body, its honor guard, its court, its family, like the other mysteries of our Lord, which have all had a religious body to honor them and preach about them? It seemed to me that I was willing to make any sacrifice for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

⁵⁸ Death.

I shared these feelings with Fr. Hermann who was here with us, with whom I had been friends for a long time; and lo, our thoughts and desires were alike. We praise God. The conclusion was: let us work for this divine undertaking, find the men and the means. Let us pray, suffer and wait for God's time. - That is the point where we are now, and we are both sick. Yesterday, I saw dear Fr. Hermann at Hyeres: he is not well, but we are happy to suffer. He would like to go to Heaven; and I would like to stay here for the glory of our Lord. We had a long discussion. At the end we entrusted ourselves to the divine holy Will. And so, my sister, pray and ask our good Master to give me the grace to work for his glory. How and when? I am expecting a sign from his hand. In the meantime, we are laying the foundations: several priests would already dedicate themselves to it, but there are still problems to be solved.

Now about the training of your dear children.

1. Always proceed the same way. The first four classes are, properly speaking, only classes for grammar and principles. This is what makes for good studies. And so, French, Latin and Greek parsing. Examine each word individually, study its nature: simple word, composite word. Study its form, the form of the declensions, of the verbs. Study their characteristics: compare the words to each other in order to see and appreciate their similarities. Notice the prepositions, evaluate them. - This is what grammatical and logical parsing consists in.

When studying grammar, also proceed with the study of the first part, and the syntax which relates to it; prepare essays containing the rules of syntax already studied. Do a little and do it well, as you are doing. It would be well to do similar essays. Here is how to do it: when the child has done a translation, give him this same translation to repeat as an essay, while changing a few words - the subjects, the adjectives, a few verbs. There is a great advantage to this: it makes the essays pleasant and easy, and then, it saves time since there is no need to look for words. Finally, they have a model before their eyes and become accustomed to writing correct Latin.

As for the history of France, the best one I know is the one by Amedeus Gabourd, in three volumes. Use it; I advise you to use it in preference to all the little summaries that are done even by good authors. Here, we use Fr. Drioux.

You will do well if you have them translate *Viris Illustribus*⁵⁹ by Vervost. Begin the Greek grammar by Burnouf, emphasizing the declensions and the verbs; - then later, have them translate the Greek *Enchiridion* by Cognet. You will find it translated word for word. It would be a great pleasure for me in our Lord if he would allow me to go see you during the holidays. I leave that to his holy Will.

I will get the books you mentioned to me. Thank you very much.

Come now, my daughter, love our Lord well, make him known and loved with all your strength. That is the only thing that makes life worthwhile. Write to me, pray for me, in order that I may do everything the good Master wills.

All yours in his love,
Eymard

Mme. Clotilde Tholin-Bost
Tarare (Rhône)

⁵⁹ "About Famous Men."

416

CO 362

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ
(III 2/3)

All for God alone.

La Seyne, June 30, 1853

Very dear friend and brother in Mary,

I've been wanting to write you a little friendly note for a long time, because the thought of you and of Madame and your family is ever present to me. I love to pray to God for you and for your business, so that the good Lord may bless it all and that everything may serve your salvation. Yes, everything must serve our salvation; otherwise we would suffer great losses for heaven. You can gain much merit every day because at every moment you can practice charity, meekness, patience, humility, and all the virtues. Only let us ever keep God and his holy will in mind. Let us never be discouraged by our faults nor our temptations. The humility of trust is the most beautiful of victories.

Always keep your heart at peace, trusting in divine Providence, and be sure that God will always be your Father and your support.

I learned with the greatest satisfaction what you did for your sisters by giving them ten percent on all the money they have [invested] with you. You are their good Providence and the good Lord will repay you a hundredfold for the double interest you are so generously giving them. Alas! These poor women truly needed it.

Our holidays will begin at the end of July, and if I should go to Lyons, you, good papa Gaudioz, will have my first visit, as you had my last one. While waiting, pray for me, and remember me to the prayers of dear Mme. Gaudioz.

I am, in our Lord,

Dear friend and brother,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I am responsible for the Adoration of Toulon. It is an admirable Work: 100 gentlemen spend the night before the Blessed Sacrament and at least 300 women during the day, from Thursday to Friday night. So, God has his chosen ones everywhere.

Please give the enclosed letter to Mr. Perret; I don't know his address.

417

CO 413

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 5/26 VII 17)

*(L & S)*⁶⁰

La Seyne Boarding School, July 1, 1853

Dear sister in Mary,

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I feel better; I have been back at work for a week, and I am stronger every day. It was a sign from God. A few illnesses from time to time are good for us. They force the soul to recollect itself and look back and forward.

⁶⁰ Meaning unknown.

But I am sorry to hear that you are not well. I pray to the good Lord not to draw you to Heaven just yet, but to give you his Holy love.

The Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is still [hidden] in the ground and germinating. Pray for it. Fr. Hermann is still sick. He has just left for the Pyrenees, to the springs at Bagneres. He is a saintly priest. But I hope he will get better.

Goodbye, my good daughter and dear sister, believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

418

CO 414

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 107/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, July 6, 1853

I am writing to give you news about myself. I am doing fairly well; I have been working for a few days. I don't say that I'm without some discomfort, but that doesn't prevent me from working. It fills me with courage to think that I will be going to rest a little at the feet of our good Mother of Laus, during the holidays.

If you have a copy of my old minutes of the Third Order, please lend them to me. You could bring it to Mme. Chassaignon, rue St. Jean, Rectory; this lady will be sending us a package toward the tenth of the month.

Could you inquire in Lyons, whether it is possible to find [a statue of] the Immaculate Virgin sixty or seventy centimeters high, which would be beautiful, solid and rain-resistant? We would like to buy one.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. I have time only to bless you, you and your whole family. I saw Fr. Favre. He is leaving for Lyons tonight. He loves the Third Order, but he is in a situation which is a bit delicate: Fr. Colin doesn't give him enough freedom. Pray, and the time of adolescence and adulthood will come for Mary's family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Write to me without stamps, it is much easier.⁶¹

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 31
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

⁶¹ Current usage had the addressee pay for the letter when it wasn't previously stamped.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 22/33)

J.M.J.

La-Seyne, July 6, 1853

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

It has been a long time since I received any news from you. Are you already in heaven? Or are you afraid to make me sad or to take some of my precious time?

Explain this silence to me, because you cannot doubt all the good I desire for your soul, and how dear it will always be to me. I heard indirectly that you are fine and that you are following our Lord and I praised God, because the greatest happiness of my heart is to learn that my former daughter continues to be generous and faithful.

Then, your sufferings are not fruitless. Suffering is dew from heaven. When your husband told me that he wanted me to write to you, my heart blamed you a little. Have I perhaps made you sad unknowingly?

So, I am writing to ask for this service from you. You copied the minutes for the Ladies of the Third Order in the past. I would really like to see them. Could you have someone send them to me?

Mme. Chassagnon, rue St. Jean, Rectory, should send you a package toward the tenth of the month. If you have it handy, please send it to me and I shall be grateful.

You may have heard that I have been ill. For the last two days I have been better and I am working as before.

Our poor body does not like the cross, but since God wills it, we must kiss it. Now, I have a bad neuralgia which makes me ill.

So, I will stop now and ask you to present my fond regards to Mr. Franchet and to your good little Charles.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 95/145 VI 10)

July, 1853⁶²

My dear sisters,

I am always so negligent about writing to you. I don't know how time flies, the weeks and months pass and I hardly notice it. At this moment we are very happy: we have received the entire body of a saint from Rome, Saint Victorius. It is a natural size and very beautiful, in a magnificent gold reliquary. Next Sunday, we will have the solemn transfer. All the dignitaries and the people will attend. We will have music and cannons; everything will honor the glory of this holy Martyr. We are now having a preparatory novena, and I am praying to him for you.

In two weeks we will send our children home and we will be on holiday; but there is still much work to be done until then. However, I am well at present. Three weeks ago, I was slightly ill,

⁶² Around the 15th. Allusion to the transfer of the body of St. Victorius, probably La Seyne. (Troussier)

however, without being bedridden. I had indigestion and a slight indisposition. I went to spend about ten days in the country for a complete rest, and then I felt better. I am even better than before. In Lyons, they said I was very sick; but these good people prayed a lot for me, and that is always such a help.

I hope to see you during the holidays. I am still not sure when [it will be]. Try to stay well so that I might find you in good health.

I am happy to think that I will be able to greet our good Mother at Laus and La Salette once more in passing. I still don't know how I will organize my trip. I will write to you before I leave. As for Notre Dame du Laus, I don't dare promise to wait for you there. On the one hand, if I can have a few days to make my retreat there, I would need to be alone; on the other hand, if I would only pass through, it wouldn't be worth it.

Goodbye, dear sisters,

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

P.S. My best wishes to the Reymond family and to the Fayolle ladies.

421

CO 417

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 12/75)

July 26, 1853

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I am answering your good letter right away. I accompanied you with my prayers during your travels. I was hoping you would have the joy to visit Notre Dame du Laus. I hope that I will be able to go there and repay your devout and prayerful thought of me to our dear Mother, praying now for you and your loved ones.

Don't let yourself be troubled by your interior state. Beware of omitting holy Communion; that's a terrible temptation, a stroke of death which the devil wants to give you. Receive Communion as a poor person, receive Communion as a beggar, an invalid, a sick person, but always with trust and a desire to love God.

You need a little more calm and recollection. It will come. Now I refer to your question:⁶³

The Giroud family is the most respected family of La Mure. I knew the grandmother and her children. They are all fine. I don't believe that Mr. Giroud, the father, is a practicing Catholic but he respects religion. He is charitable and a good father.

The mother is Miss Perier from Vizille, I believe. I knew her a little. I think she is a good person. As for the young lady, I saw her when she was small; I don't have any more to say.

So then this family has a good reputation, no repulsive illnesses or infirmities. They have wealth and good parents. I offer my wishes for the happiness of all.

Our distribution [of prizes] will take place on Monday, August 1st. If you were here, I would be happy to invite you. Write to me from St. Romans if you are going there soon.

Goodbye, my dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. My state of health is fine, with a little prodding. The holidays are coming.

⁶³ Mme. Jordan seems to be seeking information about the family background of her future son-in-law.

422

CO 418

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 108/395 VI 2)

Notre Dame du Laus, August 16, 1853

My dear daughter in our Lord,

I've been in Laus for seven days. I'm leaving today for La Salette and La Mure. I have six Fathers with me. You can easily imagine how I prayed for you and all your dear family. It made me happy to remember your pilgrimage here. I would have liked to see it happen again. I wasn't able to write to you with all the concerns that come with the end of the school year, and I've been a bit tired. The good Mother of Laus has renewed my courage and trust.

These seven days of prayer helped me. I will arrive in Lyons in eight to ten days. Be sure, all of you, that you will always be Nazareth for me.

Goodbye then. I am leaving today.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix, 31
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

423

CO 419

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 12/76)

Notre Dame du Laus, August 16, 1853

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I am writing to you from Laus, this place which is so venerated and so loved. That is to say that you as well as Miss Stephanie and your whole family have been very present to me. I really prayed for you and for your loved ones. Surrender everything to divine Providence; it keeps account of everything, and everything was for....

Don't worry about anything, don't worry about the consequences. That is God's affair.

You are poor, praise God: God enriches the poor. You are always... Truly open your soul to trust in God. He will give you abundantly the heavenly dew which makes the desert fruitful.. I would be happy to see you in Lyons. I will be there toward the end of August, until September 7, the day our retreat begins. My faithful regards to Miss Stephanie.

I've been here on retreat for the last week. I'm leaving today for La Mure.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Madame Gourd

424

CO 420

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 6/26 VII 17)

(A picture of Our Lady)

Notre-Dame du Laus, August 16, 1853

Mademoiselle and dear sister,

A few words from Notre Dame du Laus, this place so dear to my heart, where I feel I am resting upon the heart of the Most Blessed Virgin. In other words, I have been praying very hard for you during the week I have spent here on retreat. My soul had great need of this, and I shall go away a little stronger. I hope to be in Lyons in 8 to 10 days, and you may be sure I will visit you in the country.

I have not mentioned my health: it is reasonable, even quite good. And yet how happy I would have been to die here, at Mary's feet! But I must go on with the struggle, and I am leaving today for La Salette and La Mure.

Until we meet,

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

Mademoiselle de Revel
Rue Ste Helene, Lyons

Aug. 16-18 - To La Salette. Aug. 18 - To La Mure.

425

CO 421

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 109/395 VI 2)

L.J.C.E.

La Mure d'Isere, August 20, 1853

I am very upset, my dear daughter, with the sad news your letter brought me. What causes me more grief is that I can't leave immediately for Lyons. I've been here for two days and I'm not too well after the trip to La Salette. However, I hope to be in Lyons Thursday night. I am praying that the good Lord will give me the grace to see your dear mother once again. Tell her about my visit.

I would have been very happy to see Miss I had written to her from Laus that I would be in Lyons only toward the end of the month.

My sister and Nanette are well. However, we really share in your sorrow. Oh! So many crosses at once!

Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. If you see please express my regrets. Tell her that I will write to her if I go to Chalon.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix, 31
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

426

CO 422

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 110/395 VI 2)

La Mure d'Isere, August 24, 1853

My dear daughter, I've just received your letter with the news of your dear mother's death. I am so sad that I wasn't able to see your dear mother again! I wanted to leave as soon as possible, hoping to see her again, when your letter arrived telling me the sad news. No need for me to tell you that I said Holy Mass for her, and that my sisters are deeply moved over your sorrow. In a few hours, I will be leaving for Grenoble. I will be in Lyons, Friday night or Saturday.

Goodbye my dear daughters. I will see you soon.

Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix, 31
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

Sept. 6 - To La Seyne to preach the Community Retreat followed, by the Student's retreat.

427

CO 423

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 96/145 VI 10)

Chazey, September 13, 1853

My dear sisters,

I am still in Lyons. I was a bit ill from a threatening pneumonia. Now I am well, even better than before that problem. I came to spend several days out in the country with one of our friends. It served as a good rest for me. I will be leaving for Toulon on Thursday, and I will write to you from there. I saw the Miles. Guillot. Miss Marguerite was ill with neuralgia after their poor mother's death. She is doing better. I worked hard to find a place for Mr. Chaix's son. I am expecting an answer shortly. The owner of the place on which I am counting the most, is away: that is what delayed the matter. If you see him, please tell him that I will write to him soon.

Take care of yourselves and pray for me.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Your brother,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

428

CO 424

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 97/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, October 18, 1853

Very dear sisters,

Finally I am beginning to have some free time; I'm starting with you. The seriousness of my illness in Lyons was exaggerated in the telling. I recovered quickly, and the sickness was in God's plans, as I needed to stay longer in Lyons to handle important business about the house, and everything worked out very well; so much so that I really thanked the good Lord for that illness.

When I arrived here I gave the retreat. Then [we had] the opening of the school year and our student's retreat, the days were too short for the work I had to do. I have a large family: a hundred and thirty students, eighteen teachers, ten sisters and six servants. You can see from this how I must see to everything.

My health is good. We have had beautiful weather, but a bad season: everything is very expensive. At least, if men would be converted by seeing this scourge from God! But, alas! There is a lot of blindness on earth. Nowadays they hardly even know God.

I was very pleased to see Mr. Giraud. He is so kind! We spoke a lot about you and about the village.

Take heart, my dear sisters, pray a lot for me, so that I may become a saint. I always pray for you, so that we may one day be reunited in heaven.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, p.s.m.⁶⁴

429

CO 425

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 7/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

La Seyne Boarding School, La Seyne, October 22, 1853

Dear Mademoiselle,

I have an opportunity to send a word to Lyons and I have only 5 minutes to write you this short note with the indulgenced cross for the Way of the Cross, with five Our Father's and Hail Mary's, and Happy Death. I will explain all these indulgences in a long letter.

I will be happy to receive Miss Aurrin whom you mention in your letter; with a recommendation from you and Mother St. Euxodie, that is enough.

Thank you for your kind letter; I was beginning to complain about the mail service in Lyons. I am well. I wish your health were as good as mine. Take care of yourself. Yes, I too am still praying hard for you, as your soul is as dear to me as my own.

Goodbye, until next time - the 5 minutes are up - they are leaving [with the mail].

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶⁴ Abbreviation: Priest of the Society of Mary.

P.S. I have seen Mme. Spazzier - she is fairly well.

430

CO 426

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 111/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus through Mary

La Seyne-sur-Mer, October 28, 1853

My dear daughter, I am coming at last to give you a sign of life. When I arrived I had a bad case of neuralgia which lasted a few days. Then I was able to get back to work. Fortunately, I had made a brief retreat at Notre Dame du Laus. I made it in bed here as I had in Lyons. May God be praised and thanked in all things!

This year we have many more boarders than last year: a hundred and four, with twenty-four day students. God must do everything for us! I really need prayers, because my time is taken and swallowed up by everything. If the good Lord wants me to serve him through self denial, well, then! I want it with all my heart.

I really thanked God for your improvement [of health]. My dear daughter, we must serve God as he wills: by our suffering if we are ill; by our suffering and working to the extent our strength allows if we are half-sick.

I wish your health were better in order to be able to glorify God by zeal for his glory, and by charity for the salvation of others.

Don't worry about having shared your conscience problem... I know only too well how ... it's a matter of ... [two lines erased]. Once again, don't think about it anymore, nor will I. I know ... that God may always be with ... now, my dear daughter, entrust yourself once more into the hands of your heavenly Father and to his constant fatherly care. Remain grateful for the good [done] by God's servants, but don't let yourself be troubled when you are deprived. Jesus will not forget you. He is your divine Spouse. He sent a bird to feed his disciple in the desert. He would send you an angel rather than forsake you. Really, entrust yourself to your good Master in everything. You know what I have been to you. I always have the same devotedness toward you, and I always pray for you.

Accept everything that is imposed upon you for the Third Order. Do so for the love of Jesus and Mary.

My love to the whole house of Nazareth.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

P.S. ... [three lines erased]. Be among the first to go to Fr. Huguet.

Embrace our good Master's cross. Suffer for our dear Third Order. I have great confidence that Mary will bless it more abundantly.

431

CO 427

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 13/52)

All for Jesus and Mary

October 28, 1853

My dear daughter,

I didn't want to write to you through an intermediary. The result is that my reply was delayed. I am upset with myself. Do as follows: set the date by which you want my answer, and you will see that I will be exact.

It is perhaps too late for me to answer you.

Here is my advice about your dear children. Don't send them to the public catechism at the parish. Keep them with you, teach them catechism yourself. This is my reason: it is better to preserve the simplicity of piety, than to expose it to scandal at such an early age.

Then, the unruliness and casualness of catechism classes in some parishes are a great danger to piety. I would also advise you to have them prepare for their first Communion in a religious house: there is more discipline and better preparation.

Also pray to find the boarding school that has the best morals. I heard many good things about the one at Montgr, near Villefranche. We will have a chance to talk about it before then. If I weren't so far away, I would take them here willingly and care for them like a mother.

I'm looking forward to your little composition on the suffering and eucharistic Jesus. Continue to pray for the great Work which I mentioned to you. The navy captain⁶⁵ whom God used for this beautiful project⁶⁶ will enter sacred Orders this year.

I know many great souls who are crying out daily for the Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament, especially Mr. Dupont of Tours, who is so well known because of his devotion to the Holy Face and his zeal to spread perpetual Adoration everywhere.

My health is good enough: I would like to live to serve Jesus and to make him loved. I would prefer to die rather than offend him.

Goodbye, dear daughter. May our Lord fill you with his graces - you, your dear husband, your children, your parents.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

P.S. Fr. Chambrost thanks you for remembering him.

432

CO 428

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 13/76)

All for Jesus through Mary

October 28, 1853

It has been such a long time, my dear daughter, since I received news from you. Are you ill? Has someone been ill? A letter I received from Fr. Champion tells me that you are in Lyons and I am hurrying to find you there.

⁶⁵ Fr. Raymond de Cuers.

⁶⁶ French: pense.

I'm not answering your last letter which is old now, it's too late. I was thinking and expecting to answer it in person in Lyons, then God didn't will it. What made me feel a little better was to know that Fr. Champion was in Lyons. I know his charity and his prudence, and he could help you very much. I am sad to think that he won't be in Lyons any more. If you need me, you know how much I want to help you.

You see, my dear daughter, what it is like to serve God in this life of exile. God lasts forever, but his creatures only pass by, doing us good or harm, but they pass like a cloud, like a drop of water in a stream or a torrent.

Let us stay close to God who doesn't pass, who is always there with his holiness and his goodness.

Continue to be the disciple of Providence and grace. Pray for me and believe me ever,

All yours in Jesus and Mary,

Eymard

433

CO 429

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 10/52)

[October?] 28, 1853

Miss Stephanie,

You must be complaining a little about me, my dear daughter. You would certainly have reason to do so. However, I have some right to your indulgence, a sick person is excused.

I would have liked to see you in Lyons to know where things are with God and with yourself; to tell you to really love the good Lord and to continue to serve him with your simplicity and poverty of heart, as well as with great trust and surrender to his divine goodness.

Be happy and joyful to belong to Jesus, the best of fathers and the King of hearts and the Spouse of souls.

Pray for me.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,

Eymard

434

CO 430

TO MME. FRANCHET

(VII 21/33)

All for Jesus

October 28, 1853

Excuse me, my dear daughter, if I haven't returned your notebook. The lady who had it was on a trip when Father Reculon left. I was sorry about it. I will send it to you as soon as I can, by a more dependable way.

Thank you, my dear daughter, for remembering me. My health is adequate. I am getting up at four o'clock, therefore I am fine. Then, the good Lord has given me such a large family that I hardly have time to think about the little troubles of life. Yes, yes. I want to help your dear soul. I desire all God's gifts for it, since it is entirely God's.

Always trust. It is by rowing that we reach the port. Our Lord has said very truly: “You will cry and be sad and the world will rejoice; but have confidence, one day your sadness will turn into joy.”

I was told that they would give the Third Order an assistant-director. Try to go to him. They say he is very spiritual. He is the one who wrote the “Month of Mary for Interior Souls.” -

I said a word about you to Father Favre, but the time for missions is beginning now.⁶⁷

Receive Communion, my daughter, receive Communion. The religion of love is Communion. The life of love is Communion. [You are] poor and weak, you need the strong God. [You are] alone and solitary, you need Jesus in his Palace of love.

Come, have courage, you are now a bit old (and it makes me laugh) you have already passed the halfway mark in the rocky desert of Arabia.⁶⁸ With a little more courage the Jordan will open its path to the promised land.

Goodbye my daughter!

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eyd

435

CO 431

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 112/395 VI 2)

*T.P.D.S.*⁶⁹

*La Seyne-sur-Mer, November 19, 1853*⁷⁰

I received all your welcome letters, dear daughter, and read them with pleasure. You can be convinced that your letters are not too long, and they are the first ones to be read and blessed. You are everything for me in Lyons, and your dear family as well. I keep waiting to have a good stretch of time to write to you, but it never comes. I am battered back and forth so much that I never have [time] to myself. However your letters bring me a little change and relaxation. They take me back to Lyons, to converse a little about God and your soul. Here, we only hear and speak about things of this world, and often very sad things. Oh! What a sad life! since the good Lord wills it so, may he be praised!

As for my health, it's hard to say how I am. One day I am well, the next day not so. What does it matter if the engine is wearing out, provided we reach port! I am beginning to see death in a better light; I am afraid of losing everything here; so I often say to the good Lord: I'd rather die than not love you.

Pray for me so that I won't be lost in the midst of all this vanity and worldliness.

Is it possible that you were poisoned! Oh! That's all I need to add to my cross now! Only, how childish you all are, not to have known that! Please! Be a little more careful.

I bless the good Lord for having given you Fr. Favre. This Father is truly spiritual, very simple and enlightened. That is the greatest grace the Blessed Virgin could grant her Third Order. I am happy about it. When the good Lord provides you with the opportunity to see him, do so, and speak to him as you would to me about the Third Order.... Now, I am happy [because] I see that Fr. Superior General is taking care of the Third Order.

All Fr. Huguet's faults are nothing. The Blessed Virgin uses everything to attain her purpose. Don't worry about that little humiliation, it's manure for the tree. Then, too, you need to pay your debts on your vow a little, and in that way the good Lord is offering you some precious gains.

⁶⁷ Implication: he is very busy. Ed.

⁶⁸ Is she over fifty? Ed.

⁶⁹ Abbreviation for the French: Tout pour Dieu Seul. All for God alone.

⁷⁰ Published in French as Nov. 19th; listed by Fr. Garreau as illegible; possibly the 12th or 17th.

So you are continuing to suffer from your trials! Unfortunately, we make it so difficult for the good Lord to remove our obstacles to his grace, whatever prevents the reign of his love in us! Let him act freely! Even though the sacrificial knife cuts deep, it is to bring those poor little selfish ways to a quicker death.

Have courage! Goodbye. I will write to Miss Claudine⁷¹ later.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Illness of faculty and students. Death of one student.

436

CO 432

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 113/395 VI 2)

V.J. and M.⁷²

La Seyne, December 1, 1853

Your letter, my dear daughter, made me so happy that I carried it continuously on me and I praise God for it. If I didn't write to you immediately, it's because we have had many problems. Many have been sick and a poor child died. So then, my first letter and my first moment are yours. It's only right, you are my eldest daughter.

So there you are on the cross which I wished for you and for which I worked a little!⁷³ I don't know whether I should pity and console you. On one hand, I see in it so many opportunities for humility, the servant commanding her teachers; for patience, bearing so many little trials from this newly-formed family; for self-denial, for sacrifices, and also for zeal for souls, that I bless you and love to see you in that responsibility. On the other hand, I see your human nature revolting, your heart suffering, love for solitude and retreat making its claims, and your family being afraid. Oh well! Respond to it all by saying: I did nothing, desired nothing, wanted nothing if not the opposite. God has chosen me and we must follow him.

You can be sure that I will help you all I can⁷⁴ in your difficulties or doubts. Now your soul is doubly dear to me. Go to Fr. Huguet. I believe that it is still the best way to go. There will be double merit. Most of all, count very much on God, entirely on God, and on the protection of our good and gracious Mother. Be her daughter, be somewhat like Sr. Benoite,⁷⁵ the very simple and good daughter of the Good Mother.

I am still waiting for the letter from ... and I will do as you wish.

My fond best wishes (if you so judge) to the whole family of Nazareth, and believe me always in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. My health is satisfactory. Only, my poor soul is like poor people who don't have enough to eat.

⁷¹ her sister.

⁷² Abbreviation: Praised be Jesus and Mary.

⁷³ Her position in the Third Order of Mary.

⁷⁴ Literally: with my whole soul.

⁷⁵ Benoite of Laus, the visionary.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 8/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

La Seyne Boarding School, December 1, 1853

Well, my dear, good daughter! What must you be thinking of me! But, I was so happy to read your kind letter! and I am still re-reading it, because it makes me feel as if I am in Lyons - write to me about it with plenty of details and a flowing pen. It is as if I could see you, listen to you, and answer you. It is a happy moment for me. - But you will reproach me and say I have forgotten you! Oh, no! never, impossible! Only I have had so many troubles, so many sick people to stay up with at night, and one death. Well, may God be praised for everything; but nature protests sometimes. I have scarcely any time to pay attention to it.

You must have received the indulgenced cross for the Way of the Cross and a Happy Death.

To gain the indulgences for the Way of the Cross, you must: (1) be physically or morally unable to do them in a church; your distance from any church is sufficient; (2) do the ordinary Way of the Cross or else recite 5 Our Father's and 5 Hail Mary's once in honor of the 5 Wounds of our Lord before the cross, or holding it in your hand; (3) in the case of serious illness... only 3 acts of love to God. The same indulgences can be gained by any person who does this with the person who has a cross and is in the right dispositions.

One may bequeath one's cross after death, with the indulgences.

The plenary indulgence for a Happy Death is personal to you. It will be enough to kiss the cross, devoutly uttering - with the lips or the heart - the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

There are also apostolic indulgences attached to the cross.

Well, now you are Sister Directress and mistress of novices⁷⁶. May God be thus glorified in you, my dear, blessed daughter! I am pleased with you. This cross will weigh heavily on the scales of divine Mercy, and Fr. Eymard is the one who was instrumental in getting it for you: see how good the good Lord is! and how he has already crucified you a little with him. A few years ago you did not want to drink that cup - it is rather hard humanly speaking - but take heart. It is Mary's motherly hand who brings it and offers it to you, and it will be your beautiful pledge of trust in death.

I have seen Mme. Spazzier, who is fairly well. She had a toothache.

The country here is beautiful, but there is great poverty. Alas, God cannot be pleased with us - He is so ill served!

Give me news about your health, your companions, everything. I keep reasonably well; I am very busy. The good Lord does it all.

Goodbye, my dear daughter, believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

⁷⁶ A position in the Third Order of Mary.

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 98/145 VI 10)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 17, 1854

My very dear sisters,

I am still very lazy. In your charity please forgive me. The months of December and January are very busy months because of examinations, income and bills.

I am beginning to have a few free moments and I'm taking advantage of them to write to you. I have hardly written to anyone.

I am well. My health seems stronger. I am already getting old: forty three years old.

I continue to be very happy. We have 135 children. Our students are very well-behaved. We are trying to make them good Christians.

I wished you a good and happy New Year in our Lord. If you hadn't been so far away, I would have sent you your gifts for New Year's day. You know that my second Mass at Midnight is always for the two of you, and that it makes me very happy to place you near the divine Child's crib asking him to bless you. It is the same for New Year's day, and my first prayer is the one you taught me when I was still a child.

So then, may our Lord give you a good year, my dear sisters, an increase of graces, greater growth in his holy Love, and the spirit and virtues of our kind Mother!

Let us never forget that our life is flowing away, bringing us closer to heaven. Let us consider ourselves as foreigners and exiles on earth.

Don't be frightened by all the false rumors.⁷⁷ The children of Jesus and Mary have nothing to fear. I was very pleased with the letter you wrote me. I am able to read you well.

I am pleased about the charitable work you are participating in. It is such a sad year for the poor!

Please! have courage, my dear sisters. One day we will be reunited eternally in heaven. Pray very much for me.

Your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC

(VIII 9/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

La Seyne Boarding School, January 17, 1854

My dear sister in our Lord,

I hardly knew what to think of your long and strict silence - I was afraid you had a prolonged illness - fortunately it was only a multitude of little religious obligations.

So I am very grateful, as well as for your heartfelt good wishes both past and present. You know that I did the same for you, if not at the exact hour of midnight, at least early in the morning.⁷⁸

⁷⁷ Political events?

⁷⁸ Traditional New Year's Wishes.

You know, too, that your soul is dear to me on many accounts, and so I desire for it all the good I desire for my own.

Yes, dear daughter, happy New Year. May it be filled with divine grace, may confidence be your virtue, and may divine love be your life. In a little while we shall have the joy of seeing God and loving him perfectly. Part of you is already in eternity through the hope-filled memories of your dear family. - Yes, I remember the soul of your dear brother, my dear son in our Lord. I am doing the novena you asked of me in your letter. So as not to inconvenience yourself kindly give the sum, - which is too large - to Miss Guillot, who already has some to send me. I shall leave the total in Lyons. (If this is not practical, do not worry about it.)

Now for details:

1) I am so happy to know that you are working more actively for the Third Order so I pray for you twice over. Keep up this work, you will find in it the opportunity for many great virtues, and our Good Mother will receive you with greater kindness; to save oneself through others is an apostolic maxim.

Dislikes are not important when the will acts in a spirit of charity. It is a small weakness which we pay for by greater sacrifice.

2) I was amused about your experience with Fr. Teraillon.

Jan. 29th. I continue my letter, dear daughter, and continue with yours, I was amused at your comical experience with Father. You will soon have more directors than you want. Here is what I think about it: you don't need a director as much as a problem-solver - you could then go to the one who is most available. Fr. Teraillon will go into more detail and give you more time. Fr. Colin is perhaps more spiritual, but if he is too busy, people are frustrated at not being able to express themselves completely.

Thank you for your image of the Five Wounds. I know Mr. Dupont well. He is a godly man and I have great confidence in his prayers.

I shall pray hard also for the Mother of the Five Wounds,⁷⁹ poor Sister! She has many troubles, but what can she do alone? She is not mentally strong enough.

Your conjuring session would have been all very well if you had not given it any further thought; balancing skills are not dangerous, they are not a competition, so be reassured on that point and others like it.

3) Be very vigilant and clear about anxieties and worries which come to you after something is over. That is a ruse of the devil, and sometimes of pride. Humility in general, trust in particular, contempt for the devil, patience for yourself, and all will be well.

Now my paper and pen have run out, to my regret, but you know how much I wish you blessings and graces.

All yours in Jesus,
Eymard

I saw Mme. Spazzier a few days ago. She is fairly well, is working, and looks forward to hearing from you. - Pray for me. I am always the same - blessed if I truly loved our Lord!

⁷⁹ Perhaps a religious?

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 114/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, January 29, 1854

I received your welcome letter, my dear daughter. God bless you for it. I love your spontaneity and holy freedom, like a child with her Father. As a proof of my good will, I wrote to Fr. Huguet immediately. I wasn't at ease doing it because I was afraid that in Lyons they would think that I'm still trying to be the director. As I was forbidden to do so, I wanted to be like a dead person. If I haven't spoken about the Third Order to Fr. Favre, it was purposely. Since he didn't speak about it to me himself, I didn't want to initiate the subject. I had what I wanted: your Council and a good director. My soul was at peace.

I tried to encourage this fine priest. For, in fact, is there a more beautiful mission than to form spiritual persons! It was such a lovely time in my life when I was responsible for Mary's beautiful family! I often think of it with joy. Every day I ask for God's blessings upon it, and especially upon you, my dear daughter. Mary will be with you. Be totally hers. To serve her family is the most noble and most perfect thing you can do. So then, have courage and trust. When you encounter difficulties, or obstacles, double your confidence. Mary wants to do something important. When you are humiliated, be content, for the tree will blossom. Poor Third Order! I still love it, and I regret that I did so little for it, or did it so poorly. Don't worry! The Third Order will have its day. I wrote to Miss de Revel to give you the twenty francs for the Masses she requested from me. I told her that you had some for me. I haven't written to Miss G. yet. I will do so soon.

It seems that Fr. Champion is doing well. He wrote to me.

I have no other news, except that the good Lord gives us a lot of work to do. Yet, God does everything, so it isn't difficult for us to hold the helm of the little vessel. My health is satisfactory. I really don't know how [it is so]. My soul has a real need for God, because so much external activity leaves me weary, but I surrender it all to his divine goodness and care.

Now to answer your letter of December 27th. Thank you for your good wishes from each one. I answered them at the feet of Jesus and Mary. You know what I asked for: for you, to be pleased with the martyrdom of divine love; for Miss Mariette, trust; for Miss Claudine, love for the hidden life of Jesus; for Miss Jenny, childlike surrender into God's hands; for Mr. Gaudioz, St. Joseph's blessing and spirit to carry out his business affairs; for Mme. Gaudioz, love for sacrifice and peace of soul; for the two little ones, piety. These are my wishes, may God fulfill them! Thank you for the notes. They are very precious to me. My gift to you will be Holy Mass offered for your dear parents. So, let me have the merit for it.

Now for your direction.

1. Make the Third Order function at all costs. For that to happen use the men who can be helpful to it, in keeping with the measure of their own graces. Following this principle, do somewhat like St. Paul, preach in season and out of season.

2. Good management requires that you have a hand a bit everywhere, do a bit of everything, without seeming to do so. At the same time motivate the others to do everything, and let them have the honor for it.

3. Continue to move forward, in spite of criticism, dislikes, and feelings. When someone says that everything is going wrong, that everything will crumble, that is when you need greater trust in God. "Do what is right and let others say what they will."

4. Keep the Priest Director informed. Always do so prudently and charitably, so that he may never jeopardize you by any indiscretion.

5. Don't attach any importance to whatever might be said against the Third Order. Let the Blessed Virgin take care of it.

6. As for me, I am not yet in favor of the House for the Third Order Members. It isn't possible yet. It would require the help of the Superior General.

7. I am in favor of the retreat for the Third Order. It will do some good.

8. Hold back Fr. Huguet when he goes too quickly. The important thing at the moment is to support it. The time hasn't come yet to do more. Oh! If Fr. Superior General wanted it, fine. However, he hasn't said anything about it.

9. While you are working for the Blessed Virgin, I understand that your house will be somewhat neglected because of it, but our good Mother will repay you some other way.

10. When the needs of charity are pressing, and you must take action, then it's necessary to put aside the contemplative life for the active life. However, in the depths of our being we must always be tending toward inner life with God.

So much for the Third Order. Now about you:

1. Don't be worried because you are not interiorly [?] when everything around you is agitated. God is having pity on you. Then, withdraw as much as you can to the center of your soul: that is your haven in the storm.

2. Always go to God through the heart, by recollection of soul; that is shorter and more pleasing to God. God's grace makes up for your weakness. This path has many more distractions and temptations. But don't dwell on them, by-pass them quickly. Simply be recollected within yourself, that is, see your weakness, and look at God, as if to say: "Look at my weakness."

3. Consider your vows as the dowry you are bringing to your heavenly Bridegroom. Love them as the gentle bonds of his grace. Observe them, as you say, more through love than through little details. Keep them with holy freedom. Follow them with peace of heart. Consider your deficiencies as little flowers to be offered to God.

4. About your temptations, my poor daughter. Continue to hide them in one of the wounds of our Lord and good Savior. At the height of the storm, hide yourself in the cleft of the mysterious rock, that is, in our Lord crucified. Don't examine the effects or the reasons for your temptations. Always go forward. You need to be kept close to your humiliating poverty and on the steep incline of your weakness. God remains with you: that is your consolation and strength.

5. For your penances, let yourself be led by your present confessor. Through obedience we gain what we seem to be losing.

6. As you say, follow your little rules at home, without mentioning it, but with the holy freedom of love.

Please my daughter! have courage. Yes, write to me when you wish. Your letters make me very happy. You know how dear your soul is to me in our Lord.

All yours in his divine love,
Eymard

TO FR. HUGUET, S.M.

(VI 1/1)

La Seyne, January 29, 1854

I am really late to thank you for your two pious works⁸⁰ which pleased me greatly. I don't know why I delayed so long; please kindly forgive me. I wanted to write to you through Rev. Father Favre, but time was lacking. For the last month I have been so busy I only have time to say my breviary.⁸¹

So, very dear Father, you are now in charge of the Third-Order of Mary. I praise God and our good Mother, because you can really help it. Our Lord has granted you the grace of ascetical studies. Congratulations on such a beautiful mission! It is better to perfect than to build, than to convert. How much glory rendered to God by a soul of prayer and deep interior devotion!

Surely the one who formed St. Teresa or St. Chantal did more than a missionary who would have converted a whole country.

That is the great character of the Third-Order of Mary - to form interior souls, souls of prayer, on the model of the simple and hidden life of Mary in Nazareth. It is also the spirit of our dear Society on which we have tried to build. It is the outpouring of the grace of our Marist Vocation, and God knows what peace, what generosity this spirit has produced in true Third Order members.

It was a pleasure for me to admire this grace and these good souls, and happier still to support them in this holy vocation. I am convinced that their prayers were a great help to the Mother-Society. It is the branch [emerging] from the trunk, slipping into the world and bearing the spirit of Mary everywhere.

But as you know, the interior life has its phases, its struggles, its difficulties. We continue to walk in the darkness of the mysterious grace of prayer. The soul needs to be guided, directed, or risk falling into discouragement, or into sterile virtues. The more a soul is detached from itself,⁸² crucifies itself to the world with Jesus Christ, our good Savior, the more it needs the help of a voice saying: Courage, go forward, have confidence. That is the director's beautiful and sensitive mission. It is yours, dear brother. Love it above all others, since Holy Obedience has entrusted you with it. You would be so happy at [the time of] your death to present to the Queen of Heaven your care for her holy family.

We must proclaim very loudly the beautiful title of the Third Order, of a religious in the world, under Mary's banner. The Third-Order is not a confraternity. It is more than that. It is the legitimate child of Holy Church and of the Society, and that word finds a powerful echo in hearts. It is the password for sacrifice.

Father Favre told me about the excellent Council the Ladies have. I praise God for it. This Council deserves your confidence. You can have full confidence in Miss Guillot, the Directress. Her discretion is beyond question, her prudence and charity admirable. You will find in Miss de Revel a person who is entirely dedicated and especially a good Third Order member.

I don't ask you to recommend me to the prayers of the Third-Order. No, let them forget me and to live only for the Third-Order. But, what I hold to is that you would give me a small share in your prayers and believe me ever in our Lord, dear brother,

Devotedly yours,
Eymard

⁸⁰ Probably books

⁸¹ Liturgy of the Hours.

⁸² Inner freedom.

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CO 436

TO MR. CAMILLE JORDAN
(VII 1/4)

La-Seyne, January 30, 1854

Father Eymard has the honor of presenting his respectful tribute to the two Jordan families and to inform them that tomorrow the Captain of the “*Pluton*” will expect them at the port at 1:00 p.m. with his canoe and twelve sailors to accompany them to St. Mandrier, and bring them back to Toulon.

Father Eymard regrets he cannot accompany them, because of the Sunday.

Toulon, three o'clock,
Eymard

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CO 440

TO MR. CAMILLE JORDAN
(VII 2/4)

La-Seyne, February 11, 1854

Very dear Mr. Jordan,

I am writing to give you news about myself. A bad cold kept me to my room this week, as well as a skittish fever. I am feeling better. I am very grateful to you for so much interest toward such a lowly person as I.⁸³ You are so kind toward your friends! - I am pleased about the celebration you had the other day. I would like to provide you another; a fishing trip if possible, when you show me your friendship by coming for dinner as a family.

A thousand and one expressions of respect, affection and devotion to everyone in your dear family.

All yours,
Eymard

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CO 439

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 23/33)

JMJ February 11, 1854

Finally, my dear daughter, I can turn my attention to you. It is high time. Your last letter, which is still here in front of me, was constantly saying: - “and what about me, are you forgetting me?” Oh, no, I replied, I will save the best time for you. I will give my busy moments to others. - My good daughter, I cannot tell you how happy your letters make me. You have some right to

⁸³ Literally: my poor weak person.

doubt it, if you judge by my negligence. But if you saw what my life is like, and how my free time is dissected, and how my strength is sometimes depleted - your charity would forgive me, as it does, I am sure, because I know it well.

So now about you.

1. Thank you very much for your notebook with the minutes.⁸⁴ I am very surprised that Father Favre has not returned it to you yet. I gave it to him. Please ask him for it again; he has forgotten.

2. So you are still isolated on the path to Calvary, surrounded by darkness and trials. Poor daughter! I understand your sorrow, you who so desire to love God! What can you do? Place yourself in the holy and gentle company of Jesus and Mary; prepare a beautiful Nazareth in your soul, work and live there with the Holy Family. Better yet, submit your sorrows and doubts to our Lord and follow the reply he will give you to be calm, trusting, and surrendered. See, my dear daughter, you have been seeking from people what our Lord keeps for himself. Your self-denial is precious to him, and that is why no one can find any other path for you. Ask for holy absolution at regular times and outside of the usual times, when you need it. Have great confidence in the grace of absolution. It is everything, it is the divine word which purifies and brings us closer to God.

As for the counsels that are given,⁸⁵ do like a poor person who receives gratefully what is given to him. It often happens that the less people give us, the more generous God is in his divine goodness. We must know how to wait at God's door, behave like the poor man of the gospel, or the Canaanite woman.

Courage my good daughter, don't be depressed any longer because people can't help you. Let this trial make you more magnanimous, more spiritual, more dependent on God.

For that matter, you are so grateful when someone helps you a little that God wants to have your gratitude for himself. Furthermore, my dear daughter, your conscience is clear, your difficulties are not sins, they come rather from a fear of offending God; and then the devil is very evil. You know something about it. The temptations you mention really must have made you suffer. However, they are ordinarily the prelude of great graces. No my daughter, you are not damned, but truly on the path to Heaven. Always continue to follow crucified love, without turning back on yourself. Love your good Master for himself and by the sacrifice of the ego.

Receive Communion, receive Communion. During the time of war, rations are doubled.⁸⁶

What you tell me about the freedom your husband is giving you should reassure you. But do not make a vow. It has been in effect for a long time. At the moment, I do not feel inspired to tell you otherwise. We will see later.

Daily Communion requires freedom from voluntary attachment to venial sin, a real desire to love our Lord.

Receive Communion as much as you can, but under one condition, to reject every source of turmoil. Be on your guard against your imagination, your over-active mind. God has given you a good heart. He wants you to give him all its affection, and that's all.

Before I run out of paper, I want to recommend to you the daughter of a German family who needs a salaried position. Please begin by finding out her skills. The porter of the minor seminary at St. John's, Mr. Algager, will give you her address.

Goodbye, my daughter, walk peacefully and generously in the love of our Lord in whom I am,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

⁸⁴ She copied the minutes of the Third Order meetings.

⁸⁵ in confession.

⁸⁶ We must double our strength.

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CO 441

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 115/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, March 5, 1854

My dear daughter, this will be just a brief greeting, to thank you for your welcome letter. I hope to go see you at the time you indicated. Pray for us and especially for me.

My health is like the weather. I wasn't well for about two weeks, but I am well enough to work. May God be blessed and glorified through my disabilities and weaknesses.

The month of St. Joseph is here. We can't find any small statues of this dear saint. Nonetheless we are honoring his month with great devotion. I would truly be grateful if you would buy some plaster statues, approximately fifty or sixty centimeters high. I would like to have six of them. They could be sent to me by stagecoach or by express transport, if the stagecoach should cost more than ten francs.

Forgive me for the trouble. We will pray for you.

A thousand and one best wishes to your whole family.

Devotedly yours in Christ,
Eymard

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CO 442

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT, VICAR-GENERAL⁸⁷
(VIII 1/2 VII 6)

La Seyne, March 8, 1854

My dear Fr. Rousselot,

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the matter of the pictures from Rome has been resolved. Today Mr. de Gasquet sent me word that he would arrange the transport from Civita⁸⁸ to Toulon on the Government ships, of which he is Chief Captain.

That fine gentleman will also attend to the necessary formalities with Mr. Journal, Director of Customs, concerning the cost of entry. He hopes to get us a refund on duty.

The Government ship is leaving Toulon between the 12th and 15th of this month. I have written to Mr. Ferrucci to inform him about all this.

Thank you, dear good Father, for thinking of me in this matter, and you will always give me the greatest pleasure by further proofs of confidence.

Believe me, ever in our Lord, dear Father,

Your most obedient and affectionate son,
Eymard, Sup.

(continued)
Dear Father,

I have reopened this letter to thank you for yours, received today. Everything is in order, concerning the entry duty. Mr. de Gasquet hopes to have it refunded. I shall know for certain in a couple of days, and will write to you immediately.

⁸⁷ Vicar-General of Grenoble

⁸⁸ Civitavecchia, port city outside of Rome.

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT, VICAR-GENERAL
(VIII 2/2 VII 6)

La Seyne, March 10, 1854

My dear Father,

I am very happy to be sending you the Director's reply to Captain de Gasquet. The matter is settled now. Mr. de Gasquet decided to send you the pictures overland, to avoid any delay.

Dear Father, do you happen to have a well-educated Priest who might be in need of a rest, to teach Classics? I know one of the most respectable families in Provence who is looking for an ecclesiastical tutor for two young men. He would be lodged in a convent, with every comfort.

It is the de Bouchard family, in St. Remi, near Arles.

Goodbye, dear and beloved Father.

Love me always as your son.⁸⁹ We are going to try to organize something to honor Notre Dame de la Salette in Toulon. It's a city without resources. I don't know if we will succeed.

Devotedly yours,
Eymard, P. Mar.⁹⁰

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 14/76)

March 10, 1854

I began writing you a letter such a long time ago, my very dear daughter! I left your letter unfinished to write another. Your silence which lasted so long didn't surprise me. I know how busy you are. Mine must surprise you, I am astonished myself. I won't use my work or my little difficulties as an excuse. The good Lord willed it. It didn't interrupt my prayers and devotedness for you, my daughter. On the contrary, I think of you more often. Miss G.⁹¹ gave me news about you from time to time.

Now, I refer to your letter from last January. 1) Watch over your servants, especially at first. In order to form them well, you must show them confidence, but never give them the freedom of authority. They must always remain dependent even for general permissions. From time to time have them render an account of their work. What is wrong in large houses is that servants become little masters; that is more your husband's responsibility than yours. What to do? What you can, and depend a little and much upon God.

On the question of alms, continue to give them as you do. You can do it and include them in the expenses. To explain them, if anyone should ask you to account for it, an alms is a debt.

Poor daughter, I pity you for having so many external things to worry about. The soul suffers when life is too busy. Devotion dries up, recollection diminishes, a certain sadness takes hold of the heart: a fear of no longer being acceptable to God. That is somewhat your situation. Here is a great remedy for it:

⁸⁹ Expression of submission.

⁹⁰ Abbreviation: Marist Priest.

⁹¹ Miss Guillot

Surrender yourself entirely to God's good pleasure. He wants you in a life given to your neighbor, in order to honor him by interior self-denial and the sacrifice of self. So then, let charity be queen, let gentleness and strength, vigilance and patience, activity and prayer be the circle of your life.

My poor daughter, often ask the good Lord how to love him by means of charity for others, how to stay with him in the midst of the world, recollected and calm in the busiest activities. Our soul ought to be an impenetrable sanctuary where God alone acts and from where life's strength and graces spring forth.

But, please, don't leave aside your Communions. The poorer you are, the more you need them. It's the infirm person's Communion: God loves her and is healing you of everything. Thank you for the good news about the miraculous water. How good God is! and how merciful Mary is! Oh! if only we had faith and trust, we would be all-powerful!

Good news! I am responsible to purchase sixty beautiful paintings from Rome, for Notre Dame de la Salette. It is a Roman gift, and in Rome there is less controversy than in France.⁹² Many devout people would do better to thank God for this grace (La Salette) instead of engaging in so much discussion. Everything that interests you, interests me. I'm really praying for you and yours. Have confidence, God will grant your prayer for your husband.

Your last letter really made me sad. Oh! It may be the devil's last attempt! Surely, the devil accounts for a lot in the condition and moods of the beloved patient. He really deserves to be pitied. We must really continue to pray. We will double our prayers especially during this beautiful month of St. Joseph, our good patron.

The resurrection of a dead person is a great miracle.⁹³ The good Lord wants to be solicited and petitioned a long time in order to give more graces.

I really laughed over your little difficulties in the kitchen, and about your little problem; the devil as you see, can use the smallest things. Be gentle and strong in God.

Goodbye, my good and dear daughter, I don't need...[several illegible words], it would be a comfort for me to see you and tell you personally what is so poorly written. Pray for me. I am pleased that I will be able to go and work in spite of my physical problems. My poor health is just as the good Lord lets it be, and so am I. I leave it entirely in the hands of our good Master. I can say that I am a bit more detached.⁹⁴

Good-bye, dear daughter.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

⁹² Controversy over the authenticity of the Apparitions.

⁹³ Spiritually dead.

⁹⁴ More freedom of heart.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 11/52)

March 10, 1854

Miss Stephanie,

So now it is your turn, dear daughter. What you tell me about your soul pleases me. You know my concern and devotedness toward you and how happy I would be to help you.

The good Lord really knows how to help us make sacrifices.

I was hoping to see you in Lyons during the holidays, and all I found was a miniature Calvary. It was necessary, since I had a great grace to request and to obtain it I had to be ill. How true it is that God knows how to attain his purposes by means which we deem to be contrary.

Now to reply to your first letter.

1. If you want to please me when you open your heart, just write very simply, as it comes to you, even if it were not well said or well written.

2. You reproach yourself for laziness. That touched me; I had and I still have this natural temptation. I know it quite well. It is difficult to correct, because it rises again from its ashes at every moment. It is a very harmful defect. We must work to correct it, but how? I am tempted to answer that I almost don't know. Here is what I try:

1) To love something only as much as God wills it and as he wills it; not to cling to one thing more than another, but only to the Will of God.

2) Never put off until later what we can and ought to do at a determined time.

3) In a choice between two things, do what is most contrary to your preference.

4) Impose a penance upon oneself when we have failed this rule.

My dear daughter, this is my advice to help you overcome spiritual laziness, and you will see that you will enjoy great peace and freedom.

As for the hostility which made you suffer, don't worry about it too much, my dear daughter. However, don't act on your feelings at that time. On the contrary, if you want to do something which would be very pleasing to God, it would be to react against the hostility with a joyful heart, at least exteriorly, and you will have total victory.

Then, my poor daughter, keep in mind that by these little sacrifices of the heart you are working for the salvation of that dear soul.⁹⁵

You have many little spiritual faults: so, you complain about your mental prayer, - in fact, I think a little laziness results in lack of preparation, a certain disposition to criticism, etc., and interior grief against your dear mother, - ignore it, it's a feeling of pride which would like to surface and which the devil would use to advantage. So, at such times, behave exteriorly as if you were nothing, and everything will disappear like fog before the sun.

You blame yourself for being careless. This could come from the fact that your soul is in an excessively violent state of struggle to serve God and your neighbor. This results in sadness and a need for expansion. - What can be done?

Go to the good Lord with more simplicity and surrender; to your neighbor with more love for God, and your soul will then be in the center of peace. In general, avoid mental stress, it is worthless; rather sacrifice your heart for the love of God.

Be joyful in the service of our kind Master and look at his goodness more than your wickedness, his graces more than your sins.

⁹⁵ Her father's conversion.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. Do pray for me. I hope to be in Lyons at the beginning of the month of May. If you were there, we would complete what is lacking.⁹⁶

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

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CO 446

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 8/17)

La Seyne, March 22, 1854

I am very negligent, am I not, my dear daughter?⁹⁷ It's a bit true that in spite of my good will, I sometimes fail when I see what I must do; I act like a person who has a lot to do and does nothing, because he doesn't know where to begin.

I was happy to learn about your beautiful and delightful retreat. Our good Mother is really spoiling her daughters! But then, they are so grateful! I was happy to read your letter to Father, I really thanked God for this unique grace.

You also have many sorrows, my dear daughter, Alas! I understand how Calvary appears so painful to you. Veil it with divine goodness. No, God will never forsake his own. He wants his grace to be greater than pain, and his love greater than sacrifice.

You are both often the subject of our conversations with Father, as well as dear beloved Tonny. Please offer him a thousand greetings from me, and believe me in our Lord, as well as your dear sister,

All yours,
Eyd

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CO 447

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 116/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, March 25, 1854

It is high time, my dear daughter, for me to thank you for sending the statues of St. Joseph; we received them very promptly. Only one was broken: it doesn't have the Child Jesus. If the dealer insists that it be paid, pay for it like the others. I am pleased, very pleased with this style. May St. Joseph pay you back a hundred-fold!

I was happy to learn about the great success of your Third Order retreat; it did my heart good. Oh! I thanked our Lord wholeheartedly for such an inestimable grace for my former daughters! You yourself must be very happy about it, my good daughter, for the sake of all your sisters.⁹⁸ Since you could do very little of it, our Lord will repay you in some other way.

⁹⁶ What still needs to be said.

⁹⁷ Father Eymard wrote this letter at the end of a letter from Father Mayet to his sister Elizabeth.

⁹⁸ Sisters of the Third Order of Mary.

Now about you:

1. You do well to go to Fr. Favre as you do, the Third Order will benefit from it. He may be somewhat impressionable, be prudent.

Don't worry about your vows. Someone who doesn't know you may be put off by your vows at first, or consider them as rash and perhaps even as risky, but don't let yourself be misled. When I gave you permission for them, I studied things thoroughly, I prayed a great deal. You need such divine bonds to cling energetically to Jesus crucified. Don't be troubled by the trials they are predicting for you. Nothing will happen to you except what the good Lord wills.

If they want to deprive you of Holy Communion, submit to it humbly, while pleading for permission to receive. If you are refused, God's will must replace everything for you. However, if at a later time - whoever it might be - kept you away from Holy Communion for too long, and if I were no longer in this world, consult someone else: because we need life.

In a month, please God, we will go see you. Alas, when I think of that trip, I feel a great need to pray.

What can I tell you about myself? My poor daughter: for about two weeks I have been suffering from a migraine headache. However, God is so good that it is equivalent to a little retreat. Today however, I am feeling better.

Goodbye, my good daughter, my fond best wishes to your family. I am happy to hear that the rule is going well and that you will become a real Nazareth.

All yours,
Eymard

452

CO 448

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 99/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, March 26, 1854

My dear sisters,

I am really always so negligent to write and tell you that your letters please me - that the best news I can have is to know that you are well, happy and peaceful in your little corner, letting the world struggle on, and quarrel as it will. As for you, remain peaceful with our Lord.

It seems to me that there is no greater happiness than to seek only to please God, to have only his esteem and protection, and that of our neighbor only as God wills and as much as he wills. Then, neither wind nor human storms can do anything to us, because God is our all.

Oh, my sisters, what profound meaning, sublime perfection, and perfect love can be found in the words of a Saint: "My God and My all...!" Let us sincerely ask the good Lord for this.

I believe that you must have participated in the beautiful month of St. Joseph as we did. That good saint blessed us during his month, but then we did pray fervently to him. The nineteenth is the Superior's feast day. If I told you about the honors I received, the celebrations, the fireworks: it was enough to make me blush. I then said to St. Joseph: "It is for you, because I don't want anything for myself."

My health is not bad. I had a cold a few weeks ago, and my migraine made me lazy for a week. Today I am feeling well again.

Sometimes I do like our little children, I say: soon the holidays will come, we will go to see our sisters, and this thought makes me happy.

Goodbye, my dear sisters, take courage, Easter is coming, the Resurrection, and the joy that I am wishing you wholeheartedly.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard

P.S. I am reopening my letter to tell you, dear sisters, that I have just received your last letter. Thank you for your kind affection. My dear sister, watch out for sadness, it is a very great evil, it kills the heart. No, no, rejoice rather at the sight of God's graces and don't look at the sorrows; and you good Nanette, don't be so afraid of the pastor, he can't do you any harm, quite the contrary. So, go forward boldly.

I am taking care of Bethoux's business. Conditions are bad in Provence at this time. There is neither wine, wheat, nor oil. - I will continue to search.

453

CO 449

TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 3/8)

La-Seyne, April 30, 1854

My dear Madame and sister in Mary,

I received the sad news about the death of your dear holy Mother. Sadness seized my heart, not for her, she is in Heaven, but for you and your dear family.

Oh! God had been preparing you for this sacrifice for a long time, but how painful it must have been!

My dear daughter, remember that in heaven we will all be together, and find comfort at the feet of our Lord who crowned such a beautiful life.

What a pleasant fragrance of virtue this dear Mother is leaving behind. She has not died.

Here we are praying for her soul and for you.

I was a bit relieved to know that Paul was with you. He must have told you how I hated to see him go. But in his position, it was a duty. Please tell this dear Paul that I still love him.

I will be in Lyons soon, and if I can steal away for a moment, I will come see you.

My dear sister, I leave you in the hands of Jesus and Mary.

All yours,
Eymard

454

CO 450

TO MR. CAMILLE JORDAN
(VII 3/4)

*Thursday*⁹⁹

Dear Mr. Jordan,

I have just learned that the “*Napoleon*”¹⁰⁰ was returned to the arsenal. It is the best time to visit it before it is disarmed. If I can go to Toulon tomorrow, I will come for you. It will be a great pleasure for me to accompany you.

All yours,
Eymard

455

CO 451

TO MR. CAMILLE JORDAN
(VII 4/4)

Lyons, Puylata, May 8, 1854

Dear Mr. President,

We have been on retreat since the day I had the honor and pleasure of seeing you. Our retreat will close Wednesday. Thank you, therefore, for your kind invitation. I will not leave without coming to see you briefly. Don’t give yourself the trouble of coming here, your time is so precious; and then, we are in meetings nearly the whole day.

Kindly receive the very devoted and loving sentiments, dear Mr. President, from your most humble servant,

Eymard, Marist Priest

456

CO 452

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 9/75)

*Lyons, Tuesday, the 9th*¹⁰¹

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I received your little note. I am expecting you on Sunday. My first visit was to Mr. Jordan; you must surely have the second.

We are on retreat for great matters. Let me tell you that very Rev. Father General praised the Third Order in the presence of the Congregation and permitted that it be spread, a grace I had been

⁹⁹ between January and May 1854.

¹⁰⁰ A “*Napoleon*” can be either a navy ship or a cannon.

¹⁰¹ Probably May 9, 1854.

requesting for so long. I was only waiting for that before my death. All I want is to see Jesus and Mary known, loved and served.

My health is poor but very rich, if I know how to unite myself to Jesus crucified.

Goodbye, my dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

457

CO 453

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 117/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, June 10, 1854

I have a free moment and it is yours, my daughter.

1. I will begin by speaking about myself. The accident on the Rhone only amounted to a delay. We had found a small, very fragile boat, water was seeping through. It was night, and after five hours on this small board, we reached Avignon safely at 10:30 at night. My migraine headache isn't as strong as it was before I left for Lyons, I can control it better. It happens less often, so I'm better.

2. Your letter to Miss Daniel was fine, she is a good person who really wants to love God, she appreciates the spiritual life. She is fervent and generous when she wants something, you do well to answer her.

3. About Miss David. - Mass, yes; intentions for her until the feast of the Assumption, yes. God had given this good woman great graces; I was very pleased to have seen her before she died.

4. I am happy to see you totally and lovingly dedicated to the Third Order, the Blessed Virgin will repay you well, so live and suffer for it. It was a comfort to see that the last act of Rev. Fr. Colin's Superiorship was to praise and propagate the Third Order. That was my highest prayer. Now, if the good Lord wills that I should be responsible for it once again, then I also want it wholeheartedly. I am only too happy that I suffered for it, that I was willing to die so that Jesus, Mary and Joseph at Nazareth be known and served. Up to this very moment I have respected the fact that I was forbidden to have anything to do with it and you see that God did everything: he doesn't need us.

Now I come to the issue of the house. I think as you do, that it would be necessary to have two types of Third Order Members: the regular ones and the boarders. Without that, it would be impossible to have unity of mind and life.

Now, some external work would also be needed. Which one? I have no idea. At first glance, work for the missions seems good. Avoid works that are engrossing, like education or an orphanage, etc....

Should you aim to buy a house? It's a serious question. I don't believe the Superiors would place any obstacles to it, if the house had some revenues. They will never say: "Do it." Yet if they let you do it, that's enough, it is tacit consent. Among us,¹⁰² there is a fear of being obligated. It is important not to obligate, but to become adopted; you understand what I mean.

For my part, I would like the house for the Third Order Members to be like a Work for Spinsters, like the respectable retirement of the "Invalides."¹⁰³ This work is lacking in the Christian world. Yet, who is more respectable and worthy of help and care than a spouse of Jesus Christ who has been faithful to her divine Spouse, and who, for his love, paid dearly to give up the world and its comforts! St. Francis de Sales had that idea. Yet today, the Visitation has become a convent

¹⁰² Marists.

¹⁰³ Place in Paris for the care of veterans.

which is as demanding as the others. (Don't move too quickly in this matter, [just] encourage it.)

Now let's speak about the Work of the Blessed Sacrament. You know, my dear daughter, that I speak to you openly and simply. If I didn't speak to you about this beautiful thought at the time of my visit, I don't remember why. Either I didn't have time, or I didn't think of it. I continue to love this thought, I long for it, always in keeping with the Holy Will of God, I would even say that I sigh for the Cenacle. - Now, what is happening in regard to this Work? It's still in the period of prayer and discernment; it did, however, take a giant step forward during my stay in Lyons. I spoke openly to Fr. Colin; he encouraged me and said he believes that it comes from God. Nonetheless, we need to pray and proceed prudently and patiently. This dear Father is entirely in favor of this good Work, it's his favorite thought, he has begun adoration at la Negliere. Still, we would remain Marists, that is only right. Then, could we abandon our Mother? So, my daughter, you must continue to pray for me, that I not become unworthy of God's grace.

As for the Third Order Chapel, I wouldn't advise building a new one in the determined location; it would cost too much. It would be better to enlarge the former one; that would cost less. There is such a lovely space, a ready-built wall by the stairs. I mean the garden adjoining our little sacristy, that would really be fine.

I would enjoy a little family party, only, there would need to be more sisters {Third Order members}, do something like the first Christians. It is a beautiful idea, it would also be so in practice; the idea of seeing us all gathered together made me smile.

As for you, you can see that God helps you as soon as you are in need. So then, trust in God and surrender to him. You will soon be receiving a little gift¹⁰⁴ on holy abandonment in the mail. Read it carefully.

Journey along as the good Lord wills, in the sunlight when it is shining or by the light of the moon and stars, or groping by the thread of obedience: it is a sure guide.

I bless your crosses and suffering, dear daughter. God will not forsake you, what he wants from you is to honor him in the experience of alienation and the horrors of hell. These horrors constitute hell's punishment; in this life they constitute the glory of God and his divine mercy, which overcomes the devil. Take heart, my dear daughter, inner desolation is more pleasing to the heart of your divine Spouse than all the joy and brightness of Tabor. In fact, you would need to have a few external mortifications, ask for them; then be submissive.

I'm very pleased that Fr. F.¹⁰⁵ is informed about your vows. Go to him from time to time. He is very good and more spiritual than you might believe at first.

Yes, make the retreat, it will give you rest. Yes, I received Mme. G's¹⁰⁶ letter and answered it.

Yes, your lunch with Fr. H.¹⁰⁷ is good. In any embarrassing situation take his part.

Come now, my dear daughter, sacrifice yourself to the glory of God, or rather let yourself be sacrificed by his fatherly action. - How fortunate you are that God should attach you to his divine crucified Son!

Yes, yes, I will inscribe you as the first one on the Eucharistic lists. Let me know what our Lord tells you on that subject.

Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - I will write to Miss Mariette soon. I want to send this letter quickly.

¹⁰⁴ a book.

¹⁰⁵ Fr. Favre.

¹⁰⁶ Mme. Gourd.

¹⁰⁷ Fr. Huguet.

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(VI 1/1 II 21)

La Seyne-sur-mer, June 1854

I do not want to answer your sister's letter without adding a few words for you, Mademoiselle. I can imagine you working, praying, and struggling, and I ask the good Lord to sustain and help you to bear the burden of your duties and troubles. Offer them to God, and you will have the merits and the love of St. Martha. Say to yourself often: the good Lord wants me to be where I am, he wants only what I am doing. Well then, I shall do it with calm, with peace, out of love for him.

