Life and Letters

of

Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Volume Three
1858 - 1861

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
Sister Catherine Marie Caron SSS

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Electronic version by
Curia Generalizia
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
Rome, 2010

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PREFACE

In Volumes I and II of the "Life and Letters of St. Peter Julian Eymard," we witnessed the formative years of his spiritual journey first as a diocesan and then as a Marist priest.

He would "remain a Marist in his heart" all his life, which he had declared in leaving the Society of Mary. His formation to a deep interior life indeed characterized his zeal for the spiritual growth of souls in union with God.

In Volume II we witnessed the Transition years, the agony of growth and of knowing he was called in a new direction which proved to be incompatible with his Marist vocation. The birth of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament was to occur in profound soul-searching and discernment, a deep personal "fear of being unfaithful to a cross and a grace."

In Volume III the "Eucharistic Project" becomes a reality as it extends itself and becomes a true "Eucharistic Family." The vision of the Cenacle, Mary, Apostles, and Holy Women gathered in prayer, called into being a second branch added to the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, that of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament; then, all within the same period of time, the association of the laity to the eucharistic vision, the "Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament."

Strengthened and made fruitful by the approval and blessing of His Holiness Pope Pius IX, the men and women religious made their official vows as religious now officially approved by the Church.

St. Peter Julian's personal gifts were now transformed by his eucharistic grace. He became the preacher, teacher, formator, spiritual director on fire with a message and conviction of Christ's love for us in the Eucharist.

"If you only knew the gift of God," he proclaimed to his own religious as well as in parish missions and to adoration groups throughout France. He taught people how to pray and he helped them prepare for the Feasts of Epiphany, Corpus Christi, and the Sacred Heart, with renewed awareness of all that God has done for us in His goodness and mercy.

His Work for the First Communion of Adult Workers gained him the friendship of the poor and the respect of Church Authorities.

His great cross was the instability of vocations. "I cannot believe there are so few men for whom Jesus and his service are sufficient," he wrote.

Let us also be taught by him as we read his words, so that the love of Christ may take hold of our lives.

"O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine
All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine."

Sr. Catherine Marie Caron SSS, translator

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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

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Transfer from "Bethlehem to Nazareth" April 1858

- **Search for funds**
- **Repairs and construction**

Foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

- **"Modeled on Our Lady in the Cenacle"**
- **Arrival of the women from Lyons, May, 1858**
- **Spiritual formation: Retreats/conferences**

Foundation Plans for Marseilles

Mission to Belgium

729

CO 0726

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 182/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 1, 1858*

Very dear daughters in our Lord,

I've just finished saying holy Mass: it was then, while holding Jesus, that I offered you my first wishes [for the New Year], you understand how sincere and devoted they are. What did I ask from Jesus? - First, for his holy love because that is everything. To love God is the substance of life, for both time and eternity. I can wish you no greater happiness. Yes, dear daughters, love the good Lord dearly, our good Jesus, who is substantial love, who has loved us so and will always love us. Ask him to teach you the meaning of love: it is the science of sciences, it is the science of God. It matters nothing if we are poor, ill, rejected here on earth: for if we love God, we have the wealth of God himself.

You have been sorely tried, poor daughters. The cross is tall and seems endless. Oh! That's because it is touching heaven [itself], it is the surest and shortest way there, because suffering is love's greatest achievement.

I am adding another wish to that one, that is, to share my happiness and eucharistic heritage; not our difficulties and disappointments, but our joys and our life.[1]

A day will come when all these uncertainties will be settled, and the Cenacle can become like the one in Jerusalem.[2] How happy it would make me if one day I could give you each a cell near the Most Blessed Sacrament! That is my daily prayer.

As for us, we are well since adoration doesn't cease. We are bound to receive a few wounds on the battlefield.

The transaction to buy the house is well on its way. I hope that Jesus will pay his debts when the time comes, for after all, it isn't up to the soldiers to lodge their King, nor to the servants to pay their master. We must continue to pray: so many things could yet be an obstacle to this transaction! I hope that once we are settled, the good Lord will fill his house with good adorers.

Goodbye! My good daughters, [I wish you a] happy New Year, holy joy, gentle peace, and gracious charity.

All yours in our Lord,

Miss Marguerite,

Fr. Ch. shared your last letter with me.... They offered to let me borrow 5000 francs (keep that between us): I accepted it. The women can't do more. Miss de R. cannot; don't be the first to mention me to her, she is not a eucharistic soul.

My God! What troubles money brings! Our Lord may perhaps do as once he did for St. Peter, when he let him find money in a fish.

We are praying for Bishop Sibour. It is already a great grace that they have turned away from their prejudices at the chancery and that they are leaving us in peace, even consenting to sell to us. Now they are treating us like poor but honest people[3]…[*5 and a half lines erased*]…the painful trial I had Saturday morning.

I bless you. Goodbye.

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[1] Desire that she come to Paris for a foundation for women.

[2] Cenacle in Jerusalem: Apostles and Holy Women gathered in prayer.

[3] The death of the Archbishop left Father Eymard's new-born Work without a solid foundation of understanding. Also detractors took advantage of the situation to weaken his position.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

For the moment we have enough Masses. Thanks to Fr. Br[uneau].

Eymard

730

CO 727

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 108/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 1, 1858*[4]

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to wish you a happy New Year, as I did when I was young. Only now I wish you greater things and my wishes for you are spiritual. Yes my dear sisters, let us really love our Lord, especially in the Most Blessed Sacrament, the only place where he dwells as in heaven, and does so for love of us.

Continue to serve our Lord in the holy and adorable Eucharist, like the angels serve him in heaven and on earth. You especially, dear Nanette, who approach the holy Tabernacle most closely as you adorn and decorate the altars, you are doing what the Blessed Virgin did.

The longest, most beautiful, and wealthiest life is a kind of death, nothing more, something to cry over, if its purpose is not Jesus Christ.

January 23rd - I could not finish my letter, dear sister, I was extremely busy because of our new transfer. We are on the verge of buying a little house, and I expected the matter to be settled from one day to the next, that is what delayed me so. It will take two weeks before it is settled, unless new obstacles arise, or rather, God willing.

This house is not beautiful nor in the center of Paris, that would require a better financial situation than ours, since none of us are rich. It will be enough for us, it has a garden which is even quite large for Paris.

I am fine, Paris is quiet, we must thank God and the Blessed Virgin for having protected the Emperor and saved him miraculously. The Emperor is kind, he is doing a lot of good, especially for the workers; those who do not like him are real enemies of France and ingrates.

God continues to bless us like a good Father and we are still very happy. I didn't have any news about little Perret, I will write to him. I wasn't able to see him when he went through Paris; I had a migraine [headache] that day. But it is easy to get some [news] from Viallet's son; besides it is an excellent business and I already know that he is fine there.

Mr. Second will be going to La Mure Monday. He promised me he would go to see you, he is a fine friend. If the small case with the paintings which are in the garret wouldn't inconvenience him too much, please give it to him, and he will send it to me from Grenoble. I would like to have them, I would have them re-touched in Paris.

Goodbye dear sisters, may God bless and keep you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.[5]

[4] finished January 23rd.

[5] SSS abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

731

CO 728

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 183/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 10, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

The good Lord loves us so! How happy I was to receive dear Fr. Bruneau,[6] I am so fond of him![7] May he be blessed! I am pleased with the way everything happened. All will go well: he should rest a little! ...

Thank you, dear daughter, for your letter about Ars.[8] It really comforted and encouraged us all. How good is the good Lord!

Now we are waiting for the time when our purchase will be completed. We are praying that the devil won't block this transaction again; so many long delays and business matters sometimes make us wish to see it all come to an end.

I am praying very much for you all….

I will soon send you Miss Billard's note signed by Fr. Champion.

I'm waiting for her 700 francs to become available.

Well! are the storms over?[9] Poor daughter! Even if you were half dead, we would still receive you as the eldest daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons
Rhone

[6] The former Marist novice of Fr. Eymard and Fr. Champion tried his vocation as a Blessed Sacrament Religious. He eventually left and remained a diocesan priest.

[7] French: Literally, this man of my heart.

[8] "The Cure d'Ars was consulted about our vocation [Marguerite Guillot and her sisters], about the Work, on the advice of Fr. Eymard and to ask for his prayers. The Cure d'Ars called Fr. Eymard his saint... they were both saints, filled with respect for one another. The Cure was eloquent about the greatness and beauty of the Work: adoration by priests; and in tears, he added: it will be persecuted by those who should support it, the world isn't aware of it.

When we inquired whether it would succeed, whether it would survive, he replied: Yes, yes, it will succeed, it will bring much glory to our Lord. About my personal question, he replied that the good Lord wanted us to go to Paris, to the house that Father Eymard wanted to establish, that our vocation was to become Religious of the Blessed Sacrament, that we were very fortunate to be called to such a beautiful Work; that the good Lord would give us the strength we need, that we should not hesitate and we should leave at the first sign given to us by Fr. Eymard, his friend, and he gave us messages for him. It is easy to understand that it was for us a very sweet and great consolation." … From the Journal of Marguerite Guillot.

[9] Doubts about her call to religious life.

732

CO 729

TO FR. HUAN
(VI 1/1)[10]

All for the love of Jesus-Hostia *Paris, January 10, 1858*

Very dear colleague,

How late I am in writing to you! and to everyone! Laziness in letter-writing is ever my predominant fault.

And then we have been so busy for some time. The Chateaubriand villa is definitely sold. Preference was given to the Community of blind Sisters from Bourg la Reine. There was an exchange with their property which, it appears, will become His Eminence's country house.

So we are obliged to lodge elsewhere; divine Providence surrounds us. We plan to lodge in these districts, as our resources do not yet allow us to go into the center of the city unless our Lord gives us "les Billettes" someday - He is all-powerful.

We have to leave here at the beginning of April, so time is short. You see that the devil is doing all he can to put us out on the street, but our Lord is stronger.

The financial crisis is making everyone cautious, and it is in this climate that we are trying to buy a place.

Fr. Hermann has been here with the Most Reverend Father Provincial;[11] they left only yesterday after a week's stay. It was a great joy for me to see him again; he is always an affectionate friend, devoted to the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Adoration goes on as usual; the chapel is frequented as it was when you were here - we have put an attractive little Communion rail there, separating the priests from the congregation. The Brothers always come in wearing cassock and surplice - which is more suitable and more beautiful.

Our new colleague is happy here. He is a good and fervent adorer. There are still only 6 of us.

The Pastor from Asniere has not entered yet, nor has another priest who is quite determined to come - we prefer to wait until our Lord has a home.[12]

Every day, dear colleague, my thoughts and my heart go out to you. You have the first share in our poor prayers, which is only right, as you were first in the battle.[13] If it was not God's will that you should continue, He had his designs, but you will have become all the more devout and apostolic for it.

Fr. de Cuers has a bad headache at the moment, but he continues his service with his usual strength, as you can imagine.

Goodbye, very dear colleague. Take care of yourself. I thank the good Lord for healing you, as there is still so much [work] to be done.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

[10] Father Huan had tested his vocation at rue d'Enfer
[11] Provincial of the Marists.
[12] The service of Adoration with Exposition was transferred to the new location.
[13] One of the first candidates at rue d'Enfer.

733

CO 730

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 27/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 16, 1858*

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your wishes and prayers. They arrived just on time, because our Lord likes us to be with him on his Cross of love. May he be praised. One thing is going well: that is, adoration, and that is the essential thing. May Jesus be adored, loved and served, the rest is nothing.

We must leave here by the end of March. We are waiting, fully surrendered to the love of our heavenly Father who knows our needs and what will give glory to his divine Son.

I shared in your cross and suffering, dear daughter, and now I thank God for having healed your husband. May God still increase his grace and love, for life without the love of God is a sad death. Your poor children must have suffered but you will make up for it.

So many graces are being prepared for you! Your mother in Heaven, your father a religious, your sister entirely God's, your children well behaved, your husband on the mend: see whether you ought not to be on fire with love and thanksgiving!

Please, dear daughter, don't forget to take care of our eucharistic wishes.[14]

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

Mme. Tholin

734

CO 731

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 21/75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 16, 1858*

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

I did the same as you [did]. You were among the first whom I blessed and presented to our Lord at 4:00 in the morning at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This is as it should be, you have an acquired right [to it] and it pleases me to tell you. However, we behave like those who live at the farthest ends of the world. The world of souls makes us forget the rest.

My wishes for you, dear daughter, are the love of Jesus so that you may be greater than your crosses, stronger than your sorrows; especially, that your heart may find the good it so sorely needs! Your poor heart must be deeply furrowed, truly crucified in this world; but, how happy it will be in the next! To handle your Calvary well, you must be strong in divine love. Until you can find peace and rest in the Cross, you must work to die to yourself and all earthly desires.

That is enough about you. What about dear Mathilde? May God give her motherhood; mother of a Samuel, mother of a John the Baptist, mother of a Saint. Let her pray well, and she will be

[14] New Year's wishes expressed for the Eucharistic apostolate - perhaps to prepare the way for his Eucharistic apostolate in the Tarare-Amplepuis area.

heard. God is treating her as he has for [specially] blessed children. Tell her that we are praying for her and her hopes.

As for us, we continue to move forward with God's grace upon our small but very beautiful Work. I consider myself very fortunate that our Lord called me to such a beautiful life, and I dare say that all the little sufferings, all the trials and humiliations which come to me from time to time, do me good and rejoice my soul like rain from Heaven.

It cost me a great deal to sacrifice the affection and esteem of the Society of Mary. It costs me to know that we are no longer loved there; but that is the rain of the rainbow. How good God is, especially when he makes one understand that he is the only center, the grace and purpose of everything!

So we are definitely on the street; in two and half months, we must leave here: but where shall we go? We will look for the column in the desert, and say to the Master: Where do you want to celebrate the Passover?

Pray a great deal for us, and you know how fondly I repay you. I still use your rosary which is constantly breaking.

Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

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CO 732

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 13/17)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 16, 1858*

Thank you, dear daughter in our Lord, for your kind remembrance, your wishes, your prayers. I can certainly recognize your family's spirit and virtue there. Not a day goes by without my thinking of you all. The heart does not die... How many times I come to Bramefaim on pilgrimage [in thought] and there I experience compassion, I bless you, and I would cry, if I were not holding God's hand. Holy family, the grace which is pouring down upon it in torrents is colored with blood.

And your good Tonny! Oh, how I feared and suffered at the time of the financial crisis in the United States. Your letter put balm on my soul, thank you. A good son, a good brother, a good father, a faithful friend is always blessed by God and man.

So much the better that you did not go to Oceania, I would not have advised you to do so. Your place is to be in Lyons, to love and serve God and to continue to be the family's bond and center.

Good Fr. Mayet is still working for God and the Blessed Virgin, I am happy about it.

Do tell him that I am still the same Fr. Eymard as before, that there is nothing but our hearts between Jesus and Mary.[15]

And you, dear daughter, you are wise and generous enough to know that the world is full of suffering, that God's servants still possess some of old father Adam's foolishness, that we must journey in patience and in piety in the midst of this hospital, until we reach the beautiful shores of the heavenly Homeland.

Remain especially very close to your dear beloved mother.[16] - Always be content in the service of God. Live by his love, - and nothing will trouble you.

[15] They are still friends as they were when Fr. Eymard was a Marist, although circumstances called for a halt in communications.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Goodbye, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you that my health is good. I am surprised myself. Our little Work is growing in the midst of thorns; it is growing as God blesses it. - Oh! If we were sufficiently dead to self, we would already be greater, - but, God will do and is doing everything.

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CO 733

TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE
(V 3/3)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 19, 1858*

Madame,

This morning I received the 15,000 francs which you kindly sent us as a loan to help us purchase our house. The house itself will serve as collateral, as well as our small possessions. I don't have time to go into town to find stamped paper to send you a legal note. In the meantime this will express my gratitude.

I also received the amount that good Fr. Hermann had for our Work, which, together with yours, adds up to 54,000 francs. In order [for us] to reach a goal of 70,000 francs, the good Lord will have to come to our help; and then, I believe the fees will go as high as 6,000 francs. I want to pay cash to save 5,000 francs; otherwise, in three years, it would amount to 75,000 francs, plus the fees.

Last night I learned that the deed will be made only at the beginning of February. I need a few [more] days to be able to do it; divine Providence is a good Mother.

I cannot thank you enough, dear Lady, for all you have done for the eucharistic Work. Our good Master will repay you for everything.

I join with you in your joy for the beautiful feast of St. Hilary of Poitiers must have been very festive and proud of its glory.

See you soon, dear Madame.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup. of the Priests
of the Most Blessed Sacrament

[16] The Blessed Mother.

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CO 734

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)

(III 6/21)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 29, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

Yes, in fact seventeen months is a long time, and I would be tempted to reproach you for your excessive sensitivity, your fear of bothering me. No, my poor daughter, you would never bother me and I will always be happy to help you.

I read your whole letter carefully, and I'll try to answer it.

1. Meditation. - Ordinarily, always have a subject prepared. Those that you mention are good. However, when there is a feast day, or if a truth has impressed us, we ought to give preference to these as subjects of meditation.

My poor daughter, you must bear with your spiritual poverty during prayer as being a fine condition in which to make your meditation. The good Lord needs neither our thoughts nor our words to teach us how to love him, or to give us his holy grace; but he wants us to do all we can in the sight of his sovereign Majesty to prove our good will to him. Then, when we have reached the limit of our poverty, then he comes to us and gives us his holy grace.

Don't reflect so much in your meditation. It's better to make acts of virtue. For example: while meditating on the Passion of Jesus Christ, begin with an act of love at the sight of everything our good Saviour has suffered for us, then an act of thanksgiving for having loved us so much, for having suffered so much for us, for having made us aware of it. Afterward, express love for your suffering, and in particular for the suffering you have to bear at the moment. Then ask for the grace and love needed to suffer profitably for his love's sake. Then speak to the Blessed Virgin, to the Saints, in order that they may intercede for this grace for you, and resolve to bear such or such a thing silently and patiently. That would be an excellent meditation.

You can do the same for any other subject.

2. Continue to receive Communion, in spite of your distractions and poverty. Holy Communion is the strength and grace of your spiritual life, banish the thought of discontinuing your Communions.

3. Confession is tedious and disconcerts you somewhat because you keep repeating the same faults of impatience, lack of mortification, lukewarmness, lack of trust in God. Alas! Poor daughter, that is the dust from the journey that will cling to you every day. Our self-love continues to grow, and we must continue to fight it and uproot it as soon as it appears. - To your confessions bring good will, a desire to do better, humility of heart, and I will answer for the rest.

At your age, everything is difficult. A spirit of faith and love are the only way to sustain God's service. And then, you are the Saint Martha of the house. Charity is the norm of your devotion. These two beautiful virtues must move forward together.

It is true, to some extent it requires giving up the calm and sweetness of piety in union with God alone, like Mary Magdalen's.[17] But rest assured that charity is the shortest path to heaven and the most meritorious virtue.

Dear daughter, try to please God in everything, by doing everything for his love, seeking no other consolation for your difficulties than that of being pleasing to him. But, my poor daughter, don't keep accounts with the good Lord. Don't look to see whether you are advancing or regressing, you would be worrying for nothing. Do like someone who still has a long way to go, who forgets [the distance] already traveled to think only of what still lies ahead.

[17] Mary listening at the feet of Jesus.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Do you know where your treasure lies? In the inexhaustible, infinite mercy of God. That is the key to heaven, the flowers for our crown, the ultimate grace of a good and holy death.

I thank God for having inspired you to write to me. Your letter made me happy; it had been so long since you had told me anything!

We are still fine. Our little Work is like a ship in the midst of the seas, sometimes calm, sometimes stormy, but God is watching over it in his divine goodness. Little trials always turn to good. We are on the point of buying a house. There are always minor difficulties; that is what gives us hope, for success will come from God alone.

Goodbye, good daughter. I bless you wholeheartedly, you as well as your whole family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Mariette Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons, (Rhone)

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CO 735

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 184/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, January 31, 1858*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

It has been quite a long time since I've written to you, although it always brought us new joy to receive your letters. I've been so overworked and sometimes so lazy! The month of January is always very difficult for me.

At the beginning of February I will send you… signed by Fr. Champion. That fine woman is rendering us a great service and our Lord is really honoring her by accepting her stone for the Eucharistic edifice.[18] It was just like her. By the same token we would also willingly receive the 700 francs you mentioned to me[19] … [*8 lines erased*]…. Everything will be settled then and we will pay everything cash, that is, 70,000 francs instead of 75,000, and so, gain 5,000 francs. It was childish on Miss Monavon's part to have so misunderstood my reply, but it didn't bother me. I don't want the first women adorers to be known now, or considered as religious. I want them to be considered simply as devout persons who associate themselves to our adorations.

Nor do I want a uniform habit but something varied, in order that it not be said that there is one. That is why I suppressed their reciting the "Office" with us. The women here[20] understand all that and go along with it willingly.

I really esteem Miss …. I am not saying no, but we must let God's grace do its work. Miss... is a fine person, but don't commit her to anything.

As for you, I can see that everything is going well. Your Bethlehem and Nazareth are being prepared. Have courage and trust! You are coming to the wedding of the King.

Take good care of the fine postulant.[21] It is necessary… tell her to pray much.

[18] stone: figure for a significant donation.
[19] Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and her companions.
[20] Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and the women from Toulon.
[21] Mme. Benoite Richard.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

And Fr. Brun![22] The day for his decision is fast approaching. I was praying a great deal for him these days, especially this morning. When I left adoration, Fr. Ch. had me read his letter. How good is the good Lord! he does achieve his purposes by the means [he chooses in] his divine wisdom!

I have time only to bless you.

Eyd.

On February 19th, 1858, Father Eymard finally signed the deed to purchase the house and property at Faubourg St. Jacques. He would then leave Villa Chateaubriand at rue d'Enfer, the property of the Archdiocese, his dear "Bethlehem," on March 30, Tuesday of Holy Week.

739

CO 736

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 185/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, February 22, 1858*[23]

Good daughter,

You were told the good news immediately.[24] Otherwise I myself would have done so immediately. Poor and blessed house! It really comes from God. It will be precious to us, it will be the Nazareth of the Work, as this one was its Bethlehem.

Yes, yes, the ways of divine Providence are excellent. Difficulties become enlightening and are always great graces. How good God is to have chosen us and led us to this beautiful Work! The more I see it, the more I esteem it! What fills me with joy is to see that no one has the glory of being its founder, its protector, its defender, its law. What a beautiful position it has! It depends only on God and on holy Church. Its purpose, its center, its first and final purpose are the adorable person of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament. It has nothing and [yet] possesses everything. It seems to do nothing, but how beautiful and powerful its life is at the feet of the God of mercies!

God gives me the grace to suffer everything with joy for the establishment of his eucharistic kingdom, to esteem as the greatest grace to be unnoticed and unknown by society and by religious people. I feel that the roots need to be hidden underground, this little fire [needs to be] covered with ashes. So I fear being noticed or discovered with our beautiful heritage. I feel that it isn't time to become known yet. We must grow nearer to the divine Tabernacle and live there unnoticed like the angels do. So we are beginning the most basic repairs on the chapel today, we must begin with the Master; we want to enter there on Easter and rise with Jesus.

As for you, my poor daughters, as soon as the house I am planning for you will be ready, we will let you know. I don't think it will be before the month of May, because everything must be very dry and somewhat suitable… [*3 lines erased*]…. Could Mr. Richard come soon? for Easter for example?

Shortly, I will write to your dear sisters who wrote to me. Assure them of my fond interest in them and tell them how happy I would be if the good Lord wants me to help you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

[22] Fr. Bruneau, perhaps.
[23] Letter finished on Feb. 28th.
[24] Probably in a letter from Mme. Duhaut-Cilly.

P.S. I am sending you here enclosed… seals her letter. Our Fathers are well. I can't thank the good Lord enough for Fr. Ch. and Fr. B.

25th. - I wasn't able to finish this poor letter until today.

Write to me, poor daughter, I feel that your heart and soul are sad. Please! be patient, the joyful day will soon be here to come to the Bridegroom's wedding.

This morning, I received from a friend the money I needed on Saturday to pay for the deed: see how good the good Lord is! Everything happens at the appointed time.

740

CO 737

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 22/75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, February 26, 1858*

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter really left me sad. You were ill, and I didn't know it. You might have gone to Heaven without telling me. Please! You weren't very prudent.

Isn't it true that illness is a very powerful meditation! Close to eternity, we judge our life very strictly and the light of goodness is so bright and piercing!

Oh! These [illnesses] are heavenly messengers; we must receive them well. Dear daughter, I hope it will help you to grow.[25] The first truth we need to foster is the practical truth of the vanity of possessions and worldly pleasures. Hold to nothing.

The second truth is to give ourselves, consecrate ourselves, dedicate ourselves, immolate ourselves entirely to the service and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The third truth is to live by Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ, for Jesus Christ. That requires that we should place ourselves in constant and habitual communication with his spirit, his virtues, his love, his cross, his Eucharist. The truth of Jesus resembles the light; in order to enjoy it, we must enter into communication with it by acts of life. The love of Jesus is like fire; we must place ourselves close to the fire to feel it. It is by means of a practical love that we love.

Have courage, dear daughter; that will be enough. You can guess the rest. It's the door to the great banquet hall for the Feast of the King.[26]

I am very happy to tell you that after so many difficulties, ordeals, deceptions, etc., we bought a house on rue du Faubourg St. Jacques, 68. It is large, but in pitiful condition. The contractor told me yesterday: "I've never seen anything so racked and ruined." That makes me happy. It was abandoned three years ago. The first time I went in, I was afraid of it. The chapel is fine, in fact, very fine; that's my joy. The Master will be well lodged; that is the essential thing. People always manage, our nature always finds a way to manage and get comfortable! Repairs are going quickly. Come Easter we will be there, please God. There is a lovely garden, with calm, peace and the sun! We are seven - 4 [of whom are] priests; a fifth will be coming. See, dear daughter, God knows how to alleviate everything and to unite the Cross with grace.

In the midst of this deluge of business, I am fine. God has chosen infirmity to strengthen or confuse the strong.

[25] literally: make you better.

[26] Perhaps, that courage is the door to union with God.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Thank you for helping Mr. Laval; try to pull him through and go to comfort him. He isn't evil, nor dangerous; but, as I told you, he has a very good heart but doesn't understand people.

Goodbye, I bless you and all your loved ones.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.S.

741

CO 738

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 186/395 VI 2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, Miss Marguerite March 6, 1858*[27]

Good daughter,

Thank you for your letter. I was worried about you, I was going to write to you, feeling that you are burdened with sadness and sufferings.

It seems that the time for your departure is near because I can see anguish and suffering following upon one another in your life: good sign! Take courage and have confidence! You are earning your dowry, it will be beautiful and sumptuous as I want it to be.

In your struggles think of our Lord when he proclaimed and promised the holy Eucharist, see how the people were scandalized and abandoned him, even his disciples. However I suspect that, like the Apostles, you are feeling an invincible strength within yourself which strengthens and supports you in your firm resolution; it's just a storm which helps us sail more quickly toward the port.

I'm not setting a date for you to come; come when you want to. If I could make a wish, it would be that you should be here for Easter, but I can see very well that the house I am planning for you won't be ready by then. It will be so at the end of April, so everything will be ready for the month of May.

I was told many good things about Miss Bouillon, that's fine. Let her come with you. She is fortunate to be preferred to so many others, but she must be told things clearly. If she holds to the externals of a religious habit, if she expects to find a community that is well established and settled, then she should wait; for we are only starting. However, there is one thing that is perfect, that is our purpose, our Rule, in a word, the divine Eucharist. There is nothing to invent, to create or to perfect there; there is nothing to do but to adore, to love, to serve… [*6 lines erased*]….

We are working a great deal on our chapel; first we will lodge the Master, that's only right. I don't worry about how we will pay for all of it, the good Lord is so good! Everything comes exactly when we need it. Oh! yes, let us truly surrender to divine Providence, which cares for us like a mother!

Fr. Bruneau is fine, he is full of good will. I believe that this new vocation will benefit his soul greatly. With the Marist Fathers, he was losing ground, becoming perhaps even negligent.

Dear Fr. Champion is still very fervent… [*3 lines erased*]….

There was never even a cloud between us.

March 8th. - Yesterday, before my letter was closed, I read your letter to Fr. Champion and your reasons for waiting until the month of May, reasons which I approve. They are just and charitable: so be it. It was a little through compassion for your struggles and sorrows that I was allowing you to come sooner.

I didn't tell Mme. D. Cilly and her sisters what I could do to lodge you….

[27] finished on March 8th.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

I didn't tell her anything about Mme. Richard.[28]

Goodbye, my daughter, keep your soul calm and free; recognize the struggle for freedom and divine love around you.

All yours,
Eymard

742

CO 739

TO CLAUDINE GUILLOT
(III 2/2)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, March 6, 1858*

Miss Claudine
Very dear daughter,

I always thought that if our Lord wanted a community of women for the Most Blessed Sacrament, you would follow your sister Marguerite, [even] if your other sisters didn't want it or didn't feel called to it. So what you are telling me gives me comfort and great joy in our Lord. You know how happy I will be to share my happiness with you. It is truly outstanding; I have never been so happy as now nor in better health, in spite of the fact that so many concerns would formerly have put me flat on my back. It is because we are serving such a good Master! what is better or more beautiful than the Eucharist?

Everything I previously suffered is now a great cause of joy to me and I have only one regret; it is that I didn't suffer more and better, but to the extent that divine love fills my soul, I trust that I will not be refused the holy cross, which is its life and victory. So yes, dear daughter, I do receive you in the family of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I know you and what you can do, so be at peace about that: you are coming, not to be useful or to work, but to really love and serve our good Master and Lord in keeping with your state of health.

Miss Marguerite is wrong to worry over her health. Tell her not to worry about it, that Jesus, her Spouse and our King wants it so.

In the meantime, dear daughter, let the Blessed Virgin prepare you, and die to everything that is [merely] human and natural in order to live only the eucharistic life: a life of death and of love.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Claudine Guillot
17, rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

[28] The future Sr. Benoite.

743

CO 740

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)

(III 7/21)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, March 8, 1858*

Dear daughter,

I always seem to make you wait for an answer, unfortunately! I'm very sorry about it. I am like people who don't know how to find time for anything and yet always seem very busy. - Our house is bought now, what great thanksgiving should we not render to God. But now we have enormous repairs to do, and worries. Oh! yes, the more we own, the more worried and burdened we become. Blessed is the one who has nothing and clings to nothing.

Your two sisters want to come to serve Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, close by. I can't refuse anything to them or to you, or to your sister Jenny, or to your family. I've always told you, your family is my own. How many times I thought that if my sister and Nanette died before me, I would have given you all of our little patrimony, as to my own sisters! I have never said so, but that was a real decision of mine.

Your two sisters will be coming shortly, when everything is ready. I do hope that you will also come someday, as well as Miss Jenny, for you cannot remain separated [from one another], since you have always been so united. As for me, I've had this thought since the beginning, for I repeat, you are my first family, and I can't be happy unless I share my happiness with you. However, I wouldn't want to share my little crosses with you; these I will keep, for I want to give you only the graces.

As for caring for your sisters, until you come to care for them, be at peace. I will take care of it. I thank you for all the details you gave me about their disabilities. Please tell me what they cannot do and everything they need.

For your part, I expect that you will stay with Miss Jenny… [*7 lines erased*]…. I often tell these Ladies that I don't want either a habit, or external signs of religious life for the moment, but that they should be like a family. So if anyone should say to you: it is a convent, you can answer no, until it should please God to ordain otherwise.

Take heart dear daughter, don't be upset, and don't weep over a joy which I hope you will also share someday.