Yes, Mademoiselle, it is love alone which gives value to our actions, and it is the practical love of his holy Will which constitutes the highest perfection. So when our Lord wants you to receive tiresome visits, you are more pleasing to him than if you were at prayer, performing the finest acts of zeal and charity.

Always be faithful to the general offering in the morning, the presence of God throughout the day, holy Communion even in the midst of obstacles, - and I can promise you Heaven.

I do not ask you to pray for me; in your charity you are doing so; but I also do pray for you, that you may always be the good Saint Martha in the house of our Lord.

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 24/33)

La-Seyne, June 10, 1854

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I wanted to answer your letter right away, I could not. Today I am writing to tell you how happy I was about your delight with Holy Abandonment.¹⁰⁸

Knowing you well, I was sure that this little book would give you spiritual joy, and would be a very precious treasure for your soul, which, unfortunately, is still crucified. Read it and meditate on it slowly. You will find a hidden manna, the peace and sweetness of grace and, above all, the pure love of our Lord.

Each soul has its own path, its own characteristic virtue, its special graces. It isn't within the director's power to change them. His rule is to recognize them and to help the soul which our Lord has entrusted to him to follow its path.

You know very well that our Lord has shown you your path: the interior life. The characteristic of your virtues, a generous, calm, gentle and strong love for God; your special graces, the path of self-denial, of holy poverty, of childlike surrender. That will lead one directly to heaven.

It is fine and very fine that people are like thorns for you. They make you walk more quickly toward the Good Master.

Oh! When will you be so closely united with our Lord that you will need nothing else? I really ask that for you. You do know and you will know that your soul is always dear to me in the divine love and that anything anyone may have said has in no way dampened my desire to help you. It would have required a verbal explanation, and we are often misunderstood. If a soul requires care and struggles to be saved, it is only dearer, and if someone harmed it, it would be a cause of great suffering.

¹⁰⁸ Perhaps the book by De Caussade. Ed.

Thank you for your little books. They will carry out a spiritual mission. During the holidays I will go to thank you doubly for them.

My heartfelt regards to Mr. Franchet. Please ask him to send us the bill for the sheets we received, the price for each meter, and the total amount.

Goodbye in God,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard

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CO 456

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 16/75)

Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 23¹⁰⁹

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I have just received your letter which was greatly longed for. I am answering immediately to prove my good will.

1. I burn all spiritual letters immediately: that is a rule of mine.

2. I can sympathize with your headaches; I also have that problem. We use our heads to live, our hearts to act. Fortunately, the good Lord is only asking for your heart; the more it suffers, the more pleasing it is to God. The less consolations you experience, the more God will become your all: that is a comforting thought. You found the book on holy Abandonment. I am happy for you because it will help you a lot. We need God so badly in this land of exile, under the weight of human limitations!

Yes, dear daughter, depend on God for the future of your dear Mathilde; she belonged to God before she belongs to you. She has her own earthly and eternal destinies in God's love. Worldly people move ahead of situations, provoke them, force them to serve their purpose. God's people wait for the moment of divine Providence, help the movement of grace, dedicate themselves fully to the will of God, both present and future, with a childlike surrender which leaves to God the Father every care and all glory. I will really pray for your two material needs. I am convinced that you will inject them with peace and justice, gentleness and the strength of truth.

Love the good Lord well, my poor daughter, love him for so many blind people who don't love him; love him with your fine daughter, with your whole family. Let us love him in fraternal union.

You know how your soul is united to mine in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. When you go to St. Romans, please let me know.

¹⁰⁹ Probably 1854.

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CO 457

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 6/7)

June 29, 1854

Respected and dear Father,

I am very happy to let you know that in a few days you will receive your pictures from Rome.

I received them on the 23rd from the Government ship, the *Regium*. They arrived safely. We brought them into Toulon duty-free. The gentlemen were most happy to do that for Notre Dame de la Salette. I was asked 14 francs for transport of 100 kilos and 14 days for Grenoble. You will find the large chest slightly damaged, but repaired. That occurred as it was being carried to the storeroom.

I heard, to my distress, that the Bishop of Gap, on returning from Rome, was speaking ill of La Salette, that the Supreme Pontiff is furious with La Salette, that the children had revealed no secret.; that is what I hear from a priest from Gap, who says he heard it from the lips of the Bishop himself.

While the devout and simple folk believe in the truth of the apparition and are doing penance, while some eminent persons are coming a great distance to venerate the miracle of the apparition and proclaim it far and wide, it is distressing to hear blame and scorn from the lips of those who should be praising and blessing God for such a grace, or at least keep a discreet and charitable silence.

The holidays will soon be here. I hope to have the joy of seeing you in Grenoble, dear Father Rousselot, and meanwhile, allow me to call myself ever

Your son,
Eymard, p.m.

In June 1854, Father Claude Mayet prepared a presentation regarding plans for an Order of the Blessed Sacrament for Fr. Jean-Claude Colin. This document reveals the closeness of vision between Fr. Eymard, Fr. Colin and Fr. Mayet at this period and can be found in Appendix I.

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CO 458

TO CANON PIERRE ROUSSELOT
(VI 7/7)

La Seyne, July 16, 1854

Good and very dear Father Rousselot,

I was very pleased to hear that the paintings had arrived in Grenoble. I hope they arrived safely.

The transport by sea was free, thanks to Mr. de Gasquet, Chief Commander of the State steamships at Toulon. The duty-free entry into France is thanks to Mr. Journal, the Director of Customs in Toulon. The Government had nothing to do with it. We owe it all to the graciousness of those two gentlemen. And the positive thing is that I told them the destination of the paintings - Notre Dame de la Salette.

I leave it all to your discretion, and if it were a good thing to make it known, I would be very pleased, but here it is merely an act of friendship.

But what is worth doing is to answer the Bishop of Gap, who is going about telling everyone that the Pope has appointed him to say that he¹¹⁰ has never believed, nor approved, the happening.

It appears that this poor Bishop is out of his mind when he says that the Pope is furious about La Salette! Alas, dear Father! such behavior from a Bishop is surely more reprehensible than our “stupidity” in believing, respecting and loving a grace which preaches penance, rather than such a bitter and violent criticism against good priests and truly devout faithful.

Recently I saw a priest from Gap who spoke to me about the Bishop of Gap’s triumph over La Salette as a final victory.

Oh! if only the Supreme Pontiff could judge for himself, and not on the words of a Bishop who, as everyone in Gap and in the diocese is aware, has very little credibility from his clergy, and very little sense.

I think you would do well to go to Rome. It is easy to obtain a free passage on the Government ships from the Minister for the Navy. All you need do is write to him as Vicar-General, and if the Bishop were to add a P.S. it would even be better. On the 5th, 15th and 25th of each month there is a ship going to Civita Vecchia. In that case I would have the pleasure of welcoming you at La Seyne. You would not stop in Toulon but go straight to the harbor, where there is a boat to La Seyne at any time.

Do not go via Marseilles by postal steamer; you would have to be held in strict quarantine in Italy.

Cholera is raging in Marseilles; there are many victims, though some reports deny this. They are counting 120 to 130 deaths a day.

Do not stop in Marseilles, but reserve your place in Valence, directly for Toulon, and pay in advance in case the price was doubled in Marseilles.

Please drop a line about your arrival, so that we can come to get you. In anticipation of this great pleasure, believe me ever, dear Father Rousselot,

All yours,
Eymard, p.m.

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CO 459

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 118/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, August 2, 1854

I come hastily, to tell you, my dear daughter, that I will be leaving here on the 4th. I hope to be in La Mure on the 6th or the 7th. After a few days, we will go to La Salette and to le Laus from there.

I would be tempted to tell you: come and meet us there. At least we would have time to see one another.

My health isn’t strong. My migraine headache has tired me out somewhat: as God wills!

I will expect either you, or news about you, at La Mure.

If you should arrive at Grenoble, Sunday or Saturday evening, ask for me at the Major Seminary.

¹¹⁰ Unclear: he = the Pope?

The cholera has had many victims in Toulon. It has decreased in Marseilles.
Goodbye, my dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Love and best wishes to the whole family.

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CO 461

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 119/395 VI 2)

V.J. and M.

La Mure, August 7, 1854

My dear daughter, I reached La Mure a few hours ago. I asked for you when I passed through Grenoble.

I read and reread your letter, and prayed. My thought is to have you come here to discuss important matters:¹¹¹ first of all with my sister who is expecting you, then with a person who came from Toulon almost exclusively to speak with you about this important matter. She is the president of the adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Mme. Duhaut-Cilly. She really wants to see you. She couldn't go to Lyons. I had led her to hope that you would visit La Mure....

I know that your position is difficult. So, you are the one who can judge, since you are in the situation; couldn't one of your sisters replace you?..

May God guide you. We are waiting for your answer or for you before we leave for La Salette.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. My sister and Nanette are well and are hoping to see you very much. Best wishes to your dear sisters, and to kind Mr. Gaudioz.

(urgent)
Miss Marguerite Guillot
% Mr. Gaudioz, Mme. Papetier
Place Leviste, 10 near Bellecour
Lyons, (Rhône)

¹¹¹ The foundation of the women's branch of adorers.

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CO 460

TO MME. GRISAUD (NEE CHAMBORD)¹¹²
(VII 1/2)

*August 3, [1854]*¹¹³

Madame,

I am really late in answering you. In your charity, kindly forgive me.

I consent willingly to your entry into the little family of Mary, that you should belong to the Third Order. Then we will call you our Sister by this new title, and I am sure that the Blessed Virgin will also fill you with her graces and blessings. Our good Mother begins [to do so] even today. I've just given the permission for our kind and excellent brother¹¹⁴ to go see you at Tarare. He is the one who will receive you.

I am happy that this circumstance has arisen to recommend myself to your prayers and to say that I am in our Lord,

Madame, your very humble and devoted Superior,

Eymard

P.S. You could communicate this to Mme. Tholin-Bost. Please present my respects to her in our Lord.

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CO 462

TO FR. JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS
(VI 2/4 I 181)

*La Mure, August 25, 1854*¹¹⁵

Dear friend,

Here I am at La Mure, weak as ever, but with the good will to belong entirely to God and his glory.

This good Mr. Thomas is ours.¹¹⁶ Thank you for sending him to me at Laus.

The cholera is devastating us here and everywhere.

I will leave for Lyons on the 28th.

Farewell in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. And what about the retreat? Quid?¹¹⁷ (When I am in the mountains, I get no news.)

¹¹² At Tarare

¹¹³ Probably 1854 from La-Seyne. Troussier.

¹¹⁴ Her brother was a Marist priest.

¹¹⁵ These lines were written at the end of a letter from Mr. Thomas, dated August 18, 1854. The address of Fr. de Cuers on the reverse side is in Fr. Eymard's handwriting, and is stamped with the La Mure postmark, August 25, 1854. It is printed in the French Volume VI as 1859.

¹¹⁶ Possibly: has decided his vocation in our favor.

¹¹⁷ What.

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CO 463

TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 4/8)

La Mure, August 25, 1854

Madame,

What must you think of me? I don't want to justify myself, but tell you that it was very hard for me to leave Lyons without going to see you. The day I had set aside to visit you, Mme. Mulsant fell gravely ill and I had to stay by her bedside. Miss David, who was in her last agony, wanted to see me and so I was tied down.

I was receiving letter upon letter from La-Seyne, so many troubles - I had to leave immediately. When I reached La-Seyne, my migraine headache took over every day. Two teachers fell ill who must be replaced - so I said goodbye to all external things, counting upon charity.¹¹⁸

This time I hope to be more fortunate and come see you and dear Paul whom I continue to love as a child of mine.

I consider his departure from La-Seyne as a Providential thing. - How sad it would have been if he had not received his dear Mother's last breath, and if he hadn't been with you at that painful time. Then, I would have sent him away quickly when the cholera approached.

Courage, dear Lady, don't hold it against me. I was sick, my head but not my heart.

I will be in Lyons toward the end of August. - I am here surrounded by sick people. - It is devastating! - The cholera invaded our mountains and is causing much destruction.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

My regards to Paul.

468

CO 464

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 14/52)

*All in J. E.*¹¹⁹

Saturday, September 23, 1854

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

It's a sacrifice for me that I can't go to see you. I had set aside two days for you. When it was time to leave I felt ill and I still am.

Then, I must leave tomorrow or Monday for La Seyne. I was due to leave today. Life in this world is like that. I strongly recommended your dear child to Fr. Superior at St. Chamond. I envy him, because you understand how much I love him.

Please offer my regards to dear Mr. Tholin. It would have been so good for me to see him, as well as your sister. As a soldier of obedience, we must say goodbye and run wherever God wants us to be.

¹¹⁸ for understanding.

¹¹⁹ Abbreviation for Jesus Eucharistic.

You know that I am, in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost, Negt¹²⁰
Tarare (Rhône)

469

CO 465

TO ST. JEAN-MARIE VIANNEY, CURE D'ARS
(VI 1/2)

Lyons, September 25, 1854

Dear Father and brother in Mary,

I am pleased to send you this certificate giving you all the faculties necessary to enroll persons into the Third Order of Mary of the Interior Life. It was a real pleasure for our dear Father Superior General to sign it.

Require from the people to be received at least 15 minutes of meditation, as much as possible. I'm leaving today for La Seyne near Toulon. Bless me and pray for me. I trust that good St. Philomena will heal my poor weak head; however, since the end of the novena, I have been fine.

Goodbye dear esteemed brother, believe me in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard
Marist Priest

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CO 466

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 13/75)

L.J.C.

La Seyne, October 18, 1854

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

After all that searching, we are left with the good Lord. I would have really liked to go visit you briefly in Lyons or at Romans. Such is life; we look for one another and say goodbye.

But how good it is to live in God, to love God and in God! to see every event only in God, for his glory and for Heaven!

In the midst of my numerous occupations and my little sufferings, God gives me many graces. I can hardly resign myself to asking that these crosses may be removed. It's so good to suffer a little! What about you, my dear daughter, what are you doing? I feel that you must be frustrated by so much business and so many people. What to do? That is where God wants you. Try to never lose sight of him and to never let your heart become attached to this poor wretched world.

I pray a great deal for Miss Mathilde and for all of you.

¹²⁰ Abbreviation for merchant.

If you wish, please offer my regards and regrets to Mr. Jordan. The only thing I did in Lyons was suffer migraine headaches. Just when I thought I would be free to go out, I had to go lie down. Believe me, dear sister,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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CO 467

TO THE GUILLOT FAMILY
(II 120/395 VI 2)

L.J.C.

La Seyne, October 22, 1854

My very dear daughters in our Lord,

Thank you for your kind wishes. I am afraid that my health is worrying you too much I am well enough, if I'm careful. My migraine headache is very light and less frequent. I can say Mass regularly. I eat very little at night and I feel better. This migraine is a good director for my food, and too demanding on my sleep; it is merciless. It recollects me when I am too scattered and stops me when it isn't necessary to go out. Therefore, it's a good companion.

My dear daughters, you do have a lot to bear, you have many crosses, many sacrifices. Well! Praise God for it, since he is kindly giving you what is most precious and gracious as proof of his love.

When we are on the cross, we shouldn't look down, but up to heaven.

So then, poor Miss Marguerite is stretched out on a hard cross! Oh! The thought of it is hard to bear. I had a presentiment about it when I left her. Let her see it only as a pledge of heaven.

Take courage! My good daughters, let us love the good Lord even more during this time of suffering. It is the best time.

I will stop now. My sister and Nanette are doing well. At the first opportunity, I will have someone pass you my retreat [notes].

Give me news about your dear patient.

All yours,
Eymard

472

CO 468

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 9/17)

La Seyne, Nov. 14, 1854

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I learned the sad news about Miss Melanie with great regret. She left you alone¹²¹; she was so virtuous, so kind! Alas! This life is a sad life of farewells!

¹²¹She died.

However, my poor daughter, those for whom you are grieving are all blessed. Their death was precious in God's sight and their glory is great in heaven.

You loved them in God and for God. You will meet them again, happy and glorious in the homeland of God's children. -- Do not cry too much over so much virtue, since you are its beneficiary, and life is very short. Oh! my poor daughter, how good it is to love God in such wrenching and agonizing moments!

We will find those whom we love in God again. I prayed and do pray for your dear sister in order that the peace of the Lord may be her eternal rest. But I am praying even more for you, because I feel that you are alone and suffering. I am mistaken, you are not alone. Your brother Thony is there, with the kindness of a father and a mother. Your fine Sister Perroud is there with her tender love and your brother-priest with prayer.

Courage! my dear daughter, let us walk in confidence and surrender toward that beautiful homeland where there are no more tears, nor suffering, nor sin, nor death, but God, who is eternally good, our Relatives, our Friends, the Saints.

Goodbye, believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted
Eymard

473

CO 469

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 25/33)

*LJC*¹²²

La-Seyne, November 14, 1854

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

It is too soon to give you a decision. I didn't want to say yes, and leave you prey to the grace of the moment. What you are asking from me is good at certain times, but harmful at others.

If you have done it, that is fine; otherwise wait a little.

Dear Father General told me that he had given you Father Marcel.¹²³ I praise God for giving you this grace and I am convinced that it will be the source of peace, of a spiritual life and of the love of God which you have been seeking for such a long time.

Your dear Charles is with his uncle, so much the better! There were so many reasons, that we can only approve your decision.

Goodbye, Madame and dear daughter in our Lord. Always be simple, calm and dedicated to the service of your divine Master.

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, SM

¹²² Praised be Jesus Christ.

¹²³ As a spiritual director.

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 10/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

La Seyne Boarding School, La Seyne, L.J.C.E., November 15, 1854

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I have spent a few days reflecting deeply and praying after receiving your letter. My heart would have answered you at once, but the matter is too serious.

I am not surprised, dear sister, by the impression my last words made on you. I was quite affected myself as I said them, and I saw them as a touch of grace for you. - You were obliged to go through that demanding Christian duty, that honorable fidelity; and now our Lord wants a daughter's, a spouse's heart. All is dead around you, and if anything is left, it will soon pass away. - The world is but an image, as St. Paul says: that is, a fleeting shadow.

So now you are free! but [free] to belong wholly to God; in a few years' time, perhaps, only eternity will know your name and your life. So you must set about using the remaining time well. But what are you to do? Here is the problem, and it pulls me up short.

Here, then, is what I think you should do:

1. Continue your external way of life - with your house in town and your fine servants.
2. Do not take an active part in Nazareth House; I mean do not live there - or lodge there full time - so as not to bring attention to the little mystery of Nazareth, but let it begin in the shadows, and in silence; let it then take its first steps, and let it grow. That, dear Sister, is my idea for the present. But what is my wish for you in the future? This is what I am asking our good Master for you: that you become a Religious before you die; that you leave the world entirely, and that you die in the bosom of evangelical religious life. Meanwhile, dear daughter, before that happy day comes, put Nazareth House at the head of your good works. Remember that it is for Mary of Nazareth that you are working.

Save money for this Work!

I would very much like to ask you to be its foundress. I know that there are family demands to be respected; so be it. But, the more I see of society, the better I understand the misfortune of families that are too wealthy and have little religion.

What can I tell you about my health? I feel better, I can work; my head, which is still heavy, is feeling better. Oh! what poverty is mine, that I have done hardly anything for God, and when I see the world so wicked and so cold towards God, alas! I would like to do something great to glorify God and save my fellow-men.

Take care of your health, dear daughter, - for you must do something great for God before you die.

Goodbye, you know that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, P.M.

475

CO 472

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 121/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, November 16, 1854

I wrote the enclosed letter for everyone. This one is for you alone

1. I share your feelings about Miss de R., she will show you my letter as you may show her yours.

2. Don't buy at first, only rent to try it out. If Miss de Revel didn't give at least five hundred francs for the house, that would be an obstacle, because a thousand francs for rent would be too high.

3. The Good Lord is very good toward you, my dear daughter. He stretches you out on the cross and he comes to visit, comfort and strengthen you. Love him dearly in this high God-given state.

4. Don't be afraid! In his divine goodness he will not forsake you. Spurn the devil. Accept the external embarrassment to which Fr. Huguet is subjecting you. When he asks, say that you think he is right and don't dwell on it, nor on what I told you. However, I beg you in our Lord, don't give in to scrutinizing your past life which you are told was so guilty; consider that opinion only as a way to humility and nothing more. See nothing in your past life except the goodness and mercy of God, and his love for you.

Goodbye, my dear daughter. I am feeling better. I haven't missed Holy Mass for a month now.

I will offer the two Masses that you requested from me, immediately.

My love to all your sisters, my warm respects to the fine and dear Mr. Galtier. I am pleased about his kindness toward you.

All yours in Christ,
Eymard

476

CO 471

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 122/395 VI 2)

L.J.C.E.

La Seyne, November 16, 1854

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,¹²⁴

I was happy to receive the letter you wrote to me, a few days ago, to consult me about the house of Nazareth and about the Carmelite location.

Concerning the house of Nazareth, I like to think about such a foundation as a haven for the spouses of Jesus Christ who are old, sick and alone in the world. What I like especially is that the Third Order will be known there, both as a Cenacle and a Nazareth. It will be a center for the sisters who want to lead a religious life suited to their situation. The world needs this kind of house. Religious communities want to receive only persons who are young and in good health.

What strikes me as most beautiful is the need to establish houses of Nazareth a bit everywhere, as St. Francis did for his Third Order houses. A motherhouse is necessary for that. But how can

¹²⁴ This letter was sent as a companion piece to the preceding personal letter; it was intended for all those involved in the Nazareth project.

such a house be founded? On God and on trust in our Good Mother, on the house of Nazareth, with its life of recollection, work, and charity, its centering on Jesus. So, we need to choose persons who are poor, weak, simple and ill. These are the foundation stones. If we want the house of Nazareth to succeed, it must not depend on the protection of human beings, nor on everyone's approval, but on God's care. It is enough to be approved by one's Superior. Under those conditions, you would be sure to succeed because God will do everything; he still loves Nazareth.

Should you rent the Carmelite's house? Given the advantages which this location offers, it seems to me that you shouldn't let it pass to someone else. My opinion is to rent it. However, I would advise you to submit this thought to Very Reverend Fr. General beforehand, not for approval, but for his gracious consent. It must all be done without me, and wholly in God.

Rev. Fr. General seemed to indicate that I will be staying here until the holidays. I am in God's hands: whether he leaves me here or sends me elsewhere, you understand only too well that I must desire only holy obedience.

Only, don't spread the news about the house of Nazareth. The world didn't know the Holy Family when they were together in their shabby house.

My dear sister, these are my thoughts about this undertaking. However, it's necessary to pray so that God may manifest his holy will.

Believe me in our Lord,

Your devoted servant,
Eymard
P.M.

477

CO 473

TO FR. BRAMEREL

(V 5/5)

La Seyne, November 17, 1854

Very dear friend,

I am responding to your kind and cordial letter from La Seyne. Without a treasurer, with new men, surrounded with sick people... I could hardly find time to say my office. Your heart will not hold it against me.

I read your letter with the same heart which inspired it. How pleased I was to learn your news! I didn't know where you had pitched your tent.

It was with deep feeling that I read the description of your difficulties. Alas! It seems that every part of your heart was touched: loss of relatives, friends, etc. - See, dear friend, what the reality of life is like which seems so beautiful in the springtime of our lives, so rich seen from a distance... So, we long for a better life! So then, it's a great grace to understand the vanity of this world, and I rejoice to see that you do understand it. Oh! It's really true, outside of God everything is only vanity and deception. So, my good friend, turn toward God that fine heart he has given you which he endowed with so many and such generous qualities.

Love Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, the priest's Holy of holies, his tabernacle, his heritage, his camp, his glory. We have everything with the Eucharist: Heaven and the heart of our brothers.

The Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament is being formed and developing in deepest solitude. That is where we must keep a place for you: there is light and a burning fire there.

But I understand that with your obligations as a brother, you cannot yet do so. Dear friend, pray and God will come to your help! - Chaplain for the Navy! That's fine, but it's very dry. You

have the Bishop of Gap to help you succeed. That's a good connection, but you yourself need to write to Fr. Coquerand, Head Chaplain in Paris. Reflect on it. I would prefer to see you as a Father of the Blessed Sacrament. How many resources would your parents require to do without you?

Please, dear friend, you know my address. If I can ever help you, I would be pleased. Find me a few men of fire among your old friends, for this new Order which I love very much and which I would like to see prosper.

Goodbye, dear friend.

Always yours,
Eymard, Superior

478

CO 474

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 123/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, December 3, 1854

My daughter, I know you are waiting for my reply. I'm sorry for my delays; I had answered you, then I withheld my letter. It's so difficult for me to decide. My thought hasn't changed about the idea of the house itself;¹²⁵ but should it begin right away? that is where my difficulty lies.

The undertaking must be submitted to V. R. Fr. Favre. If he approves it and wants to direct it in a general way, do it ... If he leaves you free and under Fr. H's¹²⁶ direction, that is where my difficulty lies. I would almost say no.

You may as well consider me as dead where Lyons is concerned, this year, and perhaps for the beginning of next year as well. Fr. Superior General said that he could not withdraw me since he has no one to replace me. Then, the person they have in mind is still a novice.

That, my daughter, is where things are. What is certain is that I cannot direct that house from here. To conclude: if my presence is a factor in discerning about this undertaking, then it is impossible at this time.

That's all I can tell you, dear daughter. You will understand this very easily. As for you, don't worry over Fr. H's storms. Keep going. Go beyond your doubts, and don't describe your temptations in too great detail. You know what you have to do about it: peace and wisdom lie in letting it be God's secret. In confusion and doubt, proceed as if nothing happened.

Goodbye my daughter. May our Lord keep you and make you belong fully to his love.

Eyd.

P.S. Our regards to everyone.

¹²⁵ Foundation of the House of Nazareth.

¹²⁶ Fr. Huguet.

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 4/21)

To Miss Mariette

La Seyne-sur-Mer, December 3, 1854

I am very happy, my dear daughter, about the permission given you by good Fr. Galtier. - Yes, receive Communion as often as he permits. You need it. You tell me that you are not worthy of it. That's true, the angels are not worthy of it. All the holiness we could have doesn't make us deserving of a single Communion in our whole life.

But you need it, you are weak, it is the food of strength. You want to love God, it is the sacrament of love. In this regard, you would need to receive Communion at every hour of the day, if that were possible. So you are really poor, my good daughter, and you always have the same faults!

You say that you can't meditate, that you aren't gentle and patient enough. You are always the same, more concerned about others than about yourself.

Here is my answer. Be the sister Martha of the house, the sister of charity ... and our Lord will love you as much as Magdalen.

One thing is essential. It is to be content with everything that happens to you, as being the best for you. It means doing everything for God.

Concerning your meditations, I will have to pay my debts, I didn't have time for them.¹²⁷

As for the new house,¹²⁸ I cannot become involved with it, since I am here. And since I'm not due to return to Lyons, I believe it will be postponed. So it is useless to think about it, - unless the good Lord manifests his holy will in an evident manner.

So, remain as you are until you receive new orders.

Goodbye, my daughter, be wholly God's.

Devotedly yours,
Eymard

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 11/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

La Seyne Boarding School, December 3, 1854

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Here I am at last. If I have been slow to reply, it is because I needed time to reflect.

After I had prayed, I still felt uneasy about this new house.¹²⁹ I don't have the courage to say "Begin it," and even if what I say were to have some weight, I would say no. If it is to be done by Fr. Huguet I shall let him go ahead, but I don't wish to take part in it.

It would require the approval of the Very Rev. Fr. Favre, with his promise to support and help it, for me to comply with the idea and give it my blessing.

But if the Sup. General is content to see it begin, and let it develop on its own, then I say it is too soon - what is needed is firm and benevolent spiritual support. As for what affects you

¹²⁷ Meaning unclear. Perhaps review her written meditations or to send her his. Tr.

¹²⁸ House of Nazareth.

¹²⁹ House of Nazareth.

personally, I may, dear daughter, tell you exactly what I think. - If I seemed strict when I advised you not to take up an active life straightaway, it was because I could foresee too many difficulties falling upon you from all sides; the project is not yet ripe. God preserve me from depriving you of a great good, or diminishing your crown. No, on the contrary, I would like to increase it a hundredfold. Continue, dear daughter, in the good works which God wants of you in your situation. When I wished you to die as a perfect religious - well, I still hope for that, but death! don't think about it. Love the good Lord as if you were to live forever, and serve him accordingly.

As for me, I am quite well, with a thousand and one things to do, but God is present.

You know how much I enjoy getting your letters, and that I am

All yours,
Eymard

On December 8, 1854, the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX.

CHAPTER II

La Seyne-sur-Mer Part III 1855

A Total Vision for the Third Order

The House of Nazareth

Preparations for the Cenacle

- contact with Church Officials
- contact with potential candidates (men and women)
- preparation of Constitutions for the Eucharistic Work
- search for a diocese
- Spiritual Correspondence
- House of Nazareth

The Bernard orphans

Ill Health - Convalescence at Maubel

Departure from the Boarding School of La Seyne

481

CO 477

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 124/395 VI 2)

A. J. Eucharistic¹

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 1, 1855

Thank you, my daughter, for your gifts which were so good and so tasty. I really enjoyed them, I was expecting them. Thank you for your good wishes in the Lord. Yes, may this be a Eucharistic year! May a cenacle of love and praise come to be in this thankless and forgetful world! May I be its first adorer and its first victim! This Eucharistic thought doesn't leave me, I bless it, I surround it with sacrifices of every kind;⁽³⁾ I offer it to God as a crown of hope and longing.⁽⁴⁾ However, does our Lord want it at this time? Will he give me the honor and happiness of calling me close to his golden tabernacle? My daughter, this is what we must request from the King of all hearts.

You ask me what will become of the Nazareth where Jesus and Mary dwell?

From Nazareth, Jesus went to the Cenacle, and that is where Mary made her final dwelling.

I would like you to go to the feet of our Lord, so that he might put a word in your heart for you and for me.

Individuals are being prepared. Of course, I inscribed you at the head of the list. I haven't yet begun the conferences to the T. of Toulon,² I will do so shortly. My health is always somewhat deficient; Praise God! However, my migraines are less frequent. I can say holy Mass now, how good God is!

My New Year's wishes to all your sisters. I had begun a collective letter, but I don't have time [to finish it].

I haven't written to anyone for a long time.

My best wishes to your good sisters. I'm devoted to all of you in God and for God.

All in the love of Jesus and Mary, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard

482

CO 478

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 15/52)

January 1, 1855

A happy and eucharistic year to you my dear daughter, in your heart, and in the heart of all people! I lifted you on the paten of the holocaust,³ so that you might be consumed in the love of Jesus Hostia. That is surely all I desire. Can there be anything sweeter or greater on earth!

In your charity you will forgive me if I delayed so long, especially after your good letter. I was in the midst of the Jubilee,⁴ which God blessed.

I didn't forget your dear and excellent husband, nor your children; because they are you, more

¹ Abbreviation perhaps for *Amour a Jesus Eucharistie*: Love to Jesus Eucharistic or Adored by Jesus Eucharistic

² Perhaps Third Order.

³ Literally: thorns and flowers

⁴ Literally: I like to shape it into crowns of hopes and desires.

³ Offered her to God at Mass.

⁴ A parish mission he preached.

so than you are yourself, since it is for their dear souls that you are constantly suffering and praying. 12th - Excuse this date, my dear daughter, it will tell you how busy I've been. I received your kind letter yesterday. The news about your dear sister really left me sad. The only remedy is prayer: we will pray for her peace of mind. A novena is beginning today in honor of Blessed Mary Immaculate.

A director would need to take charge of this poor soul and lead her little by little to look down on it all. Alas! This isn't the first example of such sad results. Our Lord prophesied that miracles would occur at the end of the world to deceive even the Elect.

When you write to me, please give me news about your dear sister. She would need to take a trip to distract herself. If she could come this way, I would be entirely at her service.

Let me tell you a word about adoration. Souls which know this secret are happy and on fire with the desire to dedicate themselves to the service of our good Master. They are waiting impatiently for the time when they can enlist for a eucharistic service. When will this blessed hour come? When will the new Cenacle open? In his mercy will our Lord give me the honor and happiness to be invited to it?

That is the mission I am entrusting to you, my very dear sister, in the presence of our good Savior. Storm heaven to hasten that blessed moment. - In another letter I'll tell you about the basis for this Order of fire, and the zeal which ought to give it life.

Goodbye, write to me. Your letters give me great joy in our Lord. My respects to your dear sister, whom I entrust entirely to our good Master.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.M.⁵

483

CO 479

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 14/75)

January 1, 1855

On this day of [New Year] wishes, I want to tell you that you were the first to be remembered at the feet of our Lord. It's only right. I owe it to you, so I come wholeheartedly, to wish you a happy New Year in our Lord. He wants you to be entirely his; give everything, and you will have everything. He is giving you a particle of his cross; receive it with faith. Place it on your heart as a heavenly treasure. Yes, my dear daughter, bear this Cross well, and it will bring you to Jesus. Bear it without sadness of heart, but like the worthy woman [of the Scriptures] God will draw his glory from it. I am praying for dear Mr. Jordan so that God may restore his health and the joy of being a son of God. I am so pleased that your dear daughter is yours and with you. Have no regrets, and don't blame yourself for anything. She has plenty of time to belong to another, if that is her vocation. Keep her as long as you can. It is better for her to be close to you. I wish this dear Mathilde would write me a few words.

Well, my good and dear daughter! We are now in 1855, a great year which is beginning with war! How will it pass? The dogma of the Immaculate Conception replies, with peace, and a new era for the Most Blessed Virgin. We really need it. The world is so evil and Christians so weak! Still, the good Lord loves us, and makes the nations capable of being healed. I personally hope for it; I expect great things; every sign is there. There is a general expectation of a better future. People feel a need for God. I would so love to bring about the beautiful kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth!

⁵ Abbreviation: Society of Mary.

Oh! If at least I could find it in my own heart and in the heart of my friends, that would be better.

Well, it's a bit absurd to wish you a happy New Year on January 12th and to be so late to finish a letter begun January 1st. I haven't been able to put my hand to the pen since, and you are the first. With this large family, I often act like a mother who hardly has time to eat.

So now, do pray for me. I have a great plan in my heart, pray so that God may bless it; then write to me a little longer. You are doing a little like lawyers who are afraid of sealed letters. And yet I read them with so much pleasure!

Goodbye dear daughter and dear sister. When shall we be in Paradise? Or at least on the path which leads quickly to it?

All yours,
Eymard, P.M.

484

CO 480

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)

(V 5/14)

La Seyne, January 13, 1855

Very dear friend and brother in Mary,

I certainly deserve all the reproaches which come from your unchanging friendship; you are better than I. Nevertheless, I dare tell you that you are ever present to me. I will use a constant headache to excuse myself in your regard. Dear Mme. Marceau gave me news about you with gentle reproaches, and so I am writing to make amends.

Dear brother, thank you so much for your New Year's wishes. They were what I love and I am returning them with all my heart, because, since God gave me the blessed opportunity to know you, there is something more personal in my heart for you. Similarity of feelings has created a religious closeness. I regret only one thing, it is that you should be so far.

If God gives me the grace to go as far as Tours where there are so many beautiful and personal memories, I will be happy to go see you. I would be very happy to speak with you about Heaven and earth, the past and the future.

You let me perceive a beautiful dawn of [future] graces upon you. May God lead you to its perfect fulfillment. I am searching in my mind as to what it may be; I respect its mystery and I bless it. - I would also like to speak to you about a beautiful thought which God has put into my heart, which I love, which I nourish, which I would be so happy to see fulfilled for the greater glory of God. I mean the establishment of the Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament. That is the idea, the rest is understood.

Dear friend, pray for this work of love, as I will pray for yours, as I pray for O... Alas! May God have his soul!

Goodbye, dear brother, believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted and loving servant,
Eymard, P.M.⁶

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
near Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seine et Oise)

⁶ Marist Priest.

485

CO 481

TO MME. GRISAUD (NEE CHAMBORD)
(VII 2/2)

[La-Seyne], January 13, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I am very grateful for your kind letter and the wishes you are presenting to God on my behalf. Your soul is doubly dear to me, you are the sister of our good Father Chambord, and now you are our sister in Mary.

We often speak about you with your dear brother, about your problems, your difficulties, but also about God's graces.

My dear sister, I understand how heavy the cross must be, naturally speaking, especially since you are obliged to run your business alone, surrounded with sick people. - Oh! How you must need God, his grace and his love, in order to rise above these problems.

It seems that the good Lord wants to sanctify you by the cross. It is the surest and most rewarding path. Without the Cross our salvation would be in great danger. - Love this cross well, my dear daughter, since our Lord loves it and God wants it; but especially ask your Mother the secret of uniting the cross to love, sadness to the joy of the Holy Spirit, recollection to action. - It's a great thing to know how to find God in our duties, in the midst of the demands of the world. - That is certainly what you try to do every day.

When we work hard, we must eat well. What a joy, that you can receive Holy Communion often! It's our life and support in this sad life. - Receive Communion often, and Jesus will change you into himself.

Goodbye, my dear Sister. I often give you, as well as your whole family, to God.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

486

CO 482

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 125/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 25, 1855

It seems that you are very ill, my dear daughter. Our Lord has placed you on his cross. So then, he wants you to continue to be crucified with him. But what a difference! He was crucified by his enemies, but in your case, it comes from his divine hands. It comes from his love, so that he may share with you the value of his death and the glory of his cross. What joy to suffer for love and through love! So, my poor daughter, suffer for the love of Jesus Christ. Love which refuses to suffer doesn't deserve the name of love.

Will our divine Master crucify you until death? Your part is to let him act and say to him: "Whatever you will, my dear Lord ...". Then, let your life be like the virgin who is waiting for the arrival of the divine Bridegroom.

Write to me when you can, but don't let it tire you. I'm making the novena for you. It will only finish on the 29th, since I didn't begin it until the 20th. You can imagine that since I stand to gain from it, I really want our Lord to bless it.

Since January 13th, the Work of the Blessed Sacrament is unfolding and being prepared, the proposed rules are finished. The Bishop of Frejus and Toulon finds them beautiful, he will be giving a fine priest. Several others are preparing for it, everyone is happy. As for me, I haven't presented anything to Very Rev. Fr. Favre yet. I am praying and waiting a little longer to explain my thoughts to him.

I often wonder: how will the good Lord use me, since I am ill and worthless? I am no longer any good for anything, I am worn out. I would need to go hide at the feet of our Lord. I hope our good Master will grant me that grace.

I would be happy if I could see at least one Cenacle before I die. That is what the houses of adoration will be called.

When St. John fell asleep on the divine breast of our Savior, he drew his love and God-given mission from him. I would also greatly need, not such a great honor as that one, but at least to be at Jesus' feet! It has been almost twenty years now that I have always been in the active life, now I need a little of the Cenacle.

Goodbye, my good daughter. I entrust you to God's grace, and I pray that Jesus and Mary will heal you.

Eymard

P.S. When you see ... give my apologies. I haven't been able to write to her yet, nor to ... I will do it. My regards to all at Nazareth.

487

CO 483

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 12/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

La Seyne Boarding School, January 26, 1855

Very dear sister in Mary,

I wanted to be the first to wish you the kind of year which is worth a whole life in God's sight. I had started my letter, but it was left unfinished, and now I will just say that I presented you to our Lord and asked for his holy love for you.

Thank you also for your good wishes and prayers; I am counting on them, and to be remembered by you.

1. You can count on the novena for your dear brother. I am happy to pray for him. He is one of my favorite among the dead.

2. I don't think the two letters from Paris were by the same hand: don't get involved in that business.

3. What happiness for your beloved Froissard family! May God be praised! it is a great joy for me as well.

4. You complain about your prayers - pray the prayer of the poor; but keep praying - on one side is poverty and want; fix your gaze on the other side - the goodness of God and the prayer of Jesus Christ which make up for all you lack. - As for your doubts and reactions - none of that is important - it is the feverish agitation of our wretchedness. Pay no attention to it, and rise above it.

5. I approve your idea about that room; it is a fine idea. I advise you to go to confession to Fr. Huguet during the retreat: just make your confession and a general review since the Third Order: that is - your spiritual practices and your besetting fault.

6. The resolve you made last time for purity of intention is fine, but too spiritual: take fidelity to your rule [as your resolution]. - As for the souls in purgatory, pray for them, but don't promise any money.

7. Try to be more patient with your long, extended illness. Forget it if possible, but if not, fight against sadness and inward fears. Be a disciple of confidence in God.

What you tell me of Miss Marguerite is very sad - alas! she would have nothing to lose. May the holy will of God be done.

Goodbye, dear sister in our Lord. Be assured of my great concern for your dear soul.

All yours in Jesus,
Eymard, S.M.

P.S. My respects to Mme. (Hypolite)⁷ Poui. I am praying hard for her elder son.

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene 13
Lyons, Rhone

488

CO 484

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 15/76)

[La Seyne], January 29, 1855

Dear Madame,

I am really late, my dear daughter in our Lord, in answering your good letter. I still don't know how it happened. In your charity, please excuse me.

I praised God for the news you gave me about your dear patient, who, I hope, is feeling better. God guides everything in his divine mercy and by the means he chooses. Our part is to pray well and have others pray.

Courage, my good daughter, have confidence! God will save your whole family. I was also happy to learn about the decision taken by the brothers toward this poor man. It's a grace of God. Continue to place your trust in our good Master and he will direct you in all your ways.

Serve our good Shepherd with true fidelity and love. Try to find the time to feed your poor soul with prayer and a few holy thoughts.

When we economize and regulate our time well. There is time for everything .

I don't need to tell you the wishes I presented to God for you during this New Year, you know them. May God give you his holy love and the conversion of all those you love.

Give me some news about yourself.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. No doubt you know how ill Miss G.⁸ is, unfortunately! I'm praying that God will leave her yet awhile for the Third Order.

⁷ Illegible in the original, perhaps: Hippolyte.

⁸ Probably Miss Guillot.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 12/52)

January 29, 1855

Miss Stephanie,

My dear daughter, I will answer your good letter, the simplicity and openness of which I loved. My answers may perhaps be too late, but they will confirm the principles given in the past.

1. Don't worry at all about what you told me about P.H.⁹ It doesn't diminish my respect at all and proves his dedication to your soul.

2. "But, I ought to take advantage of it!" If God strongly inspires you to do so, yes, or if you should feel the need for it, yes again; but in the ordinary way of life, draw from your interior life and its rule.

For ordinary things you have your kind mother.

3. Always go to our Lord with great simplicity of mind and holy surrender. Notice only two things: your weakness and his goodness, his love for you. Work firmly and constantly to sacrifice your will for the love of God, that is the wood for the divine fire.

Mortify your pride which is reborn daily.

You are already mature now; so follow the life of our Lord at your age. What joy to be able to say: Jesus was my age!

In your meditation, continue to tend toward the love of our Lord by the sacrifice of yourself. It's the shortest and most perfect way.

Then pray for me. I offer you continually to the divine Spouse of your soul, in order that he may fill you with his virtues and love.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER

(VII 2/19)

[La-Seyne], January 29, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I am finally sending your good gifts. I hope they will please you.

I was really sorry that I couldn't see you when I passed the other day. I stopped to see Beauregard's sick young son and I had no more time. When I return, I will try to give you an hour.

Pray for the one who is totally devoted to you in our Lord.

Eymard

⁹ Perhaps Fr. Huguet.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 126/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, March 19, 1855

My dear daughter, I want to begin at least by wishing you a happy feast day on this beautiful feast of St. Joseph. I mean to tell you that I wished you a happy feast day, in God's presence first of all, and that I am wishing you the spirit as well as the humble and spiritual gifts of this great Saint.

You must find that I am quite lazy and almost forgetful. Forgetful, no, I cannot forget your soul, nor your needs and difficulties. Lazy, yes, it has been a long time that I haven't had the energy to write letters, in spite of the fact that I would have almost fifty to write; it comes from some fatigue. My migraine headache takes over almost every morning, without always obliging me to stay in bed. I am able to say Holy Mass, half sick, but I go; add to that the thousand and one duties which are pulling at me from every side. Still you are number one and I begin with you.

1. Thank you and thank you very much for your last letter and for the information you gave me about that conversation, and the feelings about me in Lyons.

Very Reverend Father is right to say what he said, since I am late again and I don't have any energy for this work. The Fathers are right to complain. I haven't written to anyone for a long time.

I assure you that I thanked God for it. They thought I was good for something; at least, they won't think so any more.

2. For the second letter. - I pleaded for you in God's presence for all the trials that you are having with Fr. H.¹⁰ Yet, in the depth of myself I felt a different answer, that is: that you shouldn't run away from the cross, but sacrifice Father Huguet's esteem and trust. Your decision to go and be open with Very Rev. Fr. Superior General is very wise; follow it and do what he says. Do so out of love for the Third Order, that dear family which has been the object of so much sweat and tears! - As to your personal details, I understand that you can barely go into them, but count on my good will to make up for the difference. I don't think you should go to Fr. B. any more. However, my dear daughter, where you should really go is to the feet of Jesus, your crucified and crucifying spouse: that is the true place of rest, of comfort and strength. Oh! how good our tender Savior is to help you to die both to what is natural and spiritual in human support and consolation! But, you are afraid to offend him, or to stray? No, no, we can never stray on Calvary. There is only one path which leads directly to the feet of Jesus. We must always walk on it and stop only when we reach his heart.

So, good daughter, everything is fine; don't worry too much about your hostilities and natural dislikes. That is the victim you are to sacrifice to Jesus' pure love. You are pleasing to his heart; that should be enough for you.

Now to speak about the House of the Third Order. This has always been a serious question in my heart. Ever since I became aware of Fr. Favre's thinking, I have been unsure. The reason is that, because of Fr. Huguet's ideas and plans, I don't see how it could work if he were to be responsible for it, and especially if he were moved from Lyons. Then I was also held back by what I saw when I visited Lyons the last time. I saw that Very Rev. Fr. Favre was giving a simple permission that would be delayed until my return. - "If you come to Lyons, will you take care of that house?" - If they want that from me, I want it. - "Will you come to Lyons?" - I don't know, for if my health isn't any better, I don't think I will be able to give myself to the active work of the sacred ministry.

"But, your idea for the Work of the Blessed Sacrament?" - Nothing is settled yet. I haven't written to Very Rev. Fr. Favre about it, because the matter will not be settled until the holidays... The people will not be free until then, and, if I continue to be sick, how can I be useful? I am praying, encouraging, waiting for a sign from God: that is where I am.

¹⁰ Fr. Huguet.

In a few days I will send you the Constitutions of the Blessed Sacrament, in order that you may tell me your opinion about them. I will tell you the reasons in favor of keeping the Work separate,¹¹ and you will consider before God what can give him greater glory.

This thought places me on Calvary. I feel that one must die to everything, in order to deserve to work for such a beautiful undertaking: God is preparing me for it.

Kindly remit fourteen francs to Mr. Vacher, the son-in-law of the widow, Mme. Monteillet, next to the Cathedral, to pay off our bill for the reliquary of St. Victorius.

Write to me when you can. Your letters are like a visitor in my illness.

Goodbye, good daughter. I am blessing you and the divine cross of crucified love.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - My respects to your house of Nazareth which I love as my own family. I'm not saying anything to you about your resignation. It isn't time to give it yet. So, submit lovingly to his cross.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhone)

492

CO 489

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 100/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, March 22, 1855

My very dear sisters,

I'm really lazy about writing to you and yet I know how much it pleases you to receive my letters. When one is surrounded by so many duties and especially by so many people, I don't know where time goes.

I knew that you had had news about me, that is why I put it off. I am well enough, my migraines aren't as severe. They say that my stomach is the cause.

We have very nice weather here. I was told that the cold had not been too severe in the mountains. I hope so for your sake.

My dear Nanette, I am really praying for your dear patient.¹² Oh! I know that it is a great and very painful cross, but see it as the good Lord sees it. After having done all that you can, abandon yourself in the hands of God's eternal Providence.

This morning I received a letter from Mr. Morel. I will hurry to get the information he is asking for about Mr. Malifaud.

I will write to the Pastor shortly. Please tell him that I will go to Marseilles next week. I will go to the Capuchins and Jesuits for him. I share in the good pastor's sorrows. Oh! He really deserves pity for the smearing caused by gossipers.

Continue to pray for me and believe me always in our Lord,

Your affectionate brother,
Eymard, p.m.

¹¹ Separate from other projects being considered.

¹² perhaps Marianne.

493

CO 490

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 3/19)

[La-Seyne], March 26, [1855]

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I was still hoping to come see you to speak to you.

1. about the lithograph of Laus. They cost fifty francs for the stone and ten for a hundred. - How many hundreds do you want?

Another lithographer asks for eight francs as percentage, without charging for the stone, but he would like several thousand.

2. I must order an exvoto¹³ for a sailor whose home was protected in Crimea at the time of the great storm. - All business establishments were on a hill. His was the only one left standing. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. This exvoto needs to be ready in a month. They would like to give about a hundred francs, more rather than less. I hope to see you in Hyeres, but in the meantime write to me in Lyons... please make a drawing for the exvoto.

I am all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

494

CO 491

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 16/76)

L.J.C.

La Seyne, March 28, 1855

Last night, my dear daughter, I received your letter which I had been anxiously expecting. I was really worried! Put your trust in the ever merciful goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the intercession of our good Mother! This morning I said holy Mass for your dear mother and father. You understand the grace I am most requesting. Yes, have confidence, God will give them to you¹⁴. You did well to attend the close of Fr. H.'s¹⁵ retreat. There are some religious proprieties which must be observed and honored, and then God is always the motive for everything.

Your three resolutions are perfect. Try to be very faithful to them, especially the third one. It will be a prolonged prayer.

You may make the vow for the souls in purgatory, for the greater glory of God and because of his love for the souls who suffer in purgatory.

Now once again about confession.

We must pray a great deal, especially to St. Joseph during this beautiful month. The devil does everything he can. God has his moments for which we must wait in order to act. You will know this moment when it comes, by an inner inspiration, by a favorable and decisive event. Then peacefulness and strength urge us on. I was pleased to learn about the purchase of the chapel. May God be glorified by it.

¹³ A symbol of a favor received offered as a gift to God.

¹⁴ The conversion of her loved ones.

¹⁵ Fr. Huguet.

Be sure to take the sleep you need. When you can, have someone give me a little news. Your sorrow is my sorrow.

Good-bye, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

495

CO 493

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.

(V 7/8)

La Seyne, April 14, 1855

M.¹⁶

The high price of food is obliging us, in spite of ourselves, to ask you, for this year only, a supplement of 100 francs for ordinary room and board.

Last year, we decided not to follow the example of other houses of education. We were willing to make a sacrifice; but it is becoming too great for this year. Therefore, we hope to count on the help of the parents, in order that it may become less of a burden for us.

It is my honor to be with respect, M.

Your most humble and devoted servant,

Eymard, Superior

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CO 494

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.

(V 8/8)

La Seyne, April 25, 1855

Good and very Rev. Fr. Morcel,¹⁷

We threw down the nets and hope that it will bring in from 8 to 10 thousand francs, which would help us greatly this year.

I am sending you a model of the circular letter.¹⁸

The Boarding School is going well. We had good examinations at Easter. We didn't give any time to review, and everything succeeded. Only 4 were held back during the holidays.

The Fathers are all feeling weak in varying degrees, but they are all fulfilling their duties. Fr. Souchart is ill, but you know that his nervous system accounts for a lot of it. Fr. Perret is not well these days; I hope that things will get better. However, he keeps going.

As for me, I keep going, weak one moment and a little better the next. My cough doesn't give up, what can I do? Leave it alone.

My dear Father, I hope that you aren't forgetting my substitute. It will be the end of the year soon, and I am at the end of my strength, fortunate if I make it to the end, which I hope. From time to time I go to spend two or three days at Maubel when I can.

¹⁶ Circular letter - name of addressee.

¹⁷ It seems that Fr. Morcel was his immediate Superior at this time.

¹⁸ cf previous Document.

However, I hope that you won't think that my request for rest is the result of discouragement or any other thought. No! No! I have such good colleagues here that it would be quite wrong on my part to complain. They are all so kind and so devoted! The house would suffer from it, and so would my conscience.

You must have received my report. If you need any explanations I would be very pleased if they would ask me for them in Lyons, while it is still fresh in my mind.

Dear Father, allow me to remind you about my thoughts and desires for the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I wrote to Fr. General about it to ask permission for the holidays. I opened my soul to you so that you would pray, and especially that you would help me to do something for the glory of Jesus Eucharistic. I feel that I am ever more strongly pulled toward that, and it has been so for a long time... What happiness if our Lord wanted to use my disabilities and weakness to bring forth a eucharistic flower from the earth! Shouldn't eucharistic religious spring forth from Mary? I reflected carefully on your idea of joining with Rev. Fr. Colin, I don't feel inclined to that - or to make it a Marist house, at this time. It would be too soon. It is better to let this work take shape in its originality¹⁹ and struggle with the trials of foundation.

In asking for this permission, my intention is simply to work at this time and exclusively for the birth of the eucharistic Work. I feel that my request is extraordinary; but if this thought comes from God, it's good, and as Rev. Fr. Favre said last year: "If God wants it, what a pity for me not to desire it with my whole heart."

I had told you that when the Sovereign Pontiff was consulted on this project, he found it very good and blessed it.

You know that the crowning of the Virgin of Laus by Pius the IX through his delegate Bishop Depery will take place May 23rd. If it hadn't been so far, I would have asked for that little holiday. I received a very attractive invitation.

Goodbye, dear beloved Fr. Morcel, pray for my poor soul. It is suffering and wants to do better.

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard, PM

497

CO 495

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER

(VII 4/19)

La-Seyne, May 10, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

May God repay you a hundredfold for the eucharistic offering that comes from your charity. - I cannot accept it yet, since the big question of the exact day when the Work will begin has not yet been determined.

I am leaving today for Maubel, where I plan to stay until Monday. In that case I would arrive in Toulon around 10:00 a.m. and go to the Malta Hotel to get news about you, to see whether you have arrived to depart for Laus. I am writing to the Superior to reserve a room for you. I am also writing to Lyons to deposit the package of lithographs with Fr. Julien, the canon at Gap.

The ex-voto which I asked you to make is for Mr. Latty, the wine merchant, rue des Trois Oliviers, 73.

¹⁹ Original form or inspiration.

At the bottom you must inscribe:

from December 1 - 10, 1854 ex-voto + Latty of Toulon

If I should not see you then, remember me at the feet of the Good Mother,²⁰ and especially the little family of Jesus Eucharistic.

I bless you and my wishes journey with you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,

Eymard, Sup.

498

CO 487

TO FATHER GABRIEL-CLAUDE MAYET, S.M.

(VI 2/4)

[La Seyne], March 11, 1855²¹

The Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is maturing. The Constitutions (in draft form) are progressing. They seem quite perfect. Since we shall be at the source of all graces and virtues, everything will be easy. And a vocation with a more contemplative than active life must have a virtue which is more perfect and more sacrificial.

Mr. de Cuers is still full of enthusiasm for the eucharistic Work. He writes to me on occasion. He is still the same man - the sailor, and the fervent Christian.

Several priests want to be part of the Work, and a few young laymen - ten to twelve in all.

We would like to meet around September, in the Diocese of Marseilles - we would begin by retiring to a country house for a few months, to be re-cast in this new Cenacle.

What gives [me] greatest pleasure is the generosity, the humility, and the seraphic piety which inspires them all.

As for the personal²² question, it has been put off until the holidays by Very Rev. Fr. Favre. I am praying, please pray for me. - This thought is a harsh Calvary, a prayer of Gethsemane. What does that matter, as long as our Lord is to be known, loved, and served! - That is all I desire. I admit that I would be very happy to serve as manure for the tree, but it is too great an honor, which I don't deserve.

I can feel my poor health weakening. I would dearly like to do something for the glory of our good Master before I die. I offer myself constantly and surrender myself to his good pleasure.

Eymard

²⁰ Popular name for Notre Dame du Laus.

²¹ More likely May, 1855 - Troussier

²² Whether the Marists would allow him to be dedicated to this Work

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 13/52)

La Seyne, May 11, 1855

Thank you, my dear daughter, for telling me about the beautiful grace you have just received.²³ It's really the greatest one of all, which cannot be bought too dearly. Your house has now become like the house of Bethany where our divine Master lodged. How happy you must be to live next to Jesus, to have him for yourself, to adore him, keep him, serve and love him!

Your soul ought to be the spouse of the heavenly King. That is why he has come to dwell in your midst.

You ought to be like the eucharistic lamp which enlightens, burns and consumes itself to the glory of the hidden God, whose sign and guard of honor it is.

Forget the fiery skies to concentrate on the eucharistic heaven.

May the presence of our eucharistic God be the nourishment and center of the practice of the presence of God.

That is where you need to give everything, sacrifice everything in order to have everything.

Pray there a little for the great needs of my soul.

Thank you for the good news you give me about your whole family. May God flood it with his graces.

Always be like a little girl with your dear mother. Ignore the painful feelings of selfish nature and pride except to turn them into virtue or to reject them.

Do you want to be very pleasing to our Lord? Work to become like the seed of the eucharistic wheat.

My respectful and devoted sentiments to your dear mother.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

May 11-15 - At Maubel, House of Theology.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 16/52)

*L.J.C.E.*²⁴

Maubel, May 14, 1855

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am very grateful for your note sent by means of the navy chaplain. That dear man is a fine person. He was in such a hurry that I couldn't help him in any way.

I was sorry to learn about your suffering. You may say that it is a natural thing. That's true, I would like to see you a little stronger, because you still have a long way to go. It's true that the Cross is the means by which we go to Jesus, unite ourselves to Jesus, that we live of his love. The grace of suffering is a great grace and much virtue is needed to suffer alone in his love. God, in his divine goodness, is giving you a little particle in his beloved Cross, so he must be praised for it.

²³ Permission to have the Blessed Sacrament reserved in their home.

²⁴ Abbreviation for Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

Your letter of March 17th really helped me, especially about the eucharistic Work. Yes, my dear sister in Jesus, center your life in this loving thought which will give much glory and love to our good Master.

The Constitutions are written. Twelve members are preparing: 6 priests, and 6 scholastics. These poor gentlemen form a group around me; while in Lyons²⁵ they don't want to give me permission to set them free. I was expecting this difficulty, it's so natural! But if our Lord wants it, it will happen. In this same mail, I am sending the plan for the Constitutions to the General of the Dominicans in Rome so that he may have them reviewed. Good Fr. Jandel is entirely in favor of the eucharistic Work. Help us in the presence of Jesus and Mary. I consider the Society of the Blessed Sacrament as a flower that Mary has chosen among her poor children to offer to her divine Son. I hope that someday, at least one of your dear children might become a Eucharistic Religious.

What you tell me about your friend is very sad. She is in God's hands; we will pray very much for her.

I finally wrote to Mr. Adolphe. I really don't know how I could have neglected him ever since January. I've been so busy and a bit ill, so that I have barely written to anyone.

Don't tell me again that your letters are too long, my dear daughter. Let your pen run through the fields.

I was happy that you had the joy of having your eldest son at home. Watch over his heart, his beautiful soul.

My affectionate regards to Mr. Tholin; a remembrance in God to your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.M.

P.S. I am writing to you from our house of theology, six hours from La Seyne, where I have been for the last 2 or 3 days. I am leaving here tomorrow.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Tarare (Rhône)

501

CO 497

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 10/17)

La Seyne, May 18, 1855

It is high time, isn't it, my dear daughter in our Lord, to break such a long silence? You must have thought that I was either dead or very indifferent. I am neither one nor the other, but like bad creditors who always say tomorrow – it's time to say: today and to begin.

First of all, my dear daughter, thank you for kindly remembering me and especially for your prayers. - I also pray for you, in order that our Lord may comfort you and replace everything for you, that Mary, your good Mother, may take you with her. - You really need to surrender yourself into God's hands in order not to give in to sadness and discouragement. My daughter, think that your parents are in Heaven, in the bosom of blessed Eternity, waiting for you: death is only a bridge from time to Heaven. God has willed to let you be last in your paternal home, in order that you would be the heiress of so much devotion and virtue.

I will not try to give you advice about your future. You must go slowly, and carefully study the pros and the cons. As for Oceania, however, I say "no" without hesitation. They say there is still nothing for the sisters to do there.

²⁵ The Marist Superiors.

Dear Father Mayet wrote to me recently. It seems that he is the same as usual and always more devout. What a beautiful crown of Nazareth this dear Father will have!

I leave you, my dear daughter, in the arms of Mary, and beg you to pray to her for my faults.

A thousand and one regards to your beloved brother and his very dear wife, to Mr. and Mme. Perroud, to her dear and blessed family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

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CO 505

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 128/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 19, 1855

My dear daughter,

I just received a letter from Nanette who is very upset. She has just lost her brother, which leaves her to care for three children without any means: a little boy who is two years old, and two little girls. One is ten and the other six. Nanette is asking me to see whether it would be possible to find a place for the two little girls, or at least for one of them, in some orphanage or house of providence²⁶ in Lyons. Please inquire about it, I have lost contact with those institutions. I've almost forgotten the names. Find out what the conditions would be.

I received your last letter, I was so happy to read it. I received it on the very day of Pentecost, with my gift of Counsel; on that day, I had drawn the gift of Fortitude by lot. Oh, how I need strength! If God wants this eucharistic project,²⁷ I want it wholeheartedly, as he wants it, and forever. However, human nature is sometimes [experiencing] the Garden of Olives. I am praying, waiting, I am surrendering myself to God's grace.

As for the house you want to buy, if Fr. Huguet has 50,000 francs as he says, it would be fine.

Do you know where things are for the eucharistic Work? - In the Garden of Olives, with the grotto of Bethlehem as our only expectation.²⁸ The 60,000 that had been promised to me for the beginning have been spent elsewhere - that is a good sign of success. We must build on poverty, humility, and love.

Goodbye, good daughter,

Ever and all yours in J.C.,
Eymard

²⁶ Public institution.

²⁷ Pensee eucharistique: idea, project or plan.

²⁸ In a state of suffering while hoping to begin.

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON

(V 5/9)

L.J.C.E.

La Seyne, May 19, 1855

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Your fine letter reawakened all my old feelings of war. Don't admire what is so natural: during two weeks we gave a military retreat to the soldiers of the 43rd. What comfort it was for me to give those courageous men four hundred scapulars, five to six hundred medals, books, etc! We loaded them down, especially with prayers and blessings.

It was so beautiful to see our church full of these future martyrs, to see them at the Communion rail, - a great number have already fallen on the battlefield. - Poor soldiers, or rather happy soldiers with a double crown! The French soldier is a Christian! When you see him close to danger, he loses his human respect.²⁹

I think as you do about the crusade of the Orient. For me, it's God's war: truth against error, slavery, and tyranny. Sacrifices and Christian blood are needed to give birth to new generations. The sword of our Lord will not return to its scabbard until the victory is won. It seems to me that this is the dawn of a great century.

I pray often for dear Mr. Foloppe. I will be pleased to say nine Masses for him, beginning on May 22nd, finishing at the end of the month of Mary. I feel sorry about accepting the stipend, but since you wish, kindly give it to Mr. Gaudioz, the wallpaperer at place Leviste, 10; or to Father Poupinel.

The biography of our dear friend has been sleeping.³⁰ We are still taking notes. However, I am going to shake myself a little.

Why didn't you follow your good inspiration for Toulon? It would be short; what a pleasant surprise! so many things to say! I haven't given it up totally yet.

Continue to remember your poor servant in prayer. My soul is somewhat like my body: what would it matter if this poor, weak machine fell apart, if my soul were truly pleasing to God! I can see that the best wealth is to surround oneself with the mantle of divine Mercy, like the two brave Zouaves, who lay down on the flag they had just conquered and died.

Steal a few minutes to tell me that you are still in this world.

Goodbye,

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, P.M.

²⁹Fear of being open about his faith.

³⁰Biography of Captain Marceau is still unwritten.

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 6/7)

La-Seyne, May 19, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I'm just starting to pay my old debts. Yesterday I began with Miss Elizabeth, today it's your turn. How many others are going to stay at Vaise! For the last few months I had decided to declare bankruptcy,³¹ things had gotten so bad. However, I will try to give you a report. It is too important to me to be in debt to you and to receive news from you.

First of all, thank you for remembering me so kindly. You know how dear your family is to me! This family of God and the Blessed Virgin - which Jesus visits from time to time with his little cross, because he likes to rest there, and to visit there as [he did] at Bethany.

Oh! How blessed you are my dear daughter, that you knew how to appreciate the graces of your situation, to have preferred your solitude to the deafening noise of the world, your home to the pleasures and celebrations of the cities, your Nazareth to everything. That is the better part among the graces of divine goodness. Therefore, love this little garden which God has entrusted to you. - He has planted the flowers of all the virtues there.

Continue to serve our good Master in a spirit of gentleness, trust and love.

Let gentleness form the character of your life: it's the Queen of virtues, and, as good St. Francis de Sales said, to be gentle in the midst of trials and tribulations is to be perfect.

Let trust be the soul of your humility, of your prayers. The weaker I am, says St. Paul, the stronger I am in the one who strengthens me.

Love is the purpose, the center, the crown of everything... It is through love that you ought to do what costs you the most, go to the cross as to the eucharistic Banquet, pray... and belong to everyone.

But don't look too closely at your weaknesses - put aside the sight of your progress - divine love is like an abyss. The more we love, the deeper it is.

I am happy to know that your dear children are fine at St. Chamond.

See, the time was right! God loves you so much! Goodbye, my dear kind sister. Forgive my laziness and believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.³²

³¹ Inability to keep up with his correspondence.

³² P.M. - Abbreviation for Marist Priest.

S.M. - Abbreviation for Society of Mary.

505

CO 500

TO MME. FRANCHET

(VII 26/33)

La-Seyne, May 21, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

Since you wrote to me twice, it's only right that I should at least answer once. For a while I have hardly answered the good wishes which nevertheless really please me in God's presence. I have become lazy.

I am happy to learn that you are pleased with the direction of dear Father Marcel. He is your Ananias: be very obedient and you will gradually attain the holiness of your state.

I really like what you told me about the eucharistic lamp and especially that you want to be this solitary lamp, which burns and consumes itself for the interior service of Jesus. If you do this you will share in the same [life] as Magdalen, as the Blessed Virgin in the Cenacle before the divine Tabernacle. Pray for me, I do so for your dear soul, for your dear child whom I love very much and for your good and devout husband whom I love as a brother.

Goodbye, Madame and dear sister.

Ever yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.M.

506

CO 502

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 127/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 23, 1855

My dear daughter, I've been wanting to write to you for a long time. I'm happy to do so at this moment, while our good Mother of Laus is being crowned. It would have been such a great joy for me to witness it. It is so even from here, and I wholeheartedly applaud all the praise being given to the august Queen of Heaven by the thousands of believers who are filling the heavenly valley.

I read and reread your last letter. I thank God for your fine Retreat, which must undoubtedly have helped many people. I wrote to Fr. Huguet about it (without mentioning you). In such a case, your retreat consists in benefitting from whatever you can in haste, then, being accessible to everyone for the love of our Lord who wants you to be his servant. Then, you should be happier with the progress of your sisters than your own.

How good Mary is to grant such great spiritual favors to her daughters!

Your short report was fine. In dealing with Fr. Huguet, give in, submit, accept humiliation; then war becomes impossible. Know how to profit spiritually from everything. Then, regarding your personal life and your vows, follow the former rules.

What a good idea you have to put yourself under the direction of St. Joseph! Follow the advice of this great Patron and protector of spiritual persons. He will direct you well in the spirit and virtues of Jesus and Mary. Especially, my poor daughter, be very humble, like a beggar who is very poor, at the feet of this good Saint.

Nourish your inner life with the spirit of penance and renunciation, in order to die to the old self. Let your piety consist in union with our Lord, in order to lose your life in the life of your soul's bridegroom. Delight in having a small room in the Cenacle and on Calvary, the divine dwelling places of love and our Lord will be happy.

Let us speak now of the great Work of the Blessed Sacrament. It is still in the ground, where it is rotting. I sent the Constitutions to Laus so that they would be placed on Mary's altar today, and be a bouquet of love for our good Mother.

I hope that they are also reaching Rome today. They are being sent to an influential friend for examination. See how you must pray.

What will be the outcome of it all? I don't know. What form will the Eucharistic project take? The one that our Lord wants through Mary. I pray and beg this good Master to be pleased with this idea, this desire, and to allow this little grain of wheat to grow in the presence of his divine Tabernacle.

I received the answer from Very Rev. Fr. Favre. He is putting off his study of it until the holidays. In the meantime, this good Father has given me very wise considerations, which would even seem strict, if he were not the Superior General. No doubt, he is right, if we see the thing from an ordinary point of view. I didn't answer. I am waiting, praying. While it crucifies me, this thought gently wounds my heart.

I am doing as you do for your house. It is really desirable that you should buy a house, if you had the money on hand. There is nothing to lose.³³

I wish God would choose Lyons for the first house of the Blessed Sacrament, especially the Nolaque house. Everything would be ready. Do you know how much they want for that house?

Goodbye my good daughter. I'm not giving you any news about myself, except that I must thank God and his Holy Mother that I can still go on. A week ago, I thought that a chest infection I had would get worse, and now it is going away.

My fraternal wishes to the whole House of Nazareth.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - Please give Mr. Gaudioz the money you have. Let him keep it to pay for the lithographs.

507

CO 503

TO FR. JEAN-VICTOR BARET

(V 4/6)

Var, May 24, [1855]

Dear friend,³⁴

Fr. Cat led me to hope that I would have the pleasure to see you here during the holidays. Thank you in advance; it would be a great pleasure for me; I would be happy to welcome you, the sooner the better.

About a month ago I had the opportunity to see one of your parishioners here from Malbuisson. We spoke about you and your parish. It seems that they are very happy to have you as a pastor.

If I have the joy of going to Notre Dame du Laus, I will go to see you on the way and we can speak at ease.

What can I tell you about this [place]? Not much. You know that it's a house of education, with little things constantly following one another. However, we have reason to thank God. Our house is going well. We have 114 students, all young. There is a great mission to fulfill here,

³³ House of Nazareth for the Third Order.

³⁴ This letter doesn't have a date but, according to the text, it was certainly written in 1855. At that time Fr. was preparing a project of Constitutions which was submitted the following August 24th to Pius IX by Fr. Touche and received this explicit approval: "This thought comes from God, let them hurry to carry it out, the Church needs this help!"

because the formation in non-Christian families (that is the greater number) is so depraved!

I will give you some news which may perhaps please you very much. At this moment a new Order is beginning, magnificent in its purpose: the Order of the Blessed Sacrament, perpetual Adoration.

And, astonishing thing! all the other mysteries of the life and death of our Lord have had their religious body and the greatest of all the mysteries has not had one. This new Society pleases me very much. When you decide to withdraw from the world, that, dear friend, should be your affair, your beautiful part.

Give me news about yourself and news about our old friends. That will please me a lot; and take care of yourself for the glory of God.

Goodbye, dear friend.

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard,
Sup.of the B. School³⁵

508

CO 504

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 15/75)

La Seyne, May 28, 1855

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

How fortunate you've been! To see Catholic Rome and the Pope with faith and Christian devotion: that's truly the favor of favors. It will take your whole life to relive such spiritual memories! Hold them sacred. They help us to serve God and to become generous.

God really led you like children. Everything works out for those who love him and who seek him in a spirit of simplicity. I was happy to learn that you returned safe and sound. I was hoping that you would return through Toulon. Your visit would have been a Lyonese celebration. God didn't will it.

My dear Madame, daughter, and sister; whatever title you prefer you are now at St. Romans with your silkworms. You are in the peaceful countryside. Enjoy it and may God especially bless your little silk creatures. Isn't it an image of the Christian life; an inert seed, a state of death, breakthrough, resurrection, life, ascension, work, palace, - in our case, Heaven. What a beautiful lesson of humility we learn from these worms! They accomplish such beautiful things in the weakest state.

When the prophet David compared the Divine Messiah and Redeemer to a worm, he was putting him on the lowest scale of beings: it was that divine Worm who clothed us with his glory and fed us with his substance.

Now what am I up to, [I am talking] about your worms instead of telling you to take care of yourself, to become a saint, to pray for me and mine. Remember me to your dear daughter whom I always recommend to our Lord so that she may be your joy and crown?

Goodbye, good and dear sister, write to me again between now and the holidays. Then, during the holidays, we will see one another, God willing.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.M.

³⁵ Superior of the Boarding School.

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 6/14)

*L.J.C.*³⁶

La Seyne, June 5, 1855

Dear Sir and brother in Mary,

I received your gracious letter of May 18th. I immediately enrolled the child you mentioned. I hope that the Blessed Virgin took him under her care and protected him for the love of his dear family.

Yes, dear friend, I prayed for you and your great undertaking. When God inspires a soul he loves with the thought and the mission of prayer, it's proof that he wants to grant it some grace, some favor. The inspiration of prayer comes from the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit prays with us and in us.

So you are praying for the project³⁷ I shared with you, and I shall surely pray for yours. God is preparing great events for the salvation of mankind and for the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior. The time will soon come when the two-edged sword of the word of Jesus Christ will confound the errors which insinuate themselves everywhere; it will scatter the abysmal darkness of the wicked, where, as in a hellish counsel, they plot against Jesus Christ and his Church, against the principles of justice and equity, against every good man.

The All-Powerful Immaculate Virgin will reward the Catholic world for our celebrations of her Feast.³⁸

And you, dear brother, continue to help others and become a great saint in the hands of Jesus and Mary. Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
near Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seine et Oise)

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 5/19)

La-Seyne, June 5, 1855

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am in admiration of the way God placed a few painful and unforeseen thorns on your journey when everything seemed fine and beneficial! What can be done? Look only at God and veil the human face which has become the thorn. If I had had time to arrive like the telegram, I would have

³⁶ Abbreviation for *Louz soit Jesus Christ*. Praised be Jesus Christ.

³⁷ French: *pensee*.

³⁸ Declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception and the Jubilee year that followed it.

said: take care of it yourself. - But it is over - God will consider your desires as reality. - Believe that you have succeeded - and bring your soul back to peace and solitude. Again, surrender yourself into the hands of divine Providence. - Oh! When will this cenacle of peace, prayer and love be opened! Let us pray.

For the drawings of the Eucharistic month, I have not been able to take care of it yet. We shall see. It is getting close to the time for tests and I'm very busy, but I will always be at your service.

I believe that your lithographs in storage will always be saleable. Don't worry about them. Goodbye, my dear sister, have confidence.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, SM

511

CO 508

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 3/181 VI 3)

Vivat J.E.

La Seyne, June 11, 1855

Very dear friend and brother in the Lord,

Rejoice! God's work is beginning; and its roots are on Calvary. Everything is going well. They are suffering joyfully and wish to suffer even more in order to drench it (the Work) more abundantly with the divine blood of Jesus Hostia. Our four brothers³⁹ are being tried more and more severely. Two of them were dismissed by their director, who even refuses to give them absolution unless they retract. They are being ridiculed. It's a storm but they are suffering like children of Jesus Christ, and are only the stronger in their resolve. They are worthier than we are.

As for us, I received the answer to my second letter. Rev. Fr. General tells me:

"You are a Marist before all else. The society is your ship of salvation. Therefore, be so prudent that there will not even be any shadow of a pretext to accuse you of giving priority to a project which is only an idea and which is not your own, in preference to the one to which you owe your full attention because of your absolute and irrevocable consecration. The better is often the enemy of the good."

Then he said that he will come to La Seyne toward the end of the month. So I am applying myself to fulfill my duties as best I can. It seems to me that I am doing more than I have ever done.

Now, I'm waiting for his visit which should settle the matter. I have definitely decided, with God's grace, to do his holy will, to put aside all human motives, all natural fear. Please pray for me. God doesn't want me to go to your ordination. I was told that V. Rev. Fr. General will leave Lyons June 21st. Mr. Audibert will be there in my place. He will go to Marseilles. He continues to be totally in favor of the Work.

Now here is something new! Think about it in the presence of God, as we do here.

1. Should we decide to establish the first house in Marseilles? I mean the first house for preparation, formation, the motherhouse. You know the reasons in favor. Here are a few reasons against:

1) Will the Bishop want it? If he consents, will he leave us free? Since he is the Founder of an Order, would he try to interfere in this one? They say he is meticulous, sometimes narrow in his ideas. Experience proves that an old founder has only one idea.

2) Missionaries from Marseilles are not highly esteemed in France. Would that keep vocations away? The diocese of Marseilles and even Provence have few vocations. They seldom persevere.

³⁹ Students and potential vocations for the Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Bishop of Marseilles would find it difficult to give up his candidates.

Here is another plan: the diocese of Valence would receive us willingly. The Bishop has shown much interest in me. He has never founded anything. His diocese has excellent vocations and the neighboring dioceses are rich in good candidates.

They are offering to sell us a convent which is already built and in perfect condition. It was a Benedictine convent. The beautiful church has three adjacent naves, and a magnificent enclosure of over four acres, all enclosed. The convent can lodge 40 persons. Near the church there are 400 inhabitants, and nearby, the city of Montelimart with a population of 10,000.

There, we would be quiet to form the first candidates, with an excellent climate for our young people. The price is about 60,000 francs. It would cost 150,000 if it had to be built. We would be given time for the payments. They are writing to [ask] the owner not to sell it without first informing me.

Then, when we are transformed into true adorers, we will go to establish our first foundation in Marseilles. There we would immediately set up our plan of action.

I'm waiting for an answer from Rome. I heard that it was being presented.

We are praying very much for you, dear brother. On the 24th especially, I will be kneeling before the King of Kings, asking him to give you the fullness of his spirit of love. Pray for me, that I may sacrifice my natural self and be very faithful to grace. All these storms will clear the air. God will have the last word.

Goodbye, I have time only to say that I am

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.⁴⁰

P.S. Please remember me to dear Father Brunello.

Mr. de Cuers
Deacon at the Major Seminary
B. du Rhone
Marseilles

512

CO 509

TO FR. HERMANN COHEN, OCD⁴¹

[La-Seyne], June 14, 1855

I was really envious of you [visiting] such a beautiful sanctuary.⁴² But do continue to pray there. Now is the time. We are waiting for Very Rev. Father-General. A decision will be made toward the end of the month. You know that the project is in Rome.

ROME ABOVE ALL! Goodbye, dear Father, the Work is on the cross.

⁴⁰ Abbreviation for Superior.

⁴¹ Fragment belonging to Fr. Mayet

⁴² Chapel of Marie-Eustelle Harpain, at St. Palais

513

CO 510

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 129/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, June 19, 1855

I am sorry to cause you so much worry, my dear daughter. If I had known that it would be so difficult, I wouldn't have asked. In conclusion, may God give you the hundredfold! Thank you so much.

I wrote to Mme. D'Haimyue in Paris. We will see what will come from that; may God's will be done! When we have done all we can, we come to rest at the feet of Providence.

So many things seem to be waiting for me in Lyons at holiday time! If God wills, I will it with all my heart. Surely, I would love to see the Manual of the Third Order finished, but my retreat was done so poorly that it would harm the Manual: imagine that I composed it while Miss Daniel was doing it. I was like a baker who feeds his customers fresh bread. I would be happy if only it inspired someone to compose a perfect one.

The house you want so badly is still there waiting to be sold. We must continue to pray. I agree with you - the first person must sacrifice herself. If we are too prudent and thorough, we don't even dare sell pins. We must be sure that God wants it, or desires it, and before casting our net. That is how I am proceeding about the plans for the Work of the Blessed Sacrament. We are expecting Very Rev. Fr. General at the end of the month. I hope he will make some decision. Pray a great deal until then.

Goodbye. Courage and joy of heart.

All yours in J. and M.,⁴³
Eymard

514

CO 511

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 130/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, July 1, 1855

My dear daughter, thank you for your good wishes for the feast of my Holy Patron. I really need his protection and especially his generosity in loving our divine Master.

Very Rev. Fr. General is at Maubel. I will see him here Tuesday. We will discuss the big issues relating to the eucharistic Work. Pray very much, so that God's glory alone be our only goal.

There is no question of Toulon for the Work, but of the Work for men, before one for women... It is natural that the directors and spiritual fathers be perfected first. It's true, everything could begin at the same time. A few days ago, I received a letter from my sister and Nanette. They had the wrong address. - No, no, Nanette cannot have anything against you, actually she loves you very much. Always continue to act as in the past.

I always burn your letters, as soon as I have read them. That is through prudence. In another month, I may have the consolation to go see you all.

While waiting, pray for me.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

⁴³ Abbreviation for Jesus and Mary.

P.S. Kindly ask Mr. Gaudioz to ask Mr. Brunet, the lithographer, for his bill for the lithographs of Laus. When you write to me, please give me the details about the Masses you have money for.

My sincere regards to Mr. Gaudioz, to his dear wife and to all your sisters.

515

CO 512

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 17/52)

L.J.C.

July 2, 1855

Thank you, my dear sister, for your letter. It made me sad to know that you are ill, and I am praying for your healing.

Take good care of yourself: this advice is given by St. Francis de Sales. There is merit in taking care of oneself. You will tell me to practice what I preach: well, I am doing it and God is doing it for me. They want to send me to the springs at Evians or Vichy. Whatever God wants. However, my migraine headaches no longer force me to bed as they did last year. I am able to bear them better. They say that my heart is not well. Please God, that it were so wounded with his divine love that it would burst from the impact and its every beat were as many acts of love and sacrifice!

Our distribution [of prizes] is set for July 30th, and I expect to be in Lyons around the beginning of August.

My dear sister, I almost hesitate to send you this letter which was begun so long ago. It will show you my good will. What did I hear in a letter from your dear sister? That Mr. Tholin fractured his leg, and that you and your sister were nearly injured! Oh God! What sad news! Is it as serious as I was told? My soul was so saddened to learn about so many crosses! I can only ask our good Master to heal the one he loves, without delay; that will give me a strong reason to go, if possible, to visit this dear patient, comfort him, and if I could, heal him. - Such is life: one day in joy, the next, in sorrow. But sorrow well borne for God becomes the source of eternal and divine joy: that is Christian consolation.

I won't say anything about the happiness and wealth which is yours to have the holy Tabernacle.⁴⁴ My first thought was to have you make your altar in such a way that someday holy Mass could be said there. Everything you are doing is fine. Mr. Adolphe must be happy to be the architect for the God of love. So my compliments for this and also for his Socrates.⁴⁵ At the top I would like to see our Savior holding his chalice of life and immortality.

My thanks to Miss Antonia for her letter, sad it is true, but ever good.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

My dear Sister in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, S.M.

P.S. The Work for the divine Tabernacle is advancing slowly, through the pathways of Calvary.

⁴⁴ Permission to have a chapel in her home.

⁴⁵ meaning unclear.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 9/28)

Boarding school of La Seyne (Var), July 2, 1855

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to visit a little with you today, on the feast of the Visitation. I wish this visit could be like the Most Blessed Virgin's, that it would fill your soul with joy like St. John with the Holy Spirit given to St. Elizabeth.

It has been such a long time since you have shared with me. I offer your soul every day to our Lord, for it has all the power of love in your divine Spouse!

I really share in your painful sacrifice, my dear daughter. It's the greatest you could make. Since union is perfect, you will have to do it, since God wants it. It will make your union more intimate. Absence causes both suffering and love. See how the saints long for God and Heaven.

I was deeply sorry to hear that both your mother and sister were ill. I will really pray to the good Lord to bless them both for you, because you need them so much.

What a cross! What sadness for the poor lady from Chatelux. It was God's will: that's the only cover we can put on such a sad wound.

As for you, dear sister, God wants you to belong entirely to him in the simplicity and fullness of your being. Therefore, belong entirely to this King of hearts, be proud and happy to belong to him. How happy you will be in Heaven one day!

The holidays are coming soon. I don't know whether I will have the pleasure of going to Tarare, I'm tempted to want to [do so].

In the meantime, pray for my weakness and believe me ever,

Dear sister in Mary,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. When you write to your dear sister, offer my religious regards.

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 6/19)

La-Seyne, July 11, 1855

Madame and dear sister,

What sad news for your heart! Alas! This poor woman is so pathetic! Humiliation might perhaps bring her back to duty - but stay out of it all. You have no obligation to make any useless revelations, which would cause you a great deal of trouble. - Be a stranger to it all. Alas! See what this lovely world is like, where pretentious airs almost always lead to the slavery of sensuality.

If you must write to Madame, write very simply.

Ask to stay at a convent. I will get information during the month of August. Blois is very far! Especially since your aunt doesn't want to have you! Wait a little.

Ask them to sell the lithographs at Hyeres. I would prefer silence about the Work,⁴⁶ lest it should become known.

It would be fine in Marseilles. If the Work is known there, it doesn't matter. Make many pious stones.⁴⁷

The Work is still on the cross. Let us trust.

Goodbye, in Jesus, dear sister.

All yours,
Eymard

518

CO 515

TO FATHER GABRIEL-CLAUDE MAYET, S.M.
(VI 3/4)

La Seyne, July 24, 1855

Pray hard for me, very dear Father, that I may fulfill the holy Will of God and, above all, that neither flesh nor spirit, nor this miserable ego will be a satan upon my path.

... The eucharistic Work is still underground. Very Rev. Fr. General, in his wisdom, has not seen fit to give temporary permission. Is this a test? Or does the good Lord want another David, more pleasing to his heart? *Quid ad me?*⁴⁸ - Provided he be known, loved and glorified by all, let him immolate me, pulverize me, provided the Work for his glory lives and grows like the mustard seed.

Eymard

519

CO 516

TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 101/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, 26, Saint Anne, 1855

My dear sisters,

I am coming to wish you both a happy feast day, and to tell you first of all, that I expressed my wishes for you this morning at the Holy Altar by saying Holy Mass for you.

I asked our Lord to give you the love of Jesus and Mary, through the intercession of your good Patroness, that includes everything else. I also asked good Saint Anne to be your mother, especially at this time of sorrow and difficulty.

I won't be able to go see you at La Mure at this time. The doctors want me to go to Vichy for my migraine headaches, and as the treatments at the Springs aren't available beyond the month of August, they want me to go right away. So, God willing, I will be able to go see you by mid-September, but not sooner. However, my health is better than it was last year.

We will be distributing the prizes on July 30th, so I will be leaving for Lyons on August 2nd or 3rd.

⁴⁶ The foundation of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament - still under discernment.

⁴⁷ Connected to her work as a lithographer.

⁴⁸ What does it matter to me?

I will also attend to the two little ones.⁴⁹ I heard from Lyons that they may take one. I will look into it.

I am very busy at this moment. I will write you a longer letter later. Please continue to pray for me.

All yours,
Eymard, p.m.

520

CO 517

TO MR. CLAPPIER
(V 1/2)

La Seyne, July 26, 1855

Mr. President,

Mr. Dorbes, a friend of our school, needs some advice and perhaps a helpful word. You are so kind, that I dare send him to you with full confidence. If it is possible, he will owe you all the gratitude.

Please accept the respectful and ever devoted sentiments. Mr. President,
Of your loving servant,

Eymard

P.S. I'm finally sending you [a copy of] my poor sermon given last year.

Mr. Clappier
President of the Tribunal
at Toulon

521

CO518

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 131/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, July 27, 1855

I am writing, my dear daughter, to send you at least a few words. Thank you for your good letters. I praised and thanked our good Master for them. Yes, do what he tells you. Be calm, and silent at the feet of our Lord. Handle your issues with this good Lord; men are only instruments.

I was very pleased with the letter from Fr. Ch.⁵⁰ Keep it. His is a beautiful soul. . . [five lines erased].

As for me, nothing has changed. Rev. Fr. General doesn't want to cooperate with the Eucharistic Work. It may be a good thing for the Work! God knows.

The question will be settled during the holidays. May God's mercy grant that this Work not be choked underground. Let him rather send an angel to lead it out of the desert, its place of testing, to the promised land.

⁴⁹ Nieces of Nanette, in need of an orphanage.

⁵⁰ Probably Fr. Champion.

Our prize day is July 30th. I expect to leave here the 2nd or 3rd. It's my hope to visit you first. In the meantime, pray for me.

All yours,
Eymard

522

CO 520

TO HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS IX (ARCHIVES SSS)

La Seyne, (Diocese of Frejus), August 2, 1855

Petition to Pius IX⁵¹

Most Holy Father,

Please allow the least of your children, a religious priest of the Society of Mary, to place very simply at the feet of Your Holiness, the intimate thoughts of his soul. Since I could not come to Rome at this time, Rev. Father Touche, an apostolic missionary and the Ananias of my life, has accepted to replace me and to be the interpreter of my heart's feelings.

For the last 4 years I have felt a strong impulse of grace to solicit from my Superior the permission to dedicate myself entirely to the glory and the service of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. I have been resisting this interior attraction for 3 years, for fear that it might be the result of a natural attraction, or an illusion of the devil.

However, the fear of resisting the will⁵² of God led me to open my soul to Very Rev. Father Alphonse, the Provincial [Superior] of the Capuchins, who is now Assistant General in Rome. He advised me to subject this thought to further trial, and if it should persist, to speak about it to my Superior General. That is what I did. Very Rev. Father Colin replied after reflection as follows: "I believe that the idea you have been experiencing for such a long time comes from God, will be for his glory and that one day you will be able to carry it out. In the meantime, pray, continue to die to yourself, and God will do the rest."

Well, Most Holy Father, the thought is the following: At the sight of the love of Jesus Christ in his adorable sacrament, of its isolation due to the lack of devotion of the faithful, of the indifference of so many Christians, of the ever-growing impiety of the men of our time, - at the sight of the great needs of the Church, of so many idolaters and heretics, [people] so distant from the faith of Jesus Christ, a thought which was both gentle and strong kept telling me:

Why does the greatest of all mysteries not have its religious group like the other mysteries; why would it not have men with a perpetual mission of prayer at the feet of Jesus Christ in his divine Sacrament? - Why would the King of Kings not also have his guard of honor, watching day and night in the presence of his divine Tabernacle, in the perpetual practice of adoration, of thanksgiving, of reparation? The mission of these religious adorers could not fail to be all-powerful over the heart of the God of mercies, and the men of good will whom the grace of the [illegible] would call to this angelic vocation would, at the source of so many graces, necessarily become truly spiritual men, men of prayer, of virtue which has become so rare even among the clergy in this century of all-consuming activity and rationalism.

⁵¹ This petition was copied not on an original text by Fr. Eymard, but on a text of Fr. de Cuers; pieced together with care, it was found accurate. Certified by Fr. Tenaillon in Paris, May 1920.

This copy of Fr. de Cuers was sent by Fr. Eymard to Rev. Father Favre on March 17, 1856. It is kept in the Archives of the Marist Fathers. A photocopy can be found in the Archives of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Rome. This is most likely the text to which Fr. Eymard subsequently refers as being presented to the Holy Father on August 27.

⁵² French: voie or voix.

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament would not limit itself to this mission of prayer and contemplation. It would dedicate itself apostolically to the salvation of souls by using all the [necessary] means inspired by a wise zeal enlightened by the charity of Jesus Christ. It would work to lead to the feet of Jesus Eucharistic as many adorers as possible, by forming associations of adorers in the world, by giving private and public retreats for men in their Cenacle, especially for secular priests. (This powerful means of salvation does not exist in France. How many times we have heard men, especially priests, complain that they could not even find a place to [make a] retreat in the religious orders, as each one replied that it was not their specialty.)

The Society would gladly embrace all the works of zeal which concern the adorable eucharist, such as 40 hour devotions, clergy retreats, preparations for first Communions, etc.

Considering also the state of isolation, neglect and the spiritual dangers to which the veterans in the priesthood are exposed when they can no longer carry out the sacred functions of the pastoral ministry, would it not be the best of apostolates to offer them decent retirement, to treat them with great respect and thus give them the means to finish their lives with honor and in holiness in a mission of prayer and love close to the King whom they served so well? The Society would call on all the arts and sciences to work for the beautiful apostolate of Tabernacles, whose purpose would be to aid poor churches.

Such, Most Holy Father, is the thought which consumes my heart and which I place humbly upon your heart which is so full of love for the divine Eucharist. Once this idea is blessed by Your Holiness, I sincerely hope it will be one of the blessed fruits of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Six zealous priests and six scholastics in philosophy already ardently desire to dedicate themselves to this Eucharistic project. A former Benedictine monastery is being offered to the Society in the diocese of Valence for the Novitiate House: everything is ready. Only one thing is lacking, but it is everything, Most Holy Father: Your Apostolic Blessing. - Bishop Chatrousse, Bishop of Valence, would be very happy to welcome this beautiful Work, which corresponds very dearly to his piety. My major issue [also] still needs to be resolved. Very Rev. Father Favre, the successor of Very Rev. Father Colin who has resigned, while respecting my heart's desire, and the encouragement given to me by his predecessor, does not want to favor it outside of the Society of Mary, nor to give me permission to work for it, saying that he does not have the power to do so and refers me to the judgment of Your Holiness. - Well, it seems to me, Most Holy Father, that by giving Jesus a poor son of Mary, nothing is being taken away from the glory of his divine Mother. During the 16 years that I have had the joy of being a religious, it is true that I have filled the functions of Provincial and Assistant; - at this time I am free of all responsibilities and my withdrawal can in no way harm the Society of Mary.

Most Holy Father, my cause is in your hands, I will keep my soul in peace while waiting for a supreme decision which will represent the will of God for me. If Your Beatitude gives me to this eucharistic Work in spite of my unworthiness and weakness, I will thank him for it with all my heart for allowing me to cooperate in this way with a Work which must be so beneficial for the church.

If, on the contrary, Your Holiness [who is] ever guided by the greater glory of God should judge otherwise, I will submit to it with total simplicity and limit myself to praying for a Work for which I would be only too happy to give my life and blood.

It is with sentiments of most profound and filial obedience that I am happy to say that I am of Your Holiness

Most Holy Father,
Your humble son,
P. Eymard p.m.

La Seyne
(Diocese of Frejus)
August 2, 1855

TO FATHER VINCENT JANDEL, O.P.
(VI 1/1)

La Seyne, August 2, 1855

My Very Reverend Father,

I had written you a letter, a short time ago, to ask you to give me fatherly advice concerning the Work of the Blessed Sacrament. I did not send it. I preferred to send you good Father Touche, Apostolic Missionary, to whom, after God, I owe both piety and my vocation. He will tell you everything [that is] in my heart. Please receive him as myself.

Very Reverend Father, I don't know how to tell you my gratitude and total confidence. God our good Master will be my help.

I am, in all simplicity, Very Rev. Father,

Your son,
Eymard

To the Most Reverend Father Jandel
Superior General of the Dominicans
Rome

CHAPTER III

Chaintré - St. Chamond
Aug. 1855 - May 1856

Substitute Master of Novices

Writer - Manual of the Third Order of Mary

Preacher - Parish Missions at St. Chamond

Petition to the Holy Father - Pius IX

Contacts with Church Officials

Dispensation from vows as a Marist

Convalescence at Mont Dore and Allevard

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

Aug. 10-30 - To Mont-Dore for his health.

524

CO 521

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 132/395 VI 2)

Mont-Dore, Paris Hotel, Puy-de-Dome, August 11, 1855

I am at the Springs at Mont-Dore, dear daughter. The doctor from Neris sent me here for my chest and sinus infection. I arrived last night.

The people here are cold, and I don't know anyone. I'm very much alone, which is what I wanted. However, heaven is above me, and the blessed tabernacle is at my side: I have all I need.

Pray hard for the serious question I mentioned to you. We haven't spoken with V. Rev. Fr. General about your plan, nor mine.¹ We will do all that when I return.

Goodbye, my daughter. My love to your dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Lyons (Rhône)

Aug. 12 - Fr. Touche embarked at Marseilles for Rome.

525

CO 522

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 133/395 VI 2)

Mont-Dore, August 17, 1855

I received everything you sent me, dear daughter. Thank you very much. I read your letter carefully with its spontaneous comments about my sharing. By sharing with you so fully and completely, I was showing how much I trust you and hope that you will really pray that God's holy will be done for his greater glory and love in spite of my natural hesitations.

If this plan has upset you, my dear daughter, be sure that it has been crucifying me for a long time: my natural feelings and filial fondness toward my beloved Society, toward my very kind colleagues and Superior, their goodness to me, my spiritual and physical weakness, all these things keep telling me not to budge. On the other hand, I don't want to fail to respond to God's grace, should he kindly choose me to labor and die for that beautiful Work in spite of my great limitations. I feel drawn to it, like a person who can no longer go back.

If I didn't tell you all that from the start, it was because I didn't know how it would be settled before Very Rev. Fr. General's visit. I had sincerely hoped for his consent, and had not thought it through any further.

Then also, it would have been a matter of conscience to tell you to give up the lovely idea of a house of Nazareth.

¹ The House of Nazareth for her; the Eucharistic Work for him.

When God doesn't clearly show the negative side of an undertaking, but only its good side, we must continue the undertaking or simply wait.

So, my poor daughter, if this has caused you to suffer for a moment, let holy abandonment lift you up. Nevertheless don't get discouraged.

I believe that the sight of the Holy Face was meant to prepare you for what happened. Consider yourself fortunate to suffer what Jesus Christ sends you through love.

Your decision to write isn't bad. He is wrong to talk that way. Let us turn our eyes to heaven before considering the human side and taking action. I believe you did so.

The waters are going down fine. I'm told that the improvement of health comes only later. I'm not too bad. I'm going to write a few words to Miss de Revel. I was truly sorry I couldn't go to see her, but time was lacking. It was already something that I managed to find a moment on Saturday to go see you.

19. - Tomorrow, I'll say Mass for your dear mother (1). Keep the secret of what I shared with you. You've done so. That's fine.

All yours in J. C.,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

(1) Don't mark it down. Goodbye.

Don't speak yet about the separation of the two Works. Wait. Who knows what will be decided?

526

CO 523

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 13/26)

*L.J.C.*²

Mont d'Or, August 18, 1855

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in Mary,

I am here at Mont d'Or instead of the springs of Vichy, Neris, etc., where they wanted to send me. It has been cold until now; finally, [we had] two beautiful days.

I am alone here, no acquaintances, no visitors, but our Lord is in a poor little room and I go there when I can, and it helps me.-

I was truly sorry I couldn't see you when I arrived. I was hoping it would be Sunday, but I didn't have enough time to go down to see you. It was 5:30 p.m. So then, the good Lord wanted this sacrifice. If I am not able to come to see you, I will have them tell you when I will return and when we could get together. I have many things to tell you, and I expect as much from you.

You have left me a long time without any letters and I remained silent while waiting for them. I had learned that you were at the Springs at Vichy.-

I will be here for another 8 to 10 days. The Springs are not making me ill, but I feel very sad. I have the joy of saying Holy Mass and that is a great consolation.-

Do pray for me, dear daughter, and believe me ever all yours in Jesus Christ.

Eymard, p.m.

² Abbreviation for *Louz soit Jesus Christ*. Praised be Jesus Christ.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

Miss de Revel
rue Ste. Helene 13
Lyons, Rhone

527

CO 524

TO FR. ERNEST NEGRE³
(V 1/2)

Mont-Dore, August 25, 1855

Dear friends,⁴

My silence made you worry. I couldn't write to you, since I spent most of my time traveling. I've been quiet here for the last few days; I needed it.

The Springs are helping me. God, in his divine goodness, seems to have given me this means of relief to ask me for a greater commitment to his holy service. And so it's also my soul's desire to work more and more for his glory and to win hearts to him. How good God is to use such a poor weak person! God doesn't need us; but when he wants to use our limitations and our nothingness for his glory, when he gives us the honor of suffering for his name... we are very fortunate. The essential thing is to be faithful to him. - Be very faithful to him, dear friends, and you will receive the hundredfold.

If your heart should fear the cross, if the devil is causing agitation, if the world is against you, look at the divine Prisoner, follow him in his life of love. Let us pray and God will be with us. Let us wait trustingly for the time set by Providence.

I am writing you this collective letter, since I don't have time to write to each of you.
God knows how dear your souls are to me.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Kindly present my respects to Miss Dalaca and her kind mother.

528

CO 525

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 17/76)

L.J.C.

Mont-Dore, August 26, 1855

Madame and our dear sister in Jesus Christ,

I don't want to leave Mont-Dore without answering your letter. When I read it, I shared in your happiness and thanked the good Lord wholeheartedly with you for the outstanding grace he gave your kind mother.

I esteemed her before; now her soul is doubly dear to me. May God complete the work of his divine mercy and fill her soul with his ineffable consolations.

³ A seminarian.

⁴ Probably the group of seminarians who were waiting for the Eucharistic Work to materialize.

Now about you my dear daughter. Your insomnia, your burdened spirit, your lack of memory, all show that your health is weakening. So, as much as you can, through obedience, take more sleep. It is essential to our physical life. Do it as a good work; organize things to be more faithful.

Holy Mass, the Way of the Cross, the rosary are enough vocal prayers. However, try to keep your soul in God's hands like a child at the loving disposition of its good Father seeking to please him in everything.

Be detached from all things and love only those which God loves. Choose only those which stem from his good pleasure.

You are very poor, that's true, very weak.⁵ What can you do? It's your condition, like a poor person who must beg and suffer and especially make peace with his rags and be at peace with himself. Do the same, and in the midst of this poor retinue, also keep your soul calm and joyful. See how our Lord loves you. He wants to dwell with you, not as he did with Zaccheus, but as he did with Mary, his divine mother. Be as attentive to our good Master as you would to a perfect friend who would come see you. That isn't enough, attend to Jesus as the divine Bridegroom of your heart, and this thought will inspire you with everything you ought to do.

When I get to Lyons, (I leave tomorrow), I will take care of your protege at Mr. Rey's.

May I ask you for the alms of a novena to Jesus Eucharistic when you receive my letter? Our retreat begins Sept. 2 until the 10th.

Good-bye, my dear daughter.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

529

CO 526

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 14/52)

L.J.C.

August 26, 1855

My dear daughter,

I read your letter with much pleasure. At the Springs we have a lot of time.

Always praise the divine Goodness which heard your prayer for your good mother, but don't limit yourself to this initial grace. You have others to request. God loves to be petitioned, stormed by our constant trust. Your cousin will return,⁶ you must pray.

Now about you, my poor daughter.

1. Keep no secrets from your mother, if the propriety due to the person doesn't allow you to answer that. For your part, just know that you are not obliged to keep this secret from your dear mother.

2. The temptation to sleep during your prayer may come from the fact that you are not sleeping enough. You need from 7-1/2 to 8 hours of sleep.

As for the means you mentioned, I don't approve them. Have some vinegar and fresh water to wake you up. Don't be too upset with this temptation.

When sleep comes to paralyze your meditation, pray vocally, get some fresh air.

3. As for the little monthly retreat, when in an exceptional case you weren't able to finish it the same day, perform the exercise which was omitted on the next day and everything is taken care of.

4. For your good works, continue as your mother does or approves. That is better.

⁵ Spiritually poor. To this wealthy woman and many others, he offers the example of materially poor people as an image of their relationship to God.

⁶ to God.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

5. As for little disagreements or frustrations, act as if you don't notice them. Be just as kind, thoughtful and gracious, and let God take care of everything.

6. Make a novena to the Most Blessed Sacrament for me, for my intention.

Goodbye, dear daughter, be happy with Jesus your Spouse.

Your devoted one in our Lord,
Eymard

Aug. 27 - Fr. Touche, in an audience with the Pope, presented Fr. Eymard's plan.⁷

530

CO 527

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 102/145 VI 10)

Lyons, September 2, 1855

My dear sisters,

Here I am in Lyons. I've just returned from the Springs at Mont-Dore where I stayed almost 20 days. I don't know yet whether the waters helped me at all. I was told that the effects are felt only after a month. I was able to bear them, although they were very strong.

We are beginning our retreat today. It will finish next Sunday. Pray in order that I may spend it fervently.

I saw Mme. d'Aringue about her orphanage, and this holy woman promised me to take one of the two orphans in November. Thank God for this great favor.

The Miles. Guillot are quite well. I will leave you now because the retreat will begin shortly.

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

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

Sept. 10 - Relieved of his obligations at La Seyne. Sent to Chaintr until Sept. 20 to work on the Third Order.

⁷ Letter of Fr. Jean Joseph Touche to Fr. Eymard:
J.M.J.

Reverend Father and friend,

During my trip to Rome, I carried out your errand to the Holy Father. Here, in God's sight, is what was said. "The Work comes from God. I am convinced of it. The Church needs it. Means should be taken to make the divine Eucharist known.

But I want the Marist priest to come to an agreement with his Superior and the local Bishop before beginning anything. I could give him the permission myself to begin, but the wisdom of Rome requires that the Superior General consent, and he will do so willingly."

My friend, let me tell you that the way in which the Pope expressed himself, I would believe that I was going against God's will were I to oppose it. Father, I can certify the above under oath.

I do want your work to prosper, the thought of it pleases me very much. I am, my dear Father and friend, your devoted servant and friend.

Rome,
August 27, 1855

Touche

531

CO 528

TO FR. JEAN-JOSEPH TOUCHE, APOSTOLIC MISSIONARY
(VI 1/1)

J. M. J.⁸

Lyons, September 21, 1855

Very dear Father,

I am here in Lyons, recalled by an order.⁹ I was able to stay only two full days at La Mure; and in Grenoble I looked everywhere for a coach to give you at least a few hours, impossible. - I had to return to Lyons where I was expected on a set day, to inform my successor about the house of La Seyne. Fr. Denis is the one who will replace me. Good choice! I am happy about it; but since I'm not to return to La Seyne, even for the opening [of the school year], I had to put myself completely into the hands of Jesus and Mary with the future of divine providence.

I am here, I dare not say, on Calvary. I am not worthy of that, but in a state of trial, in a position of surrender to God alone. Please, dear Father, pray for me, but do not worry about my situation. I know your heart on that point; but, at this time you must not listen to it. Also allow me to tell you to do nothing for me, nor should you take any decisive measures which would have you renounce the title of Pastor, which Fr. Denis told me you have in the diocese of Dignes. That would be equivalent to depriving yourself of an income which the diocese owes you in so many ways.

When will I write to you again? I don't know. You understand that I must at least prove to be obedient, since I don't have the other virtues.

Goodbye, dear Father, God will repay you a hundredfold for all the good you have done for me during the past thirty-three years.¹⁰

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard¹¹

532

CO 529

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 18/52)

Lyons, September 25, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I haven't had a moment yet to tell you all the joy I felt during the few hours I spent with your family: you understand it.

I am happy to thank God for healing our dear Mr. Tholin, whom I love wholeheartedly.

When I came here I found the answer I was expecting; it's a great comfort; it encourages the Work.¹² However, since we must pass through fire, and favor the bonds of unity and peace, we must wait yet awhile and pray a great deal. You can be sure that to become ardent coal, wood must suffer and be stripped of any foreign matter.

⁸ Jesus, Mary, Joseph.

⁹ from his Superiors.

¹⁰ Fr. Eymard first knew Fr. Touche when he was about 11 years old, at the time of his first Communion.

¹¹ It is strange that Fr. Eymard does not refer to the petition which Fr. Touche had presented to the Holy Father in August regarding the Eucharistic Work.

¹² Perhaps the letter from Fr. Touche. See the footnote to Aug. 27.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

I will stay in Lyons, and if you should ever come, I would be happy to receive you.

I forgot to take note of the Masses you gave me, satisfied with putting them in a safe place. Please tell me how many. Wasn't it 28? Greet Fr. Thivit, please.

I leave you in the sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

All yours,

Eymard, S.M.

P.S. My regards in God to your dear sister.

Mme. Tholin-Bost

Tarare (Rhône)

533

CO 530

TO MR. DAUSSE

(VIII 1/1)

Lyons, Sept. 27, 1855

Dear Monsieur Dausse,

Here I am back in Lyons, still joyful after my pilgrimage to Notre Dame de la Salette and our providential meeting.

I told Very Rev. Fr. Superior General about your wish to go and stay a few days in our Paris house while waiting for your apartments to be ready. Very Rev. Fr. is happy to grant you this small favor, and he is pleased to be able to show you his affection in this way. He would have written to you himself, but as he is about to leave for Belley, he has asked me to write on his behalf.

Our good Father Morcel was very pleased with your remembrance of him.

If I am unable to see you when you come to Lyons, please convey to the good and beloved Father Lagniet all my happy memories of Belley.

I have the honor, dear Sir, to be, in our Lord, your devoted and loving Servant,

Eymard, P.M.

To Chaintré until January to work on the Manual for the Third Order.

534

CO 531

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 135/395 VI 2)

Chaintré, October 25, 1855¹³

Thank you, my dear daughter, for your little notes. They will be useful. I haven't worked at the Manual yet.¹⁴ I must visit London, and I needed to prepare for it.

I saw . . . we talked a lot about the family and their child. She has strong reasons. She cannot give them up.¹⁵ You will receive a letter from Marseilles. It is a request I am making in favor of the child. He will be fine there. It is a correctional institution which has nothing dishonorable about it. There is one for prisoners and one for children of relatives. If the answer is favorable (you must open the letter), write it to Otherwise, write it only to me. In any case give me news about this matter, or send me the letter after having read it.

Dear Fr. Champion surprised me and made me very happy. Pray for both of us and for all. I hope to see you next week.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Fourvière, Lyons (Rhône)

535

CO 205

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 10/75)

Sunday

Madame,¹⁶

I thank you very much for your letter, and I thank God for having sent you in time to receive the last breath of your dear sister Directress.¹⁷ A beautiful soul. Heaven must have received her triumphantly. She was always a disciple of the Cross and a disciple of duty.

Since the Third Order is not known publicly, it cannot be convoked at the funeral; so there is nothing to do except to pray for our good sister.

I am alone at the Novitiate. My substitute is traveling. It's impossible for me to leave.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Madame,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard

¹³ The manuscript of the Servants read 23 (or 25) September or October (illegible). The postmark, however, was October 26. Also, the place of origin indicates it must be October (Troussier). In French published as Sept. 25, 1855.

¹⁴ Manual for the Third Order of Mary.

¹⁵ The children.

¹⁶ This letter was originally placed in 1854 because of the presumed reference to the death of Miss David. However, Miss David was Directress of the Third Order Virgins - not the married women. The reference to his position at the Novitiate makes this date (1855) more likely. Trans.

¹⁷ President of the Third Order

536

CO 533

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 1/19)

November 5, 1855

Mademoiselle Mathilde,

I received your charming letter only yesterday. I praised God for it. His divine Providence has directed everything for your greater good and the good of everyone. Things happened as I expected ever since the day when I had the honor of seeing you all at Uriage.¹⁸ I was praying to God to manifest his will in this relationship. That is what happened. May he be praised!

For your part, Mademoiselle, you don't have to study the matter any further, but to prepare yourself for this holy state as a good Christian woman, praying to the Blessed Virgin, your good Mother, to prepare you for it, and to prepare the heart of the one Heaven has chosen for you; to St. Joseph, the Protector and model of Christian families, and especially to the Archangel Raphael whose mission you know to Tobias and Sarah.

As for interior sadness, spiritual desires for the religious life, it's only a natural sadness; it honors your state.

Later, I will give you some advice which might be helpful and will make you even happier.

May God pour out his blessings upon you!

Eymard, P.M.

537

CO 535

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 18/76)

CH.,¹⁹ November 19, 1855

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

It's my pleasure to tell you that the Brother Director at Charlieu agreed to my request. He will keep my registration until there is a better place. So, let's remain peaceful at the feet of divine goodness in trust and gratitude.

The holy season of Advent is coming. Let us truly enter into the spirit of holy Church; a spirit of penance, of prayer, of longing for Jesus, in order that he may be born in our souls by his love and virtues. Let us join with the Blessed Virgin and long to see her divine Son; to see him, serve him and give him to the world.

Pray for me, my dear daughter, so that I may be a docile instrument of the kindness and mercies of God our Savior.

May God give you his holy grace, his holy love in all you do.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

¹⁸ Health springs.

¹⁹ Chaintr.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

P.S. Remember me to your dear daughter. May she always have the joy of belonging entirely to Jesus Christ.

Excuse this paper, it's all I have.

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CO 492

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 15/52)

Miss Stephanie

1855

My dear daughter,

Thank you for the news you have given me about your dear parents. It really made me sad.

We are praying. God is infinitely good. Alms triumph over everything. Your grandmother is so charitable!

I congratulate you for your treasure. You are now in charge of the chapel. That really pleased me.

Continue to receive God's gifts with joy and love. My dear daughter, look more at God's goodness than at your ingratitude. Live by gratitude as a poor person [must].

For your meditation, get the book: *The Soul Before the Holy Eucharist*, by J. B. Pagani, Paris at Louis Vives, publisher-editor, rue Cassette, 23 (1854).

Use this book for your meditation when you get it.

You make me happy when you say that you have no thoughts when you meditate. My daughter, remember that the best of all meditations for you is the one which the good Lord helps you to do in poverty, silence and surrender to oblige you to find all your wealth and interior action in his grace of love. Recite your prayers; but, for meditation properly speaking, it would be better to leave it aside or at least not to concentrate; it would tire you too much.

You would do well to obtain the *Manual of Interior Souls*, by Father Grou., Paris at Lecoffre, rue de Vieux Colombier, 29.

Goodbye my dear daughter, pray for me.

Eymard

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CO 534

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 134/395 VI 2)

Chaintré, November 19, 1855

My dear daughter, thank you for your letter. Your simplicity and openness make me happier than if I were reading a formal and stuffy letter.

Indeed, you know how much I want what is best for you and all that I hope for your soul in our Lord. I really understand your moments of struggle, the little attacks of fever: on the battlefield, we do more than at times of rest. First of all:

1. I received an answer from the Brother Director at Charlieu. He will keep the child. That matter is settled. I wrote about it to

2. Fr. Favre spoke to me about your visit, about the Third Order house, that he had advised you to go to the Cardinal. I'm happy about that. He cannot take initiative in this matter, nor does he want to; he cannot give it its initial impulse. However, we can feel that he is pleased about it, that he even desires it. Now, how much support will he give to it? It's already a great deal to have his consent; if I had known that when I was in Lyons five years ago, I would have cast the net.

As for me, I advise you to go to His Eminence with Miss Chollet; she is prudent and discreet. If they don't consent to receive you, well! return in peace, the time would not be ripe. If you are badly received, continue to hope! All you need to do is present the request you made to Father General which he is referring to His Eminence.

Now regarding the personal issues. I love and hope for that house as such; my original thought hasn't changed. However, I will not establish this work on myself, nor on any other human protector; you can understand that only too well.

Not on myself. Not because of my plans for the Blessed Sacrament; no, since I am totally surrendered to God's will, my frame of mind is one of personal detachment. I even have the feeling that my mission is over in regards to that project, which is ever dear to my heart, that's true, but which I entrust to God's grace, and I beg him to choose another worthier person.

So, what you say about this idea being either a temptation or coming from God found me fully converted. So coming back to me, I don't refuse to write the rules for that house, nor to help it, in spite of the difficulties it will have.

Yes, I will do so wholeheartedly. However, when it comes to directing the details of it, I don't feel any attraction for that at the moment. Is that because I'm not very strong yet and dread the work? or from feelings I still have concerning the Eucharistic project? That's all possible. Nonetheless, since God must be our thought and will, when it comes time to take action, he will give me what I need.

I'm working to the extent I can and as much as I can for the Third Order Manual. Pray a great deal for me, for we are working in vain, if God isn't building himself.

I'm very happy about your few days of retreat. Go there from time to time; it will do you good. I would have liked the Gignoux house; it's important to be close enough to the motherhouse.

My daughter, look for God in everything, look for God's thought, will, and pleasure in each thing. Then, don't pay attention to those things which only come from human beings or human nature.

Goodbye, the mail is leaving.

All yours in J.,²⁰
Eymard

540

CO 536

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 2/19)

Chaintré, December 3, 1855

Mademoiselle,

You honored me by informing me about your wedding with your cousin. I praise God with all my heart. Ever since Uriage, I felt that God wanted it, and my confidence was that his divine Providence would arrange everything.

²⁰ Jesus.

Therefore, Mademoiselle, you will be entering into this holy state of matrimony. Enter into it with the thought that this is where God wants you, confident that you will find your salvation there in a holy manner. It is holiness that makes a particular state sublime. Well, how many great Saints were given to heaven in the holy state of matrimony? What great and noble virtues beautified their beautiful lives! Take them as your models and you will resemble them.

Imitate your devout Mother. Copy her virtues and you will have taken a step in the perfection of this great state in the sight of God and the Church.

The trust that you have always shown me, and the affection I have always had for your dear family permit me to give you some advice, the advice I had promised you.

A spouse has three duties to fulfill: her heavenly crown must have these three flowers.

The first duty is toward God and holy Church. From the onset of your new position you must determine your duties of Christian piety, fidelity to prayer and the Sacraments. When a small bush is transplanted into a new garden, it needs to be watered...

No doubt your piety cannot be the same as that of a young person who is free to dispose her means and is still fed by the milk of devotion. Hers must be a strong and enlightened piety, a virtuous piety. Its purpose is to make her duties of state holy and must be regulated by them.

For the Sacraments, you won't be able to approach them often at the beginning, with all the work of a new household, returning visits, and extraordinary events. But when everything becomes calm and you have an ordinary routine, then, come closer to the God of goodness, who is the gentleness and strength of virtue, the life and happiness of a Christian soul.

Your second duty, the first after God, is toward the spouse whom God has given you. Surround him with respect, affection, and generosity: that is the sacred duty of a Christian spouse.

If you wish this friendship to be a happy and lasting one, then respect and esteem, gentleness and attentiveness, as a matter of conscience, need to be its blessed flowers.

Make it your rule never to allow anyone to lack respect and charity towards your spouse, for he must be your glory and honor.

Never believe the evil that a satanic tongue could tell you about him.

The third duty relates to your family life, your household and, if God gives you children, to bring them up yourself under your own eyes.

Keep watch over your household, guide your servants, let them not govern you. Show them a heartfelt trust, but never one that is blind and total.

Watch over their duties with the intention of showing them what is right and what is wrong, so that they may serve you with affection and conscientiousness.

You must especially keep watch over the expenses of the household; have them give you an account. It's a misfortune when servants become the treasurers of a household.

But I am wrong to enter into these details. Your mother will be more skillful than I.

You will receive and make visits: that is right. But don't obligate yourself right away. Politeness, propriety, ordinary kindness: that's enough at first.

Love your home and you will be happy there. A spouse has only one friend, her husband.

Let me stop here, Mademoiselle. I promise you that I will pray a great deal for you and your husband, whom I really would like to meet, and whom I already love because of all the good things said about him, and whom I already include in the one circle of affection for your family.

May God shower you with his blessings! And may Heaven ratify all those I desire for you in Jesus and Mary,

Your very devoted servant,
Eymard, P.M.

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CO 537

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)

(VII 7/7)

Chaintré, December 3, 1855

Madame,

I received your edifying letter and read it with joy in God's sight.

How good God is! Oh! If we knew how to surrender ourselves to the desires and graces of his divine goodness, how happy we would be! So you did let gracious providence prevail. See now how everything is progressing on the path of virtue and hope!

I am really pleased about the news you tell me concerning your two dear children. They belong to the Blessed Virgin. You consecrated them to her so often, that this dear Mother had to bless them.

As for the plans for Mademoiselle - I am respecting your secret. All I can tell you is that this young man is the edification of the Third Order and one of its most virtuous [members]. Add to that a forthright and polite manner and he also appears to have a very gentle temperament. - If he is a good son, he will be a good husband.

In return Miss Marie has all the qualities he could hope for and I assure you that she is worthy of the very best partner.

Let Providence act and everything will be for the best, but don't anticipate it.

It has been a long time since I have seen the dear family from Bramefaim and yet God knows how much I love it. But you know that we must let God say: Come here; go there.

I continue to pray always for you all. Do the same for me in your prayers - I am working for you.²¹ -

I leave you in the divine peace of our Lord.

Please receive and offer to your dear husband all my sentiments of respect and dedication with which I am in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, PM

542

CO 538

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 19/52)

From the Estate of Chaintré²², near Macon, December 9, 1855

Madame,

I received your kind letter here, at our novitiate. I have been here for two months, working on a Manual for the Third Order. It was very hard to learn that Mr. Tholin hasn't recuperated yet. May God give this dear father back his health! That is my ordinary prayer; and may he give you also, the health which your whole family needs! So, be more careful toward yourself. I know that our Lord is watching over you and giving you strength.

²¹ He is working on the Manual for the Third Order.

²² Literally: castle.

I don't know when I'll go to Lyons, so then, feel free. I'm taking advantage of my solitude to pray and work in peace and quiet. How happy I would be if the Blessed Virgin would accept my little work and repay me with some of that divine love which consumed her soul!

Before the Tabernacle, my offering is the same as yours. I ask our good Master to glorify himself since we don't know how to serve and love him as he deserves. I am trying to hide underground: I really would need to die in order to live by the risen life of Jesus; ask it for me from him.

Madame, I am leaving you at the feet of our good Master and I am, in his divine love,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. My respectful regards to your very dear daughter, and my gratitude for her letter. I am waiting for the answer from Sydney.

Mme. Tholin-Bost, Negt²³
Tarare (Rhone)

543

CO 539

TO MME. CLAPPIER, TOULON
(V 1/1)

Madame and dear sister in Mary,^{24 25}

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time, first to express old regrets that I could not have foreseen, certainly expecting to return at least for some time to La Seyne. God did not will it. May his holy name be praised.

Finally, to tell you that I don't forget you, you and your dear family. It's a sacrifice for me not to see you anymore, and especially our dear beloved Mr. Clappier who was so kind and benevolent to me. Alas! Life is like that: our paths cross, we glance and say farewell. Oh! When shall we be in Heaven, all gathered in God's arms,²⁶ around our good Mother!

Fortunately, the days and years pass quickly, and that beautiful heavenly city comes closer and bends down to [meet] us.

What are you doing, dear Lady? Are you still ill, yours is an isolated and sometimes sad Calvary. Other times [you are] happy to be closer to our dear beloved Savior! It seems that he wants to keep you close to him in this world and in the next, since he is giving you this lot which is so painful to nature, but so glorious to God and so useful for our reward.

So then, always be patient and resigned on this painful path. Holy suffering is a flower of love; cry with Jesus at the [Mount of] Olives, but keep going towards his cross. Oh! In Heaven you will praise it, you will kiss this dear cross with love and gratitude. Carry it well in the footsteps of your good Master, and it will bear you on the last day, to its place of triumph.

I have a little solitude here. I am resting a little, and working on the *Manual for the Third Order*. Pray for me, dear Lady and dear sister, so that I might truly work according to God's Heart. So, it is also for you [that I am working]; you owe me this support which alas! I greatly need.

My fond and humble respects to dear Mr. Clappier. How happy I would be to see him again! My very fond greetings to dear kind Joseph, and to your whole family. You know that I am, in our Lord Jesus Christ,

²³ Abbreviation for Merchant.

²⁴ Wife of the President of the Tribunal of Toulon, 16 Place d'Armes, Toulon (Var).

²⁵ The postmark is dated December 16, 1855.

²⁶ Literally: bosom.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

Madame and dear sister,

All yours,
Eymard, S.M.

Mme. Clappier
16 Place d'Armes
at Toulon (Var).

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CO 540

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 4/181 VI 3)

Monday, December, 1855

Dear friend and brother in the Lord,

I am feeling better though I am still very weak. I'm now getting up for part of the day. My best regards and greetings to Mr. Brunello. I am really sorry I cannot accompany him. Heartfelt and fraternal wishes to the two dear Fathers.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I opened the letter from Mr. Maunis lest it should contain orders from the Navy.

545

CO 541

TO CANON BRUNELLO
(I 5/181 VI 3)

*L.J.C.E.*²⁷

Chaintré, St. Jean, December 27, 1855

Dear Sir,²⁸

Thank you for remembering me, and offering your services so obligingly. I accept them wholeheartedly. I was going to write to Fr. de Geslin, chaplain to the army of transport, in order to ask him to obtain the following blessings for me:

1. For Fr. Laurent Cat, a canon of the diocese of Grenoble, and pastor at La Mure, a brief (parchment) for the Brigittine Apostolic Indulgences, at the time of death; for the faculties to bestow the scapular of the Immaculate Conception and for a brief to indulgence crucifixes for the Way of the Cross.

2. For Fr. Jean Baptist Guichard, priest of the diocese of Grenoble, the same. In addition, the faculty of bestowing the scapular of Carmel.

3. A respectable, devout and apostolically active family from the diocese of Lyons who founded religious establishments, requests the favor of having the Reserved Sacrament in their

²⁷ Abbreviation for: Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

²⁸ According to Fr. Troussier, this letter was written to Fr. Brunello.

private chapel at Chenas. The name of the family is Lacours, from the parish of Chasselay. These three women live as in a community. They have a resident chaplain at their estate. The eldest is called Miss Cesarine. They will gladly pay all the costs entailed.

His Eminence the Cardinal of Lyons referred them to Rome for this blessing as he doesn't grant it to private homes.

4. For myself, please pray a little for me at the tomb of St. Peter, my patron Saint, that I may imitate his love for Jesus Christ. Also, that he may intercede for a mission I will be giving at the beginning of Lent at St. Peter's parish, at Saint Chamond (Loire). Please send these errands to me there, with your address, in case I should have others.

May God accompany you on this pilgrimage. I do so with my best wishes and prayers. I will pray daily that your hopes may come true according to the holy will of God. Don't be surprised that God's works require labor pains. God has his own ways, and a certain measure of suffering is necessary for life.

The work of zeal to which you have dedicated yourself is too beautiful not to cost something. I bless it and long for it, for the greater glory of God.

Thank you for your concern about my health. I am fine. I'm working without getting tired. I am back to my ordinary schedule. I even get up at 4:00 a.m.

Dear Sir,
All yours,
Eymard, P. Mar²⁹

546

CO 542

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 136/395 VI 2)

Chaintré, January 2, 1856

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to thank you for the notes about the Third Order, which you kindly sent me. They will really help me.

In addition to the two reasons you gave me, there is a third local one, which annuls the other two and solves everything.

Thank you for your [New Year's] wishes. I repaid you in kind at the manger, where I placed your sacrifices, sorrows and hopes. What issues forth from the manger is so gracious and especially so powerful! What saddened me was to offer up your poverty; however, in that place it became royal and divine, and so I did. Your Manual is progressing slowly, in spite of the fact that I do nothing but that from 6:15 a.m., when my meditation and Mass are over. When we are poor, it takes longer to pull our thoughts together and longer yet to write them down.

Pray for me always. I imagine that you will go to the Blessed Sacrament to find your spiritual gifts and that you will not forget me there.

I offer all your sisters my sincere best wishes, and assurance of devotedness.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

²⁹ Marist Priest.

547

CO 543

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 7/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Maubel, January 20, 1856

My dear friend and brother,

I've just received your note. May God reward a hundredfold the mother and daughter who came to bring it to me!

I'm expecting a letter from Lyons in three or four days setting the date for my departure from here. I'm afraid I may have to stay until mid-February.

As soon as I receive it, I'll let you know. That kind priest doesn't come from Angers, but from Tours. Unfortunately I don't have his address here, I left it in Lyons.

I saw Fr. Audibert. He is still so kind and dedicated. However, he can't leave yet; he is waiting for me.³⁰

I'm happy to learn that the Ordinary in question is favorable toward us. Dawn is near.

So, if you were to go to Paris only at the beginning of February, we would write before then.

All yours,
Eymard

Father de Cuers
rue Saint Savournin 24,
Marseilles, (Rhone)

548

CO 544

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 6/181 VI 3)

L.J.E.

Thursday

Very dear friend and brother in Jesus Christ,

I was named Visitor for Maubel and I've just returned from the visit. That is why I'm late in answering you.

1. It seems to me that we must delay again as to the property you mentioned. Your stay with Fr. Dupuis and my present responsibility are setting things back until later; we certainly will not lack a house. When Jesus wanted to have the Eucharistic Supper, he decided on the day, and even on the Cenacle. Everything is going well, let's continue to wait.

Kindly withdraw the objects mentioned from Mont-de-Piete and bring them to us.

A thousand and one eucharistic salutations to dear Fr. Brunello.³¹

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁰ literally: He is waiting for your servant.

³¹ Spiritual director of Fr. de Cuers.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 8/181 VI 3)

Belleville, February 13, 1856

Dear brother in our Eucharistic Lord Jesus Christ,

I am at the hospital here for a day, as extraordinary confessor, so I am able to write you a few words.

I had a long meeting with Very Reverend Father Superior General about the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, just as we had discussed; that is: 1. That I had not asked to be dispensed from my vows and that I don't believe I have an extraordinary vocation to ask to be freed from them; that he or the Pope are the only ones who could settle that point of law. 2. That I had labored for this Work with the conviction that he would give his support, either favoring it as a beautiful work, or adopting it, in its broad or specific limits, as something special, respecting vocations and its specific rules.

The Very Reverend Father General listened quietly and kindly. However, I could see that his intention was to tell the Pope that he could not consent to relieve me from my vows and to beg him not to do so, because of the Society. He told me secondly that he would speak to the Pope about the Work and that he would do what the Pope would say. So I used that as my starting point to tell him about my particular attraction, the good this Work would accomplish, the glory which would come to the Society because of it; that the Society had been the source and cause of several works of this type, and that God had made it a part of its existence. He listened to me attentively.

I told him especially that by lending me to this Work for two years, for instance, the Society would not be taking responsibility for it. It would allow time to see whether God wants it and to what extent.

Now here are my thoughts. Study the matter in God's presence.

We should write a request to the Pope signed by all the aspiring members and by the Bishop of Paris, if possible, or by his Coadjutor, or a Vicar General, and send it to Rome through the Nuncio in Paris. In this petition we would present:

1. the Work briefly;
2. my request;
3. the encouraging words of the Holy Father;
4. the request for me for two years or some specific time;
5. that the Superior General would speak of the Work to him when he goes to Rome; that everything is prepared. Then you would have everyone sign.

You understand that I cannot do it myself. We would need at least eleven signatures. Take those of the persons who want to belong to the Work, but who cannot come yet.³²

Goodbye. I'm leaving Saturday for St. Chamond. From there I'll send you the letter to the priest from Tours. I couldn't find his until two days ago.

Pray for me.

All yours,
Eymard

³² There is no indication that this was done.

550

CO 546

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 103/145 VI 10)

Lyons, February 15, 1856

My very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about the little Bernard girl³³ who was placed at the Providence of Mme. d'Hareng.³⁴ This fine lady told me a few days ago that she is doing well. It seems that she adjusted immediately to her new life.

For the one who is left at La Mure, we will do as follows: as soon as she makes her First Communion, Miss de Revel will find her a place in Lyons for a few months so that she can be admitted at the Patronage. She will be well situated there and she will learn a trade. Please tell me when she could make her First Communion.

I am very sorry to hear that Nanette still has colic pains and that she is not well. Take good care of yourselves, dear sisters, especially avoid getting your feet wet or cold.

I will leave tomorrow with two Fathers for the mission. Pray that God may bless our ministry. My health is good. I just arrived from a trip to Toulon where I went for visitation.

Believe me always in our Lord, very dear sisters,

With great affection,
your brother,
Eymard, p.m.

Here is my address until Easter: To ... St. Chamond (Loire).

Mar. 1-30c - Preached a Mission at St. Chamond.

551

CO 547

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 9/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

St. Chamond, at the rectory of St. Peter's, March 1, 1856

Very dear friend and brother in the Lord,

I'm waiting here for Father Renard's reply. I am at the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, at Marmoutiers, near Tours. I'll send it to you as soon as I receive it. I really would like to have news from you and know your feelings about my last letter. The Very Reverend Father Superior General left February 25th for Rome.

If your feeling is that nothing should be sent to the Sovereign Pontiff, letting Divine Providence take care of it: may God be praised!

The thought occurred to me to inform Fr. Touche. But I did not proceed any further, since I did not know your thoughts and whether you expect to do something or even whether you might be discouraged in the face of so many difficulties.

If that were the case, which I hardly believe, I would do like a sailor who has only one little

³³ Nanette's orphaned niece.

³⁴ Orphanage.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

plank left to save himself, and abandons himself to the temper of winds and storms, ever full of confidence in God's divine goodness.

I am suffering and hoping. I feel that our present Superior's feelings will be influential. They shall perhaps return triumphant. But if God wants this Work of love, it will fare the same as our Good Master's burial.