Let people think and talk. My decision is very firm to let people say all they want to say against me. Provided our Lord is pleased with me, I forget[29] the rest, I don't need it. God will give me his blessing to replace everything.

Courage, good daughter, consider it all as a lovely trip and pleasant visit to Jesus. - My heartfelt regards to your sister Jenny; she must also be suffering greatly. These are a seal [of love] from the good Lord.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

[29] Literally: scorn.

744

CO 741

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 7/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, March 8, 1858*

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

To prove my good will, I was going to write to you the day after I received your letter. However, since that time I have been on a wave which has swept me into the high seas.

Finally, we bought our house. The deed is signed, the workmen are repairing it, and we hope to be there on the holy day of Easter. The chapel will be better than the one we have here. The house is good enough for us. When the Master is lodged suitably, the servants are happy. - That is one step taken in the temporal sphere, but there are so many worries left! Sometimes I'm like those who gather stones in a basket to dump them at the stone cutters.[30]

Would you know, my dear daughter, that the earlier[31] sufferings left me without experiencing the joy of the purchase? Oh! I understand ever better, God alone is sufficient to the soul. To possess him is every good there is; his love, all pleasures; his service all glory. Nothing can replace God, but he divinely replaces everything. Our greatest wealth consists in always striving to have less, like Jesus Christ.

All these jolts from human beings and events were a great help to my soul; they lead me to experience God's great goodness, and force me to find shelter under the wings of his divine goodness.

If only you could be here at Easter, dear daughter; you would see our new Cenacle in its beginnings. You'll see it later. Today we ordered a <u>confessional</u>. It makes me laugh.[32]

Be entirely eucharistic in your life and in your works.

Live on the divine Eucharist, like the Hebrews did on the manna, like Mary with Jesus. I bless you in this divine love and say that I am,

All yours,
Eymard

745

CO 742

TO VIRGINIE DANION
(IV 4/36)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, March 8, 1858*

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

What a long silence of late! Surely, it must be my fault! Miss de Mauroy has now returned from Rome. I've had the pastor's certificate for a few days; I'll send it to him today. His things are now in order. I'm sorry for this delay.

You didn't comment at all on the news about Fr. Champion's entrance into the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Another has also come; we are now four priests and will soon be five.

[30] meaning unclear.
[31] Doubts at the Chancery questioning the status of this new Work.
[32] Meaning unclear.

Therefore, pray dear sister, so that good and holy vocations may come to increase our little eucharistic family.

We've just bought a house with a chapel at Faubourg St. Jacques, 68. Thank our good Master with us and for us because we were like the Hebrews in the desert.

We hope to be there for Easter. It'll be a great consolation for me to rise there with Jesus.[33]

You can understand how many trips and worries were needed to achieve this result; that partly explains my silence.

So now, I hope to apply myself seriously to a Third Order for Priests, until it comes to be. Several people are waiting for it. Won't you help me with it? Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear sister,

One who is closely united to you in the divine Eucharist,

Eymard, Superior

P.S. Miss de Mauroy didn't give me anything else. The validity of the certificate and the indulgences require only the exequatur[34] from the Chancery on the paper. If they don't have a formula to confer the Scapular, take the usual one and substitute a reference to the Most Blessed Sacrament until we have something better, that's what I did in Lyons. Besides, here the formula is optional.

746

CO 743

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON

(V 7/9)

All for Jesus Hostia *Paris, March 8, 1858*

Mademoiselle,

Thank you for remembering me, it happens so seldom. I understand that since you are so busy with so many things, your pen[35] is limited to Lyons, or only in haste; and then, so much pain and troubles often dull all external feelings.

Thank you for your prayers and for your continued interest in our dear Work. God is blessing it; he has just provided us with a chapel, a house and a beautiful garden in an area measuring 4,452 meters. They say this total is very large for Paris. Beginning on Easter, our address shall be: faubourg St. Jacques, 68.

As for Mr. Marziou,[36] his friends are his praise: Mr. Baudon, General President of the conferences of St. Vincent De Paul, etc. I read him often and I find him better than I was told. He is a man of faith and great devotion, capable of making great sacrifices. I believe that in this whole affair surrounding the *Arche d'Alliance* and *Oceania*, there was some intrigue on the part of his subordinates. I heard something about it: one of his workers did him wrong, even calumniated him, I believe. Our good and holy friend was deceived to some extent by this employee, and since he was so honest, he believed everything, and acted with his characteristic directness and firmness. I know very upright people who trust Mr. Marziou. For my part, I gave him my esteem and affection.

[33] Be there for Easter.
[34] Permission.
[35] Your writing.
[36] Perhaps the Mr. Marziou referred to later in the correspondence as a financier.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

From time to time I see Mr. Foloppe: ever a good Christian, but busy in Paris. We spoke about you. He admits he is slow, but he is a very honest person and I esteem him very much.

I was told by Mr. d'Haring that Lyons may have Exposition of Forty Hours. I find myself longing to go and set fire to this dear Lyons.

Goodbye Mademoiselle, your mission is to pray on the run; don't forget us.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

747

CO 744

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 28/52)

All for the love and glory *Paris, of Jesus Hostia +March 16, 1858*

Dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you for the lovely and heartfelt news about the triumph of Jesus Eucharistic at Tarare. I would like to see you go with torch in hand, like a lightning bolt, to set the fire of eucharistic love everywhere!

Take hold of every opportunity which our good Master gives you to do so: life has no charm or power except through the divine Eucharist.

I would be happy if Fr. Hermann would keep his word.

This morning, I received your three rules; I read them with the greatest pleasure. That's all you need; too many rules complicate. Love does the rest - and gives movement and life.

As for your election, my feeling would be that they would choose a lay person over a cleric: there is less touchiness, more follow-up, and especially a more unified and strong dedication.

However, don't let my feeling be your guide. Besides, this is [just] the beginning for Amplepuis, the first steps are ordinarily like the column in the desert.

I am writing to tell your sister that she will be admitted. Send her to Sr. Calamant at St. John's Parish.

We are hoping to enter into our new Cenacle on Holy Thursday.

How good is the good Lord! His divine Providence orders and disposes everything like a good and watchful mother.

Pray for me; I don't dare say that I am suffering. No, but I feel that I am drawn and pulled on all sides by a thousand desires that are more or less eucharistic. I need to keep myself unified in the life and truth of Jesus.

Take courage! You are too silent and almost lazy. I'm really praying for your children and your husband.

Always continue to be an adorer in Jesus; that's fine!

All yours,
Eymard, S.

748

CO 745

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 187/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, March 23, 1858*

Good daughter,

With fifteen workmen on my hands, retreatants, and a thousand and one things, you will forgive me for not writing to you. I did feel the need because I understand what your Calvary is like, and since you are not well everything around you must add to your crown of thorns. Poor daughter! You know you must earn your union [with God] and your title of nobility. Suffering is the blood of divine love, it is the agony and death of our selfishness.

Be sure to suffer with our Lord; later, you will be happy and pleased that you did….

Be strong in your decision. Let them cry, shout and storm;[37] none of that comes from God but from selfishness. Don't make any concessions, except in the case of serious illness. Continue to say that you will be coming in the month of May, that it is definite, and when they bring it up, refer them to me.

The good Lord will determine the day, whether it is to be at the beginning or at the end [of the month], but for your part, aim for the earliest. Then they will arrange accordingly and end by giving in.

I am praying very much for all of you. Tell Miss Claudine that I am pleased with her.

Everything is going well here.

I will write something for you for Mr. Bouillon,[38] and send you the outline for the Religious [fem] of the Most Blessed Sacrament. That good man is prudent and does well; whatever Jesus wants will take place. Let this fine young woman have confidence; her affairs are proceeding well.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

On March 30, Tuesday of Holy Week, Fr. Eymard and his companions left the House on rue d'Enfer permanently, to transfer to Faubourg St. Jacques, which he would refer to as the "Nazareth" of the Work.

749

CO 746

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 109/145 VI 10)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia[39] *Paris, April 2, 1858*

Very dear Sisters,

Every day I plan to write to you and night comes without my having done so. Today I am tearing myself away from everything else so that my letter may reach you on the holy day of Easter and inform you that the purchase of our house has been finalized. We will enter there tomorrow night, and we will bless our lovely chapel on the holy day of Easter. I will say the Mass of

[37] Perhaps her sisters.
[38] Perhaps the father of Miss Bouillon who was considering a vocation.
[39] This heading is printed on the original.

Exposition half for you and half for me. What delayed me is that we have had fifteen workmen to guide and oversee for a month now, that is why we haven't had a free moment. Add to that, the Exposition to be maintained, and a thousand and one new things to do - the incredible thing is that I am well. We abstained from meat during all of Lent and I have not been the worse because of it. I didn't have time to sleep, yet I don't have any more migraine headaches. How good the good Lord is! do thank him for me.

There are eight of us now - everything is going well - God really helped us in this transaction. We are finally at home, or rather at the home of our Lord, since servants dwell with their Master.

I will write you more details soon, as I am afraid of missing the mail.

All yours,
Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Dear sister,

I have just read your letter. I do deserve your scolding, please forgive me once more.

I will write to the Pastor shortly. If you only knew what life is like in Paris! we don't have time to breathe, especially us, at the beginning of such an important foundation.

I am doing what I can for Mr. Guetat. I hope that everything will succeed, say hello to him for me. The business matter for Bethoux will be more difficult, but let's hope.

On Easter Day, April 4th, the chapel was inaugurated at Faubourg St. Jacques. Father would later call it "the chapel of miracles."

750

CO 747

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 188/395 VI 2)

Paris, April 8, 1858

About the Ladies - I can't tell you when they will begin; I am waiting for God's orders; I hope it won't be long.

We will have a small house built next to the other one; that is what is delaying me; it will take a month.

For you and your sister, and if need be, dear... we can receive you; but I would like to house you here toward the middle or the end of May, when everything will be finished.

Fr. Bruneau is worth a hundred. He is the one who has done everything. He is a planner and decisive, very well organized; each one has his own gifts.

Goodbye, good daughter. Write to me in detail about the trip to Ars. Please don't speak to me about your limitations; they are graces. As for me, the weaker and less worthy one becomes, the greater one will be before God and dear to my heart.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

751

CO 748

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 189/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, April 14, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

Don't worry too much about me, nor about my little crosses: they are sources of light and [they are] graces. When our poor human nature falls into the hands of Jesus, it is always afraid of everything, it wants to hang on to all the bushes which it can grasp on the way.

It seems that our good Master wants me to be very free from everything and everyone; he wants to be my only possession and my only strength. I can't hope for more.

Yes, these poor children will both come and they will be religious in spite of all the apparent obstacles; at least that is my hope.[40]

Mr. Richard will come with you, so be it. That is the easiest way. I would like to know whether Mr. Richard couldn't come beforehand. I would prefer that in order to house him here immediately… [*4 lines erased*]. These are the thoughts that have been on my mind for a long time… [*2 1/2 lines erased*].

I am saying your Masses. We are slowly getting organized. Yesterday we received as a novice a priest whom I knew. He is old: 58 years old. If our Lord wants him, that's fine. A brother gardener is leaving us: money and selfishness tempted him. May God be blessed! Someone else will come. Thank you for your suggestions about the house to be built, that will help me. From now on I will no longer show your letters[41]… unless you tell me to do so.

I am well in spite of everything. - Believe me in the Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I was quite satisfied with the trip to Ars… [*3 lines erased*].

752

CO 749

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 190/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, fg[42] St. Jacques, 68, April 23, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

I have been counting the days and it seems so long.[43]

I am anxious to see your difficulties, longings and sufferings come to an end. I feel that you are on a difficult Calvary, but life comes by means of death; the grace of vocation is being purified and strengthened. Suffer in our Lord and free your soul from all that is created and earthly.

Look only at Jesus, he will be your possession, your center and your bread.

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[40] Mr. and Mme. Charles Richard separated to enter the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.
[41] He may have been sharing her letters with Fr. Champion, who had previously been her director.
[42] Faubourg.
[43] Counting the days until the arrival of Marguerite and her sister in Paris.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

All these difficulties are good for me. Everything is going well here, everyone has good will; grace will take care of the rest.

Mme. D.C.[44] is looking forward to your coming with the greatest pleasure and most heartfelt joy. She is constantly speaking to me about it. It is a feast day for her. So, on that point have no hesitations, no fears. She has become so spiritual, so humble and so kind! God has given her great graces and especially the great honor of sharing in the initial sufferings. Tell your dear sister that everything will be good and holy.

The Fathers don't mention it to you because they see one another very little… [*7 1/2 lines erased*]. Let Miss B. be patient,[45] she needs to know that I would never receive her without her parents' consent. She is experiencing some difficulties, that is a good sign. Let her pray and ask our Lord to be free, but it seems that her hour has not rung yet.

Your house is progressing.[46] I am eager to see it finished and to see all of you occupying it.

Yes, everything is settled for…; let her prepare with you.

I bless you all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - Fr. Brun. has become a beggar and begs me to tell you to bring him a ream of letter paper, pens and envelopes and a ream of school paper.

… [*2 lines erased*].

It would please me very much if you… [*3 lines erased*].

753

CO 750

TO MME.NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 23/75)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, April 23, 1858*

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

Today the 23rd, I began the novena for your dear daughter. I'll continue until May 1st, and constantly ask our Lord, through his holy Mother, for a child of blessing. God will hear us, because it is really for his glory.

So now we are at our Lord's house, in a large house with a lovely chapel and a beautiful garden. See how the good Master treats his poor servants!

For the last two months we have had workmen [here], I long for the time when all these repairs will be finished. We began by lodging the Master.

Won't you come to Paris this year? I would really like to show you our little Works.

May God bless your silkworms. He has been trying you so long with that.

Yes! Let us truly be <u>one</u> in our Lord, totally united in his spirit and his divine love. Receive crosses like a change of weather, and be at peace with the grace of God.

Give me news about yourself. You know how much I hold to it; you are my eldest in God.

[44] Mme. Pauline Duhaut-Cilly.
[45] Evidently Miss Bouillon, mentioned earlier.
[46] The construction is progressing.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Always and ever yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mme. Jordan, at Mr. Giraud's[47]
rue St. Jacques, 13
Grenoble (Isere)

754

CO 751

TO MR. CREUSET
(V 8/8)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, May 2, 1858*

Very dear friend,

I have been and I am still always deeply touched by your kind remembrance and friendship, and I am happy to return the same. I thank the good Lord for having given you such a good and devout companion![48] Oh! Yes, I did bless her, her and her fruit, in order that it may be blessed with every grace and blessing from our Lord. And you also, may you be blessed, dear friend, in his holy love! Don't let yourself be troubled or swayed by the worries and difficulties of this exile. The sun is moving toward its beautiful setting, life passes as do possessions, but the service of God remains. Oh! Yes, serve our dear Master well, and he will tell you: "Enter into the joy of your Lord."

I am still very happy with my position. It is so beautiful! I didn't deserve it. - I still don't have anyone from Lyons with me, and yet I love the Lyonese so. Their day will come.

Goodbye, dear friend, let us always remain united in the divine charity of our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

755

CO 752

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 191/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, May 5, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

I am suffering so much because I feel that you are on such a hard cross! May our Lord help you and strengthen you in his holy love! You are experiencing a real agony, and your poor heart is so sad and [severely] tried. I am thanking our dear Master for making you strong in your resolve and decision. Truly be so, and don't let yourself be coerced or weakened for whatever reason: not for tears nor for human comfort. Be strong like Jesus on his way to the cross, like Abraham with Isaac, or like your divine Mother.

[47] Her daughter's home.
[48] Mr. Creuset's wife is pregnant.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Your grief and the tears of your heart are flowers for love's beautiful Calvary; one day you will gather them up with joy.

Yes, my dear daughter, our good Master wants you to serve him, that is why divine Providence has arranged everything to free you and enable you to come into his holy Cenacle.

Progress is being made on the small Cenacle. I am hoping everything will be clean and ready to receive you in two weeks. When I think about it all, I am overwhelmed. I can only see the finger of God in it. You will see God's great love for you in calling you to such a beautiful vocation.

Tell Mr. Richard not to worry so much about his furnishings. It is better for him to take a few days longer. I'm afraid he will fall sick from fatigue, so it is better for him to rest a day or two if he is tired.

Fr. Bruneau is leaving for Lyons tomorrow night at 10:30; he will arrive Friday afternoon.

The trip will do him good. He has worked so much, it will be a little relaxation. I was very satisfied with all he did; he is a good organizer, and decisive in action, I wouldn't have thought that he was so capable and generous. God will repay him for it. You will get along well with him;[49] he will help you a little and you will help him, too.

Mme. Richard must be very happy to see that her hopes and wishes are soon to be fulfilled. The good Lord loves her very much, for it is a great grace.

I said your Mass this morning and I prayed for you all.

Friday I will say the one for Miss Billard. She is a person whom I would like to see entirely given to the Blessed Sacrament.

Write to me often, dear daughter. I am united with you and your dear sister in your suffering; please share all that I am writing to you with her.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

P.S. - My respects and best wishes to Mad... I pray daily for her and her husband.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

756

CO 753

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)
(III 8/21)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, May 5, 1858*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Am I not very lazy about sending you a few words? Unfortunately, I'm so burdened with people and things at this time, that I hardly have time to breathe. I do share in your sorrows, dear daughter. At this time, you are truly on the cross; your aunt is sick, your sisters are preparing to come to Paris, you have the little difficulties of the house. - Be strong at this time, and don't let yourself be discouraged, God will come to your help. Your two sisters are coming to prepare a place for you; you must consider it as a grace and a momentary sacrifice willed by the good Lord. One day you will thank him for it.

[49] Alternate translation: arrange things with him.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Sometimes, God tries us to the point of agony, but he lifts us up immediately. Don't…. I will always be a father to you and to your sisters.

Help your good sister Jenny to calm down, she must be very upset… at heart…. Take heart! poor Miss Mariette. You are the one who has to care for everyone and prepare everything. Profit from this painful moment. If you feel like weeping, let God's grace and love have you say to our Lord: it is all for you.

In his divine love, I am

Always yours, dear daughter,
Eymard

To Miss Mariette Guillot
Lyons

757

CO 754

TO MME.JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 25/76)

May 9

Madame,

Thank you for your letter, I praised God for it. The devil is angry, but God triumphs! See how kind and foresighted, how maternal divine Providence can be? Surrender yourself to its protection and let it guide and do everything. Sleep quietly, God is watching for you and over you. I'm sending you a letter which was addressed to me. Take care of yourself and take your medication. When will I see you?

Ever at the feet of our Lord.

758

CO 755

TO MME.JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 26/76)

Paris, Faubourg..., May 11, 1858

Madame,

Yesterday, I forgot to ask you to send me a letter for Madame your mother, which Fr. Bruneau will bring to her. He wants to see this dear mother, his spiritual daughter, and help her a little if she needs it. He will be in Lyons for another week.

I was really sorry that I had so little time yesterday. The good Lord arranged otherwise. It will be better another time, and when you have time, let me know.

We were approved on May 13th, Thursday, the feast of the Ascension.[50] Praise God with us and thank him for us. What a happy day for us! How many graces flowed from it. It was a maternal providence that protected and guided us in a Work which would be so difficult and impossible

[50] In 1856, therefore the Anniversary is approaching.

ordinarily speaking. Oh! yes, for me it is such a great grace that I cannot think about it without being moved, especially when I see that our Lord chose such poor weak instruments who are without resources, without protectors, and unknown in Paris. Then, to see all difficulties disappear, and help come at the hour of need. Oh! yes, God's finger is in it; but, how fearful I need to be lest I become unfaithful or ungrateful. Do pray that I may never be so.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

759

CO 756

TO MR. BETHOUX
(VII 1/1)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, fg St. Jacques, 68, May 14, 1858*

Dear Mr. Bethoux,

I am sending you herewith the letter I have just received from the Minister of Finances. I have a good acquaintance there, the head of the division, Mr. Cavalier, who was very encouraging while others had discouraged me.

That fine gentleman had someone ask me whether you might have more precise notes, more explicit information. I asked him to research back as far as 1801 - I don't know whether it will bring more satisfactory results.

I would be so happy to help you! Please make use of me[51] and give my respects to dear Fr. Pellat.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

Mr. Bethoux, Postman
at La Mure d'Isere

760

CO 757

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 192/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, May 15, 1858*

Good daughter,

So the great moment is approaching, the solemn hour of sacrifice, agony, and death, followed by life and a eucharistic life. See my dear daughter, how our Lord has disposed, arranged, and done everything. You are free, the greatest difficulties have disappeared like a light cloud. You are coming to be near us and to share our grace, our life, our happiness and also our crosses. Where Jesus dwells we always find his good and gracious cross: for a Christian it is a staff for the journey, a sword for battle, a scepter and crown. Oh yes! to love God means to suffer for him; to love him

[51] For any errands he might need in Paris.

much means to be willing to suffer much; to love him perfectly means to die for him. Well, we will journey together and follow our divine Master. We will help one another to bear our little crosses, to love and serve our Lord as he deserves.

Oh yes! one day you will be pleased to have suffered, that your heart was pierced, your soul crushed and your body crucified.

Mr. Richard arrived Monday. I found him well disposed. I am hoping that he will become a good brother. He has a great deal of humility and good will.

I have just taken him around Paris; he enjoyed it. He had a good trip and is very happy.

As for you, come with Fr. Bruneau Monday or Tuesday of next week, because we plan to begin our retreat Thursday of Pentecost week in order to finish it on Corpus Christi. Don't worry so much about the "how" and whether you will disturb us - not at all. On the contrary, it will be a pleasure to receive you.

If the house is finished, you will come here. If not, you will go with these fine ladies;[52] but I hope that you will be housed near us.

The mail is leaving.

All yours,
Eyd.

761

CO 758

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 193/395 VI 2)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, May 21, 1858*

Dear daughter,

I am sending you Mr. Richard's letter to his sister in Jesus Christ.[53] I am still very pleased with him, and I see that he will be a fine religious, simple and direct.

God has been preparing him for this for a long time. How admirable are the ways of God's mercy! Where it goes to seek its favored ones!

So I am expecting you Tuesday. When you arrive come to see our good Master exposed here; it's only right that he should have the first visit. From here, you will go to 18 Cassini St.,[54] as I don't think the new Cenacle will be entirely ready Tuesday; however, you can leave your belongings here.

I will arrange all the rest.

Kind Fr. Champion said to tell you to be at peace about the debt you think you need to pay. I am also telling you: you don't owe anything.

Please tell good and dear Fr. Bruneau how badly I felt to know that he is sick and that the whole community is praying for him. I am happy to know that he is near you; he will repay you for what you did for him. Courage, my dear daughters, it's only once in a lifetime that we make this great sacrifice of one's lands, home, field, our brothers and sisters. It must be done for the love of our Lord: it's an act of perfect love, it is equivalent to martyrdom. Then we are so happy to have given everything! Entrust everything into the hands of our Lord: your sisters, your aunt, your affairs. He will take care of everything. On your part, do like Abraham, like Mary: come to the place where God is calling you, for the land of promise is worth more than the land of darkness.

[52] Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and her companions.
[53] Mme. Benoite Richard, his former wife.
[54] with Mme. Duhaut-Cilly.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

My blessing to all,
Eyd

P.S. I'm expecting one more letter from you. I would like Fr. Bruneau to bring some more cinctures, as my wish is that everyone wear long cinctures and not little cinctures which look either cheap or disorderly.

On May 25th, Marguerite Guillot and her sister Claudine arrived in Paris with Mme. Benoite Richard to join Mme. Pauline Duhaut-Cilly, Mme. Isabelle Spazzier, Miss Virginie Bonnefay and Miss Rose Negre, and begin the Congregation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

May 30th - June 6th St. Eymard preached a retreat to his own men, the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

762

CO 760

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 8/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, June 6, 1858*

Dear daughter in Jesus,

I am so angry with myself for leaving you such a long time without an answer! I was complaining about your long silence, while I am even guiltier! I trust that I must have some rights to your indulgent charity!

We've just had our annual retreat of 8 days, which closed on the holy day of Corpus Christi; then I have 12 workmen on my hands, etc., etc.

We will settle everything here. I advise you to go to the springs first. Then, when you return, we will receive you for a retreat. The dates are fine and I will be free at that time.

As for your unofficial proposal for the little eucharistic retreat; I would be delighted to begin with Nantes. Therefore you can count on me, as much as poor human nature will allow. Then we will [be able to] continue what we began with you in Paris.[55]

We had many consolations during our retreat. We were twelve: 7 Priests and 5 Brothers; some had come to study their vocation, there were two Priests among them. See how good our Lord is! I had wanted this little number, and he sent it to us because of his kindness! Oh yes, there is everything to gain in the eucharistic service of our Lord. It seems as if our Lord is no longer satisfied to give us the hundredfold, that isn't enough for his heart. I see ever more tangible signs of his divine Providence for us. If at least we could serve him with great fervor and generosity!

I'm very happy, dear daughter, to see you become eucharistic both in your zeal as well as in your life. That is henceforth your center and your mission, you can have nothing more beautiful! So, in order to show you my entire devotedness, I want you to be the first Third Order member of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I bless you and am in our Lord,

Dear sister and daughter in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard, SSS

P.S. I am sorry that I can't see your good friend at Versailles. I think the best way would be to go to see her at home some afternoon.

[55] Her spiritual direction.

June 10th - 17th, 1858, St. Peter Julian gave his first retreat to the future Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. He surprised himself by his own sternness, saying, "I plan to say things one way and I say them differently." It was a true test of the vocations of the women gathered to hear him.

RETREAT TO THE FUTURE SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

June 10	*BEGINNING OF THE RETREAT - Preparatory Meditation.*
June 11	*FIRST MEDITATION - The Religious Life.*
	SECOND MEDITATION - Community Life.
	THIRD MEDITATION - Eucharistic Vocation.
June 12	*FIRST MEDITATION - First Aim of the Eucharistic Work: Adoration.*
	SECOND MEDITATION - Second Aim: Thanksgiving.
	THIRD MEDITATION - Third Aim: Reparation.
June 13	*FIRST MEDITATION - Fourth Aim: Supplication.*
	SECOND MEDITATION - The interior Life of Jesus Eucharistic.
	THIRD MEDITATION - The Life of Recollection.
June 14	*FIRST MEDITATION - Eucharistic Humility.*
	SECOND MEDITATION - Eucharistic Poverty.
	THIRD MEDITATION - Eucharistic Obedience.
June 15	*FIRST MEDITATION - Jesus, God of Purity.*
	SECOND MEDITATION - The Virtue of Charity.
	THIRD MEDITATION - Jesus as Victim.
June 16	*FIRST MEDITATION - Eucharistic Faith.*
	SECOND MEDITATION - The Virtue of Eucharistic Faith.
	THIRD MEDITATION - The Spirit of Eucharistic Faith.
June 17	*CONCLUSION - Jesus Eucharistic, My Strength.*

763

CO 761

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 23/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 18, 1858

Good Father,

I promised to give you news about ourselves, while waiting for yours.

The retreat for the Ladies finished last night. I hope that the good Lord will bless it because there was much suffering. It was a retreat of "death."[56] I would almost reproach myself for having been too stern. The conclusion is that Miss Guillot will give it a try. After much suffering, her sister also desires to try. These women have been severely tested by their present situation: illness, family in Lyons, etc.

That is how God accomplishes his work through suffering, death to self and to everything.

Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and her companions are fine. They made generous sacrifices.

There is nothing new. Everything here is the same as usual. Father Bruneau didn't say holy Mass this morning. The blood is causing his hands to swell (usual illness).

Mr. Mathon is very proud to be your helper, he is full of good will. If he could feel very useful, he would be marvelous. He isn't mentioning his illness.

[56] Self-sacrifice, dying to self.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Mr. Courtois is still here. He is waiting for an answer from elsewhere, I personally cannot receive him as a postulant with such a special diet, and I told him so. He is very devout and seems to love the Work and our practices.

I am really praying for you dear Father, for your trip, your family; may everything work out and turn out for the greater good.

Take care of your health, have a swim in the ocean from time to time. It would be better to stay a few days longer, since you are close to the sea; take advantage of it for the better service of our King.

Mr. Carrier is fine and is working, he misses you.

Give us news about yourself, please.

A thousand and one regards to Fr. Brunello.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

764

CO 762

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 24/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 19, 1858

Very dear Colleague,

I received your letter this morning, I spent a few hours in prayer before answering you.

I began with thanksgiving because the offer which the holy Bishop of Marseilles is making to us for the Eucharistic Work truly touched me.

See how good our Lord is! We wanted to begin with Marseilles, with the house of the Minimes. Now everything seems to be taking shape so that we may make our first foundation there.

I love Marseilles, it was my first choice. I'd like to begin there.

Find out whether the House of the Minimes is a serious offer. Is it a gift for the Eucharistic Work?

Might this gift you are mentioning only be an offer to buy? In that case, and should the funds you mention be only a hope, I would postpone the project, because I don't want to get into debt.

If it is purely and simply a gift for the Work with the blessing of the Bishop, in that hypothesis, I would see the finger of God in it. Then I would authorize you to accept it. The Fathers agree with me. I would be very happy to become once again the son of the fine Bishop who is so devout.

Now here is another proposal which arrived the day before your letter.

A priest from Arras, whom I know, wrote me the following letter:

"Very Reverend Father,

"I have been directed to ask you whether in a year or thereabouts, you could make a foundation in our diocese and on what conditions.

"We would offer you an old monastery with a chapel and a large garden. It would be easy for you to receive subjects here because the locale is good and the Bishop would favor religious vocations, etc., etc.

"I have reason to believe that the foundation which is offered you would present still other advantages which are just as important.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

"I would be grateful if you would answer me as soon as possible..."[57]
June 16

So good Father, as you see, Bishop Parisis is there calling us. Should we prefer the south, or stretch out both arms?...

Mr. Courtois has decided to stay, everything is settled.

A priest is here discerning. The mail is leaving.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup. S.S.

765

CO 763

TO MOTHER FRANCOISE DE LAROCHENEGLY[58]
(VIII 1/2)

Paris, fg St. Jacq. 68, 20 June[59]

Very Reverend Mother,

The person who will present this letter to you is a young English lady from an excellent family, a convert to Catholicism for some time. She would like to spend a few weeks in your Holy house.[60] She is obliged to leave the English lady with whom she has been living.-

If she were to have a religious vocation she could be of great help to you for English retreatants - as it seems she has received a brilliant education.

I pray for you, dear Mother, and I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

(added in pencil: I shall come to see you tomorrow.)

On July 4th, Precious Blood Sunday, St. Peter Julian blessed the new house and oratory of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. The Ladies from Toulon and the group from Lyons had come together to begin community life on July 2nd, the feast of the Visitation.

He soon began giving them conferences on the spirit of their vocation and on religious life, usually twice a week on Tuesdays and on Fridays.

July 4	*Conference Servants: Father related a choking spell. Benediction in the chapel of the Servants: Sermon on the Angels.*
July 6	*Conference Servants: That we must tend to perfection through love, solitude and obedience.*
July 13	*Conference Servants: God wants the Work. Virtues which foundresses ought to have: death to self, spirit of charity.*
July 16	*Conference Servants: Our Motto: All for the Service of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The vows and charity.*

[57] This offer was eventually refused because they stipulated that it should be a House for Reparation.
[58] First Superior of the Cenacle of Fourvier
[59] Undated.
[60] Capitalized as in original.

July 20	*Conference Servants: Explanation of Chapter 1 of the Rule.*
July 23	*Conference Servants: Chapter 1. Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, first adorer.*

766

CO 764

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 9/104)

Paris, July 9, 1858

I am still as lazy as ever, dear daughter; forgive me. It's true that I've been overworked and I waited until today to have a moment that was really free.