Once more, I am suffering very much but it consoles and strengthens me.

I haven't told you anything about the mission here: the first week, I wasn't too well, but I didn't stop. God's extraordinary strength is there when I need it.

This week also had its small problems. Nonetheless, I continue on, and I preach as if I were fine. God is blessing us.

We will be here until Easter. Write me a few words. I am really waiting and hoping for it.

All yours in Christ,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. I am beginning the month of St. Joseph with the intention of obtaining the protection and help of this dear Saint, who loved Jesus so much, upon this Eucharistic Work. Join with me.

552

CO 548

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 10/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

St. Chamond, March 12, 1856

My dear friend and brother in the Lord,

I was grateful to receive your welcome letter. Since I have a few free minutes, I am hurrying to write a few words to you.

1. You may write to me here with complete openness until Wednesday after Easter.

2. Kindly return the copy of my letter to the Sovereign Pontiff as soon as possible. My intention is to write to Very Reverend Father Superior General in Rome, to explain to him the purpose and means of the Work, to have him read my letter to the Pope. In this way, it may open his eyes. If he is opposed now to giving me full liberty, he might give me temporary freedom. My purpose in writing to him is to prevent a decisive request from being made to Authority.

3. Fr. Touche has written me a fine letter encouraging me to dedicate myself to the Work.

4. I'm still waiting for an answer from Father Renard of Tours.

5. I would be greatly pleased to go to Carcassone or to Paris to see the holy and fervent Bishop of Carcassone. However, I think it would be easier to make our request for Paris. There would be less mistrust there.

6. God is sustaining me. Naturally speaking, I should be flat on my back.

Give me news about our children at St. Sulpice.³⁵

I have time only to embrace you *in osculo sancto*. [with a holy kiss]

Eymard, S.M.

Father de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Paris

³⁵ The seminarian who had expressed a desire for this new Work.

TO FR. JULIEN FAVRE³⁶
(V 1/1 VI 1)

LJC St. Chamond, March 17, 1856

Very Rev. Father,

I was quite sorry that I couldn't see you before you left for Rome. God didn't will it. In return, we are praying a great deal for your successful journey and safe return.

The Mission at St. Chamond is giving us many consolations. God is blessing our prayers.

Fr. Ducournau is fine and always very zealous. Fr. Touche is working hard. People were very pleased with all his instructions.

As for myself, I cannot thank God enough for supporting me in the midst of all my efforts and vigils which are inseparable from a mission in progress.

I had promised you, Very Rev. Father, to give you the petition which I had sent to the Sovereign Pontiff. I only received it yesterday and I am sending it to you right away.

I don't have the plan for the projected Society which was presented to His Holiness. It is the same as the dominant thought in the petition.

It touched on the following:

1. The purpose: the sanctification of members by perpetual adoration; the sanctification of the neighbor by associations of adorers, retreats, and especially First Communions of adults.

2. Personnel: Three classes - religious eucharistic priests, brothers, associates. There would be two types of associates: Priests in permanent retirement and secular priests in the world.

3. The three simple vows.

As for me, you know my thoughts. I declare that this eucharistic project³⁷, which has been pursuing me for the last 5 years, did not arise from any problems with the Society of Mary, nor from a desire for personal perfection; but only for the greater glory of Jesus. It was suggested that I should seek to be freed from my vows to give myself fully to this Work; but my feeling that you would give me permission to dedicate myself to it for a period of time has led me to reject this suggestion, and I even like to think that if God doesn't find me too unworthy for this honor, he will have you incline toward this work of love.

I stopped a collective petition which would have been supported by a Bishop, to ask the Pope for a written word to request me from you [for this work].

My feelings are always the same: I am, it's true, entirely disposed to serve this beautiful Work, but without worry or anxiety. Notice, very Rev. Father, that the great associations of Works for the Blessed Sacrament which exist in France were all founded either by a Marist or under the patronage of the Society. Isn't that a great consolation for the Marists?

Now that God has given you an excellent Director for the Third Order in Fr. Martin and that he is pleased with this beautiful mission, doesn't it seem that God is leaving me free and that the temporary permission which I am requesting could not [do any] harm, since it would be both a rest and a mission of zeal which obedience would be entrusting to me?

Forgive me for this new presentation. I would blame myself if I had not done so at this time when you are treating the major questions of the Society.

I don't need to tell you, Very Rev. Father, with how much trust and religious detachment I place my soul before you, ready to accept whatever your zeal for the glory of God and your wisdom will determine.

³⁶ Superior General of the Society of Mary.

³⁷ French: pensée eucharistique.

Chaintré - St. Chamond Aug. 1855 - May 1856

Please excuse the ramblings of this letter. Since I am pulled on every side, I only have time to say that I am,

Your son,
Eymard, Marist

554

CO 550

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 11/181 VI 3)

Thursday, 1856

Dear brother in our Lord,

Everything is on its way to Rome and is arriving there about this time. May God accompany and bless this new attempt. I did it as freely and respectfully as I could.

Deep within my heart I experience hope and trust. God led them to find an excellent Director for the Third Order of Mary which they wanted to entrust to me. I won't need to excuse myself from it. I am freed from all responsibilities. I didn't know that Father Juillard is with the Sisters of Reparation. I don't have any contact with him. He must be under the direction of Father Colin, if we are to judge from the past.

Concerning Mother Superior at the Reparation,³⁸ I haven't written to her. I will not write to her yet through prudence and also in order to study things carefully. What is essential is to avoid binding ourselves. This question must be discussed in person. If I go to Paris during the month of May, everything will be put on the table.

I would have liked to know: what are Bishop Lucquet's present thoughts? What you yourself think of uniting with the Reparation, and especially whether the Archbishop or his Coadjutor are favorable to our project in itself, and to the persons who gather around the Reparation.

I haven't received anything from Father Renard. He must be dead; I'm going to write to the Superior at the Sacred Heart.

Today is Holy Thursday!

Oh! How I asked our Lord to accept this little guard of honor, to gather it around him, to bless it and adopt it!

I'm sure that this was also your prayer.

You will still have enough time to write me a long letter here. I'm staying until the middle of next week.

Goodbye, dear friend, someone is waiting for me.

All yours in the divine Host,
Eymard

Father de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Paris

³⁸ Mother Marie Therese (Theodelinde) Dubouché.

555

CO 551

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 137/395 VI 2)

St. Chamond, Thursday, March 20, 1856

I have a few minutes, my dear daughter, and so I write to thank you for your kind thoughts. Since I didn't have a moment to answer you, I did so in God's sight. We are pressed from morning until ten or eleven o'clock at night. My health is not bad. God is there with his strength.

1. I have fifty Masses for Fr. Champion. I'll have the others, I hope...

2. I'll write a word to Miss de Revel. It seems that Fr. Superior General has given it some thought, he had told me that he would send Fr. Huguet away before leaving for Rome.

3. I really regretted Miss ... lack of discretion. I hadn't discussed anything further with her, how sad!

4. As for yourself, don't worry. The one who will work with me for the Third Order is a saint. ... It is Fr. Martin, Superior of Digne, at the major seminary; keep that to yourself.

You will hear from me soon. Pray to St. Joseph for me at this time, and if you can, go spend a day at adoration.

I have renewed my sentiments of Adoration (of God's Will) and of obedience to Fr. General in Rome. He must be receiving my letter just about now.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Fourviere, House of the Carmelites, Lyons (Rhône)

556

CO 552

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC

(VIII 14/17 VII 17)

*Holy Thursday*³⁹

Mademoiselle and very dear sister,

I read your kind letter most carefully; I was sorry I couldn't answer it at once - we are rather like the Apostles who didn't have time to eat.

I had asked our Lord to go to the end, and in his kindness he granted it. My poor body is dragging, but grace makes it go on, and the good Lord often carries it like a Father.

I don't feel too concerned about what happened with Fr. Huguet. It's a good lesson, and a point of order worth clarifying; but what does sadden me is his way of behaving with you and with Miss Guillot. - If he knew the suffering it is causing Fr. General! You were right to act as you did with regard to admission. A Director should stay aloof from that so as not to exercise a despotic reign which is often a painful responsibility. I am not at all in favor of receiving Miss Decailles. As she is 28 years old and has decided not to marry, you may, however, see whether she is suitable. I personally would rather wait until this point about admitting young girls is settled properly.

³⁹ Postmark: St. Chamond, March 20, '56.

It isn't certain that Fr. Huguet's Retreat for the Ladies will take place. Something may be decided first.

Be always negative for what is bad and rich in the mercy and infinite goodness of God. May his Holy Will be the staff of your old age, your daily food, and your repose morning and evening. - How happy one is when one is content with that!

God blesses our poor words; - we can truly say that God has chosen infirmity and nothingness to make his love shine forth.

Goodbye, dear, good daughter. You know that in life, death and eternity I am

Faithfully yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.M.

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons, Rhone

557

CO 553

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 12/181 VI 3)

*L.J.C.E.*⁴⁰

Feast of the Annunciation, Lyons, March 31, 1856

Dear friend and brother in Jesus Christ,

I couldn't finish my letter at St. Chamond, so I am starting it over, here. I closed the mission a bit tired, it's true; but well enough to hope that a little rest would soon renew my strength fully. God's grace surely accomplished everything. I was able to work as much as the others, which consoled me immensely.

I thank God for your thoughts which are exactly the same as mine.

I saw Father Colin here and we spoke a long time about our dear Work.

I told him plainly that:

1. We would never put ourselves under the direction of women, and he agreed to this.
2. We don't want to bear the name of Reparation, but rather Religious of the Blessed Sacrament. We wish to embrace the Eucharistic idea in all its aspects.⁴¹ It was agreed, in fact, that the title of Reparation isn't a good one.

3. We want [to include] the active and contemplative aspects: active, to spread the Eucharistic circle through Associates, to undertake retreat work, the first Communion of adults, and later the Association of retired priests.

Then, he thought that perhaps there could be two works, his and ours, although it would be desirable to have only one; that if we didn't want to join with the Reparation Sisters, we could still help them with our support, etc.

I answered that when I receive the permission or freedom to do so, we could study the possibility of merging; that we are not at all opposed to it, but very sympathetic to the Reparation; that it's necessary to wait for the major decision from Rome. Father Colin said that it would have been better to ask purely and simply for a dispensation from my vows. I answered him that we had wanted to exhaust all means of possible reconciliation and harmony first and that we would see about it later.

⁴⁰ Abbreviation for *Loue soit Jesus Christ Eucharistique*, Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

⁴¹ French: toute la pense eucharistique.

This long conversation left me with the understanding

1. that they wanted to lay down the law and impose preconceived ideas upon us.

2. to consider us as novices, seeing the core-group of the Reparation as a work already in progress. Well, a core composed of a layman and Fr. Juillard doesn't deserve that title yet. Father Colin told me that Fr. Juillard is returning to the estate where he is stationed and that he is in Paris only temporarily.

3. I'm afraid that Father Colin's influence would squelch our ideas with his original vision. He assured me that we would be the Superiors, but I don't see clearly.

It seems to me that as Priests, it's up to us to take the lead and not to depend on the laity; that we should rather protect our freedom than sell it or [feel] bound just for the sake of existence.⁴²

So I approve your way of doing. Continue that way.

The prayers of so many Holy Persons, and the belief that this is the final trial, give me much hope, I feel confident. At St. Chamond, I found two future novices. I saw Father Dupuis who still has the same intentions, once his church will be finished, and it shall soon be so. (in October.)

I have a great desire to see Bishop de la Bouillerie and kind Father Hermann in Paris. I pray that God will make this happy meeting possible.

In a few more weeks we will see the triumph of the holy will of God or his holy cross.

I will stay in Lyons. Nevertheless, I need to go to Chaintré to rest a few days.

All yours in J.C.,
Eymard S.

You could write to me at Miss Guillot's, marked: P.E.

Father de Cuers

Rue des Ursulines, 12

Paris

558

CO 554

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 13/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.(personal)

Chaintré, through Macon, April 22, 1856

Very dear friend and brother in our Lord,

*"Quid retribuam Domino pro omnibus quae retribuit mihi? Calicem salutaris accipiam: et nomen Domini invocabo... Dirupisti vincula mea: tibi sacrificabo hostiam laudis, et nomen Domini invocabo."*⁴³

*Gratias Deo qui dedit nobis victoriam per D.N. Jesum Christum!*⁴⁴

This morning at Holy Mass, in choosing an optional prayer, I came upon the following:

"Deus, qui diligentibus te facis cuncta prodesse: da cordibus nostris inviolabilem tuae charitatis affectum: ut desideria de tua inspiratione concepta, nulla possint tentatione mutari."
*Secret: "Deus, qui nos ad imaginem tuam sacramentis renovas et praeceptis: perfice gressus nostros in semitis tuis: ut charitatis donum, quod fecisti a nobis sperari, per haec, quae offerimus, sacrificia facias veraciter apprehendi."*⁴⁵

⁴² Alternate translation: or limit it by a way of life.

⁴³ "How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord... You have loosed my bonds: to you I will offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call on the name of the Lord." Psalm 116: 12, 16, 17.

⁴⁴ Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

⁴⁵ #29 To ask for charity. --

The Gospel of the feast of St. Soterius and Caius reads: "*Ego sum vitis, vos palmites: qui manet in me, et ego in eo, hic fert fructum multum: quia sine me nihil potestis facere.*"⁴⁶

"*Si manseritis in me, et verba mea in vobis manserint: quodcumque volueritis, petetis, et fiet vobis.*"⁴⁷

At 9:00 o'clock this morning, Very Rev. Fr. Superior General came into my room. We went outside. After treating several unimportant matters, the important eucharistic question came up.

Father said to me: "I thought about your question. I consulted Father Jandel, Father Alphonse and Bishop Lucquet. All three told me that I should not, that I could not give you permission to be involved with this Work, nor dispense you from your vows.

I wanted to speak to the Pope about it, but during the time of my visit, I completely forgot it. No doubt God permitted it.

Therefore, we must settle this matter. Either you put this aside or you must leave the Society. But if you leave, I will not dispense you from your vows, I must not. They told me in Rome that the Pope would always refer this question back to me and that you would not be given your freedom." So then I prayed and thought: this is the moment of the decisive struggle. My God, help me. I answered: "Father, the three persons in question could only answer about a point of law, but not about the facts. They cannot judge my interior, nor my attraction of grace. I was not part of the examination."

"But on what do you base your conviction? where are the divine proofs of your new vocation?"

- "I have neither miracles, nor visions, nor anything outwardly extraordinary. God has been drawing me strongly to this Work, especially for the last two years. This grace has been at work in my soul for over four years. I have fought it, I have feared it. I was afraid of the cross, of difficulties, of suffering. I admit that by asking only for a temporary permission and keeping my bonds with the Society, it was primarily through affection for this dear Society, and then through natural prudence, in order always to have a refuge to fall back on. Well! Father, I see that God is asking me for a complete sacrifice, that I burn the ship I wanted to keep. I abandon myself entirely to his grace, it's over. I have decided." - "You will leave the Society, then?" - "Yes, Father." - "But your vows?" - "I beg you to release me from them yourself, so that a relationship of friendship may at least continue between us." - "I cannot."

"Well! I shall see the Bishop." - "But he cannot." - "I know that Bishops can dispense from simple vows. It was said in Rome and Father Colin confirmed it for me. Since you don't want to [do so], I respect your feelings, but I've decided to take this step. My decision is made."

Then, after more conversation: "Reflect, be careful."

- "Father, I have prayed for so long. I've begged our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, not to allow me to stray, to fall into illusion; I would rather die. But I continually feel that I am being pushed, drawn by the cross, suffering, to become manure for the tree."

- "Well, since these are your feelings and you have decided, I don't want to leave you in difficulty, nor abandon you.

I will free you from your vows, and I do free you.

I'll give it to you in writing."

Deo Gratias.

The mail is leaving now, until tomorrow. Keep this for yourself alone and for your companion. Be strict about this, please.

"O God, who, for those who care, make all things good: give our hearts the unchangeable love of your charity: so that these longings, born of your inspiration, may not be swayed by temptation."

The Secret Prayer: "O God, who renews us in your likeness in the sacraments and precepts: make our steps perfect in your ways: so that the gift of charity which you made to be hoped for by us, through those things which we offer, may you truly make use of as a sacrifice."

⁴⁶ "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing."

⁴⁷ "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you." John 15: 5, 7,.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 14/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Tuesday, April 22, 1856

Dear brother,

I am writing again to continue about the great question. When Father said to me: "I free you from your vows," I was moved to tears and I answered: "Thank you," and for a moment we remained silent.

The matter had been judged, my natural self crucified, but grace had triumphed. Suddenly I felt a great and sweet peace descend into my soul. My heart was happy. God consoled me in my weakness.

After a few remarks about my future dealings with the members of the Society, I said to him: "I will always love the Society as a mother, and I will seek its welfare as much as my new position will allow. My contacts shall be prudent and we would especially not receive any Marists who might want to come with me, unless it be with your free consent, and even then we would be careful. If among the subjects who present themselves, there were some whose call were rather to the missionary life, we would direct them to you."

"Now," I said, "since we are parting on good and friendly terms, will you allow me to seek your advice, if I should need it?" – "With pleasure," he answered.

We agreed that I would stay here about 10 more days to replace the Master of Novices, who is leaving for a trip, and also to finish the Manual for the Third Order. It will require another 8 days of work. Then I will go to meet you in Paris.

In the afternoon, when I went with Father to the train, he said to me: "Consider whether it might not be well for you to stay until the General Congregation of the Society. It should take place in a month and a half. I could say a few words about your Work and your departure, and perhaps everything would be better that way. It is more for your sake and in your interest that I make this proposal."

I was afraid to bind myself, to expose myself to the onslaught of friendship, to natural feelings of affection. I answered: "Thank you, Father, for your suggestion. I cannot promise anything. I need to pray. I am afraid it might put me in an embarrassing and unreal position." – "But no one would know about your decision until then. I would keep it secret. Nor should you say anything until you leave." – "I will study it in the presence of God, and if I should decide to do that, I would first ask your permission to go to Paris to see how things are developing and how we will get organized." He gave me permission to do as I chose. So then, my good brother, keep strict silence about it except with Mr. Thomas, if he is with you!

How good God is! This very day I was to be renamed Director of the Third Order, the decision had been made. It has been postponed indefinitely.

They had also thought of having me visit a few houses, and God settled the matter: may he be praised and glorified!

I was forgetting to tell you that when I was explaining my feelings, I told him: "I know that I am going to the cross, and to suffering, but what are ten years of life, more or less, provided that God's Work be done. Someone must serve as manure for the tree. It is too great an honor that God should choose me."

After all, if I suffer, I will do and say like someone who is in a bad marriage: I wanted it.

At dinner, God strengthened me, with the words at the end of the public reading: Imitation of Lamennais, Chapter 35: Reflections: "Be on your guard not to expect a rest that cannot be found here below, etc...." and at the end: "the Spirit and the Bridegroom say: Come. And let him who hears, say: Come. Behold I come. So be it. Come, Lord Jesus."

Now, very dear brother, let me tell you what God has done in me, and how he prepared me for this terrible struggle.

I don't mean the vow I made at the beginning of October: to make the Stations of the Cross daily and offer everything else for the souls in Purgatory, for a year. During Lent, I offered my anguish and my work to God.

When I sent my letter and my petition to Rome, I had a strong presentiment that it would block an erroneous or opposing move; that is what happened.

After Easter, I often meditated on the 39th chapter of the First Book of the *Imitation* and it helped me very much.

On Sunday, the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, the third Sunday after Easter, during my thanksgiving after Holy Mass, I felt very recollected. God was asking me to sacrifice not my desires, nor my dedication to the Work, but to enter into a holy detachment and surrender to his holy will with a firm decision to be submissive whether the Sovereign Pontiff forbade it, or said that I should pursue it. I sincerely promised this; then, after this sacrifice, God asked me for a second one: to believe myself unworthy to labor for this Work and to surrender it to him: I did so. Since then, I have tried to struggle against any afterthoughts of self-defense, of choice of means, etc.

However, when Fr. General arrived yesterday, I felt a strong urge to sacrifice everything, then my feelings cried out, afraid, preferring easier means. This morning, God did everything: "*dabo vobis os et sapientiam cui non poterunt resistere.*"⁴⁸ Three days ago I had begun a novena to St. Joseph and now the resurrection has come. I told Fr. General that we did not intend to be Reparators, nor dependent on Fr. Colin nor the Reparation.

I'm waiting here for a letter from you. I will probably be the one to open your letter. However, through Prudence, speak in a veiled manner.

In a moment of self-offering last week, I said to God: "My God what a consolation for us, if we could begin, as formerly the Apostles did and in union with them, by entering on retreat in the Cenacle on Ascension Day; receive the spirit and graces of our vocation on Pentecost day, and begin our Eucharistic ministry on the Holy Day of Corpus Christi." And see how everything is being readied.

If Mr. Thomas hasn't arrived yet, write to him to come for the Feast of the Ascension. I'll try to arrive on that day or the next. Prepare a cell for me, but pray and pray very much.

I embrace you in "*osculo sancto*" and I have the right to call you doubly my brother in the love of Jesus and Mary.

All yours,

Eymard

Priest⁴⁹ of the Blessed Sacrament

560

CO 556

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 138/395 VI 2)

L.S.J.C.

Chaintré, through Macon, April 23, 1856

I have just a moment, my dear daughter, to write and give you news about myself. My health is not bad; I would even say that it is good. How good God is!

I hope to finish the Manual of the Third Order soon. I expect to have only eight or ten days more of work. May God bless it!

⁴⁸ "I will give you words and wisdom which they will not be able to resist."

⁴⁹ Literally P. of the Blessed Sacrament. In French, this could mean either Priest or Father.

I've seen Rev. Fr. Superior General, he was very kind to me. I hope that everything will turn out for the greater glory of God.

I am making a novena, and I would need my large relic. Kindly send it to me, in a plain wood box, at the following address: To Mr. Perier, director of the Creche station near Macon, - Don't add anything else and don't pay the postage. I have an understanding with that good man. I would like to have it for Sunday. If you have any errands, put them all inside.⁵⁰

I saw ... and her fine mother I read the letter you received from the Brother Director. We are looking for a way to bring this to a close. It won't take long, about a week. That poor child, what a pity! We will try Citeaux again by means of the imperial Procurator. I received the final answer admitting Nanette's little niece with the sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, at St. Chamond. I sent it⁵¹ to my sister. It's a great blessing and favor. I'll write to Miss de Revel to thank her.

I'm in a hurry. In a few minutes I must give the conference to the novices. Please continue to pray. I do so wholeheartedly for you and your dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

561

CO 557

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 15/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Chaintré, April 25, 1856

Dear brother in J.E.,

I just received your letter. God is providing me with an opportunity to reply immediately.

My decision still holds to leave on the last day of April, and arrive on the beautiful day of Ascension, the first day of May! of Mary! The day the disciples went to the Cenacle.

I still fear a scene in Lyons at the time of separation. I must go there Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. Continue to pray much, so that God's grace may sustain me and enable me to triumph over everything, or rather, to die to everything.

When I see how the good Lord led everything and triumphed over the greatest obstacles, I say: God wills it, God wills it!

Now what shall I advise you? Continue to maintain silence until I arrive.

If only the room next to yours is not rented, hold it for me.

I would have liked to go to the countryside to spend the ten days in the Cenacle; but I understand, it's too soon. I have a friend at Leudeville, near Paris, who has a chapel in his home. We will discuss that together.

In the meantime, keep your weapons at hand and let God take care of everything else.

I am still firm in my decision to refuse Fr. Superior General's offer to stay here another month and a half. I am afraid of my weakness, the devil and affection. So I will burn my ship: may God help us! And Mary!

All yours in J.M.J.,
Eymard, P.

⁵⁰ the box.

⁵¹ the reply.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 16/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Chaintré, April 27, 1856

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I am responding briefly to your letter, which I received today. Thank you for having told me about Very Rev. Father General's trip to Paris. Therefore I will advance my trip to Lyons. I've just written to tell him that I want to go to Paris for the Ascension, to make my retreat with Mary and the Apostles in the Cenacle; that I would go to lodge with you and that you are near the Adoration.

As for accepting to stay a month and a half for the sake of unity and peace, I think it's better to settle the matter. I'm going to Lyons with this feeling. If God changes it, he will show me when the time comes: it is my duty to leave everything behind. I fear more obstacles later than now. Remember that peace and harmony come after the war, not while it lasts.

This morning I was meditating on these words from the Imitation, Chapter 37, Book 3: "*Quanto celerius hoc agis, tanto melius habebis; et quanto plenius et sincerius, tanto mihi plus placebis et amplius lucraberis.*"⁵²

I hesitate to inform Reverend Mother about my arrival, because I am afraid of indiscretion towards our house in Paris. Then also, our Superior General is quite upset with the Reparation because of matters with Fr. Juillard, Fr. Colin, etc., some oversights, contacts, etc. I am telling you that, so as to maintain our independence and to improve matters little by little. My inner feeling is that everything will fall into place later, but this is the time of struggle now.

Do not write to me here anymore. I wouldn't have time to receive your letter.

Pray very much, dear brother; I must still pass through the Garden of Olives. What is waiting for me in Lyons? The cross. May I bear with love this cross of humiliation and suffering. We must suffer a little for such a beautiful Work.

So, act toward the good Mother as you deem appropriate.⁵³

All yours in J.M.J.,
Eymard, P.M.

⁵² "The sooner you do this, the better you will feel for it; the more wholehearted and sincere your surrender, the more you will please me, and the greater will be your gain."

⁵³ Mother Marie Therese, at the Reparation, where Fr. de Cuers was lodging.

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CO 559

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 17/181 VI 3)

Lyons, April 29, 1856

Very dear brother in J.C.,

I'm leaving tomorrow for Paris. I'll arrive either at 5:00 p.m. by express train, or at 10:30 p.m. Wait for me.

You may inform the Rev. Mother about my arrival. Everything went well with Rev. Fr. Superior General. We are still friends and he will pray for our Work.

Until tomorrow.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.

Fr. de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Urgent Paris

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CO 560

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 139/395 VI 2)

Lyons, April 30, 1856

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm leaving for Paris to make a retreat and to consult. So, I have ten more days for reflection, prayer and immolation.

Continue your prayers for me. I want only God, his holy will, his glory. If, in his divine mercy, God should let me feel that it is not my place, nor his good pleasure, the question will be closed for ever.

Please believe that it isn't just an opinion of mine, nor a desire for a more perfect vocation. It's a hesitation of conscience: a fear of being unfaithful to a grace and a cross.

I left dear Fr. Favre with that thought, and it consoled his heart: he is so kind and so sensitive!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
House of the Carmelites
Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 15/26 VII 17)

Lyons, April 30, 1856

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am writing to ask you to pray for me. I am off to make a ten-day retreat in Paris, and to consult an outside person. This is the final test I must make to settle my conscience. That project⁵⁴ you know about was merely an attraction at first, but for four years it has become a question of conscience. I would think myself unfaithful and ungrateful not to have done what I did; now comes the decisive test. I trust that the Divine Mercy will not forsake me in this serious circumstance, and will not let me stray in the desire which has guided me, the desire to do only his will, quite prepared to leave everything or return if a ray of grace and light (unfinished)

Madame de Froissard, ⁵⁵, the good protestant Lady who is a convert, has written to me about a young man she is helping - her nephew, the son of Mr. Monod. But I can do nothing about it, at least for the present. A more serious examination would be needed on both sides, - indeed from the side of the person concerned. I would have written to her, but I have forgotten her address.

Believe me, ever in our Lord,

Yours faithfully, (illegible word)

Eymard

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene, Lyons

⁵⁴ French: pensée.

⁵⁵ Crossed out in the original as above.

CHAPTER IV

Foundation of the Congregation of the Fathers and Brothers of the Blessed Sacrament

Discernment Retreat Ascension-Pentecost, May, 1856

Contacts with Church Officials

Official Beginning - Corpus Christi

Material and Practical Concerns

Spiritual Friendships Resumed

TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE

(V 1/3)

Paris, rue des Ursulines, 12, Feast of the Ascension, May 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,¹

I have been in Paris for a few hours; my first letter must be to you. It's written from the house of Reparatory Adoration. So that tells you that I have arrived here. Very Rev. Fr. Superior General permitted me to make a decisive retreat: either favor the Work of the Blessed Sacrament or give it up entirely.

What I desired most was to begin my retreat with the Queen of the Cenacle and the Apostles, as they returned so joyfully from the Mount of Olives, still magnificent with the glory of Jesus. And I, I come to the Cenacle like a soldier returning from the battlefield, I don't say victorious, but still harassed and frustrated by the battle. If God, in his infinite goodness, tells me: "Go forward, climb this Calvary of fire" with the [help of] his grace and desire for his love I will consume the sacrifice. The sword and the victim are at my disposal: the dispensation of my vows. But its effect is suspended until the end of my retreat. If, on the contrary, in his infinite kindness, because of my unworthiness, God tells me to return to Lyons, I will leave immediately, without any other regret than the one of not having been holy enough to aspire to the honor of serving this dear Jesus, this great King of love more directly and more completely.

This, Madame and dear sister, is my frame of mind. Please pray for me, for the Work, for the greater glory of God. I am praying very much to Mary, Queen of the Cenacle, to St. Joseph of Jesus (I mean of Bethlehem, of Egypt and of Nazareth). I chose the Archangel St. Gabriel, the strength of God as my protector.

I learned about your offering here, it's the first one, nothing more consoling. May the One who has said: "Whoever feeds the prophet has the prophet's reward," repay you a hundredfold.

Now, dear sister and Madame, if I knew that the good Master would tell me: "Throw the net in high seas, prepare a Cenacle for me, I would find my delight in it," I would tell you: "The first amice, the first alb, the first cord, the first vestment must come from your hands; the first bouquets which will decorate the altar of the Lamb must be your work and your tribute. You must be the mother, the sister and the servant."

What I say about you I also say about your good, fine sister, whose heart I am privileged to know and to whom I ask you to present my deepest respects.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Madame and good sister, All yours in his love,

Father Eymard, PM

P.S. A first difficulty: They have communicated to me, as coming from the Superior (masc) that I cannot make my retreat at the Reparation.

I am here in a very poor Community, but a divine tabernacle can be found here: that's enough and replaces everything. Send your crucifixes to: Fr. Eymard, rue d'Enfer, 114 Paris.

Madame Sauvestre de la Bouraliere
near the Major Seminary
Poitiers

¹ Taken from a copy in Fr. de Cuers handwriting, not the original.

TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.
(VI 1/4)

Ascension, Paris, Rue des Ursulines, 12 May 1, 1856

Very dear and very Reverend Father Lagniet,²

I don't want you to learn from anyone else but myself about my sudden arrival in Paris. I arrived last night toward nightfall. I am here, with the consent of very Reverend Father Superior General, to make a decisive retreat to conclude in one way or another with the thought which for several years, and especially for the last two years, has been worrying me, making me suffer. You know what I mean. Since this feeling is not just a judgment of mine, nor an attraction of heart, but a feeling which touches my conscience, of fidelity or infidelity to grace, I have come to find light in a retreat and to consult a stranger who is educated, experienced and rather strict, and to submit myself to his decision. I'm going to pray for a few days, before choosing him, and be concerned solely with being at peace, free of self, putting aside all previous ideas and desires; in a word, everything which could favor this idea, in order to be completely detached, ready to return immediately to Lyons to do whatever they will, without afterthoughts nor regrets. Or, if the man of God to whom I will sincerely confide both pros and cons tells me to go forward, I will take the big step and bury myself for a while. I have suffered too much. Someone said: "Make an act of simple obedience." I did so a thousand times, but this question of conscience (true or false) would come back to lay hold of me again. The answer which Father Colin had given me when he was still General was constantly before my eyes. You see, good Father, how much I need your prayers and your charity.

To make the test complete, I exposed to Very Rev. Father my intention to make an independent retreat in the chapel of Adoration with Fr. de Cuers. Providence allowed that when I arrived last night I should find the apartments which Bishop Luquet had occupied now free. Because I was neither expected nor even announced at the Reparation, the Rev. Mother Superior was surprised by my arrival and my request. (We had not seen nor written to each other for more than 4 years.) She didn't want to take this upon herself for fear of hurting you. She wrote about it to her Superior (masc.) I don't know the decision; I presume it's favorable because I want to stay only during the days of my retreat.

I would go see you only next Monday, dear Father, that is what Very Rev. Father Superior and I had agreed upon. You know that he will arrive at your place on Sunday morning at 5:00 a.m. He is coming on the early express. However, if between now and Monday you should see some obstacle to my coming to the House, I count on you to kindly write and tell me, and I assure you that whatever the decision, I will see it as coming from wisdom and prudence.

Oh! Dear Father, this morning I wrote my feelings to you as they came to me. When my letter³ left I would have had so many other things to tell you, but I didn't have the heart to do so. Please don't speak about my story or my retreat at the House, if possible.

Believe me ever in Jesus and Mary, very dear and very Reverend Father,

All yours,
Eymard, P.M.⁴

Rue des Ursulines 12
Ascension '56

² Fr. Lagniet was the local Superior of the Marist community in Paris, at this time.

³ We do not have this letter.

⁴ Marist Priest.

P.S. After Holy Mass, Rev. Mother communicated the answer from her Superior (masc.) to me. Fr. Gaume doesn't think that it is prudent for her to allow me to make my retreat at the Reparation. I immediately decided to go into a little community on Rue d Enfer, 114. I don't know either its name or its purpose. It seems that it is like the Trappists.

To Rev. Fr. Lagniet
Provincial of the Marist Priests
Montparnasse, 31
Paris

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CO 566

TO ARCHBISHOP MARIE DOMINIQUE SIBOUR (OR THE CHANCERY)
(VI 1/5)

[May 4, 1856]

Your Excellency,

I am a priest from Lyons imposing upon your kindness for a private audience. I have come to Paris, especially to consult Your Excellency on an important matter which could advance the good of the Church. I will not take advantage of your kindness, Excellency. It is my fond hope that you will not refuse this favor.

I have the honor of being, with feelings of deep respect, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,⁵
Fr. Eymard

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114
May 4, 1856

⁵ *Note by Bishop de la Boullerie, Bishop of Carcassone, written on the preceding letter:*

I am really sorry, Excellency, that my short stay in Paris does not allow me to have the privilege of seeing you. I nevertheless take the liberty of adding a postscript to the request of good Fr. Eymard.

He will speak to you about a project which I have been informed about for a long time, but which I am no longer in a position to support. I see that it could be very useful from many points of view, to guarantee the future of our Works of Adoration. I know, Excellency, the interest you have for these Works and how much you help them.

Allow me to thank you for it by recommending to your charity and zeal the devout plan of Fr. Eymard.

+Francois
Bishop of Carcassone
May 5, 1856

569

CO 565

TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.
(VI 2/4)

Paris, May 4, 1856

Very dear and very Reverend Father,

Here I am again. I thought that it would be more prudent for me not to come to see you until the end of my retreat. If the decision is in favor of my first vocation, my visit will be more brotherly. If, on the contrary, it is to make the sacrifice, I understand that prudence will require more reserve and that I be completely forgotten. I am [residing] in a community of the Holy Heart of Mary. I do not go out at all, and I see no one, except Fr. de Cuers who comes from time to time. There is complete solitude here. I am happy that I didn't stay at the Reparation. I thought that Fr. de Cuers was outside of the community. And then, we never reflect enough. I still haven't made my choice⁶. There is no one who suits me here. They mentioned a few Sulpicians or Jesuits. I am on the Cross: God wills it.

If at least I could really die to myself, to every preference, to my self-will. That is exactly what I am trying to do and say without ceasing: *Ne projicias me a facie tua, et Spiritum Sanctum tuum ne auferas a me. Pater, non quod ego volo, sed quod tu.*⁷

Pray for the one who will always be in Jesus & Mary.

Very dear and Reverend Father
All yours,
Eymard, P.M.

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CO 567

TO ARCHBISHOP MARIE DOMINIQUE SIBOUR (OR THE CHANCERY)
(VI 2/5)

REPORT PRESENTED TO ARCHBISHOP SIBOUR

Your Excellency,

Please allow me to open my soul to you concerning the idea⁸ which I have believed to come from God. But, distrusting my weakness and the illusions of self-esteem, I need your wise counsel so as to act according to the ordinary ways of divine Providence: that is, through obedience.

For five years I have felt myself drawn towards the divine Eucharist, by a very strong interior feeling. For more than two years I have resisted it and kept silent; as this feeling grew ever more urgent, and fearing that I was resisting a grace, I spoke about it to Fr. Alphonse, the Provincial of the Capuchins. That wise and prudent man advised me to give up this thought. However, he added, if it continues to pursue you, tell your Superior General about it: he has grace in the matter. Nearly a year went by in this inward struggle; finally, I presented my thoughts to Rev. Fr. Colin, my Superior. After considering it, he told me: "This idea is good, I believe it comes from God. Pray,

⁶ for a Director

⁷ "Do not cast me away from your face and do not take away from me your Holy Spirit. Father, not what I will, but what you will."

⁸ French: *pensée*.

die to yourself, and perhaps one day God will draw glory from it.” - Later, after Rev. Fr. Colin had resigned, I spoke of my soul’s desire to Rev. Fr. Favre, his successor, and he has strongly opposed it until now. His affection for me, his new position, his fears that it would cause some uneasiness in the Society - as I myself had been Provincial a few years before, as well as the fear of some pious illusion: - these were the chief reasons for his refusal.

A year has passed in this long and painful trial, but my first feeling has been continually growing. So, fearful of being unfaithful to grace, encouraged by the words of my former Superior General and the feelings of one of my former Directors, after much praying and asking for prayers, I laid this thought of mine and the desire of his heart at the feet of His Holiness Pius IX.

His verbal reply on August 27, 1855 was the following:

“The Work comes from God. I am convinced of it. The Church needs this. Let every means be taken to make the divine Eucharist known. But I desire that the Marist priest come to an agreement with his Superior and the local Bishop before starting anything. I could give him permission myself to begin, but the wisdom of Rome demands that the Superior General take part in it, and he will do so graciously.”

After this kind response from the Supreme Pontiff I expected to get a favorable reply, but I received only difficulties. No doubt they were necessary for the good of my soul, and I feel that with God’s grace, I have benefited from them.

Well, twelve days ago I made a final approach to my Superior, who, this time, gave me complete freedom; but, I have to say, with great sadness and pain, the test was over. It had lasted more than two years. Now the Most Rev. Fr. Superior’s tone changed; he wanted to test me, he wished to keep me; it was his duty and a mark of affection, he said. Here were his final words: “To show you, my dear Father, how fond I am of you, I tell you most affectionately that if the attempt you wish to make were not to succeed, or if for any other reason you wished to return to the Society, the doors will be always open to you and you will always be welcomed as a son of the family.” So many proofs of goodwill, Your Excellency, would have overcome my heart were it not that I feared to resist the voice of God.

However, before leaving him and using my freedom, and also in order to make my decision an act of obedience rather than the result of a personal inclination, I asked, before beginning to work, to make a retreat, during which I would once again submit this eucharistic project⁹, and my liberty,¹⁰ to the examination of a wise Director. He accepted this with the greatest pleasure.

I have been on retreat since the Ascension, and God is drawing me more and more towards total sacrifice through love of the cross. Now, Your Excellency, allow me to consult you as the Ananias of my life, and ask you for the charity of your counsel. I shall obey you as I would God Himself.

Do you believe, Your Excellency, that I am doing something pleasing to our Lord by consecrating myself to the service of the divine Eucharist?

Do you think that I may, *tuta conscientia*¹¹, make use of my freedom?

If Your Excellency says, “Yes,” I shall bless you all my life, and begin with joy and confidence. Everything seems to be ready: 5 or 6 priests who are very devout and well respected by their Bishop are only awaiting this decision to prepare themselves. Three of them are free.

If, on the other hand, your wisdom judges that I must give this up entirely, I am ready to obey at once, and I shall adore the will of God manifested through yours, and I will return to my first commitment.

Bishop de la Bouillerie, who knows me, and whom I have informed about my desire and my present situation, as well as my resolution to submit this personal matter to Your Excellency, strongly approved and encouraged me - he even said these most encouraging words: “that if Your Excellency were kind enough to welcome us, we could render service under your lofty Patronage to the Works of Adoration in Paris - that the Religious state, etc., would not be harmful, but useful, at least at the beginning, for the formation of candidates; and furthermore, the most considerate offer from my

⁹ French: pensée eucharistique.

¹⁰ Dispensation from vows.

¹¹ with a clear conscience.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

Superior - to welcome me back - was a safeguard and a reason to have confidence in the venture.”

And now, Your Excellency, I surrender it all to your judgment and I hope, from the merciful bounty of God, for the grace to submit myself to it with all my heart and without reservation.

With expressions of the deepest respect and with complete abandonment, I dare, in our Lord, to call myself,

Your Excellency's humble son,
Eymard, Marist Father

Paris rue d'Enfer 114
May 5, 1856

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CO 568

TO BISHOP SIBOUR
(VI 3/5)¹²

Excellency,

Several priests from the Diocese of Lyons, Marseilles and Toulouse wish to place before Your Excellency the deep desire of their souls.

Moved by the same feeling of devoting themselves in a very special way to the service of the adorable Eucharist, encouraged by the kind words of the Sovereign Pontiff, they come to solicit from your kindness and your love for Jesus Christ for permission to gather under your patronage, to live in common and to prepare themselves without fanfare, in prayer, study and the apostolic virtues to this beautiful eucharistic mission, and so become capable of rendering some services to the various Works of Adoration which already do so much good in the Capital City.

It is with these sentiments of the most profound respect and with filial devotion that they call themselves, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servants,
Eymard, P., DeCuers, Pr.¹³

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114
May 5, 1856

¹² It is unclear whether this letter is addressed to Archbishop Marie Dominique Sibour of Paris, or his Vicar General, Bishop Leon Sibour.

¹³ P. and Pr. - Abbreviations for Priest.
P.M. - Marist Priest.

TO BISHOP LEON SIBOUR
(VI 4/6)¹⁴

[May 7, 1856]

Your Excellency,

I am taking the liberty of sending to Your Excellency a more suitable copy of the project for the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament, submitted to His Holiness Pius the IX, on August 27, 1855. If in his great wisdom, and in spite of our unworthiness, His Excellency the Archbishop would kindly bless this effort under your kind patronage, Excellency, I would hope for the approbation from your kindness, at least a temporary one so that we could proceed immediately on the divine path of obedience.

Please receive my expression of very deep respect and total self-denial with which I call myself in our Lord,

Your Excellency's humble son,
Julian Peter Eymard, P.M.

On the Society of the Blessed Sacrament¹⁵

Since the divine Mercy kindly inspired a few men of good will with the holy desire to devote themselves entirely to the glory and the Service of our Lord Jesus Christ in his Sacrament of love, full of confidence in the grace of such a beautiful vocation, in the powerful protection of Mary, Queen of the Cenacle, and after having humbly submitted the initial idea to His Holiness Pius IX, and having obtained the benevolent approbation of the Ordinary, they came together as a Congregation under the title of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

CHAPTER I Purpose of the Society

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament unites the active and the contemplative life; it establishes as its principal purpose:

1. to dedicate itself entirely to the worship and service of the divine Eucharist, by adoration which is perpetual and reparatory: and so to render to Jesus¹⁶ Christ, our Savior, by the most solemn and magnificent worship, the honor, the love and the glory which are his due.
2. to work with all its strength for the salvation of souls: for the conversion of sinners, heretics, idolaters, by praying perpetually for the success of apostolic missions and for the ministry of pastors.
3. to stimulate and sustain the piety of the faithful toward the Most Blessed Sacrament, leading them and preparing them by a pure and enlightened zeal to the practice of the Sacraments, especially to frequent Communion, so recommended by the Church.

¹⁴ Auxiliary bishop and Vicar-General of Parish, and honorary Bishop of Tripoli.

¹⁵ The original copy of this text is in the Archives in the Chancery of Paris.

¹⁶ Jesus is written Jesus - his abbreviation for Jesus Eucharistic.

CHAPTER II The Works of the Society

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament embraces and favors all the works of zeal which refer to the worship and service of the adorable Eucharist.

Its principal works are:

1. to receive in its Cenacle, laity and especially clerics who would desire to find recollection or to follow the spiritual exercises of a Retreat.
2. to preach 40 hours in the parishes, to prepare for first Communion, children or adults who have not yet made it, to preach Retreats for clergy, women religious, etc.
3. to offer to the veterans of the priesthood, an honorable retirement in the Cenacle; surrounding them with all the care and respect which they deserve because of their age and the services they rendered to the Church; so giving them the means to end their lives in a more holy manner at the feet of Jesus their good Master.
4. The more educated religious will be able to dedicate their free time to study, or to compose works of devotion, especially those which could feed and strengthen the faith and love of the faithful toward the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Those who are skilled in the arts will be able to attend to them for the glory of Jesus Eucharistic, and for what is called the “Work for Tabernacles”, which consists in creating paintings, altars and Tabernacles, etc., for poor churches.

CHAPTER III The Spirit of the Society

The Society should seek its inspiration only from the spirit of Jesus,¹⁷ its Rule and its Model. Its spirit must be:

1. a spirit of truth. Truth must be the principal, the inflexible and unchangeable rule of all the actions of the Society as of each member: Jesus Christ¹⁸ having said: I am the truth.
2. a spirit of charity. Charity must be the soul of the life of a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament, form the character of its perfection and of its apostolic ministry. This divine charity must set its zeal on fire to spread the knowledge, love and service of Jesus Christ, especially in his Sacrament of love, as the divine Savior has consecrated His life to spread the knowledge, love and service of his Heavenly Father.
3. A spirit of immolation, becoming with Jesus¹⁹ Hostia one same victim of penance, for the conversion of sinners, and also reparation for so much irreverence, profanations, sacrileges committed toward the adorable Eucharist.

CHAPTER IV The Members

The Society receives into its Cenacle all those whom Jesus Christ calls to His Holy Service, drawn by the grace of adoration. It distinguishes three kinds of members therein:

1. The priest-religious who alone can be named to the important positions of the Society.
2. The lay-brother religious, who can take on the secondary tasks.
3. The Associates²⁰ in the world: that is, priests and lay people who would desire to share in the graces and merits of the Society, and who associate themselves actively to the Work of perpetual adoration.

¹⁷ Jesus written Jesus, abbreviation used by St. Peter Julian for Jesus-Eucharistic.

¹⁸ *ibid.*

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ French: *agrèges*.

CHAPTER V

The Vows

1. After a full year of Novitiate, the priest-novices can be called to profess the three simple and perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.
2. The brothers will have three years of Novitiate before being called to the three vows. They will make simple vows for three years, after which time they will be admitted to perpetual vows, or dismissed after a serious examination of their lack of a eucharistic vocation.
3. The Society may possess property and stable revenue, in order to dedicate itself more freely and independently to its great eucharistic Mission.

CHAPTER VI

Relations of Religious toward the Ecclesiastical Superiors

1. The Religious of the Blessed Sacrament will profess the most filial respect for the Sovereign Pontiff, the most entire submission, and will make it a duty to profess and defend all the Privileges and Prerogatives of the Vicar of Jesus Christ.
2. They will consider the local Ordinary as their Father, and relate to him as submissive and devoted children, in order that he may love the Society as his own family.
3. They will show great deference toward the clergy, considering as their Superiors, all the members who are part of the holy hierarchy of the priesthood. They will consider themselves fortunate to share fully in their zeal, and to receive them in their Cenacle when they wish to come to rest and be recollected at the feet of the Divine Master. Finally, the religious will show such great charity and such a pure and selfless zeal that they will obtain the trust and affection of the Pastors, so that they may love the Society, as their own Society, and its members as their brothers.

CHAPTER VII

On Government

1. The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament is governed by a Superior named with an absolute majority of the votes. Only the professed priests have the right to vote.
2. The Superior governs with the help of a council, composed of three to five members, chosen and named by him.
3. All matters pertaining to vows, acquisitions, sales, loans, foundations, large repairs are handled in Council and deliberated with the majority of votes.
4. The Superior calls his Council together for ordinary matters, when he judges that it is useful: in this case, it is more for enlightenment than deliberation.

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CO 569

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 140/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 7, 1856

I am still on retreat, my dear daughter in our Lord. I'll continue until Tuesday the 13th. I opened my heart to a learned man of God, who is experienced and strict. I didn't know him. His final word was: "I need to pray, reflect and consult. Tuesday, I will give you an answer."

What will that answer be! I have no idea. What gives me a sense of security is that I said honestly everything that was against me, everything they had said to me in Lyons. I said too much to base my confidence on any natural reasons now. The holy will of God will be manifested by its instrument. If he tells me to give up this idea, I will be at peace. I will have done what I felt in

conscience that I should do. If, on the other hand, he should tell me to go forward, I will go in the name of holy Obedience. So, the nature of the question has changed. I am at the point where I should have begun. God has willed it so, and I thank him for it. It will have done me good, and detached me from many things which were merely natural and human.

I saw Very Rev. Fr. General. He was so kind as to come to see me. His affection, his kindness pierce my heart, and make me suffer more than all the temptations from the devil or from natural feelings. He told me that he also wants only the will of God. I am very happy about that.

Other news. I found an excellent place for the child from Charlieu. He will be in an institution where religion, the arts and trades leave nothing to be desired. Try to send him immediately. Find some good traveler to accompany him to Paris, to Fr. de Cuers, 12 Ursuline St., in Paris.

As for me, I am on retreat alone, very much alone with our Lord, in a community of men at 114 rue d'Enfer, Paris. After a little more prayer, patience and self-surrender, everything will be settled.

Ever all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - My sincere regards to your dear sisters.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
House of the Carmelites
Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

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CO 571

TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.
(VI 3/4)

[Paris], May 12, 1856

Dear and very Reverend Father,

Thank you for your little note. How kind you are! You truly are too kind to me! I am not going out, and it will only be toward evening when I will finally receive a decision and who knows whether I will even have it then. May God's will be done! I have no idea what it will be. God has kept me in total darkness during these 11 days of immolation of my will. I seem to be ready for anything - to go embrace you with a willing heart if I am still yours, or to put the crown of thorns upon my head if God is calling me to his Work. I presume that I will not be able to give you any news until Wednesday morning. In the meantime consider me ever in our Lord, dear Father,

As your son,
Eymard, P.M.

TO POPE PIUS IX (SSS ARCHIVES, ROME)

Petition to Our Holy Father the Pope²¹
Corpus Christi

Most Holy Father,

It is my genuine hope that Your Beatitude will be happy to learn about the successful realization of the founding of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, which was presented to Your Holiness two years ago by Very Rev. Father Jandel, Superior General of the Dominicans, and last August 27²², by a priest [connected] with our pious project.²³ The words spoken by your Beatitude which were so kind, have borne their fruit. The Society of the Blessed Sacrament was founded in Paris with the very kind approbation of the Archbishop, and under the high patronage of the Bishop of Tripoli.

God has leveled all the obstacles; I am free and everything seems to promise a blessed harvest. Six priests have given their names; we are already living in Community. But, Most Holy Father, we would work in vain without a Blessing from Your Beatitude, which alone gives a nascent work its life and its fruitfulness.

Prostrate at the feet of Your Holiness, we dare to beg you to bless us and this little mustard seed cast into the ground.²⁴²⁵

TO FR. JULIEN FAVRE, S.M.
(VI 1/1 V 1)

Paris, May 14, 1856

Dear very Reverend Father,

Finally, after twelve days of waiting, prayers, tears and surrender, the trial is over. I was told twice that they believe the will of God was to be that I should dedicate myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I was quite resolved to accept a contrary judgment in total simplicity and as decisive. My will was detached, indifferent about the outcome. Since God is manifesting his will in me, I will dedicate myself to it, trusting only on his grace and hoping for the help of your charity and prayers.

I cannot tell you, good and very Reverend Father, the difficulties, temptations, and trials by which it pleased God that I should pass. Nor will I tell you how much it costs my heart, my soul, and all my feelings to take this step, this great step (which I could call the time²⁶ of agony), for I see only the cross and the chalice, fortunate even if God should accept my sacrifice. But what I can say, in all simplicity, is that in my heart I will always be a Child of the Society of Mary in my gratitude and filial devotion. I am confident that my efforts will turn to the good of the Society, and in the depths of my heart I feel a certain confirmation of it. After so much suffering, it will be a very sweet consolation;

²¹ Petition sent to Pope Pius IX immediately after receiving the approval of the Archbishop of Paris, May 13, 1856.

²² 1855.

²³ Fr. Jean Joseph Touche.

²⁴ This text was copied from a penciled text by Fr. Edmond Tenaillon SSS, postulator, on May 21, 1900.

²⁵ Father Tesniere noted in the copybook of Fr. Eymard's sermons that on Feb. 26, 1867, he told the Community Chapter: "The Society was approved here in Paris, May 13, 1856, by Archbishop Sibour. We began Exposition on Rue d'Enfer only on Jan. 6, 1857. We invited the religious Superiors, most of whom came to be present at our birth. It was a beautiful feast." (Authenticated by Fr. Ed. Tenaillon SSS, Paris, March 11, 1901.)

²⁶ French: le pas - literally, step

for how would I not love a Society which has been such a good and tender Mother to me, a Father whose heart is known to me and who loved me with so much affection and dedication; brothers who are so caring? Can I admit it, very Reverend Father? Until the day of the final decision, I considered my eucharistic project²⁷ as judged and lost. My sacrifice was made, everything was ready to return to Lyons the same day. God is judging otherwise. May his holy will be done!

Now, dear very Reverend Father, kindly accept my most sincere and lively gratitude for everything the Society has done for me. Please thank good Father Teraillon for me, for his good advice. I owe to him that I made this difficult but wholesome retreat; and through this retreat everything has fallen into the ordinary pattern [of things]. I was no longer the one who studied nor judged the matter; I no longer devote myself to the Eucharistic Work through my own inclination. I had sacrificed it entirely. It is through the authority of three experienced men whom I did not know, in a word, of the three Bishops, then of a learned, experienced and strict man. If you add your blessing to it, very Reverend Father, your prayers, your counsels, I will find myself in the order of Providence.

The Archbishop welcomed this Work with great pleasure. He gave it his approval with a kindness which surprised us. The Bishop of Tripoli²⁸ is its ecclesiastical Superior and has given all the faculties. That is how this thought has evolved in a few days. Until the former Chateaubriand House is sold, the Bishop is kindly putting it at the disposal of this newborn Work, that of Fr. Bad... being finished²⁹.

I feel that I have acted with complete simplicity and openness in this whole matter. I showed him your certificate; I said everything which was against me. Then I imagined myself at the moment of death and in the presence of the court [of the Sovereign Judge] so that I might not later have any regrets nor interior reproaches.

Now, dear very Reverend Father, I have two favors to ask you: the first, to continue to give me your friendship, or if that is too much, your charity, your prayers, and those of the Society; the second, in replying to Rome, to consider the Work rather than my unworthiness, the good it can do, rather than the instrument, which unfortunately! is so weak that it is good only to suffer, and barely that!

I told the Bishops what had happened in Rome, the information which is being requested from you, the sensitivity of my personal issue. They answered: Before our decision, yes, the situation was delicate, but now it changes altogether, and now your Superior General who, like you, placed himself in holy detachment will judge your issue [based] on the present situation.

Dear Father Lagniet came to see me yesterday, the 14th, and in his kindness and charity brought me here today, the 15th, among Mary's blessed family, where I am finishing this letter. "We must remain friends," he said, "live in good relations, remain brothers; it is surely in your interest as it is in ours." I accepted with gratitude and great joy [to stay here] until you would wisely determine, dear Reverend Father, what is the most appropriate and practical [way to proceed].

Bless me once more and this blessing will bring me happiness, and God will repay you a hundredfold.

It is with feelings of deepest gratitude and most filial devotion that I am and will always be in our Lord, dear Reverend Father.

Your son,
Father Eymard

²⁷ French: pensée eucharistique.

²⁸ Bishop Leon Sibour, the Auxiliary Bishop of Paris.

²⁹ A congregation previously using that property was being disbanded. (Fr. Badiche)

577

CO 573

TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE

(V 2/3)

Paris, May 15, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

It's right and comforting for me to give you the first news: the trial that lasted twelve days, or five years, is over. The divine Eucharist has triumphed; I am its happy servant. May heaven grant that I may become its zealous and devoted apostle! The Archbishop approved the Work on the 13th, and he settled my issue last night. Three Bishops examined and judged it.

The details will follow later. Before accepting the dispensation from my vows, I indulged all your crucifixes this morning, and sent them right away.

I would almost like to come see you for a day in Poitiers, God willing.

My very sincere and humble respects to your dear beloved sister.

All yours in Jesus and Mary.

Eymard

P.S. My present address: rue des Ursulines 12, Paris, at Fr. de Cuers.

Mme. Sauvestre de la Bouraliere
rue des Carmelites
at Poitiers (Vienne)

578

CO 574

TO BISHOP SIBOUR

(VI 5/5)³⁰

[Paris], May 16, 1856

Your Excellency,³¹

I take the liberty of sending Your Excellency the Christian names of your sons in the little Society of the most Blessed Sacrament so that you may grant them written faculties:

Fr. Raymond De Cuers (of the Diocese of Marseilles), Julien Pierre Eymard (of the Diocese of Grenoble).

Our hearts, Excellency, overflow with joy and gratitude, indebted as we are for your most generous favor. The little Society of the most Blessed Sacrament is your Work, and we shall be happy to obey you as we would our Lord and to love you as our Father.

³⁰ This letter may have been addressed to Bishop Leon Sibour, the Bishop of Tripoli and Auxiliary Bishop of Paris or to Archbishop Marie Dominique Sibour, his cousin, the Archbishop of Paris.

³¹ The following words were found written on the back of a portrait of His Eminence Archbishop Sibour, the Archbishop of Paris, in Father Eymard's handwriting: "May 13, 1856!!! de quo semper Gratiarum Actio! et Laus Deo." [May 13, 1856, for which we will always give thanks and praise to God.]

579

CO 575

TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE³²
(VI 1/2 V 3)

[Paris], May 17, 1856

To Mme. Sauvestre,

Glory to Jesus Eucharistic!!!!

I am announcing a great event to you, perhaps the greatest in my life and yours.

Three Bishops in Paris have received and approved the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

They blessed Father Eymard and Father de Cuers. I am overflowing with joy and experiencing a jubilation I cannot describe.

At the same time, Father Marie of Jesus wrote to tell me that he has 2 vocations: 2 young priests who are as fervent as Seraphim.

As for the material side, I will take care of it and I like to hope that you will be able to carry out your mission. I was promised 64,000, the interest of which I will need soon. As for the capital, it will take several years.

580

CO 578

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 16/26 VII 17)

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, May 18, 1856

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

You will have received my last letter telling you that I was going on retreat, and that I resolved on a state of holy detachment. My 12-day retreat is over; the decision has been made in favor of the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I did not add even a single straw to tip the scales, nor ask anyone to intervene [in my favor]. Those who passed the judgment did not know me. I was open in all simplicity. I did not even expect a decision in favor of the Work. - But God has judged otherwise - may he be glorified and praised!

I am no longer consecrating myself to this through attraction, but with a surer motive. It cost me dearly. When one is in the thick of the fight one doesn't feel the sacrifice; but afterwards it is like cutting off a limb. I hope that God will be pleased with my sacrifice. I feel that I have offered it to him entirely.

We have the benevolent approval of His Excellency the Archbishop. We shall be starting in Paris, in solitude, poverty, prayer - before we make a move, we shall wait for God to say: "Go ahead." Pray for me, dear Sister. If the name is changed,³³ the heart remains the same. It is now, especially, that I must be like the grain of wheat - Jesus must make me die so as to give me his life, and the grace of his mission.

You will continue to be the dear sister of the T.O. - and you will still love the Society of Mary, for which I keep my filial affection and the desire to serve it.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear sister in Mary,

All yours,
Eymard

³² This was written in pencil and is a scrap.

³³ No longer a Marist.

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons, Rhone

581

CO 576

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 141/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 18, 1856

I am writing, my dear daughter, to give you the great news. Yesterday, Very Rev. Father Superior must have received my letter telling him that after twelve days of suffering, trials, and self-surrender, three persons outstanding in holiness and learning told me that they believe God's will to be that I should dedicate myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This answer came to me at a time when I believed everything to be lost. My sacrifice was irrevocable.

I was supposed to leave Paris immediately. God determined otherwise. Praise and glory to him!

V. Rev. Father Favre's kindness and solicitude pierced through my heart. That one was the most painful sword, because I love him, and he deserves it from every point of view.

I have nothing to tell you about myself. I'm not too bad. So many jolts could only tire out this poor body. It is all nothing, provided that Jesus Christ be served, loved and glorified by his little family and by all people.

My feelings for you and your good sisters will always be the same. Your spiritual welfare and your state of soul will always be very dear to me. I regret only one thing. It is that my resolve has caused you so much suffering: would that I had been alone in that.

Pray now that I may not become unworthy of such a beautiful and holy vocation. For if the battle is over, another will begin: I mean my personal Calvary and daily sacrifice.

I don't need to tell you that although I am no longer called a Marist, I continue to be a son of the Society of Mary in my heart; I am grateful and dedicated to it. Such a good mother cannot be forgotten. God allowed all those difficulties, misunderstandings, and suspicions. They were necessary to bring about an absolute decision.

Dear daughter, believe me always in our Lord,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - I want to tell you that the Archbishop of Paris has blessed and favored the Work. It will begin in the same house where I came for discernment. The community was dissolved (The Holy Heart of Mary) and we came after, rue d'Enfer 114.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix
House of the Carmelites
Lyons (Rhone)

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 20/52)

Paris, rue des Ursulines, 12, May 18, 1856

Very dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

Our good Master has won his case. I am here in Paris entirely at his service and for his eucharistic love. Every sacrifice has been made and the difficulties of the moment are over. Very Reverend Father Superior General dispensed me from my vows and remains a friend. Three Bishops approved my resolve and desire. The Archbishop of Paris received and blessed it with paternal kindness.

The house is rented (rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris). In a few days we will be established there, though poorly, but with joy and happiness.

Physically and mentally,³⁴ I feel like a soldier returning from the battlefield. Before using my freedom and with the permission of Very Reverend Father Superior General, I made a retreat in the Cenacle³⁵ for 12 days. On May 13th we were approved.

See, dear sister, the point which the eucharistic project³⁶ has reached. Praise God for it and thank him for me. My soul constantly repeated the *Magnificat*, and under the weight of ideas and sacrifices, could find only one thing to say: "How good God is!"

Now please pray so that I may respond to such a beautiful vocation; that, like the bread of the sacrifice, I may lose my life, my substance, my personality, to be changed into the spirit and life of Jesus, retaining only a human appearance, humiliation and poverty, so that the virtue of Jesus may dwell in the midst of my infirmities.

But, good sister, if we have nothing for ourselves, we would like to have something for the eucharistic King. We would like to receive him, honor him, surround him with glory. So then, please beg our Lord to send us something to clothe him, lodge him, celebrate the august Mysteries. I am waiting for the beautiful podium and Tabernacle as soon as they are made. However, what I am waiting for most is news about your health, and your new situation.

It must have been very hard for you to leave so many good people and the place where you practiced so much charity.

So now you belong in the Cenacle with us. May Jesus keep you and protect you in his divine love.

All yours,
Eymard, P.

P.S. Fond regards to good Mr. Tholin and to your spiritual son.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Amplepuis (Rhône)

³⁴ Literally: ability to concentrate.

³⁵ from Ascension to Pentecost.

³⁶ French: pensée eucharistique.

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 18/181 VI 3)

Leudeville, via Marolles in Hurepoix, May 20, 1856

Very dear brother in our Lord,

I'll leave here only Friday morning. I'll stay with our Fathers³⁷ and then see you in the afternoon.

If I can break away easily, I'll say my goodbyes on rue Mont-Parnasse to go either to Marie Therese or, as I would prefer, to our Cenacle.

The good Lord is the one who sent me here. What I mean is: a holy priest could be the fruit of my visit.

I learned yesterday that on Sunday Very Rev. Fr. Lagniet made the announcement to his community, in the name of our Very Rev. Fr. Sup. General, [giving] the news of my leaving the Society and about the Work of the Blessed Sacrament. It seems that Father General said very kind things about me; that we should remain friends, (that we should) visit one another, (that he wanted) me to be welcomed. That news made me feel very good. The God of love and peace has gathered all hearts into the same loving center. He is the Master of hearts and what God wills, happens.

I asked for my belongings. I believe that you will receive them soon.

If you see Fr. Badiche,³⁸ tell him how sorry I am that I did not see him to thank him for his kindness. I went to see him, but the Prior told me that he wasn't at home.

I'll see you soon. I am getting back some strength. I do so need these few days of quiet!

All yours in Christ,
Eymard, P.S.S.³⁹

Fr. de Cuers
Rue des Ursulines, 12
Paris

TO POPE PIUS IX

(U)

Petition to Our Holy Father the Pope⁴⁰

Corpus Christi, [May 22, 1856]

Most Holy Father,

Your Beatitude will, I sincerely hope, be happy to learn about the successful realization of the project of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, placed before your Holiness two years ago by Very Rev. Father Jandel, Superior General of the Dominicans, and last August 27, by a devout priest. - The kind words of your Beatitude have borne fruit. The Society of the Blessed Sacrament was

³⁷ The Marist community in Paris.

³⁸ From the dissolved Congregation of the Holy Heart of Mary.

³⁹ Abbreviation for: Priest of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁴⁰ This text is obviously the same as the text dated May 13. However, the 2 documents have different archive numbers and the handwriting is different. This text may have been a first draft, as it is incomplete and looks like a scrap. It may be the original copied by Fr. Tenaillon. (cf. Doc. 575.)

founded in Paris with the total and gracious approval of His Excellency the Archbishop, and under the high patronage of the Bishop of Tripoli. God has smoothed away all the obstacles. I am free. Everything seems to promise a successful harvest. Six priests have given their names. We are already living in Community, but, Most Holy Father, we would work in vain without the blessing of Your Beatitude, which alone gives life and fruitfulness to a Catholic work. Prostrate before Your Holiness, we dare ask you to bless us, us and the small mustard seed cast into the ground.

585

CO 581

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 19/181 VI 3)

L.J.C.E.

Sunday, May 25, 1856

Very dear brother,

Thank you for your good letter, God had me stay a little longer. Thursday afternoon a feeling of weakness obliged me to lie down. I stayed in my room until today. Wasn't it necessary to offer the small sacrifice of one's life, after having offered all the others? Don't worry about it.

I've just said Holy Mass. Tomorrow I must take some medicine and then I hope to go and embrace you Wednesday morning. If Fr. Badiche⁴¹ should move before then, I would be very happy; but *fiat voluntas Dei*.⁴²

To prepare for our arrival, you would do well to purchase three beds and a few chairs; furnish three rooms. Use the money you have. God will send us some.

My friend wants to offer the initial gift of a monstrance.⁴³ I hope that God will bless my short stay here.

I would be happy to have news about you before Wednesday.

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.⁴⁴

P.S. Adopt S.S.S. It is very beautiful.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Member of the dissolved community of the Holy Heart of Mary occupying 114 rue d'Enfer.

⁴² God's will be done.

⁴³ Mr. de Leudeville.

⁴⁴ Abbreviation for the French words: *Prêtre de la Société du St. Sacrement* - Priest of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁴⁵ Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 142/395 VI 2)

Paris, May, 1856

I am writing a few words, dear daughter, to answer your letter. Thank you for all that you are offering me with such faithful and filial attachment.

Thank you especially for the spiritual remembrance which you promise me in God's presence. I don't need to say it again: your soul, your salvation, your family, all are dear to me and will be so until heaven itself.

The name doesn't matter.⁴⁶ Jesus Christ is always the center, life and purpose. When we love souls, the rest is nothing and doesn't change anything. Besides, I remain a Marist in my heart, and I dare say, I am confident that I am serving the Society. Fr. Superior knows it, God is the one who led everything. He wanted me to sacrifice even the Society, because when I became a religious, I had sacrificed only a father and a sister. Later he wanted the sacrifice of the Third Order, then of my will, of my inclinations, and finally the sacrifice of my life. That is, on Corpus Christi, I almost fell gravely ill, but after only four days I am well again. It was the beginning of a chest infection. If at least I were truly dead to self and to all earthly life!

Tomorrow June 1, after noon, we will take over our new Cenacle with a procession of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I will place you there at the feet of our Lord.

The children arrived safely and were happy. It's the best situation we could find for them.

You ask whether I am in difficulty. No, no, I've been with the kind Marist Fathers for a few days and I'll go to the Cenacle⁴⁷ from here. Our resources are not large, since the Divine Master took us by surprise and we are like men who are coming out of a shipwreck. I don't worry at all about our daily bread: it is up to the King to lodge and feed his soldiers.

As for us, our only concern is to lodge him properly, to give him a tabernacle, an altar, vestments.

In that regard, I cannot refuse gifts that are offered to the Eucharistic King. However, I don't want anything for myself, on that point I must be sensitive and strict. I don't want it said that I am taking advantage of my former title to obtain money.

Dear Miss de Revel was mistaken about many things. Mr. de Geslins, with whom I had discussed it in Lyons, hasn't received any letters, errands, or news from me since he is in Rome. His indiscretion taught me a lesson. Besides, if I had wanted to act on a merely human level, I had many protectors in Rome of much higher rank. On the contrary, I wanted to let God do everything. Here I placed myself into the hands of strangers, I was not known, nor recommended to them, and everything succeeded beyond any expectation of mine.

I wrote to my sister today, without telling her that I had left the Society. I told her about the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament, which I had come to establish in Paris.

May God enkindle you with his holy Love, you and your dear sisters.

All yours in J. and M.,
Eymard

P.S. - Fr. Huguet seems happy in Paris. He related my story to Mme. Mantel, a friend of the Camus Ladies. Finally you will be able to breathe. God will bless you. Let people talk, but as for you, go forward. You have obedience, the Superior General, and God.

To settle my conscience, I must tell you that I said the novena of Masses . . . [three lines erased].

⁴⁶ The title of Marist.

⁴⁷ House of Adoration.

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 19/76)

Paris, May 31, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I saw Mr. Lalour the day before yesterday. I was happy to meet this holy man. Surely, if Miss Stephanie's vocation were marriage, I would have advised you to consider this choice. But she has a better Spouse, a more beautiful crown. Mr. Lalour really wants to become established; as God led him here, he will show him the way.⁴⁸ This fine doctor receives Communion every day to prepare for his new vocation.

The two children reached their destination. On the same evening they arrived they went to St. N. We have seen them since, and they are happy. I will go see them in a few days, as I will also inform the supreme Procurator about them. Count on me for everything, please.

Now I must tell you about the great Work of the most Blessed Sacrament. I began retreat on May 1st, Ascension Day, until the 13th, to submit to whatever obedience would indicate either for or against the eucharistic thought⁴⁹ which I have had for the last five years.

I was completely detached, resolved to give it up forever. How great was my surprise when, on the twelfth day, I heard these words from eminent men chosen to pass judgment upon my situation as a religious: "God is manifesting his holy Will. You must consecrate yourself entirely to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament!" The only words or thoughts that came to me were to say: "Oh! how good God is!" Father Favre accepted this decision and showered me with affection and friendship. The Archbishop of Paris received the nascent Society with paternal kindness. Tomorrow, June 1, we will take over our new Cenacle, and become Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament, while remaining Marists in our heart and devotedness.

What hurts us a little is that our Cenacle will begin like Jesus in Bethlehem; we have nothing with which to receive our good Master. However, it seems that he finds his delight in poverty and we are happy about that. We are overcome with joy, because we are going to follow his life, his retreat in Nazareth and I hope, his apostolic life, one day his Passion, and in eternity, his glory.

I am not telling you about this, dear daughter, for your material help. No, we are at the service of a rich King, who is good and all-powerful! But in order to beg you to thank him with us for having chosen us! Then, you have enough responsibilities; we have our daily bread, don't worry about it.

When I think that the evening before my decision about this great matter with very Rev. Father Superior General, you were there with Madame your mother - my last visit, my last direction. I thank God for it.

I leave you and your dear daughter in the divine love of our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

My address for the moment is at the Hospice for priests of Marie Therese, rue d'Enfer, Paris.

⁴⁸ literally: choice.

⁴⁹ French: pense eucharistique.

588

CO 585

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VII 3/5 IV 75)

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, May 31, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I cannot maintain silence with you about what just happened during this beautiful month of Mary and the Blessed Sacrament. Forgive my silence. You understand it.

The question of the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is settled. I am free to dedicate myself entirely to it.

Fr. Favre was very kind to me and his piety strongly inclined him to this beautiful work.

The Archbishop of Paris welcomed it with fatherly kindness. Tomorrow, June 1st, we will take over our new Cenacle. - I ought to say, our poor Cenacle of Bethlehem, for alas! Jesus will begin by being very poor there! Provided at least that our love may repay him for the rest and that we may be pleasing to him! If only you were near by, I would have done like Moses in the desert asking the Israelite women for their jewels to adorn the tabernacle.

I don't want to ask my daughters in Lyons for anything, out of sensitivity, and then there are so many causes to give to in Lyons! However, as I have only one Mme. Jordan, I assure you that as a fellow villager, I would like to see something from you on our Eucharistic Altar! - I wasn't able to write to your dear daughter either. I will do so in a few days. - Pray a lot for me. - You owe it to me. -

I leave you to our Lord and I am forever,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

For the moment give my address to Father.

589

CO 586

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESCE
(VIII 17/26 VII 17)

*L.J.C.E.*⁵⁰

Paris, May 31, 1856

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

The past must now be left to divine mercy. - I am confident that the present is in accordance with the will of God, - for the future, I surrender myself to his fatherly Providence.

Thank you for your kind letter. I already knew how appreciative your heart is - that poor heart has been your cross, your calvary. It will be your death, but death in the life of our Lord. - I am distressed that I have been a cause of suffering, but it cannot be helped: our friends are our crosses.

I shall be the only one to read your letters. I am the only one to open them; and if I can help your dear soul again, it will be a most sweet compensation.

Tomorrow we will move into our new Cenacle: pray that we may become true disciples of the love of J.C., so that one day we may be his worthy Apostles.

⁵⁰ Abbreviation: Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

I don't need to tell you that I am in the best of terms and most cordial relationship with the Society of Mary - I am writing from the (Marist) Fathers' house, where I have remained until today.

Well, dear daughter, life passes so fast, I was nearly bidding you farewell from the next world⁵¹ - what happiness it will be when our race is over, but all for the glory of Jesus.

All yours in J.

Eymard, P S.S.S.

590

CO 587

TO FR. BENOIT LAGNIET, S.M.

(VI 4/4)

Paris, June 1, 1856

Good and very dear Father,

I cannot leave the house of Paris without thanking you for your brotherly welcome, and for all the favors and kindnesses you showed me. I will be eternally grateful and I hope to prove it to you always.

Shortly, we will enter into our new Cenacle and begin a work which, although beautiful and sublime in itself, grips my nature with fear at the sight of the sacrifices which await us and the virtues which must adorn a eucharistic religious.

I feel that I am very weak and very unworthy and I trust in your good prayers, dear and Very Reverend Father, in the protection of the Blessed Virgin and of St. Joseph. If we sow in tears, others perhaps, will reap in joy.

591

CO 588

TO FR. JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIS, S.M.

(VI 1/1)

Paris, June 1, 1856

Very dear colleague and friend,

I have just received and read your fraternal letter carefully. I thank you with all my heart for the feelings of charity and friendship which dictated it. A simple explanation will answer everything. Before using the dispensation of my vows, with the kind, loving and full consent of Very Reverend Father General, I left Lyons on April 30th to come to Paris to make a serious and rigorous retreat and to submit the idea of the Eucharistic Work into the hands of a wise, experienced judge free of all influence. During this retreat of 12 days I became totally detached toward a yes or a no. I said with simplicity everything that was against me. Very Reverend Father Superior General came to see me during my retreat, as well as dear Fr. Lagniet. I affirm that I was not under the power of any outside influence.⁵²

When I felt the silence of those who were testing me and heard them say: "The matter is serious, I need to pray, to study, to consult," Fr. Lagniet will tell you that until the last day I was

⁵¹ He was deathly ill at Leudeville.

⁵² Perhaps a reference to the possible influence of Fr. de Cuers.

expecting to return to Lyons immediately. My sacrifice was made. How great was my surprise to receive as an answer: "We believe that it is the will of God that you should dedicate yourself to the Work of the most Blessed Sacrament." Believe me, Father, I had suffered so much. I could foresee so many crosses, that my heart would have been content to avoid them. Father General wrote me a letter so full of kindness and friendship. I remain a Marist in my heart and devotion. I will serve the Society. One thing that sustained me is difficult to write. On the night of the final decision, Fr. Lagniet came to get me at the place of my retreat and I stayed with the Fathers. Therefore, there is neither scandal nor war; there is a very fraternal friendship. I didn't consult any of the names you mentioned to me. I don't know who you refer to as P.C.... I am wrong as I write it. I understand who...: well, he had nothing to do with my present decision.

That, dear Father, is the state of the matter. It is no longer I who have judged or decided. I am no longer acting through personal inclination, or feelings, and if you knew everything, you would pray for the success of this Work which can benefit everyone. Don't be afraid of division, nor opposition. We don't want to receive members from the Society, but quite to the contrary we hope to give you some. That, dear Father, is all I can tell you. Besides, you must have received the circular letter of Very Reverend Father. Let us remain friends and brothers. Whatever anyone might say contrary to what I have just told you is an invention, as so many were created at La Seyne and Toulon. God permitted it; may he be praised for it!

In a moment, I will go to the House of adoration. Pray for me. Your letter pleased me; it shows me your heart and friendship. Believe me, etc.

Fr. Eymard

June 2 - First Mass celebrated on rue d'Enfer.

592

CO 589

TO MME. GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 5/8)

Paris, June 3, 1856

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I must not forget the one who was like a mother to me. So I am writing to give you news about myself.

I am here in Paris - Rev. Father Superior General allowed me to dedicate myself to the foundation of the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, the purpose of which is perpetual adoration and everything that concerns the eucharistic ministry, like first Communions, Retreats, etc.

We took over our new Cenacle on June 1 with a devout procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

Our first occupation has been to prepare a sanctuary for our Lord where he will be adored night and day - and I will not forget you there, good and dear daughter, nor your dear child and family.

God is the one who directed everything. - Every day, I see the signs of his paternal Providence.

We have nothing, and yet we are beginning a magnificent Work. - The Cenacle begins with Bethlehem.

Then, when we have Jesus, says the Imitation, we have everything - the essential thing is to love him with our whole heart.

You will pray for us, won't you? - We really need it, because in order to make a foundation, we must crucify ourselves and be crucified.

My respectful regards to Mme. Elisa and her dear mother - and believe me ever in our Lord,
good and dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard, P. Blessed Sacrament

My address!
Rue d'Enfer 114
Paris

593

CO 590

TO MISS GIGUET⁵³
(VII 1/6)

Paris, rue d'Enfer, June 3, 1856

Miss Giguët,

Thank you, my dear daughter, for your little letter. It caught up with me in Paris, where I have [come to] settle for a new Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I wanted to go see you before leaving, but didn't have the time. I'm very happy to know that you are peaceful and well cared for in this holy house. Divine Providence placed you there, so never cease giving thanks.

I cannot forget the good and devout Lady whom God gave you as your Mother. Tell her to pray for me, in her charity.

As for you, my dear daughter, surrender yourself to the goodness of God and don't worry about the past. God will take care of it, have confidence. Everything will be taken care of. See the goodness of God more than your spiritual limitations. God loves you with the love of a father and a mother. He wants you in Heaven.

Pray for me, dear daughter, so that I may truly respond to God's plans and work only for his glory.

I pray and will pray for you, because your soul will always be dear to me in our Lord.
Believe me ever in his divine love,

Your Ever Devoted,
Eymard

⁵³ Boarder at the house of our Lady of Compassion, Rue de l'Antiquaille, Lyons.

TO BISHOP CASIMIR WICART
(VI 1/2)⁵⁴

Paris, June 4, 1856

Your Excellency,

Since divine Providence has given you another diocese, I deeply desired to be remembered by Your Excellency as I shall always profess the deepest respect and gratitude for you. I had the consolation, nearly one year ago, to share with Your Excellency a plan to establish the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. You kindly blessed that idea. Today, the little Society of the Blessed Sacrament is founded in Paris after many trials. My Superior General, believing that it was the will of God, has given me full freedom to dedicate myself entirely to it. The Archbishop of Paris welcomed this newborn work. The Bishop of Tripoli is its protector and ecclesiastical Superior. We came into our new Cenacle on Sunday, June 1st. It is the former Chateaubriand house, rue d'Enfer 114, presently the property of the Archdiocese. A few of us have already gathered together. We are expecting 5 priests. This little Society has as its purpose (as I had the honor of telling you): 1^o perpetual adoration and reparation, and for works of zeal, retreats for priests, clerics, laity, the Work of First Communion of Adults; alas, so numerous in Paris, retreats for First Communion in the parishes, clerical retreats - finally, preaching 40 hours.

There are 3 kinds of members, religious priests, brothers and associates; that is, veterans of the priesthood. The religious take the 3 vows.⁵⁵

See what has become of your first blessing. This thought began in your diocese. - It is like the grain of wheat which is still in the ground. - We have an immense need of prayer. - Your Excellency, you have always been so kind to me, you will not refuse me - because this Work is also partly yours, Your Excellency...

TO BISHOP FRANCOIS DE LA BOUILLERIE, BISHOP OF CARCASSONE⁵⁶
(VI 1/1)

[Paris, June 1856]

I have returned here to the Cenacle. - On June 1st, we took over, beginning with the procession of Corpus Christi. - We said Holy Mass here on the 2nd. - The Work which your devotion and tender love desired is beginning in poverty, it's true, but also with the joy and gratitude of our hearts. - We are rich, with our Lord.

On Sunday evening there was a sermon for the nocturnal adoration at St. Roch. - The Bishop of Tripoli⁵⁷ did us the honor of inviting us, and there that good and holy Bishop announced the foundation of our Society with so much affection and promise that we were quite embarrassed. - He even ended his homily by saying that one day it would be a great Order in the Church, and from now on the adorers were to consider us as brothers, or rather Fathers, and that we were the natural center for adoration.

⁵⁴ Former Bishop of Frejus, now Bishop of Laval.

⁵⁵ Poverty, chastity and obedience.

⁵⁶ Vicar General of Paris, later Bishop of Carcassone. Listed by Fr. Guitton as "Louis" de la Bouillerie. cf. footnote to Doc. 568.

⁵⁷ Msgr. Sibour, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris

On the Bishop's advice we made 4 visits: the first to the Nuncio. - We were made most welcome. Fr. Gaume was very kind - Mother Marie-Therese and Fr. de Rastignac, who edified me greatly, and received us with....

Now we are preparing for the 2 great aims of the Society; the contemplative life through adoration, recollection, silence, forming a Guard of Honor for Jesus, sharing a common life with him; and then the active life of eucharistic zeal, spiritual retreats, the First Communion of Adults, preaching 40 Hours; in a word, spreading the eucharistic fire in every heart.

If only you were here, Your Excellency, to lead us personally in the battle. But you love us as your children, and your love will be with us, as will your devotion and ardent zeal for the glory of our Eucharistic Lord.

We are expecting 5 priests - 2 arrived yesterday...

June 15 - The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the Tabernacle at rue d'Enfer.

596

CO 594

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 143/395 VI 2)

*All for the love and glory of our dear
Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Paris*

*rue d'Enfer 114
June 20, 1856*

My dear daughter, I received your letter, your note of a hundred francs, your prayers and your feelings for me which never change.

Thank you for everything. You can be sure that your soul and all your concerns are ever dearer to me, and if God so wills, I hope to see you as a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament someday. It may be providential that the Third Order House hasn't been established yet. I want you to know that as far as I am concerned, I was completely for it, more than I said and more than people may have surmised. I would even have liked to begin it and get it underway. The time was not right. Then, I could see that Very Rev. Father General desired it, but I was afraid there would be many difficulties. The fact is that there are some major ones. Let us pray, everything is possible for God, so let us learn how to wait and suffer.

Yes, your vows were and are true vows, not religious in the sense of an established and approved Order; but religious and holy in God's sight. You wouldn't have received so many graces and blessings, if they had been only a pious thought. So thank God for them and continue with them. They have protected you.

Thank you for everything you sent us. I was deeply touched and almost sad about it, dear daughters! . . . [*two lines erased*].

May God repay you a thousand times over!

We are not in hardship. We have all we need. I am happy to have a few sacrifices to make, and to know how to go without many things. When Jesus Christ is our all, we need so little!

I would never have experienced poverty or God's motherly care except for this new situation I am in. We began like someone out in the desert, with a pair of sheets, a chair, one spoon, not two. It's wonderful. We are beginning to make our chapel more suitable. We are spending all that we have on it. The Eucharistic King deserves it. What an altar! only white wood, without any covering! What a tabernacle! four planks,⁵⁸ no more, no less. My heart rejoiced and cried at the sight of this Bethlehem; today, we covered the altar with calico, one meter minus eight and it's so much better.

⁵⁸ a wooden box.

Until now we had only one amice, and two purificators for both of us; yesterday, we received two with a few purificators. Everything we have for worship is borrowed; little by little our Lord will send us something. A friend will give us a few vestments.

As for you good daughter, please send us a few altar linens. If possible, concentrate on making amices for us (a bit larger than those of La Favorite), and purificators; as for corporals, two or three would be sufficient, as they gave us two; or better yet, if there is enough linen to make the top of an alb, that would be useful. Just do for the best. Only, my good daughter . . .

Miss de Revel or ... are the only ones who could have spoken to you about my letter. I'm most grateful to God that you want to help us. However the women⁵⁹ have so many responsibilities and good works to support that I'm not surprised by their silence. On the contrary, I thank God for it.

God will inspire strangers. He has already done so, or a few true daughters like yourself. Oh! If they knew how high the interest rate is when investing in this new Work, and what an honor it is to contribute to it! But as I told you, I have imposed upon myself the rule not to make any requests in Lyons. So then, be sure that I will never mention your name. I understand only too well what a sensitive matter that is.

Please have a bit more courage, dear daughter. Belong to God alone; human beings [seem] to have the mission to make each other suffer.

The two students are well. The eldest is learning to be a cobbler, I held firm to that. The other trades would have cost money. The rest of the money was given in advance. The monthly payments have been made until August 1st.

My love to all your sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix
House of the Carmelites
At Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

597

CO 595

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 21/52)

All for Jesus Christ Eucharistic

rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris, June 21, 1856

Dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your brief note: it brought me great comfort. Let us put aside all earthly matters: the soul of Jesus Christ, his love, and his glory suffice. Give me your suffering, humiliations and longings and I don't need anything else at the feet of our divine Master and Lord.

What joy! Since last Sunday we have a Tabernacle, and in the Tabernacle, Jesus Christ with his graces, his love, his Heaven: - everything. So, I don't notice anything else now, not even physical weaknesses. My cell is the door of the sanctuary; I am its guardian, I would almost say, its master.

In a few weeks we will have a larger chapel where Jesus, our good Jesus, will be solemnly exposed, and will send out his light and fruitful love everywhere.

⁵⁹ The Third Order members.

How fortunate we are! When I think of the road of thorns and suffering we have travelled, I have only one regret, that I didn't suffer alone enough. I am asking our good Master to give me enough love to have the strength to suffer and be crucified. Dear daughter, pray for that [intention] for me.

I don't know why, but I feel sad about you. Are you ill? On the Cross? Are you sighing for Heaven in the desert? But now you have a little bit of Heaven, of the Cenacle, of the Tabernacle of Jesus. How surprised I was to see the magnificent podium made by dear Mr. Alphonse! I never would have suspected that it would be so beautiful, so splendid; thank you!

Give me news about yourself when you can, and believe that I am ever in the love of our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.⁶⁰

Mme. Tholin-Bost

On June 22, Fr. Eymard wrote his last will and testament in favor of his sisters, naming Fr. de Cuers and Fr. Champion as executors. For text, see Vol. VI, August 6, 1868.

598

CO 596

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 28/33)

June 22, or 23, 1856

Madame,

Your good letter really brought me comfort. You are feeling better and you have recovered some peace and good will. But I can understand and feel the repercussions of your trials and difficulties. You see yourself in the midst of a frightening sea, abandoned, alone and afraid, and your little ship is tossed about. Then the devil and your weakness [both] say: you cannot escape, everything is lost! Oh! No! Nothing is lost. You will not perish. None of your interior struggles and storms have destroyed your need to love God. On the contrary, they reveal it, but they frighten you. You love God, that is sure. The good Lord loves you as his child, you cannot doubt it. However, he is leaving you in the desert a while in order that you may expiate your former loves of Egypt; - and have a more spiritual longing for the true promised land. But I know your great sorrow is that you are not able to love God as he wills and you are tempting him. So many interior reproaches are killing you, the world attracts and disgusts you, - everything you hear, read and meditate is insufficient for your suffering and agonizing heart. - Well! a little retreat will restore peace and order.

Courage Madame, it would be a shame to halt on such a beautiful path. So first of all, get a grip on your heart - humbly bring our Lord to mind - bear patiently with his apparent strictness toward you.

The sun of truth and love will shine again for you and you will appreciate it even more.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶⁰ Priest of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 10/28)

Praise and love to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

June 23⁶¹

My dear daughter,

You must think that I have forgotten you, since I've been so silent.⁶² Oh no! Your soul is too dear to me in our Lord that I neglect to pray for, and desire all of God's blessings upon you. I couldn't write. I was over-worked and not well.

Your letter made me so happy. I can see that you are still a daughter of Jesus and Mary, that you really want to love them and, what is better, to serve them.

Oh! yes, have a great love for our Lord and God. That is why you are so loved and richly graced: it is life and eternity. Always serve our good Master well: he is so good and so great! Do give him the poverty of your life and the simplicity of your heart: he is so worthy of all our love!

Then also, this short and dismal life passes like a cloud, like lightning; so we must hurry to love God so that Heaven may be its beautiful and rich harvest.

If you knew how sad a person is at the time of death, when they have only a piece of their heart to bring to our Lord, only a mixed life! But you want to be entirely his, you are his. For his sake, bear with all your heart's weakness, sorrows in devotion, sadness: that is all very good; it's the path of liberation from the world; it's the struggle and cry of the soul, saying: "Oh my Jesus, you alone are good, the good of my soul and the life of my life!"

Stay in the desert, but, like the dove which flew out of the ark, seek God and the perfection of his love.

Although your sister is on a different path, go to her as you did before; love her even more. Let her talk and think as she likes; you are her sister.

You are praying for me: continue to do so, my dear daughter, I need it. As for me, I offer you every day to the divine Spouse of your soul.

Goodbye in his divine love,

Eymard

Miss Antonia Bost
Tarare

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 144/395 VI 2)

United in the Eucharist in the love of J.C.

Paris, June 24, 1856

My daughter, I've just received your letter, with the note for a hundred francs. How good God is! I thank you in him. [*three lines erased*] repay you with blessings!

The measures for our altar are: length of the altar-table, two meters 63 centimeters; height on the side, 94 centimeters; altar-table width, 88 centimeters; Communion cloth, 3 meters 30

⁶¹ Probably 1856.

⁶² First letter since July 2, 1855.

centimeters. Our altar is Roman style, the altar cloth must fall 94 centimeters on each side. The trim should be narrow, from 10 to 15 centimeters. Don't buy anything to cover the altar; we will have it painted, it will cost very little.

It might be better to wait a few more days before sending us what you so charitably have in mind. We will find use for everything.

We received two or three amices and a few purificators. Please buy five or six pairs of horsehair soles at Miss Camus'; they cost six or seven cents a pair. Pay for it with the money you are sending me.

I'll be writing to Miss de R. I hadn't intended to get in touch with her. However, she is asking me for a few details.

I received a letter from.... That dear family surprised me. They are offering 500 francs for our Cenacle. See for yourself, my dear daughter, whether divine Providence forsakes us!

I'm pleased to know that you are peaceful and happy, it was just a little storm. Then too, don't let yourself be so upset by people who are absent-minded or too busy.

Blessings on your trip ... [*two lines erased*].

Best wishes to your dear sisters. I am really touched by their warmhearted wishes. Even without that, you could be sure of my dedication and tender affection for you in our Lord, in whose love I am,

All yours,
Eymard

601

CO 599

TO MME.NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VIII 1/1 IV 75)

*All for the love and glory
of our Lord J.C. in the Blessed Euch.*

*Rue d'Enfer 114
Paris, June 26, 1856*

Madame and very dear sister in Mary,

I was very grateful that you remembered me. Union in God has no vicissitudes whether in form, time, or circumstances. The soul has no state, no life other than the will of God. You understand me - the name changes nothing.⁶³

Here I am, then, devoted and consecrated to the realization of a beautiful beloved project⁶⁴, that of creating for J.C. in the Blessed Eucharist a Guard of Honor of faithful adorers, so that the King of Heaven may have, like kings of earth, a Court of devoted hearts. Perpetual adoration is to be made by the religious of the Most Bl. Sacrament, in conjunction with the Associates in the world who will come to give a few hours of the day or the night to the exercise of adoration.

Love does not stop there. It needs zeal. Fire ascends, spreads, and would consume everything. Religious of the Most Bl. Sacrament are consecrated to the Eucharistic ministry, 40 hours preached in parishes, First Communion retreats - and the Work of First Communion of Adults, as well as the aggregation for adoration. So you can see that there is only one idea⁶⁵, though the scope is vast, the focus is always eucharistic.

As befits the things of God, the little Society of the Most Bl. Sacrament is beginning in poverty and simplicity. It is [like] the grain of wheat which is first buried in the ground, then germinates, grows and bears fruit... the essential thing for us is to have the blessing of God - and to be faithful to his grace; and so we have great need of prayers - that is the first alms of charity.

⁶³ Change of Congregation.

⁶⁴ French: pensée.

⁶⁵ French: pensée.

Thank you, dearest daughter, for your gift to the new Cenacle. May God reward you infinitely - it is a beautiful stone for our new little chapel, and from which Jesus will send forth his rays far and wide. As for the beautiful altar cloth that you are so kind to embroider, our altar, in Roman style, will not take lace wider than 10 to 15 centimetres. The length of the table is 2 meters 63 centimeters, the width is 88. - the height of the altar from which the cloth is to hang is 90. - If only you were in Paris! You could come and see for yourself and pray in this Cenacle! We place you at the feet of our Lord - you, your dear husband and your children. -

The Society of the Bl. Sacr. is founded outside the Society of Mary - the two cannot go together, and the members must not be Marists - that much is clear. You realize how much we need God to really choose the pioneers who will begin the Work. Several priests, and good priests, must come to join us.

What a new disappointment for you, dear daughter! certainly the position of councillor would have been the very best - God hasn't willed it for some greater good. We must adore his adorable designs.

When you write to your dear daughter,⁶⁶ please remember me to her. One of these days I shall write to her.

Believe me, ever in our Lord,
My good daughter,

All yours,
Eymard S.S.S.

Madame Jordan
rue de Castries 10 or 11
Lyons, Rhone

602

CO 600

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE, TOULON
(V 1/4)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 29, 1856

...You are suffering; that is the best of all prayers. Your eye problems will not prevent you from being a religious of the Blessed Sacrament. Here, it's sufficient to have a heart and will which belong totally to God. So, don't be too upset, and especially consider it all as a grace of God. It will be so easy for our good Master to heal you when he judges that it would be for his glory!

Don't give in to sadness: when we are with our divine Spouse, and we possess him, we must rejoice.

Our little Cenacle is being prepared, and we are waiting joyfully for the happy day when Jesus will be on his throne of glory and love. On that day, we will place the names and hearts of all his eucharistic children at the foot of this divine throne. You can imagine that yours will not be forgotten!

Goodbye, dear daughter. Be patient, have trust and love.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Priest, SSS

⁶⁶ Mathilde Giraud-Jordan.

603

CO 601

TO A MARIST PRIEST

(VI 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Rue d'Enfer 114, June 20, 1856⁶⁷

Very dear and Reverend Father,

The work is being planted at the foot of the Cross in order that the divine blood of the Savior will make it sprout and grow. - It is beginning well as God's works begin.

But the sweet and boundless consolation that God has sent me is to have preserved the friendship of Very Rev. Father General, fraternal bonds with the good Fathers of Paris with the fine and sensitive Fr. Lagniet who, in this circumstance, has shown me more than ever the kindness of his heart and the sincerity of his friendship! - I often go to see the Fathers, and it seems to me that the only change is in the name...which remains profoundly written in my heart.

Good and dear Father, pray for us, in order that our unworthiness and weaknesses not paralyze the grace of God.

Do not forget me near our Good Mother.

Eymard

604

CO 602

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 16/52)

To Miss Stephanie

July 1, 1856

My dear daughter,

I am writing a few words to answer your letter and to begin by saying that your soul is even dearer to me now that Mary, our good Mother, has given me to Jesus to serve him in his Sacrament of love.

I cannot tell you the peace and joy my soul experiences to see that I am called to the divine Cenacle!

Nothing strikes me as vile or humiliating to prepare the Cenacle. We have taken care of moving things, waxing floors, acting as porters. I think I would even become a cook. Everything is divine when we serve a God.

I don't know whether I will see this little mustard seed flower. It doesn't matter, provided that Jesus be glorified one day. What am I saying? Provided that my desires may please him.

Mary, my good Mother, is my Mother for a double reason, because I owe her this second vocation. Oh! When will the day come when we will solemnly expose this Sun of grace and love, and see it radiate over all of Paris and the world! Do pray, dear daughter, so that we may become saints, men who are truly eucharistic.

As for you, continue to go to God in simplicity, forgetting the past just like a child, always resolving to do better and to please God. Don't torment yourself so much about your coldness and limitations. Blessed are the poor in spirit!

⁶⁷ or 30th?

Sleep torments you, it's a terrible temptation. However, begin by taking the time you need to sleep. Organize things to be free at night from all your ordinary practices of devotion. At your age, you cannot deprive yourself of sleep without consequences.⁶⁸

Don't commit yourself to care for your little niece. That would harm both soul and body. You must give a little of yourself to everything. Be a disciple of divine Providence, that is your dear mother's title, share it and be its disciple.

Goodbye, dear daughter; reject whatever upsets you. Leave aside whatever confuses you; enjoy as a great grace whatever leads you to God in peace and holy freedom.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

605

CO 592

TO MME.SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE⁶⁹
(VII 2/2)

July 4, 1856⁷⁰

The Third Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament cannot be established until we have founded and stabilized the Congregation of priests who are beginning in Paris.

Continue to lift up your prayers for its success. It is the principal Work of our times.

606

CO 603

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 18/26 VII 17)

All for the love and the Glory of Jesus Eucharistic

rue d'Enfer 114, Paris, July 4, 1856,

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in Mary,

I offered great thanks to God for sparing you, as I feared greatly for your Brottaux house. You had sacrificed it; you still have everything, plus one merit more. And so this world's fortune rests upon very shadowy foundations, and a drop of water, a spark, the tiniest thing, sets us back to our original poverty, but the riches of grace and glory are eternal in God.

I have heard Fr. Michon highly spoken of. He is devout, calm and gentle. I was told that he would be only second in charge. They may be looking for an older man - but the channel is unimportant if pure water flows through it.

A good resolve! Purity of intention is the philosopher's stone, recollection⁷¹ is the mold, and humility is the workman. - You have chosen admirably, - there is still work to be done, watering, cultivating, right up to the winter of death.

You are wise to go to Fr. Michon once a month, at least in fine weather. - It is a good example, an act of virtue, and a precious bond for your sacred responsibility.

⁶⁸ Literally: without danger.

⁶⁹ An authentic scrap done in pencil.

⁷⁰ Or June 8. Troussier.

⁷¹ Mindfulness, attentiveness syn.

Thank you, Oh thank you for your kind and constant prayer for me before God. It is the greatest proof of your spiritual affection as I see it - the rest is nothing; what is all-important is that we be saints, that we accomplish his Holy Will, that we procure His glory. Oh, how many graces we need when we wish to found a new Work! The thought terrifies me, I have but one consolation - it is that the glory of God be wholly active and powerful through our weaknesses and limitations.

We are surrounded by workmen of all sorts! masons, locksmiths, carpenters, roofers, etc.

Our chapel is being enlarged; it will all be finished in 2 weeks.

We are living in the house of Chateaubriand - I have his bedroom looking out on his fine cedar of Lebanon and the magnificent park which makes this place the most delightful and the most quiet in Paris. God loves us!

Our temporary chapel was the great man's former laboratory. - J.C. has replaced him, and the inspirations of love have pride of place over the Genius (so beautiful) of Christianity.⁷²

So far there are only three of us; there are a few vocations in the making. We are waiting for some good and saintly Priests, but first we had to prepare the Upper Room, - and when all is ready, Jesus will come with his Apostles. How do we manage? Like the birds in the fields, - or, better still, we are saying to the King ... the soldiers serve, but the King feeds and lodges them, and so far our good King has cared very well for us. - We shall adorn his sanctuary according to our means; first, like solitaires, like shepherds; art and magnificence will follow later.

A rich harvest is in sight, Paris! alas! in Paris, what spiritual destitution! what ignorance! what indifference! Apart from perpetual adoration, we have 3 works of zeal: the 40 hours' preached in parishes, retreats, and First Communion for Adults. - Oh! there are so many in Paris who are more pagan than the pagans, without First Communion, without church wedding, without Baptism!

What interesting things you tell me, dear daughter, about your sister-in-law, your niece, etc. But what can I say to you? That you acted rightly? Yes. As for the rest - see her and visit her - I perceive that the initial difficulties are over; there is still the painful impression of that sad past which has left you carrying the cross alone,⁷³ but also with all the merit and immense consolation - I would be in favor of visiting and renewing contact - for the sake of the children, and also on the principle of sacrifice.

I have space enough left just to bless you and to tell you with what affectionate fidelity I am united with you.

EYD

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons, Rhone

607

CO 604

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 104/145 VI 10)

All for Jesus

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, July 5, 1856

Very dear sisters,

I am coming to give you news about myself; I am well and better than at Lyons.

The Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is being blessed by God. We have been in the midst of workmen until now. We are building a chapel for Perpetual Adoration. It will be finished, I hope, in two weeks. I didn't have time to give you the details about this beautiful work [before now].

⁷² Ref. Chateaubriand's "Genie du Christianisme" [1802] - a Romantic - Philosophical book, not a theological one.

⁷³ alternate translation: with the whole cross.

It is a religious Society whose purpose is perpetual adoration, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed day and night and adored by religious and lay people who live in the world and form an Association.

The Priests of the Most Blessed Sacrament devote themselves to eucharistic ministry, that is: to preaching forty Hour Devotions established in Paris, to giving retreats, to the Work of First Communion of adults, etc. God has deigned to use me to direct this holy Work, in spite of my insufficiency and unworthiness. Before being founded in Paris, this Society had its difficulties and trials.

The former Superior General, Fr. Colin, had encouraged me to do it. Then, having given his resignation, the new Superior who replaced him didn't want to take any responsibility on himself, so the question of the Work was submitted to the Pope who strongly encouraged it and advised that it begin. But in Rome, they did not advise that it be done in the Society of Mary, lest one work should impede or harm the other. The Council at Lyons was of the same opinion. So, with the consent of the Superior General, I came to Paris to make a retreat under spiritual men to examine whether it was God's will that I should labor at this project. Three Bishops examined the question, two from Paris and one from Carcassonne. After twelve days of retreat, prayer, and study, they told me that they believed that God willed that I should devote myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament and that it should be done in Paris. The Archbishop who received us in a house belonging to the diocese is favoring this Eucharistic Work as much as he can. So now, I am here devoting myself to establishing this little Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Many of us are gathered here. But in order to work more freely, I had to request the dispensation of my vows from the Society of Mary to make those of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament and become a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the beautiful title given to us.

I am very happy for such a beautiful lot and such a holy vocation.

Now, dear sisters, you must really pray for us, that we may do God's work fervently. God had been drawing me to this project⁷⁴ for five years - such a great grace cannot be paid too dearly. I cannot tell you yet when I will be able to come to La Mure. We need to organize everything first.

Please present my affectionate and devoted respects to good Fr. Cat. Tell him that my emissary to Rome did not succeed, but that I will make a third request for him by means of the Nuncio.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, p, SSS

Miss Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

⁷⁴ French: pensée.

TO MR. CREUSET

(V 7/8)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, July 5, 1856

Very dear friend,

Your kind letter made me very happy. It was the first that I received from a son and brother. I am happy to see that this eucharistic Work entrusted to me by God's grace has all your faithful support, and that I haven't lost any of your affection.

It cost me a lot to tell God: "Cut, burn, sever, provided that I am pleasing to you, and that I may do something for your glory." Although I sacrificed the beautiful name of Marist, I have maintained toward it all the esteem and love of an ever devoted son. Mary giving Jesus one of her religious, and this religious being myself, alas! who is so poor and so weak! It is my sweet trust that our dear Mother will always love me and guide me on this new path. Besides, there is nothing new: it is the perpetual worship of the divine Eucharist; it is the eucharistic ministry, consecrated entirely to have Jesus known, loved, received and glorified in his Sacrament of love. - I may be weak, poor, ill, a sinner, but Jesus remains rich in his graces, my Savior, the eucharistic God, saying to everyone: "Come to me!"

Yes, dear friend and brother, I am happy to associate you to the eucharistic Work, its little sufferings, its weak merits; and I give you the title of eucharistic brother. In return, you will give us your prayers, your sufferings.

How often I say to myself: "Please God that all Mr. Creuset's children were grown up! He would come to be one more guard of honor."

Let your wealth always consist in trust in God, your strength in the cross, your shelter the divine Eucharist, and God will be your all.

May God bless your family and fill you always more and more with his holy love.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.

Mr. Creuset
rue St. Jean, 12
Lyons

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON

(V 6/9)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

rue d'Enfer 114, July 6, 1856

Mademoiselle,

This is the second letter that I write to you. The first one fell out of the package. I hope this one will fare better.

I don't need to tell you that I am in Paris, for the Eucharistic Work, that the little Society of the Blessed Sacrament has been planted in the ground and is developing at the foot of the cross, and

that future adorers are preparing for it in silence and solitude. - The purpose of this Work is perpetual adoration and reparation. Its means of zeal all the works which relate to the divine Eucharist: retreats, preaching 40 hours, the work of First Communion of adults, etc.

The great lever is the grace of God, and our correspondence with this grace. Oh, how much we need to become saints, angels of adoration!

That, in a few words, is what is happening. When I was telling you about this Work, I didn't expect such a development of events. God directed everything! Others say that it's an illusion, self-pride, the devil. For my part, when I see what God has done, the difficulties and trials I have gone through, I say: It's God's work.

My limitations, my sins, my ignorance are my own. The grace and the goodness of God are God's and come from him.

So therefore, Mademoiselle, I hope to see you in Paris, since Lyons was too big for us to meet. Here I run less and I am more alone, and I praise God for it.

If you are kind enough to write to me, give me news about dear Mr. Foloppe and his saintly mother.

Then, after scolding me a little, [give me] news about your people and your works...

Believe me ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P. S.S.S.

610

CO 607

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 145/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 8, 1856

How can I thank you, my good daughter, for all the treasures you are sending us! When we opened them, we were like children who look and look again, then make a thousand plans and projects! Now we are really rich. How good God is, and good because of you. May his kindness repay you for it!

I felt very keenly and still do, the difference between a friendship that responds at the first moment and to the first need, and a friendship that waits, that needs to weigh things first, or whose help must be solicited.

So, our Lord will know the difference, and so do I.

We didn't lack any necessities of life, but many needed objects. What can you do, when you come into a house with four walls, without stove or cook!

Now we laugh about it, now that we have the principal necessities. Every day, cooks come to offer to work. One day we had two people for breakfast, but only three spoons for four people. Fortunately, I noticed it in time and said that I wouldn't take any coffee: wasn't that nice?

See how good God is! We had to take our meals in restaurants here and there. I begged God to send someone, and he sent us a young man.

That's always the way: after a small cross, we receive a favor.

Yesterday, I was going to go out to borrow two amices. A lady came at that moment and brought us three, with an altar cloth and a Benediction veil.

So many graces from Providence bring us consolation and joy! Don't pay attention, dear daughter, to all the little storms that are taking place on my account. First, let it be said that I will never mention you or speak of what you are doing for our Lord.

I can excuse those good people who might say some hurtful things about me, it's only reasonable when seen with the eyes of friendship. Then, for the sake of the Body,⁷⁵ it's only right to sacrifice an individual issue. They are speaking only about my personal decision; not about the one made after my retreat. It's just a little cloud. Nevertheless, thank you for everything you told me about it, I will try to be more prudent with those people, through charity. Be indifferent in my regard, like a stranger. God forbid that I should receive any Marists with us; that would confuse everything. My thoughts are quite set about that, unless Very Rev. Fr. Favre would consent to it.

Here are a few details about our beginnings. You know about the difficulties in Toulon and those in Lyons before I left for Paris. Until then I had limited myself to requesting a temporary permission for a year or two, to set the Work afloat, since no one wanted to give themselves to it at the beginning. Lyons refused and said to me: either give it up, or leave. Very Rev. Fr. Favre suffered a great deal over it, he wanted to conciliate all parties. His council was against me and against the Work. To cover Fr. Favre, I had recourse to Rome and I requested that the answer should be addressed to him and not to me, so that the credit would be his. Consequently, I was bound to silence and went to Chaintré to finish the Manual.⁷⁶ Before leaving for Rome, Fr. General even told me twice: "I will speak about your matter to the Pope, and I hope that you will submit to everything the Pope will say!" – "Wholeheartedly and absolutely", I said. "With me it's a matter of conscience: let it be settled and everything will be over."

In Rome Very Rev. Father saw my friends who agreed with him, but I wasn't there. He stayed two or three hours in the Pope's waiting room, intending to speak to him about it. He spoke about it for an hour with Bishop Lucquet, whose thought was the same as that of the Reparation sister, therefore against ours.

Fr. Favre forgot my request when he was with the Pope. God allowed it, since I had definitely decided to obey his least sign, his least desire. When he came back, the question had gone no further. I prayed at Chaintré, and I dare say that I never prayed nor suffered so much, while begging God to show me his holy will and how I should respond. When the time came, I felt something so strong and so clear within me that, after begging and asking for the simple permissions, I asked to be freed from my vows. Seeing my firm decision, it was granted to me. That was the first period of my decision and here is the second. Before leaving Lyons, I prayed and it seemed prudent to me to submit to one final test: to come to Paris for a retreat at the hands of wise and pious men, submit to them all the reasons for and against, and abandon myself blindly to their decision, without appeal. I submitted this idea to Very Reverend Father General who gladly approved it. He put off the execution of my dispensation until after the retreat. I came to Paris; I wanted to be near the Reparation Chapel. After my first Mass, they indicated that I should leave. The Vicar General, the Superior of the Work, did not want them to receive me, or else perhaps Mother⁷⁷ didn't want it, I don't know.

Not knowing where to go, yet wanting to make an independent retreat, I was told about a community of men who receive retreatants. I was received on the day of the Ascension after much searching. I was given a drafty, unheated room; and then another which was very damp. At night my sheets were as damp as if they had just been brought in from the dew; the food was poor. God sustained me.

First of all I opened my heart to a devout and prudent Bishop. He didn't want to take the matter upon himself and referred me to the auxiliary Bishop of Paris; I did not know him. I made it my rule to let God alone act and forbade that anyone take any steps on my behalf.

After four days of retreat and conscientious openness giving the reasons for and against, I was told: "Return in eight days. We need to pray, to reflect and to consult."

During that interval, Father General came to see me, and I told him what I had said. He laughed about it, and believed as I did that the matter was decided against me. Nonetheless, he added: "Well! I desire only the will of God as you do. If they judge that you should dedicate yourself to this Work, we will submit. If it is in our favor, we will only be the happier for it."

⁷⁵ Religious Congregation of the Marists.

⁷⁶ Manual for the Third Order of Mary.

⁷⁷ Mother Marie Therese Dubouche, of the Reparation Sisters.

Fr. Lagniet came to see me afterwards, and proposed that I should leave this poor dwelling; I thanked him for it. He told me that a temporary permission could be arranged, as I had requested ... It was too late. The matter was too far advanced; "Then, it's useless," I said, "if they are against the Work, I will return immediately to Lyons." I must admit that before this new Calvary that was taking shape before me, my heart and feelings would have preferred to return to Lyons. What struggles and temptations I went through! I received very difficult letters. I could see all their thoughts and especially all they were saying. God knows. God wants it for the best. I said to myself, "May he be blessed!" I believe that I answered with serenity and charity. It came from La Seyne and Toulon.

Since the moment of decision my soul has continuously enjoyed great peace. When a cross would come to me, I was able to suffer. God gave me the grace to kiss it with submission and gratitude.

Admire God's plans: during my retreat, the community that had received me (The Holy Heart of Mary) died out and was disbanded. We took their place, my trunk never left here.

The people destined to help our Work all crossed our path. Those who weren't to be part of it didn't receive us.

We had many troubles with the remnants of the former Community. We didn't want anything to do with them, nor their furniture. Yet for nearly a month, we had to bear with them; we wanted to be free. It's also a grace that the Superior of the Reparation favored the common interest in dealing with us. That leaves us free to help her gratuitously, she was no help to us.

God wanted it so, and since Fr. Colin is on her side for a Work for the men, we would have felt bound and uneasy.

Then, she is a holy woman, but one must take on her ideas, and I didn't want to depend on a woman.

We've had workmen until now for our new Cenacle. The Archbishop kindly paid for all the repairs which were quite high.

The Chancery is in our favor. It's true that the lease hasn't been taken care of because the secretary didn't have time. However, all agreements have been reached and we were given permission to build a chapel, at our own cost, it's true; nonetheless, it's a proof of their good will. They want to sell this property and it has been for sale for seven years.

We may have been imprudent about the chapel which will cost us three thousand francs. We said to ourselves: we will give them to our Lord, he will keep us here as long as he wants. As the Archbishop said: "It is possible that you may stay a long time, besides we would give you the preference." Fine preference, considering we don't have anything! or rather, we have everything in our Lord Jesus.

They say my colleague is rich. He gets a pension of two thousand francs a year and that's all, yet the birds of the air are very rich, as are true disciples.

We are beginning to be rewarded; we have had the Reserved Sacrament for the last seventeen days. We'll have Exposition only when the large chapel is finished. It will hold over a hundred people.

We are doing exactly what Peter and John did when they prepared the Cenacle. When everything is finished, Jesus will send us his disciples. We already have seven beds furnished, at one hundred francs a piece. See how rich we are! We had three towels, then six. Now you made us richer.

Well, that's enough for today. I wrote to my sister two days ago about the whole matter; now she is well informed.

How will she take it? As God wills, you understand that when we have broken so many ties, that would only be one more on the battlefield.

My health is [changeable] like the weather, or rather as the good Lord wills it to be. I would have needed to go to the Springs; God will make up for it.

I cling to life only insofar as the good Lord wants it for me. Provided that I am doing his holy will, I am happy.

Goodbye good daughter. We have to be so grateful towards his infinite goodness!

All yours,
Eymard

TO MR. CLAPPIER

(V 2/2)

L.J.C.

rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris, July 8, 1856

Very dear Mr. President,

No doubt you know about my decision to consecrate myself to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Paris. God had been drawing me for a long time toward this beautiful and true center of the Eucharist. At first I sought only a temporary permission; when the matter seemed impossible, I asked for my freedom; and before using it I made a twelve day retreat with the consent of Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, under the direction of men of God, who are wise and strict. I was fully open, I gave the pros and cons, and my total impartiality for a yes or a no. God had given me this grace, and if I had been told to return to Lyons, I would also have returned willingly, and naturally speaking, more joyfully, because before the new Calvary rising up before me, my nature was afraid.

How surprised I was when the Bishop of Tripoli and the Bishop of Carcassone told me: "We believe that God wants you for this Work, and there is no reason to hesitate!"

His Excellency the Archbishop of Paris approved the project with surprising kindness. He even received us the same day in a house belonging to the diocese, *Villa Chateaubriand*.

God did everything, because I wasn't known here and I had neither recommendations, nor patronage, and none of my friends took a single step to favor it. Then I wrote the decision to Rev. Fr. Favre, because he had told me in Paris, when he came to see me during my retreat: "Well! We shall consider the decision of the judges as the will of God." Dear Fr. Favre really showed excessive kindness toward me after the decision.

I went to spend a few days with the Marist Fathers in Paris. I go quite often. We are on the best of terms, and I remain a Marist in my heart and commitment.

Those who do not know these details must have been scandalized about me. They said that I had been influenced by Fr. Touche and Fr. de Cuers. At my age, we don't let ourselves be influenced that easily. If I had been so before my retreat, I was not so during my retreat.

Forgive me these details, good and dear Mr. President. It is not in order that you should justify me, nor that you should excuse me, that I am writing them, but as a need of my heart toward your long and kind friendship, and I even beg you to say nothing about it to our Fathers. I know that Fr. Denis still has only the earliest understanding of events, which he still thinks is a personal matter judged by me.

Here is our goal: Perpetual Adoration, in cooperation with Nocturnal Adoration in Paris which has 220 [members].

Our zeal will consist in: 1. The direction of the Association: - 2. The work of First Communion of adults (Alas! the sight of so many men who have not made their first Communion is frightening; - retreats for men and priests, etc.)

We have only one thought, one goal, one center: the Eucharist! How happy if we could become special men, and bring back the indifferent and selfish men of our poor society! to faith and love of the Eucharist.

Pray for us, dear Mr. Clappier, and we do so continually for you and your beloved family, especially for your wife, whom I greatly regret I cannot accompany to Ars.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very dear Mr. President,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, SSS

P.S. Recently I learned about the final day for the proceedings of our friends Dando,⁷⁸ the 17th. May God come to their help! On that day, I will go to say Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires for them. If Aix were not so far, I believe that your presence, dear Sir, would be the greatest consolation and half of the victory for the proceedings. But is it possible?

Mr. Clappier
President of the Tribunal
at Toulon

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CO 608

TO MR. CLAUDE GAUDIOZ
(III 3/3)

Rue d'Enfer, 114, Paris, July 8, 1856⁷⁹

Dear papa Gaudioz,

How kind you are to think of me again, to send me such lovely things, and to continue your friendship toward me! It all made me very happy. In this way I can see that your friendship is not like the wind, nor a matter of self-interest, but in God. So then, thank you very much.

I can only repay you by praying for you, for your dear family and the success of your business. Especially that God may give you many graces in order to be able to profit by all the meritorious opportunities found in your difficult situation.

In heaven, good father, there will be no more separations. This world of exile is only a way of the cross and goodbyes. But for God's children, it is a passage to the same divine eternal center.

And you, good Lady and dear sister, don't forget me in your prayers and thoughts in God's sight. I often go to visit you at Leviste place⁸⁰ and bless you.

Always be the kind mother, the gracious lady, the devout daughter of Mary, and God will be pleased.

Goodbye good friends, believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.

⁷⁸ Perhaps a family name?

⁷⁹ Published in French as July 1st - but July 8th according to Fr. Troussier.

⁸⁰ in spirit.

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CO 610

TO MISS GIGUET

(VII 2/6)

All for the glory and love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 20, 1856

I am responding to your letter immediately, my dear daughter. It afflicts me to know that you are still ill, but since God wants it, adore this little cross or this great cross, which his love offers you, in order to make you greater in his love and in heaven.

See divine Providence in everything, loving and feeding you with the hands of divine love. I can understand that it is naturally difficult to receive charity, but your devotion and love for God will make this apparent humiliation seem glorious and pleasant. And so, my dear daughter, no more tears or sadness. God wants you this way, and you are pleasing in his eyes. Leave the past to his goodness and sanctify the present. Life passes quickly and when it is spent for God, the present is very sweet and the future very beautiful. Therefore, have courage and confidence.

Continue to pray for me. I am very grateful to you for it, because I really need it.

May God bless, comfort and strengthen you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

614

CO 611

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 146/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 29, 1856

Thank you my dear daughter, for your two letters. I always find them too short. So, let your pen and your simplicity flow freely. I will review some of everything.

1. About your resignation. - I would prefer if it came more naturally. That is, that another be elected in your place. You may certainly use reasons of health to decline that heavy burden, but wait for the election. It's better to wait for God's freedom than to anticipate it. At least, you will have won a beautiful crown of thorns, and further proof of human limitations and vanity. Take it as a principle, that should your presence as Directress cause difficulty or embarrassment to the superiors of the Society, you should ask God either to remove you from that office, or to bring the difficulties to an end.

As for difficulties which come from people under you, don't pay attention to them, and don't take any steps forward or backward. It is the cross of your situation.

2. Thank you for what you tell me about the little clique and their planned shipment. They wrote to me a month ago, Miss Camus via Mme. Bernard. I didn't answer. I will do so nicely telling them not to worry and simply to pray for us. A woman I didn't see came here. She is due to return tomorrow to ask us on their behalf what we need. My answer will be brief.

3. My health is adequate. Our chapel is progressing. Fr. de Cuers is a devout and faithful companion, totally dedicated to the Work, and a good brother for me. We have a fine boy as cook; however, he cannot concentrate and is disorganized, which leads me to question how long we will keep him. Another is ready, unless the good Lord wants to try us again.

Our little Cenacle has been very busy during these last twenty days. We were five priests. We are still three. Fr. Audibert, Vicar from Toulon, came to study his vocation. He seems well disposed. He intends to return towards the end of September or in the month of October, if God wills.

Don't be sad, good daughter, about all those contrary winds, all those superficial judgments. Provided we have God for us, and that he blesses the Work with his love, the rest is like a storm that purifies the air, and a trial which tests true friendship. God really loves us by giving us only distant crosses. Everything is peaceful here.

Our good Master has placed in my heart a desire for a hidden life, waiting patiently and confidently for the times and ways to make ourselves known, or what the world calls success by growth and expansion.

I only ask one thing from the Society of Mary, it is heartfelt charity. For the rest, I mustn't count on it.

As for the pro's and con's expressed by the Fathers who are subordinates, I surrender those to the good Lord, although it hurts, humanly speaking. I see it as the blood of the sacrifice.

4. I fully share your feelings about Mr. Lallour. He is a man who was out for himself, and was using his talents and skills to build trust and win his case. He is hotheaded and not dependable.

As for his prescription, you can do without it. In the medical sphere it's always easy to say new and extraordinary things to the uninitiated. God alone has the secret of your condition.

You know that he knows both how to cure you and how to crucify you.

My dear daughter! Why are you giving up everything for us? it makes me sad

Miss de R. hasn't written to me for a long time, that tells you the rest. Her soul alone is dear to me; at her age, there is fear and rationalization. It's the illness of the moment.

Needless to tell you to remember me to your dear sisters.

All yours in J. and M.,⁸¹
Eymard

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CO 613

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 17/52)

All for the glory and love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 5, 1856⁸²

May God be ever praised and glorified, dear daughter, for the victory he has granted you in his divine mercy. This day was beautiful in Heaven, pleasing to Jesus, your divine Spouse. You are preparing your dowry for his heart, and as I was telling you, the soul is pleasing when it can say to Jesus: I have loved you and I do love you more than any human being, more than myself!

The grace which our Lord has given you filled me with joy and consolation. May his divine goodness perfect what it has begun so well in you.

Reject any afterthought, flee any self-scrutiny, even in your prayers abstain from reflecting about this person. Include him with everyone, and forget him, if possible. God will remember him if you surrender him to him in order to think only about God.

What is done is done. Leave it to God. But, dear daughter, let me tell you in all simplicity:

Have a high regard for the graces and virtues of Jesus Christ in others, but without letting your natural heart contemplate them and even less from attaching itself to them.

Be on guard toward devout men who may have a specific purpose or a personal interest. Politeness, obliging services, even piety can be means of gaining esteem, trust, or more, as you saw it happen.

⁸¹ Jesus and Mary.

⁸² Listed as August 3, 1856 by Fr. Garreau.

Place this great maxim in your soul: that a Christian virgin ought not to try to make an outsider happy; she must without pity let earthly hearts suffer when they try to enslave her or take away her crown. Alas! Dear daughter, I have seen so many people with sensitive hearts, high intelligence, a generous will, who became slaves without realizing it and, for fear of hurting anyone, became guilty, first in a passive manner, and then, freely and willingly!

As for you, dear daughter, be jealous and proud of your heart. God wants it and he wants it for himself alone entirely.

As to your health, take the sleep you need. Be vigilant during the day to fulfill all your exercises and duties, so that when the time comes for your night's rest, you will be free.

You can do less on a given day; ordinarily it is better to supplement what you missed, but when rest or meditation has to be weighed, which should you choose? If your body is tired and your soul exhausted, give preference to sleep. If it is only a little fatigue which action can easily dissipate, then try for the action.

Put up with yourself as weak, poor and dry; that is your condition. However, belong and give yourself constantly and totally to God, that is your wealth.

Accomplish your practices of devotion to please God, that's all.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Continue to pray for the little mustard seed which [has been] planted in the ground so that it may develop with a heavenly blessing, and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

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CO 612

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET

(VII 11\17)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 4, 1856

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

The promptness of my reply will prove to you the pleasure that your letter gave me. A family feeling is never lost and your family has always been so dear to me!

Believe me, it cost me dearly and it continues to cost me to have made such a great sacrifice.⁸³ If, at the end of my retreat, three men, who were venerable by their character, wisdom and the severity of their study, had not assured me of God's will, I never would have taken this step.

Oh! my dear daughter, sacrifice is beautiful from a distance, but when the time comes for it, our imaginings disappear, our attractions undergo combat, our illusions drop.

I know that if I had made this decision based only on my inclination or pious feelings, I would not be free of blame, but thanks be to God, during 12 days of strict retreat, it seems to me that I came into complete detachment.⁸⁴

One of my consolations is to have maintained the friendship of dear Fr. Favre and to continue my friendly contacts with the good Marist Fathers.

For you, my dear daughter, I understand your loss. Fr. Colin was a saint skilled in the science of holiness and the spiritual direction of souls. Draw on your spiritual memories, and go to the one who is freest. Fr. Michon has the grace of state. I know they were very satisfied with him, and it creates one more bond.

⁸³ To leave the Marists.

⁸⁴ Freedom of will.

Don't forget to remember me to your beloved brother Tonny and his dear Wife, to the holy patriarchal family of Pommiers and to dear Marie, whom God will bless.

May God be your all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

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CO 615

TO MME.NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(VII 4/5 IV 75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 6, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

What are you doing? Where are you? two questions which often come to me, but without an answer. - Miss Monavon didn't have the heart to reply. I was hoping to see her a bit more, but she was so busy in Paris that I didn't see her again.-

You may be asking me the same questions, so I will answer them.

I am not budging from Paris, because I need to be here with the workmen - and the initial work of a foundation. - It is no sacrifice for me -I say: God wants it. - Then the Springs, visits from friends, vacations in the country, can all be found in our house with our Lord. The date is approaching when the little Cenacle will be ready to welcome the good Master. However, we must wait until the month of September before everything will be ready. The chapel is almost finished, it still needs to be decorated. - We will tell our heavenly King to fill it with the beautiful cloud of his Ascension - more beautiful than the one that filled the temple of Solomon.

If only you could be in Paris on the day of the blessing, dear daughter. Surely our Lord will be lavish with his gifts and blessings that day; so, I will place your name under his throne.

Do pray for the Work and my shortcomings, in order that we not jeopardize the work of God.

A very real cross has just come our way. The commission of Paris, the agents, the secretary, the prefect of police and now the magistrate, these are our visitors. Our cook was stealing from us every day. - And he was very bold, when the justice of God turned him in to the justice of men. He was using a skeleton key to steal. The wretch is in jail; he may be sentenced to prison and I must be present for the hearings. Imagine how difficult that is. We laugh over the theft, saying that God thought we were too rich. Finally, it's all over and we are rid of a thief and a traitor.

Goodbye, good and dear daughter. Believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
and I am at the feet of Jesus,
Eymard

P.S. My respectful and fond regards to Mr. President,⁸⁵ whom I esteem and love with all my heart.

⁸⁵ Her husband.

TO MME.MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 3/19)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia!

Paris, rue d'enfer 114, August 6, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am really late, first of all to thank you for your gift to our Lord, which Miss Monavon gave me from you; then, for your last letter which is already quite old, since it was dated February.

I was hoping to go to La Mure during the holidays and I was happy to think of having a long visit with you, of having the pleasure of meeting your fine husband. But God does not will it. I must do as you did when you were first getting started. It's no small thing to start a household.

However, our little Cenacle is beginning to take shape. The Chapel of Exposition is almost finished. I hope that we will soon be free of workmen and will be able to consecrate ourselves in peace and calm to adoration and to the service of Jesus Eucharistic.

In your last letter, I was happy to see that you had bought a good supply of books that are both serious and religious. A lovely and spiritual library is the lifeline of devotion and spiritual well-being. While you are still young, read, reflect and prepare yourself to train the children whom God will give you in his goodness.

Also, to prevent spiritual weariness, boredom, and sadness, get back to your little practices of devotion. It's often said that when we serve God well, we are faithful to all our other duties and then find time for everything else when God has had his.

Get back to your brief meditation: it's the compass of life and feeds virtue. When you can't do it in the morning, replace it during the day with some brief spiritual reading, and your soul won't suffer from its lack nor will you lose sight of God, your soul, or your duties.

Always be happy about everything and in everything, and you will make everyone around you happy.

Please express to Mr. Giraud all my sentiments of respectful affection and believe me in our Lord, Madame and dear sister,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 18/52)

To Miss Stephanie

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 8, 1856

My dear daughter, you have already received my answer to your first letter. I read your second one very attentively, and I was satisfied with it. I can see that you carefully presented the pros and cons.

The present, the past and the future have been considered. This is my conclusion: Stay as you are, that is the better part, the holiest, the most pleasing to Jesus, the most glorious for his Heart.

I never would have wished such a temptation upon you; since it happened, you must praise God for the victory of Jesus over a person. Without trying to diminish or analyze the virtues or qualities

of the person, I will tell you: have no regrets. A good soldier can only be recognized on the battlefield, a genius by his work, and true devotion when it is tested.

In general, we blame devout young people for letting themselves be too impressed by appearances or external qualities. I don't say that there aren't any real ones in that person; yes, there are some and I praise God for it. But, dear daughter, you have not seen the other side of the scale with its possibilities, its uncertainties..., etc.

Better yet, consider Jesus, his desire to have your heart, his pure and disinterested love for your soul's happiness. Who loves greater poverty, deeper surrender? Who is following him now among the majority of the wealthy young nobles? Alas! They are too wealthy and too noble to have only Jesus for their Spouse and joy!

You, dear daughter, you are more fortunate. He has given you the entire grace and, I dare say, he has given and prepared a white crown for you on earth without your really understanding its value.

Poor daughter! You could perhaps think that by getting married to please your dear father, you would hasten the day of his conversion to God. What! The Savior, your Spouse would be less powerful! Well, if this grace is to be the reward of sacrifice, certainly Jesus is the one who has obligations.

Don't worry about all your questions and reflections; they were necessary. Rediscover your peace and calm and forget it, put these thoughts aside.

My dear daughter, that is not how God acts when he wants to show us his holy Will.

If our Lord is leaving you cold, dry, sterile, without consolations, you must think: I don't deserve them, and that's quite true. Consolations wouldn't help me. I would believe that I am more spiritual, more virtuous than I am.

Our good Master wants to try my faith and generosity, to know if I will love him and work purely for love, without self-interest. But, if I love him faithfully, how happy his divine Heart will be to find a soul willing to watch with him in the Garden of Olives, in the Garden of pure love.

Dear daughter, may God fill you with his blessing and his graces and give you a love which is stronger than life and death.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

620

CO 619

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 147/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 12, 1856

My good daughter, thank you for your letter, your lovely package, and for everything it contained, even pins and thread. We laughed so much when we saw it all. Let me say that we even think we are very rich now, thanks to you.

I'm aware that in a house starting just with walls, everything is useful. Thanks again.

2. I've just written Very Reverend Father General to protest about the parcels from the Third Order Members of Lyons. I told him that I heard about it from a lady in Paris.

I wrote to Miss ... clearly refusing any shipment.

I certainly would regret it if it didn't stop. Self-interest or some other motive could cause some problems in the Society⁸⁶ and disturb mutual understanding.

3. I asked the Doctor his feelings about you[r case]. He said that it's a chronic illness and that the only remedy would be to stop walking. That's easy to say. So then, your condition is in God's hands and the doctors don't understand anything about it.