Yes, I will give you all my free moments, you can come. You will have to lodge near us, if possible. If not,[61] with the "Ladies of the Retreat." You will come here, and I will go to you; we will arrange everything. Come, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

767

CO 765

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS, FOUNDRESS OF THE CONSTITUTE OF PERPETUAL ADORATION
(VI 1/22)

All for the love and glory of Jesus-Hostia *Paris, Fg St. Jacques, 68, July 11, 1858*

Mademoiselle,[62]

I have just come from my adoration and I prayed hard for your eucharistic Work, which corresponds to all my hopes and desires. God is blessing you abundantly and will continue to do so, since the Eucharist is life.

I gladly accept your kind suggestion to come and preach for the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament of the Miracle, on July 26th and the 2 or 3 days following.

I shall arrive in Brussels on Saturday, so we will have time to talk about our eucharistic Works and, I hope, plan together to bring about as powerfully as possible the reign of our Good Master.

In his divine Charity, I am happy to be, Mademoiselle,

Your most humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Superior of the Fathers
of the Blessed Sacrament

[61] If the new community cannot receive her.
[62] Miss de Meeus would eventually be instrumental in bringing the Blessed Sacrament Congregation to Belgium.

768

CO 766

TO MME.ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 10/19)[63]

July 30, 1858

In the name of the Most Blessed Trinity,[64] Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I, sister N., humbly prostrate at the foot of the throne of Divine Majesty, trusting in the grace of God, with the help of the Immaculate Virgin Mary my mother, with the protection of Blessed Joseph, of St. John the beloved disciple, unworthy though I am, I devote and consecrate myself forever, my body, my soul and my life in the service and to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in the Third Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and by my religious profession I promise to God and to you Father, Superior of the said Society, to observe the Rule faithfully until death.

Et ego aggrego vos societati sanctissimi Sacramenti et diddo vos participes omnium gratiarum adorationum precum et meritorum insuper omnium indulgentium quae a Sancta Sede nobis et agregatis concessa.[65]

769

CO. 767

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 27/76)

Often ask our good Master to arrange everything so that you may serve him well and nourish your soul, especially with holy Communion. By no means should you keep away from Communion because of your weaknesses or at the sight of your unworthiness. On the contrary, let that be a powerful motive to ardently desire this Bread of the strong, and more especially of the weak and the poor! I attach a great deal of importance to the morning examen, the offering of the whole day, usual attention to the holy Will of God at each moment, to gentle self-sacrifice through the service of our neighbor.

Hold your heart firmly with both hands, in order to keep it ever in the peace of our Lord. However, let your peace lie in combat, poverty, and patience to bear your spiritual poverty.

I bless you Madame, and I leave you in God's holy care.

Eymard

P.S. Kindly give us news about yourself from time to time.
For Madame Gourd

[63] Mme Spazzier had been part of the founding group of the Servants. Little is known about her departure after such a short time. cf Doc. 773.

[64] A text for Profession in the Third Order of the Blessed Sacrament in French, followed by a Latin text of association to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

[65] "And I associate you to the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament and give you a share in all the graces of adorations, prayers and merits and all the indulgences which the Holy See grants to us and to our associates."

770

CO 768

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 29/52)

Paris, August 3, 1858

Dear daughter,

I have just returned from Brussels where I preached the eucharistic exercises in the church of the Miracle which took place in 1270. I tried to rekindle the divine fire of the Most Holy Eucharist. I was impressed there, but what made me sad was to see that the large churches of the city are closed part of the day. I protested against this abuse.

From Brussels I went in pilgrimage to Lige, to visit the relics of St. Julienne and to pray at the lovely church of St. Martin where the beautiful feast of the Most Blessed Sacrament began. That is where perpetual Adoration should be established: they don't have it and the church there is being closed. A person must pay to go in, for revenue. Alas! Is it possible that our Lord would be treated like that! However, people in Brussels aren't all like that.

I was happy to read your outline. It is fine: however, I would prefer to leave out the name of Rev. Fr. Hermann. I am afraid it might harm the success of this eucharistic flyer in Paris, or with a few Bishops who aren't in favor of him. Then, he isn't the one who established it; leave the honor of it to His Eminence.

Dear daughter, you understand that it's only through prudence. If you think that it's better to leave it, that's fine with me and I praise our Lord for it. Everything is going well here with the grace of the holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am still so busy that I would almost complain; but I will always be available to you. Don't be afraid to write to me.

Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Amplepuis (Rhone)

Aug 3	*Conference Servants: Prudence and death to self.*
Aug 4	*Monthly Retr. Ser: We ought to belong to our Lord. Death to everything.*
Aug 5	*Conference Servants: The Rule.*

771

CO 769

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 28/76)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, August 8, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

Excuse my delay, it was truly involuntary. I really would have liked to answer you right away and tell you that I join with you in your novena to Our Lady of La Salette. Make it fervently. This blessed water can restore your hearing, not naturally but through grace. Also take the natural

precautions prudence requires: some sweet almond oil, camomile, or a few drops of lukewarm milk in the ears, but especially be calm in every event, indifferent to anything other than God's Will, condescending and gracious to your close family, primarily; ever free for your duty and charity.

Yes, you may keep the Reserved Sacrament, but don't mention your fears and doubts. You received an affirmative permission; keep it.

It is effective until you receive a precise and specific revocation. There are some rights which we must keep and protect as precious titles. Eat meat every day, God and holy Obedience will it; whoever will be scandalized is in the wrong.

Don't be impulsive with your distractions and mental wanderings in prayer, but pray in union with our Lord and the Most Blessed Virgin and not in union with yourself.

For Madame D., don't bind yourself at all, let events take care of themselves. Divine Providence will arrange everything. Don't let yourself become upset by any blame or threat. What power do they have against you? Nothing; God is for you.

Dear daughter, always be the daughter[66] of a motherly and gracious Providence; let it care for you and direct your life. Come and go freely, rejoice on its blessed bosom.

Give us news about yourself, when you can. I was so accustomed to see you here that I feel a great loss now.

God continues to love us so much.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mademoiselle,
Miss Boisson,
teacher at Thorins,
via Romaneche (Saone et Loire) P.E.

772

CO 770

TO MISS GIGUET
(VII 4/6)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *fg St. Jacques, 68, Paris, August 10, 1858*

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

Your constant charity overcomes my laziness. I should have written to you a long time ago. I really don't know how it happened, but with so many changes in the house, workmen and a thousand and one things in Paris, time flies without our noticing it.

So you are still very ill, poor daughter. Our Lord must be keeping a beautiful place for you in paradise, since he is giving you the opportunity to prepare such a beautiful crown with the thorns from his own, and the Holy Cross. Benefit from it - because you will be happy about it in God's sight. Especially, don't let yourself be discouraged by the past nor worried for the future. The infinite mercy of God answers for the past, and his fatherly Providence for the future. Concentrate only on sanctifying the present, and in hoping and desiring heaven where our good Father and Savior waits for us with love.

I am very happy that your good Protectress is still like a good mother to you. God is the one who has given her to you; thank him for me.

I pray and I will pray for you and for her, because that is all I can offer to the good Lord.

[66] Literally: child.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

We are fine, God is blessing us, which should make us better[67] toward him.
Believe me ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle and dear daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

Aug 13	*Conference Servants: God has chosen older candidates. The science of death [to self].*

773

CO 771

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 20/26 VII 17)

(L & S) *Paris, August 14, 1858*
All for the love and glory of Jesus-Hostia *Faubourg St. Jacques, 68*

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Pay no attention to my laziness, and don't accuse me of indifference, as it was in order to have a full hour free to be exclusively at your service that I have waited until August 4th. What a life I lead! .... God, the world, ... duties, everything vies for attention in the few poor hours of my day - well, may God be blessed for it! so long as it is all for him!

Here are my answers, in sequence:

1. Your sad note is actually, in part, the reason for my late reply. I read it ten times, thinking each time that some of Fr. Menou's decisions were right. The moralists of the time didn't allow even 5% and considered 5% as usury. The missionary in question was generous for his times; but I find him strict in that he did not take into consideration the stormy days of 1800, when money must have been scarce and loans difficult; and, for business loans, 6% is allowed; - and then one had to consider the exchange agent's fees and your brother's expenses after paying 12% interest once, also.

When that is all deducted, you would have to repay 417 francs. Now, for that matter, it is best to convert it into alms for that intention. - I believe I had told you to do that, but I am not quite sure.

As regards restitution, this is such an important matter that it is best to take the safest course, on the principle that when in doubt about acquitting a specific debt, one must pay it.

2. What can I say about us! we are still going through our daily experiences, - learning each day that man is nothing, and without God, even dangerous and wretched.

The good Lord blesses us sometimes with his cross, and most often with his fatherly heart, and I am still very happy with my portion and my vocation - I had to break bonds which were very dear, accept the calumny of my Marist brothers, - and accept being considered a stranger, even as ungrateful - but this all helps us to see only God and his glory.

Ah, dear daughter! man is nothing, God alone is all - ever kind and gracious!

3. Miss Guillot is here, totally occupied with her new eucharistic life. Her strength and courage amaze me - she is in everything, she faces everything - she is happy at the feet of Jesus Hostia - we often speak about you, what could be more natural and pleasant for us? - for we love our companions-in-arms.

[67] more fervent.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

She has told me that you were thinking of coming here to make a retreat - I need not tell you that, although we were not accepting anyone, you would be the chosen one and most welcome. It is only right - but you must feel stronger. Thank you for everything you sent for the service of the good Lord; the green vestment is very pretty.

4. I am glad to see that you have your fine nephew and his little family around you - it is indeed time to find an appreciative and loving heart. Don't think so much about the parting… enjoy it all for a while.

5. Madame Spazzier wanted to attempt community life, but the doctor told me that this life is quite unsuitable for her, so I have ordered the good Lady to go back to her independence and follow a special diet. She was a most edifying example to us. She must have very strong will power to have been able to keep up this life until now….

She would like to stay, but charity in her case requires that she should rest a little. Her infirmity is not serious now, but could become so, and the doctor told me that she would pick up quickly with good care - and a healthy climate.

6. Oh yes! You may be sure that if I pass through Lyons you will have my 1st visit - the 1st time it was only a desire - this time it will be realized. -

Well! this is the end of my letter - I think I shall be more faithful another time. Forget the past, pray for the present, then, in heaven everything will be eternal.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Aug 24	*Conference Servants: The directress is given the title of Mother. On the Divine Office.*

774

CO 772

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 10/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, August 26, 1858*

Madame,

I never change, do I? You do well to proceed as if I had answered you, because since nothing required a definite answer, I waited.

1. Keep in mind that holy Communion should be left aside only in case of death or an illness which keeps you at home. However, when you are able to receive the good Lord, it becomes a remedy for you, [it becomes] your bread, drink, holiness and life.

2. When suffering is your lot, let it replace your vocal prayers and meditation. - It is even better, - because to suffer for God is the flower of love. Don't be a slave to your exercises of devotion, lovingly be a devoted child of God's will for the moment. You blame yourself so much, poor daughter! No doubt there is some truth to it - you aren't a M. Louise of France.[68] - However, without looking for sacrifices, penances and mortifications, accept gracefully what the good Master sends you with his loving hand. Begin with an act of love, then look at what he sends you.

If you want to be very pleasing to our Lord, then for a few days quarantine your violent desire to have certain unnecessary things in order to mortify your impulsiveness.

[68] meaning unclear.

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Oh how holy you would be if you were as ardent in your desire to be humble, forgotten, rejected!

Yes, I really will pray for your two nephews; they are dear to me, since they are yours. But as for you, you are in all my prayers and adorations. We must go to heaven together. Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I'm really sorry that Mme. LeVavasseur left without coming to see me. So we must meet and greet one another from afar.

Aug 27 Conference Servants: Joy and love.

775

CO 773

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 24/75)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, August 29, 1858*

Madame,

Thank you for your kind letter. This time I found it very good! I can see that you would be a good student. I made your novena with my whole heart. Hope in God, everything will happen for the best. He is such a good Father! Yes, be very charitable toward your neighbor, God wills it; it's the perfection of his love. It is hard not to say anything, not to approve or applaud. God is the one who comes first. Then, it's enough to take a stand once, to repeat it two or three times, honestly and firmly in order to maintain the right to speak freely and be mutually free. Everyone [else] may approve it, but he will experience the solidity of the tree. Love the good Lord with your whole heart, my poor daughter, and everything is said. Oh! Even in the pious world, people barely understand this saying, this commandment: to love Jesus Christ with our <u>whole heart</u>!

Love is life; well, the life of Jesus Christ in us is really covered with faults, with sins - a sad picture. Therefore, we love him very little since love means union, and sin is the victory of evil love.

We would be so happy if we loved the good Lord with all the energy we have! When God is loved, that is happiness. What torments us, afflicts us, causes our despair, is the world with its false possessions, especially its inconstancy, its ingratitude, its expectations. Oh goodness! It's only natural that bad soil should produce only thorns and thistles. We cannot condemn it for that.

Well, dear daughter! Blessed be our good Savior for having preserved you from love for the world, for having veiled your heart and covered your face with his virtue! This temptation could have damned you, and it saved you. Be a Queen in the world, a Queen does good, but loves only her Spouse, the king, and returns all the glory to him. No one can give her anything she doesn't already find in her Spouse. Praised be the freedom of our Lord in his love! Be free and ever free within yourself. Divine love gives itself entirely because it is always free and master of love.

When everything within us is dying, our heart inherits life from all the rest, and its power grows as well as its passion of love, like fire. That is how the Saints are in their love toward God... Oh! How far we are from that!

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you and place you at the feet of the God of the Eucharist in whom I am for Eternity,

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

All yours,
Eymard

Mme. Jordan, from Lyons
Hotel Leopold, at Neris
(Allier)
(rue de Castries, No 10, Lyons)

776

CO 774

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 14/17)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, August 30, 1858*

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

It can be seen that you belong to the Mayet family. - It has never forgotten a friend, never been ungrateful - a rare virtue in our times. - Therefore, thank you for remembering me. - This name is always very dear to me - as it must be.

How many crosses I have seen there, in your Christian family, how many virtues as well! The good Lord loves you dearly, because among you the cross is a flower from Heaven and returns to it with its perfume and its beauty. Oh! How pained I was to learn about the mourning of dear little Marie and I must admit that her sorrow is always on my mind. [To be] so happy and [to be] so soon desolate! So loved and now so alone! Alas! That is what the stormy sea is like; the happiness of a single day.

Fortunately, God is there - and Heaven is in sight and in love, I do pray for her. She loved Jesus first - she will love him always. The love of Jesus is a sweet balm. - It is a divine center for a heart which is wounded by the sorrows of life. I didn't cry for the death of the holy and devout Mr. Perroud, we don't cry for the death of the elect, - saints like that one; but I did share in the sorrow of this good and poor mother. I would have written to her right away, but I wanted people to forget me and so I only prayed. Good Mr. Thony reawakened my heart and here I am writing again to you all.

When you write to good Fr. Mayet, tell him for me that Mme. Marceau was surprised and even sad to receive a paper from him without any [personal] word of concern - he still can do it and he should.

For you, dear daughter, you are destined to receive everyone's pain and to be the family's Sister of charity. Your lot is beautiful, God loves it. However, don't become sad; we cannot accomplish a lifetime of education in one day. Watch over these dear children, watch over their hearts, their behavior. - How many millions of men spend their lives in watching one station, one stone - you, dear daughter, you will watch over these children of God.

I bless you and I will always pray for you and your dear beloved family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Mayet, Elizabeth
6 Place St. Clair
Lyons

Aug 31	*Conference Servants: Joy and love.*
Sep 1	*Monthly Retr. Serv: Obedience, charity.*
Sep 3	*Conference Servants: The miracle of Billette street.*
Sep 7	*Conference Servants: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.*
Sep 10	*Feast of Our Lady of La Salette and of Seven Sorrows; Conference Servants: Suffering, immolation and hidden life.*
Sep 14	*Conference Servants: The characteristics of religious life, its purpose, means and spirit. Its purpose to serve our Lord, spirit of love, death to self.*

777

CO 775

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 2/22)

Paris, September 16, 1858

Mademoiselle,

I am sorry I haven't more time to thank you for all of your kind remembrances, and for sending us the Periodicals which we find most interesting. I cannot tell you what a happy memory I have of my short visit with you and your very fine Work.

I pray often for you, and for all you are doing, as we have so much in common! We serve the same Master, with the same thoughts, and above all, the same desire.

Please tell dear Fr. Boone[69] that I was very sorry to leave without seeing him! He is so good! God made him for you and your Work, Mademoiselle. May He keep him with you and preserve him for a long time to come!

When you have the opportunity, please send me a copy of the notes from the good lady who took the notes of my instructions.

I was pleased to hear from the Ladies about God's blessing on the adoration. Oh, if only the men could join together!

I believe you have seen Mr. Gustave de Rouvray (rue des Laines 120) and Mr. Schnoeck. These two young men had written to me about their adoration.[70]

I had promised to send them some notes. If you think it appropriate, please help them follow these rules of the Work.

Believe me, ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Yours sincerely,
Eymard

Sep 20	*Conference Servants: Different movements of the Soul.*
Sep 21	*Conference Servants: Chapter 1 of the Rule (continued)*
Sep 24	*Conference Servants: Pray for retreats in the glory of our Lord.*

[69] Jesuit chaplain of the community.
[70] Perhaps an Adoration Group. Ed.

778

CO 776

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)
(III 9/21)

Paris, September 27, 1858

Very dear daughter,

Forgive me for such a long delay and know that it wasn't for any lack of heart nor through forgetfulness.

Your dear sister is well;[71] I am so surprised. She works more than anyone, without having any migraine headaches; the good Lord is surely sustaining her. Then, what pleases me, is that everyone is attentive to relieve her or insist that she rest.

Poor Miss Mariette! The good Lord certainly asked for a great sacrifice and a very painful separation from you in this matter, but be sure that God will reward you for it even in this world. Consider it only as a prolonged retreat. Certainly, it is my hope that you will see one another again, and if it depended on me, you would all be here at the feet of our Lord.

As for you, my good daughter, continue your Communions; therein lie your strength and your virtue.

The role of Martha that you are fulfilling is a good preparation for it. You are doing enough;[72] God knows that if you could give more time you would be very pleased to do so.

Perform all your [spiritual] exercises well, not in order to become better but to please the good Lord and to fulfill his holy Will.

Don't worry about your confessions, they are fine, very fine. Be at peace; their value is not judged by the peace and contentment we feel, but by our desire to serve the good Lord better and our regret for serving him so poorly.

Let your impatience be the subject of your particular examen. Impose a small penance on yourself each time, especially the penance of saying a kinder word… as soon as possible.

Go back to your meditations on the virtues of our Lord, especially on his hidden life, that is what suits your soul best; or his intimate life with his disciples, his kindness, his gentleness, his humility toward them.

Don't fast, simply abstain and replace it with a rosary.

Courage, good daughter, ask the good Lord to draw you toward the Blessed Sacrament, to give you this grace which is a great one. In the meantime, let the Holy Eucharist be the center of your devotion and love; we are so happy there!

I bless you all, especially dear Miss Jenny who must be suffering even more.

Take heart! My poor daughters, look at our Lord, be consoled and prepare yourselves in him.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Mariette Guillot
17 rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons, (Rhone)

[71] Marguerite Guillot.
[72] Perhaps: enough time for spiritual exercises.

Sep 28	*Conference Servants: The various movements of grace, of beauty, of the goodness of God.*
Oct 1	*Conference Servants: The Holy Angels, the Rosary, St. Francis of Assisi.*
Oct 5	*Monthly Retr. Ser: Contemplative life - Vocations, obedience.*
Oct 8	*Conference Servants: The Chapter of faults.*

779

CO 777

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 25/75)

Paris, October 10, 1858

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I could feel your letter coming because I was already looking toward the Southeast saying: What is this dear daughter doing? Is someone sick? Traveling? I understand that your time is not your own, because you make yourself so available. But when we are serving others, it is good to lend ourselves with a gentle and pleasant charity without, however, forgetting the Friend of our heart, the divine Guest, the One for whom everything is done and in whom alone everything is pleasant.

I share a little in your joy, knowing that you are with your small and lovely family. Be very kind toward them, because it will make religion seem lovelier to them. Keep a gentle and constant conversation in your deeper self, and don't lose sight of him if you want to be like the one who said: "Jesus is my joy and my happiness!"

Have courage! Yes, we are praying and we will pray for this blessed fruitfulness, but a child of benediction is the fruit of prayer and almsgiving.[73]

Do not fast; how could you, you have just come back from the springs and are still weak! So, I command you to neither fast nor abstain. Take care of that poor traveling stick because it is weak.[74]

Accept the mortifications which God sends you and you will be very wise.

I don't need to tell you with what sentiments of dedication I am united to you in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. My affectionate greetings to your family.

[73] Prayer that her daughter Mathilde will have a child.
[74] The body.

780

CO 778

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 29/76)

Paris, October 10, 1858[75]

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am angry at myself for making you wait for my response. I will do better next time.

Please do not thank me so much, because what I do is nothing in comparison to what I would like to do for you and for your family. I never stop asking the good Lord to supplement my weakness and fill you with blessings. We are saying your Masses, I dare say, with all possible trust and devotion.

Oct. 22nd - See, my poor daughter, what a poor organizer I am. I wasn't able to finish my letter. I'm afraid that this might make you hesitate to write to me. On the contrary, do it for my sake. We were pleased that one of us should become a victim at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament for the salvation of these two souls who are so dear. He is offering all his prayers, merits and actions to the God of all mercy. I wanted to take it on myself, as a work of my heart; I shared it with one of my brothers, each will help the other to storm heaven. Dear daughter, let us hope that the good Lord will grant us this double grace, but we must really pray and bear our suffering with love. We must involve the Most Blessed Virgin, our good Mother and refuge of sinners, to take the matter in hand, and she will succeed.

I do share your feeling that we must not put too much pressure on your father, but take advantage of favorable opportunities which the good Lord allows to happen naturally. Surround your good father with kindness, graces and good angels. I would like to see you back in Paris, for you are part of our family, but not at the price of your husband's health. God has his merciful plans.

Oh! Yes, you need rest, my poor daughters,[76] and I see that you are not taking enough. What can be done? Do all you can to save enough time for your rest and for urgent duties and surrender the rest to the guidance and grace of divine Providence.

You did well to bypass holy Communion, you have that right.

Don't examine your prayers critically nor your attendance at Sunday Mass. Go forward like poor people who, after they have received alms and expressed their thanks, don't give any further thought to it and don't worry about it. Whatever duties you can and should perform, accomplish right away. Don't put them off too long, because delay causes worry. Then, when you are with the good Lord, forget all the rest.

It has been a long time since Miss Stephanie has written to me.

I bless you both and I am in our Lord,

Dear daughter,
All yours,
Eymard

Madame Gourd

[75] Finished Oct. 22nd.

[76] Referring also to her daughter Stephanie.

Oct 12, 15, 19	*Conference Servants: Purpose of the life of the Servants.*
Oct 22	*Conference Servants: Three degrees of love. The spirit in which to adore.*
Oct 26	*Conference Servants: Three degrees of love. Spirit of love.*
Oct 28	*Conference Servants: Spirit of sacrifice.*
Nov 3	*Monthly Retreat Servants:*
	1st Conf.: Charity, silence.
	2nd Conf.: Spirit of sacrifice.
Nov 5	*Conference Servants: Spirit of sacrifice*

781

CO 634

TO MOTHER FRANCOISE DE LAROCHENEGLY
(VIII 2/2)

Nov. 7[77]

Dear Mother,

Tomorrow afternoon about 3 o'clock I hope to be able to come to see you. I have tried at least 4 times to come, but each time I am about to set out I have been prevented - but tomorrow I will begin with you.

Your fine porter preached me a long sermon which finally made me decide.

I am, in our Lord,

Dear Mother,

All yours,

Eymard

Nov 9	*Conference Servants: On reparation.*
Nov 12	*Conference Servants: Various degrees of mortification, sacrifice of the heart, of the mind, of the body.*

782

CO 779

TO MR. NEGRE, FATHER
(V 1/1)

Paris, rue Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, November 15, 1858[78]

Very dear Mr. Negre,

It has been so long since I have written to you! Kindness is needed on your part to forgive me for such laziness. I am like people who are always late; I put things off until the next day; however, my heart often goes out to you and your dear lovely family!

The reason for my letter today may make you happy and surprise you at the same time.

[77] Undated. Placed tentatively in 1858 as was his letter to her dated June 20.
[78] Published in French as Nov. 28th. However, it was postmarked Nov. 16th. (Garreau)

Faubourg St. Jacques 1858

Mme. Duhaut-Cilly is going to Toulon on important business for a few weeks. The health of Miss Rose[79] requires the climate of Toulon a little. I thought I would send her with Mme. Duhaut-Cilly to spend the winter with you. Not that she is ill, but that she needs some care from her good mother. It's a great sacrifice for us although temporary. The thought of going to embrace you made her happy, she is so good and affectionate! She is very deserving with God, because she really edifies us.

A short time ago, she had begun to vomit again. That worried me; it passed. Though her eyes are still weak, her eyesight seems adequate.

As for me, good papa Negre, I will be in your vicinity in Marseilles at the end of the month. I am going to Rome to bring the first tribute from our little Society to the Sovereign Pontiff. God is blessing us.

We are 12 now, 8 priests.

If I can pass through Toulon when I return, I will go to hug you. You will have my first and my last visit.

Mme. Duhaut-Cilly expects to leave around the end of the week or at the beginning of the next.

My very best wishes to the whole family. Your devout "abbe"[80] is doing well.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I will write to Mr. Teissier soon about his business with Mr. Marziou.

Nov 19 or 20	*Conference Servants: Spirit of Sacrifice.*
Nov 20	*Conference Servants: Trust in God*

783

CO 780

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 26/75)

Paris, rue du Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, November 25, 1858

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

You nearly received a pilgrim from Rome asking for the traveler's alms while offering prayers for the charity received. This pilgrim is myself: I am going to Rome to place our little Society before the Pope and submit the principles on which we desire to make our foundation.

I expect to leave Paris Tuesday, at 2:00, and arrive in Lyons in the morning. I will bless you as I pass by with regrets that I cannot go to see you. If I had time, I would be happy to say Mass at Ainay.

You are really punishing me; it has been so long since I've received news from you! However, you know how dear they are to me and how I like to hear that you are strong under the Cross, magnanimous in love, generous in divine charity, devout in prayer, on fire in the divine and beloved Eucharist. I will certainly pray for you on the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul, the two pillars of holy Church. In return, pray also for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

[79] His daughter.
[80] Seminarian-son.

784

CO 781

TO POPE PIUS IX
(2/2)

December 2, 1858

[81]The Request of Very Reverend Father Eymard to Pius IX to obtain a Letter of Commendation[82] from the Holy Father.

Most Holy Father,

Peter Julian Eymard, a priest and the Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, canonically erected in Paris, while humbly kneeling at the feet of your Holiness, presents the following with a trusting spirit:

1. This very small Congregation which your Holiness blessed so paternally on the auspicious day, August 27, 1855, has already grown by the grace of God. It was supported and approved by the most Illustrious and most Reverend Doctor Sibour, Archbishop of Paris, of sorrowful and devoted memory, and the most Eminent and most Reverend Doctor Morlot, his most worthy successor.

2. Founded in Paris on May 13, 1856, the Society today consists of twelve members, eight of which are priests and aspirants from different places. For two years it has faithfully served the solemn and public Worship of Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, graciously allowed by the Ordinary and faithfully observed...

The service of Adoration is performed by the members of the Congregation, each one replacing the other, and always performed before the most Blessed Sacrament Exposed.

It owns a house suited for its purpose, and a property which is free of any debt.

(2) It intends to own property and the necessary materials for the work of divine worship, to sustain its own members and maintain itself...

The Society was begun with difficulty; it has the necessary foundations in the following Dioceses: Marseilles, Angers, and Bruxelles in Belgium.

3. The first principles by which the Society exists are contained in the following, taken from the Constitutions.

I. Concerning the goals of the Society

1. This least of the families of Holy Mother Church was known from the beginning as the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It was instituted for the honor and Glory of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, substantially present in the Most Holy Sacrament of His love. The Society devotes itself and all that it has by a special vow, and devotes itself exclusively to the Greater Eucharistic work.

2. In order to attain so lofty an end and a more perfect life, all the members of this Society will profess Holy poverty, chastity and obedience according to the norms of the Institute.

[81] Translated from the original Latin by Fr. Normand Falardeau SSS.
[82] Sometimes called “Laudatory Brief.”

II. Concerning the Means proper to its goal[83]

I. They shall assure the Worship and honor of the Most Holy Eucharist:

1. by solemn and perpetual Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. They shall observe very strictly the rules of worship of the holy Roman Liturgy.

2. by the daily Exercise of Adoration and Reparation by the members of the Society, in succession.

3. by the Divine Office recited in choir before the Most Blessed Sacrament Exposed, done with dignity and piety.

II. In order to bring about the Greater Glory of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist, all the members will work with all their love in keeping with their individual gift and grace and under the virtue of obedience.

They shall strive for greater holiness and for a more perfect Worship of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar by encouraging others:

1. Priests and especially those who have the care of souls by giving them Spiritual Exercises both in private as well as in common.

2. The faithful[84] by the Sacred Ministry of Confession and Preaching.

3. To teach the unskilled[85] and those adults who do not know Christian Doctrine and prepare them to receive Holy Communion with devotion.

4. They should themselves be dedicated with all their strength to a more fitting Eucharistic Worship; to [decorate] Altars, Tabernacles: giving the sacred decorations and linens free of charge to the poor Churches; provide for the repairs of sacred buildings.

III. Concerning the proper Spirit of the Society

1. They shall serve Our Lord Jesus Christ in a spirit of love and sacrifice with an eager and devoted heart; in the same way they will strive joyfully to progress [in the practice of] very difficult exercises of virtue, inspired by divine love, and sustain the most difficult work as if it were nothing.

2. They will be most intense workers and defenders of the Authority ordered by God; and so they will follow above all the Holy Apostolic See (outside of which there is no right way, nor sure truth, nor holy life). They will gladly follow its every wish above all.

They shall consider the Ordinary of the Place as Lord and Father in Jesus Christ to whom they shall try to show the greatest Reverence and Obedience with a sincere heart and with devotion and be responsible by being obedient to him.

They shall bestow the honor and the obedience due to those who govern, free of factions and worldly flattery.

3. They shall hold on to the Truth of our Lord Jesus Christ as their way of life and inflexible rule; they shall be ready to free themselves of any harmful and evil thing rather than give up the glory of the truth.

4. They shall embrace common life after the example of Jesus Christ; they shall not accept any privilege or exemption contrary to the common law.

IV. Concerning Temporalities

Even though all the members of the Society do not possess nor desire to use anything as their own, having sacrificed unnecessary things, the Society will be able to own immovable and stable goods to maintain more surely the needs of Eucharistic worship and to provide for the sustenance of its members in a peaceful way.

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[83] Capitalizations as in the original.
[84] The laity.
[85] Perhaps: the poor and ignorant.

V. Concerning Training and Profession

1. Aspirants will be approved by Examiners assigned for the first scrutiny in order to be vested with the religious habit. Before receiving the habit they will be received as postulants for three to six months;

2. After they receive the religious habit, Novices will be admitted for one full year. During this time of formation they remain under the guidance of the Master of Novices for at least one year.

VI. Concerning the Vows

They shall profess the three perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to which they will add a fourth Eucharistic vow consisting of the daily assigned duty of adoration.

VII. Concerning the Government of the Society

1. All of the Society will be guided by one Superior elected by the Professed members.

2. In this very serious task of administration, the Superior will be helped by a Council made up of five or of at least three members. These shall be elected, besides the Superior, by the Professed members of the house by secret ballot for a period of three years.

3. The following must be submitted to the vote of this council: the buying and selling of immovable goods, the acquisition and repair of expensive items, the exchange of money, funds, extraordinary expenses.

As things stand, this writer humbly begs Your Holiness to approve this Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament with his Apostolic Authority and accompany it with some proof of his paternal generosity so that the priests and brothers of this Congregation may apply themselves with a more cheerful spirit and a more devoted heart to the glory of the Most Holy Eucharist and obey more joyfully.

With what great Thanks, etc.

+

We commend this pious sodality most humbly to the Most Holy Lord, our Sovereign Pontiff, and most beloved Father. We have taken notice of this pious sodality, which, up to this point, deserves favorable consideration from Holy Church because of its outstanding devotion towards the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist and its zeal for souls, which it manifests at all times.

Paris
December 2, 1858

+ F.M. Cardinal Morlot
Archbishop of Paris[86]

[86] For a copy of the "Letter of Commendation," the response of Pope Pius IX, see the footnote to Document 802.

785

CO 783

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 30/52)

All for the love and glory *Paris, of Jesus Hostia + December 3, 1858*

Forgive me, my good sister, I really reproach myself for having neglected you for so long. God and my neighbor keep me so busy that I can hardly write.

However, our good Master knows very well that I am and remain united to you in his divine love and that your works are mine. I'm going to Rome, I'm leaving tonight. Pray for me.

I will place our little Society at the feet of the Pope and ask for his blessing on this little mustard Seed.

I will pray very much for you, dear daughter, for your husband and your dear children, for your father and your sister whom I didn't see. As for you, continue to love as an Angel loves, to suffer as Jesus suffers, to pray always like Mary the divine Mother of Jesus prays. Set fire everywhere.

Goodbye, I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

786

CO 782

TO MME.ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 11/104)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, December 3, 1858*

Dear daughter,

Must I begin once again by asking for your forgiveness? I don't deserve it and yet I really am sorry for having left you without an answer. Actually, I wanted to scold you for being so self-giving during your illness. I know full well that holy Communion is an excellent remedy, but when one is nailed to the cross, we must stay there as long as God wills.

I am leaving for Rome; this is my last letter before leaving. I didn't want to leave without sending you at least a few words.

If I can be of service to you there, write to me at the Capuchin Fathers, c/o Rev. Father Alphonsus, Procurator General. I am going to present our little Society to the Sovereign Pontiff:[87] it can live only through the life-giving action of the Holy See. Pray for me, dear daughter. I do so for you because your soul is very dear to me in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

[87] To request the "Letter of Commendation," (French: *Bref Laudatif*), a document marking the first step leading to full approbation of a religious Congregation which can only be requested after a Congregation has established at least three religious communities.

787

CO 787

TO MISS LEONIE SIGNORET

(VII 8 fragments)[88]

I [Between 1858 - 1868]

(1) I assure you that I am offering prayers to God without knowing why my soul feels sad when I think of you. I feel that you must be [sad]; God grant that you may not be discouraged.

Remember how our Lord has loved you and [still] loves you... He has not changed or lessened his love for you. Take care not to give in to spiritual sadness; it kills enthusiasm, zeal and joy for God's service. In your present trials, think of how you have loved God, of everything you have given and promised him when you were happy, and be even stronger than the sacrifice. The Blessed Virgin will help you.

(2) Take these following measures strictly: do not allow your spirit to worry about your problems outside of the time when you can do something about them... achieve that spiritual freedom in order to attain peace and union with the grace of our Lord. - Use these two thoughts as a way to achieve it: 1. I belong entirely to Jesus Christ, 2. I belong to my neighbor insofar as God wills it.

Ask our Lord to bless you in his heart of a Father and a Bridegroom.

II

(3) I wasn't forgetting you because of it, but I should have told you so sooner. However, I am still praying for you, because your soul is very dear to me in our Lord. I desire all God's gifts for you, especially the life of love which always enlivens and strengthens.

Oh yes! dear daughter, love our Lord dearly, because you are his alone! Love him not only with fidelity, but with tenderness, with expansiveness, with all the love of your soul. Strive only to please him; seek only to have others please him; offer him all your joys as a tribute and [have] total trust in all your sorrows as well.

Desire him alone, think only through him.

Dear daughter, be careful not to enter into other people's <u>temptations</u> nor [to bear them] vicariously. Oh! please. Don't do it; it would mean exiling yourself from God's joy, and burdening yourself uselessly.

Goodbye, dear daughter of the good Lord. Always soar toward him like eucharistic incense. - I bless you in our Lord.

III

(7) Well! Dear daughter, are you still ill? Suffer for God! May these sufferings of the heart bind you even more to the heart of our Lord. You are his spouse, so your heart also must be pierced with the lance! Our Lord is jealous, he wants to possess you alone, to fill you, console you, crown you. That is why you will have nothing but thorns around your soul.

Oh yes! Attach yourself to our Lord, and always be very happy and content near your loved ones. Hide your treasure, you belong entirely to him!

[... What troubles this world gives us! How high the cost to find a tent and a stone!... Never let sorrow take over your spirit! Let your thoughts be in Heaven!]

I do bless you and give you every day to our Lord.

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[88] Extracts form eight letters sent in January 1899 to the Archives by the recipient. A more complete copy was made by Father Bonnecaze manuscript. The Roman numerals indicate the order of the Bonnecaze copy. The Rabic numerals in the margin between parentheses indicate the order of the first manuscript. The dates were between 1858 and 1868 without any other precision.

IV

(8) Final letter: July, 1868 (1867?)

Yes... Ever since I have come to know your soul and your interior grace - (as much as God was pleased to show me), I admire how God has crucified you, and [continues to] crucify you in what gives life, glory and happiness to others. - Notice how God has always let you suffer by what should have consoled and relaxed you, or at least, favored your development in God and in dedication.[89]

But why this providential action, if not because God wants your heart to be like the white thorn-stemmed rose; and also, so that your love may go directly to the heart of our Lord, its center and strength.

When I see your heart suffering and searching, I would like to be there to say: the thorns are around, the mud underneath, but above, Jesus who is drawing you and stretching out his divine hands.

No, no, no one has the secret of your heart except the One to whom it belongs virginally - He alone has the secret of its life and joy. Then, go directly to him.

But I would like to see you go to him with the <u>freedom</u> of a bird in flight in a space that is free of any obstacle.

Freedom of soul is pure love which aspires to please God, loving and serving him for his own sake. I suffer to see you always in search of God, our Lord. - That aspiration is fine, but you will only lay hold of our Lord by continual detachment from yourself, by a spirit of naked faith. - This is what God has been doing in you for a long time. - The world is dead for you, now you must cross the desert of yourself, cross it with courage without looking back, following the miraculous cloud which encloses our Lord.

But you must go back to praying at a set time. You must prepare the gift to be offered, the virtue of our Lord to be contemplated, the mystery of his life to honor, the divine word which he has spoken to be adored; but, most often, let your prayer be to rest in God, to recollect and offer your faculties, your energies, one at a time. At other times, find a text for your prayer in the Imitation. But always prepare the subject of your reflection before God.

Hurry, quickly go back to prayer; otherwise boredom and dryness will be your lot. Since you are showing trust in me, let me give you the following supreme rule for your prayer:

Do not seek to enjoy God or his gifts; let your pleasure consist only in glorifying his infinite perfection, his ineffable goodness, especially toward such a poor creature. - Serve him, glorify him by the gift and sacrifice of something personal and you will once again find the way to his heart and receive the true manna of life. In Jesus,

All yours in Jesus,

V

(4) ...

But what can I say about you and for you, dear daughter! You have chosen the better part, protect it carefully. You have a spouse without equal, beyond price, His nobility is divine, his wealth infinite, his beauty incomparable, his goodness [is] like his love, and his love [is] like his divine heart. Oh! blessed day which gave you such a spouse and formed such sweet bonds. How I bless God to have given me the grace to help you a little in that solemn circumstance of your life! Never forget it! Be very faithful to your heavenly Spouse. May your heart beat only for him, find joy and sorrow only in him.-

[89] In the original manuscript the text is a bit different: “Notice how always God has made you suffer through those who seem should be the ones to console you and make you happy, or at least favor the development of your heart in God and in devotedness.”

In your prayers go to him as his poor fiance. Because as long as you are in this world, your union is only like that of Rebecca traveling toward Isaac, her groom. Your union will only be consummated in Heaven. [Receive Communion as a spouse exiled from Jesus who comforts you for a moment with a passing visit and disappears.] Love your neighbor only because Jesus wills it, as he wills it and to the extent he wills it. Serve your neighbor only because Jesus finds his glory there and so your fire will not be extinguished, your life will not be drained.

Please avoid three faults: mental worry about your neighbor, anguish of heart over your interior state and slavery to your external duties, because each one of these is sufficient to weaken and sadden you.

Ah! No clouds in front of this beautiful sun of God. - It is already enough to walk on the stones and in the mud of the world!

Be faithful to your spiritual practices. Feed your soul [whatever they may say, you have ...]

(The virgin's soul needs more divine food than others.)

(Always aspire to ..... that is my wish for you.)

(Poor daughter! I feel so sorry for you!... Ah! Sensitivity toward friends is rare, dear daughter, and devotedness even more so.)

(What should you do in this circumstance? Tone down the situation as much as possible - because if you remain this tense for too long, you would break. How can you tone down the situation? Exteriorly by... if you find it prudent. If she is not prudent, you must ignore it and act as usual.)

Interiorly, try to make excuses in your mind and heart, so that your sorrow will not find reasons to feed it. Attribute it to the motives you already know. You know that to stop a cannonball they use wool to cushion the blow, and then it returns to its ordinary condition.

(Stay closely united to our Lord, and consider the grace and virtue which are contained in that particular suffering and [consider] this suffering as a new flower growing on Calvary at the foot of the Cross.)

(But gain control of the situation, overcome the Cross - If you must suffer in every way, so be it, but never the heart's spirit...)

I bless you in our Lord.

VI

I understand you well - the sun has become dark - life is without light and the heat is numbing it - the miasmas can grow in this damp soil - your joy is not blossoming forth - and your heart suffers even more from itself.

It's really true that nothing costs when divine love is carrying us along in an outburst of goodness. Everything is easy for a happy heart. The earth laughs when heaven is open. But alas! You are on the cross! alone, and almost forsaken. However, you need to stay there generously without removing a single particle.

Love wants it so and you will also be generous enough to want it as well.

Thorns grow around this poor lily of the valley, and yet it's necessary to let them grow, to feel their thorns and to stay there on your branch turned toward heaven with the corona opened toward God alone.

You will remain faithful, because trials disturb this fragile flower[90] for a moment, but they do not break it off. - The hand of God keeps it firm and beautiful.

Dear daughter, you must not look at the thorns too [closely]. They will frighten you; nor should you listen too much to the wind, because it dries and makes us dizzy. When rain falls into the calyx of the white flower, let it be only to remove its dust and restore its rainbow [color]. Pray a great deal in gratitude to God - that will make the flower blossom out under the rays of divine

[90] the flower: an allegory for herself.

goodness. Let this ray shine on all your actions and on everything near you, and everything will radiate its beauty.

Poor spouse of our Savior, he has placed his iron seal on your arm and his fiery dart in your heart. Suffering is necessary, there is no union without suffering. Courage! Let us suffer with love and for love! I bless you.

VII

(I thank God for it, because I trust that he is blessed in heaven like the children of God. They are always tried by the devil and the world, but God has his hour and it is the right one.)

(I am happy... for you. You are living only for the welfare and happiness of your loved ones, but you are dwelling in our Lord, your divine and eternal spouse. That your exterior life should belong to your family, I understand; but let your spirit belong entirely to Jesus, in peace and love.)

(I do not forget you in the presence of God, you have the first fruits of my poor prayers. I bless you in our Lord.)

VIII

(6) ...You are so[91] very royally and very divinely. I know that you are proud of such a union and happy with such beautiful bonds. Nothing equals the virginal covenant. Oh! Blessed be the day when you began to follow in the footsteps of the Lamb and received the heavenly wedding band. May it be the day you love the most, the greatest one...

...Your heart is made to suffer, that is its mission and virtue; but never let suffering govern your thoughts, allow no clouds or storms in this region of truth, of conformity to God's will. In the presence of God, always remain (in conformity with his will), always contemplating his fatherly goodness over you personally.

I always pray for you, because I know your needs.

Goodbye, always keep your heart lifted high and live for the glory of God.

The following conferences were also given to the Servants in Paris in 1858. However, they are undated.

Confidence; Poverty, Fidelity to the Rule, Modesty.
Mortification
Sadness
The Eucharistic Society
Meditation
Loving the Common Way
Holy Communion
Purgatory
Perpetuity of the Eucharistic Miracle

[91] Perhaps, the spouse of Christ. Ed.

CHAPTER II

"ROOTED IN HOLY CHURCH"

The Roman Tourist

Letter of Commendation from Pope Pius IX

Retreat and Vows of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament - March 2, 1859

Departure of Fr. de Cuers for Marseilles

Discernment of Vocations

788

CO 784

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS

(II 194/395 VI 2)

Rome, December 11, 1858

My dear daughters in our Lord,

Here I am in Rome. God has led the way and watched over me. I arrived here without any incidents or major discomfort. I didn't get seasick. My first Mass was said on Thursday over the body of St. Catherine of Siena, at the Dominicans at the Minerva. I was pleased to be able to pray over the body of this Saint, who loved our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament so much and who served the Church so well.

I prayed on the tomb of St. Peter which is venerated so much. There we can feel how living are our Lord's words: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will never prevail against it."

Religion is so impressive and prominent in Rome. Faith is profound and alive in these people. Their devotion to the Blessed Sacrament is exceptional, but their devotion to the Blessed Virgin surpasses all you can imagine. On every street, you see statues and images of the most Blessed Virgin, sometimes even several lamps burning before them at night. Nearly every home has a picture of the Blessed Virgin in a place of honor with a lamp always burning before it.

We see and greet this good Mother almost at every step. It makes my heart happy to see the Blessed Virgin so honored and so loved.

In Rome we can feel that religion is at home and that everything relates to it.

The Roman people, about whom so much evil is said, possess a treasure beyond all treasures: a strong and lively faith and a very great devotion to the Blessed Virgin. That brings people back very quickly from a great distance.

Continue to pray much, my dear daughters, now is the time. I am well, but I feel that I need to pray very much and to stay very close to our Lord. So today I am only sending you a greeting and a remembrance in the presence of our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Guillot
66 rue fg St-Jacques
Paris

789

CO 785

TO POPE PIUS IX
(0)

PETITION[1] presented to His Holiness Pius IX, Monday, December 20, 1858

MOST HOLY FATHER,

The Work of first Communion founded in Paris, under the name of the society of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, has as its purpose:

1. to instruct young persons and women who have not yet had the happiness of making their first Communion, to teach them their catechism, and to prepare them by a retreat in their house to receive worthily the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.

2. to work and to devote themselves for poor churches.

3. to honor specially the interior and hidden life of our Lord Jesus Christ in his Sacramental state, by adoration and the imitation of the virtues which his love perpetuates there for us.

Marguerite Guillot, the Directress of the Work and its members, devoutly prostrate at your feet, begs you, because of your tender piety and devoted love for the Most Holy Eucharist, to give the Work and its members Your Apostolic Blessing.

January 6, 1859, this petition was returned to St. Peter Julian Eymard with the following words autographed by His Holiness,

Die 5 Januarie 1859

Benedicat vos Deus et custodiat corda vestra et intelligentias vestras.[2]

Pius, P.P. IX

790

CO786

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS
(II 195/395 VI 2)

Rome, December 20, 1858

I have to write you a few words, dear daughters.

I saw the Sovereign Pontiff, he blessed us and granted us very precious indulgences; you have your fair share. The Sovereign Pontiff was extremely kind. He told me that he would examine my petition and its principal points, that he would give me an answer in twelve days. So now we only need to pray, dear sisters, that the good Lord may inspire His Holiness with what will be suitable. Even if we had only the Pope's blessing which he gave me so warmly for the whole Society, and the indulgences, it would already be much more than we deserve. So pray very much, God has his moments, we must wait for them. But God wants us to pray, beg, implore, him, so that we will treasure his graces. I am well. I am working for you and for everyone.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

[1] Presented together with the petition for a Letter of Commendation for the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. cf. Dec. 2, 1858, Doc. 784, both returned on Jan. 5, 1859. cf also Doc. 802, footnote.

[2] May God bless and protect your hearts and minds.

To Miss Guillot,

Thank you for your little note, I will write tomorrow. Tell Ben.[3] that I am praying for her and to behave herself. May God give you a love for the Beautiful feast of Christmas.
Paris

791

CO 788

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS

(II 196/395 VI 2)

Rome, Epiphany, 1859

Very dear daughters in our Lord,

You wished me a happy New Year in the presence of our Lord. I returned the same wishes to you here in all the revered sanctuaries I visited; near the Blessed Crib of Jesus which I kissed, in sight of the poor coarse swaddling clothes that are venerated at St. Mary Major's. In the sight of these poor cloths and the crude wood of the adorable Creche, we say: poverty must be very lovely and magnificent, since the Divine Word so honored and loved it. Then we say: I will love the holy Poverty of Jesus.

Oh how touching this beautiful feast is in Rome! You see the Child Jesus everywhere, not, as in France, naked on the straw, but clothed magnificently, a royal crown on his head and exposed lying on the tabernacle.

In Rome there are three fundamental devotions: the first one is devotion to the cross. In every church there is a chapel of the Crucifix. It is the most revered chapel, and the image of our Lord is usually very large and beautiful.

The second devotion is to the Most Blessed Virgin. There is a chapel for her in every church, a painting of her, not a statue, is venerated; it is a magnificent painting before which there are always at least two candles lit. In Rome I've seen only one statue of the Blessed Virgin as an object of veneration: at St. Augustine's Church. It's surrounded with diamonds, jewels, gold watches; Rome divests itself to adorn and honor it. It's very ancient, they say that it's from the first centuries; all of Rome goes to pray there and kiss its feet.

The most touching devotion toward the Blessed Virgin is the one in Christian homes. Day and night one lamp, often several, burn before the image of the Blessed Virgin. There is a magnificent painting with a light at nearly every street corner.

The third devotion is the devotion to the Child Jesus. In France, we could never imagine the extent of it.

Perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is always well attended; there are more men than women. The church that has Exposition is always magnificent. Rome is outstandingly the royal city of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I will be leaving soon, my dear sisters. I will be leaving here Tuesday, I hope, and be in Paris the following week. I will go and tell you about all my impressions and bring you the blessing of the Sovereign Pontiff.

My health is good. Pray for me, who am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

[3] Sr. Benoite Richard.

P.S. I was forgetting to tell you, dear sisters, that the Sovereign Pontiff was very kind to us and gave me all that I had asked him for the Work.[4] Thank God and the Blessed Virgin for it.

Miss Guillot
66 rue Faubourg St. Jacques
Paris

792

CO 789

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE) & SERVANTS
(II 197/395 VI 2)

Rome, January 8, 1859

Very dear daughters,

Thank you so much for your letters; they made me very happy. It's true, they told me about your crosses and disappointments: I share in them and feel them very keenly; but the Work must pass through this crucible and be purified. We must know that man is nothing and can do nothing good.[5] We need to learn this truth through experience.

In the Eucharistic Work, we must consider the glory of Jesus Christ above all and in everything, then the means that he wants, and use people only according to the mission they have received. In a word, to love our neighbor, life, virtues, graces, only as means to establish the eucharistic kingdom of our Lord. We may be saddened then, no doubt, to see soldiers desert the battlefield, give up their arms, try to disturb others. In that case we begin to pray, do penance, and wait for the moment to act.

Do that in this matter; let her be free to leave, she would already be gone if I had been there; for God mustn't be pleased with her conduct. I agree that the devil is in it, but so is human nature. So if she doesn't do better, let her leave, that is my prayer. Her money! The good Lord is rich and so is the Blessed Virgin. My poor daughter, that will serve as a good lesson for you and for me.

What grieves me is that I didn't receive anything[6] from Mme. Duhaut-Cilly. It seems that my letter must have hurt her. But when we see an obstacle, it must be overcome or terminated.

Now dear daughter, I will give you an explanation about the Blessing which I mentioned only briefly. Do you know that you received as much as we did, and that I am bringing you the Holy Father's signature; it is really beyond me. The good Lord did everything and uses everything to reach his purposes.

Let me assure you that is what consoled me most, together with our Letter. So, thank the good Lord for it, it's the beginning of graces and of a calvary of love and blessings.

Courage! Sister Benoite. I will bring you something from this Holy City. I will repay you a little for so many prayers and crosses.

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. When I pass through Lyons I will try to see all your people.

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[4] cf. Doc. 784 for the "Letter of Commendation" for the Congregation of the Fathers and Brothers, and Doc. 789 "Blessing" for the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.
[5] of himself.
[6] any word.

793

CO 790

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 12/104)

Rome, January 14, 1859[7]

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I don't want to leave the Holy City without sending you a few words. It seems to me that everything is better when it comes from Rome. It is the royal city of Jesus Christ where he is the only King and Master. Oh! If the Romans knew how to appreciate their good fortune! But the revolution of '48 did a great deal of damage. It's true that people are coming back, but the socialists and wicked Frenchmen have done so much harm here! Rome is the city of faith; everything shows that faith is still very much alive: the holy Crib, the Eucharistic Table, the precious relics of the Passion at the basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem, and even soil from Calvary brought by St. Helena. It is so easy to pray at the Mamertine Prison where Saints Peter and Paul were jailed, and where still can be seen the miraculous fountain which sprang up at St. Peter's prayer in order to be able to baptize his guards and converted jailers; at Montorio where he was crucified; at St. Peter's [is] the Basilica of the World where his body lies! Rome is the venerated tomb of martyrs. You cannot take a step without finding a chapel, a church, or some monument of faith.

Dear Lady, I wish you could come to Rome. It does so much good to the soul! A person is so happy and proud to be a Catholic here!

Paris, January 29. I am here in Paris, Madame. I'm finishing my letter here, since I couldn't do so in Rome. I was weighed down with business matters on the last days.

I hope that you found your favor from the Sovereign Pontiff. Besides, should you no longer be able to get it, the testimony of the Superior of the Foreign Missions would be sufficient, and based on that testimony, his Eminence will not refuse to let you apply this Brief, since it is personal.

I didn't ask the Pope directly because it's a favor he doesn't ordinarily grant. He had just refused it to a highly recommended person from Reims, recommended even by the Cardinal. Then, since this favor was granted on the basis of a petition, there is no way of having a copy. Everyone says that you don't need it.

The Sovereign Pontiff gave us a "Letter" approving our Work, and enriched it with very precious indulgences. Dear Lady, praise God with us for it. - I am entirely at your disposal and,

I am in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard, SSS

[7] finished January 29th.

794

CO 791

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 30/76)

Rome, January 14, 1859[8]

Very dear daughter,

I cannot leave Rome without sending you a few words from the Holy City. I prayed a great deal for you and your loved ones so that God may grant their salvation through the intercession of all the saints, whose churches and relics I like to visit. Salvation is the only important thing. What can I tell you about pagan Rome? Nothing, because it no longer exists. Its capital is destroyed, its temples are overturned or changed into churches, its emperors don't have an inch of land of their own, even on the Palatine Hill. Pagan Rome has had almost the same lot as guilty Jerusalem. But how young and beautiful is Christian Rome! How vibrant and devout everything is here! It's really the royal city of Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints. It's a perpetual celebration for God and his servants. It's a reflection of Heaven!

When we go into St. Peter's, a feeling of faith, devotion, and admiration lays hold of us, carries and lifts us to Jesus Christ. Words are too inadequate and weak to express the heart's needs. How proud one is here to be a Catholic! How happy I was to pray over the venerable tomb of St. Peter! to say holy Mass in the underground chapel which has been an object of veneration throughout the centuries for every Catholic heart! What is especially touching and edifying in Rome is the great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, to the Blessed Virgin and to the Crucifix. Devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament is great here. Churches with forty hours are filled with men. Everything is prescribed in keeping with a profound faith. In Rome, devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin is admirable. Every Christian home has an image of the Blessed Virgin exposed in a place of honor. At least one lamp keeps burning before the honored image. People prefer to go without bread than to allow this lamp of devotion to burn itself out.

There is a great devotion to the Crucifix in Rome. People embrace it as they enter many churches. The chapel of the Crucifix is the chapel which everyone honors. That is because everyone has his Cross and must come to alleviate it, to place it at the feet of Jesus crucified. People cry softly there, it's the usual way these good people express their devotion. They come to cry at the feet of the Crucifix. I venerated the famous Crucifix which spoke to St. Bridget in Rome. It is kept with great respect in the Basilica of St. Paul. I didn't ask our Lord to speak to me, but to forgive me and give me love for his holy Cross.

I like to make the Stations of the cross at the Colosseum where so many thousands of martyrs poured out their blood for the love of our Lord; when we face this terrible amphitheater we pray well, with a certain trepidation about our weakness.

Paris, February 5th. - I am here in Paris, good daughter, and I am finishing my letter. I am really sorry I made you wait so long for it. My return trip was a bit difficult.[9] I am doing well. In Lyons, I saw your dear mother. I stayed a day longer. I would certainly have stayed a week if I could have seen your poor father. Your dear mother[10] and I feel that we must double our prayers and lay hold of the first opportunity to speak about a confessor. Your dear mother must surely suffer a great deal about it. I understood her reason, which is a very good one, that someone he knows would succeed better. Since your father is requesting the Pastor from his village, that is the right priest to send. He must go accompanied with all the prayers and graces which surround your father. We never stop praying and storming Heaven. I cannot believe that the good Lord will

[8] finished in Paris on Feb. 5th.
[9] Sea-sickness?
[10] Mme. Morel.

forsake this poor man who is the object of so many prayers. I will write a few words to your mother.

Have courage, dear daughter. Trust in the protection of the Blessed Virgin and in the infinite goodness of God.

I am totally at your disposal; don't be afraid to ask for my help.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

795

CO 792

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 21/52)

Miss Stephanie *Rome, January 14, 1859*

Very dear daughter,

I am writing from Rome to reply to your last letter and the pain which I caused you unknowingly. No, no, my poor daughter, it was never my thought that your conscience lacked the formation [necessary] to receive spiritual direction. Do not judge on a passing word spoken without reflection. However, to guide you surely a person must know you well, not just briefly, but over a long period of time, and I believe that the good Lord has given me this light to understand your spiritual life.

Go to the good Lord generously through love and a pure intention, considering his glory and his holy Will more than your virtues and inner state.

You must be on guard against spiritual pride and self-preoccupation with your spiritual progress. Dear daughter, work to overcome yourself in evil inclinations, temptations, faults.

Apply yourself to break your will in permitted things, even good things. Become as flexible in God's hands as fresh, damp clay. Pay more attention to the grace of love than the value of virtue and you will be as noble, free and strong as a fish in the ocean.

Do not worry about your [feelings of] hostility. They come from our selfish nature, but grace will conquer with charity. Behave toward her[11] as you would if you were free.

Continue to give La Salette water as you do with faith and devotion, and the Blessed Virgin will do the rest.

I really would have liked to bring you a relic of your holy Patron Saint, St. Stephen, from Rome. I could not do so; I brought you another which I will send you at the first opportunity.

I won't go into the details about my stay here, dear daughter. I mentioned them to your dear mother, in person. I will fill in the details when God gives me the opportunity. All I can say is that in Rome everything rekindles our faith, everything speaks to us about past centuries; religion can be seen in action, ever holy and beautiful.

I did pray very much for you, dear daughter, on your feast day. I really love your Patron Saint and here, St. Stephen is held in great veneration. They venerate a pebble with which he was stoned. Rome preserves everything with a solicitude that is worthy of a mother and spouse of Jesus Christ.

Paris
February 5, 1859

Poor daughter! I am back in Paris. I blessed you when I passed Romaneche and when I saw your hill and remembered your holy chapel.

[11] Friction between herself and one of the family's servants.

Don't worry about the Reserve [sacrament]; when a law or a grace has been granted, it is not retroactive, [the law] refers only to future permissions. What has been granted is granted.

I only have time to bless you and to tell you to give me some news about yourself.

Eymard

Jan 26	*Conference Servants: Shared details of his trip to Rome, the Blessing received, his return*

796

CO 793

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE NUNCIO OF PARIS
(VI 1/1)

The priests whose names follow, residing in Paris, rue faubourg St. Jacques 68, request Your Excellency to grant them personal permission to follow the Roman Calendar and that of the secular clergy - for those who have them, until such time as the Diocese of Paris adopts the Roman breviary[12].

Pierre-Julien Eymard, Cyr-Amand Champion, Raymond de Cuers,
Victor Bruno, Marie-Augustin Clavel, Jacques Eymar.

Feb 6	*Conference Servants: Joy and confidence.*

797

CO 794

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 4/24)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, February 10, 1859*

Very dear friend,

Thank you for your heartfelt greetings, for your good wishes, your friendship, and your prayers! May God repay you a hundredfold.

I sent you greetings[13] when I passed through Lyons two weeks ago, and I blessed you. I have just returned from Rome. I placed our little Society at the feet of the Pope, and the Vicar of Jesus Christ blessed it with a spontaneity that springs from his love for the Most Blessed Sacrament. He gave us the first "Letter", and enriched adoration with a daily plenary indulgence. So we have the blessing of Heaven and earth; now we need the blessing of its Works.

Oh! I feel so strongly that man is nothing, is capable of nothing, can do nothing without God!

And so, praise or blame, love or rejection, are all nothing without God. It was very difficult for me to sacrifice everything for the God of the Eucharist, especially the true friendship of the Society

[12]His Excellency the Nuncio granted the above permission on January 31, 1859.
Ph. Meglia, Auditor

[13] I greeted you from afar.

of Mary. But now our Lord replaces everything for me, and I bless the situation, the instruments, which led me to such a great grace.

For your part, dear friend, go to God like rays go toward the sun. Always look toward this divine Sun as does the moon, so that you may receive its light and the fire of life.

Continue to receive Communion. That is the strength and life of the Christian. May the dust of the road not hinder you, may natural impressions not trouble you. Your heart belongs to God and that is enough. "I found a man according to my heart," God said about David.

Have a great love for your family; that is the duty and the grace of your state of life and don't look to an angelic state[14] as a model for yours; you are a father, a husband, a brother.

I'm sorry to learn that Mme. Tholin is ill. Is that beautiful soul like the fruit of autumn?[15]

Dear friend, may God bless your wife, your children, your business, your health, your life. That's my bouquet of wishes for this year.

Goodbye in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, SS

P.S. And your address? I have forgotten it.

798

CO 795

TO MME.NEGRE
(VII 1/1)

[Paris], February 10, 1859

I am very sad to learn that Miss Rose is not well. I do hope this wound won't have any sad effects. It was divine Providence which let this dear daughter be near her father during his last moments. That is the greatest consolation a child can have. I am waiting [to receive] news from her.

Since my arrival, I have hardly had time to turn around. I hardly saw the Ladies, our neighbors - they certainly have their trials.[16] - God wills it. - Please, dear mother! do remember me before God and pray for me. My trip to Rome was blessed. The Holy Father gave us the first "Letter" with precious indulgences. The ground has been blessed, but now it must be cultivated. - That is the essential thing.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

My respects and fond regards to good Mr. Teissier, to the family, to Marius and to your dear Rose.

[14] Image for religious life.
[15] Ripe for heaven. Ed.
[16] The community of Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

799

CO 797

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 26/181 VI 4)

Paris, March 8, 1859[17]

Very dear Father,

I am returning the two signed contracts. They lack only your signature and God's blessing.