⁸⁶ Society of Mary.

Use all these health reasons, your need for peace and calm and the length of time that you have been Directress as motives to refuse your re-election so that they may know that you are not hoping for it. If you were re-elected by some exceptional circumstance, yes, but first have a frank and clear explanation ready. However, write to me between now and then.

Let me tell you about one of God's graces, but on one condition only, that you will do neither more nor less; otherwise, I will hide them from you. Just now I must go before the judge of instruction. I already appeared before the commissioner against our cook, who was stealing from us since he came here. He had a skeleton key, and was finally caught red-handed. Now he is in jail, and probably will be sent to prison. Unfortunately, we need all kinds of experiences. But what a trial! However, don't worry, we will have enough food. He took the money that was set aside to decorate the chapel. God will take care of it. It is his work.

My health isn't very strong at the moment. I suffered from the heat; it will all pass. Praise God in our name for all the graces that he is sending us.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I couldn't send you my letter yesterday, so I'm adding a few words.

You must understand that authorities have an official way of speaking and a personal one. It's enough for me that Very Rev. Father General has common courtesy and friendliness toward me. The rest is a matter of human limitations and shows us how weak and unstable we are. It may be a great grace; it leaves us our freedom while uniting us in charity. What more do we need?

Miss Marguerite Guillot
rue du Juge de Paix 17
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhône)

621

CO 620

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)
(III 5/21)

All for the love of God

Paris, August 13, 1856

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

You pleased me so much by writing to me, especially by writing to me very simply about all that is going on in your soul!!! Do so whenever you need to, my good daughter, and be sure that it will make me very happy.

Here are my answers to your various questions:

1. You are working wisely for your salvation and God loves you, but you are doing so like Martha, surrounded by troubles, business, worries and sacrifices of every kind. That is your path and it will be your crown. Some day you will thank God eternally for it. As for me, I assure you that, while I sympathize with your natural feelings, I can only praise you when I see that in spite of all your sacrifices, your nature finds no consolation in them, no sympathy, no gratitude: that is fine. God wants to be your all, your only witness, your only reward. Thank him for this grace.

2. Concerning your meditations, continue them as follows: put charity ahead of piety, or let it all move forward together. You are too old to try a new form of meditation. Continue what you are doing, a little mixture of everything. It is the meditation of the poor, the sick and the ignorant, but it is very pleasing to God. When you can, add a thought for the day, either the mystery, or the saint, or some unusual state of soul.

God doesn't ask any more than that from you, my good daughter.

3. For your confessions, do them the same as usual, with a real desire to be in the state of grace, to do better, and leave the rest to divine Mercy. When you have finished your accusations, it's enough to say as follows: I accuse myself in particular of all the faults of my past life which I committed against charity, patience, or humility, in thought, words and deeds. That is more than sufficient, without adding any further details. To vary, it is sufficient to say on one occasion our faults against charity, on another, those against patience, etc.; but leave aside those against chastity, it only causes confusion and trouble. So, good daughter, have courage and trust; eternal life is worth it all, and even more. Just offer yourself very often to God, give yourself entirely to his goodness and love, and his grace will do the rest.

Goodbye, poor daughter,
All yours in Jesus,
Eymard, S.S.S.

TO Miss Mariette

Aug. 26-29 - At Tours: Healing of his palpitations of the heart.

622

CO 621

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 20/181 VI 3)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Tours, August 26, 1856

Very dear Colleague,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I am here at Tours. I saw the fine Mme. Marceau, and the holy Mr. Dupont, who edified me so much and especially spoke so well. He is entirely absorbed with his beautiful work for the Holy Face; it is all he thinks about, speaks about, lives for; we have to slip in a word edgewise. It's only natural and right, we must be single-minded people. He is praying for us, that's the main thing.

I'll go see Mme. Sauvestre in Poitiers next Friday. I'll write to you from there.

I saw the Leudeville family and spoke about our Work. They will donate the monstrance and the canopy, and that's all. That's already a great deal and we should thank God for it.

I think it would be well if you would have the essential things done for the chapel. I would be pleased to find it done when I get there, at least in part. Do whatever God inspires you and all will be well.

I am already finding the time long until I return to you. Pray that my trip will be blessed.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.

P.S. Very Dear Colleague,

Here is my address, in case you should need to write to me in Poitiers: at Madame Sauvestre de la Bouraliere, 13, rue des Carmelites (Vienne), and at Tours, at Madame Marceau, rue de l'Archevch (Indre-and-Loire).

TO MME.CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 22/52)

All for the glory and love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 5, 1856

Dear sister in our Lord,

I have just come from a trip to Brittany taken for the glory of our dear and gentle Savior. When I arrived I found your letter, which was already long-standing. I may perhaps be answering too late; if that should be the case, God allowed it so.

1. I am truly sorry that your dear Pastor doesn't know that in Paris there are many works where the Pastor is the Superior and a lay person is President, even a Woman; and it doesn't cause a shadow of a problem.

Nocturnal adoration for men was even founded here by Miss de Mauroy: it's too bad.

2. What shall we do? Offer your resignation to the Pastor asking him to inform the Cardinal himself about your reasons; say that you would prefer that he give this information rather than you. Give as a reason your fear to create an obstacle to a good work. Until you receive a positive response, very simply remain as President.

Glory to God! Yes, may his kingdom come! That is also my thought, my desire, my happiness, my life, my death. It's my continual prayer: may the rule of his love come and spread over the whole earth, consume it with a heavenly and eternal fire. Often, when I look at this beautiful eucharistic throne we are raising, I tell our good Savior: May I be your footstool, may I suffer, may I be humiliated, may I die, everything is beautiful and good for me provided that you may rule!

At the feet of Jesus, put yourself into his heart, in order that in his kindness he may bless us and set us on fire.

Write to me when our dear Lord will inspire you to do so.

All yours in Jesus Christ,

Eymard, P.S.S.S.

P.S. Tell Mr. Adolphe to have confidence and follow God's path like a child: your prayer will be his triumphant sword.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 148/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 9, 1856

I'm writing, dear daughter, to answer your letter immediately. Thank you for your thoughtful concern and for your devoted charity.

I have had some toothaches; my health isn't bad, I feel better now.

I saw Mr. Lallour.⁸⁷ He'll write to you and send you his prescription. He is happy and excited. He has just accepted to work as a doctor in a little town near Orleans, at Puizeau. It seems that he will receive excellent benefits.

⁸⁷ Doctor.

My wholehearted congratulations ... for his decision. There are many thorns with this beautiful rose. The largest one is, I believe, more a matter of the head than of the heart. What a story! All that display and dedication were only to It was much too selfish. I think that it's a very sensitive matter after all the tactless things he was told, especially toward a man who has only head knowledge. Well, enough of that.

As for you, dear daughter, I advise you to hand in your resignation officially,⁸⁸ basing it on the rule, on your health, on your need for quiet. Propose Miss de Revel for it. She may accept if she is named, she will be able to say and do many things that will be respected. Then too, she will devote herself to it fully, for she is a single-minded woman.

If they should insist, after you have done all that, then heaven wants it. Bow your head and accept the heavy cross. In the end, it may be like beneficial clouds pouring out a gentle and blessed shower of graces and consolations upon your soul.

The workmen are still here. I hope everything will be finished by Saturday of next week.

Our thief hasn't been judged yet. We don't want to make a civil request for restitution, it would be too expensive and we are anxious to stop appearing before the tribunals. God is our Father, we haven't lacked anything, we have what we need. Only, instead of spending for furniture and decorations, we will wait.

I'm happy that you can see Fr. Ch.⁸⁹ He will help you. He is such a good Father and wise director; that is the most consoling news for me.

The mail is leaving. Goodbye.

Eymard

625

CO 624

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 149/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 20, 1856

I was waiting for your letter, very dear daughter, and I read it eagerly. I was anxious to have some news from Lyons.

I was sorry not to see dear Fr. Ch. It would have been such a comfort to speak a little with this beloved friend. It wasn't God's will. I'm happy to know that he is near you. Take advantage of it; open your soul to him, he has a grace and interest in your spiritual growth.

How kind this good Father is to have thought of our chapel! This memento⁹⁰ (which should be kept secret) pleased me very much. He did well to foresee the right moment and better yet to become again a simple soldier of obedience; that is to his great credit. I can see that there cannot be any correspondence between us; that was the first sacrifice I saw I had to make. However, we can still correspond spiritually through prayer and love. Father Ch. is truly the one I love the most, but unless there were an extraordinary vocation, I could never desire to have him with us. Sometimes I consider myself to be like an adventurer who risks all for all, and doesn't want a single one of his friends to suffer with him or for him.

We are still four: two priests, and two servants; one is a porter and the other a cook. There are three or four priests who have said yes to the eucharistic call, but I am afraid that the devil, their human nature, and self-seeking friends will lead them to become like those in the gospel who were invited first to the wedding of the King's Son.

⁸⁸ from the Third Order of Mary.

⁸⁹ Fr. Champion.

⁹⁰ Probably a monetary gift.

So be it! It is not ours to create vocations, but to receive them from God's goodness. The King is the one who invites, not the servant. Our happiness is to have Jesus always with us, what greater joy could there be! If our good Master wants us to remain alone for a few months, a year, two years, may he be praised! It will be the best thing for us. No price is too high for the happiness of being his eucharistic family.

People and friends who judge things only by success, numbers and wealth will laugh at us, or consider us to be sterile and creditless, etc. What good manure for the roots of the tree!

As for the women, it is settled. That is, we don't want to associate ourselves with any community already in existence, with its spirit and works. We want to form real adorers of Jesus Eucharistic modeled on Our Lady in the Cenacle, adoring and living near the divine Tabernacle. We will begin by gathering around our Cenacle the few souls whom Jesus will choose in order to form them quietly, without glory, for the Eucharistic life. Then, when they are ready, we will consult God to know where he wants this new Cenacle to be.

However, we aren't thinking about that yet. We want to wait for the first sacrifices of our foundation to be over, for the mustard seed to begin to take root.

Right now, we would be putting ourselves too much at the mercy of the new sisters' generosity.⁹¹

At war, the women are left in the camp.

You ask me for news about Fr. Jacquet. I am at a loss. I don't know his way of directing. He ordinarily gives the impression you mention; when we first hear him he doesn't seem to be very spiritual. However, I assure you that I don't really know, I have never had close dealings with him. He was always said to be very prudent and peaceful. Fr. Martin would have been more spiritual. God has willed it so. Still, he is much better than Fr. Mechon. There is more experience there. God forbid that Fr. B. come here. I worry about that poor Father; he was so hurt although he is doing so much good. He is still not too well. He is a truly deserving person. He is certainly the one who has the most difficulties and worries, with his difficult work for the masons. He needs encouragement.

About the corporals, since we have enough for the moment, please keep the linen whole. It will be very useful for something else for us. Would you kindly have a Mass said at Fourviere on October 2nd for a sick person who was recommended to me? I'll send you the stipend later.

I have a slight cold. It's because it is Fall, and winter is coming. It doesn't prevent me from doing the usual things and working. Next Sunday, we will offer the first Mass in our large chapel. Exposition is put off until mid-October because of the holidays. Unite yourself to us on Sunday.

About your new responsibility, let the good Lord act. After saying all that you had decided to say, keep your soul in peace.

I was told that the Manual of the Third Order is being printed. I don't hold to what I have done. On the contrary, it's wise that I be forgotten. But this Manual, such as it is, will always be a good thing. Later it can be improved.

It seems, dear daughter, that God is preparing some great grace for you, since you are being tested so much. At such moments of trial and suffering, of temptation to rebellion and irritability, entrust your soul to the Most Blessed Virgin your mother, to Jesus your good Saviour. Do only that, while saying with the Prophet: "Lord, I suffer violence, answer for me." Strive to be discreet⁹² about yourself, [not seeking] human comfort, to external gentleness, in order to bind your enemies. Always continue your Communion, without close examination or second thoughts; fire is not to be scrutinized, it is to be set.

A thousand and one best wishes in God's love to your dear sisters. What happiness it would be if one day I saw all four of you reunited in a Cenacle!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. The Lacour Ladies are not reasonable enough. I share your opinion, wait; what! They have 30,000 francs of pension and they keep count like business men!

⁹¹ Probably the Ladies from Toulon.

⁹² Literally: to be silent about yourself.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 17/75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, September 23, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I don't know where my letter will find you; I am sending it in care of divine Providence.

I should have written to you sooner. First, I traveled, and then we've had so many problems because of our thief; and it's not over yet. We will have to go for court proceedings shortly. God be praised!

Dear daughter, I understand your sadness and pain. You are strong and courageous when it comes to yourself. Other people's crosses are a hundred times heavier for you; it's only right, but very painful. I would have liked to be near you; I would have carried half of them. How sad! Yes, the world is unjust; it has always been so, even toward its Creator and Savior.

The world doesn't give its favors for services rendered, moral qualities, Christian dedication. At such times of injustice and ingratitude it is good to lift one's eyes toward heaven and say: "Father, may your holy Will be done! It's for our greater good that it has happened, so it's to show us that you alone are good."

No doubt I am too late to recommend what you are already doing, and even better. We don't always see the divine reason for things; therefore, let us adore the mystery of divine Providence, and everything will be repaid to us at a high rate of interest. The news really hurt me! Mr. Jordan has been a slave to his duties for so long, a little rest would have done him so much good! Once more, *Pater, fiat voluntas tua sicut in coelo et in terra!*⁹³

Next Sunday we will celebrate Mass for the first time in our new chapel. If only you were here to receive the first blessing! We will send it to you and your family.

The little Work is progressing in silence and developing under ground. We are waiting with peace and trust for God's moment; in the meantime, we are like Jesus in the desert.

My fondest and most devoted respects to your whole family.

Your dear daughter must be very happy with you. Improve your health and especially correct yourself for your lack of sleep. You know with what feelings,

I am united to you in our Lord, and I am,

Dear Madame and sister,

All yours,

Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. I didn't get any further news about Miss Monavon. What a Dominican!⁹⁴ She needs a rest. She is taking advantage of it; so much the better!

⁹³ Father, may your Will be done on earth as in Heaven!

⁹⁴ meaning unclear.

TO MME.FRANCHET
(VII 27/33)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, September 24, 1856

Madame and dear Sister in our Lord,

If I didn't answer your good letter, it's because I had forgotten your address. Father Mulsant gave it to me when he gave me news about you. I was very happy to learn about your dear son's brilliant examination. He had really earned it, and you must be happy. Now he is left with the choice. God will guide your fine son, and your prayers will help him to choose well. I hope that he will make a heaven-guided choice which makes a person happy and generous in doing good.

If he should come to Paris, I hope he will pay me a friendly visit.

Dear sister, it's too late to review with you [what is causing] this state of anxiety, depression and despair.

Madame Rothenigrie (Larochenegly) told me that you had made a Retreat at Fourviere and I believe that you must have found peace and trust there.

Yes, your soul is and will always be dear to me; poor daughter, can you doubt it! Since our Lord was so kind as to use even my limitations to help you: we love what God loves.

I didn't write to you about my decision when I left Lyons. I was not sure, since I was coming to make a retreat for that purpose.

If I didn't do so after, it's because I wanted to be forgotten by my acquaintances in Lyons.

Now about your condition, here are my feelings.

1. Your state of salvation is good and very good. God loves it, and this state renders him great glory. Needless to tell you the reasons. When Jesus was on the Cross, forsaken even by his heavenly Father, this was his most perfect and greatest moment of love. When Jesus was tempted by the devil, he provided us with the greatest consolation for our times of temptation.

2. Your extraordinary trials and horrible temptations are not sins: they prove the futility and fury of the devil against you.

3. These trials are very helpful. They prepare you for greater graces. Always turn your heart toward God at such moments and spurn the devil.

4. When God comes to comfort you, to lift you up with his grace of love, become strong in full union with his divine will for the times of sacrifice, imitating Jesus on Tabor speaking about Calvary.

5. Always go forward in the midst of all these storms, and the violent winds will only [serve to] fill up the sails of your boat.

Thank you, dear sister, for your kind prayers for our eucharistic Work and for my weakness. We never leave Mary when we go toward Jesus. This divine Queen of the Cenacle leads us and directs us there. It's under this beautiful title of Our Lady of the Cenacle that we honor her. We are little children kneeling near their good mother before the Blessed Sacrament. The Society of Mary will always be dear to me and I am ever its child in my heart. You tell the truth: no one knows what this sacrifice cost me. But when we believe that God is calling, we must give even our life, and even that is nothing.

Goodbye, dear daughter and sister in our Lord. Always give us the alms of your prayers. A soldier in the trenches needs help.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

628

CO 627

TO MR. M. NEGRE
(VII 1/1 V 1)⁹⁵

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 24, 1856

Dear papa Negre and esteemed friend,

“... he is now in Theology and the years pass quickly. How happy I am that I was able to help him regarding his clerical vocation! What he still needs to do is to give full attention to his Theology and Sacred Orders. He can see later what God will inspire him [to do]. - My fondest.... All yours in Jesus.

Eymard, P. SSS

Mr. M. Negre - at his country home.⁹⁶

629

CO 626

TO ST. JEAN-MARIE VIANNEY, THE CURE D'ARS
(VI 2/2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, September 24, 1856

Venerable brother in our Lord,

I think you will be happy, because of your devotion to our Lord in the holy Eucharist, to hear the news that the project which Fr. Hermann discussed with you this year, and which you had blessed and for which you have prayed, has come about.

The Society of the Blessed Sacrament was founded in Paris 4 months ago. Its purpose is to make Jesus and the Blessed Sacrament known, loved and served by all hearts. It aims to form a court of faithful adorers and a guard of honor ever watching at his feet. God is blessing this little Society.

We receive priests and laymen to become religious of the Blessed Sacrament. Mary gave one of her poor sons to Jesus.

Dear Father, I am the one who had the honor and happiness of receiving you into the Third Order of Mary, two years ago. Therefore, I beg you, in honor of our good Master, to continue your prayers for the blessing of this little mustard seed and to have others pray for us also.

The Sovereign Pontiff encouraged us very kindly and he calls our Work the Work for the present age.

Dear Father, with respect in the love of God, I am,

All yours,

Eymard,

Priest and religious
of the Blessed Sacrament

Fr. Vianney
Cure d'Ars, Ain.

⁹⁵ Excerpt of a letter.

⁹⁶ His son Ernest had considered a vocation to the Order of the Blessed Sacrament, but was now engaged in studies elsewhere.

TO FR. ERNEST NEGRE

(V 2/2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 25, 1856

Very dear friend,

Thank you for your kind letter and the local news you gave us. We read it with great interest.

I am happy that your heart appreciates the special grace God is giving you by sending you to St. Sulpice,⁹⁷ where the spirit and virtues of Mr. Olier are still alive. Its fragrance lasts a whole lifetime.

Take care of your health, and renew your strength for the beautiful study of Theology. The time for classes will soon be here; and so life goes on. Work follows rest, victory follows struggle. Your fine beloved parents must be very happy to have you near them, especially your dear mother and devout sister.

I would really like to see your dear brother continue his classical studies. Because if he stops now, what he has already learned will be useless. At least if he had completed a higher class! Then, if he is discouraged or sad, or if he feels less devotion, this is not the time to decide against.

I know very well that he has many aptitudes for the arts, etc., but his education is incomplete.

Yesterday, I wrote the letter for the Cure d'Ars. I couldn't send it to you right away, because I was ill, I had the chills. I am feeling better.

When you return please go to Fr. Brunello's in Marseilles, rue St. Savournin, 25 and get a package there for Fr. de Cuers and one for me from the Bourges Ladies, teachers, who live near there. The Bourges Ladies from Toulon who live across from the Cathedral will give you their address. Please ask them for it and remember me to them; - because if the Bourges Ladies from Marseilles have forgotten the little package, kindly go to get it. I think that one of you three will be able to bring it to us.

My fondest best wishes to your dear loving mother; assure her that I always remember her in God's sight. Don't forget to mention me to Miss Rose. Tell her how touched and grateful I was for her prayers to our Lord for me, and that our plans⁹⁸ are developing silently in God's presence.

My special wishes to your dear colleagues, our friends, to whom I wish happy holidays and a happy return.

Goodbye, or rather, see you soon, dear friend.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

Sept. 28 - Inauguration of the enlarged chapel at rue d'Enfer. Notification of possible eviction received the same day.

⁹⁷ Seminary.

⁹⁸ The establishment of the women's branch, the Servants.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 150/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 3, 1856

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,⁹⁹

I was deeply touched by your kind remembrance, by the prayers you are offering for the Eucharistic Work and for me. Prayer is the only kindness I ask for from my former daughters and sisters in Mary. In our Lord, there is no longer any color, name, distinction, but only the bond of divine love. The Church is a garden where each flower has its place, its perfume, its dew, its blessing. We all exist only for the glory of our Lord. So it is no dishonor to have passed by the hands of Mary to serve Jesus more directly, to come from Nazareth to the Cenacle, or better, to honor Mary as Mother and queen of the Eucharistic Cenacle.

No one knows what it cost me to take that step and to tell God: "Here I am. I have left my earthly family, my village, well! I also had to leave my spiritual family, to come to serve you in your sacramental state of host and victim."

The Third Order is always a subject of joy and happiness for me. Since I can no longer do anything for it except in prayer and desires, it is necessary that I should be forgotten there to see only the present grace of God in the one who is directing it. I thank God for the choice of Fr. Jacquet. The Third Order was truly honored by having been given one of the first members of the Society.

Our little Work is progressing slowly, humbly, poorly. It is progressing, God alone is protecting it visibly; that is what gives us courage and strength.

If we were saints, we would tell God to crucify us even more, to annihilate us totally, in order that his glory alone be praised and his divine grace thanked.

Please pray so that God himself may choose the first adorers, the first religious, so that they may be truly filled with his Spirit and his love.

I will really pray for the Third Order elections. I understand that given your poor health, you should take some rest.

It's better to let divine Providence act; everything happens for the greater good.

Please remember me to Miss de Revel, to your dear sisters, and to Mr. Gaudioz who is so kind.

Dear sister in the Lord, I am

Humbly and devotedly at your service,
Eymard

P.S. Your crucifixes have been indulgenced.

⁹⁹ The tone of this letter leads one to think it was written to be shared with other Third Order members.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 151/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 3, 1856

I was so sorry, dear daughter, that I couldn't answer you right away. I was scheduled to preach at Notre Dame des Victoires for All Saints' Day. Then yesterday, my whole day was taken up with visitors. So, today, I am hurrying to begin with you.

Our poor Third Order is causing you so much suffering! Oh! That really disturbs me. Human beings become so ungrateful, weak, and vacillating when weighed down by difficulties! I really don't understand Father Superior General. I had been told that he really had the good of the Third Order at heart.

Just by the nature of things, motives of greater personal interest, or of a more influential person, ordinarily lead to sacrifice or crucify what is lesser.

I do approve your decision to leave office, doing so with honor, peace and charity.

We should choose to do what is right, rather than try to please people. Can it be true that you were close to death? Please! Wait for the Eucharistic seed to develop. Heavens above! I feel like saying: why does your sense of proprieties make you so imprudent? Let them come to you when they need you, especially when you are not too well.

Fr. Champ. was a prophet. It's a good thing to be looked down upon! That was the ambition of St. John of the Cross. It's your raiment and your crown.

You may know that Fr. Hug. stayed in Paris. It seems that he complained or was ill-disposed toward Moulins, so he stayed here. God will bless dear Fr. Champion; he will perhaps be esteemed when seen closely at work.

I will say the five Masses for your family and the other three.

I haven't received any sign of the famous shipment, nor do I desire to receive it; I haven't heard anything about it, what a bother!

I don't believe... as sick as they say. It has lasted so long, that I think it's become a natural way of being and acting. That doctor is an imprudent person; his only experience was with sailors. With one fact, in some obscure way, he quickly comes to a conclusion and frightens the person. It all seems confused to me. Nevertheless, thank you for telling me your thoughts about it.

We are still only two here; some [candidates] are reflecting on their vocations. There are a few priests who want it, but it is so difficult to leave the world! Please pray that we won't have any more difficulties with false vocations. Thursday we are going to the hearings about our thief. Oh! Praise God!

My health is fine; thank you. What do we need? I hardly know. We have enough table linen for now. A few rough cotton shirts wouldn't be refused. You can imagine that when I left I wasn't going to ask for a supply of shirts and handkerchiefs. I notice that half of those I brought were good only for rags.

As for blankets, we have what we need. When we are cold, we put on our coats.

As for sheets, we have two sets, and a few more, I believe. You can see that we are already well supplied.

We've put off our Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament again. The needed items aren't ready yet. I'll write to you about it.

May God bless you all! Goodbye, dear daughter. The mail is leaving.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Here is a little note for

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 105/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 7, 1856

Very dear sisters,

You are right to reproach me for my long delay in writing to you. This life in Paris is so absorbing, we have been so busy, and received so many visitors, that I had very little time left. By putting off my letter from one day to the other, I did like sinners who continually say: Tomorrow. I count on your love to grant me forgiveness. I knew that Mme. de Poitiers had seen you and written to you, I also asked someone else to see you in passing, so I was not as worried. My health is very good, I haven't been this well for a long time.

Our beautiful Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is moving forward. Our Chapel is very lovely and is becoming well decorated.

People are beginning to come...

We do not have solemn exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament yet; the necessary decorations aren't finished. We will probably need the rest of this month. We are having a canopy made over the magnificent altar, adorned with stones, glitter, etc.

You may perhaps ask me where the resources are coming from? - divine Providence. Until now, everything came as needed. Jesus Christ is the Father and Superior of the house; we have all we need for ourselves. So do not worry.

I continue to be on close and friendly terms with the kind Marist Fathers. I go to see them and they come here. However, the Work had to be separate in order to go forward and be founded under the most favorable conditions.

You understand, dear sisters, that I cannot leave Paris at this moment; it is a sacrifice that God wants from everyone. Tell Mr. Guetat to write to me toward November 25th. Mr. Leydeker should be coming around that time and I will urge that he be changed.

Mr. Bernard should send me a letter of request... include a word of encouragement with favorable remarks from the Pastor, especially saying clearly whether the child has good health, if he is intelligent, if he already has some instruction in French, and a certificate from his teacher.

The child should also write me a lovely little letter. --- Have this done quickly - and I will work hard for it.

Continue to pray for our beautiful Work and have great trust in God. Let people talk - God, his glory, his holy will: a Christian's whole life is contained in that.

Also please send me the address of Mme. Regnier, from Lyons. I forgot the street name and number.

May the love of Jesus be your life,

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

634

CO 633

TO MISS GIGUET

(VII 3/6)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 7, 1856

Mademoiselle,

I learned that you had been very ill, poor daughter! See how our Lord places you near to himself on the cross! This news distressed me, because you have been on a Calvary of pain for such a long time. Oh! Jesus is preparing such a beautiful crown for you, and on heaven's great day you will be grateful for these sufferings. Gather up the crumbs of this beautiful sacrifice, they are precious stones.

Don't look at your trials outside of Jesus and his love. They would frighten you, but seen in Jesus, their appearance and nature seem different. Leave the past to his divine goodness and the future to his grace. Always be a child of his mercy and love.

I hope that my letter will find you better and your cross lightened. I will always pray for you, do so for me.

Mademoiselle, I am in our Lord, your ever devoted,

Eymard P.S.S.S.

635

CO 635

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE

(V 2/4)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 10, 1856

I delayed my answer to your last letter, dear daughter, because of important business. I read it with gratitude; I thank our Lord for having chosen you as his servant, better still, as his eucharistic spouse. What an honor! What an outstanding grace! You grasp it, since you decided to pay for such a sublime vocation by any sacrifice.

Dear daughter, see how our Lord has loved you: he has not let your heart be divided, or your life bound to any person, so that you might be free and ready at the first signal of his Will.

Double your prayers and desires. The time is getting near when the heavenly King will set up his eucharistic court. Happy are those who will be there at the beginning!

Don't worry about your poor eyesight. To serve the God of love well, it's sufficient to have a heart. And then, he will heal you at his feet if it will make his glory shine forth and make you better.¹⁰⁰

Goodbye dear daughter, a little more patience and suffering.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, SSS

¹⁰⁰ A better person.

TO MME.CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 23/52)

*All for the love and glory of our dear
Lord in the Holy Eucharist*

Paris, November 18, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am so sad that I forgot to answer you. The devil played this evil trick on me, or rather, I may have helped him.

Here is my thought about the leader, I mean: what you should do at the ordinary meetings of adoration when the Pastor is present. - Nothing; it's better to practice charity, humility, and give a eucharistic message of silence. If, however, some situation occurred when the Pastor should leave you alone, then God is providing your turn to speak, and his Eminence becomes your Superior.

The thought of having a branch for young people from the time of first Communion until 15, and even 18 years of age, pleases me extraordinarily. That is your eucharistic field [of action]: little plants to be cultivated. You would do more good there than elsewhere. Oh! Do it, and the sooner the better; but organize it in such a way that you will not compromise your freedom.

Your soul will pass into these poor children who are still open. God will give you more than necessary strength. Organize it with other zealous persons whom you should choose carefully. Mr. Adot¹⁰¹ is very pleasing to our good Master. This is his purgatory, or rather the furnace which is purifying and freeing him. He needs to shake off and reject these dreadful things and always go forward. He is fine, very fine.

Your poor little children didn't understand sufficiently the happiness that was theirs to be with you. It's natural to play at that age. How well you did, dear sister, to entrust them to those two great saints! They were the protectors of my youth as well.

Our sufferings are too small to deserve to be at the feet of Jesus Hostia. We needed to see everyone move away and desert us, to become the object of their contempt and laughter. It's a beautiful mantle which protects the growth of the mustard seed, the bit of dust which Jesus will kindly bring to life and bless.

Goodbye, dear daughter, pray and beg our good Master to form us according to his heart and glory.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

¹⁰¹ Perhaps a misprint for Mr. Adolphe, her husband.

637

CO 637

TO MME.ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 7/19)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 18, 1856

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter explains your silence. I had received your letter at Marie Therese, and I had answered you at Groulx. It seems that the letter was left in the desk.

Thank you, dear daughter, for your kind remembrance. How often my soul searched for you, knowing you were totally crucified! Your Calvary is long, may your love discover how to find Jesus there, remain lovingly at his feet and kiss his hand which attaches you to his cross. As you know, in sacrifice we need only to offer ourselves and suffer with Jesus hostia. Suffering is the flower of divine love.

So then, surrender yourself to this good Master. Heaven will come one day and it may perhaps not be very far.

Put aside mental meditation for affective meditation toward Jesus and surrender yourself to his adorable and ever gracious will.

As for the formation of Adorers, the time hasn't come yet. Nothing is ready. And even if it were, it would be prudent for you to wait, because beginnings are hard for human nature. There is a time of agony. Therefore, dear daughter, I advise you to accept the position which presents itself in the meantime.

Write to me from time to time, I haven't received anything yet from Gap. I will write to Fr. Deplace to have news about the storage.

May God sustain and carry you, dear daughter, in his maternal Providence. Have the same trust as the Holy man Job, or better, that of Mary, Mother of Jesus.

Our little Work continues to be tried, as willed by God's Goodness. It's a great grace.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, SSS

638

CO 638

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 152/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 26, 1856

Dear sister in our Lord,

I thought I was a dead man where Lyons is concerned. However, I was deeply moved by your letter which I received, the news it contains, and the wishes you express for the glory of our Lord in the Eucharist.

My preference never changes: to be forgotten and rejected (if they so wish) in Lyons and at Toulon. On the battlefield friendship is awkward, troublesome and uncomfortable. The only thing we need there is courage and prudence. There has been a radical change in my soul on this matter. To consecrate myself to the eucharistic Work, I had to give up and sacrifice everything, put my trust in God alone, have him as my only treasure, my only protector and my only possession. I dare say that God is tenderly and maternally all those things for me. Now I regret only one thing, it is that I didn't sacrifice enough nor suffer enough for such a beautiful cause.

My spirit rejoices to have such a beautiful and rich inheritance. Should you ever be told that I have regrets, that I'm sad and discouraged, it isn't true. So much about me.

I was pleased about the new Council and find it very compatible. That is, it has members who are qualified and will work for unity. They are good choices. In Very Rev. Father General's place, I would have done the same. Nevertheless, I feel pity for you, dear sister, because it's a difficult responsibility, especially if your health isn't as strong as it should be.

You will accomplish it for God and for love of the Blessed Virgin, our good Mother. You can be sure that nothing pleases God more than this service. Nothing is more likely to help you desire and seek God alone.

I was surprised to learn about Fr. Jacquet's nomination.

I didn't expect it, believing that he would be longer at Agen. You will appreciate him at work. He is a peaceful, conciliating man who speaks easily. I hope he will have a father's love for the Third Order, which means sincere affection for its members and its works. The poor Third Order is still very dear to me, and I'm still praying for it. I'm happy that I was able to work at the Manual before coming to Paris. It's my little flower. However, let me assure you that I don't in the least cling to seeing my little work accepted. I would prefer to see it redone or replaced, and that there be no further mention of me. All is over for me except for the eucharistic Work.

Our little Work is making progress though inconspicuously. Everyday, there is something more, either a request about the Work, or some new embellishment, or some little trials. I say little, because we are weak and God is sparing us.

I'm eager for the first vocations to come. We have already refused four priests. Pray very much for us; that trial would be too heavy.

I was pleased to learn about the sale of your house, although I was sorry about such a small offer. Nevertheless you do well to get rid of that building which will only continue to deteriorate. When you see Miss de Revel, congratulate her on her election for me. I'm happy about it, it will add another cross to her life, with a more beautiful crown than any other.

My respects and best wishes to your sisters, to good Miss Mollet, whom I'm very pleased to see on the council.

I am in our Lord,

dear Sister in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you that my health is fine. It's true that since I don't have so much work, I am more rested.

639

CO 639

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 153/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 26, 1856

I was very interested to read your last letter, dear daughter. So many things! What a life! What a comedy this world is! In the meantime, God is doing his work. Let's praise him for the rejections and humiliations which come our way. It's the manure that makes the tree grow.

Keep the small shipment until everything is ready, so as to have only one; we can certainly wait.

I really laughed when I read the conversation with Miss de Revel.

That poor woman thinks that we are very well off and receiving money from friends in Toulon. The truth is, that they don't even dare mention my name there; she says that in a year or two our needs will be greater.

What would she say if she knew that all our friends in Toulon have forsaken us! ... However, there is a saying of our Lord's which gives me comfort. He says: "No one can come to me, unless the Father who sent me draws him by his grace." So then it is a very good thing that some people turn away from us; in that way we don't have any obligations.

A bed, a table, two chairs, an old sofa are very ordinary pieces of furniture.

Please, let Miss de R. think that I am rich!

What good news that was about your visit to the Cardinal!

I praise God for it. It was right for you to be there. That was clear. Poor people who imagine that a bonnet shouldn't show up next to a hat! I would advise you to go to Fr. Dussurgey. He would be better for you than all the others. He is a holy man. Poor Fr. Hug.! He would be better to keep still about the Third Order of Lyons. It seems that he thinks that you are very powerful over Father General's heart; we can excuse him a little, he is a braggart and a writer: that's an author's idiosyncrasy.

M.D.C.¹⁰² is back home. (She came, three weeks ago, to make a retreat here incognito.) I really don't know how Miss Dan. might have known about it. Her provencal keenness may have led her to suppose it as true; ignore it. Miss Dan. Isn't at all discreet. She is easily influenced, and in moments of difficulty, she says everything that goes through her head. You can count on M.D.C.'s full discretion; you can be fully open with her. I haven't received anything from Mme. Galle. I know that she has many worries and difficulties. I highly esteem that good woman, but she hasn't come to the end of her crosses yet. Fr. Champion is to be Superior of Fr. Vit. He is within his rights; take advantage of it. I'll write to tell you when we have the first Exposition; last Tuesday we had a meeting with the Nocturnal Adoration Council. It seems that everything is falling into place.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

640

CO 640

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE

(V 3/4)

Paris, November 27, 1856

My dear daughter,

I am writing to tell you that I was pleased with your retreat, its trials, its sacrifices, and especially its blessed fruit.

You welcome this grace as the greatest one you could receive. You are right, it is truly the better part which has become your lot. To live with Jesus is better than to work for Jesus. You understand that Jesus has chosen you in preference to so many others in spite of your disabilities, your spiritual poverty. He is showing you his great kindness. Therefore, your gratitude needs to be great and your sacrifices very rewarding. So then, offer yourself constantly to our divine King to serve him, to your heavenly Spouse to love him, to Jesus-Hostia to be one single host with him.

When will your desires come true?

Jesus knows. You must pray to him, urge him, tell him constantly: May your kingdom come!

Poor daughter, don't worry about your eyes. The One who gives sight can give it back to you. If he wants you to be as you are, it's because it makes you more pleasing to him.

¹⁰² Probably Mme. Duhaut-Cilly from Toulon.

May the God of goodness take you by the hand and lead you into his beloved Tabernacles.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

P.S. Consider Mme. Duhaut-Cilly as your mother.¹⁰³

641

CO 641

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 18/75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 28, 1856

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

True friendship isn't bound by the form or circumstances of life; it is one and always the same in God and for God. That is why it never occurred to me to classify yours among the indifferent.

Trials and deceptions are a blessing for God's works. The glory of God is then at stake. Human beings are seen only in their poverty, failings and nothingness. How good it is to make a foundation based only in God and on God! We weren't worthy of such a favor¹⁰⁴ because we found understanding and holy souls whom divine Providence used to help us. Those who were a trial to us blessed us with light, holy freedom, greater trust in God.

Saint Paul told the first Christians under persecution, "You haven't yet struggled to the point of blood." How far we are from the Apostles, those great souls of Jesus Christ!

However, our Lord is granting us a great grace: to love our solitude, our life hidden underground, like Jesus in the tomb, like the grain of wheat. St. Francis de Sales would say to St. Jeanne de Chantal, when she decided to establish the Congregation of the Visitation, "I don't see the light on that, but I am sure that God will do it." I can say the same thing: I do not know when this little seed will germinate and be fruitful, when good vocations will come, but what I believe is that one day God will bless it.

Continue to pray a lot for us, dear sister; we do so for you and with joy, in order that you may belong fully to the glory of God and charity toward your neighbor. I'm very happy to learn that your husband is better and that you have taken very strong resolutions to take more time for yourself. Yes, serve the world through charity and politeness, but give the rest to your family life, your interior life. Try to love this interior life and find your happiness there.

So, we will pray for your dear daughter so that God may grant her just desires and give her saints; children, who are the fruit of prayer, ordinarily become the glory and joy of their parents.

We have already had a few encouraging ceremonies: 2 baptisms of adults, first Communions. Every day, we take one more step toward the goal; so, praise God for it.

My health is satisfactory. I have been working on the Rule for a while and I am happy about it.

Goodbye, dear sister. God didn't let me see Miss Monavon longer. However, the few moments I saw her pleased me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mme. Jordan
rue de Castries, 10
Lyons (Rhône)

¹⁰³ Spiritual mother.

¹⁰⁴ The favor of depending exclusively on God.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 154/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 13, 1856

I am writing to tell you, dear daughter, that on Sunday during the Octave of Christmas, we will have the General meeting of Nocturnal Adoration of Paris with more that 200 (members) in our chapel.

Then on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany and first manifestation of our Lord, solemn Exposition will take place for the first time. Oh how I have been longing for and thanking God in advance for this day. It seems to me that on that day our Lord will take over his family and his house forever. You will unite yourself to us, won't you? And we will unite ourselves to you.

Nothing new here for the moment. It's always the same thing, the same solitude, blessed retreat! I needed it so. God is good to have given it to us in spite of ourselves! So many good meditations! So many new insights, and necessary experiences! Surely, what society considered to be a state of rejection and sterility became an outstanding grace for us.

Two fine priests wrote that they would be coming at the end of the month. Will they come? I hardly dare to hope so.

Two others are due to come for a retreat toward the end of January. If God wills it so, it will happen, because the devil is doing the impossible to stop and block everything.

Now we are thinking about the candles for Exposition, they are very costly. Wax candles cost 58 cents a pound here.

I would like to know how much Mr. Coste, who makes stearine and candles, charges per pound for candles of pure wax to the Reparation of Lyons. He is at quai de l'Archeveche, at Mme. Galle's company. There are candles of different sizes: 4 per pound, 5, and 6, and perhaps 8. Please, find out about it. Is there a way of knowing how much the Reparation Sisters spend for their candles each day?

I was asked to have a Mass said at Fourviere. Kindly take care of it with those you have. Please don't tire yourself preparing the package [you have] for us . . . [two lines erased]. . . please.

What are you doing? How is your health? New Year's day is coming soon. Don't tire yourself again with so many visits.

I leave you all in our Lord's keeping, in his heart.

Eymard

643

CO 643

TO MME.CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 24/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Christmas, 1856

Dear sister,

So you are sick and bedridden. Well! If you are thinking about the journey of eternal love, it's too soon. First, you must enkindle the divine fire around you, become a fool for the service of the God of the Eucharist. May our good Master heal you! Give me news about yourself...

Here is something which will touch your heart. On January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, we will have our first Exposition! What joy! What happiness! The divine King will finally be on his throne and we will begin to be his court, - our duty as his Bodyguard. - Thank him for us, dear daughter, because my soul is sad that I cannot do it better. Then also Calvary doesn't find me to be a very generous victim. Yet, what is more beautiful than to immolate oneself for Jesus? - Yes, go to Saint Chamond, try. There is not much devotion there and it doesn't get much support in a certain sense. Begin with Fr. Germain and the Third Order members.

As for me, I don't know anyone by name. So it's impossible to indicate any adorers other than the Superior of the Congregation for the Young Women,¹⁰⁵ who lives across from the rectory at St. Peter's.

I am so sorry that you don't have a small core of little adorers at Amplepuis! Try to have some. Many blessings on all your children. Ask Jesus for our Eucharistic gifts.¹⁰⁶ I give you mine daily at the holy altar.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.S.S.¹⁰⁷

644

CO 644

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 19/26 VII 17)

All for the love of Jesus-Eucharistic

Christmas '56

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I received your last letter, as I did all the others, but with an added regret, to see you suffering from something so bothersome. It seem to me, however, that it is easy to get around that bad temper, even without extreme measures - and then, if the good Lord also wants this little sacrifice, may he be blessed and glorified for it! Alas, dear Sister! we are on our way to eternity - and, in order to go there peacefully, let us leave the world behind, and serve God alone. The world, alas! how childish we are to be so concerned with it; since, says St. Paul, it is only a shadow, or rather, an obstacle, and often an enemy. - How good the good Lord is, dear Sister, to have set you free, to have kept you wholly for himself alone.

¹⁰⁵ Third Order of Mary.

¹⁰⁶ New Year's gifts.

¹⁰⁷ Societas Santissimi Sacramenti.

Foundation of the Congregation 1856

I am very glad that you are working at the organization of perpetual adoration in your parish. I bless you for that above all things. It is the direct service of our divine Master.

If you have another opportunity for such a conversation about charity, listen to her as you would to a person who is ill with fever, and don't be so affected by it, - and above all, - don't be upset. When we become upset, the best way is to rise above our feelings - it is the shortest and safest way.

Yes, charity for all, peace as far as possible, but repose in God alone.

Miss Guillot must be pleased to have you to help her. The dear Lady needs helpers if she is still so ill, - God loves her upon the cross.

On Tuesday I began the novena for your dear brother; I love to pray for that dear son. - I am confident that God has welcomed him into his mercy - he will owe his crown to you.

I used the rest for the decoration¹⁰⁸ of our exposition - it will be a pleasure to me to see you represented before the divine Master.

On Jan 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, we shall have our first Exposition. - What a beautiful day! what happiness! unite yourself to us despite everything. Does divine love have specific banners or foreign names! It has only fire.¹⁰⁹

I shall be praying hard for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. Please accept my first wishes for the New Year. I wish for you a great love of the God of the Eucharist, - it is the beginning of heaven.

Dec. 28 - Meeting of the members of Nocturnal Adoration Society of Paris at the chapel of the Fathers.

¹⁰⁸ Literally: radiance.

¹⁰⁹ Possible reference to her feelings of loyalty for the Marists.

CHAPTER V

Paris, 1857

Identity of the New Work and its Apostolate

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Preparation for the foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

- **Contacts with potential candidates**
- **Retreat with potential candidates**
- **Search for a new location**
- **The “Cenacle” as model**

Initial Trials of Foundation

- **Misunderstandings with the Marists in Lyons and Toulon**
- **Misunderstandings of Third Order members**
- **Poverty**
- **Theft**
- **Betrayal from within and without**
- **Assassination of the Archbishop**

Sale of property

Paris, 1857

645

CO 645

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 155/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 1, 1857

Very dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

I returned your New Year's wishes before the divine Tabernacle and while celebrating holy Mass for you. This is how I would summarize them: that this year, you may become a Religious of the Blessed Sacrament and be in the Cenacle of his love! - I have the sweet hope that Jesus will bless this thought, this desire for his glory, and then all the little crosses strewn along your way will come to an end ... [*two lines erased*].

A king's bride thinks only about pleasing her bridegroom. She lets him govern and take care of external matters.

You will be a spouse at the foot of God's throne. He will be your provider, your Savior and your All.

While waiting for that blessed day, we are preparing and making plans. When the Cenacle is ready, you will be told: "Rise up, take your lighted lamp and come into the presence of your heavenly Spouse."

As for us, the time is drawing near for Jesus to take public ownership of his Cenacle. Two priests arrived two days ago; now we are four priests, and two or three others are preparing to come shortly.

For over ten days, we have had adoration during the night. My colleague and I began by each taking one hour in the night, saying to one another: those who come later will follow, and see, four hours are already filled.

Good daughter, thank you for what you sent us. What a grace it is! I must admit that we will find it very useful. If I didn't have our Lord to pay you back for all my debts, I would be very sad. However, I have a good guarantor.

Big news! Ever since the feast of the Immaculate Conception, no more tobacco, no more skullcap in church, and I'm fine. If I could have foreseen this success I would have asked you to choose white handkerchiefs. It doesn't matter.

My New Year's wishes to our dear and beloved Mr. Gaudioz, to his fine wife, and his two daughters. Believe me ever in our Lord,

All Yours,
Eymard

646

CO 646

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 156/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 19, 1857

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Today, I am writing to entertain you a little longer. Everything arrived safely, even the butter. Everything is being used. May God be praised! you as well as all the others.

Paris, 1857

It was on December 8th that I asked the Blessed Virgin to help me give up tobacco, and the skull cap, and our good Mother obtained this for me. I'm still happy about it and it is no longer difficult.

It's a small sacrifice, and it will be more fitting near our Lord.

We had enough money to pay board for the two children; we had some left from the last time. One costs 25 francs a month and the other 30; it is paid until the month of March. Withdraw your money; you may do better to invest it in Paris in a safe place where you could gain more.¹ I know people who get as much as 8 or 10 in business, but with guarantees.

Finally Chasselay is finished and the estate will return to civility and to [orderly] protests. Unfortunately we find the world with its little passions everywhere. How fortunate we are, when we need only God and when he is enough for us.

I am afraid that the New Year's Day visits tired you. If only you had stayed quietly at home, excusing yourself on pretext of your state of health. Your office dispenses you from visiting the Third Order Members. The commander doesn't visit his soldiers. What is happening to the famous Third Order Manual? It's taking so long to come out!

Now a little news about us. How happy we were on January 6, to see Jesus our King on his throne of love for the first time, manifesting his presence by such an outstanding grace! My heart was too full to be able to speak and express its feelings. I was almost mute and speechless with awe. In fact when I think about the way Jesus led us to this point, making us pass through so many difficulties unknown even to ourselves! Now that I see these difficulties behind us, I am like someone who has gone through the greatest dangers unknowingly. What happened is that Jesus was in the boat and we were asleep at his feet. - Oh yes, God wants this eucharistic Work! Everyday we see the proof of it. We should at least cooperate fully with such a great grace!

Everything appears calm now with the good Marist Fathers. It is no longer a cross for me. I needed that to acquire greater trust in God.

And then, the cruel death of the Archbishop told us once again that God wants to be our only protector.

Now that the seed is in the ground, we need only to rot, in order for God's grace to germinate.

My health is the same... I do things I never would have done with the Marist Fathers. My hour of night adoration is practical; it is from eight to nine o'clock at night and from five to six in the morning.

Goodbye, dear daughter. May Jesus watch over you all.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

647

CO 647

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 20/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 19, 1857

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I was so worried about all of you! I pacified myself with praying for you. Thank you for your letter and also for everything that Miss S[tephanie] sent us. You wouldn't believe how useful it was. Money is used for a thousand things beyond our needs, but material objects last. Now, at last, we have the essentials. You know so many other people in need; share with them. The rent is paid. I hope that the eldest will soon earn his.² I must go handle this matter in a few days.

¹ Interest.

² Fr. de Cuers?

Now about your letter. There is nothing better than presence to remove illusions and to reveal the great grace that was granted when it didn't go any further. As for me, my opinion is definite: I wouldn't want him at any price. A sailor's training leaves much to be desired. As to their friendship,³ God willed it, that's fine. Yet without making a break or being insensitive, use a few opportunities to help the sick, even recommend some to him. You can do that while always remaining reserved to a degree, especially as regards marriage. Yes, it would be good that it should happen: he certainly has good qualities. He is worth more than many others. If someone asks you for recommendations, you can give good ones. As for personal questions, you aren't obliged to answer them. These are family secrets. I think he is a very good doctor, better than many others, because he gives medicine while many others only suggest diets or stop-gap measures.

I'm very happy to learn that Mr. G[ourd] likes his home life, family life, that's a good sign. It's the first serious step towards duty and towards God. Support this change; it will lead you to the Church.

Now for you, absolutely no fasting, that is God's will. Go to bed by 10 o'clock at least. When that time comes, put aside any unfinished exercise of piety and be content with night prayer. Then, go rest in peace. However, you could say your five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys to replace the Way of the Cross.

Yes, in fact, read a little more and try to find a spiritual book which helps you without causing mental stress.

Take a book which feeds your heart, leads you to the love of Jesus, either hidden, or crucified, or eucharistic, or in all these states.

The essential thing for you, dear daughter, would be to keep your soul close to Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament; and then to make yourself available to everyone and to everything with peace and freedom. Please, avoid all mental stress, never give in to discouragement. Consider yourself as Jesus' poor servant, good only to sweep and protect the door of his house.

About the forty year old woman from Lyons, remain free. Your other obligations are sufficient. Divine Providence will take care of her.

As for Mr. L. and his embraces, don't mention it again. It may be the last time, and if he is sensitive at all, he will have understood the lesson. But if he should do it again tell him yourself, or write to him about it, giving him reasons of prudence and reserve because of your position and the village.

Thank you, dear daughter, for your wishes and prayers at the feet of the divine Tabernacle. I'm very happy to repay you in kind. How good it is to live in this eucharistic house! How good Jesus is here!... You also have him close to you three times a week. On Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, these are three feast days. When we become more numerous, we will have it always. Then it will be an extension of heaven.

My affectionate and very devoted respects to your fine mother. You know my sentiments in our Lord,

Dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

³ Courtship between Dr. Lallour and her daughter Stephanie.

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(VI 2/10 III 145)

All for Jesus-Hostia

Paris, January 19, 1857

My very dear sisters,

I am very late in answering; we have been so busy for over a month that I have not had the time.

If only you knew what life in Paris is like, and how quickly the days go by. We had the happiness, on the Feast of the Epiphany, of making our first solemn exposition of the Most Bl. Sacrament. It was done by Bishop Hartmann, Bishop of Bombay; there was a good attendance.

Our chapel was very beautiful, and tastefully decorated; a magnificent dais adorned with precious stones, and a beautiful crown of gold and shining stones lay upon the altar. Beautiful candelabras and adoring Angels adorned the steps of the altar. Everything was brand new and belonged to us.

As we thought back to the beginning, when everything needed to be done, we wept for joy. It is indeed God who has done everything and brought everything to pass. There were 4 of us priests around the eucharistic throne, and the men from the Paris adoration came to join us. These were beautiful days, giving a foretaste of Heaven.

Since then we have continued with exposition on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, until there are enough of us to have it daily.

You know, my very dear sisters, that I have not forgotten you, and that I offer you each day to our Lord. On Christmas Day, as usual, I offered the Holy Mass for you.

My health is good and I hope that yours is the same.

You have no doubt heard the sad news about the assassination of the Archbishop of Paris. It has caused us great grief and distress, for he had shown a great interest in us. Paris will miss him: he was so devout and so charitable.

God alone, sisters, is still with us, and he is always our Father.

I was saddened to learn of the death ... (1) ... of Mme. Arland. I shall be writing to her.

Believe me always in our Lord, dear sisters,

Your brother,
Eymard

(1) The paper is torn at this spot.

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(VII 1/2 U 3)⁴

To Mr. Dupont,

[1857]

You love us in our Lord; in your devotion and love [you] will rejoice to learn about our happiness. - On January 6th, 7th, 8th, we had a eucharistic Triduum in our chapel to mark the opening of solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. - His Excellency Bishop Hartmann, the Bishop of

⁴ Excerpt of a letter to Mr. Dupont.

Paris, 1857

Bombay, exposed [the Blessed Sacrament] for the first time and gave the first benediction... How can I express to you the feelings which were pressing upon our soul! both gratitude and servitude, trust and surrender, suffering and love!...

What a surprise! After only 8 months of preparation and longing, we already possess our treasure! We are hardly born and Jesus has a throne among us!

That isn't all. Every week, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays we have the joy of exposition! What beautiful days they are!... The devil is furious. He would like to discourage or destroy us; but we trust in our good Master. - If we come from his heart, we have nothing to fear. If we come from our own initiative, then, yes, let this human will be destroyed. Let whatever comes from our own selves perish!...

What a sacrifice it is for us, dear papa Dupont, that you are so far from us! You would do us so much good!....

I beg you once again to thank the Divine Face of our Lord for healing my strong palpitations. - Since my trip to Tours, I have not felt it again. How good the good Lord is!

...⁵

"I have some holy oil. He will pray at noon, in union with you."

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CO 656

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS

(U 3 VII 2)⁶

All for Jesus Hostia

114 rue d'Enfer, Paris, February 1, 1857

Very dear brother and friend in our Lord,

You love us in our Lord. Because of your love and piety, you will therefore be pleased to hear about our happiness. On January 6, 7, 8 we had a eucharistic Triduum in our chapel for the opening of Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Hartmann of Bombay is the one who made the first Exposition and gave the first Benediction.

A devout assembly shared in our joy. How can we tell you the feelings which were filling our souls? Knowing and feeling our unworthiness, trust and surrender, the cross and love. Imagine! after only eight months of preparation and longing we already possess our treasure! We have just come to birth and Jesus has a throne here among us!

What is more, every week, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, we have the joy of Exposition. What beautiful days these are!

Our small number has grown a little. We were 4 priests on the 6th; one has left to put his things in order. Three brothers are beginning their postulancy.

The devil is furious. He would like to discourage or destroy us. But we trust in our good Master. If we issue from his heart, we have nothing to fear. If we issue from ourselves, oh yes! Let every human determination be destroyed, let every self-generated activity perish!

What a sacrifice it is for us, good papa Dupont, that you should be so far away. You would help us so much. Please thank the divine Face of our Lord for the healing of my strong palpitations [of the heart]. Since my visit to Tours, I have not felt them anymore. How good God is!

Please begin a novena tomorrow, Feb. 2, the feast of the Purification, for the eye problem which affects one of our priests. I have some of the holy oil, and I will pray at noon in union with you.⁷

⁵ Fr. here asks him to begin a novena for the healing of the eyes of one of his priests.

⁶ This letter was quoted in the biography of Mr. Dupont by Canon Janvier and reproduced in the "Supplement de Correspondence" vol II, p. 81-82 (Correspondence of Mr. Dupont).

⁷ Tradition of Mr. Dupont at his Oratory of the Holy Face.

Paris, 1857

My humble respects to your fine mother, to the Assistant Pastor, your friend, and believe me ever,
Dear brother in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. People in Paris are very happy to have your Cardinal as our Archbishop,⁸

651

CO 649

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 19/52)

Miss Stephanie

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 25, 1857

If my pen had been as quick as the pleasure your letter gave me, dear daughter, I would have written to you sooner. I can't explain to myself how I could have delayed so long. I was quite worried by your last letter. May God be praised! I am happy to learn such good news!

Be a guardian Angel to your dear mother, her sister of charity, her doctor, also her friend, her loving daughter. Be constant and firm for the care she needs. Your dear mother must obey you on this point. When bedtime comes, stop everything rather than begin anything, cut off any business or visits, if possible. Your mother comes first. Let this be done in a very gracious, thoughtful, pleasant manner. That is the flower of charity and the unction of true virtue.

Regarding the neighborly visits, it's nothing. You are healed; you can see, analyze, form your opinion. Then you will thank our good Jesus for having kept you in his gracious service.

When charity requires that you should be with your parents, Jesus Christ prefers that you should be there, remain there content. But since your heart and thoughts are your own, direct them toward the divine Tabernacle from time to time, even often.

As for your distractions, dryness, etc..., consider them as a natural weakness, and encourage yourself to move forward. The good Lord is the one who, by this means, wants to force you to go to him through the desert and sacrifice. It is the right road.

As for the singing, you would be better without it because of your throat; but if it is relaxing, it's a recreation.

Thank you for your Christian and eucharistic wishes.

May you always be totally God's. Give him all for all; do so in general and detail. These are my [thoughts], dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

⁸ Cardinal Guibert, the Archbishop of Tours, was named to replace Archbishop Sibour, who had been assassinated Jan. 3, at the Church of St. Etienne du Mont.

TO FR. JEAN-VICTOR BARET

(V 5/6)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, 114 rue d'Enfer, January 25, 1857

Very dear and old friend,

You wouldn't believe the pleasure your dear letter brought me, and what delightful memories it awakened!

We are very far one from another here, and we haven't seen one another for such a long time. So many things have happened since! I am now working at a foundation. Really, if we didn't know that God likes to use nothing to do something and draw his glory from it, it would seem foolish. Our little Work is progressing: we began our Solemn Exposition January 6th, the beautiful day of the Epiphany. Bishop Hartmann, the Bishop of Bombay, is the one who did the opening. We were 4 priest adorers from the house.

Since then, we have continued with Exposition 3 times a week: on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. I can't tell you the happiness I feel that I can finally rest a little at the feet of our divine Master and spend a few hours in adoration and peace after so many years in such a varied and active ministry.

When you also desire to rest a little, dear friend, and think a little more about yourself, you can come with us. There will always be a cell in our Cenacle for you.

About your project to establish a mission church for St. Martin's, I am looking for someone to help you. As the Minister is new, everything has changed. I promise you that I will do everything I can. If the former [minister] were still there, your project would be taken care of. I knew one of his relatives.

If your nephew could send a petition to the Minister through some Senator or Deputy, and then, push the matter... Because, in this Paris, if we wait for our turn, we will wait a long time. Oh! Dear friend, long live the religion of our villages! The North is a disaster for priests: money, pleasures, intrigues, that is the life most people live. What is it all going to become? Evil increases and good decreases. Wicked people are well-organized and good people go into hiding.

Pray for us. You can be sure that I don't forget you.

Goodbye, dear friend.

All yours in Jesus Christ.

Eymard, SSS

TO THE SUPERIOR OF HOTEL-DIEU⁹

(V 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, January 25, 1857

Dear Mother,

It pleased me greatly to receive your note, to indulge your crucifixes, to read your wishes for me. Dear Mother, thank you, but I had done nothing to deserve so much kindness. I had hoped to deserve it later, but it was not God's will.

⁹ At Belleville-sur-Saone, Diocese of Lyons.

Paris, 1857

I am here in Paris, totally given to the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, organizing, praying, sighing for this eucharistic reign, which is so good, so beautiful, so powerful, so pleasing for a soul which possesses its secret. - All the mysteries of Jesus and Mary have their own religious group to honor them, keep them, perpetuate their virtues, spirit, and life. And why would the greatest of mysteries not have its own? Why would the King of kings not also have his guard of honor, his eucharistic court? Why would men not return to their place in the Cenacle?

God really helped us: he has done everything, and what is more admirable is that he has done it all with what is weakest, most wretched, most imperfect and evil.

It is the opposite of other religious groups, who saw at their head men who were distinguished at least by their virtues. Here, Jesus Christ is everything, man is nothing. If there were a great man, people would not go directly to the Master.

We already have the happiness of having Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Some devout laity come to our quiet chapel; how well one is there.

We are three priests; a few [others] are preparing to come, but the devil, who has a horror of the Eucharist, is creating obstacles for them.

Pray for us, dear Mother, and have your dear sisters pray; I do not forget them and I like to recommend them to our Lord, because I love them like sisters.

I have often thought that if I had Mr. Gattier's address, I would go see him. What does his dear daughter think?

My respects and greetings to all your dear sisters [*two or three words erased*] who received us too well, and, if you find it well and proper, to your esteemed and beloved Fr. Chaplain.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear Mother,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

P.S. When I go to Lyons, you will have my first visit, and I will ask good Sr. Gattier to prepare my supply of anti-rheumatic plasma.

654

CO 652

TO MME.GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)

(VII 6/8)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, January 28, 1857

Dear Mme. Galle,

How great the cross is for a Mother and such a good Mother!

Poor Paul who was to be your joy and support is becoming your Calvary.

Oh! If he only knew what a Mother is! That poor child will know it, only too late! He was always cherished, loved, cared for by the heart of a Mother, and that is why he doesn't know how to compare it with the opposite.

Also, illness often gives birth to better sentiments and opens the heart to love. May God give him that grace!

Dear Lady, take care of yourself for your poor son: what would he become without you? You are his Providence and his guardian angel.

All your alms and prayers will not be lost. God has his time. - Do not cease to pray; I do so in union with you, at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

- It is our happiness to have it exposed on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays of each week.

Paris, 1857

Our little eucharistic Work is being established humbly and silently. We have such a need to pray, to prepare ourselves, to crucify and die to ourselves, so that God may use our nothingness.

Continue to pray for us, dear Lady, as we pray for soldiers who are going to fight on the battlefield. We really need it.

Goodbye, dear Madame and dear Sister. May Jesus comfort and strengthen you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, SSS

655

CO 653

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 106/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 30, 1857

My very dear sisters,

I was deeply grieved to learn that you were sick, and sick because of the news about the terrible assassination of the Archbishop of Paris.

How could you imagine that the crime had been committed here! Poor sister! Don't worry so much about me: or rather, spare yourself so that I may have the consolation to go see you and to speak with you about everything the good Lord is kindly doing through our inadequate means.

How fortunate we are to have the joy of exposing the Most Blessed Sacrament! Don't worry about my health either; I assure you that I haven't been this well for a long time and that we have no disturbances nor troubles.

We were all deeply afflicted by the death of the Archbishop. He was so good to us! God allowed this trial, but God is our first Father.

I will say Mass for you on the feast of the Purification in order that Our Lady of La Salette may heal you quickly.

Then, give me news about yourself. When you see Madame Second from upper Breuil, tell her that I saw her son Louis and her daughter-in-law, and they are well; her son is delightful and very fine.

Concerning Mr. Guetat's errand, I am very happy to take care of it. That dear man deserves it from every point of view.

May Jesus heal and strengthen you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

TO MISS ROSE NEGRE

(V 4/4)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, January 30, 1857

Dear daughter,

I praise God that the time to give yourself entirely to the divine Eucharist is approaching. Let the same frame of mind be yours as was the Blessed Virgin's preparing to welcome and serve her divine Son however he would wish. Our divine Mother served him so joyfully in the stable, in exile, in the silence of Nazareth and even on Calvary! In Jesus was found every treasure, every companion, every joy, all life.

How fortunate we are that Jesus is willing to accept our services, to choose us to establish a new family of adorers for him, a faithful and committed court which will serve him until the end of the world!

Even if we should suffer a thousand martyrdoms, we would still be too privileged to glorify Jesus by the reign of the divine Eucharist!

Courage therefore, dear daughter, don't worry about your limitations or difficulties. Jesus is taking charge of everything.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard

TO MR. BAL

(VII 1/1)

All for Jesus Hostia

14 rue d'Enfer, Paris, February 1, 1857

Dear Mr. Bal,

In your charity kindly excuse my delay in writing. It was with very strong emotion that I read your [letter].

I am so sad to see you burdened with such heavy crosses! You and your whole family! Oh my God, how consoling it would be for me to lighten them and to share them with you!

I think of you often. If divine Providence let me find a good position, I would be happy to tell you right away!

I will double my prayers for you, dear Sir. Yes, we are very fortunate to have such an angelic vocation, to be almost always with our Lord. - I had been longing for such a great happiness for such a long time, and God in his infinite mercy has kindly cast his eyes on my weakness and nothingness and received me in his divine Service.

What remains now is the great duty to be faithful to so many graces. Ask this from God for me, and I will be very grateful to you.

We are six here, three priests and three brothers. Three times a week, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays it is our happiness to have exposition, until it pleases God to increase the number of adorers.

Paris, 1857

My respectful regards to Madame, to your dear sister in Vienna and all her friends.
Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mr. Bal,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

658

CO 657

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 4/19)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 2, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I did the same as you about answering your letter. This month was so full of activities, business, that I put it off until today, in order to have a bit more time.

1. Your good letter expresses both the illness and the remedy. You've gone back to your little schedule. That is the capital point, to regulate your time, your duties, your piety, your studies. Order brings success. Love it well. When by exception, you can't follow it, go back to it as soon as you are free.

So many women, for lack of order, lose their devotion and their learning; they waste their days, their lives! I am so happy about your resolution to study, to keep yourself informed about writings which are helpful and current, not to give up your drawing, and even, to do some music! That will honor your fine husband and become pleasant company for you.

Nothing is more common than to see young women forget everything they have learned and have no further education than the newspaper, fashions and novels.

2. If you always want to be happy and joyful, be devout. Devotion is the sweetness and happiness of the love of God.

If you are faithful now, at the beginning of your marriage, you will always be. I would like your piety to be sufficient to itself and needing no other ordinary director than your confessor. I say "ordinary" not extraordinary. When we are experiencing greater sadness, or perplexity, or prolonged sorrow, then we must search for extraordinary means.

Every day, take time for your short meditation, some spiritual reading, and you will have a perpetual source of living water for your devotion.

3. Live like your mother; imitate her; consult her: that will be one of the best teachings you can find.

4. Be constant in your thanksgiving to God, if you always want to be in the peace and joy of his holy service.

Look more at his benefits than at your sorrows, his strength rather than your weakness, his love more than your mediocrity. Then you will cling from your heart and life to his beloved and constant goodness.

God will give you children, but he wants them to be the fruit of your prayers, of your charity: that is the origin of the saints.

Dear daughter, thank you for your wishes for us. May God repay you for them with blessings! We are still very pleased with our privilege to share in the function of the saints in Heaven. Jesus is our All. If at least, we were all his!

Since January 6th, we have had the solemn exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament three times a week: Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. What beautiful days [they are] for us! These hours pass delightfully and quickly!

Paris, 1857

Unite yourself with us during these days of devotion. I will inscribe your name, the fruit you desire, the name of your husband and all your family, in the book of Eucharistic intentions exposed before the Blessed Sacrament.

Give me news about yourself from time to time; it always pleases me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

659

CO 658

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 21/76)

All for Jesus Hostia

February 2, 1857

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am very grateful for the details you gave me about your health. Avoid mental stress, be content with the heart. Good servants are not intellectual, but humble and devoted, simple and gracious. That is what our good Master wants from you, the service of your heart and intentions. Look for moments when you can go to visit the heavenly King, the God of your heart, who is there only for you.

Let others care for you, and graciously accept whatever can help your health. It will be a good mortification.

Now to comment on the woman's letter and request.

1. She was quite at fault to consult the lady sleepwalker. The priest who didn't condemn it may be unaware of a decision from Rome, which appeared not long ago, which forbids it, considering these sleepwalkers as being under diabolic influence.

2. She believes in this poor woman blindly. If she knew how much trickery and lies there are in it all! So, when she says that her brothers are close to the Bastille, she is really wrong, they are at least two leagues away. The announcement of her mother's death is a trick of the devil.

3. What should you advise her? Leave her free, only tell her to look carefully at the pros and cons, then let divine Providence act. Only, be sure to make that novena. I am uniting myself to you. Since the Procurator from Macon feels that it was because of my advice that this whole family was placed, throw it all on me. The girl should know about it if she were to return to her father.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard S.S.S.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 20/52)

Miss Stephanie

All for Jesus Hostia

February 4, 1857

I've just read your long letter, dear daughter. When you write always do so in this fashion, without tension, simply letting your pen flow. I read you very easily. Then, you are the one, not I, for whom this is most difficult, because so many hours, so much attention and reflection are needed for all that!

1. I think I explained myself badly about the doctor's words. I was afraid that his judgment might be exaggerated, that's all. Because I had perceived a long time ago what was noticed at that time; but it was very helpful that you learned and understood everything. It helped you see what your role should be, how to be a loving daughter and practice charity.

I'm glad to know that you are gracious, pleasant, happy, and joyful with your parents; and strangely enough, I also like it when you oblige your father to give in to the prescribed care. That is your function, to keep a firm hand.

All your good mother really needs are care, tonics, sleep, rest, peace. Yes, avoid everything which would upset her; but it must be done carefully without her noticing it.

The good Lord will surely always let her have opportunities to suffer, but we must spare her, as much as possible.

In fact it is a grace from God that the doctor goaded all of you on to take care of your dear mother.

I am also convinced that all your discomforts come from nerves and only from nerves. So dear daughter, you must get used to it, learn how to battle against them, treat them as we treat crying children. However, you must avoid two extremes, two dangers: the deprivation of necessary sleep (so sleep until 6:00) and the deprivation of food - no fasting.

There is no harm in your chatting with Miss B., you need it a little. When you will become more perfect, more in God, Jesus Christ will be enough for you.

Don't worry too much about these thoughts and memories about Mr. L.

It is by putting it behind you that you will be free. And so, dear daughter, to perceive faults and imperfections is a good way to restore balance to a judgment, while yet presuming many qualities and many advantages. Then the act of preference for Jesus becomes nobler.

Keep in mind that the Sovereign virtue of the moment is the care which charity requires for your parents. Have courage, dear daughter, you are beginning to become virtuous, since you are living self-denial.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Paris, 1857

661

CO 660

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 19/75)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 6, 1857

Dear daughter and sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your New Year's wishes. They were mutually offered before being written. I am happy to know that you are happy, especially devout, loving God with your whole heart: that is the essential and true happiness. Belong more to God than to your neighbor, more to the interior life than to external charity. Jesus has few faithful souls around him. People prefer his service to himself.

We are ever moving forward on the wings of divine Providence and God's goodness.

Jesus Christ makes us pass through a path of graces and difficulties which we never expected. However, that is what gives us confidence: it seems that we are beginning with trials as God's works do.

Today, I am writing especially for your dear daughter. Please send her my letter. I don't know her address.

I am always very close to you in the love of our divine Master and Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Mme. Jordan
10 rue de Castries, 2nd
Lyons (Rhône)

662

CO 661

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 157/395 VI 2)

Paris, February 15, 1857

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am taking advantage of this opportunity to send you your indulgenced crucifixes. I put the printed material in the box. You will find in it three little flasks of oil of the Holy Face and eight crosses from Jerusalem which touched the Holy Places. Four are for you and four for the Gaudioz family.

I received everything: goods and money. You don't owe any Mass, nor anything else; I am the one who owes you. We are really becoming too rich, you've sent us so much!

Goodbye. I haven't finished the Rule yet. I'll give it to you when it is done.

All Yours,
Eymard

TO MME.CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 25/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 17, 1857

You are once again upon a new Calvary, dear sister: a very painful, very sad Calvary. Your dear mother died in your arms: your tender mother whom you loved so much and who deserved that love in so many ways. She died as a good Christian, in the grace and love of her God, assisted by her good daughters, with all the blessings of religion. She died in peace, in the joy of the Lord. What consolation! What gentle hope! From Calvary we go to the Resurrection, to the Ascension of Jesus. Poor daughter, your soul accompanied your good mother on the paths of love; you wanted to follow her and you gave each other a heavenly rendezvous. This beautiful day will also come for you, dear sister, when earth reclaims earth, death its portion, Jesus will unite you eternally to his glory, his life, himself. But, wait still a little: you must continue to suffer and love, by the sacrifice of yourself, to make Jesus known, loved, and served by the folly of the Cross and of love.

I am united to your prayers for your fine mother, but I beg you to take care of your fragile health or rather, of your weakness.

Please have someone give me news about you and believe that I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. Please give this letter to your sister.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 11/28)

All for Jesus Hostia

Paris, February 17, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I learned with much sorrow about your great and immense sacrifice. I understood it and assessed it, knowing your heart and your dedication to the best of mothers.

What a cruel wrenching! What agony! What emptiness around you!

Oh! How evil sin is, since it engenders death! How bitter its sting, since it goes to the very soul of our affection! God alone is great, loving, powerful, eternal!

So everything that is good, holy and faithful goes toward him as toward its finality. He harvests the ripe ear. He gathers pure fruit for Heaven. He leaves the others so they can grow to maturity, exposed to the storms.

Your dear mother is in Heaven! dear daughter. She was so good! Suffering had ripened her for Heaven. Your dear mother had suffered a great deal! How happy she must be that she loved God and did so much for his love!

You are now alone, dear sister, responsible for the whole house, caring for your dear father, continuing the domestic virtues of your fine mother. You will certainly do it well, because you love God and you are advancing toward Heaven.

Paris, 1857

Oh! Poor daughter, in the glow of the sun of eternity the value of everything on earth changes! Let us walk attentively toward that lovely and delightful Homeland and let us reject whatever might serve to make us stop or settle down on the road that leads to Heaven.

I do recommend myself to your prayers and I will always pray for your family and for you.
Please believe me ever in our Lord, dear sister,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

665

CO 664

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 159/395 VI 2)

Paris, April 2, 1857

Good daughter,

How sad it is to have to write to you through others. Yet I couldn't do it myself. You yourself are somewhat to blame. I wanted to give Miss Mariette a long answer while writing to you and the time I was hoping for hasn't come yet.

I told Miss Duh. C.¹⁰ to tell you everything. There are no secrets for you, poor daughter. If I have any desire, it is that we may soon prepare a lovely cell¹¹ for each of you.

But, this is the time for suffering, for Calvary; this is what leads me to hope that the sacrifice will be blessed. How good the good Lord is to take away every person, every human support, every expectation, every future event, from us.

What a great grace it is to surrender oneself to God from moment to moment, to his Goodness, to his Wisdom! That is where we are, yet our hearts are happy and surrendered to the divine good pleasure. I was hoping to receive a few words from Father General when he returned from Rome, since on New Year's day I had written all that a son's heart knows how to say, but nothing. May God be blessed for it! It was another bond that I wanted to keep. - God suffices.

So the Third Order Manual isn't finished yet! Provided that it truly be in keeping with the spirit of the Blessed Virgin! I hope so, for it can't be a personal matter.

My health isn't bad, in spite of abstinence and half of the fasting. How good the good Lord is! His grace really does everything in my weakness.

Mme. Duh. Cil will send you the little "Rules" as soon as I finish them.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I really would like to have a few words from you and your sisters.
The bell is ringing.

All Yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons
Rhône

¹⁰ Mme. Duhaut-Cilly, president of the Women's Adoration at Toulon.

¹¹ Monastic name for bedroom.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 158/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Good Friday, 1857¹²

I was very worried about you, dear daughter. At this very moment I was going to write to you, when I received your letter. I read it like a child who forgets everything else when he receives a letter from his relatives. I know that Monday you will be having a display about Oceania. I pity you for all this trouble, but I praise you for having taken charge of it. At least, when the moment of freedom and departure arrive, you won't be accused of indifference! You are doing it for God and for the love of Mary.

You are earning your eucharistic dowry. Still, you shouldn't exhaust yourself. It's useless to tell you to take care of yourself now that you are on the cross: the cross of Jesus, the cross of society, and let's add, the cross of human nature.

Now about us.

Yesterday, Holy Thursday, at two o'clock, Jesus let us rent a house, a Cenacle. There are two houses, one for the sisters, and one for the Fathers. The chapel is in the middle; two gardens, the two houses are well separated. It is everything we could hope for. It is in a very good neighborhood near the center of Paris. That is the first bit of news. The second is even more comforting. Yesterday at six thirty in the evening, the Bishop signed the permission granting us perpetual Exposition. Lastly, at eight o'clock in the evening, at the Visitation Convent, I alone carried the venerable relics of the whole Crown of Thorns, the Sacred Nail, and the most beautiful piece of the true Cross that I have ever seen. I offered them for veneration. What a grace! God fills us so! In the midst of it all, I could only be grateful while thinking of Calvary ahead, the necessary and divine cost of so many graces. Spiritually my soul was happy, but humanly speaking I am afraid of the cross. My poor nature will need to be stretched and crucified on it! It's only right.

We will go to set up our eucharistic tent beyond the Seine, on the right bank, one hour from our neighborhood. I'm happy about it. All the communities of men are on this side. On the other side, we will be alone in the midst of the great Babylon, - in the commercial district, where the influential people are, etc.

May Jesus be your resurrection and your life on this beautiful day of Easter. When will we celebrate the Passover together with Jesus presiding?

Goodbye.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Board and room for the two costs 110 francs for two months. It will be due on May 1st.

I saw Miss du Rousset here. She seems to think that you aren't very devoted to us, that pleases me.¹³

¹² April 10th.

¹³ Because Marguerite's generosity was unknown.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 160/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, April 21, 1857

So you are ill, poor daughter. It's the result of your vigils and your work. Such is life! Fortunately heaven is there, and that's where we shall rest in God.

Leave them all now.¹⁴ You paid your share, and gave your quota of devotedness and charity. It's a sad truth, that self-interest or self-love are often the source of confidence and esteem, even among pious people. Oh! How sad it can be to see human nature!

Be firm about your resignation. It's time. I didn't tell you so before now. It was necessary to be there at the hour of sacrifice. However, now that a direction contrary to the former one is being taken, it's better to let them proceed alone. I am really afraid that Fr. J. will do as he did in his other tasks. He will end up by ruining everything. May the Blessed Virgin watch over her Work!

Good daughter, thank you for your package. God is really too good through you.

Holy Thursday had its joys, then Calvary came. I trust that the Resurrection of our Lord will bring us some grace.

I'll explain it to you later. I want to send my answer right away.

Give me news about yourself. I'm really sorry to know that you are sick.

All Yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Thank that good woman for her generosity. I would have liked to know her name. We are praying very much for her. We are doubly obligated to her. I put all her intentions in our book of intentions placed before the Blessed Sacrament.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons
Rhône

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 161/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, May 1, 1857

Dear Daughter, I've just received your letter with its enclosed note.

It worries me to know that you are ill and very ill at that. Please take care of your health for the eucharistic life! My opinion is that you should send your resignation in writing to Father General and tell Fr. Jacquet what you've done. This way, he would be well informed.

If you have a white stole left, I would accept it willingly. The reason is that we wear a surplice and a white stole for our adorations.

As for the linens, we have enough. We also have vestments. I would have preferred a white one, but I see that you don't have one, and that would be asking too much. We have two simple ones.

¹⁴ The Third Order of Mary.

Paris, 1857

Later on I'll tell you about our little troubles in relation to the house we had chosen. Pray so that we may find the one that Jesus has chosen.

I only have time to say that in Jesus, I am

All yours,
Eymard

669

CO 669

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 22/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, May 19, 1857

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I was so anxious to receive news about you! I'm really sorry for having made you wait for my letter. It was because of an overload of work. Now I am a bit freer and so I turn quickly to you. Although I am in Paris, consider me as very near and make use of me. Write to me when you wish and when you can, but without effort, with a very free pen, and I will reply to you with joy, happy to be able to help your dear soul. It is with great thanksgiving that I learned that your fine mother had been Confirmed. The sacrament of the strong will give her....

May 26.- Excuse me for having left this letter unfinished for so long. We are on retreat... However, I will try to finish it.

1) I approve your desire to relieve the unfortunate. Consult God rather than prudence. Our good Master will arrange everything, as he knows so well how to do for you. Your natural timidity is a grace; it keeps and protects you.

2) Yes, be at peace about the poor man who was healed. We must do good works but without prolonging them; that is, perform the actions, but don't maintain the relationship.

3) Yes, try to remove that girl from the parish and that house. I want to believe there is nothing, but prudence requires that we have pity for the weak, and avoid scandal. You can give the real reason for her admission without fear, it's a very strong reason. But don't commit yourself to pay for the board.

4) Charity towards Mr. G.¹⁵ precedes any other ordinary ones which can wait. In necessity do what is more urgent.

5) Yes, the good Lord will answer your prayers for your husband. So many prayers cannot remain without fruit. I really like your idea of giving our Lord a more beautiful chapel, so that he may bless the vines.¹⁶ He will do more than that.

6) Now dear daughter, go to our Lord by means of spiritual poverty and charity toward your neighbor, when God gives you the opportunity. Let your poor mind and memory rest. Use your heart and desires to love the good Lord and do his holy Will.

7) Never put aside holy Communion because of your distractions and failings, but go because of your failings and weakness. Go to holy Communion with the sentiments you describe. When you are so poor that you have nothing to offer, offer the goodness of Jesus to his own love.

8) Please, dear daughter, don't worry any more about your distractions and neglect. Become accustomed to it and consider it as poverty which doesn't offend God. You can always give thanks, offer and give yourself. That is what our dear Jesus asks of you.

¹⁵ Evidently, Mr. Gourd, her husband.

¹⁶ Vine-growers?

Paris, 1857

Good-bye. I will write to Miss Stephanie and to Miss Boisson soon. I am anxious to send this for fear of delaying again. Write to me more often.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. We are fine; the good Lord is blessing us a little with his holy Cross and greatly with his Father's love.

670

CO 617

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 47/52)

Miss Stephanie,¹⁷

Dear daughter, I read your letter today with attention and thanksgiving. I praise God for freeing you from that net. Let your heart belong to God and be entirely God's. As for mental flashbacks from mental images, feelings relived, pay no attention to them. However, when it tends to become substantial, turn your heart to God and tell him: Yours alone and always.

No more soul-searching, no more scrutiny, no more explanations. The cloud has passed over. It is fortunate that you did not go into details in confession. Leave it at that. If the sight of that image, that book, pursues your memory, get rid of it. Otherwise, keep them.

Poor daughter, God loves you so!

I didn't want to discuss the embraces of politeness you mentioned, not at all, but about the tricks of the devil and human nature.

Serve God with simplicity of intention, with freedom of action, with holy surrender to his divine Providence! The future! is the eternal love of God.

Pray for the one who is entirely dedicated to and one with you in our Lord,

Eymard, S.S.S.

671

CO 670

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 162/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 25, 1857

I couldn't answer you right away, dear daughter. You can guess the reasons. The retreat I hesitated ... if only you were here! You will come. That is my hope. It's my strong and gentle confidence that you will [come].

Everything is consummated! Good! You drank the chalice to the very end! You completed your task, proved your devotedness to the point of heroism.¹⁸ That is fine. It is very good that they should leave you without any honors, without thanks, without even the simple expressions of it. God and God alone is our witness, our good Master and goal. However, when your feelings turn to rebellion or dislike, don't pay attention to it, it's just a passing fever. Our Lord knows full well that he rules over you.

¹⁷ No indication of date. Tentative placement because of preceding correspondence.

¹⁸ Her resignation from the Third Order.

Paris, 1857

How disappointing people can be when left to themselves. Religious can also become demanding, even greedy and aggressive for their community, as a body!....

I know they themselves may have a good intention for themselves. Still, for outsiders it's a temptation.

Oh! How good the good Lord is to have shown me the vanity of the admiration, attachment, and compliments which were quite mistakenly directed to me. It liberated me and left me in a state of great inner peace and freedom. My love for them [the people] is greater, but more spiritual.

I'm very happy that you will be going to the countryside, at Mme. Galle's. It will be so good for her, and you will be very quiet there.

I wish my sisters were not so far away; you would be at home there.

Pray for our retreat.

The monthly payments for the children are not due until the month of August, and I still have 35 francs in advance.

Give me news about yourself from time to time. I was quite worried until I received your letter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

672

CO 668

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN
(V 1/5)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, May 5, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

Forgive me in advance for such a long silence, especially after your gracious offers of help and dedication. I will admit it very simply: I didn't have the courage to write! Crosses followed one another and increased in number on this little calvary with a thousand problems and duties, which hardly leave me enough time to pray and complain at the feet of our Lord.

I knew in principle that I was going to Calvary by devoting myself to the eucharistic Work, but the divine goodness had shown it to me in the light of so many graces and [such] love, that I was embracing it with joy. Today, I am fortunate to be on calvary, but like a poor victim which lets itself be, that's all.

You may say: But then, what are these crosses? Some crosses are from the outside: crosses from hostile persons, persons with false concepts, disappointments, change of domicile and nothing suitable to be found. There are small persecutions, small calumnies, pinpricks; false vocations, etc.... These things afflict but do not crush us. We know that the Kingdom of God is established and consolidated in the midst of tribulations. Poor human nature moans, but grace comforts it. The day [will come] when we will be very happy to have suffered a little. Pray for us, dear sister in our Lord, in order that we may not remove any thorns from our dear Master's crown.

June 5th. - I really reproach myself, Mademoiselle, that I didn't finish this letter, and I wouldn't dare send it... But since it was begun for you, it belongs to you.

Our greatest cross regarding our place of residence has been mitigated: His Eminence sent us word that we could continue to stay here; that he did not intend, at least at this time, to come and live here. - So we feel more peaceful on that point.

God has made our small crosses blossom. We received some vocations who seem fine. We are 4 priests and 2 brothers. We also increased our days of day-and-night adoration. We have 4 days of exposition: Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. - How holy and fervent we ought to be with so many graces! Pray for us, dear Mademoiselle, and that would be a great charity toward me.

Paris, 1857

Miss Bost had told me that you wanted to offer our Lord another decoration for the altar, an alb, or something else of our choice. My God! You have already given enough, and I assure you that your gift has pleased us very much. So, when we use your albs, it's a fond memory for me.

We now have enough albs and enough decorations for the altar. What we don't have is a white vestment. We do have one, but since we wear it on all the days of service, we have nothing special for the Feasts. Therefore, I would like a vestment that would be all white, but simple. Since it isn't urgent we will wait because I think it would cost about 80 francs, and that is asking too much.

I put your name, as well as your father's, in our book of petitions opened before the Most Blessed Sacrament. May our Lord comfort you and grant you the great grace you desire for your dear father!

We have begun a little Congregation of women adorers.¹⁹ If you were here, I would enroll you with pleasure.

I leave you in the hands of divine goodness and I am united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, SSS

673

CO 671

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 1/104)²⁰

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 7, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

May our Lord keep you always in the blessed peace of his grace and love. Yes! that is the best sign of his friendship for us, and proves the validity of the spiritual means you are using in your state of life.

So, don't let yourself be troubled by anything in this world, nor by any natural or diabolical temptation, not even by your sins. Obedience is your weapon, your victory, the absolution of your daily faults. - Receive Communion! Receive Communion every time you can: it is your remedy, your strength, your center and your virtue. I congratulate you for having bound up self-love with its own chains. You did well, very well to be open with your sister about your faults. You will only be the stronger for it. Your heart must have suffered from this self-awareness and its exterior consequences. - I say your heart, because your heart was certainly not at fault. Go as long as you can without confession. However, it is better to make a simple confession at the first opportunity rather than give up Holy Communion. Leave meditation aside while you are undergoing treatment. Put aside serious things. Follow the prescribed diet: let even Holy Communion be subordinated to your treatment, when you cannot do otherwise. That is the wisdom of obedience. But you have carte blanche for the practice of the Presence of God, thanksgiving, spiritual freedom, and childlike love.

I ask our Lord to heal you so that you can work harder.

News from you will always please me. I leave you, dear daughter, to our Good Lord and Master.

Eymard, Superior

¹⁹ At this time, Marguerite Guillot, Claudine and Benoite had not yet come from Lyons. However, the group of women had arrived from Toulon.

²⁰ First of 104 letters of St. Peter Julian Eymard, to Madame de Grandville, née Cornulier, 8 rue Saint-laurent, at Nantes (Lower-Loire).

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 12/28)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 7, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

What must you think of my silence? Especially after waiting for an answer which gave you hope for our Lord.

I've just passed through a period of days that were so busy and so crucifying, that I had neither the time nor the strength to write. There are some storms on the sea when all one can do is try to control the ship.

At this time, things are a bit calm. What kept us busiest, was searching for a suitable lodging, at a time when Paris is being demolished and more than thirty thousand families are looking for a home. To sum it up, the good Lord is leaving us where we are, at least for the moment.

In the midst of it all, our little Work is progressing. There are six of us: four priests and two brothers. A little Congregation of Women Adorers is beginning,²¹ and, if God gives his blessing, everything will grow for his holy service.

We now have four days of exposition, while waiting to be numerous enough to have it continually. So much for us.

And what are you doing, dear Mademoiselle? I imagine that your heart is still crying; the wound is still open ... how could it be otherwise, especially in the midst of such isolation, of such solitude? How unfortunate that your dear sister is so far away! She would be three great treasures of life for you: a mother, a sister and a friend.

How helpful religion is, especially at a time of sorrow! It shows us that life's journey is only a little longer and that we will soon meet again in the arms of God our Father. How good and delightful Heaven is, when we find our mother and our friends there with God, when we are related in heart, mind, hope and love!

You must often visit your dear mother in God and you will find consolation.

Pope John XXII was preaching one day about the eucharistic heaven of Jesus. He said that holy souls begin their paradise near the Blessed Sacrament of the parish where they died, in order to form a court for Jesus, and that they stay as long as Jesus does. This thought has often brought me comfort. I like to pray in the church of the parish where my parents died because of this pleasant and comforting thought.

In the Benedictine Journals we read that a mother had lost her son, a religious, and was inconsolable. To comfort her, God promised that if she came to the night Office in the Monastery church, she would hear her son singing. She did have this happiness, but she also wanted to see him... and in fact, she did see him, very radiant. That is the end of the story... It was enough for her to know that he was a perpetual adorer of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

So, go to pray and praise God with your good loving mother. Even if you don't see or hear her, your heart and devotion will feel her gentle presence in Jesus.

I am enclosing a letter for Miss Matagrín in yours. Please give it to her.

Your patronal feast day will be on Thursday. We will pray for you. Repay us for it, dear sister in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

²¹ The future Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MME.GALLE (NEE DE VILLEDIEU)
(VII 7/8)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 9, 1857

Madame and very dear Sister in our Lord,

Miss Guillot gave me news about you, as well as your Poor Paul. - How sad and distressed it makes me! Great God! What a cross! Oh! Poor mother, you do need God's grace to bear and sanctify it! Do not give in to discouragement or to excessive sadness, it would unite two misfortunes - no, no, the good Lord will not forsake you. Everything will turn to the greater good and return your poor son to you, responsible and rational. However, let your trust rise above it; let your prayer be stronger than your pain. By the confidence you have always had in me, please, I beg you, be the strong woman and stand once again at the foot of this cross.

The whole Community will make a novena that his behavior may improve and that he may be healed. Beginning on Thursday, Corpus Christi, every day at 7 o'clock, Mass will be said for this intention. I don't need to tell you to join with us.

I thought that poor Paul was healed, I was told that he was doing well. Courage! - The good Lord is his Father. Put all your trust in him, dear Mother, and tell yourself: when I have complete trust, my son will be healed.

I am very happy that you have Miss Guillot near you. This dear Sister will help you to carry your cross, to lighten it. - She is so kind and so dedicated to you. - Please offer her my devoted sentiments and tell her that I received what she had promised me.

I wanted to write her a word, but time is lacking and I want to send this letter on its way.

We are fine, our little Work is progressing. We are six - 4 priests and 2 brothers. - We now have four days of exposition each week. - See, dear Lady, how the good Lord loves us!

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, S

TO THE prioress OF THE BENEDICTINES OF THE BL. SACRAMENT, ARRAS
(VIII 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Corpus Christi, June 11, '57

Very Reverend Mother,

I am late to offer you my humble and very warm thanks for the spiritual favor you granted us by your letters of affiliation, dated March 7 of this year. How joyful we were to receive and bless your charity toward us who are so weak and so insignificant! The thought of this unity strengthens us, and we need it, for since receiving your letter, we have had rather serious trials considering our fragility. However, the God of all consolation has sustained and consoled us.

Our little Work is progressing slowly. We have 4 days of Exposition each week until such time as it shall please God to increase the number of adorers. We are only 6: 4 priests and 2 brothers.

Paris, 1857

We placed your very dear name in our eucharistic register. Every day at the Holy Sacrifice and at adoration we like to offer you to Jesus, host of praise and love, you my Very Rev. Mother, and all your daughters! Please consider us always among your very devoted affiliates and believe that we are in O. L.

My Very Rev. Mother,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard
Sup. Rel. of Bl. Sacrament

677

CO 674

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 163/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia

[Paris]²², Corpus Christi, June 11, 1857

Very dear daughter,

How could I let this beautiful feast go by without writing to tell you that we are thinking about you. You are with us at the feet of our King and Lord! Oh, when will you be here fully and personally? It seems to me that you would be happy here. You would find peace after the war, rest, like Mary (at Jesus' feet) and prepare for the great journey. No doubt you were also thinking about us.

This was a beautiful feast for us. Fr. Hermann, the Carmelite, preached to us on the Most Blessed Sacrament, as he knows so well how to do. Our chapel had its most beautiful decorations. Your white vestment served for half of the Masses, as well as your lovely white pall which I found in very exquisite taste. I prefer it even to all the gold ones.

Thank you, thank you for everything: the stoles, altar linens, skull caps and even the rabats, though we don't wear them anymore. I've given up the skull cap too, and I don't have any toothache as a result of it.²³

How kind that Lady is! Really if all this generosity were not for the Lord, I would feel embarrassed. I am praying so much to our Good Master to repay all of you since everything is given for him and everything is dedicated to his eucharistic worship.

About the children: I have 55 francs, that will take care of two months. So you can forget about that until September.

Monday I saw Very Rev. Father Favre in Paris. He received me kindly, and offered me money if I should need it. He apologized for not having answered me, spoke about Fr. Huguet with whom he is dissatisfied because of the book about La Salette. There was no mention of the Third Order nor of the Ladies of Toulon. He was charitable and proper. He told me that he would pay me a return visit.

On this subject, you had asked me for news about a Third Order Member whom Miss Belle had brought here. I heard that she had made a retreat with the Ladies of St. Regis, that Fr. Huguet was directing her, that he had then sent her to visit a lady who wants to start a Work. Then it seems that it wasn't working out. The poor lady asked the Ladies of St. Regis for her entrance with them, and she was definitely refused. I don't know what happened to her. If she is still there, the best thing for her would be to leave those people who are said to be very unbalanced. I'll let Mme. Duh. C.²⁴ tell you about our retreat. I hope that God will bless it. It seems to me that our purpose is becoming clearer and clearer, as well as the means and the spirit which ought to animate us all.

²² Fr. Troussier.

²³ He refers to the theory that a cold head brought on toothaches.

²⁴ Mme. Duhaut Cilly, President of the Ladies of Adoration in Toulon, had come.

Paris, 1857

My health is satisfactory, even with night adorations. See how grace is more effective than all our little remedies.

As for you, I firmly believe that one day you will be in the Cenacle, a religious of the Blessed Sacrament (with your sisters if they wish.) - But I am old, you will say. - You could always remain at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament. - But I am an invalid? - It is good to have one, to provide the object and merit of fraternal charity. - But I will be a burden? - No, never. A daughter is never a burden or in the way in her father's house. Only I say, it's necessary to wait until we are a bit more established and settled, and to know whether [Church] authorities would consent to a common church between the Fathers and the sisters, although truly separate as required, while having only one Exposition for all. That is a big question. Or must there be two Adoration chapels? This is what we are asking our Lord. I favor the first plan; it is like the Cenacle where the Apostles, the disciples, the holy women and Mary were praying together in the first church near the first eucharistic Tabernacle. Oh, I have such a great desire to know the will of God and to see his work grow under the influence of his caring love! Poor daughter, your illness will pass, your infirmities also. God will give you sufficient health to continue to serve him in his eucharistic kingdom.

Follow carefully what is prescribed for your diet, that has the same value as religious obedience and the greatest activity. Your piety is being deprived. Your soul is drying up for lack of the divine food which is its whole strength and life. Bear these deprivations, dear daughter, God wills it so. You need to practice the same charity toward yourself as towards the sick.

So now you are free, so much the better! Miss de Revel will accept, I think. Forget all those troubles, good daughter. Admire God's goodness which gave you such a beautiful mission for the Third Order, that of suffering; let others reap its fruits. I am happy that Miss de Revel withdrew her letter. God is enough for us. If our Work were of human origin we would need human support. I believe that it is from God and God alone.

678

CO 676

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 12/17)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, June 12, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

It takes your kind heart and the heart of the Mayet family to continue to have confidence in me after so many ineffective efforts. Thank you for remembering me and especially for your charity.

I had so much business, so many duties since January when the happiness of having exposition has been ours, that it was necessary to become a slave of duty and attend to everything in the house; receive visitors, return visits, hold conferences, make adorations, recite office in choir,... finally, I don't know how my frail health sustained it. I was not forgetful, but obliged to suspend all relationships; always putting things off until the next day.

I was so happy to see and accompany dear Fr. Mayet. He is always the same and he is always my old brother and friend.

I don't deserve the thanks you want to ascribe to me. It was a great pleasure. How good and gracious this dear old friend is!

What a pleasant surprise it was for me one day to welcome that dignified, direct and kind Mr. Tonny. What a wonderful hour we spent together! We spoke about dear Marie, alas! so worthy of a better lot in this world. Poor young mother! Already in mourning... But her piety, her virtue make her greater than her misfortune. God! Yes, God alone! is the eternal love of the soul. I did pray for her, and I like to pray for the soul of her husband whom I loved without knowing him. I had been told he was such a good Christian! such a good husband.

Paris, 1857

And you, dear Mademoiselle, you are there in life like a sister for every need, for all consolations, all tears. Be so always, for it is the mission of the Angels. Put aside Oceania. Your health is not strong enough for that distant mission, at least it seems to me. Continue to trust in God for your future; surrender like a child to his Holy Will at each moment. These two wings of love lift us very high.

Our little Work is constantly progressing, sometimes by the cross, sometimes by consolation. It is an alternation to which we must become accustomed. One thing which suits me well is the time to pray, to adore, to sacrifice myself to the Eucharistic service.

I don't know whether we will see the development of this little seed, but it seems to me that my soul is where God wants it to be. I sacrificed a great deal and I never had a moment of regret or frustration about it.

Pray, dear daughter, that I may be faithful to grace, and that, if I cannot spread the love of Jesus Eucharistic everywhere, he may at least reign in my heart.

Believe me ever,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

679

CO 677

TO MME.ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 8/19)

rue d'Enfer 114, Paris, June 26, 1857

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I didn't read your dear letter until today. It was left in the middle of other letters. I was so sorry to learn that it was too late for me to write to Hyeres. I don't know whether my letter will find you at Orleans, but I am taking a chance.

Yes, certainly, I will be happy to see you and we can speak in Paris about your situation and your plans for the present and the future. I may have more time there to speak than to write. For the last three months I have had so much business, so many trials, that it often happened that I didn't even have time to come up to my room. No, no, I do not have anything against you. That would be very ungrateful. I only have gratitude toward you and the desire to help you. I am the same in Paris as I was at La Seyne, only I have so much business that I don't know where to turn. When I wait for a free moment for my people, I risk forgetting them. That is what happened to you.

May my letter find you and help you decide to come here.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 13/28)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 1, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter deeply saddened me as I saw your ever growing sorrow, with a future that seems more bleak and discouraging.

So I am writing very simply to tell you what I think. I certainly remember having told you that your heart would be crucified, but without seeing the future, and certainly without knowing the imminent death of your dear sister.

I said that, because, knowing how loving your heart is and how much Jesus also loves it, I've always believed that this divine Spouse would crucify any affection which might be too strong or too natural, in order to rule alone on this throne of pure and devout affection. As I know through experience that is how God deals with other souls which resemble yours; I said it about you.

Oh! Dear daughter, I do hope that our Lord will not come yet to take your dear sister, his tender spouse. I am praying that he may leave her a while. Her work isn't complete. I know she is longing for that heavenly moment. God loves the sighs of the dove in the desert, but eternity is long and time is short.

Don't be upset about the future, dear daughter. Abandon this thought. I think it is much further away than that.

Yes, often go to visit your dear mother near the divine Tabernacle. That is where your hearts will meet and speak to one another with vision. Jesus is the center of every affection and of all pure hearts.

Our little Work is progressing in the midst of crosses.

Write to your sister so that she may begin to pray. I see a great storm coming; it is beginning and pierces my heart. It is a storm stirred up by the devil who wants to sow discord.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I always save the best place in the heart of Jesus for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 14/28)

July 6²⁵

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Please give Miss Matagrín this little note. I received a lovely white vestment, which will really please our Lord for his feast days. God bless her! And you also!

I hope that you have believed me and that you are at peace.

Think only of the goodness of Jesus, of his infinite goodness; and when you cry a little for your dear mother, sleep afterwards on the heart of Jesus like a child on the heart of its mother.

All yours,
Eymard

²⁵ Probably 1857.

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN

(V 2/5)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 6, 1867²⁶

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

How kind you are toward our Lord and to me. I cried with wonder and joy when I received the lovely white vestment you sent us. It's really too much, and you are too kind to me, who have helped you so very little. It's true that I desired great things for you and that I would like to repay you a hundredfold; but I can only ask the good Master whom we serve to bless you and to repay you in graces and consolations for everything you are doing for his love.

Now that I am like a servant around a poor unattended Master - no, I am the happiest of men when I can offer him something beautiful for his worship.

I looked for a little word from you in the mailbox because I wanted that more than the gift. Don't be afraid to bother me. Now I am a bit more quiet, though not free. I say quiet, alas! I have just spent 8 days in an agony that could kill. It was another trial, but now the cloud has scattered and calm has returned... until it pleases God to put us a little on his cross again.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Matagrín, Tarare

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 164/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 20, 1857

This is your feast day, dear daughter. I am writing to express my wishes to you in the Lord. I did so first of all at the holy altar. That is the most useful and the surest way.

Your Patroness was a virgin and a martyr. It seems that God is giving you these two crowns from day to day. For, when one cross is over, another follows immediately, and these crosses seem to pursue you. You either receive them well, or they are at home with you. We must make use of them and do like the poor do with poverty. You must give our Lord this pleasure and be at the service of his crosses. It is better to suffer than to pray, preach, or do charitable deeds.

At long last you are free now from your responsibility. I'm happy about it, you'll rest a little, you'll suffer alone.

Very Rev. F. Favre didn't stop in Paris when he returned; he sent his regrets for not being able to come here. He was kind, but you understand that his heart must hurt and be a bit afraid.

As for me, I love the Society of Mary more and more as well as its dear members. However, I don't go see them very often, I don't have time; and then, the visits are uncomfortable and don't go beyond basic charity.

²⁶ Probably 1857 because of the content.

Paris, 1857

I saw... several times. I hope that his health will improve. The doctors don't think it is serious.

I will be seeing one who will tell me privately what he really thinks.

May God yet preserve this dear mother for her daughter, and this dear sister for her friends! As for me, I found her well.

Everything is settled about the 40 francs. I have some of your money for the children, 55 francs left for this coming August. So, if I need money, I'll take it from there. I don't need any money for the children until September. Your two elderly friends are very fortunate to have you. What would become of them otherwise?

God will help you; the father of the family always allots a share of his treasures to charity. Make use of me; I'm happy to be able to serve you in some way.

I wrote a brief note to Miss de Revel. I've owed her an answer for so long. She spoke to me about you, about your illness, your resignation, and her temporary responsibility, but in very proper and kind words. I'm very happy to see that she is very fond of the good Marist Fathers.

I bless sister Martha, Miss Mariette, and your dear sisters wholeheartedly.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

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CO 682

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 165/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, July 26, 1857

As soon as I received your letter, my dear daughter, I went to the hospital on rue de Picpus. I saw the Superior who told me that they receive both men and women there, but that the number is very limited now; they have only twenty-four elderly persons. They replace only those who die. It's a good location, the house is beautiful and the garden very spacious.

To be received there, one must apply to Mr. Bauchet, administrator of the Orleans family property, rue de Varennes, 55.

Then one needs to be accepted by Queen Amelia. I wasn't able to locate the gentleman; I was told that he would be there Monday or Wednesday. I would have liked to get the address of the lady who has the papers.... I would have gone to ask her for them. I'm trying to find a sponsor; that way, we might get a favor.

I saw the Superior of the La Rochefoucauld hospital; it is close by, but they are burdened with requests. Some have been waiting for four years; there, as elsewhere, those with sponsors succeed first. Board is 250 francs for a year for those who are able-bodied, and 312 francs and 50 centimes for those who are infirm.

I know the mayor; he will recommend me to the administrator. But first of all, we will try every means for the first institution which is better in every way.

Poor daughter! I made you suffer without knowing: you know that I think only of one thing at a time. It is rare that I think of two things. I didn't bring up the Eucharistic house again because I consider that idea as settled and definite for you and your dear sisters; but when it will be, I don't know. As soon as the good Lord says the word, it will be done. In the meantime, we are preparing the first drafts of the Rule, and that is only prudent.

I scarcely speak to you about myself, I don't think about it, but you can guess everything.

I'm asking the good Lord to heal you; do the same. One day you must come to help me carry this cross. I don't think you should go to the celebration at Miss de Revel's. It's better to be quiet; it's the same for the chapel, for fear of the unexpected. They might well make announcements which would make you sad and which you would need to accept modestly.

Paris, 1857

I don't know about Fr. Huguet's departure, I haven't seen anyone. I wouldn't be surprised and I had that thought myself.

I haven't seen the doctor yet... I'll write you his opinion. I

It would be best if the Third Order members from Toulon and La Seyne had separate meetings, otherwise it will fail; and that the Third Order of Toulon be directed by the Superior of the house of Toulon. Poor Miss Claudine was expecting a letter and I can only send her my blessing; it's worth more than a letter.

Goodbye, have courage! Your poor crosses weigh you down. I will ask our Lord to lighten them and to give you strength and love.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

685

CO 683

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 166/395 VI 2)

Paris, August 5, 1857

I am being encouraged to go to the springs in some unknown location; at Saint Pierre d'Allevard near Grenoble. They would like me to leave at the end of the week, because it is late in the season.

How sad it would be for me to pass through Lyons without seeing you, if that should happen! In any case, if I can stop a few hours and take a coach to go say "hello" to you incognito, next Saturday morning, I will do it, but it is doubtful. I will arrive at Lyons at 8:45 or at 10:15 at Vaise. I'll do all I can to see you when I return. What led to a decision in favor of the springs was that my rheumatism has gone to my stomach and makes me cough. So be it. If I don't leave this week, I'll write to you. Poor Marguerite! There she is again on the cross, oh! oh! I will have your Masses said quickly.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear daughter,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 2/104)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, August 5, 1857

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

I really didn't know what to think about your lengthy silence; I thought you were ill. So then, everything is going well, God be praised! I understand that moving brings a lot of work.

I'm happy to see that you have been faithful to holy Communion, it's your life-raft. As long as you feed on Jesus Christ, the devil will not harm you; you will be strong and well protected. Oh please! Don't stay away from it, not even through feelings of humility, and even less for fear of having sinned. You know what I told you about that: doubtful sin, no sin.

If you have committed some venial fault, it is better yet to go and purify it in the fire of the divine Eucharist. Do not continue with the works of Lord Byron and Locke. Those works can do the soul no good. On the contrary, Locke's presentations are criticized as insufficiently Christian, even erroneous.

I'm leaving tomorrow for the springs at Saint-Pierre d'Allevard (Isere). If you should need me, you may write to me there. I hope to go to La Salette from there. I'll pray especially for you and your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. The minutes haven't arrived yet. So long.

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT)
(IV 1/36)²⁷

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, 114, rue d'Enfer, August 9, 1857

Very dear sister in our Lord,

What a pleasant surprise I received when I read your letter! I thanked our good Savior so much for having inspired you with it! ... I had asked for news about you from the sister who left ... I forget her name, the one who accompanied the lady ... she had told me that God is blessing you. We spoke about you with Mme. d'Hareny, who was here recently. She was pleased to hear about you. Well! Dear sister! So many things have happened since Lyons! I am here laboring for the eucharistic Work, and you are doing the same in your village and God is blessing you.

We are four priests and two brothers here. We have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament four days a week and three nights: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

What delightful days! What blessed nights! God alone knows!

²⁷ There are 36 letters addressed to Virginie Danion who as a Reparatrix sister had been called Sister Ann of the Blessed Sacrament. She became the foundress of the Congregation of Thanksgiving at Mauron, diocese of Vannes (Morbihan).

Paris, 1857

We have permission to have perpetual exposition, but we are waiting for Jesus to send us a few good eucharistic vocations.

We take the three religious vows.

I also intend to establish a branch of women adorers.... Four fine women already live near us and share in our spiritual exercises, but I'm waiting for God's time and light to organize and form them. They will be clay in his hands.

We can no longer think of joining with Mother Marie-Therese. She seemed to be fearful, not to say opposed. I pray for her and her beautiful Work, nothing more. Provided that Jesus be glorified, loved and served in his adorable Sacrament, what do human feelings matter? However, I thank God for it, it just gives us more freedom. God is also blessing her. I will tell you about it later.

I'll be waiting for your reply at St. Pierre d'Allevard (Isere), where I am going to the springs. I'll have time there to read your letter and answer you.

I'm leaving tomorrow; three weeks later I will go to La Salette from there, then I will return here. Excuse my hurry. Pray very much for the one who is closely united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Superior

P.S. Tell me clearly what you led me to hope for,²⁸ and I will tell you what you want to know.

688

CO 686

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 167/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), Hotel des Bains, August 14, 1857

Dear daughter,

I passed through Lyons Tuesday morning at 6:00. I said Mass at Aynay for you. I could only bless you from a distance, regretting that I couldn't go up to see you. There wasn't enough time as I had only two hours to spare. I debated whether I should leave holy Mass aside to go see you. But I would have needed to stay eight hours in Lyons and I didn't want to be seen by anyone. That was a great sacrifice for me. Here I am at Allevard as I am beginning to have a sinus infection. They wanted me to come: my purpose in coming was to be able to work and suffer longer for the eucharistic service of Jesus.

I still don't know how the springs will affect me, but up to this point, it isn't bad. You can understand how much my heart suffers to be far from the tabernacle of love and to know that my colleagues are alone! May God's will be done.

... is here and I find him well. If he were a Christian, he would be very fine in a short time, he has an upright soul. Give me news about yourself, dear daughter, and about all your sisters.

I still haven't told my sister anything. She doesn't know that I am so close to her. I'll go see her for a few days; from there I'll go to La Salette for a day, then I'll return to my place of honor.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

²⁸ Perhaps the hope that she would come and join his branch of women adorers.

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CO 687

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 107/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Allevard, hotel des Bains (Isere), August 14, 1857

Very dear sisters,

I have been here near you for three days now. I have come to take the treatments at Allevard for an infection. I had found quite a bit of relief at the Springs of Mont-Dore two years ago. This year I thought I would change in order to be closer to you and to come see you. Without this treatment, I couldn't have come to see you, being very busy in Paris, and also because of the example to be given to the other religious.

So the good Lord took care of both things. I can only come see you at the beginning of September. The treatment from the springs usually lasts from three to four weeks.

Besides I am fine. Please express my regards to the Pastor whom I will be happy to greet and to Mr. Faure if you see him before I do. I would have liked to know his address.

See you soon, dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

690

CO 688

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 23/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Hotel des Bains, Allevard (Isere), August 14, 1857

Dear daughter, I am here at Allevard. I expected to find you here and I was rejoicing in our Lord. Our good Master didn't will it, may He be praised for it! Every day I meet Mr. Gourd. He is feeling fine and I think the springs will help him. I love your dear husband very much. I really wish that the good Lord would grant me the grace to help his soul. He is a direct and honest person. Have confidence, God will hear us. I would so like to see you enjoy that grace a little.

I saw Dr. Bremont privately. He told me that you don't have softening of the brain nor its consequences, but that you need something to give you strength. What you experience is the result of weakness, lack of sleep, excessive worries. So, that is good news. Therefore, dear daughter, you must now abide by the prescription for sleep, food, and rest as a necessary remedy. Along with that, observe the three great virtues which God asks of you at every moment, and you will always fulfill the holy Will of God. I have nothing to say about myself, as I've been here only three days. Give me news about yourself.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 48/52)

To Mademoiselle,²⁹

I was very pleased to read your short letter. I repeat with joy: Oh! God loves you so much!

When these thoughts about the past come back to you, thank God for having chosen you and preferred you; and when they persist, tell your dear mother.

If the visit takes place, avoid any liberties like those you had mentioned: it's better.

Stay at home as is proper. God will let you see the shadow of the picture, if only there were none, alas! There is only one step from springtime to winter.³⁰

That you should try to see the reasons against is a good thing; what is better is to see the sovereign perfection of our Lord, his love which is so kind, so tender, so constant. May God give you his divine consolations and always be your only All.

All yours,
Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 168/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), August 22, 1857

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letter left me very confused.

Is the good Lord the one who wants this sacrifice from you again after so much anguish?³¹ If you can get out of it, do so. With God's grace, success is assured.

The withdrawal of Miss de R. is a good lesson.³² It will show that when we try to lean on human greatness we are leaning on a broken reed. If you cannot get away from this heavy burden, accept it for a set length of time, for example one year. I'm not saying that to oblige you, no, because in your place, I would respond negatively to the first official proposal, then I would see. Who knows whether the choice of Miss Utinet or Miss Camus, would not be good? They could at least be tried.

On the other hand, I would be happy to see you as Directress a little longer in order to apply the Rules of the new Manual. I imagine that it will need many explanations and broad experience. Once the Manual has been received, it must be kept strictly. Poor daughter, to accept temporarily for a determined length of time, would not hinder your participation in the great Eucharistic project. I will make it up to you by waiting.

I am eager to be in Paris to house the elderly for you.

²⁹ No indication of date or place. Tentative placement because of preceding correspondence.

³⁰ Her past relationship to Dr. Lalour disturbs her. She is worried about future contacts. He cautions her to be prudent.

³¹ Leadership in the Third Order.

³² Miss de Revel.

Paris, 1857

Write to me here until Monday of the following week. Your letters are like good and comforting visits for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. The thermal waters are a bit difficult for me to take, but they are passing well.

693

CO 690

**TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL.
SACRAMENT)**
(IV 2/36)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), August 24, 1857

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I've waited three days to answer your last letter; you can understand why; before writing about such an important decision, we must consult God and be stripped of self.

This then is my answer: I am quite willing to work together with you, for the love and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ in his divine Sacrament. Your thoughts are my thoughts, your desires are my desires; it's for the service and kingdom of the Holy Eucharist that I've made so many sacrifices and with his holy grace, I am willing to make even greater ones.

It was also my desire to discuss our plans for a Third Order, with the same principles. I was quite surprised, when I read the rules (which I read before your letter), to find my own text nearly word for word. So, I really praised God for it. Our old and new relationship would then result in joining our Works and sacrifices for the eucharistic service of Jesus: may he be praised for it!

Here was my plan: to form a branch of women adorers, in addition to the one for men; to form quietly a congregation for women, gathered together and living in a community, who share in our public prayers while waiting to be organized and live according to the same rule which, according to your thought, could be called a Regular Third Order of the Blessed Sacrament.

Then I would like to have a secular Third Order; adapted to the various vocations; and also a Third Order for secular priests, - for men, - for youth. - Many priests have already asked me for it. Then the Third Order would be a means of forming chosen souls who would form adorers in the world.

I really like your plan for a Third Order. Allow me a few observations!

Article 1, title 1, number 1, - I would prefer the form of title II, article 1. "The purpose of the Third Order is 1: To bring about the sanctification of its members by devotion to the Blessed Sacrament; 2. To devote itself entirely to the glory of Jesus Christ in the adorable Eucharist."

Then, follow with numbers 1 and 2 of the explanations you give me.

The purpose which we are setting for our little society is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ in the most Blessed Sacrament by the four ends of Sacrifice: adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, and petition. - or a perpetual mission of prayer. We take the whole Eucharist.³³ That is why I couldn't accept the idea of reparation alone from Ursuline Street,³⁴ nor an exclusively contemplative life. We want not only to adore, serve, and love Jesus Eucharistic, but especially to make him known, adored, served and loved in all hearts. The works found in number 4 are the same as ours, but adding eucharistic retreats.

³³ Literally: the Blessed Sacrament entirely.

³⁴ Mother Marie-Therese Dubouche's foundation.

Paris, 1857

Article III, title I, - It is evident that it would be necessary to eliminate the first point for married people.

Article IV of title II: To recite the *Miserere* daily – Wouldn't it be better to have something positive, like the *Tantum Ergo* and an act of reparation to the Most Blessed Sacrament, made according to the spirit of the Institute?

Article 8 – “If day and night adoration is not established in the parish, they will join the nearest fraternity of the Third Order.”

I think that in the revision it would be necessary to add a few articles about the organization of a fraternity, - that is, for a group of Third Order members; - but that will be easy as soon as we have the specifics.

For the invocation “*Laus et gratiarum actio*,” we have chosen this one: “*Laudemus et adoremus in aeternum - Sanctissimum Sacramentum*,”³⁵ - first of all because it's accepted in Paris; and then it's more rhythmic than the other. It's true, it doesn't have an indulgence, so we could change it.

I'm keeping your outline, and I'm sending you the fine spiritual letter of your respected Bishop.

I'll be here for another 12 days; I would be happy to hear from you again. From here I will go to La Salette, then to Paris. Pray that the holy Will of God may take place in us.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

694

CO 691

TO MME.NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 20/75)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard (Isere), August 24, 1857

Dear Madame,

We really are at the two extremes of France, you at Thouville and I close to the Savoie. I have been here for about 10 days with a sinus infection, they say. I still don't feel the effects of the waters. I'm told that we feel the benefits only later. What a life these bathers have! We feel happy when we can meet some beautiful souls with whom we can speak about God; that is what happened to me. If only you were here! I would certainly like that better, because our souls met in God.

I'll stay here about 12 days, then I'll go to visit my sister and return to my divine and beloved Tabernacle.

I hope to meet Mr. Giraud in Grenoble and say hello. I'll greet you from a distance, dear Lady, because I expect to return to Paris around September 10th.

My affectionate regards to your dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

³⁵ Praise and thanksgiving - Let us praise and adore forever the most Blessed Sacrament.

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 9/19)

All for the honor and glory of Jesus Hostia

Allevard, August 24, 1857

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letter was like a little visit; I am pleased with it - first of all, I see that our Lord is giving you many graces - I have never found you better, may he be praised!

So make this firm decision: 1) always go to God with the soul of an artist, that is the right word, and it is a charming idea which is very accurate. We go to God as he has made us and as we are. - Yes - be God's artist, gather everything and offer it to him.

I like and approve your way of praying. In any case, even if you wanted to do otherwise, it would be in vain, you could not do it. We must go to God by the path he opens for us in this world. The [path] of [knowing] our limitations and [expressing] our gratitude is very beautiful and very sure. Continue on that way until it pleases God to change it.

The proximity of the eucharist is good for you - enjoy it - but this perspective of living under a rule which is not presently possible, may very easily become a reality. The essential thing is that things should be stabilized as I mentioned to you, and that the community should exist.³⁶ Therefore, pray that this grace may come soon.

The springs are helping me. The waters are a bit difficult to take - I will stay another 2 weeks. May Jesus be your all. All yours in our Lord,

Eymard SSS

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 21/181 VI 3)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Allevard, August 29, 1857³⁷

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your welcome letter. I was beginning to be lonely. I thank the good Lord so much to know that you are all faithful to your place of honor close to our Good Master! What a life we lead at the springs! only the thought of being more useful sustains me here!

I was happy that good Fr. Marie Augustine³⁸ was with you, so I am surprised that you are already talking about his departure. It seems to me that he would be so happy near the eucharistic throne. As for alms and other money for him, I received only 400 francs from Fr. Bouillierie. Since divine Providence sent us 500 francs by means of his charity, and the good Father told us to use them, I need only to thank him very sincerely.

³⁶ The future Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

³⁷ The month was incorrectly interpreted as April in the French Volume I. However, was this letter sent? See following document.

³⁸ Religious name of Fr. Hermann Cohen.

Paris, 1857

Speak with Father about the house and the cloister. I truly believe that God is preparing everything to establish us at the very place where he blessed us.³⁹

The dear Father must love that chapel with its touching memories. Who knows whether it will not be the source of even greater graces.

The mineral waters are a bit difficult for me to take; they say that's natural. I am weak, I am sleeping very little. On the other hand, my chest feels better. They probed my lungs and found nothing but fatigue.

You can be sure that I am following the treatments conscientiously. I am doing what you say: all I do is take the treatment, eat and sleep.

My regards to the good Fathers and brothers, my respects to the sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.S.S.S.

P.S. I have a Roman Ordo here. Thank you.

697

CO 694

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 22/181 VI 3)

Grenoble, September 2, 1857

Very dear Colleague,

I wanted to write to you from Allevard. I had even begun a letter. I don't know why I didn't write to you sooner. Life at the springs is so numbing, I wasn't sick, but I was uncomfortable because of the spring waters. I didn't sleep, and I exercised very little because my legs were weak. In short, everyone tells me that it's a good sign; in fact it seems that my breathing has improved. I am here at Grenoble and in a few hours I will be leaving for La Mure d'Isere. I need to rest a little, to sleep and calm down; it will take six or seven days. At the end of next week, I hope to embrace you and tell you about the lovely events of my trip.

About the house on Cerisay St. If the Archdiocese dropped us, I would feel badly about it. I feel strongly about our initial preference to avoid debts. We would hardly have any there: 70,000 francs, needing to pay only 35,000 in five months, while being left free for the rest. While waiting, we would keep the house where we are and who knows whether we might need both in the future.

Please see Mr. Meignin, the notary, on rue St. Honore 316, I believe, and ask him how things are developing. If there is no hope, let's buy this little house.

If you think it wise, see Mr. Lergarde to find out from him whether the conditions I had offered him are acceptable. In any event, I am enclosing a letter for Mr. Barrau. Read it and if you think it can be done and is providential, send it, or rather bring it, to Mr. Barrau. The good Lord may want us to begin on a small scale.

I assure you that when I think about a debt of 300,000 francs, I am afraid, because I don't see any natural solution. What agony! God is our Father, Jesus our King. He will not forsake his servants.

Write to me at la Mure d'Isere and forgive me for having left you without letters.

I embrace you all in "*osculo sancto*."⁴⁰

All yours in J.C.,
Eymard S.S.S.

³⁹ Plans for a second foundation.

⁴⁰ With a holy kiss. Reference to St. Paul.

TO MR. BARRAU

(I 1/1)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Grenoble, September 2, 1857

Dear Mr. Barrau,⁴¹

I am deeply touched by your good will toward us and our little Society.

I believe that divine Providence has provided us this help and that you will be its helping hand.

I therefore beg you, dear Sir, to ask Mr. Chauveau, the lawyer, to purchase the property on rue Cerisay for us, for 70,000 francs on condition that we could retain 35,000 francs.

I thought of addressing you directly, with the hope of a speedy arrangement. In order not to miss the next mail, I hasten to express my deep gratitude toward you.

Dear Sir, it is my honor to be

Your devoted and grateful servant,
Fr. Eymard,
Superior of the Religious of the

Bl. Sacr.

Mr. Barrau

cloister of the Bernardines, N. 14

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 169/395 VI 2)

La Mure, September 15, 1857

Dear daughter,

I am leaving here tomorrow. I will be in Lyons, Thursday night at 6:00. Miss du Rousset will come for me at the Perrache station by coach. I told her that I want to see you for business matters... at the home of Mr. Gaudioz where I will come to see you on arrival. And then, if there is a possibility of seeing you again on the next day, we will arrange it. I am well. My sisters thank you very much.

I was not able to answer you: I was taken up with a thousand and one things and visits. Excuse me.

I prayed for you all at La Salette and at Laus.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss M. Guillot
17 Rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons
Rhône

⁴¹ This letter was sent to Fr. de Cuers with the preceding letter, to be given to the addressee. (Garreau)

TO FR. MARIUS CARRIE SS
(VI 1/2)

All for the love of Jesus-Hostia

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, September 23, 1857

Dear Sir,

I read your letter of the 17th of this month with great interest. You expressed your desire to come and join our life of adoration and become a member of our little Society.

It is with pleasure, Sir, that I accept to receive you into our family.⁴² The opinion and advice of dear Father Brunello are enough to convince me of your eucharistic vocation. However, dear Sir, you are aware that we are just beginning, and when you come you must be prepared to share in the trials which are inevitable in a new foundation; by the same token, you will have the initial grace. We will try to have you begin and advance your Latin studies.

You may come at once; you will be received as a brother. Father de Cuers already gives you that name (of long-standing between us). Bring your goodwill; that is the mark of the true adorer sought and called by Jesus.

Give my loving and devoted regards to dear Father Brunello, whom we love dearly and consider as one of our own.

I am, in our Lord, dear Sir, your most devoted servant.

Eymard, Superior

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION
(**SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT**)
(IV 3/36)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, September 27, 1857

Very dear sister,

I have just come from La Salette; that's the reason for my delay.

I've just read your letters, and here is my reply.

1. I have a great love for the Order of Carmelites, and everything which has to do with the Blessed Virgin; but I have a great reluctance toward any merger, at least until such time as the good Lord should show us his Will about it. - Several mergers were suggested to me, and I didn't want them. I had only one thought: the divine Eucharist is great enough, powerful enough to be sufficient unto itself; everything must flow from It and return to It. Its spirit must be ONE, and flow from this divine heart. - Its rules, its works, its means, everything is found in the adorable Host.

Would to God that we should be sufficiently holy and on fire with love to see it and read it in Jesus Christ Eucharistic!

2. In all my free moments, I will work to draw up my notes on the Third Order. Several priests are waiting for it. I understand more than ever that to rekindle, nourish and perfect the spirit of eucharistic

⁴² literally: among our children.

Paris, 1857

devotion among priests is the work par excellence, the most excellent of all. Jesus can do everything; if it pleases him to choose such poor instruments, it's because he wants to have all the glory.

When I returned here I found the fury of the devil unleashed against our little Work. - May God rise up and fight for his glory! Yes, my dear sister, we must make our foundation by means of the cross and serve Jesus Hostia by sacrifice.

Before I left, everything was going fine, we were going to buy a house, money was being offered, etc. Candidates were becoming enthusiastic over such a beautiful Work, my collaborators were in good health. Everything has changed, everything is going badly. May God be praised!

If we needed further dialogue, would you come to spend a few days in Paris?

How good God was to have us work together in Lyons and perhaps to join us together again for his glory and eucharistic kingdom!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

Miss Virginie Danion
Mauron, (Morbihan)

702

CO 699

TO FR. BOUX
(VI 1/1)

Paris, rue d'Enfer 114, September 29, 1857

Dear Father,⁴³

Allow me to add my very sincere congratulations to all those you have already received for your 2 volumes on Law for Religious Clergy. I never knew that this subject was so profound and so beautiful. Thank you, you have done a great service for the religious life. What you have achieved is worth a whole life.

I have been looking for the answer to a question which will perhaps seem absurd, but it was put to me, and I would like to ask your opinion:

(1) May a Congregation of religious (masc.) hold its services in the same church as religious sisters of the same vocation?

If the Congregation of Reparation in rue des Ursulines had also a branch of reparatory men religious, may the sisters say the divine office with the religious in their public church, open to all? and share in their adorations?

(2) May they live near the same church, with all separations and moral precautions taken?

(3) May the sisters have a separate choir in the same church and make nocturnal adoration there?

I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to enlighten me on these various questions and tell me if any decisions need to be made. You know that the Picpus⁴⁴ live next to their sisters.

Please accept, in anticipation, my deepest gratitude and believe me, in our Lord Jesus Christ, Father,

Your most devoted servant,
Fr. Eymard

⁴³ Father Bouix sent this letter to Mother Marie-Therese, Foundress of the Reparation.

⁴⁴ Religious of Perpetual Adoration of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary - men and women's branches, known popularly by the name of the street on which they were founded.

Paris, 1857

703

CO 700

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 170/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 1, 1857

Don't worry about anything. I'll write you about myself some other time. I am fine.

Make a novena for me to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the spirit of his Holy Surrender. I have come upon crosses which I hope will turn to the glory of God, or will prove that God doesn't want our Work.

704

CO 701

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 171/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 3, 1857

Dear daughter,

What a letter I received from you this morning! my heart is still beating with amazement.

During these last few days I was saying to God: My God, send me a helper like Fr. Champion, and your letter arrived! ... Oh yes, I will receive him like a brother and dear friend. I haven't forgotten his year of suffering.⁴⁵ Without any doubt I see many difficulties but if God so wills, everything passes: grace is so strong! I think you must have received my letter about they are fine and not in want; they have good friends.

If God gives us Fr. C., I will be happy about all our difficulties: he will be its blessed fruit.

I have only enough time to say that I am,

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

⁴⁵ French: *épreuve*

Paris, 1857

705

CO 702

TO FR. MARIUS CARRIE, SSS
(VI 2/2)

All for the glory and love of Jesus-Hostia

Paris, October 5, 1857

Dear Sir,

I am writing not to console you in the midst of your troubles, but to say: take heart, your vocation is on the right track, since God is testing it. Remember that if we follow Jesus Christ, our nature will revolt and despair. If you were on the path to wealth, worldly glory, or to the noblest and richest marriage, no one would think it unreasonable for you to leave your home and family for such a brilliant future: that is the law of the world.

Now, dear Sir, consider the goodness and greatness of the King you wish to serve, the favor he is granting you, the “better part” he is reserving for you, and you will say: that is too great an honor and happiness for me.

Your relatives will not be losing you. You will be able to see them. We are not cloistered. And then, you will have a time of probation during which to test our eucharistic life.

Be assured, dear Sir, that your relatives will lose nothing: Jesus will repay them a hundredfold.

When you come, bring all your personal effects - linen, clothing, some towels and sheets, if possible. We will supply the rest. Bring your books too; but above all, come with joy and confidence to the holy house of the Lord, and you will see how sweet it is to serve him. Come as soon as you can. You will be welcomed as a beloved brother. Write and tell me the date of your arrival.

My very best wishes to dear Fr. Brunello.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

706

CO 703

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 172/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 6, 1857

Dear daughter, you asked me for some details about our difficulties: here they are. The devil turned the minds of two of our priests during my absence; they spoke unfavorably about our Work to outsiders. They took steps with their Bishop to leave, and didn't spare the Work. When I arrived, a brother whom they had brought with them, left. Two business transactions in view of buying a house failed in my absence.

One of our Priests wrote to the Cardinal of Paris to ask him for an assignment, which hurt me very much. Fr. de Cuers remained faithful and committed; he is a saint.

Everyday I am learning unbelievable things.

In the midst of it all, my heart doesn't lose confidence.

Fr. Hermann came here when I was away; they turned him against us. He is writing us unbelievable things.

God alone, good daughter, is the true, fundamental and lasting foundation. I hope that God's hand will sustain us, we are praying very much. My soul is remaining calm; it seems to me that God will do something.

Paris, 1857

If Fr. Champion comes, that will make up for everything.

Don't be sad about us; calm follows the storm. Then as long as I see Jesus on his throne, the rest seems like very little.

So then you are on Calvary for a second time. Well! God wills it.

Be open and free with Fr. Jacquet; I think that with the written rule⁴⁶ there will be fewer difficulties.

I am waiting to have news about Fr. C.'s big question.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

707

CO 704

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 3/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 6, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your letter at Allevard and resolved to write to you from the blessed mountain of Notre Dame de la Salette. I even began to do so, but it was impossible to finish. I was busy with pilgrims and dear brothers.

I wasn't able to do so since I arrived here either. Crosses awaited me; they haven't blossomed yet, but I receive them as coming from the heart of our Lord: - I had some disappointments. Two priests on whom I was counting have given up. They are still here, but their decision is made. May God be blessed and glorified by it.

The Work is progressing nonetheless. Exposition hasn't suffered for it; as long as Jesus will be on his throne of grace and love, I hope and I trust. Trials are light to bear when Jesus is with us.

Finally, I'm sending you the minutes, not for long, only for a month! They don't belong to me. They didn't want to give them to me and they don't know that they are being sent so far. I would have been refused, but I can't refuse you anything, dear daughter.