This morning I was fortunate to see Bishop Mazenod; His Excellency was happy that this contract was made and signed, and the great question of a foundation settled. He said to me: "We were waiting for you at Marseilles." "I will only go," I said, "when everything is ready; Fr. de Cuers is preparing things. When everything is ready I will go and begin exposition with a retreat preached in the chapel." - "Fine, fine," he said. That is all that was said with the Bishop; and this fine and devout Bishop is proud and happy to see adoration finally begin in Marseilles.

As for the conscience matter regarding the Mass, Fr. Champion says there is no problem; in that case we can accept the stipend for the second Mass as for the first. So good Father, live from the altar.

In well-formed Congregations, each house writes once a month, except in extraordinary circumstances; that is the ordinary Rule. As for us, since we are beginning, we should set every two weeks as a principle, except again in extraordinary cases for which there can be no rule.

A priest is presenting himself, I am studying his vocation. He is from Var; his imagination and piety seem a bit exaggerated to me. Ten years ago he committed a fault "*contra mores*"[18] for which he has done penance; he has been saying Mass for four years. We saw him at Marie Therese. He has a youthful face (44 years old), gray haired, he is very pious. But his past would incline me to refuse him. What do you think?

Mr. Eymar[19] still holds to his own ideas, I am afraid that he will end up sacrificing his vocation to them. No middle course; either totally given to the Work or leave. The good Lord knows that we are working only for him; <u>to maintain</u> a principle is to strengthen ourselves.

We are praying our good Master very much to give us what we lack to labor for his Work, and we are praying very much for you, dear Father. I am tenderly united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup. S.S.S.

800

CO 798

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 27/75)

Paris, March 8, 1859

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received the sad news about Mr. Giraud's death. There is a very consoling side to it! I mean, salvation and Heaven. So then, we must cry as one does on a Christian grave where the just one sleeps until the day of Jesus Christ. Oh! How minuscule life seems! The goods of this world are like a wave in the sea which die on the sands and rocks. The good Lord loves us so! to have shown

[17] French edition lists another letter to de Cuers on Feb. 21, 1859, more likely Feb. 21, 1860.
[18] An immoral act.
[19] No relation.

us the vanity of this world and given us his kingdom of Love. You should consider yourself very fortunate, dear Madame, because Jesus Christ is your wealth, your joy and your glory; have no other. For a long time now our Lord has wanted you to be entirely his by the sacrifice of everything, even of yourself! What a beautiful and lovely sacrifice which brings its own joy and reward.

We have certainly prayed and are still praying for the soul of your deceased friend, just as you requested.

I am truly sorry that I've been behind with you again, dear Madame. We've just finished our long Retreat, which concluded with our vows. Oh! What a beautiful day that was when for the first time we gave ourselves to the perpetual service of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament! We could really feel that this little Cenacle was the result of the protection and kindness of Jesus upon us, and each one thanked him for this call and his blessing.

I remember and I will always remember your kind and lovely hospitality, dear Madame. You are my director of hospitality.

Give me news about yourself. Here we are under the influence of the gentle and loving graces of the retreat.

May God protect and guide you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

801

CO 799

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 31/76)

Paris, March 8, 1859

Dear daughter,

We are praying day and night, calling on the Father of mercies. I continue to offer that holy Mass daily. All the merits, prayers and adorations of our retreat were and will be for this dear soul.[20]

Oh no! God will not let him be lost. He will save him in his infinite mercy. On the 19th, St. Joseph will make the decisive attempt. What we are requesting is a great grace, a miracle, heaven itself.

Dear daughter, you can see that God in his goodness has already shown remarkable protection by preserving him from misfortune, to save him from imminent death at that very moment. God was watching over him with his kindness. His low morale may, in addition to the illness, also be the fruit of the devil. When the patient is sleeping, sprinkle a little holy water on him [as a protection] against the enemy of salvation.

My daughter, when the time of grace comes, it will be simple for God to restore his morale, to make it clear and strong once again. No, that isn't an obstacle. We see this grace daily among the sick. I saw it myself, two weeks ago, in a sick man healed by the grace of the Sacrament. Don't have so many regrets about the lack of attempts, dear daughter. It isn't your fault nor your mother's. The time hadn't come yet. So many prayers and penances have been done since! These graces are accumulating around your dear patient.

[20] Her father.

I don't know about the vow, whether it concerns your freedom or money. I would so wish that on St. Joseph's day, you would go to Lyons and there, with a daughter's embrace, you would tell your father what you want. Ask him to do it to please you and the Blessed Virgin.

You could also bring in the Pastor if he wants to attempt it himself. This kind of surprise sometimes succeeds.

Be sure that a great struggle of grace is taking place in your patient's heart.

I am all yours, poor daughter; you know how happy I would be to prove it to you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

802

CO 801

TO FR. WICART, VICAR GENERAL OF LAVAL
(VI 2/2)

Paris, rue fg. St. Jacques 68, March 14, 1859

Dear Vicar-General,

I have been back from Rome for several weeks, and I waited for the fruits of our retreat so as to be able to tell you about so many graces received.

The Supreme Pontiff received me with the most fatherly affection, and listened very attentively to the story of this little Work from [the time of] his first blessing received in Toulon to its beginnings in Paris. His Holiness wished to see the testimonial letters from the Bishops - among the first were the two so dear to our heart, for which we are still so happy to praise God. To explain our project, His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris had written the following lines at the end of our Petition:

"*Piam hanc sodalitatem nobis bene notam, et hactenus de Sancta Ecclesia bene merentum propter suam erga Sanctissimum Eucharistiae Sacramentum pietatem eximiam, et zelum animarum quem exhibet in omnibus circumstantiis; humillime Sanctissimo Domino nostro Pontifici maximo et dilectissimo Patri Commendamus."*[21]

Parisiis die 2 Decembris 1858 - + J. M. Cardinal Morlot, archbishop of Paris.

After praising the Work and admiring the progress it has made in so short a time, the Holy Father promised me he would attend to the request after Christmas. On December 20th I had the privilege of having my audience, and on January 5th, His Holiness himself signed the Letter of Commendation as follows:

Pius PP.IX

"Dilecte Fili, salutem et apostolicam benedictionem. Placuit nobis plurimum studium tuum quo te praestare triennio antea audivimus, ut adorationem et cultum Sacramenti Augusti maxime in Gallia augeres et tuereris. De quo et nobis coram locutus es ac quorumdam Episcoporum Galliae exhibuisti laudum consignata Litteris testimonia. Faxit Deus misericordia sua ut susceptae a te curae et sollicitudines in hunc finem, qui amplissimam apud omnes meretur laudes, proficiant.

[21] "We recommend this pious society, which is well known to us and thus far well thought of by Holy Church for its outstanding devotion towards the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist and its zeal for souls which it shows under every circumstance. We recommend this most humbly from our Most Holy Pontiff and our most beloved Father."

Tanti hujus boni auspicem esse det Apostolicam Benedictionem, quam tibi, dilecte Fili, hinc discedenti, effuso paterni cordis affectu amanter impertimur."

Data Romae, apud S. Petrum, die 5 Ianuarii 1859, Pontificatus Nostri anno XIII.

Pius PP. IX[22]

His Holiness added another most precious grace to this one! A plenary indulgence daily for the practice of adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed. The Holy Father even wanted to make this more extensive, but, so as not to minimize the value of the Indulgences for the 40 Hours in Paris, I asked that this one be only for us and the Associates, as the Pope had wanted it to be for everyone.

This, dear Vicar-General, is my blessing from Rome, confirming the first one given us by His Excellency, your brother[23] and our first Father. It now depends on us to live up to so many graces.

Everyone in Rome, even my friends, scared me by saying that I would have to stay at least six months; and they all joined me in blessing God that it was all accomplished in a fortnight.

I have no need to tell you, dear Vicar-General, how much I prayed for you and for His Excellency. My thoughts were with you everywhere I went; one never forgets the beginnings of one's journey.

When we arrived in Paris we went on retreat, in order to set to work seriously and in the right spirit. God has wonderfully blessed these Holy Exercises. The pioneers made their vows, and two whose vocation was doubtful and not very generous, have left us - a priest and a brother - so there are ten of us left. We would be more numerous if we were true adorers.

I still look forward to your friendly visit, which would be an opportunity for us to express all our heartfelt, cordial and religious gratitude for your warm friendship towards us. Your name is kept along with His Excellency in our diptych - that is all poor folk can do.

I am counting on you to kindly express my gratitude to His Excellency and tell him about this joy. Coming from you, it will be all the more earnest since you love us.

Dear Vicar-General, allow me once more to sign myself,

Ever yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mar 15	*Conference Servants: Dominant thought of religious orders, motto.*
Mar 18	*Conference Servants: Feast of St. Joseph - silence.*

[22] Pope Pius IX

Beloved Son, Health and Apostolic Benediction!

We were greatly pleased to learn three years ago the zeal with which you promoted and established, especially in France, the worship and adoration of the August Sacrament. You yourself told us of this Work at the time, and you also produced testimonial letters of praise from several French Bishops. May God, in His mercy, reward with success the care and concern you take to realize a purpose so worthy of the highest commendation of all.

May the Apostolic Benediction, Beloved Son, which on your departure we lovingly grant you with all the affection of our paternal heart, be a happy omen for so great a good!

Given at Rome, at Peter's, January 5, 1859, the 13th year of our Pontificate.

Pope Pius IX

[23] Bishop Casimir Wicart, Bishop of Frijus, known to St. Peter Julian when he was a Marist.

803

CO 802

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 11/19)

Paris, March 20, 1859

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

This letter which you are anxiously expecting (and which I was continually deferring, as I did not know how to resolve this important question) will reach you and perhaps hurt you because, after careful examination, I do not think it would be prudent for you to join Miss Guillot, at least for now. These poor women have just had such a bad shake-up, and are still under the weight of that sorrow; they must be given time to emerge from that trial.[24] My dear daughter, you can understand that they are suffering great poverty, since those who had something have left, and so they must begin as saints begin. However, in your case, your health requires some care and a special diet; you would suffer there and if you were to become ill, they would blame themselves.

I surely hope for God's blessing now, because he will act alone, and if this little Work comes from his heart, it will overcome and will be founded solidly on poverty, humility and the pure love of God.

I did not want to accept new ones; besides the departure of these 5 has discouraged some persons. I praise God for it.

We are going to make a foundation in Marseilles with the subjects which divine Providence sends us, and I will be obliged to go there shortly as it is only right that the Superior become a father by the sacrifices and sufferings of foundations.

You are always very dear to us and your sisters love you; accept this separation as coming from God and wait for the time of grace.

Pray for us; this departure of Mme. [Duhaut] Cilly really hurt me. It is a great trial for everyone, but there are times when we must cut and prune to the quick to find life.

Believe me ever in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

804

CO 803

TO CANON BRUNELLO, MARSEILLES[25]
(VIII 1/1)

Paris, March 26, 1859

Very dear and beloved Father and friend,

Well! Your zeal for our Lord has won the day! Fr. de Cuers leaves Paris this morning for Marseilles, provided with <u>all authorizations</u> for the foundation and rich with the grace of and trust in God. God will bless this first foundation, as it is beginning so well. It was on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation, that the Bishop signed our authorization; it was from that day that the foundation began, and so it is yours: you must be, not only its Father, but its St. Joseph.

[24] Departure of Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and 4 others.
[25] Director of "*Oeuvres de la Jeunesse*" in Marseilles.

With great joy and consolation we are beginning in Marseilles, that good City which we had chosen to be our cradle, and which, instead, was to be our first battlefield.

I envy Fr. de Cuers the grace of going off to begin in poverty, suffering, and weakness - this little cenacle of the great King.

When all is ready I shall go there (I promised His Excellency I would) and spend some time there, God willing.

I embrace you most affectionately in our Lord, my dear Father.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, SSS

805

CO 804

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 28/75)

Paris, March 29, 1859

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I pity you and bless you. Your condition makes me both suffer and give thanks to God; it is the death toll of worldliness and the ego, in order to live in God with a life which finds its treasure where it cannot be stolen or altered.

All the inner feelings and sorrows you are experiencing are graces and only means of uniting yourself more and more to the Sovereign Good. Don't waste your time with life's flowers, dear daughter, don't count the thorns, nor the stones on your path. Pass over them quickly and come to our Lord with your feet in blood. Don't look at them; don't complain about them. Find strength in the love of Jesus Christ and in the true proofs of his love; that is, the cross, detachment from human beings, immolation of oneself to his greater glory. Then you will feel a new life within yourself, an ocean of peace, a need to suffer in order to give something to divine love, a bit of wood to throw into the fire. Don't look so much at the weather, dear daughter, nor at the clouds. It would prevent you from doing anything worthwhile. Go higher toward the sun which stays in place and does nothing else but give its light and heat to everything which turns around it. Oh! How strong and happy is a soul rooted in God!

Your dear daughter wrote to me. I am taking care of her business with God first and then with people.[26] This fine daughter would like to be nearer to you. I also desire it because it would be a great comfort [to her]; let us hope for that.

I really hope that when you go to the countryside you won't do as you did last year - you were so busy with your leaves and cocoons. I hope you will give us some signs of life.

Please pray for us. We are establishing a foundation in Marseilles; I may be obliged to go in a few months. Nothing new here except that we are very happy. In a few days you'll receive a notice about our Work. Please give one to Miss Monavon, remember me to her and tell her that my last visit increased[27] my esteem for her a hundredfold.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mar 23	*Conference Servants: The Annunciation.*

[26] Literally: with men.
[27] Literally: multiplied.

806

CO 805

TO MR. ROSEMBERG[28] AND FAMILY

(VII 1/9)

Paris, March 29, 1859

Madame,

I praise God for the blessing of Abraham upon you, not for the future Messiah, but for Jesus Christ to whom you are giving children, disciples and saints.

I would have been very happy to accept the blessed and holy suggestion to be the godfather for this latest flower from the good Lord, but illness has taken three soldiers off the battlefield. So they must be replaced at the feet of the throne of the Great King. And so, the eucharistic service is holding me captive, but what blessed chains! They are worth more than gold and diamonds. Love forms and bears them, at least, that's my hope.

I would have been very happy to see dear Mr. Rosemberg, and to embrace him, but the good Lord doesn't will it.

I have been wanting to see good Mr. Dupont[29] for a long time, but the good Master is holding me back, so I make up for it a little by a few prayers at his feet for all my friends.

I am happy to have met your fine sister. I see her every two weeks. The good Lord is blessing her. He is so good!

I leave you in the hands of his divine goodness. My fond regards to dear Mr. Rosemberg.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

Mar 30	*Conference Servants: End of the month of St. Joseph.*

[28] A Jewish convert and music teacher at Tours, on Rue de la Sellerie.

[29] Mr. Leo Dupont, known as the Holy man of Tours, for his devotion to the Holy Face and the cures effected at his home.

CHAPTER III

The Mustard Seed Grows

Opening in Marseilles

Foundation Retreat/Vows of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

- July 30, 1859
- Rule of Life
- Spiritual formation

Inauguration of the Work of First Communion for Adult Workers

Mission to Belgium

807

CO 807

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 27/181)

Paris, April 5, 1859

Dear and beloved Father,

Your letter really comforted us. We were very much afraid about your trip, since you were already a bit tired before leaving. May God be blessed and glorified by your journey, your work and your struggles! I feel them very keenly. It hurts me to know that you are alone at Marseilles, and I beg the good Lord to send you someone, to give us workers for this foundation. As you say, perhaps God's hour has not yet come.

I was pleased with the opening, the feast of St. Francis de Paul; the date of the first Mass, when we sang: "*Laetare sterilis quae non parturis*,"[1] the Epistle about the son of the Promise, the Gospel about the multiplication of the loaves, symbol of the Holy Eucharist, when the title of King was first given to our Lord. May all of this be the grace of the foundation!

Yesterday we went to the Ministry and in the evening they were going to send your money order. Please keep some [money] for your needs. It hurts me to feel that you are so poor.

I will be thinking about the Baptismal meal. Dear Fr. Brunello is joy[2] and we his loving and grateful sons.[3] That good Father is the one with whom I shared my thought[4] long ago. He approved it, encouraged it. How admirable are God's ways! He knows how to bring what is furthest together!

I'll write to Miss Marin. I was waiting for your letter.

Everything is progressing. Yesterday we had our monthly Retreat. Dear Fr. Champion is the one who gave it. I was truly edified by what he said. We can see that he has the grace for the Work.

Write to us from time to time. It will make up for your absence and be a comfort to all of us. Everyone embraces you tenderly, as I do. I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup. S.S.S.

I'm waiting for the copies of the notice; I'll send you some. Alas, they wanted to put my name! What name! It would have been better to hide it.[5]

I reopened my letter to tell you that the Ministry of the Interior didn't come back on it, nor send anything. Fr. Abadie gave 5 francs, which I gave to the Ladies.

Rev. Father de Cuers,
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Rue Nau, former convent of the Minimes
Marseilles

[1] "Let those who are sterile and those who are not childbearing rejoice."
[2] He used the word "laetare."
[3] literally: children.
[4] His thoughts about a eucharistic project.
[5] Sensitivity to Fr. de Cuers, who did not like Fr. Eymard's name to appear as Founder.

Apr 8	*Retreat: 1st Conf. Ser: Trials.*
Apr 8	*2nd Conf. Ser: Condition for the service of Jesus. Necessity of suffering.*

808

CO 806

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 32/76)

Paris, March 31, 1859[6]

Very dear daughter,

We are now on the last day of St. Joseph's month. This good Saint has interceded; we must be heard, for can he be refused! No. Can Jesus go back on his promise to hear confident prayer? If he is putting off success at the moment, it is to increase the merit and bestow even more [blessings]. I believe that we have already been heard, that the conversion has been granted and is gradually taking place in his poor soul. Be convinced that repulsion and hallucinations are rather the effect of the devil than of nature. God wants to have all the glory of his mercy. So, dear daughter, pray and suffer, but remain in peace and encourage your good mother. I would really like to write to her, but since I don't know whether she can receive her letters, I did not.

Please tell her to have confidence, not to worry over the past, nor fret over the present. When God wants to save someone, he inspires us to pray, and the outcome of prayer is salvation.

We have been saying your Masses since the first day. All the priests have this one intention. Good daughter, that very fact shows you the price of a soul, the greatness of the grace of faith, and why our Lord prayed and suffered so much to save us and win the grace of salvation.

When will grace triumph in the soul of good Mr. Gourd, who is so forthright and sincere, but who is not yet enlightened by God's light! That will also be the fruit which God wants from your prayers and sufferings. A lifetime is not too long to save a soul. Of what value are possessions, pleasures and glory in this life without God's grace and heaven to hope for? Nothing! just a loss...

April 8. - I'm sorry I didn't finish this letter sooner, dear daughter. A thousand and one things and two First Communions, which I was preparing, took all my time.

So you have been and still are ill. The Good Lord is allowing you to earn by your illness the two great graces he wants to grant you. Be a good patient, who graciously allows herself to be cared for, who wants to do nothing other than what illness permits.

You are feeling better. That is good. Poor daughter, your crown still needs work and you still have a long life ahead of you in the midst of thorns and stones. But our Lord is with you.

Do not let worry or trouble enter into your spirit, nor into your conscience. Be childlike toward yourself and with the Good Lord, that is the shortest way. I would so like to have you in Paris with Miss Guillot, spending a few weeks of convalescence there with Miss Stephanie! We would have healed you quickly. I am asking the Good Lord for this consolation.

As for us, everything is fine, since the good Master is still with us. Sometimes when I see some crosses, I would like to have some support and I shudder a little; but it doesn't last very long, thanks be to God!

One thing is going well, that is, Adoration. The rest is no longer a cross or a difficulty for me. When the Master is served and happy, everything is fine.

Oh! poor daughter, there are so few eucharistic souls who belong totally to Jesus Christ! People always want to have something else together with Jesus Christ, or besides him. The result is tension and agitation. Jesus Christ is not their only master. Pray for this grace for us, dear daughter. I ask it for you with my whole heart, for you know that I don't separate your soul, your needs and your salvation from my own.

Goodbye dear daughter. May Jesus be your all.

[6] Begun March 31, ended April 8th.

All yours in his love,
Eymard, S.S.S.

809

CO 808

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 22/52)

Miss Stephanie *Paris, April 8, 1859*

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your letter. I am pleased with you and your work, and a little with your virtue. What pleases me is that you know how to leave the Good Lord for your neighbor and to do so graciously and without scruples. True love of God loves only one thing, his holy Will; holds only to one thing, his divine good pleasure.

My dear daughter, continue this way and continually practice patience, gentleness, forbearance, calmness, in a word, charity. Since your principal occupation is [care for] your neighbor, our good Master is letting you practice it; it is the royal service.

Dear daughter, be sure there is a great difference between loving your neighbor for God's sake and working with our neighbor for God alone. The first is a principle; the second is a continual sacrifice. How difficult it is to receive only hardships or neglect from our neighbor! Yet, this is what we must seek for the love of God alone. Provided we have the esteem, blessing and Heart of God, it should be enough for us.

We must even thank our good Master when mentors seem to find fault with you. They are helping you, good daughter, to be vigilant and to know yourself.

Sleep, sleep enough. Do not sacrifice sleep, or food, but sacrifice only your self-will.

I hope that the Good Lord has heard our prayers for your grandfather and for your dear father, because we don't separate them in our prayers.

Yes, yes, when the Good Lord inspires prayer and suffering, it is because he intends to grant his grace.

Don't worry if you cannot meditate or pray well, but accomplish your spiritual practices as if you were succeeding well. It will be true, because the grace of God will compensate for everything.

Go to the Good Lord to offer yourself entirely to him, tell him whatever seems good to you, then don't worry about the rest.

I would really like you to come to Paris, that would do everyone good and it would be a great joy for us.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

To Miss Stephanie
at Thorins-Romaneche
(Saone et Loire)

810

CO 809

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 30/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 9, 1859[7]

Very dear Father,

I have time only to tell you:

1. That I received the money. May God repay you for it;
2. Fr. Champion says that in the present case, it is sufficient that the room adjacent to the altar not have a dormitory;
3. So you were fined! We really laughed;
4. We will mail the sheets tomorrow.

Tibi totus in Christo et osculo sancto.[8]

Eymard, Superior

811

CO 810

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 28/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 13, 1859

Very dear Father,

I've just seen Mr. Koll, our former carpenter. I proposed that he go to Marseilles to do your work. He asked me for a day to think about it. He just came to tell me that he accepts the proposal only on the following conditions: 1. He will take care of his own food, and he is pleased to accept bed and lodging; 2. He prefers to go alone; 3. The essential condition is that he will do the work for a set price. That is, he will do piece work and not work by the day. I asked him on what basis he would establish his prices. He answered: "On the current prices in Marseilles. It will not cost you any more than a day rate," he said, "and I will work more."

These, good Father, are his conditions. He is an excellent workman, skilled and quick. It may perhaps be best to accept his conditions. He is a man of his word. I told him to come Saturday or Sunday. Then he could leave Monday or Tuesday, because he needs a few days to finish his work here. So please write to me right away.

I saw the fine Mr. de Saint-Louvent. We received him like a friend. I think he might like our life. He will spend a month at home, and we will see him when he returns.

Fr. Eymar[9] still has the same intentions, we must give him up. God will replace him; in the meantime, we will make up for it ourselves.[10] He is packing. God be praised! But how good he is to try us a little!

Your lovely ciborium will be finished Wednesday of Holy Week, and we will send it to you right away. It costs 299 or 300 francs.

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[7] Date incorrectly published as April 19 in the French Volume I. Troussier.
[8] All yours in Christ and with a holy kiss.
[9] No relative.
[10] Probably by an increase of hours spent in adoration.

Take care of yourself; there is still a long and painful road to travel, we need strength.
Everything is functioning as usual. My regards to good Father Brunello.[11]

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
Rue Nau No. 7, former convent of the Minimes
Marseilles

Apr 15	*Conf. Ser: On trials. (cont.)*

812

CO 811

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 15/17)

Paris, April 15, 1859

Thank you, dear daughter, for your reproaches. I do deserve them a little, because when I passed in front of dear Tonny's place of business, I looked to see whether I might see anyone - since I could only say a quick hello - and then perhaps, you may know what took my time in Lyons. It was a dear patient, whom I still haven't been able to help.

Poor Lyons! It made my heart beat faster. From the coach I was looking to see whether I would meet someone I knew. I met only one young man who looked at me carefully and did not recognize me. So goes life: we pass, we are soon forgotten. It's only right: God alone is.

My dear daughter, I was happy in Rome, because everything there is so great, so Apostolic - Religion is at home - Jesus Christ is King in Rome. And so, we visit with so much devotion the sacred places venerated for centuries. There, faith springs from every stone, from every grain of sand drenched with the blood of the martyrs. - When leaving the motherland of Catholics, we looked back a hundred times to see the dome of St. Peter one more time and bid it farewell.

The Holy Father was so kind toward our Work and toward me. He signed the Letter of Commendation himself and when dismissing me kept repeating: "May God bless your Society."

Yes, God will bless it, for it belongs to him, is from him and totally for him.

At this moment we are founding a house of adoration at Marseilles. Pray for this fledgling [foundation], which is so poor and so frail, but so rich with Jesus Christ.

How happy I am with your words about good Fr. Mayet; his heart is still generous and [remains] a friend in God - I feel the same toward him - for he was my first and closest friend.

How are your good and holy Widows? Do tell them that if I have kept a lazy silence, I have not forgotten them in my prayers and that their tears, as well as their lives, are ever present to me in the sight of the Good Lord.

And to good Tonny! to his good and beloved Clara and to his numerous family - may God give them the glory, the virtue, the strength of his love, of his right hand and of his heart and a million[12] to go with it.

Goodbye, dear daughter, these young women are blessed by God, they have had some crosses, it's a great grace and they do love the Good Lord.

[11] The former spiritual director of Fr. de Cuers, who lived in Marseilles.
[12] Francs?

Believe that I am ever a faithful and loving friend of the Mayet family, and in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Elizabeth Mayet
6 or 8 Place S. Clair
Lyons

813

CO 812

TO MISS JENNY GAUDIOZ[13]

(VII 1/3)

Paris, April 15, 1859

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to answer your long letter of the 13th. - I will keep its secret and I tore up your letter. - So now here are my feelings about Sister Benoite. She is humble, self-sacrificing and simple and she is not aware of the extraordinary aspect of her state [of health]. Here, we do not even pay attention to it, so that she is unaware of her graces, if there are graces. Her behavior truly edifies us. I don't see anything which would lead me to suspect any deception on her part. She had told me what you have written. Recently she came to tell me: "Miss Jenny is ill, would you like her to come and rest here?" And I replied: "Very willingly."

Surely there are many extraordinary things about her path, but we are very careful not to act or judge accordingly, but according to the rules of prudence and faith. Now, dear Mademoiselle, is what sister Benoite told us about you true? I don't know. The only thing I can tell you is that if you were to come here, you would be received like a child of the family and might perhaps be very happy, for it is a very beautiful life.

The lack of attraction you have for it may only be a natural feeling because of your Aunt Marguerite whom you may fear a little, who, nevertheless, is very wise and truly loves God.

Couldn't you come and spend some time here for your health, and then you could study this life of adoration more closely?

However, if you don't feel a mixture of desire and fear, of joy and sadness, and if, on the contrary, you feel totally discouraged by the thought of coming, it would be better to wait.

Dear Miss Jenny, this is all I can tell you. I will pray very much for you. Count on my total dedication.

And believe me ever in our Lord, dear Miss Jenny,

All yours,
Eymard

[13] The niece of Margarite Guillot.

814

CO 813

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 13/104)

Paris, April 16, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I was reproaching myself for my delay. I was beginning to worry about you. Your letter reassured me a little, especially with the news that you found your precious indult. I was already taking steps to see how to have it replaced, and I had discovered a way. But now I won't have to [do so].

Some time ago, I received the beautiful altar decoration you sent to our Lord. Thank you in his name and mine. I'm really ashamed to be such a poor ingrate, who is so negligent in expressing thanks. Fortunately, the Divine Rewarder keeps ahead of me and above me.

I sent you a few notices about our Work; I would have liked you to share it with the Superior of the major seminary.

I will receive you here very willingly for your retreat in a house neighboring ours. If that suits you, it would also be better for me. I will be able to see you more easily. Only, don't mention it [to anyone] because I don't want to begin doing retreat work.

If you could come toward the middle of May, that would suit me fine. I will be too busy during the month of June.

We are founding a house in Marseilles and I must spend a few weeks there at Corpus Christi in order to get everything started. - Dear daughter, I can see that you are still ill and weak. In that state, you must do as sick people do: suffer for Jesus and with Jesus. Increase spontaneous prayers, then go back to the morning examen, your particular examen at noon (on patience) and examen of the day, at night. Spend one or two minutes for each examen. - Your illness replaces the rest.

But, dear daughter, see how you need Holy Communion. It is your whole virtue and life. So then, continue to receive Communion.

During ordinary temptations we must pray. In extraordinary temptations we must do some penance. If these persist, then go to confession, as you have done.

So, may God bring you here to Paris. I have a great desire to see you and have you see our small Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

Believe me ever, in his divine love,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Please have someone research in Nantes for the birth and baptismal certificates of Ann-Veronique Dupique. She says she was born and baptized in the parish of St. Similien in 1822.

She thinks she was 30 or 31 when she married Sire Dufour (whose widow she is.) She is the daughter of Antoine Dupique and Marie Guichard. Her godfather's name was Michel Girau and Veronique Dupique (her sister) was her godmother. We need these documents to obtain her admission in a welfare home, as she is very poor.

These names may be misspelled, but with some good will they should be able to find them.

Madame de Grandville
8 rue St. Laurent
Nantes

815

CO 814

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 29/75)

Paris, April 16, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I truly shared in your joy over the nomination. You want to know what I did? You can imagine.

Now in this world, you still need a red ribbon and a holy and blessed lineage from the Good Lord. Well! That is what we must continue to request.[14]

I saw Mme. Nugues.[15] I was very edified and delighted with this fine sister of Mr. Giraud. We renewed our acquaintance and you are our point of contact. She gave me 50 francs. Please tell me for how many Masses; I took note of it, but I don't have the time to look for it.

Holy Week will be coming soon! That is when you will pray, adore, and spend yourself at the feet of our Lord.

Oh! My God, at least if our poor ego could be brought to death! Imagine! Everyday I discover nests of faults, well-hidden infirmities, and I find myself like one who thought he was suitable, to be poor, blind, and weak.

Pray for me, that will be the way to show me your kindness.

You must have received some of our notices.[16] It is still small, but if the Good Lord blesses this little seed, it will become great.

Goodbye, I remain very united to you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

Madame C. Jordan
10 rue de Castries
Lyons

816

CO 815

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 29/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 17, 1859

Beloved Father,

Don't worry about us: God places his grace alongside our trials. We must found on Jesus Christ and not on friends, protectors, or on any human person whatsoever. God wanted to test our love, and I dare say that all those who are here are full of dedication to the eucharistic service of our Good Master.

[14] Prayers for a grandchild.
[15] Her daughter's sister-in-law.
[16] About the Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mr. Eymar left Friday at one o'clock with his sister and a young woman whom he sent for. He was appropriate in his departure. God has his plans: each one has his own mission near the Blessed Sacrament.

On Saturday, the next day, a more painful trial. Mr. Clavel received a letter telling him that his uncle from Montpellier is very ill, that he just had an attack. So this good colleague said to me: "If we were more numerous, I would ask you to let me leave immediately to go see my uncle. But the service of adoration would suffer from it, so I abstain. If my uncle is dead, it's too late. If he is worse, they will write to tell me. Besides, he is in God's hands, and I, [in the hands] of obedience."

See, my dear friend, how we are compensated for our trials![17]

I saw Mr. Koll today. He will leave Thursday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and will reach you Friday night with his tools. I will advance 200 francs for his trip and initial expenses, or even 300, if I can.

I've just come from adoration and I said to our Lord: "I'll send Mr. Koll in your Providential care. He will work for You. I have a note for 500 francs from Fr. de Cuers. I'll take the initial expenses from that. So be it!"

Then, when I left the chapel at 2:00, Mr. Koll arrived in the parlor, as well as a lady, coming for the Superior of the Blind Sisters. She brought me the amount of 300 francs.

See, good Father, how our Father in Heaven loves his divine Son and is happy with what we want to do for him!

Mr. Koll may bring you a fine sixteen-year-old boy. He has finished his fifth year, he is well-behaved and devout; I am studying him. I will feel better to know that you have someone with you.

The ciborium is very lovely. Mr Koll will bring it to you, with the rest.

Blessed be that beautiful Easter Day when we took over this house and when our Lord will rise again in the house of Marseilles. Be confident and have patience! dear Brother.

Our good Master is our guarantor and our King.

So many good wishes to everyone.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

817

CO 816

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)

(III 10/21)

Paris, April 17, 1859

Very dear daughter,

Your very first letter recommended the care of your dear sister Marguerite to me; I do it well, but the Good Lord is doing it even better than I, for it is truly a miracle to see how well she is and how strong she is to bear the weight of so many crosses.

Your second letter mentions:

1. Concern about your brief confessions. My daughter, here is my answer:

The more simple and brief a confession is, as you say, the better it is. So much the better if they reproach you for it! I thank God for it, never change. Don't worry because you don't know how to say much or in great detail, children have soon said everything. - Dear daughter, always be as simple as a child.

[17] Compensated by what follows.

2. You are worried about your Communions because you are afraid that you aren't benefiting from them. - Your confessor had even disturbed you over it.

Here, my good daughter, is the rule to be followed:

Receive Communion with simplicity in spite of it, since he told you to [do so]. His question was either a test or a sign of interest, and I tell you again: continue to receive Communion, you need it as a poor one, as a sick one, as a daughter of the cross.

Go to the holy Table with your poverty and faults, but also with trust and love; that is the best disposition you could bring to it.

My daughter, stop looking at your progress or your gains, but [look at] your needs and your desire to love the Good Lord.

3. Sometimes you are lonely and you are afraid of the future with all the crosses that surround and await you. Listen, my daughter: your good father in Heaven, for whom you are working and suffering, for whose love you have sacrificed everything in the world, will not leave you. Entrust to him the care of your future and your old age. But, you say, I have done nothing for God! Do what you can, don't count what you put into your till. The Good Lord will put more into it than you and will multiply your little merits a hundredfold.

4. You do well to act as you do about business matters with your aunt, that's fine; nothing wrong, continue [as you are doing].

5. God will repay your sister Marguerite with blessings and good things for the criticisms against her. Pray for those poor women of Lyons!

6. No, my daughter, you will not be left alone when your aunt dies; you will come here to rest at the feet of the Good Lord, but you are still needed in Lyons.

7. Send us your dear sister Claudine; Easter is coming. You are the one who has to send everyone; she will come to prepare a place for you.

I wanted to write to her, but I don't have time. You will be my word[18] and my blessing.

Goodbye, good daughter, have courage and confidence.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

818

CO 817

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 31/181 VI 4)[19]

Paris, April 20, 1859

Very dear Father,

Mr. Koll can't leave before the eleven o'clock train tomorrow, Thursday; he could not complete his work any sooner. He is going alone, the young man I had mentioned to you isn't really adequate to such a test. Divine Providence allowed me to discover, through information received while I was studying him, that he was frivolous, lazy and lacked piety. You can imagine that was enough. Don't let Mr. Koll think that he might find himself without work, because I believe he will have a lot to do for us.

I pointed out to him the defects in the confessionals here. So, unless I am mistaken, he will have to make: 1. two altars, especially the one for Exposition; 2. the decorated wood like the one at

[18] Spokesperson.

[19] Letter incorrectly dated April 19th in French – presented here on April 9th.

the Good Shepherd, as a background, behind the altar; 3. the communion rail; 4. the canopy; 5. the credence for the sacristy; 6. rays behind the canopy; 7. doors, etc.

I think that a retailer would supply you with wood on credit, as they always do, for a three-month period. If necessary, we can borrow, because we must go forward with things which are necessary and essential for the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we see it is needed. That is an essential condition for our goals of service, and you know how kindly the Good Master has always treated us.

It seems to me that the altar where Exposition takes place should be made so that it is possible to increase the number of gradines, like a pyramid, like all the Roman altars for Exposition or Forty Hours. It requires that the Tabernacle or the place for Exposition be elevated. The canopy at the Sacramentines in Rome has four or five gradines. They have ordinary decorations on ordinary days, and more elaborate ones on feast days. Since we will keep the Reserved Sacrament in the side chapel, in keeping with the rules, its Tabernacle should be suitable.

Mr. Clavel's uncle died and was probably buried yesterday (Tuesday). What will he do? We don't know. Mr. Clavel still has fine dispositions, but since he is heir, in part, he may have to travel to Montpellier. Our Good Master will take care of it.

We are making a small alcove beneath the communion rail, where the organ is, for the celebrations Thursday and Friday and to adore our Lord.

Mr. Carri will receive the holy habit tomorrow. I think I will have him make the annual vow of obedience.

We are praying very much for you.

Mother from the Good Shepherd is sending you three pairs of stockings. Mr. Koll will bring them to you with the rest.

Save your limited strength for the Good Master and the great day of his Exposition in the new Cenacle.

We are very happy to be able to do something more for our Lord.

Believe me, beloved Father, in the charity of Christ, to be,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

819

CO 818

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 32/52)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, April 22, 1859*[20]

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I don't know how to explain my long silence toward you, except to accuse myself both of laziness and of being busy about everything. In your charity please forgive me. That isn't the way it is in the presence of our Lord. Always and everywhere I constantly offered you to our good and mutual Master, especially when I learned that you expected to leave this land of exile, which is still beautiful and lovely because of its perpetual Calvary and Cenacle of divine love. I really asked our good Master not to let you die yet, and he heard me. So, continue to love and suffer, that's all that is left to do for whatever stretch of road still separates you from the mountain of vision, the eternal Tabor.

[20] Finished Holy Saturday.

Continue to set the divine Fire ablaze; it is being extinguished in so many hearts. Spur those who are timid and lazy; push the leaders and may Jesus Christ rule as Master at least in some hearts and places.

Holy Saturday - Your last letter arrived and this one had been started and left unfinished. So it often happens that I begin well and finish nothing.

I complain to the Good Lord and often ask him to let me die or put me in some corner near the Tabernacle.

Now, about your request for a retreat at St. Chamond. I would accept wholeheartedly, but I'm afraid because of my departure from the Marist Fathers, their closeness at the college, the restrictions I must exercise toward them, the hurt feeling it could cause to the heart of Father General, and the embarrassment this could cause the Pastor. Dear sister, this is why I am presenting you these difficulties. Please reflect on them in God's presence and write your thoughts to me. Also, if God doesn't send me a substitute, it would be imprudent for me to commit myself at this time. Some of my colleagues are ill and aren't performing their service at the feet of the good Master. Others are supposed to come, but there may be so many difficulties along the way that I don't dare say anything for the time being. If they can give me a bit of latitude, I promise it; if it's set for the time you mentioned, then our good Master is showing his adorable Will by that means. Then, don't count on me for St. Chamond.

I must go to Marseilles in two or three months to begin the new foundation which our Lord is having us begin there. My decision (in God) was to go and greet you in the Lord on my way, and to give you one day. - The question of a retreat at Amplepuis is based on the same conditions as St. Chamond, so I cannot say anything about it; it would be possible to give a sermon or two while passing through Tarare.

So this, good sister, is my answer, which you will receive on Easter Day with my blessing in the Risen Jesus, with my prayer and wishes that you yourself may be risen: thinking, desiring, willing and consuming yourself only for Jesus Hostia. Try to obtain the newspaper "*La Voix de la Verite*" for Holy Thursday. There is an article about our Society which is not up to me to evaluate.

Your good sister and I were speaking of your dear father as an adorer. I assure you that was my first thought when you told me he was going to the Great Chartreuse. - I'll go see your artist brother at Plaisance after Easter; I promised your sister; what joy if I could help his soul.

My affectionate and devoted regards to your dear children, to good Mother St. Claire. I sent you some notices at Tarare; you will find them there.

Goodbye, dear sister in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, SS

On Easter Sunday, the first chapel was inaugurated in Marseilles.

820

CO 819

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 31/52)

Easter Day, 1859

Dear daughter in Jesus Hostia,

May the peace of the risen Jesus always dwell in you!

I didn't mention anything about the Indulgences and the Aggregation in my last letter. We have an Aggregation: I will tell you about its form and substance very soon.

We obtained a plenary daily indulgence for the Associates, and 7 years and 40 days for those who didn't receive Communion that day; this is our treasure and blessing.

If my offer for St. Chamond causes the least apprehension,[21] please consider that as an expression of God's holy will against it.

May God bless you: you, your dear children, your husband and all your loved ones.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.S.

Mme. Tholin
at the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph
St. Chamond (Loire)

821

CO 820

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 32/181 VI 4)

[April 25, 1859][22]

Very dear Father,

You must have welcomed Mr. Koll; no doubt he is already at work. May God give him the wisdom [he needs] for his work!

Tomorrow, Wednesday, I will go for your lamp and for the censer.

Everything is fine, each one is devoting himself joyfully to the service of our Good Master. Lent was difficult but it did not make us sick.

So, Mr. Carri solemnly received the holy habit after Benediction; he made the annual vow of obedience.

We had the major ceremonies of Holy Week. For that purpose, we made an alcove where the organ is, that gave the house a little eucharistic life. On Holy Saturday we had the blessing of the fire and the Paschal candle, followed by the Mass. The holy day of Easter shone with lights and decorations. The Canopy we received from Mother at the Good Shepherd served us well.

The feast is being extended for a few days.

[21] Among the Marists. See preceding letter.
[22] Troussier: Paris, April 25 and 26. There is no date on the letter.

I thanked our Good Master for being with you on Easter day and accepting your hospitality. May he bless you, and give you strength, money and joy.

I saw Mme. Chauvin here on rue Paradis 83, and Miss Liotard; both will be devoted to the Work. I don't know how much; God will show us.

Nothing new about vocations, it isn't time yet. We are praying to our Lord for that.

No news from Mr. Eymar, except that we received a visit from Fr. Malton yesterday. He told me that Fr. Courtois had asked the vicar general of Paris to permit Mr. Eymar to work at the Sacred Heart of Paris. They replied that there are already enough Works being tried.

That was the step I feared the most: the Archbishop. May
God be praised!

The service of our Good Master is also going well; thank you for your offers of service. Prepare the Cenacle there, and we will come in God's time.

Everyone loves you, embraces you, prays for you here.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - April 16, 1859. Mme. Spazzier, who spent her winter at Hyeres to paint, begs me to ask you to find her a position to teach art at the convent of the Sacramentines of Marseilles. That would be good if it were possible.

[23]

822

CO 822

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 33/76)

Madame Gourd *Paris, May, 1859*

Dear Lady,

Miss Claudine[24] arrived safely, happy to return to the Cenacle of our Lord; she certainly earned it.

I also arrived safely; first at Ars, where I arrived at 1:15, having left Lyons at 10:45.

I left Ars around 5 o'clock and Villefranche at 8 p.m. for Paris. When I arrived I said holy Mass, without a migraine headache. See how the Good Lord takes good care of his poor servants!

I praise God for my trip. He has his plans and times of mercy. So we must pray and put all our trust in him.

Dear daughter, keep your soul in peace, and enjoy that peace and confidence.

---

[23] When the Curé learned about the arrival of Fr. Eymard, he left the confessional. The conversation took place in the sacristy where he generally received men.

Fr. Eymard opened his heart: he was suffering from the lack of vocations. Had he made a mistake by founding this Work? With supplication he added:

"Ah, Monsieur le Cur, you encouraged me to take this direction which to all appearances was so holy, ask Our Lord to give himself good and numerous adorers for his divine Sacrament!"

Father spoke with emotion, almost with tears. The holy Cur burst into tears and answered with sobs: "My friend, my good friend, you want me to pray to the good Master for you? But you are the one who has him ever before you!"

Touched by the tears of the Cur, Fr. Eymard also began to cry and tried to console him, saying:

"Forgive me, Monsieur le Cur; I did not want to upset you, forgive me, please!" And they embraced one another.

[24] Sr. Claudine Guillot.

Go to the Good Lord as his beloved child who doesn't know how to plan anything, say anything, do anything, achieve anything without him. Be pleased with your powerlessness and weakness which make the Good Lord so necessary and so good.

May God bless you and your dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

823

CO 821

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 33/181 VI 3)

Paris, May 6, 1859

Very dear Father,[25]

1. I am a little behind in writing to you; this will make up for it. I was absent for a short time. I went to Lyons for that poor sick man who is dying.[26] Ah! That poor dear family still doesn't have the consolation of seeing this elderly man return to God, he is still obstinate.

2. Another little cross: Mr. Clavel left Wednesday night for Montpellier with his trunk and belongings; doesn't he expect to return? I don't know, I didn't ask him. He answered Brother Charles: "As God wills!" And another time, that he wouldn't be absent very long.

Mr. Carri has officially become an adorer, our Good Master clearly showed his holy will. Everything is going well, thanks be to God, and if someone leaves, we will send Brother Charles: it would be God's will.

Yesterday at 8:00 o'clock in the morning good Mr. Carri himself opened the letter telling him about the death of his poor brother. He grieved deeply. However, he went to his adoration at noon, and found strength and acceptance there. Everyone here showed him much sympathy; your letter [which he] received this morning helped him greatly, he needed it.

What good news that is about Rome! how good God is! yes, let us put our trust in him alone. Let us learn how to wait and suffer a little, without human support, with the veil of faith and hope; and God will come in his own time.

The day before yesterday, I had a great disappointment. On May 15th I had to reimburse Mr. Pelissier of Toulon. The aunt of Mr. Barlazue, the shoemaker, had assured me of that amount with the same conditions. Wednesday at two o'clock, Mr. Barlazue came and told me that his aunt wanted a legal mortgage on our house. So then I thanked him, not wanting to receive money on such conditions, trusting in divine Providence. The next day at the same time, a Lady offered me that amount; I accepted it, praising the Goodness of God, for she had even brought it with her. It's only a loan, it's true, but right now we can't get any more loans.

5. I had advanced Mr. Koll 200 francs on the amount we will owe him for his work. I didn't set a price; he told me that his prices would be reasonable and wouldn't be any higher than those of workmen in Marseilles, and that besides we could have them examined. Since Mr. Koll is a sensitive man who is devoted to us, it is better to show that we trust him.

6. It has been a while now since I have written to Miss Marin; I haven't received anything.

7. May God be praised for the fine idea to have a chapel to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament! I'm very happy about it.

8. I can see that this little house will be very suitable for our Lord.

[25] This letter is numbered 1, 2, 5 etc. - 3 and 4 are not printed in French.
[26] Mr. Morel.

All are very satisfied with your plan. The most necessary item was to enlarge the chapel windows in the Gothic style. I had been thinking about it all morning, when I read that it has already been done.

9. How great is the goodness of God! Trials are immediately followed with consolations: the arrival of that first priest from Rome will, I hope, be followed by others we need. But for the moment, I can promise nothing for the Ascension or Pentecost. We must wait for someone to come here. That will be the sign of God's will. Do you want me to send you the note for 100 francs? I'm afraid that you don't even have enough to buy bread. Miss Liotard came on her own, as well as Mme. Chauvin, but is it from God?

Everyone embraces you "*in osculo sancto*" (with a holy kiss), very dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

824

CO 823

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 34/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 11, 1859

My very dear Father,

I am writing to you from Mr. Favier's house, in order not to miss the mail.

1. Mr. Picard will send you all the metal objects you wish. You only have to tell him what you want.

2. Mr. Favier cannot provide a chalice of the same model as the ciborium except for 330 to 340.

3. Mr. Rey's correspondent has already ordered the monstrance. However, we will see whether we can cancel it. Mr. Favier is very embarrassed, since he had already given his word. The monstrance being proposed is in the style of the middle ages and costs about 700 francs. I would suggest they add the monogram IHS below the knob. Mr. Favier says that would make it very lovely. Otherwise it's too bare. The IHS would be in stone on gilded silver. What do you think? That would bring the total to approximately 800 francs.

4. For the gothic vestments, are you sure that the Bishop will allow it? Because if he should exclude them like the Archbishop of Lyons did, we would be left with them. Please be sure about it.

I know a vestment-maker in Lyons, who is skilled and conscientious, who might make them cheaper. I find quite a difference with Paris for vestments of ordinary material[27] and style; [write me] a word about that.

I still haven't communicated your errand to the Reverend Mother at the Good Shepherd; I haven't been able to go out.

The Eucharistic service is going well, very well. Each one doubles his time with joy and love, until the Good Master will send soldiers.

Remember that only two Israelites entered into the Promised Land, of all those who left Egypt, but God blessed them.

That's how it happened; we need something new and new men. Ever since my arrival from Rome, our retreat, our vows, nothing has happened. Consequently, it is a time of preparation; those who left were for the time of difficulty.

I'm hurrying to finish before the mail leaves, and to say that I am

[27] Literally: ordinary silk.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Let's hope that God will send us someone so that I can go to Marseilles, as you wish and as I also wish, please God.

825

CO 824

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 7/14)

Paris, May 12, 1859

Dear friend,

I made you wait a little while for my reply. Excuse me; I needed to pray some more. My feelings about the mission of Mr. Delarue have not changed. That is: as I see it, it seems obscure and dangerous because of its extraordinary dimension, its personal interpretation without sanction, the lay element which seems to be its basis and composition.

By his explanations, Mr. Delarue proved to me that he is in good faith and has a pure intention. That only demonstrates a beautiful soul, but not a path. Fenelon had a beautiful soul. I am convinced that many quietists were in good faith, under the illusion of the beautiful side of love and states of prayer. Finally, the letter which Mr. Delarue wrote to me about the unusual way he uses as a means to clarify his thought and perhaps his mission, - this letter, I say, once again proved to me his good faith and his simplicity. But surely, whoever reads his notes will think as I do, and perhaps less kindly toward his person.

To summarize, dear friend, I no longer want to be involved or entangled in this matter. - You asked for my advice, here it is: keep away from it and remain peacefully in the ordinary life of Christian piety.

I remain close and fond of you in our Lord,

Dear friend,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Paris, May 12, 1859

First Question. -

Can I consider myself entirely free toward Mr. D. concerning his alleged mission, as well as his future material needs?

Reply. - You are entirely free of the first as well as future material needs. When the bond is broken, everything is ended.

Second Question. -

May I, in order to find interior peace, ask him to leave sooner?

Reply. - Do not rush things. Wait for the opportunity, it will come of itself. However, do not discuss or analyse it any further. Say to yourself: It is not my path, nor the voice of God for me.

Third Question. -

If Mr. Delarue persists... Should I break all contacts?

Reply. - No. Take care of your Church matters. Don't give the impression of pouting, nor pitying them, only [let it be seen] that it is not your path, nor your vocation.

If they reach out to you, do not push them away indignantly, or with rejection, but calmly, saying: I gave it up, it's over and done with; each one has his own grace. Your peace and calm will be more effective than anything else.

This, dear friend, is my reply. Please do not worry or be anxious. It's a lesson and a grace.
Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
via Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seyne-et-Oise)

826

CO 825

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 33/52)

Paris, May 14, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

May God be praised for your good idea which Fr. Germain at St. Chamond accepted. It could do some good in two ways.

I would have been happy to go if God had willed it, showing me that it was possible.

I advise and urge you to plan as if I were not going to visit you, because God has just given us a little particle of his holy and gracious Cross. It makes it impossible for me to foresee any possible absence. However, they are writing to me from Marseilles [to say] that my presence will be somewhat necessary: God knows.

Humanly speaking, I don't see how I could go see you before the month of July.

Poor daughter! You are nailed to the cross, you can't see or receive the holy and adorable Host, visit your Beloved, or even be carried there like the paralytic. However, love for the most holy will of Jesus is worth more than all gifts, all the good things which spring from our own will. You have the Communion of love, the presence and grace of Jesus. Therefore, be a living Tabernacle, a dove like the first tabernacles,[28] an ark of the covenant with gold and two cherubim.

May Jesus ever be all in all for you.

All yours in his love,
Eymard, SS

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Tarare (Rhone)

[28] In the early centuries, tabernacles were sometimes shaped like a dove.

827

CO 826

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 35/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 16, 1859

Very dear Father,

Today I'll order the red vestment, a cope and a veil. The Gothic censer doesn't cost over 50 francs. I will bring you all those things from here.

I saw Mr. Favier again Saturday about the monstrance. He told me that he had found a little sketch of the style from the middle ages for you. I find the rays very thin and small. I'm told that is the form. I saw beautiful ones at Mr. Picard's, but they would cost more.

Perhaps with the IHS monogram, Mr. Favier's would still look very nice. The luna for the monstrance is large and beautiful; that is the main thing. Make a decision about this.

I'll order your chalice from him, the same style as the ciborium; in silver and not gold, to be sure; otherwise it would cost 340.

I'll go to Marseilles when you tell me, even if Fr. Champion had to stay alone, as you say, and do only adoration, since the Office would be impossible.

I adore, I bless God, and I kiss his fatherly hand for obliging us to close our eyes, take his hand, and go forward without any other resource, any other insight, any other hope, than his divine Goodness.

I see clearly that what our Lord wants from us is perfect surrender into his hands: nothing we expected happened.[29] Our hopes were changed by other means; strangers replaced the friends who were devoted to us at the beginning; trials came from our own. Fr. Hermann has changed, I don't say into an enemy, but into an antagonist, ever repeating what has been over for a year and a half; always speaking about the so-called sisters with a common choir, proclaiming loudly that he is no longer with us. What a pity! There is nothing else to say. God needs no one, he wants to keep the glory of his Work for himself alone.

As for us, he wants us to be free from any influence, from any protection, any outside direction. As long as we serve our Master well, we have nothing to fear. All this work of purification, estrangement, desertion, of abandonment by human beings, is the greatest grace of all. I constantly thank our Good Master and I dare say that I am afraid to see it stop. Trials are better than success; the cross better than Tabor.

So, announce my arrival, or make it known in whatever way you deem appropriate.

The "*Voix de la Verite*" published an article about our Society on Holy Thursday.

I just received the "*Gazette de Lyon*" dated May 12, where there is a little article. It seems that a friend read the notice and sent in the note.

I had thought that, if Pentecost Monday or Tuesday were good for the sermon you mentioned, it would give us a little more time here. What do you think? I am indifferent.

Our Good Master's service is going well. Stay in the breach. Everyone is pleased and happy: "If Jesus is for us, who can be against us?"

Eymard

P.S. I didn't receive any answer to my letter to Miss Marin.

I didn't write to Bishop de la Bouillerie, thinking that he also is against [us]. I visited Mme. de Rastignac twice and didn't receive any notification or card from her, as the sister had promised me.

[29] Alternate translation: Those whom we were expecting did not come.

828

CO 827

TO MME. ROTTIER (SR. ANTOINETTE DU SS)

(III 1/4)

Paris, May 16, 1859

Dear Madame,

I accept very gratefully your kindhearted and generous offer. I will need two thousand francs by May 31. Could you add 300 francs to it, because I am afraid that the amount which is due to us this month may be late because of unfinished business. I can't tell you how your kindness touches me. I tell God about it.

In his divine love, I am,

Dear Lady,

Devotedly yours,

Eymard

829

CO 828

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 37/181 VI 4)

Paris, Monday, May 16, 1859

Very dear Father,

1. I wrote to you this morning. I want to tell you that your Gothic vestments have been ordered; the total will amount to approximately 715 to 720. I think they will be fine; Fr. Champion is happy with the choice.

It would be prudent not to put yourself in a position to be refused by the Chancery. The very fact that some use them means that they tolerate it, or allow it to be, as in Paris and that is sufficient.

2. As you know, we have the first luna-holder for the monstrance. I am offering it to you wholeheartedly until you can have a gold one. So then, it will go around the world if God multiplies us. It is more as a thought that I am offering it to you, than as a ritual.

3. Adolph wants to go cook for you (as a servant with wages, of course).

I told him that I was going to write to you about it. He will return at the end of the week to know the answer. We would pay his trip there, in addition to his wages; what do you think? He would be happy with that, and it may just be the best decision, as I don't know where to find a suitable person.

4. Won't you have Mr. Koll make a lovely little Gothic steeple like ours?

5. I was told that the former sacristy, now a chapel, was very damp; is it true?

I have time only to say that I am in Jesus Christ,

All yours,

Eymard, S.S.S.

830

CO 829

TO BISHOP EUGENE DE MAZENOD O.M.I. (MARSEILLES)

(I 1/1)[30]

Excellency,

I am happy to see the beautiful day of Exposition in Marseilles approaching, in that modest chapel which soon will be a pious Cenacle. I feel the need to thank Your Excellency once again for having called us to Marseilles and for the kind promise to consider us as your sons.[31]

How good it is for me, Excellency, to render you an account of all the graces which God, in his infinite kindness, has given me through you!

I owe to one of your well-known disciples, Fr. Guibert d'Etor, priest, and to your religious family, that I am a Religious, and our little Society will receive the blessing of your venerable Episcopacy.

Fr. de Cuers writes to me that Your Excellency is willing to have me preach a sermon. Its sole purpose would be to make known the purpose of our Institute; what is more, that you would honor it with your presence. Your Excellency, please accept my deepest gratitude, that would be a good and blessed beginning.

In order to be able to handle this in Paris, please determine the date and the church for the opening sermon: whether the day after Ascension suits You, or any other day of your choice; as for the church, I would like that of the Trinity, as being smaller and more humble than the Cathedral.

I don't know whether Your Excellency knows that from Paris I sent the most skilled workman for Gothic, the very one who made the Gothic chair at St. Clotilde's. Everything will be in 14th century style, that glorious era of the triumph of the holy Eucharist. I ordered all the sacred vessels in Gothic form and even the vestments will be very lovely and, especially, will be in harmony with the rest. Here in Paris we also use the Gothic form for worship, as an obvious argument for the antiquity of dogma and memento of our ancestors. Bishop Sibour usually officiated with these magnificent vestments. In Paris we are left free, and we have adopted that style for ourselves.

In a few weeks I will be at your feet, to renew my request for that venerable blessing. In the meantime, I would like to say that I am,

Monsignor, with the greatest filial veneration,

Your Excellency's humble son,
Eymard, Sup.

Paris, May 18, 1859

[30] Published in French as a sequel to Letter 37 to Fr. De Cuers.
[31] Literally: children.

831

CO 830

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 36/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 19, 1859

Very dear Father,

Mr. de Saint-Louvent will go see you in passing. He really wants to join us. If God wills it, I will it wholeheartedly.

We agreed that he should come to spend a few days with us during the Corpus Christi retreat. We will settle something then.

Nothing new, except that everyone is well, serving our Good Master with joy and ease.

Your Gothic vestments are being made. The cope is thirteenth and fourteenth century [style]. It is an original, but they say it will be nice.

Benediction is ringing:

Tibi toto corde et medullis animae.[32]

Eymard

May 24 & 31	*Conference Servants: A few words about the office. News about the trip to Marseilles.*

832

CO 831

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 38/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 28, 1859

Kind Father,

A word in haste! Thank you for your welcome and kind letters. They make us so happy!

I'll leave here Tuesday at two in the afternoon. I'll arrive only Wednesday night by the omnibus train. But don't come to the station, because if there were some difficulty Tuesday, I would leave only in time to arrive Thursday morning.

This is said only in case difficulties arise. Your orders have been communicated: the monstrance has been ordered. It's the same, but with lovely decorations. It will be fine; we must let Mr. Rey have the honor.

For 800 francs, it's impossible to have everything that you are requesting in Gothic. With all his good will, it's impossible for Mr. Picard to do it for less than 900 francs, without counting the 10 francs for packing and shipping.

For the vestments, since you were leaving me some latitude, we thought we would choose somewhere between poverty and beauty. But given your good reasons, I had the cope and stole changed to something more simple.

I'll bring a few vestments, the chalice, the monstrance. Mr. Picard is asking for a few extra days. We will have everything around Pentecost. Still alone with our Good Master! his holy Will replaces everything; it must be for the best: may he be blessed.

[32] Wholeheartedly yours from the depths of my soul.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

833

CO 832

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 30/75)

Paris, May 29, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I will pass through Lyons on Wednesday morning. I may say holy Mass at Ainay, then leave for Marseilles for the feast of the Ascension, preach the following day, give a eucharistic retreat in preparation for Corpus Christi, then return here. I will probably not be able to see you, since you will be at Calet and I will be in Marseilles, on rue Nau, 7.

This little foundation is totally God's work, because love for our Lord here is somewhat like Calvary; pray for us. I know Mr. Giroud from La Mure very well. I am praying for his healing and return to God; he is an excellent man, charitable and just; unfortunately, he has no faith. God will give it to him because he has done so much good!

So now you are alone, a hermit at Calet where my contemplative rock is and where you, also, are in our Lord. Be happy and joyful there surrounded by nature which is so calm and beautiful. Discover God making everything beautiful, making the bleakest deserts delightful.

Imagine that you are touching heaven with your hands, and that is where your heart must live. Dear daughter, without Jesus our good Master, we couldn't live here in this land of sin and desolation. Jesus is the one who makes this exile beautiful and lovable.

Goodbye, dear daughter.

All yours in Jesus Christ.
Eymard, S.S.S.

Father Eymard left for the foundation of Marseilles where he preached the opening sermon on June 3rd.

834

CO 833

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 11/21)

Marseilles, June 4, 1859

Mademoiselle,

I'm writing to tell you that I had a good trip. I found the work well advanced and the chapel almost finished. It will be very lovely. The house is beginning well. It is large... and fit to receive 20 members.

I was well received in Marseilles. Yesterday, at 4p.m., I gave the opening sermon about our Society in the presence of the Bishop, many priests of the city and a large and devout attendance. So the Work has been made known and begun. We are already three. - If the young man whom you

brought me at Mme. Morel's persists in his good intention to consecrate himself to our Lord and his gracious service in the Most Blessed Sacrament, send him to me right away, while I am here; I will initiate him; he will be very happy here and especially very edified. Let him bring what he has with him. - If he leaves Lyons at 5:30 a.m. he will arrive in Marseilles at 6:30 p.m. There he should take a local coach and pay to be brought to no. 7, Nau St., which he will find without any difficulty. Let him bring something to eat and drink on the way. He should not join anyone on the way, nor say why he is coming to Marseilles. [Let him] simply say that he is coming to see his relatives. The price for the train is 20 francs 40; give him 25 francs from me, and I will repay you when I pass by. He ought to have his package registered, or take it with him if it isn't large.

I'm asking you to do this as soon as possible, dear Demoiselle, and if the good young man doesn't make up his mind, please write to me about it so that I may find someone else. I would regret it because I liked him, and I think it is his vocation.

Tell his devout parents that we will take good care of him.

Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

To Miss Mariette Guillot
Lyons

835

CO 834

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 198/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, June 8, 1859

Very dear daughter,

Thank you for your little notes, for news about your dear house, and for the devout prayers your sisters offered to God for me. I don't forget you here either. I had a good trip, without any migraine headaches. I found great support for the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Marseilles. There are beautiful souls devoting themselves to it. We are in a devout and quiet sector.

God blessed the sermon given in the presence of the Bishop and a devout attendance.

We are working hard so as to be able to say Mass in the large chapel on the holy day of Pentecost.

We will begin the preparatory retreat on Thursday the 16th, until Thursday the 23rd, Corpus Christi. The first exercise will be at 7:00 a.m.; Mass followed by an instruction; and in the evening at 8:00 p.m., an instruction and Benediction. The first Exposition will take place on the 23rd, Corpus Christi; then I will leave for Paris immediately after, if possible.