I'm happy about the good news regarding your adoration program. Yes, do spread the eucharistic fire everywhere, and God will set your own soul on fire.

Please don't give up holy Communion; that is where all your strength lies.

I won't comment on the details from your first letter, it has been too long. Write to me again about your present state of soul.

My religious regards to your sister.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, Superior

⁴⁶ For the Third Order of Mary.

Paris, 1857

708

CO 705

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(VII 2/2)⁴⁷

“May the grace of God and his holy love make my heart beat and be consumed for his glory: that is all that I desire!” October 7, 1857

709

CO 707

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 173/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 9, 1857

Dear daughter, I’ve just received the letter from Fr. Champion in which he is asking me for his admission. I answered that I would receive him with a welcoming heart in either hypothesis. There is no reason why I should be stricter toward him than toward a priest who is free, since he would be free of his vows.

Tell this dear Father to ask Fr. Favre for a certificate in order that he may have the faculties, that would serve as his *celebret*; his honor requires it. What a grace for us! I cannot get over it. Praised be the Cross when God sweetens it this way! Let him come as soon as possible, for he must be suffering greatly ... [*twelve lines erased*]. Please pray for Fr. C. May God sustain him and give him to us, or rather to his divine Son. I am well, I’ve just received a letter from Mme. G.⁴⁸ I’ll go see the little one, but if he insists on leaving, it will be necessary to let him go. God will arrange everything. Write to me as soon as you know something.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. It would be a beautiful trio if Fr. Br. came some day!

710

CO 706

TO FR. CYR ARMAND CHAMPION, SSS
(VI 2/2 I 5)

All for the love and glory of Jesus-Hostia

Paris, October 9, 1857

Very dear Father Champion,

This is to answer your letter of May 2nd. - I was very touched by it, for since I’ve been in Paris I’ve had no news of you at all. I see from your letter that you wish to leave the apostolic ministry to join us in our eucharistic life - I desire with all my heart that God may call you to this beautiful life, and that you will come and share in our sorrows and joys.

⁴⁷ Following the certification of his healing, attributed to prayers done in honor of the Holy Face of our Lord, Fr. Eymard added the above.

⁴⁸ Perhaps from Mme. Gourd about one of the - perhaps orphaned - children she had placed in a boarding school.

Paris, 1857

You ask me if I will receive you with the authorization of Rev. Fr. Favre. - Yes, dear Father, with all my heart, - for among the priests who surround me, I still don't find true religious.⁴⁹ (the rest is missing)

711

CO 708

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 174/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 18, 1857

Dear daughter, isn't our Lord good and very good? I was far from expecting all that; but this good Master was preparing me interiorly, in so many ways! May God be blessed for it. Everything will be a grace.

I thank our Lord so much for having sent me good Fr. Ch.! The room of the one who left was not fully ready when this good Father arrived. This arrival together with the departure on the eve surprised me so that I paid for it with a migraine headache that lasted for three days. There is nothing we would not willingly suffer to establish the Eucharistic kingdom of Jesus!

I went to the Marist Fathers in Paris, hoping to see Fr. Favre there. I saw only Fr. Terraillon, the Provincial, who knew everything. They had already written to him that Fr. Ch. was leaving disobediently. They no longer mention his request made a year ago, nor the services he rendered. That is how human beings repay. This trial will only strengthen Father in his new grace. He is edifying us; he is making us so happy.

The other priest will leave shortly. For the past three days his sister has become like an idiot and infantile. How strange! It seems that the change was caused by the grief of separation.

Oh! Good daughter, if you share our sorrows so keenly, you also need to share our graces. Rejoice in the grace of our Lord which will surely triumph over the devil.

I don't want the cape thank her for us; we use only white.

Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

712

CO 709

TO MME.ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 4/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 18, 1857

Madame,

I'm sorry that I allowed you only one month's time to copy the manuscripts. For fear that it might make you ill, I'm giving you two months. Take more if you need it rather than make yourself sick.

Thank you for the good things you sent me. I read them and enjoyed them, and what a surprise! I had just reread the pages you sent about reparation when a woman friend of yours called for me at the parlor. By her conversation I recognized either the author or the confidante of this

⁴⁹ Literally: men of religious life.

Paris, 1857

beautiful idea, and I couldn't help telling her that I knew about the Work, that someone had written to me about it. I mentioned Nantes and this woman immediately mentioned your name.

So, it seems we won't see you this winter! Life is like that; our paths cross and separate, but Jesus remains. He is the divine center of all hearts who love him and dedicate themselves to his glory.

I am quite happy to know that you are busy with the Work of Adoration. Continue to go forward: the Eucharist angers hell and human passions, but it always triumphs, provided that there is an arm to bear the torch of love and enkindle the divine fire as it passes. Continue to find your strength in the Bread of the strong. You are too weak to live from your inner self and devotion.

Ask our Good Master to make you as he wills, but don't be afraid to be as you are. I don't know if I've spoken to you about a charming book: *The Lover of God!* ... It must be shared. It's excellent!

Believe me always, in Jesus Hostia,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

713

CO 710

TO CARDINAL MORLOT, ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS
(VI 1/4)

Paris, October 28, 1857

Your Eminence,

I forgot to include with the documents I had the honor of presenting to Your Eminence, the most consoling one for us. In November 1856 I had received from the Bishop de Tripoli⁵⁰ a written mandate giving us permission for three days of Exposition per week followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This most precious document was mislaid among Fr. Surat's papers - I had left it with him last December. As our number has increased, the Bishop of Tripoli⁵¹ (who was given to us as our Superior by the [late] Archbishop) then gave us the one I am now sending Your Eminence, so that you may judge the matters that concern us with knowledge of the facts.

I am happy to be, with the deepest veneration and the most complete surrender, Your Eminence,

Your humble son in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Paris
October 28, 1857

⁵⁰ Bishop Leon Sibour, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris

⁵¹ *ibid.*

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 175/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 29, 1857

Very dear daughter,

I can't tell you all the different feelings I experienced when I read your letter. So then, are you trying to be like the good Lord who is ever giving and never runs out! Can you really always have something left to give! How am I going to pay this great debt? I almost feel like reproaching you a little. Winter is coming: you must provide for yourself. You are in straights and you give us everything you have. I could cry over it, as I am the one who would be so happy to share everything with you: not my little crosses, but our purse and our bread. It's too much. I am deeply moved by it ... [5 lines erased].

Dear Fr. Champion is well, very well. He is happy and content. He has found his center. Our Lord had been saving him for Himself for a long time; what a joy it is for me to have such a good helper and loving brother!

Joy has returned to the house with this good Father. Nothing seems difficult, he is so dedicated.

We suffered very much from the four departures, but God comforts us. Yesterday a fine brother arrived from Marseilles to be sacristan. It's an employment that was neglected.

I have a little more time for myself since yesterday. I'll write to those with whom I am lagging behind. His Eminence asked me for our Constitutions, and they needed much work. I marvelled at the kind regards from the Venerable Cure d'Ars; it made me happy.

We would surely love Lyons: our heart is there; but as you know dear daughter, Moses and Aaron only changed the place of the ark when the column in the desert would rise and go before them. Our King is Jesus; we will go where he will go, and we will stay where he will stay.

My health is not too bad, quite well even. Continue to pray for us, do ... the devil is busier than ever. It seems that we were wronged with the Cardinal. This fine Archbishop thought that we were in Paris without permission, and without the approval of Bishop Sibour.

I gave him all our documents. Whatever God wants will happen, and what God wants is always the best.

At the first opportunity I will send you an excellent cream for your poor sister Mariette; it will heal her.

My fond regards to all your sisters.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I wrote a few words to Madame Delpuche.

I am reopening my letter to tell you that I have just seen ... he is settled ... he is happy and content...

If the crate isn't gone yet, please kindly send us a simple purple vestment, with silk tapes, of about 50 francs. See to it that the chalice veil be large and square, without lining, and entirely made of silk.

If ... has a chalice made for us, suggest that they use the style of the Middle Ages: low and wide.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix,
Fourviere, Lyons

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN

(V 3/5)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, October 29, 1857

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

I have just learned that you are very sad; that your dear father is very ill. I immediately recommended you both to our Lord because I understand how heavy and painful this cross must be. Be strong, dear daughter, be generous on the cross, with our Lord. It's the moment to kiss his adorable hand and whatever the future holds, whether trials or consolations.

What a joy for your poor father to have you near him! to receive your spiritual and physical care! Oh! Yes, you will be doubly blessed and rewarded, because you have both saved and cared for your father! Think of his soul, his Paradise. I know that you have done so, but if God should desire this beautiful soul for himself, prepare it, love it for the glory of God. Today we are beginning a novena [to pray] for his healing if it is for the good of his soul, and for you, dear daughter, so that God may support you and comfort you in these days of sorrow and pain. If only I were near you! I would go to help you bear this cross. At least, we will pray very much.

In closing, let me thank you again for everything you have done for our Lord. This memory is ever alive for me.

I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Fanny Matagrín, Tarare

TO ANTONIA BOST

(IV 15/28)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia!

Paris, October 29, 1857

Dear Mademoiselle,

Thank you, thank you so much for having given me news about yourself and about Miss Matagrín. Please give her this letter.

You are still suffering, poor daughter! I understand it: a loving heart which has always loved finds comfort in suffering.

But why so many tears over such a holy mother? I surely bless them, because they are so pure, but they are harming you. They are shortening your days, tightening up your heart.

Don't cry anymore, because your dear mother is in heaven. She is rejoicing in God; she is waiting for you, sees you, loves you, blesses you.

We don't cry over the elect, or only very little, like Jesus over Lazarus his friend, and Mary over Jesus.

Oh! dear daughter, you must understand that God alone is life, the life of love and its joy!

Have a great love for the good Lord who is also preparing a beautiful throne and a beautiful and virginal crown for you. You are loved in God, infinitely and eternally.

Paris, 1857

I do pray for you, and for all your loved ones. Do so a little for me.
You know how devotedly I am, dear daughter, one with you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.

717

CO 714

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 176/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 1, 1857

Dear daughter, I received everything that you generously sent us. The jams arrived safely and they are excellent.

Dear Fr. de Cuers, who is the sacristan, was jubilant to receive something for his sacristy which had become rather bare after the robberies.

The vestment is very lovely, thank you ... [6 lines erased].

Fr. Champion was pleased with the cross and with your kind regards. He is truly humble of heart. Write him a few words from time to time.

Accept the office of Directress since everything points in that direction, but only to guide the ship and not to be ever supervising its operations.

Thank good papa Gaudioz for me. I will write to him later.

Yes, yes, we will have the Masses for your deceased loved ones said right away. They are ours as well, they will be offered first.

Since yesterday, Fr. Champion has all the faculties from the Archdiocese. So now he is settled. I have time only to bless you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

718

CO 715

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 24/76)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 7, 1857

Finally, dear daughter in our Lord, I have a little time to give you. I've been like someone who is out in the hail without any shelter, who can think of nothing else except to bear it; [like someone who is] without any time, or rather, without any courage for anything else.

These small storms are mostly over. Two priests, the sister of one of them and a brother have left. What made me sad was to see that we might have to suspend Exposition for lack of subjects. But our Lord had pity on us.

A few hours after the departure of the first priest, Fr. Champion arrived, and a few days later, a brother. So, we remain six as before. See how good the good Lord is! Yes, our eucharistic Work comes from God. There are so many miracles from providence that we would be very ungrateful and quite blind not to see them or not to thank his divine goodness.

May God repay you for your loan to him through my poor person. You deprive yourself too much for Jesus; be less generous towards us. I saw the eldest of the D. brothers. He is a fine young

Paris, 1857

man, and strikes me as quite intelligent. I suggested placing him in the city with a master shoemaker, who is a good Christian; he could perfect his trade there. He was quite happy to accept. I expect an answer soon, dear daughter; that will be one more grace from divine Providence. I didn't give him your letter as I thought it would be unnecessary.

As for the poor girl who is asking you to rent a room and be free during the day, you did well to turn her away. It would be better to let her go home to her father, so we wouldn't be responsible for her probable downfall in that style of life.

It seems to me that I have heard about Miss Besson, but I would prefer to see her there than elsewhere. Those places usually have a good reputation; otherwise they would lose trust.

However, if she asks to return to her father, let her return. God will arrange everything for the better. If she had had a religious vocation, we could have put her in a good Community. Insist on having her try that institution. If she were educated, it would favor her entrance into a Community.

719

CO 584

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 49/52)⁵² ...⁵³

8) Yes, tell your dear mother everything. She is the confessor of your heart and the center of your life. Make use of her to pour your loving daughter's heart into her maternal heart. How fortunate you are to have such a mother and such a good mother!

Please, dear daughter! At your age, one should be without worry, without grief or malice; but like a simple, happy and joyful child, enjoying God, your family, and the goodness of God - and loving him with your whole heart.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

720

CO 716

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 5/104)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 8, 1857

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I was very pleased to read all the letters you sent me. Thank you. How good the good Lord is to put me in touch with such beautiful souls!

Don't copy the minutes for me since they belong to one of the Ladies here in Paris. I would ask her to do so if I needed them. I'm sorry it takes you so long to copy these little scraps of devotion. Take care of your health.

The eucharistic service of our Lord is going well in spite of the spiritual poverty of its poor servants. Trials come and go like the ebb and flow of the sea, but Jesus loves and sustains us.

All yours in his divine love,
Eymard, Superior

⁵² Excerpt from a letter.

⁵³ No indication of date. Tentative placement because of preceding correspondence.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 177/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 10, 1857

I say with you: may God be praised! You will have the merit of having accepted: let it be, and step aside, but without seeming to pout. Say only good things about the new Directress, and don't admit any ill feelings against the new councilors. Tell everyone that it is the grace of obedience that makes Superiors, and gives them wisdom and power.

... [8 lines erased].

For ... tomorrow we will begin a novena in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the souls in Purgatory.

Yes, yes, God will make her husband a good Christian. As for going back to him, that calls for some thought. As a matter of justice and conscience she is not obliged to; it would only be for the sake of charity. It would be necessary to discretely obtain information about his (her) temporal affairs and require a dismissal ... no doubt.

We must pray very much. Write me what you know about it.

The mail is leaving.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 178/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, November 12, 1857

I am hurrying to tell you, dear daughter, that the lovely chalice is 28 centimeters too high and must be very large. I saw some at Favier's of Paris, the uncle of the Faviers in Lyons; they are about 20 to 22 inches. Tell Mr. Favier that it is the Troyes style with a flat base.

Mr. Favier was letting us have it gilded for 225 francs. Note that labor is more expensive in Paris than in Lyons.

I forgot to tell you that I began the novena for your mother last Tuesday: I am continuing it One must be pure to enter into heaven ... your mother was so good, so pious, so wise! Heaven is without clouds; it is the brightness of God; one must be without stain....

We still don't have any answer about a locale. It seems that for the moment the good Lord wants us to be without a place, without a lease, without knowing the future: may he be blessed for it! Good Fr. Ch. has great hopes for a house, that we be permanently established, and in the midst of the people. No doubt his desires are good, but the good Lord hasn't yet said: I want to live there, that is my house. Although his holy ark is under a tent, Jesus wouldn't change in order to be in a beautiful church, nor we, to be in a house of our own.

And my bills! You keep forgetting your business matters!⁵⁴

We will be happy to receive Father B. But we must wait a while.

If the good Lord wants him to be with us, he will provide him with a favorable opportunity. For myself, I don't need anything; I know him, and that's enough. The Archdiocese, however, always

⁵⁴ He wanted her to send a bill for the vestments received.

Paris, 1857

requires a certificate or a *Celebret* from the Archdiocese of Lyons. Fr. Champion can instruct him about it. This dear Father is doing well. He is here as if he had always been: his attraction has found its center.

I saw ... she wrote a very strong letter to ... telling her positively that she would send her back to her father if she doesn't benefit from the care of the Sisters; and if she is not converted, there is nothing else to do. We will see what effect the letter has.

I have hardly seen these fine Ladies.⁵⁵ I think they aren't very free, nor am I most times.

So then stop crying! You'll make yourself sick; and I'll be upset. Be stronger and trust God more.

Let the good Lord act. He will direct everything for the best.

Always all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. – Don't be afraid to bore us with your letters. You know how interested we are to read them.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

723

CO 719

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 179/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

November 26, 1857

Very dear daughter in the Lord,

Your letters provide us a fine and pleasant recreation. We never find them too long [24 lines erased].

As for that good Lady ... the more I go, the more I hesitate to tell her to return to her husband; it's a serious matter. She needs more than hopeful words, likelihoods, and a few religious gestures; but a sincere and constant return. What is needed is not an indirect approach but a personal one. What Madame should answer is clear: that she doesn't refuse to return to her husband if he has become a Christian and a better husband, but that she needs to see this by deeds and long-term behavior. If he were more generous and more concerned whether his wife has all that she needs, if he is attentive to her, that would be the beginning of better feelings.

She should not condone the past easily without some guarantee. In that case, justice and the law would no longer be on her side.

Present her my fond regards and genuine gratitude.

Now about you, dear daughter.

1. Don't hurry for Miss Duchere's Work: I will seek information about it here; then that would tie you down too much.

2. We are waiting for the answer on the Work for Tabernacles. If it is unfavorable to unite, then we will see about the one for the Propagation of the Faith.

3. I don't worry about Miss R.'s poor health. I knew her to be very weak.⁵⁶

4. It was on Tuesday and Wednesday ... that I began your novena ... [5 lines erased]. Thursday at 8 o'clock Fr. Champion said the Mass for ... [2 lines erased].

⁵⁵ The Ladies form Toulon, housed nearby.

⁵⁶ Her poor health is not an obstacle to her exercising leadership in the Third Order of Mary - Miss de Revel.

Paris, 1857

5. Be at peace about the Third Order and about everything that happened and will happen. You should expect the small humiliations that come with change, little complaints and especially interior suffering. All that is the beginning of being free: so have courage and trust! However, at such times of suffering, quiet nature's violent reactions. Be silent to opposition, and totally surrendered to the hail and thunder which God ordains and wants for you.

Yes, yes, good daughter, your place is ready and will always be reserved; don't worry about that. On the given day and hour, you will come peacefully with calm and joy ... requests ... myself wisdom and prudence, and to all holy love.

I wrote to Fr. B.; I don't know what will happen. I've just received a request from a priest who seems very devout. Write to us.

May Jesus comfort and bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

724

CO 720

TO THE LEMANN PRIESTS
(VI 1/1)

Paris, rue d'Enfer, 114, December 1, 1857

My dear friends,

It appears that Rev. Father Hermann will not come to preach for Advent at St. Clotilde. The "Universe" announces that the Pastor will preach.

I have been twice to thank you for your lovely furniture, but was not fortunate enough to see you. Meanwhile, thank you very much - it is most appreciated. Jesus, the Host of Love will reward you with graces. I found a 100 franc note in the Treasurer's desk. I wanted to know if it is yours before I return it to him.

With fond greetings to our friends,

All yours in J.C.
Eymard

725

CO 721

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 180/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 3, 1857

May God be blessed! Good daughter, you are free now: remain totally free and a stranger to it all. It is high time that you leave aside this whole burden of gossip and troubles. Continue to tell your secrets and sorrows only to God and to us.

Say good things and only good things about the members of the Council and the Directress. It is useless now to be making corrections. Be very reserved and discreet toward the Fathers, for you know what the Imitation says: those who are for you today will be against you tomorrow. Praised be God alone!

Paris, 1857

Your letter is fine; send it just as it is, and be firm.

However, if you are asked for information, give it simply without fanfare.

Tomorrow ... and after tomorrow, I will say the Mass, the one you requested.

The good ... are well. They come here when they can. We often speak about you. Your vocation is being purified and tried. It seems that things will go quickly. I would like to have you all here.

The good Lord himself will arrange it all.

I am praying very much for ... it's a comfort for us to know that she is so fond of our Eucharistic Work.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

726

CO 722

TO MME.CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 26/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 19, 1857

Very dear sister in our Lord,

Unfortunately, I put aside this reply until I would have more quiet, and I didn't have it until today. I'm taking advantage of it immediately.

How good God is to enable your fine father to make such a generous decision - and what is even more impressive, that he should make such great sacrifices! That is the most certain proof of God's grace.

When I read about his intention to go to the Carthusians, I was sorry that our Community wasn't sufficiently formed to say: "But your father ought to be with the Most Blessed Sacrament! We would be happy to receive him here!" But as we must respect God's plans for souls, we must let the thought of the Carthusians grow and develop in this beautiful soul: God will do the rest. So then, encourage him.

The life of the Carthusians is easier at a mature age than for a young person. Why continue to cry about your dear sister and hurt yourself in the process?⁵⁷ Scold her. As for a religious vocation, she would be fine, because then her heart would attach itself to God alone with all its strength. However, she must consider her own attraction and strength. The life of the Sisters of Charity is not a life of recollection, but of action: it is Martha.

You are going to Saint Chamond, so much the better! You will do good things there and you will water the little white flower of the Eucharist.

Embrace your children for me; I bless them. Pray for us. For the last three days we have been in difficulty: I've been told that our house will be sold. We must leave it in three months time, and leave this place which is so dear to us, but we will be bringing Jesus with us.

All yours in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. Don't be so lazy about writing.

⁵⁷ Probably her sister, Antonia Bost.

TO MME.ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 6/104)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, December 20, 1857

Good and dear daughter in our Lord,

If you knew everything I've had to do, you would forgive me a little. Under the weight of this storm I hardly had time to breathe. Finally our house is sold, and now we must leave here during the month of March. Our good Master knows where his Cenacle will be. He will show us, I hope. Pray with us a little.

I received everything, but I would reproach you for working so much. So then, thank you, may God repay you with his blessings. The person came. Now I will reply to your first letter.

1. Meditation - Do some of it every morning when you rise, in order not to lose that blessed custom. Plan to retire at night at a time to have sufficient rest. Get up a little before the others, if necessary. When our soul is well fed, our body is much better. When you feel a migraine headache starting, set meditation aside: be satisfied with Mass and holy Communion. Let that be a general rule whenever you are ill or have a migraine headache.

2. Confession - It is well to confess every week. I feel that you have improved on that. With your doubting conscience on possible mortal sins you could and should go to Communion within two weeks, if you cannot confess during the week. Confess yourself, my daughter, only to receive the grace of absolution. Consider the rest as supplementary.

Reject any fear and anxiety regarding confession and contrition. Leave the rest to divine mercy.

3. I'm happy to see that you aren't giving up holy Communion. It's your strength and your virtue; go like a poor person who is sick and infirm or like a daughter or spouse of our Lord; but always go.

4. Dislikes - You have almost conquered them but keep close watch over them, it is like a fever. Strive to be silent when you have strong emotions, and to do God's will when you are engaged in activity.

5. Attractions - No, don't reproach yourself so much for feelings of long-standing gratitude and love. Be at peace: time, the emptiness of human love, love for God which is greater will put things back in order. When you have given it too much thought and suffered too much, say like a Saint once did: "My God, henceforth I will attach myself only to you." Once that is said, it counts as your absolution.

6. First question of conscience: this new weakness doesn't affect the decision. Follow the same rule and set it aside whatever the trouble may be: - feelings are not consent; on this point, make only a general accusation, leave out the details.

7. Receive Communion in spite of your doubting conscience and even with the fear of having committed mortal sins. - Doubtful sins are no sin for you - and if you should have something to reproach yourself, it isn't mortal.

Feed on trust in the blessed kindness of Jesus Christ. Repeat often: "My God, your mercy is worth more than the most heroic, most devout life." Let that be your ticket to the wedding of the Lamb.

I bless you, my daughter. God loves you, love him well.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, Sup.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 181/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia

Paris, Christmas, 1857

Good Daughter,

We are still on the cross. The devil is doing his utmost to prevent us from buying the house we have in mind. But Jesus is King, he cannot be overcome.

This beautiful feast of Christmas has been a sorrowful day for me. Last night I was at adoration from 11 o'clock until midnight, I felt strong. Today I would like to shed a few tears, it would relieve me. Yesterday when I went to the Archdiocese to speak about that house again, I cried, something I had not done in a long time.

That is all fine. Yes, I will receive Mme. Richard as a postulant for the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament wholeheartedly, and I associate her to all our good works, and to our holy Work. When the time to enter into the community of adorers and as the ... servant of Jesus will have come, then I will receive her as well as Mr. Richard. But she must be very obedient toward you. Let her learn to do for the love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph all the things which are humanly most difficult and most crucifying for the service of Jesus.

Thank you for everything. Yes, a big thank you, dear daughter. We will pay you back for everything here; the benefit will return to you.

I would like to receive all your sisters if God is calling them. You are my family.

Goodbye, I have only enough time to bless you.

Eymard

APPENDIX I

Last Will and Testament of Fr. Peter Julian Eymard

“In the name of the Most Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, I, the undersigned, Peter Julian Eymard, born at La Mure d’Isere, declare that I make my will freely and willingly as follows:

“1. I give and will the usufruct [profit] of all movable and immovable property of mine which will be in La Mure on the day of my death, to my beloved sister Marianne Eymard, and after her death in gratitude to Miss Anne Bernard if she is still living with my sister until death.

“2. As responsible for the above and any other rightful claims, I name and establish as my universal heirs in equal partnership, M. Raymond de Cuers, priest, who lives with me in Paris in rue d’Enfer 114, and M. Champion, Cyrus, Amant, from Charios (Drome), priest.

“By this present document, I break and annul any other previous will. I recommend my soul to the infinite mercy of God and the charity of my sisters and friends.

Paris, June 22, 1856.”

The notarized copy of this will can be found in the archives of the Founder in Rome, together with a little sheet without any signature, dated Oct. 21 1868, entitled The Will of M. Julien Eymard, Blessed Sacrament Father, with the following detail:

Notary: The Will of M. Julien Eymard, Blessed Sacrament Father.

House and garden at La Mure, rue du Breuil

Income	300 fr.
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Price of Land at Genevray - 65 acres

Income	<u>60 fr.</u>
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Total	360 fr.
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1/2	180 fr.
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Capital	3600 fr.
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On Aug. 6, 1868, the Will was opened in Paris by Mr. Meignen and his colleagues (notaries) on rue St. Honore, when Frs. Augustin Crepon and Frederic Stafford presented the death certificate released by the town of La Mure.

The original document was kept by the notary.

APPENDIX II

TO REVEREND FATHER COLIN, S.M. FROM FATHER MAYET, S.M. (VI 5/6)

June 1854¹

Very Reverend Father,²

Allow me to have recourse to you, not as to my Superior, but as to an enlightened director, so that you may kindly examine my thoughts in the presence of God and tell me whether you think they come from him. Tell me just as you would tell a stranger consulting you...

Octave of the Blessed Sacrament, June 20-21, 1854

I have resolved, during this Octave, to examine before God my thoughts and desires for an order which would be engaged in adoring the Holy Eucharist, making it loved and adored, and whose religious would have the name, "Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament" or something similar.

I

Everything seems to presage that this order will soon appear:

1. Never perhaps has the Holy Spirit produced in souls such a lively and universal movement towards the worship of the Holy Eucharist. - To sustain, rekindle and direct this movement, it would seem that we need priests dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament. For our Lord has entrusted the works of his Church to the priesthood, that is his usual Providence, otherwise they die.

2. From various parts of France, God seems to be preparing, and gently nurturing, people who are beginning to meet to form a religious body of men. They are beginning to meet each other, or at least, be aware of each other.

3. Just as before the institution of the feast of the Blessed Sacrament, our Lord showed a religious woman³ the liturgy in the form of an incomplete star, could we not say that the Church lacks a religious order dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Sacraments, - the devotion of devotions?

These three reasons would seem to indicate that the time is near.

II

This order would not be monastic, but apostolic - that is, contemplative and active. That is the most perfect life, the essence of the priesthood, which is essentially for God and for souls. The time would thus be divided between contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament, and the practice of zeal through preaching, writing, the arts, etc. Adoration itself would be an exercise of zeal, a silent sermon on the love of Jesus Christ, since it would take place in chapels open to the public - moreover, in big cities, in big population centers.

The lay religious who were neither artists nor writers would, after their service in choir and Adoration, devote themselves to manual work, or to zeal. There would be special attire, or at least a distinctive sign - if clerical attire is retained - either so that they should be always reminded to set a good example, or to remind people of the Blessed Sacrament, as they would be its apostles.

¹ Introduction to the presentation which followed.

² At this time Fr. Colin was no longer Superior General. There is also an opinion that this draft was never sent to him.

³ Blessed Juliana of Mount Cornillon.

III

The aim of this order would, then, be to love Jesus Eucharistic and to make him loved; to adore him, and make him adored; to have him honored in his Sacrament of love by all possible means, and to safeguard most zealously the respect and splendor of everything that has to do with eucharistic worship, and to intercede with him for souls. It would be in the monastery itself, in the monastery chapel, that perpetual adoration would take place day and night, either by religious or by people from outside (men). They could also preach the Forty Hours, the Octaves of the Blessed Sacrament¹, direct the works of perpetual adoration, give Retreats for the Works and Communities dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament, preach pastoral retreats, etc. They would seek to light the eucharistic fire, first in themselves, then in others, by all possible means. It would be an Order made of fire. It is impossible that there should not be many saints, apostles, men who are dead to themselves, and great converters of souls, among the men who would be exposed for 2 or 3 hours each day to the rays of the Eucharistic Sun. They would either catch fire with love, or they would go away. It would be the sword of division to know those whom the Lord is calling. “Prayer,” said Fenelon, “destroys nature.”

¹ Eight days honoring the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

APPENDIX III

Preface, by Fr. Edmond Tenaillon SSS,¹ to Volume II (French) of letters published in Rome in 1899.

The second French volume of the writings of St. Eymard contains three hundred and ninety-five letters to Reverend Mother Marguerite of the Blessed Sacrament, previously known as Miss Marguerite Guillot.² These show beyond words his care and zeal for the formation of the privileged one who was to be his first associate in founding the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

For several years both were Disciples of Mary in the Society of the Marists: Father as a religious, and Mother Marguerite, under his direction, as the Directress of the Third Order of Mary. Though he was not the founder of the Third Order he had endowed it with its "Rule" and developed it considerably.

When God's call became so clear that Father Eymard decided to sacrifice everything, even his religious family, to found the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, he wrote to Miss Guillot, who was distressed by this weighty decision:

"You ask me what will become of the Nazareth where Jesus and Mary dwell? - From Nazareth, Jesus went to the Cenacle, and that is where Mary made her final dwelling."

"I would like you to go to the feet of our Lord, so that He might put a word in your heart for you and for me." (January 1, 1855)

Father formed the foundress of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament not only by his teaching and voluminous correspondence; he also wrote the Constitutions of their Congregation entirely himself. He also prepared a directory, explaining their meaning and spirit. He wrote a special Directory for the Superior which reveals the Founder's prudence, his simple and clear thinking, a mind which habitually looked to the Blessed Sacrament for the divine light of discernment, and finally, the wisdom of the person confirmed in God's ways.

With a guide such as this one, and a disciple who was so well formed for the eucharistic life, the Congregation of the Servants could progress confidently toward its noble purpose.

Mother Marguerite was humbly devoted to her holy director and scrupulously faithful to his every word. She hand-copied the three hundred and ninety-five letters she had received from him. At the end of this work, she wrote the following words about the one who had directed her for 23 years:

"...May my daughters draw from these writings, the spirit of Jesus, Mary and our venerated Father.

"These letters which have been preserved bear witness to his fatherly concern for me and for the Congregation. The last letter, written in Paris, (July 17, 1868) was received at Vichy, where obedience had led me, where he also came to visit me with fatherly care and give me his last blessing, - the final proof of his kindness for me on earth.

Sister Marguerite of the Blessed Sacrament
Servant of the Blessed Sacrament."

Finally, I want to add an extract from one of Mother Marguerite's letters to her daughters. It is a good summary of her thoughts about our Father and Founder:

"My very dear daughters in our Lord,... Since I cannot leave you anything of my own, I will bequeath to you as a precious heritage what our mutual Father has left us.

"If only I could have collected everything! I am sorry about that! It was impossible to do so because of the trials and continual illnesses which our Good Master willed to send me.

"Dear daughters, my final wish and last recommendation to you is to maintain, preserve and spread around you, in this dear little society of Servants, our Blessed Father's spirit of faith and love

¹ Postulator of the Cause of Beatification.

² In this English translation, they are placed chronologically and extend until the time of his death.

Appendix III

for the most Holy Eucharist; that is, his spirit of kindness and charity toward one's neighbor; his humility, his modesty, his love for the simple and hidden life in everything that concerned him personally.

"Following his example, my dear daughters, be generous in the service of the Master, kind toward everyone, humble and emptied of self, never lifting yourselves up, remembering that a Servant cannot, nor should not, seek personal glory for anything.

"Yes! may the spirit of our Father always reign among you. Never forget what he has done for us; the happiness of having known him, of having been nourished by his holy words, formed by him for the religious life. Rejoice in the favor of being part of this little eucharistic family, to which he has given birth and which developed at his side, in our divine Master's sight.

"Esteem and love your precious vocation. May its initial spirit be communicated to future Servants! That is my wish for you, dear daughters. May our Lord be pleased with it and bless it through the hands of his holy Mother. This blessing will please our Father and will be followed with his own. My dear daughters, I dare to add my own to it, and say that I am your loving and devoted mother in Jesus and Mary.

"From our Mother house in Angers, Saturday, August 28, 1869.

(signed) Sister Marguerite of the Blessed Sacrament
Servant of the Blessed Sacrament."

The Postulator:

Father Edmond Tenaillon

General Procurator of the Congregation
of the Blessed Sacrament

November 39, 1899, Feast of St. Andrew

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

with document numbers and references to French edition

BAL, MR.

Former student of Fr. E. searching employment.
(VII 1/1) #0657

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 4/6) #0507 (V 5/6) #0652

BARRAU, MR.

(I 1/1) #0698

PRIORESS OF BENEDICTINES OF BL. SACRAMENT

(VIII 1/1) #0676

BETHFORT, MR.

Parishioner of Chalon where Fr. E. had given a mission.
(VII 3/3) #0397

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 Antonia arranged for Fr. E. to preach a mission at the church of St. Aubin, Rennes, from September 8-16, 1864.

(IV 8/28)	#0407	(IV 11/28)	#0664	(IV 14/28)	#0681
(IV 9/28)	#0516	(IV 12/28)	#0674	(IV 15/28)	#0716
(IV 10/28)	#0599	(IV 13/28)	#0680		

BOUIX, FR.

Author of a 2 volume presentation of Canon Law for Religious. Translator of the writings of St. Teresa. Consulted by Fr. E. about the extraordinary graces of Sr. Benoite.
(VI 1/1) #0702

BRAMEREL, FR.

Former student of Fr. E., he eventually became a diocesan priest.
(V 5/5) #0477

CARRIE, FR. MARIUS, SSS

As a young priest he and some laymen were responsible for the catechism classes of the Adult Workers preparing for First Communion. Later he worked with Fr. Chanuet in this apostolate in

Biographical Notes

Paris. He was part of the first group to renew perpetual vows after the Approval of the Institute and he participated in the first General Chapter. He was missioned to Angers at the time of the construction of the new church.

(VI 1/2) #0700 (VI 2/2) #0705

CHAMPION, FR. CYR RMAND 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 sub-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 2/2 I 5) #0710

CLAPPIER, MME.

Toulon. Members of the Third Order of Mary. Mr. C. was Chief Justice of the Court of Toulon. Fr. E. explained his decision to leave the Marists and establish his new Institute in great detail to Mr. C., to forestall or correct false reports.

(V 1/1) #0543

CLAPPIER, MR.

See Mme. Clappier above.

(V 1/2) #0520 (V 2/2) #0611

COHEN, HERMANN, OCD

A Jewish convert who was among the first organizers of Nocturnal Adoration for men in Paris. He became a Carmelite and yet was part of the dialogue with Fr. de Cuers and Mother Dubouche for a foundation of an Order of the Blessed Sacrament for men. Fr. Cohen planned to establish a eucharistic Third Order to the Carmelites. Although he remained a life-long friend of Fr. de Cuers, he turned against Fr. E. early in the foundation years.

#0512

CREUSET, MME.

Member of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons. Fr. E. wrote to encourage her during her illness.

(V 6/8) #0404

CREUSET, MR.

Resident of Lyons, a member of the Third Order of Mary. He fulfilled the function of Master of Novices for this group, though reluctantly.

(V 5/8) #0403 (V 7/8) #0608

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.

Biographical Notes

Ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Marseilles, June 24, 1855. First companion of Fr. E. They 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. They met again in Toulon where the Count was involved in establishing adoration. Fr. E. was named chaplain of 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 to June 21, 1871.

(VI 2/4 I 181)	#0466	(I 9/181 VI 3)	#0551	(I 16/181 VI 3)	#0562
(I 3/181 VI 3)	#0511	(I 10/181 VI 3)	#0552	(I 17/181 VI 3)	#0563
(I 4/181 VI 3)	#0544	(I 11/181 VI 3)	#0554	(I 18/181 VI 3)	#0583
(I 5/181 VI 3)	#0545	(I 12/181 VI 3)	#0557	(I 19/181 VI 3)	#0585
(I 6/181 VI 3)	#0548	(I 13/181 VI 3)	#0558	(I 20/181 VI 3)	#0622
(I 7/181 VI 3)	#0547	(I 14/181 VI 3)	#0559	(I 21/181 VI 3)	#0696
(I 8/181 VI 3)	#0549	(I 15/181 VI 3)	#0561	(I 22/181 VI 3)	#0697

DANION, MISS VIRGINIE (SR.ANNE DE JESUS/SR.MARIE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT)

Entered Carmel, then the Reparation Sisters where she was known as Sr. Anne. She met Fr. E. when he helped their foundation in Lyons. She left the Reparation Sisters and returned home to Mauron, where she eventually founded a House of Perpetual Thanksgiving.

She shared Eymard's ideal for a eucharistic Third Order and he continually encouraged her in the Work she would eventually found only after his death. The tone of his correspondence is that of a brother in the Lord, two equals seeking the Will of God. He obtained the blessing of Pius IX on her plans in 1864.

(IV 1/36)	#0687	(IV 2/36)	#0693	(IV 3/36)	#0701
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DAUSSE, MR.

Member of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons.

(VIII 1/1)	#0533
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DENIS, FR. JEAN-FRANCOIS, S.M.

Fr. Denis replaced Fr. E. at the School of La Seyne when the latter left the Marists. Fr. Denis was highly critical of this decision as can be seen by Fr. E.'s correspondence to acquaintances.

(VI 1/1)	#0591
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DUPONT, LEO

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 cures. 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.

Biographical Notes

(U 2 VII 2)	#0396	(VII 1/2 U 3)	#0649
(U 3 VII 2)	#0650	(VII 2/2)	#0708

EYMARD MARIANNE and NANETTE BERNARD

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 in La Mure, then later 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 Marianne'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 dies February 17, 1876.

(VI 2/10 III 145)	#648	(III 98/145 VI 10)	#438	(III 103/145 VI 10)	#550
(III 94/145 VI 10)	#388	(III 99/145 VI 10)	#452	(III 104/145 VI 10)	#607
(III 95/145 VI 10)	#420	(III 100/145 VI 10)	#492	(III 105/145 VI 10)	#633
(III 96/145 VI 10)	#427	(III 101/145 VI 10)	#519	(III 106/145 VI 10)	#655
(III 97/145 VI 10)	#428	(III 102/145 VI 10)	#530	(III 107/145 VI 10)	#689

FAVRE, JULIEN, S.M.

Second Superior General of the Marists. The relationship between him and Fr. E. was one of great respect. Fr. E. spoke of him as a man of deep interior life. Fr. Favre was the principal player in the foundation of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. By his refusal to "lend" Fr. E. to the Work, he forced Fr. E. to make a profound discernment of his vocation. They parted with mutual respect and the pain of separation. Fr. Favre wrote a letter to the Marists explaining the departure of Fr. Eymard.

(V 1/1 VI 1)	#553	(VI 1/1 V 1)	#576
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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 of 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 21/33)	#434	(VII 24/33)	#459	(VII 27/33)	#627
(VII 22/33)	#419	(VII 25/33)	#473	(VII 28/33)	#598
(VII 23/33)	#444	(VII 26/33)	#505		

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 3/8)	#0453	(VII 5/8)	#0592	(VII 7/8)	#0675
(VII 4/8)	#0467	(VII 6/8)	#0654		

Biographical Notes

GAUDIOZ, MR. CLAUDE-MARIE

Brother-in-law of Marguerite Guillot and businessman 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.

(III 1/3) #0401 (III 2/3) #0416 (III 3/3) #0612

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 2/2) #0400

GIGUET, MISS

Boarder at Notre Dame de la Compassion, Lyons. Fr. E. expressed concern for her state of health and always recommended that she not be discouraged or upset by the past.

(VII 1/6) #0593 (VII 2/6) #0613 (VII 3/6) #0634

GIRAUD-JORDAN, MME. MATHILDE-SYLVIE

Daughter of Natalie (Mme. Camille) Jordan. Lyons and Calet. She began spiritual direction under Fr. E. in 1855. She married Paul Giraud in 1856 and bore him a son 10 years later. She received spiritual direction for many minute details of life - including advice specific to her change from the single to the married life.

(IV 1/19) #0536 (IV 3/19) #0618

(IV 2/19) #0540 (IV 4/19) #0658

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. Benoit 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 the last meeting with Fr. E. at Vichy. It had been agreed that she and her daughter were to enter the Servants 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 12/76) #0423 (V 17/76) #0528 (V 22/76) #0669

(V 13/76) #0432 (V 18/76) #0537 (V 23/76) #0690

(V 14/76) #0448 (V 19/76) #0587 (V 24/76) #0718

(V 15/76) #0488 (V 20/76) #0647

(V 16/76) #0494 (V 21/76) #0659

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

Biographical Notes

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 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. E.

(V 10/52)	#0433	(V 15/52)	#0538	(V 20/52)	#0660
(V 11/52)	#0449	(V 16/52)	#0604	(V 47/52)	#0670
(V 12/52)	#0489	(V 17/52)	#0615	(V 48/52)	#0691
(V 13/52)	#0499	(V 18/52)	#0619	(V 49/52)	#0719
(V 14/52)	#0529	(V 19/52)	#0651		

GRANDVILLE, MME. ANTOINETTE DE (nee DU CORNULIER-LUCINIERE)

Resided at 8 rue St. Laurent, Nantes, close to the Cathedral. Born in 1807, she learned about the foundation of the Society through a Parisian newspaper. She visited the Chapel of rue d'Enfer and met Fr. E. there. He guided her from 1856-1868. He encouraged her to frequent Communion and to spread the fire of eucharistic love. She often made retreats under his direction. In Paris she stayed either with the Dames de la Retraite (Cenacle), the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament or the Augustinian Sisters. She transcribed notes for him. She was the intermediary with the Bishop of Nantes, Bishop Jacquemet, in Fr. E.'s failed attempt to make a foundation there. He greatly loved the people of Nantes. Our last existing letter was addressed to her.

(IV 1/104)	#0673	(IV 3/104)	#0707	(IV 5/104)	#0720
(IV 2/104)	#0686	(IV 4/104)	#0712	(IV 6/104)	#0727

GRISAUD, MME. (NEE CHAMBORD)

Correspondent from Tarare. Member of the Third Order of Mary. Her brother, Fr. Chambort, was a Marist priest.

(VII 1/2)	#0465	(VII 2/2)	#0485
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GUILLOT FAMILY

(II 98/395 VIII 2)#0389	(II 120/395 VII 2)#0471
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GUILLOT, 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. Ann-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.

Biographical Notes

(II 96/395 VIII 2)	#0391	(II 126/395 VI 2)	#0491	(II 154/395 VI 2)	#0642
(II 97/395 VIII 2)	#0393	(II 127/395 VI 2)	#0506	(II 155/395 VI 2)	#0645
(II 99/395 VIII 2)	#0394	(II 128/395 VI 2)	#0502	(II 156/395 VI 2)	#0646
(II 100/395 VI 2)	#0405	(II 129/395 VI 2)	#0513	(II 157/395 VI 2)	#0662
(II 101/395 VI 2)	#0406	(II 130/395 VI 2)	#0514	(II 158/395 VI 2)	#0666
(II 102/395 VI 2)	#0408	(II 131/395 VI 2)	#0521	(II 159/395 VI 2)	#0665
(II 103/395 VI 2)	#0410	(II 132/395 VI 2)	#0524	(II 160/395 VI 2)	#0667
(II 104/395 VI 2)	#0411	(II 133/395 VI 2)	#0525	(II 161/395 VI 2)	#0668
(II 105/395 VI 2)	#0412	(II 134/395 VI 2)	#0539	(II 162/395 VI 2)	#0671
(II 106/395 VI 2)	#0414	(II 135/395 VI 2)	#0534	(II 163/395 VI 2)	#0677
(II 107/395 VI 2)	#0418	(II 136/395 VI 2)	#0546	(II 164/395 VI 2)	#0683
(II 108/395 VI 2)	#0422	(II 137/395 VI 2)	#0555	(II 165/395 VI 2)	#0684
(II 109/395 VI 2)	#0425	(II 138/395 VI 2)	#0560	(II 166/395 VI 2)	#0685
(II 110/395 VI 2)	#0426	(II 139/395 VI 2)	#0564	(II 167/395 VI 2)	#0688
(II 111/395 VI 2)	#0430	(II 140/395 VI 2)	#0573	(II 168/395 VI 2)	#0692
(II 112/395 VI 2)	#0435	(II 141/395 VI 2)	#0581	(II 169/395 VI 2)	#0699
(II 113/395 VI 2)	#0436	(II 142/395 VI 2)	#0586	(II 170/395 VI 2)	#0703
(II 114/395 VI 2)	#0440	(II 143/395 VI 2)	#0596	(II 171/395 VI 2)	#0704
(II 115/395 VI 2)	#0445	(II 144/395 VI 2)	#0600	(II 172/395 VI 2)	#0706
(II 116/395 VI 2)	#0451	(II 145/395 VI 2)	#0610	(II 173/395 VI 2)	#0709
(II 117/395 VI 2)	#0458	(II 146/395 VI 2)	#0614	(II 174/395 VI 2)	#0711
(II 118/395 VI 2)	#0463	(II 147/395 VI 2)	#0620	(II 175/395 VI 2)	#0714
(II 119/395 VI 2)	#0464	(II 148/395 VI 2)	#0624	(II 176/395 VI 2)	#0717
(II 121/395 VI 2)	#0475	(II 149/395 VI 2)	#0625	(II 177/395 VI 2)	#0721
(II 122/395 VI 2)	#0476	(II 150/395 VI 2)	#0631	(II 178/395 VI 2)	#0722
(II 123/395 VI 2)	#0478	(II 151/395 VI 2)	#0632	(II 179/395 VI 2)	#0723
(II 124/395 VI 2)	#0481	(II 152/395 VI 2)	#0638	(II 180/395 VI 2)	#0725
(II 125/395 VI 2)	#0486	(II 153/395 VI 2)	#0639	(II 181/395 VI 2)	#0728

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.

(VI 1/1 II 21)	#0457	(III 4/21)	#0479
(III 2/21 VIII 1)	#0395	(III 5/21)	#0621

HUGUET, FR., S.M.

Replace Fr. E. as Director of the Third Order of Mary.

(VI 1/1)	#0441
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JANDEL, FR. VINCENT, O.P.

Master General of the Dominican Order. He and Fr. E. first met in Lyons before Fr. J. was elected as Master General. He was to remain a faithful friend and counsellor. He acted as intermediary with Piux IX in June, 1854, when Fr. E. first presented his plan for an order of the Blessed Sacrament. He also was consulted regarding the new Constitutions. Fr. E. directed Fr. Touche to him when he was to visit Rome. Fr. Favre met with Jandel when in Rome. Fr. E. met with him when he went to Rome for the approval of the Congregation.

(VI 1/1)	#0523
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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.

Biographical Notes

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 and her niece Edmee de Montmorand.

(VII 1/4)	#0442	(VII 4/5 IV 75)	#0617	(IV 16/75)	#0460
(VII 2/4)	#0443	(IV 9/75)	#0456	(IV 17/75)	#0626
(VII 3/4)	#0454	(IV 10/75)	#0535	(IV 18/75)	#0641
(VII 4/4)	#0455	(IV 12/75)	#0421	(IV 19/75)	#0661
(VIII 1/1 IV 75)	#0601	(IV 13/75)	#0470	(IV 20/75)	#0694
(VII 2/5 IV 75)	#0392	(IV 14/75)	#0483		
(VII 3/5 IV 75)	#0588	(IV 15/75)	#0508		

LA BOUILLERIE, BISHOP LOUIS DE, Vicar General of Paris, Bishop of Carcassone

When a simple priest, he approved the organization of Nocturnal Adoration for men by Captain de Cuers, Hermann Cohen and Mr. Fage at Notre Dame des Victoires. He and Miss de Mauroy had expressed the need for a sanctuary dedicated to solemn adoration in Paris. Msgr. de La Bouillerie was the one who directed Fr. E. to Bishop Sibour for his discernment retreat. Bishop de La Bouillerie was invited by Archbishop Sibour to give an opinion on the matter of Fr. E.'s status as a Marist.

(VI 1/1) #0595

LA BOURALIERE, MME. SAUVESTRE DE

Benefactress of the Eucharistic Work from its beginnings. She loaned 15,000 fr. for the purchase of property at rue d'Enfer.

(V 1/3)	#0566	(V 3/3)	#0579
(V 2/3)	#0577	(VII 2/2)	#0605

LAGNIET, FR. BENOITE S.M.

Colleague as a Marist, later Provincial Superior of the Marists in Paris when Peter Julian went there for his discernment retreat. A bond of friendship and respect existed between these two men.

(VI 1/4)	#0567	(VI 3/4)	#0574
(VI 2/4)	#0569	(VI 4/4)	#0590

LEMMANN BROTHERS

Jewish converts leaving for seminary, gave furniture to Fr. E.

(VI 1/1) #0724

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 5/14)	#0484	(V6/14)	#0509
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Biographical Notes

A MARIST PRIEST

(VI 1/1) #0603

MATAGRIN, MISS FANNY

From Tarare. She was linked to the Bost and Jordan families, and Fr. E. often mentioned them to each other in his correspondence. He mentioned Mme. "your sister-in-law." Who this was is not clear.

(V 1/5) #0672 (V2/5) #0682 (V 3/5) #0715

MAYET, MISS 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.

(VII 6/17) #0398 (VII 9/17) #0472 (VII 12/17) #0678
(VII 7/17) #0413 (VII 10/17) #0501
(VII 8/17) #0450 (VII 11/17) #0616

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 2/4) #0498 (VI 3/4) #0518

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 5/9) #0503 (V 6/9) #0609

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 his Provincial Superior. In the last letter, the roles have changed and Fr. Morcel is Fr. E.'s immediate Superior.

(V 7/8) #0495 (V 8/8) #0496

MORLOT, CARDINAL FRANCOIS, (died 1862)

Archbishop of Tours, then made Cardinal of Paris, Jan. 24, 1857. The new Archbishop put the Villa Chateaubriand up for sale, convoked Fr. E. to the Chancery to prove he had necessary authorization to be in Paris. Later Cardinal Morlot came to appreciate Fr. E. and came to give the sacrament of Confirmation to his group of first communicants. He also sent a testimonial letter to the Holy Father requesting a Blessing on the Society (1859). He died in 1862.

(VI 1/4) #0713

Biographical Notes

NEGRE, ERNEST

Student at the school of La Seyne. Spokesman for the young people interested in an Order of the Blessed Sacrament who met with Captain de Cuers, Fr. Cohen and Fr. E. at the Sanctuary of Notre Dame de Sie at Cape Sicie. Fr. Negre later went to the seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris and did not pursue a eucharistic vocation.

(V 1/2) #0527 (V 2/2) #0630

NEGRE, MR.

Father of Ernest and Rose Negre, both of whom considered a vocation with the Blessed Sacrament Communities.

(VII 1/1 V 1) #0628cf

NEGRE, MISS ROSE

Sister of Fr. Ernest Negre. She was part of the first group of aspirants to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament from Toulon. As Sister Rose, she persevered only a brief time as her health did not hold up.

(V 1/4) #0602 (V 3/4) #0640
(V 2/4) #0635 (V 4/4) #0656

PERROUD, 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.

(VII 5/7) #0399 (VII 6/7) #0504 (VII 7/7) #0541

PIUS IX, POPE

Reigning Pontiff from June 16, 1846 to February 7, 1878. His pontificate was long, eventful and significant. He reestablished the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem; signed a concordat with Russia, Spain and Austria and several Latin-American states. He remained neutral in the tensions between Italy and Austria. His pontificate marked the end of papal temporal power and a vigorous expansion of missionary work throughout the world. The Centralization of authority in the Church progressed continually. He solemnly defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854) and convoked Vatican I (1869-1870). He was immensely popular, especially in France. Notable were his touching simplicity, great goodness, serene courage in adversity, practical intelligence, genuine piety and pastoral values.

(U) #0575 (Archives SSS) #0522 (U) #0584

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.

(VIII 3/26 VII 17)	#390	(VIII 9/26 VII 17)	#439	(VIII 15/26 VII 17)	#565
(VIII 4/26 VII 17)	#409	(VIII 10/26 VII 17)	#474	(VIII 16/26 VII 17)	#580
(VIII 5/26 VII 17)	#417	(VIII 12/26 VII 17)	#487	(VIII 17/26 VII 17)	#589
(VIII 6/26 VII 17)	#424	(VIII 13/26 VII 17)	#526	(VIII 18/26 VII 17)	#606
(VIII 7/26 VII 17)	#429	(VIII 14/17 VII 17)	#556	(VIII 19/26 VII 17)	#644
(VIII 8/26 VII 17)	#437	(VIII 14/26VII 17)	#480		

Biographical Notes

ROUSSELOT, CANON PIERRE, Vicar-General

A former professor of Fr. Eymard at the major seminary of Grenoble. Canon Rousselot and Fr. E corresponded particularly about the apparitions of La Salette and related miracles. Canon Rousselot was in charge of the investigation of this matter for the diocese of Grenoble.

(VIII 1/2 VII 6)	#446	(VI 6/7)	#461
(VIII 2/2 VII 6)	#447	(VI 7/7)	#462

SIBOUR, ARCHBISHOP MARIE DOMINIQUE (or Chancery) (Paris)

Met Fr. Eymard at the Chancery when he came to receive the final decision regarding the foundation of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. Refusing a purely contemplative work, he approved and authorized the new foundation requesting that it take place in his own diocese. Together with his cousin, Bishop Sibour, Bishop of Tripoli, and Bishop de la Bouilliere, on the following day he met with Fr. Eymard to complete the discernment on his vocation as a Marist. On a picture of the Archbishop, Fr. Eymard had written these words: May 13, 1856. *De quo semper gratiorum actio et laus.*

He placed his summer home at the disposal of the new work and allowed the construction of a chapel.

On January 3, 1857, Archbishop Sibour was assassinated at the Church of St. Etienne du Mont at the opening of a novena to St. Genevieve, the patroness of Paris. He died in the parish rectory.

(VI 1/5)	#0568	(VI 3/5)	#0571
(VI 2/5)	#0570	(VI 5/5)	#0578

SIBOUR, BISHOP LEON (Titular Bishop of Tripoli and auxiliary Bishop of Paris)

Cousin of Archbishop Marie-Dominique Sibour.

Bishop de la Bouilliere of Carcassone sent Fr. Eymard to Bishop Leon Sibour to discern the question of the foundation of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. It was to him that he opened his heart. Together with the Archbishop and a Fr. Carrere, the Superior General of the Sulpicians, he gave Fr. Eymard a positive reply. He was the one to announce the foundation of this new work to the Nocturnal Adoration Society of Paris and introduced Fr. Eymard and Fr. de Cuers to them.

(VI 4/6)	#0572
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SPAZZIER, 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 2/19)	#0490	(VII 5/19)	#0510	(VII 8/19)	#0679
(VII 3/19)	#0493	(VII 6/19)	#0517	(VII 9/19)	#0695
(VII 4/19)	#0497	(VII 7/19)	#0637		

SUPERIOR OF HOTEL-DIEU

(V 1/1)	#0653
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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 11/52)	#0402	(IV 17/52)	#0515	(IV 23/52)	#0636
(IV 12/52)	#0415	(IV 18/52)	#0532	(IV 24/52)	#0643
(IV 13/52)	#0431	(IV 19/52)	#0542	(IV 25/52)	#0663
(IV 14/52)	#0468	(IV 20/52)	#0582	(IV 26/52)	#0726
(IV 15/52)	#0482	(IV 21/52)	#0597		
(IV 16/52)	#0500	(IV 22/52)	#0623		

TOUCHE, FR. JEAN-JOSEPH Apostolic Missionary

Fr. E. referred to Fr. Touche as the “Ananias of my life.” He was instrumental at key moments: as a young confessor, he advised Peter Julian to become a priest, later he advised him about the Marists, and later offered to present his proposed constitutions for the new Society to the Pope in Rome. He had been a missionary Oblate, but later became a diocesan priest.

(VI 1/1) #0531

VIANNEY, FR. JEAN-MARIE, The Cure d’Ars

(1786-1859) Priest of the Diocese of Grenoble, known for his holiness and guidance of souls. Both Marguerite Guillot and Peter Julian Eymard consulted him at critical times in their lives. Fr. E. enrolled him in the Third Order of Mary, informed him about the foundation of the Society and consulted him regarding lack of vocations. He opposed his stand on the Apparition of La Salette. In the process of beatification, these two men were often compared to one another.

(VI 1/2) #0469 (VI 2/2) #0629

WICART, BISHOP CASIMIR

Bishop of Frejus and Toulon, the Laval. While Fr. E. was superior at La Seyne, Bishop Wicart entrusted him with the Work of Adoration at Toulon. He read and approved the rules for the proposed Order of the Blessed Sacrament before the Marist Superior had even seen them. Having become Bishop of Laval, he sent a testimonial letter to Rome when Fr. E. sought the blessing of the Holy Father on his new Work.

(VI 1/2) #0594

Biographical Notes

Acknowledgement of Sources for these biographical notes:

Pierre Julien Eymard, Fr. Andre Guitton SSS.

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.

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* *Bold-faced, italicized numbers indicate documents written after the foundation of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation.*

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

EVENTS 1853

Jan 1	Midnight Mass celebrated for the intentions of his sisters as was his annual custom.
Feb 2	Consecration in the Congregation of the Blessed Virgin at La Seyne-sur-Mer.
Apr 5	Took room adjacent to the chapel with a side window giving a view on the altar of the Blessed Sacrament at La Seyne.
Apr 18	Received a grace of conviction that he ought to work for nocturnal adoration and for the Order of the Blessed Sacrament and that he ought to give himself totally to the Eucharist.
May	Captain de Cuers met Father Hermann at Marseilles and spoke to him about the eucharistic plans of Father Eymard.
Jul 17	Solemn transfer to La Seyne of the body of Saint Victorius, martyr.
Aug 9-16	On retreat at Laus with six other Marists for 7 days.
Aug 16-18	At La Salette where he made the vow to found the Congregation.
Aug 18	To La Mure.
End Aug	In Lyons.
Sept 7	To La Seyne to preach community retreat followed by student's retreat.

EVENTS 1854

Jan 12	Circular letter by Father Colin S.M. announcing his resignation and convoking a General Chapter.
May	At this Chapter, Father Eymard was named by his colleagues to give the discourse which was to follow the election of the Superior General.
Jun 25	Sunday in the Octave of Corpus Christi, initial encouragement from Pius IX for the foundation of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament in an audience granted to Father Jandel, o.p.
Aug	Return to La Mure where the cholera was striking at La Salette and Laus; then to Lyons, for the annual retreat.
Sep 3	Annual or monthly retreat - personal notes.
Sep 17	Feast of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, 15th Sunday after Pentecost. Captain Raymond de Cuers received the clerical habit and the tonsure in Marseilles. One month later he began seminary.
Sep 25	Father sent the Cure d'Ars a certificate authorizing him to receive people into the Third Order of Mary of the Interior life.
Dec	Retreat to military personnel leaving for Crimea.
Dec 8	Definition of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. This definition was preceded with a solemn novena. With this feast he began the celebration of the Jubilee year which opened on August 1, 1854.

EVENTS 1855

Jan 1	"How I wish I could extend the beautiful kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth."
Mar	Became interim pastor at the parish of La Seyne for two months following the unexpected death of the pastor in painful circumstances.
May 11-15	At Maubel, House of Theology.

May 18	At La Seyne.
May 23	Crowning of Our Lady of Laus. Father had the plans for the Constitutions of the Order of the Blessed Sacrament placed on Mary's altar.
Jun 24	Priestly ordination of Father de Cuers.
July	Father Favre forbade him to continue working for the eucharistic project.
Aug 2	Date of the petition addressed to Pius IX, later presented by Father Touche.
Aug 10	To Mont-Dore to renew his weakened health.
Aug 12	Father Touche embarked at Marseilles for Rome.
Aug 27	Father Touche in an audience with the Pope presented Father Eymard's plan. Pius IX replied, "The church needs this."
Sep 2-10	Annual Retreat in Lyons.
Sep 10-20	Ceased to be Superior of La Seyne and was sent to Chaintrè where he worked on the Manual of the Third Order of Mary. Father Jandel sent him a few observations on the planned Constitutions (for the Order of the Blessed Sacrament).

EVENTS 1856

Jan	Direct letter to Rome concerning the foundation of the Work, probably by means of Fr. Brunello. [This text is not among those available to the translator.]
Feb 4	Around this date, interview with Father Favre at Belleville.
Mar 1-30c	Preached a mission at St. Chamond. Beginning of the month of St. Joseph, praying to obtain protection and help for the eucharistic Work.
Mar 17	Letter to Father Favre to present the purpose and means of the Work and ask him to read his letter to the Pope.
Apr 6	Great favor at Holy Mass. (Patronage of St. Joseph.)
Apr 19	Beginning of a novena "to obtain the necessary light."
Apr 22	Decisive interview with Father Favre at nine o'clock in the morning. Received the dispensation of his Marist vows, then to Chaintrè to replace the Master of Novices.
Apr 29	Father Favre gave him the written dispensation of his vows.
Apr 30	Departure for Paris on the express train, arrival there "toward nightfall."
May 1	Ascension day. He celebrated Mass at Notre Dame des Victoires. Began his retreat at night. Requested an audience with Bishop Leon Sibour, the Auxiliary Bishop of Paris and temporary Bishop of Tripoli.
May 5	Monday. He presented an initial memoir to the Auxiliary Bishop of Paris (Bishop Leon Sibour) together with a petition footnoted by Bishop de la Bouillerie, Bishop of Carcassone, former Vicar General in Paris.
May 7	Wednesday. Presentation of a more detailed explanation to Bishop Leon Sibour.
May 7	or 8. Visit from Father Julien Favre, S.M.
May 8	Thursday. Pilgrimage to Montmartre.
May 13	Pentecost Tuesday. Affirmative reply from Archbishop Marie Dominique Sibour of Paris, and foundation of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. He and Father de Cuers went to thank the Blessed Virgin at Saint Sulpice. "They offered themselves entirely to the service of Jesus Hostia through Mary, Queen of the Cenacle."
May 14	Wednesday. The three bishops resolved his personal issue, the dispensation of his Marist vows.
May 19 or 20	Departure for Leudeville where he was to prepare a new project of Constitutions.

May 20	Tuesday. Letter from Father Julien Favre, Superior General of the Marists, expressing his satisfaction that the matter was finally settled.
May 22	Thursday, Corpus Christi (Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ). Seriously ill at Leudeville.
May 24	Saturday. Circular letter of Fr. Favre to the Marist Fathers to announce Fr. Eymard's departure.
May 25	Sunday. Fr. Eymard used and adopted the initials S.S.S. for the first time.
May	Departure from Leudeville for Paris
Jun 1	Sunday. Moved into the house on rue d'Enfer.
Jun 2	Monday. First celebration of Mass in the chapel of rue d'Enfer.
Jun 15	The Blessed Sacrament was placed in the tabernacle at rue d'Enfer.
Jun 22	Fr. Eymard wrote his last will and testament.
Aug 12	The lay cook stole the money which had been set aside by Father for the chapel.
Aug 26-29	Fr. Eymard was healed at Tours from palpitations of the heart by the oil from the oratory of the Holy Face (home of Mr. Dupont, Tours).
Sep 28	Sunday. Inauguration of the enlarged chapel. The same afternoon he was notified that he would have to abandon the premises and he began a novena in honor of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows.
Dec 8	Before the statue of the Blessed Virgin he promised to give up the use of tobacco and snuff.
Dec 28	Meeting of the members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society of Paris at the chapel of the Fathers, rue d'Enfer. Father preached.

EVENTS 1857

Jan 6	Epiphany Thursday. Inaugural Mass of Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at eight o'clock. Father spent the first hour in adoration from 9 to 10.
Mar 4	Arrival in Paris of the Ladies of Adoration from Toulon.
Apr 9	Holy Thursday. Father indicated that at 2:00 p.m., the Lord led him to rent a house with two separate buildings, one for the Fathers and one for the future Sisters. That evening, at 6:30 p.m., the Archbishop of Paris signed the permissions for perpetual Exposition. The same night at 8 o'clock, Father carried the relics of the Passion in procession at the Visitation Convent.
May	Father de Cuers fled temporarily in discouragement.
May 6	Cardinal Morlot came to visit the Villa Chateaubriand in view of making it his home.
May 13	First anniversary of the Foundation. The Bishop of Tripoli and Father Carriere, superior of St. Sulpice, came to celebrate.
May 15	Nocturnal adoration began due to an increase of personnel.
May 25	Annual Retreat for the Blessed Sacrament Fathers.
Jul 6	"I have just spent eight days in a kind of agony which could kill me."
Aug 11	He went to Allevard to heal "the onset of sinus infection."
Sep 6-13	Pilgrimage to Laus.
Sep 20	Returned to Paris to face terrible trials: disloyalty of new members; failure of efforts to purchase a new house; friend turned to enemy.
Oct 11	Arrival of Father Champion.
Oct 15	Calumniated at the Chancery of Paris. Intervention of Father Lagarde (Cf. last retreat of St. Maurice, 2nd day, 3rd meditation).
Dec 16	Learned that his house on rue d'Enfer was sold.