I received news from Mr. Clavel. He is preparing to come in a month. Nothing new about the other vocations, except that a tonsured cleric came to spend a few days here, but he is still a doubtful subject. His father came to get him; he told us that he would return.

Tomorrow night we will wait for young Ratons; I liked him, I will train him, he will be happy. This house seems to be promising; it has a very lovely chapel, it will be a fine foundation.

I am well, although I miss our reverent adoration very much. The days are very long here. My heart is in Paris; although the cross there is very tall, it is light and sweet with the Eucharist.

My best wishes to all your sisters, to the mother.[33]

[33] to her.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I saw dear Miss Dalaca. She is fine, but it seems to me that the time isn't right. There is nothing new from Toulon; I saw Mme. Negre. I was very reserved, because nothing is clear.
P.P.S. I saw Mme. Spazzier several times. She wasn't able to settle in Marseilles; she wants to go to Paris, she will rent a room and work there; but it is agreed that she will no longer speak to me about being part of the little community. I told her so very clearly. I thought she wouldn't go to Paris, but as she is free, she is free to go there. Receive her kindly, but not as a sister, only as a friend.

Hello Sr. Benoite! Come now, you aren't praying enough for me; love your littleness and our dear Jesus.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
66 rue du faubourg St. Jacques
Paris

836

CO 835

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 21/26 VII 17)

(L & S) *Marseilles, June 8, 1859*

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

Your kind letter was a pleasant surprise, giving me the hope of seeing you even if only for a few hours. I am very happy to know that you have such a kind family around you, [which is] so devout, and so affectionate towards you. It is a little flower on the path of life; pluck it as you pass, but for your good Master who is in Heaven.

On Friday, June 3rd, I gave a talk on the aim of our Work and our Institute. We found plenty of support in Marseilles - that is the 1st grace of foundation - next will come the grace of the cross - which cements the stones of the building. From Thursday, June 16 to June 23rd, I am to preach, in our chapel, an octave in preparation for the 1st Exposition which will take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi; after that, I shall go back to Paris and I shall give you at least 10 hours' notice.

After Corpus Christi, the painting work will go on for 2 months. I hope to be back in the autumn.

Madame Spazzier leaves tomorrow at 7:40 a.m., and will be with you about 4 in the afternoon, just in passing. She will bring the pecuniary matter to a close.

The good Lady is going to Paris, where she hopes to find some work, live alone quietly, close to the Blessed Sacrament. I told her that because of her health she could not stay with Miss G. [Guillot]; she must have a special diet, and it isn't possible.

As for your question - whether a Religious who has made simple vows of poverty and obedience is obliged to divest herself of her property.

No, Mademoiselle, no, she may keep property; the vow applies only to use, disposing of income, or an act of proprietorship - and then she would need permission: that is all the vow entails.

How unfortunate! that sometimes people will use anything to bind a conscience wrongly!

Believe me ever, dear Mademoiselle,

Ever united with you in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

June 12, Pentecost. First Mass in the large chapel of Marseilles.

837

CO 836

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 15/104)

Marseilles, Holy Day of Pentecost 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your kind letter with the enclosed notes, thank you. Before leaving Paris I had also received the painful and beautiful news about the little angel's death. God came for him, as a beautiful flower worthy of Paradise, a companion in glory for his courageous and devout father. Yes, tears on a grave are always bitter, because death is such a sad thing, so contrary to love! But Heaven upon a grave is such a heavenly thing, so consoling and so attractive. To live in God's embrace means finding all our children and all our friends there. God is life and the happiness of life. I understand how this death has both broken and lifted up that fine mother. The Blessed Virgin experienced both of these sentiments on Calvary and at the tomb; one becomes the virtue of the other. Oh! If we didn't have the adorable Eucharist here below, Jesus the Emmanuel with us, this earth would be too sad, life too difficult, time too long. We must thank the goodness of God for leaving us a Paradise of love, Jesus veiled, a column of smoke and fire in the desert.

It is said that Pope John the XXII once said that the Paradise of just souls is to be near Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to form his court there. So then, your little angel would be in the church of your parish where he died. There, he must be happy near his dear mother and you. What a comforting thought! Please present my prayerful sympathy to his good mother. I am praying for her with all my heart.

I will be here until June 24, the day after Corpus Christi. On Thursday I will begin a retreat to prepare for the first Exposition which will take place on Thursday the 23rd[34] If you should need me, I will be entirely at your disposal.

Our little foundation is beginning well. The work is almost over, painting will begin soon; it will take two months. I plan to return here around the month of October, when everything will be ready. Pray for us, dear daughter. We really need God and his holy grace.

When I return to Paris, I will fulfill my promise to you. Very dear daughter, believe that I am ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

Madame de Grandville
8 rue St. Laurent
Nantes

[34] From June 16 - 23, he preached a retreat "Octave" in preparation for the feast of Corpus Christi and the exposition.

838

CO 837

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 12/21)

Marseilles, June 22, 1859

Dear daughter,

I will leave from Marseilles Friday morning, to be at Parrache in the evening at 6:00 p.m. Don't bother to come, I will go directly to Mr. Gaudioz[35] and from there to Mme. Morel's. I will stay in Lyons only until 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning, unless the Good Lord should want to use me to help Mr. Morel.

I only have time to say that I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Mariette Guillot
17, rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

839

CO 838

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 39/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 1, 1859

Very dear Father,

I have been here in Paris since Saturday, happy to see all our good Brothers again. I found everyone well. Mr. Carri is the same as usual. What had tired him was to have catechism every night in groups, especially for the dullest ones, who were making him shout.

Today everything is back in order. I dismissed the children who were under twelve years old; they were only in our way.

We had exposition all week in honor of Corpus Christi; we prayed very much for you, as I understand how deprived you are not to have exposition.

Good Fr. Champion has been admirably devoted.

Enclosed are the receipts for the money you had given me for the various suppliers.

The crown for the monstrance is finished. I find it beautiful and in good taste; it is made of gilded silver with precious stones. It costs 170 francs. It fits into the cross of the monstrance itself. Consequently, nothing needs to be added or soldered.

No one has come yet.[36] So I constantly apply these words of our Lord to myself: *nisi granum frumenti mortuum fuerit, ipsum solum manet*.[37] When will this selfish self truly die in order that our Lord's kingdom may begin!

[35] Her brother-in-law.
[36] No vocations.
[37] Unless a grain of wheat dies, it remains alone.

When you send a package to Paris, enclose the chalice veil for the red vestment. Mr. Hubert will make it over; he made a mistake and made it too small.

Kindly send me the notes on Mr. Laurent's examination which I left with you. Mail them to me so that I may share them with Fr. Champion, together with your opinion.

I haven't been able to do the errand of getting the molds to make folds in the surplices,[38] because adoration keeps me at home.

Mr. Carri will go to the Ministry today to get your money order. We have nothing left. May God be blessed and thanked!

Be sure to take care of your fragile health, dear Father, in order to be able to work for the service of our Good Master. Do out of charity for yourself what your charity would make you do for others.

Believe me always in our Lord,

Very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Tonight your money order is being forwarded from the Ministry. You will receive it tomorrow night.

Mr. Picard was and is very sad about his bad luck; he said that the millers are at fault. We will send it all to you by regular mail.

The whole house embraces you "*in Christo*." In the next letter I will send you the bill for the small accounts which we sent you.

840

CO 839

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 5/36)

Paris, rue Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, July 1, 1859

Dear sister in our Lord

I've just read your letter. Thank you for your kind and sisterly greetings! Thank you in our good Master. It made me very happy because we love to express and read what we love and desire solely, greatly and eternally: the eucharistic kingdom of Jesus in all hearts. Don't think that I've forgotten you, dear sister. Oh! No! In Rome you were ever present to me. I had brought your letters and notes on the Third Order.

Our good Master was so kind and generous to me in Rome! The Sovereign Pontiff himself kindly prepared the "Letter" which encourages, praises and blesses the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament. He gave us, and the associates as well, a plenary daily indulgence. That all happened in two weeks, to everyone's great surprise.

When I returned to Paris, we had a good retreat after which the three pioneers made their perpetual vows; two priests and one brother whose vocations were doubtful, left. We prefer to be fewer but united in heart and life.

I've just arrived from Marseilles where we have just founded a house of adoration. The first Exposition took place on Corpus Christi, the 23rd. Our Work was welcomed with a lot of good feeling in this city where devotion is alive and fervent. The Bishop of Marseilles is using us to

[38] Narrow folds, like pleats.

establish Forty-Hours in his diocese. He is so thrilled to be able to contribute to this royal organization of perpetual adoration.

I will work to establish the Third-Order of the Blessed Sacrament. I haven't had a moment until now. If only you were in Paris! We would talk about it a little. Why couldn't you come here, spend a week or two! Pray now, so that we may receive good and holy vocations, men who want to give and devote themselves unconditionally to the service and glory of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Alas! There are so few, especially among priests, who understand the eucharistic life, and who have the courage to serve Him alone! It upsets me. - Five hundred priests asked to be chaplains for our armies, and no one asks to form the guard of the King of kings. Oh! What shame and weakness!

Goodbye dear daughter. You know that I am very close to you in the divine Eucharist and,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Miss Virginie Danion
at Mauron (Morbihan)

841

CO 840

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

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 1, 1859*

Dear Mme. Galle,

Forgive me for passing near you without stopping.[39] They had written to tell me to come quickly, that one of our religious was ill, and I left right after the Exposition at Marseilles - fortunately there is nothing serious, it was only ill health.

I was looking forward to coming to see you, to praying in your devout and venerable chapel, to be able to speak quietly with you and with Paul; but the Master wanted that sacrifice from me. I hope I will be able to make up for it another time.

Life is like that, poor and dear Lady, - we greet one another, we say hello as we pass, we suffer, and then we go toward the eternal shores.

A sad life! if heaven were not its term! but beautiful and precious, since it earns Heaven for us!

So have confidence and patience in your crosses and sorrows, dear Lady,

See the divine hand which sends them to you and helps you to bear them - eat the bread of the strong often, for you need it - and holy Communion will replace everything.

My regards to dear Paul, my respects to Mademoiselle, to the Nanny, to your whole house, - and believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

[39] In Lyons.

842

CO 841

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 22/26 VII 17)

(L & S) *Paris, July 1, '59*

Mademoiselle and very dear Sister in our Lord,

I have returned to Paris; I was unable to stop at Valence, which was a sacrifice for me; but they wrote to say that one of our religious was ill, and to come quickly. Fortunately it was only overwork and not a serious illness.

Our Lord gave me great consolation in Marseilles, where I found great support for our Work for the Most Blessed Sacrament; the spiritual exercises were well attended. -

I observe with pleasure your desire to belong completely to our Lord, how you reproach yourself for the emptiness of your life, and the very deep feeling you have that God alone is your only happiness. Yes, dear Sister! put yourself wholeheartedly at God's disposal and grace, in these few days that remain to you here below; this life is but a preparation for eternal life - it is purification through love, and love of the cross.

If you should find a few blossoms on your way, it is a gracious [gift] from your kind Father; but, offer him their fragrance and beauty. -

No news here, except that we have a continual Corpus Christi in our little Cenacle; the Ladies are well they are striving to belong totally to God. Mme. Spazzier is here she is busy taking lessons in pottery I don't think she is called to community life. She has found an apartment nearby; I wish she would give up this desire completely, as it worries and upsets her. If she wanted to live as a boarder in some community, she could, but that doesn't suit her. I feel sorry for her, and am reluctant to abandon her.

You know, dear Sister, how fondly I am, and remain in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mademoiselle de Revel
at Mr le Baron de Carmejane
faubourg faventine 20
Valence, Drome

July 2 *Retr. Ser: Fidelity to grace, humility*

843

CO 842

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 16/104)

Paris, July 4, 1859

Dear daughter,

I arrived in Paris a few days ago. I don't know whether to be happy about my trip and the eucharistic retreat I gave in Marseilles. They tell me that it did help, but it helped me even more to

see the excellence of a vocation of which I am so unworthy and the need that souls have for our Lord who is truth and love.

What good would we accomplish if we didn't lead souls to their divine center, to their life. Dear daughter, you are blessed to be the servant of the God of the Eucharist. Have a great appreciation for your grace and strive to become worthy of such a noble Master. That requires that you should be a loving servant, sufficiently rewarded by serving such a good Master.

Be the apostle of the divine eucharist, like a flame which enlightens and warms, like the angel of his heart who will go to proclaim him to those who don't know him and will encourage those who love him and are suffering.

I'm happy that you are close to your sister-in-law. Be very kind, understanding, compassionate, your heart being as our Lord has given it to you; be open and magnanimous with her. Let nature have its rights, and raise them to the level of virtue and divine love. Let them see you as a saint and as a soul which belongs fully to God; it will be a lesson for them. Take hold of all the trust offered from her heart so full of sadness and courage; the moment of suffering is God's great moment, if God is seen in it.

Be obedient about swimming in the sea; even St. Jerome would tell you so if he were in my place; give no thought to the winds and clouds which try to upset you. Take better care of yourself; my opinion is that you should eat meat when you go swimming in the sea. I am told that it goes together, but, I'm not prescribing anything.

I would surely be happy to go to Nantes if God willed it. I would be visiting my old daughter in our Lord.[40]

Believe me ever,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

844

CO 843

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN
(V 4/5)

Paris, July 4, 1859

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Your dear letter found me here in Paris, where I have been since my return from Marseilles a few days ago. I didn't stop in Lyons, because one of our religious was ill in Paris, and they were waiting anxiously for me. On the other hand, knowing that Mme. Tholin was at the springs, the time wasn't right for her retreat.

I am due to return to Marseilles, to the new foundation in the fall, and if God wills, we could see then whether something could be done for the glory of our good Master at Tarare and at Amplepuis.

I will also be very pleased, dear Mademoiselle, to see you and to thank you again for what you have done for our chapel. It's a beautiful memento which makes me present you often to the good Master, when I celebrate [Mass}.

If Paris were not so far, I would tell you: come and see us here, make a little retreat at the feet of our Lord. We are so fine here! better than on Mount Tabor.

[40] French: "ma vieille fille," perhaps: most elderly, or old friend.

I was happy to see Madame, your sister-in-law. I was hoping to see her again; but Paris is so big that time is often lacking. Please offer my fond respects to that dear Lady. As for you, dear Mademoiselle, you must be ill since you are at Uriage.[41] Take care of yourself, it's necessary.

You have a chapel where our Lord dwells. Visit him often with that fine heart he has given you, and given you for himself. Let your virtue consist in his holy love, and your merits in his infinite mercy, and you will be very rich[42] and even perfect.

Dear daughter, I bless you in the divine charity of Jesus, and I am eternally united and dedicated to you,

Eymard

Mademoiselle,
Miss Matagrin
Hotel-des-Bains
Uriage (Isere)

845

CO 844

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 40/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 5, 1859

Very dear Father,

I wasn't able to get Mr. Hubert's bill before last night. You will find it enclosed.

I saw Picard yesterday. Everything will be ready by the end of the week. He will let me know before he sends the box, so that I can look at everything.

Yes, I willingly grant the deferment of conditions for your vow of poverty, until you are able.

I really pity poor Father Laurent. He had good qualities; but alas! How can it be that he didn't realize that such conduct would be inadmissible?

Nothing new at the moment, except for a few letters of inquiry.

Get the sleep you need, dear Father, to work well. Is it impossible to go to the ocean?

The bell is calling us.

Ever yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

July 5	*Conf. Ser: The Sacred Heart of Jesus*

846

CO 845

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 31/75)

Paris, July 6, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I am here in Paris. I passed near St. Romans without being able to stop and pay you a brief visit. I had to come quickly to Paris for Corpus Christi Sunday, since one of our religious was ill and requesting my presence.

[41] Springs.
[42] Spiritually rich.

The Good Lord didn't grant me this consolation; may he be ever blessed! I would have been happy to see again that beautiful boulder noticed by Caesar, which I loved.[43] The soul loves hills and mountains. It feels like it is touching Heaven from there, and closer to God. You are fortunate to see those beautiful, peaceful mountains. The soul rises higher because of them. You are happy in the countryside alone with God, with the purity of nature and the beauty of divine Providence. However, I would become lonesome there, because your Tabernacle is too far. Nevertheless, try to go as often as you can. It is like visiting your friend, your Father, Jesus, and Paradise.

The harder it is to get there, the better welcome you will have.

Be kind, pleasant, gracious, attentive and above all, patient in divine love, and everything will blossom around you.

I am back in Paris, busy with God and the people who besiege us. I make myself available, but I will surely get my revenge in Paradise where no one will ever disturb me from my place (except you, dear daughter, you have the right).

My devout regards to your whole family. You know that I am one with you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.S.

Mme. Jordan
at Calet at St. Romans
by St. Marcellin (Isere)

847

CO 846

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 34/76)

Paris, July 6, 1859

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your kind letter. I surely would have liked to see you when I passed through Lyons, or at least have more time [to do so]. You preferred to make this sacrifice for the sake of others. God will repay you for it. I saw your dear mother. I am always very moved by this beautiful soul whom God is keeping on his Cross of love. I love this beautiful soul, I see that our Lord loves her very much and generously imparts his graces upon her. She is suffering though, since God isn't letting her enjoy the sweetness of the Cross, nor the peace of virtue. This dear mother must see that every one of her actions is worth a whole life. Consequently, let her stay close to Jesus crucified.

Stay with your dear mother when you have the time and freedom to do so. She needs you because no one understands her better than you do. So, my opinion is that you should put aside your affairs which need to be organized, so as to divide your time between Lyons and Romaneche. However, my dear daughter, if you could get some help, and give a few hours a day to organize your house and affairs, at least for the obvious things, I think you would do well. You would like to do everything, and do it alone, and that is a little beyond your strength.

Don't worry too much because you have been casual toward your interior life. It seems that God is humbling you about your interior discipline by letting you be ill or always busy. When you feel better, have more time, and have servants who are more attentive and dedicated, you will be able to concentrate on this reform. However, don't do everything at once, and especially don't worry.

[43] The Rock of St. Romans.

Since the Pastor took the initiative, return to him for confession, that is appropriate. Then, do it for a greater good. You gave a good reply about the dismissal. Let them see to it among themselves.

Dear daughter, continue to receive Communion in spite of your poverty and spiritual weaknesses. You are so weak and poor that you have an immense need for our Lord, so that his presence may reestablish and strengthen you again in every way. Be the beggar of kindness, and the daughter of mercy.

Dear daughter, thank you for your wishes on the feast of St. Peter. Yes, the glory of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, that is all I wish for you, all that I hope for. I also need to do better! I often blame myself for the same things as you do, and I feel that I am really late. Pray for me.

Continue to have confidence for your dear patient. We had agreed on a way of proceeding with your mother. It seems to me that if we must be excessively kind in reasonable matters, we must be firm in those which are not, take charge and clearly impose your will; otherwise the moral evil will grow.

My loving and respectful regards to your dear mother. You know that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Madame Gourd

848

CO 847

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 23/52)

Paris, July 6, 1859

Miss Stephanie

It's a good thing you didn't wait for something perfect to write to me, dear daughter; you have good intentions, you have begun and already made good changes. That's fine, but please don't [try to] do everything at once. Set reasonable goals for yourself in keeping with your other spiritual and interior responsibilities.

It is more perfect to do a little every day than to kill oneself in order to be rid of it. Then, put order by means of order, by attention to details and specifics.

Dear daughter, you can see what an old confused conscience is like,[44] one no longer dares to look into it because it is in total disarray. That is the main reason why conversions are delayed.

It is good to know that there is nothing more fatiguing for the body than this work of reorganization. So, I beg you, accomplish that task discreetly and prudently; do it calmly and at set times, not with a determined goal.

I could easily understand your sorrow, dear daughter, if the Reserved Sacrament were taken from you.

1. If the Bishop allows it, neither the Pastor nor any priest could withdraw this permission. The Bishop must know what he must do and be aware of his rights.

2. The holy Council of Trent grants the favor of the Reserved Sacrament to annexes, if the Ordinary thinks it is advisable. An annex is a church or a public chapel distant from the parish church where Mass is celebrated quite often for the good of parishioners and from where holy Viaticum is taken for the parishes.

Well, the Pastor could easily consider your chapel in this light.

[44] Her father's spiritual state.

3. If too many difficulties are put forward, we would address ourselves to Rome. In the meantime, dear daughter, say the prayer of the Disciples of Emmaus to our Lord: "Stay with us Lord, for it is getting late!"

Have a great love for our good Master; belong entirely to Him. Live of his love[45] and you will be a good Servant of the Blessed Sacrament.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

July 8	*Conf. Ser: Preparation for the retreat.*

849

CO 848

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 41/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 8, 1859

Very dear Father,

Fr. Champion's reply must have informed you that we had received your note for 500 francs. Thanks again.

Your letter served as a lovely dessert; everyone listened, and laughed while waiting for the second dish: what a good answer you gave! The Blessed Sacrament makes us greater and richer than any religious privileges, than any large buildings or famous names.

If those respectable religious want to become religious of the Blessed Sacrament, how wonderful! We would be honored to go expose the Blessed Sacrament in the beautiful and magnificent church of Sts. Peter and James on the Esquiline Hill. I will see Mr. Cartier and give him the message to return to Marseilles.

Praised be God for the Beautiful[46] sunshine which is giving you back some energy and improved health! however, I would like to hear that you are getting some sleep. What a lovely visit you had! that pleased me, because it shows concern.

I will see Mr. Marziou and make your request. I know he is a bit tired and has rented a country place at Bourg-la-Reine. He has so many troubles, poor Mr. Marziou!

Here are the details about the small objects purchased in Paris:

2 altar canons[47] at 2,50 that is	Fr.	5,00
3 Holy Spirits at 6	"	18,00
2 altar cloth decorations	"	28,20
Pictures of the Blessed Virgin	"	3,00
1 large one with small stones	"	15,00
4 large ones with 2 each	"	8,00
	Fr.	77,20
Due for Br. Antoine's trip		25,00
Candle bill		114,00
Total	Fr.	216,20

[45] French: *de son Amour* - could be translated of, by from, on his love.
[46] capitalized in the original.
[47] Name of prayer cards formerly placed on the altar.

RECEIPTS

1. 3 Fr. left from Br. Antoine	Fr	3,00
2. Extra money for the chalice	"	2,00
3. Extra money for the monstrance	"	32,00
4. Balance from the 100 fr. for my trip	"	23,00
Total	Fr.	60,00

Balance due Fr. 156,20

Addition due by Fr. de Cuers

Paid July 11	Fr.	27,40
	Fr.	128,80
July 22	Fr.	53,00
		75,80 + 100 fr.

Advance payments to Koll	Fr.	80,00
		66,00 (?)

Advance on the Payment:

Balance due	Fr.	59,80
Sent October 15	"	10,40
	Fr.	49,40
Candles	"	60,00
Balance due	"	109,40

So, dear Father, this is your bill. However, I suspect that your finances must be short, and ours are certainly not long. Our Good Master will add the difference.

Everyone here loves you, embraces you and expresses all that fraternal affection can say.

I am

Ever all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. A holy priest from Turin is asking for information. A few young people have been reflecting, among others Mr. de Leudeville, Mr. Chauet from Lyons. They are looking in our direction. Perhaps it may be the miraculous catch, and our Lord will say: throw the net. He will bless as only he knows how.

Mr. Carri is preparing a long letter for you; he is fine.

850

CO 849

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 110/145 VI 10)

Paris, July 11, 1859

Very dear sisters,

It has been impossible for me to go to La Mure to greet you. I had to greet your mountains and bless you from a distance. One of our Religious was sick in Paris and I was anxious to arrive, lest adoration could not continue. Fortunately it was not a serious illness.

I stayed in Marseilles three weeks. I was very edified and consoled by the piety and devotion of the Marseillais. The retreat I preached at our church was well attended, and on the beautiful day of Corpus Christi we were able to have the first Exposition in our new chapel. There were five of us: three priests and two brothers. I left Marseilles the next day, June 24, and I didn't stop along the way, in spite of commitments I had made. Duty comes first.

If we were more numerous, many other establishments are being offered to us, one in Rome especially, but we must limit ourselves and wait for God's hour. This eucharistic vocation is such a beautiful vocation! to be constantly occupied near our Divine Master, to be like his royal guard and his family; we would not give up our beautiful lot for all the honors and possessions of this world. I feel that all the experiences through which I have been led by God's goodness were only a preparation for this beautiful and holy vocation. So I constantly thank God for my experience with the good Marist Fathers, and for being a pastor and an associate.

Now one thing bothers me; it is to realize how much I lack, so many virtues that would be needed to be competent for my duties.

I'm keeping in good health, but I don't have enough time to finish the business that comes up each day. This life in Paris is so absorbing! Then our adoration also takes a good part of my time, but a blessed time because it is employed like the life of the angels in heaven.

I expect to go to Marseilles around the month of October to bring a few members there. I will try to reserve a day for you, dear sister. In the meantime, pray for me and for the beautiful Work that our Lord has entrusted to me, though unworthy; and believe me always in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Do you have any news about Fr. Faure, the pastor at St. Laurent? He is really lazy.

851

CO 850

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 42/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 13, 1859

Very dear Father,

I received your letter this morning with the two notes enclosed, 100 francs for Mass stipends and 100 francs divided as follows: 72,60 to supplement for the three-month period; 20,40 to be subtracted from the 156,20: that is a balance of 128,80.

I've just come from Mr. Picard's, where I saw Miss de Mauroy. She is still waiting for a letter from you, acknowledging reception of her lamp (Cherche-Midi 16). Please write her a letter of thanks. It's important to her.

Mr. Picard told me that he would send all your objects to you in the middle of next week. What delayed him was the new mold for the candelabras.

Just write to Rev. Fr. Archier, Superior of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, or to his substitute, rue Neuve, Grenoble (Isre). He will send you the water you want immediately. Ask him for a canteen; tell them that I recommended it.

Fr. Champion is correcting the proofs for the Missal and Breviary from Mr. Adrien Le Clere: I am so accustomed to disappointments that I no longer hope for anything ahead of time.

Paris is enjoying a heat wave that would make you envious, if you weren't in Marseilles. People are almost afraid to go out, so the streets aren't very busy.

Yesterday, there was a light show[48] for peace. Good people rejoice; revolutionaries are unhappy about it. People are happy to wait for the Emperor; but as the fleet is always loaded with bombs and sailors, they say: to avoid waste, the Emperor should salute England with it to inform them about his victorious entry.

Goodbye, good Father.

All yours, the whole house embraces you. There are so many green beans that they almost dry on the table.

Eymard

P.S. The case is copper.

July 15	*Conf. Ser: Peace; detachment from creatures, jealousy of our vocation.*

852

CO 851

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 34/52)

Paris, July 15, 1859

Dear sister,

Yesterday I received your kind letter. I didn't dare write to you at Amplepuis, as I didn't know how long you would be there.

God didn't give me the consolation of seeing you when I passed by. May he be praised! If he wants to give me this joy in the fall, I will thank him for it, and then I would be at your service for the Work of Adoration. - God gave me great consolations in Marseilles. I found great souls there, souls on fire. I hope that our good Master will find Eagles around his divine Body.

We made the first exposition there on Thursday, the feast of Corpus Christi; then we discontinued it in order to finish the repairs. The church will be very fitting. We were five: three priests and two brothers.

That house will not be fully organized until October or November. In the meantime, we are asking our good Master to send us subjects pleasing to his heart, because it would be a mistake to seek or desire them on our own. We would take in strangers and enemies. Oh! How I have suffered from conditional vocations, from men who only give themselves by halves! Since the beginning, six priests have left. When I reflect on the reasons, I thank the Good Lord for it, while also humbling myself that I couldn't or didn't know how to form them eucharistically. So, when a vocation comes, I consider first who is sending him and why he is coming, because I no longer want any men who come for themselves. Therefore, pray for good vocations near the Great Master: it is a gift which isn't appreciated, an unknown grace.

Last week, I saw your artist brother, as well as his wife. He received me well. A mutual friend presented me very simply, then my relationship with the whole family opened their hearts; they promised they would come to see me. You understand that I want to bring these fine relatives to God! They are dear to me because of you.

Your brother told me that his dear Father was coming to see him. That is a good idea; urge him to do so. I would be happy to see him, his presence may perhaps bring everything to a conclusion for the best.

When a free soul has a generous desire to give himself to God in the religious life, when this thought has matured, it must be tested so that it can find peace. It often happens that God only

[48] Illumination.

wants an interior vocation, not an external one. The first becomes a powerful stimulus and makes a person fervent everywhere.

Take better care of your poor health, in order to suffer a little longer for the glory of our divine Master in whom I am, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I received news about your dear sister in Alger. She is fine.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at the Neris Springs (Allier)

July 20 or 22	*Conf. Ser: Self-denial.*
	Annual Retreat to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament *July 25 - 31, 1859*
Jul 25	*1st Meditation - Grace and spirit of our vocation.* *Conference: The Rule.* *2nd Meditation - The purpose of our vocation. The greatest, holiest and happiest, perpetual adoration.*
Jul 26	*1st Meditation - The ways of providence toward us.* *Conference: Self-knowledge.* *2nd Mediation - The purpose of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament (to unite oneself to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament).*
Jul 27	*1st Meditation - Purity of service, of state, of action.* *Conference: Our 7 enemies.* *2nd Meditation - Purity of love, of suffering, etc.*
Jul 28	*1st Meditation - Self-pride.* *Conference: The vows.* *2nd Meditation - Evening sermon given in public.*
Jul 29	*1st Meditation - Humility of love.* *Conference: Reading of the Rule, explanations, etc.* *2nd Meditation - Poverty.*
Jul 29	*Conference: Self-denial of mind and heart - gift of self.*
Jul 30, 31	*1st Meditation - Spiritual poverty of mind, of heart, of will.* *Conference: Omitted.* *2nd Meditation - To live with Jesus Christ, in Jesus Christ, by Jesus Christ.*
Jul 31	*Before the Profession of Vows:* *1st Meditation - On the foundation.* *2nd Meditation - Closing of the retreat.* *Mary, the Papal blessing.*

On July 31 the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament made their first vows (which were then only private). During this retreat, 2 letters were written on the 26th, one to Josephine Gourd and one to her daughter Stephanie.

853

CO 852

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 35/76)

Paris, July 26, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I was a bit worried about all of you. Your letter reassured me and gave me two pieces of good news for which I really thank our Lord.

Yes, have confidence, divine mercy will triumph one day. We don't know how or when, because God wants us to continue asking and increasing our trust in him.

The story about your servant demonstrated a flighty [person] with a very bad spirit. You did well to act with authority and firmness, and especially to put Miss Stephanie on the same level of authority as yourself.

Dismiss her, and if she asks your forgiveness, tell her that you intend to have your house function on a different level, that you want to make some changes and that with her style and ways you cannot do it, that she is already set in her ways. Then, if she asks you for another chance, you might try her, with the condition of sending her away later at the first recurrence.

But if she maintains a silence which indicates anger about the past; that is, over what she did, but has a more regular, submissive, even more dedicated behavior, my advice is that you shouldn't be content with that. Authority has been offended; justice is needed for the sake of example. A festering heart hardly ever gives in.

Don't hurry to increase the wages of the two others. If you could find a trustworthy person, and God can give you one, that would be more helpful.

I will really ask our Lord to help you find someone who would be helpful and dedicated.

The good sisters are on retreat this week. Pray for them. Always remain closely united in heart and life to our good Master, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I couldn't send my letter yesterday. The more I think about the state of that girl, of what she said and did, the more I am inclined toward a dismissal. You now have every reason and opportunity to do so; you must take advantage of it. Her services are too expensive. I would really have liked to meet Mr. G. here to greet him briefly.

Madame Gourd

854

CO 853

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 24/52)

Feast of St. Anne 1859

Miss Stephanie,

1. Very dear daughter, keep your Confessor and savor what he tells you, because it is so fine and personal. Don't worry over what others may think and say. Your mother, however, does well to go.[49]

2. The Good Lord will have been pleased with your thought of going to another as a sacrifice, but leave it at that.

3. I am happy to see your good will regarding the order. Don't look at the whole, my daughter, but at the work to be done during one or two hours. You are a day-laborer and not a piece-worker.

4. That poor girl is really pitiful. Her illness is hard to heal; let it be your source of merit to some extent, dear daughter.

Always be joyful in God's service. Always give everything to the Good Lord. Rest quietly in his goodness. Continue to live and act in his charity and you will be fine.[50]

Eymard

855

CO 855

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 43/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 1, 1859

Very dear Father,

I am finally writing to tell you that your package from Picard will be leaving tomorrow. I checked everything out in detail; they still had to finish two candelabras; they should be finished tonight. That poor shipment has required so many trips on our part; another time we shall go about it differently. You will find separate bills, as you requested. I also have the crown for the monstrance, and the veil for the red vestment at home. Last Monday, I saw Mr. Koll and gave him the 162 francs which came with your letter; I can't tell you how happy your letter made him, especially the money; it seems that he needed it badly. He promised us that he would begin on your work immediately, and would ship it to you in a week.

I gave a retreat to the Ladies just like our own, a basic retreat. It finished yesterday with vows by the foundresses, to my great edification and their great joy.

These good persons draw and will draw precious graces upon us; they are worthier than we are, their piety and devotedness are admirable.

God is preparing a holy family for himself there. I wouldn't be surprised if one day they would become as great as those large religious Groups, which gave so many holy souls to Heaven!

[49] to another? Ed.
[50] Literally: bien sage.

A deacon from Nantes is asking for information in an initial letter. In a second letter, he is asking for admission. Will he also get lost along the way? may God's will be done! The other postulants aren't giving any further signs of life. Two or three young people, Mr. de Leudeville, Mr. Chanuet and others are being touched by grace. Fr. Champion is still working on the liturgy and the printing to be done by Mr. Le Clere.

On the feast of the Assumption, we will have twelve First Communicants.[51] Mr. Carri is the catechist: he prepares them exceptionally well; they respond very well to him, and he is very happy. He is well and is making progress; he is lazy about writing to you: he promised me he would.

Adoration is still going well. Our Lord is not neglected because of the small number in the guard.

Mr. Laurent wrote to me, and sent me the letter from his director. With such a letter we cannot go forward, not to mention other things.

So your little Ratons has also had his share of temptations, but it was brief. Besides, he is a child, who will one day appreciate the grace and favor which God has given him.

Dear Father, we like to picture you looking over your chapel, enjoying its beauty or at least its suitability. May God give you the full joy of soon having a little family of brothers and true adorers.

My regards to the dear little brother, to Fr. Brunello and to the dear Guerin family, and also faithful Mr. Gordes.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Aug 3	*Conf. Ser: On recollection, silence, thanksgiving in the presence of our Lord.*

856

CO 856

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 44/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 5, 1859

Very dear Father,

Mr. Isnard is with us, we will take good care of him, both soul and body. He strikes me as well disposed. We really hope that the Good Master would send a few more Guards, as we need them.

I am really sorry that good Mr. Clavel is so slow in bringing his affairs to a close. It must be that he doesn't yet understand the grace and virtue of his vocation, I expect that he will soon be free. He should have written to me.

Mr. Isnard gave me 30 francs for 30 Masses and your red veil. I believe that you will receive all your things in about ten days. The veil is like a cincture in the small box which contains the crown.

Sister Benoite is very sad and hasn't stopped saying for the last six or seven days to pray for your little brother, that his vocation is in danger, that he is tempted to lose it, that it would be better for him to come to Paris for more formation, and to send Charles in his place... This good woman is worried; without rejecting it, I dismissed it, and I would have laughed because she has no reason to think that, unless our Lord told her...

[51] The first group.

I heard from Lyons a short time ago, that little Ratons was speaking to certain women, or that they were seeking him out and discouraging him. See whether that is true, because these devotees sometimes have a bad spirit, and so little judgment!

Everything is the same as usual here. That is, since we are so few, the eucharistic service is keeping us busy, and so much the better! but then, the schedule cannot be carried out as well.

Ask our Good Mother to send us a few "St. Johns."

Everyone loves you and embraces you affectionately in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.S.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7, Rue Nau, Marseilles

857

CO 857

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 45/181 VI 4)

August 7, 1859

Very dear Father,

I have just received your letter, I am returning it to you so you can see this poor child's disposition. Sr. Benoite had seen the state of his soul; we didn't believe her, and it made her sick.

I can see that the poor child is not generous; his parents did not bring him up well; the last lines reveal a hot-headed person. If he insists on leaving after you have shown him how he failed in his resolution, let him leave. I'm sorry that his parents took his word and sent him the money right away.

This news makes me sad: now you are alone again, and the Good Lord isn't providing anyone for us to send you. It's a matter of saying: "*Deus in adjutorium meum...*"[52]

Fr. Hermann hasn't answered my letter. He may not have received it, I had addressed it to Carcassonne. Or he may have wanted to cut off all contacts: may God be praised!

Yesterday I saw Koll; your wood decorations will be finished next Wednesday. I told him not to send them until I give him a commission.[53] So I will be waiting for your order for the candles, etc.

Poor Mr. Koll found himself in a critical situation. That very day he needed 100 francs. I advanced them. I'm sending you the receipt.

I understand that the bill is a bit frightening; but our Good Master for whom everything is being done will provide the means for us to pay this eucharistic debt.

I really enjoyed your note about Mr. Carri. I will write one through you to the Bishop to make him aware; Mr. Carri is so good! Mr. Isnard will begin his retreat Tuesday. There are five professed at No. 66.[54] They received two new ones; one is very kind and very religious, a musician, who enriches the simple worship of the chapel and delights us with her pious melodies.

Michel is fine and is really rendering great services; from time to time he makes us pay for it; but we can see that he is dedicated to the house and that it is only if he thinks he hasn't done well that he gets a bit angry.

[52] "God, come to my assistance..."
[53] French: "une commission," perhaps, errand, message.
[54] The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Charles is ever God's good man who is forgetful or breaks things without any ill will.

We laughed about your ex-doctor, we are waiting.

Everyone embraces you. Your letters are like a feast for us; everyone is interested in them, like on the field of Solferino.[55]

All yours,
Eymard

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7, Rue Nau. Marseilles

Aug 9	*Conf. Ser: St. Philomena; the need for recollection.*
Aug 12	*Conf. Ser: Recollection. A virtue which nowadays is very rare, virtue and grace of God.*
Aug 14	*Conf. Ser: Interior attraction.*

On this date, August 15th, two significant events took place. The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament were given their first complete Rule which was to be adjusted in 1864 - and the Work of the First Communion of Adults was inaugurated.

858

CO 858

TO THE SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT[56]

(VI 1/1 II 2)

[15th August 1859]

Dear Sisters and Daughters in our Lord,

At the feet of our Lord in his divine Sacrament I composed your rules. Today I placed them beneath his eucharistic throne, that he may bless them and approve them first in his love. I give you these rules, dear Sisters, like a gift from Mary, your kind Mother, on this beautiful day when she goes up to heaven and leaves the divine tabernacle, but she wishes to give you her place of love in the Cenacle, so that you may take her place close to her Jesus, to the God of the Eucharist. As for her, she is going to prepare a place for you close to her in heaven, around the throne of glory. These rules are not yet approved by the Vicar of Jesus Christ on earth. He has, however, blessed your eucharistic aim, to wit: adoration, your end; the interior and hidden life of Jesus, your way and your life; and your Work of zeal, the Work for first Communion of Adults. God has willed, by this blessing - so precious and so honorable - of the Supreme Pontiff, to bind you by gratitude and love to such a beautiful vocation.

Receive these rules, my daughters, with love in your hearts. They are as yet only a dead letter: give them life by your virtues, and fruitfulness by your love for Jesus, your divine Spouse.

Keep this Rule well, and it will keep you, and lead you to the summit of your vocation; remain ever little in the Cenacle, unnoticed and unknown by the world.

Honor the God of love hidden in his divine Sacrament, through your love for the simple, hidden life, with Mary your Mother.

Put all your trust in your good Master, abandon yourselves entirely to his fatherly Providence, and do without human protection.

[55] Battlefield.

[56] Letter from Father joined to the text of the 1st Constitutions. cf Appendix III for excerpts and summary of this Rule.

Saint Francis cared for Saint Clare and her poor daughters. We shall care for you, my daughters, in the divine charity of our Lord and Master. But between you and us there will always be the adorable Eucharist, in whom I am, dear daughters,

Your most unworthy and poor servant
Eymard, Sup. SS.

Assumption 1859

Aug 17	*Conf. Ser: Interior recollection.*

859

CO 959

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 46/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 17, 1859

Very dear Father,

I have a free moment. I am pleased to write and spend it with you. First of all, let's begin with the errands:

1. Just yesterday we received your 14 kilos of candles, which will be registered at the department of transportation. The first had also been [registered]: the mailman said the opposite. That was to indicate that he should receive better remuneration.

2. Your breviaries are in Mr. Koll's box. There are two boxes, one with candles and one with wood. Everything will leave today via the slow route.

I expect that you will receive your box from Picard. It was delayed because of the feast of the 14th. I really hope that everything will be alright.

3. Fr. Champion's note, written the same day, wasn't forgotten, but believed to be in the letter. I didn't send it right away, hoping to write to you soon.

4. Your two boxes will be sent tomorrow via the slow route.

As for news about the house:

1. Mr. Isnard finished his retreat. He is leaving tomorrow for Angers, then to Marseilles through Bordeaux. He edified us, he seems to have made a basic decision about the vocation. As to carrying it out, he told me that he would let us know in a year; as God wills!

2. Mr. Chanuet of Lyons came to spend the two feast days with us. On the beautiful day of the Assumption, he told me seriously that he would definitely come to us in October. He has just passed his last doctoral exam and was received.

3. The other vocations are waiting. A student from La Seyne, sixteen years old: they wrote to tell me his desire to join us. I will seek information. His father agrees to it; his name is Victor Verlaque.

4. The First Communion of our twelve little disciples was edifying and touching.

Mr. Carri was a brave Joshua and a good Father to the family. He was blessed and God blessed him, because these children have totally changed. The following day they were confirmed by His Eminence.

Good Mr. Perret was in heaven![57] This holy man is so dedicated!

[57] Alternate: was thrilled. Mr. Perret, an architect from Lyons, did the initial recruiting for the Work of First Communion.

So young Ratons has come back to his senses and has decided to become a good religious. I bless God for it and pray that he may have the good will that makes saints. Charles and everyone were so happy about this good news! but we are still unsure of him because of his weakness.

No doubt, you know that Fr. Hermann is Prior of their convent in Lyons. Since he is so angry with the house of Paris, let him adopt the house of Marseilles in his affections: it is free from any connections. No further news from the deacon of Nantes! It seems that he was frightened by our lifestyle: he wanted to go everywhere to preach.

Fr. Laurent saw the Vicar General of Frejus at Saint-Maximin and spoke to him about his intention. He encouraged him to speak to the Bishop in September.

That fine cleric hadn't received my letter in which I told him that his director's letter was against his vocation, and since I couldn't advance him to Orders without the Chancery, we could not go forward. His reply to me was fine.

Here I believe is the best sign of a vocation: when a <u>sincere</u> person who has the ordinary conditions accepts adoration, the Office, in a word, the whole Rule without conditions, that is a great deal, heroic for many. Then, we should give them a try. It is up to God to do the rest, because adoration is a good test and without it they do not yet have the grace. There is no problem for a person who wants to be and works to become a good adorer.

If he writes to me again, I appreciate your idea of having him repeat the pilgrimage he missed.

You know, no doubt, about the death of the good Cure of Ars: we must pray very much for him.

We all embrace you *in osculo sancto*, but especially the one who is

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

In the box I am sending you a supply of stamped paper.

860

CO 860

TO MISS GIGUET
(VII 5/6)

Paris, rue fg St. Jacques 68, August 18, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I blame myself very sternly for having left you so long without a reply. In your kind charity, forgive me.

This life in Paris is such a burden. My work is so complex that I don't know where to begin. So those who are absent are served last.

It isn't that I have forgotten you, poor daughter. No, no. But I have delayed because I wanted to give you some quality time.

So then, you are still on the cross, still suffering, poor daughter! Courage. It seems that the Good Lord wants to give you a more beautiful crown, and sooner than the others, since he is letting you do your Purgatory in this world. Do it with acceptance and trust. Often embrace our crucified Lord, your Good Master who wants you to be in his holy company, close to him.

Oh! be assured that it is better for you to suffer than to work, than to accomplish good works. You are doing what is most perfect, that does not prevent you from longing for heaven.

Oh yes, you may long for the end of your difficulties, of your life. But don't let it be only to end your suffering, but also to go to heaven, to see the Good Lord. Will I go to heaven? Yes, you will go, you are on the path, on the right path, that is sure. The cross does not lead us astray. But

my past difficulties? - Be at peace - everything is in the hands of the goodness of God - God loves you. What you were not able to accomplish in Lyons, God will provide for otherwise. Have no other cross than the present one. Leave those of the past to sleep in peace.

I am sending you a little flyer which will inform you about our activities, and your charity will make you pray so that we may serve our Master well.

Needless to tell you that I pray for you every day, and that your soul is still as dear to me in our Lord, in whom I am, dear daughter,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

Aug 19	*Conference Servants: On reparation. The words of our Lord on the Cross.*

861

CO 861

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 32/75)

Paris, August 19, 1859

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

Would you know that I was blaming you a little and I was going to write to tell you when, this morning, I found your letter of the 5th, still sealed and well hidden under a piece of paper! Souls can sense one another; we know when something ordinary is lacking at its proper time.

So now I am reading your letter, not complaining at all about its wordiness. On the contrary, my wishes for you are just as long. Why are you putting off until after the holidays to tell me the results of your good thoughts, desires, and resolutions? I hope that between now and November, you'll send me a few lovely flowers from that bush!

I like your present state, your outlined plan, the apostolate of example, a more interior virtue, living in God in a more constant studied way; that will work out fine! Begin by living with God, and with God within, for Jesus said:

"If someone loves me, he will keep my word; we will come to him and we will dwell in him."

And elsewhere: "If anyone loves me, my Father will love him, and I also will love him and I will manifest myself to him."

One day, he said to his apostles who were weary from their apostolate: "Come aside and rest awhile in a high and deserted place." St. Luke says that our Lord would often withdraw alone on the mountain to pray there all night.

In the psalms, the Holy Spirit says through David: "I will listen within to what the Lord God says."

I am reminding you about all these things, dear daughter, simply to tell you: Dwell within, live in your inner spirit, be in control of yourself, recollect yourself from external things to those within, put the world aside. Your part is to withdraw with Jesus in your heart, where he is inspiring your soul, speaking to it in an interior language which love alone hears and understands. The Holy Spirit prays within us, and groans with ineffable groanings of love. The kingdom of God, spoken of so much in the Holy Scriptures, is the interior rule of God within, while he rules over our intelligence through faith, over our heart through love, over our body by the mortification of the passions.

Act toward Jesus within as you would toward a guest who is a friend, beloved, and sovereign; don't leave him alone too long; find a way of speaking a few words to him in the midst of your duties to bring him a little bouquet of love. Then our good Master will be happy to stay with you, he will be waiting for you with joy. Give yourself generously to all the dear people who go to visit you during the holidays, be gracious and pleasant in giving, pure in sacrifice; that is, without thinking about yourself, and even purer in the friendship you give than the one you receive, in order to take it and direct it toward our good Master.

It would be wonderful if you could hold sway over all those good souls by the heart, so that you would have the right to lead them higher.

We continue to live the same life with the same happiness.[58] Since you had the opportunity to share in it, don't you agree that there is nothing more to hope for on earth, except to have hearts which are very pure, very generous and dead to everything which is not God! Remember me to your dear daughter.

My friendship to your loved ones.

You know that I am,
All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Mme. C. Jordan
10 rue de Castries
Lyons

862

CO 862

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 29/33)

Paris, August 19, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I will do what I can to visit you when I pass by, if I go to Marseilles, during the month of October. But since my trip may be delayed, it would be more prudent to write to me for the information you wish to have for your dear Charles. I would be happy to render you this small service; as also to your dear soul which, I admit, really needs God and cannot live without him. You are right, God is sufficient to the one who loves him; and without him, nothing can console and fill the heart.

We have an Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, but not a Third Order.

I still don't know whether our Lord will want one and when.

I remain in our Lord, Madame and dear sister,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard P.S.[59]

Aug 20	*Conf. Ser: The family spirit.*

[58] Eucharistic life with adoration.
[59] Abbreviation for Priest, Superior, or Priest of the Society.

863

CO 863

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 47/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 20, 1859

Very dear Father,

I am sending you the letter for the Bishop. I don't know whether he will be willing to grant us this grace, because the Bishops of France grant it only when persons reach the end of their philosophy, ordinarily in the first year of theology. I suspect that the young men you mentioned who are younger than Mr. Carri had already done most of their studies. However that may be, I really desire this grace for Mr. Carri, he really deserves it. When we will be more numerous, then we could invoke Canon Law; but we are still nothing, except poor adorers who aspire to become good religious.

Mr. Perret left for the "*Pierre-qui-Vire*," to be with the Benedictines, with Mr. de Talasne. I think he will be gone for a few months.

If the Bishop agrees to ordination, it should not take place right away, but in September, when Mr. Clavel returns. Otherwise, we wouldn't be enough for adoration. Mr. Clavel writes that on September 4th he will bring his business affairs to a close: is it a sale? He doesn't say. There are no signs of hope to have anyone soon. Your boxes left on the 20th.

I think that the decoration will set off the woodwork in the choir nicely.

You have 14 kilos of candles that have been declared.

There is nothing new.

May God keep us and bless you!

All yours,
Eymard

864

CO 864

TO BISHOP EUGENE DE MAZENOD, (MARSEILLES)

(VI 1/1)

Paris, August 20, 1859

Your Excellency,

I have a favor to ask Your Excellency: it is to give the Tonsure and, if possible, some Minor Orders to one of your deserving sons who has been with us for 2 years - Mr. Carrie from Marseilles. His vocation appears certain, his conduct is most edifying, he has carried out his office of Sacristan to perfection - he is finishing his classical studies. He is 22 years old, and it would be a great consolation for us to see him enlisted in the holy militia at your venerable and blessed hands. If Your Excellency judges my request to be acceptable, we shall send Mr. Carrie to Marseilles on the date you choose.

I have been happy to learn that the work of installation and decoration is proceeding actively for the day set for Exposition. It will make us very happy, myself and all the Fathers, Your Excellency, to go to Marseilles to offer our feeble support to your zeal for the divine Eucharist.

In anticipation, Your Excellency, please accept the homage filled with esteem and filial devotion by which I am so bold as to call myself,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.[60]

865

CO 865

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 35/52)

Paris, August 22, 1859

Madame,

You want to know whether I will accept the invitation from the Pastor of St. Madeleine of Tarare, if he were to ask me to stop for a few days on my way to Marseilles to give a few talks to the Adoration group.

Madame, if you think that I can do some good along the way, I could stop. It would also be an opportunity to visit you briefly at Amplepuis, you, as well as your whole family and the dear Layoutte family.

However, I think it will only be toward October or November. In that case, I would let you know a week in advance.

However, you know Tarare, and you know that I am not a preacher, especially since I have been in Paris, where I only give simple exhortations.

Don't forget us in God's presence. Our little Society is blessed in his mercy. We are happy at the service of such a good Master.

Believe me ever in our Lord, Madame, your very humble and devoted servant,

Eymard, Sup. Soc. of the Blessed Sacrament

866

CO 866

TO THE MLLES BOURGES
(V 1/4)

Paris, August 22, 1859

Dear Mademoiselles Bourges,

Thank you for your kind remembrance and the news you give me. You know that everything that concerns you interests me very much.

I am happy to know that you are going to go rest a little. You need it for the beautiful mission which God has given you,[61] and which you fulfill so joyfully. So then, get a good rest. You would do well to go to the springs as you are being advised to do. It would be a distraction and a good prescription. I agree with that. I would also favor the pilgrimage to Notre Dame de La Salette. The shortest way for you would be through Gap as far as Corps. There you could go to Mme. Dumas and use my name (Hotel du Palais). She will give you good directions.

If you should go to Gap you must go to Notre Dame du Laus, the most devout place of pilgrimage to the Blessed Virgin which exists in France: There is a coach, and it's only two hours

[60] Abbreviation for Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.
[61] They were school teachers.

away. Oh! What a touching and lovely place of pilgrimage Laus is for me! It's the pilgrimage place of my youth, of my vocation, of my love. Go there, you will be enchanted.

I praise God for the good news about Henry. He is now settled and self-sufficient: so much the better!

My dear Ladies, continue to love the Good Lord very much; that is life's happiness. Do everything for his love, suffer everything for him, and our Good Father[62] will be pleased with you.

I pray and will always pray for you, because I want to replace your beloved brother a little.[63]

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

The Mlles Bourges
Boarding School Directors
rue Curiol, 29
Marseilles

867

CO 867

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 14/104)

Paris, August 26, 1859

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Your kind letter relieved my worries about you. I was so long without news from you that I was afraid of some new difficulty! Your poor sister-in-law is truly one of our Lord's strong souls, because her Calvary is hard and long: yet God is sustaining her and she is becoming stronger in her trials; how great!

Dear daughter, you gave me such a sad description of your state of soul! Too much so, as it is only a state of temptation, and temptations are always very humiliating. You could have told me something about this difficulty, which at bottom may not be anything. At least you aren't giving up Holy Communion. This is what comforts me and makes me hope that the sun will scatter the darkness and warm your poor heart. You were well at the seaside, continue to be so at home, in spite of winds and tides.

My expectation was that the Good Lord would complete your retreat himself, but your letter seems to say the opposite. Is it like an unfinished treatment which only disturbs and agitates?

I don't expect to leave Paris before November; therefore I'm completely available to you. I'm sorry that you didn't come with your sister-in-law. I would have been happy to see you and to meet her with you.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very dear daughter,
All yours,
Eymard, SSS

Madame V. de Grandville
8 rue St. Laurent
Nantes

[62] Capitalized in the original.
[63] Their deceased brother had been a priest and curate at La Seyne-sur-Mer.

868

CO 868

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 48/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 29, 1859

Very dear Father,

Three days ago, I received a visit from Mr. Baudoin and your good letter. I was waiting for it with great anticipation, but I was only half satisfied, because your letter preceded mine.

I'm worrying about you, knowing that you are alone. It seems that little Ratons left you. How come? Perhaps it is better that he is gone, since he didn't have a vocation. Now have you found someone? Are you hoping to find someone there? unless[64] you have someone trustworthy, don't take chances with the first person who comes along.

It is a hard trial.

Mr. Clavel wrote that he was bringing his affairs to a close on September 4. I strongly urged him to spend a few days with you, and even if you should think that he could be useful, I would urge him to stay with you; because strictly speaking, we can do without him here. We did without him until now.

If you approve, I will write to him in that vein. The novitiate exercises cannot begin here until about the month of October, because of the expected arrival of two or three young men around that time.

Saturday I saw Mr. Picard. He didn't wait to send you everything, so that you could receive the important things for the feast; that good man hadn't said anything to me. So many trips for so few things! He told me that he would exchange the two candelabras you mentioned for two better ones. We agreed on your comments: you may return them to him; he will take them back.

He will send you four small candlesticks, two altar bases,[65] the two candelabras and a holy water font.

I am sending you the bill for the censer; I am expecting one for the lamps at any time. This morning I sent for it again, it wasn't ready, he wasn't sure about the price.

I'm expecting a priest from Savoie for the discernment retreat. I met him, he had come when I was in Rome. Fr. Champion is of the opinion that we should examine him on retreat, we will see. Miss Guillot has been sick for six days as well as Sr. Benoite. We thought Sr. Benoite would die, but she is coming back to life.

The sister who was working in the kitchen is very ill with typhoid fever. As for us, we continue at a slow pace, neither sick nor very strong.

As for establishing a second house in Marseilles, it looks good;[66] but it seems to me that we would need to have one or two aspirants come to Paris to acquire the spirit first.

Who then are the persons who want to consecrate themselves to the eucharistic life? Since several had spoken to me, I don't know which one to think of.

I saw Mr. Marziou and spoke to him about your affairs. He told me that he could not redeem the bonds since they have not reached maturity. But he thought you had deposited an amount in the current account, and that this amount is always at your disposal; think about it. What is the last deposit you made with Mr. Marziou? Or if you prefer, I will go to ask the bookkeeper.

Mr. Marziou sent his oldest son to San Francisco to get a few million for their institutions in Paris. It's only a delay, and he told me to be confident and that besides, he had a large amount to withdraw.

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[64] Lower case in the original.
[65] The French expression "deux bas d'autel" defies translation.
[66] A second house for the Servants.

Send us news about yourself, dear Father. I feel very sad about you, thinking that you may be ill.

The whole family embraces you, and I remain,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

Brother Charles laughed when he saw his watch chain and [67] the grace requested. Mr. Isnard is gone. I will send you your two little lead boxes with the rest of Picard's things.

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
Marseilles

Aug 30	*Conf. Ser: On employments.*

869

CO 869

TO MME. FRANCHET

(VII 30/33)

Paris, August 30, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Be convinced that I will do all that I can for your dear child and I will introduce him to a few good people. A person can be very responsible in Paris, if he wants to and if he is in a good place.

The public Schools generally have a bad mixture. However, we sometimes come across a few good Catholics there. The essential thing is not to bind oneself on first acquaintance, but to observe, and to remain independent.

I do not advise you to place Mr. Charles at the Fenelon Hotel nor in any other. It would cost you too much; nor would he be well there for his studies. I advise you to entrust him to Father Carion (rue Bonaparte 66) where there are a few fine young law students and others. He would be as in a family there, in good company, and especially with a father. I know Father Carion very well, and I think it is the best advice I can give.

I hope to be here the days you indicate, as I have nothing planned. Then, I will give you all the time I can. Be convinced, dear Lady, that your soul is always dear to me. Put words aside, paper is not likely to convey grace to a soul.

Be stronger and do not judge me to be indifferent.

Therefore, I remain in our Lord, Madame and dear sister,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard P.S.

Sep 2	*Conf. Ser: Recollection, a study, contemplation, attention, center of expansion and love.*
Sep 6	*Conf. Ser: Practical recollection, sacrificing the world and self.*

[67] A line seems to be missing in the French edition.

870

CO 870

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 49/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 8, 1859

Very dear Father,

Your letter was anxiously expected. I really thought you were sick and knowing that you were alone, I worried very much.

In your charity you wanted to spare me a few days of worrying and fears. But I will worry as long as I know that you are alone. Let's hope that this situation is coming to an end and that God will send you fellow workers.

Now about business matters:

1. I withdrew a year's interest, 50 francs, from your capital of 1000 francs, at the end of July. So, you can use them. If you need them have Mr. Clavel advance them to you, if he is with you, and I will reimburse him here.

2. You could and would do well to offer warm hospitality to your brother. If I can do something for him here, I am at your disposal.

3. About the brother you are proposing to us, I wrote to Arles the same day and I still haven't received any answer. Except for a candidate with a certain and good vocation, I would not like to have him come from so far. The best and most prudent thing to do would be for you to prepare a little retreat for him and to examine him there.

4. A new disappointment. The priest who had promised he would come for a discernment retreat hasn't come back or given any sign of life: I think he was afraid.

5. I am sending you the bill for the lamp. Add the price for the light fitting; Mr. Picard didn't know it. The bill will show what it is.

6. We have a young theologian from d'Agen, won over by Mr. Clavel. He has been making his retreat for three days. He seems to be doing well.

7. Mr. Picard admitted his fault to me. When he saw that he could not send everything for the Assumption, he had put off everything else. You will find everything in the second shipment that you will be receiving soon.

Everything is the same as usual here. The cross is ever present at the Ladies'.[68] Sister B(enoite) is bedridden. The cook is confused. They have almost given up about her getting better. It is one trial added to so many others.

I only have time to tell you we all love you dearly, and that I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Sep 9	*Conf. Ser: Recollection of love.*

[68] The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

871

CO 871

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 36/76)

Paris, September 9, 1859

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am really sorry about these few days of delay to give you my answer. Please forgive me.

Yes! Let us be very grateful toward the divine goodness of God. Most of his graces are unknown to us and those we know are already so numerous! Dear daughter, be grateful like poor people are; that is the best way. That kind of gratitude has nothing to give since it possesses nothing, but it gives thanks for everything; it gives God glory for everything. In heaven, we will have all eternity to give thanks.

About the important question of educating someone for the priesthood, in a word, to make him a priest of the Most Blessed Sacrament, I don't know how to answer. In Paris, the average board and room is 500 - 600 francs in communities. The capital would then be 10,000 francs. But, dear daughter, let's not speak about a capital gift when you are already doing so much.

To maintain an adorer, a priest in the perpetual service of the divine Eucharist is surely the most beautiful and helpful work on earth.

It is better to keep a gilded heart-locket than a gold heart-locket which is too small for its price. Send it to me when you want and I will have it kept in a safe in Besancon by someone I know well. So, be content with your heart-locket and don't look for another.

Don't worry too much about your patient's[69] words of despair; they are spoken under the impressions of sadness or weariness. There is surely nothing serious in it. Good daughter, make positive suggestions through his guardian angel, suggest good thoughts to your poor patient. Since you know that he can be violent, be careful not to risk leading him to rejection or rigidity. Prudence and the inspiration of the moment should determine what to do.

We are really praying for your Pastor, so that the Good Lord may draw his glory from it.[70]

Have courage, dear daughter, continue to be the Good Lord's beggar. Recollect yourself a little more through the heart, through offering, and love.

Write a little more often; we were really worried about you, but your letter comforted us.

I bless you and your beloved daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame Gourd

[69] Her father.

[70] The hope that the Pastor will be able to effect a conversion.

872

CO 872

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 50/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 10, 1859[71]

Very dear Father,

Mr. Clavel has arrived; we were happy to receive him; he is one more servant at the feet of the Divine Master. He came just as Mr. Carri had to go to bed for an inflamed right knee. So the Good Master takes care of his service and his servants. Will it become serious? I hope not; it seems that an infection[72] set in: he forced himself a little too much. Pray for us, *non recuso crucem*;[73] but we need a grace of strength. At No. 66, Miss G. is better. Sr. Benoite is still very ill. The cook is out of danger, but she will no longer be able to do her work...that is the difficulty.

My young retreatant seems to be happy here. His name is Capdeville, from the diocese of Agen, twenty-two years old, has six months of theology and loves studies. We will see what his interior life is like.... Now I no longer dare put my trust in the qualities of those who come, but in God alone.

Mr. Chanuet writes that he told his relatives about his decision. He is coming from La Salette, he is asking for prayers. He seems to be firm and determined, but he isn't here yet!

18th - I wasn't able to finish my letter, very dear Father, now I continue. Mr. Carri is better but he cannot make adoration yet; he attends the Office and he is walking. Mr. Clavel has a sore throat and has lost his voice.

Today we saw Mr. Baudoin, who will be leaving tomorrow for Marseilles. He will bring you our regards.

The topic for study which you submitted regarding Marseilles is serious, as you must realize. Especially after the rumors that were circulating, and spreading here, that we [might] leave Paris to go to Marseilles. At this time, that would appear to be a failure or a defeat. Surely, if our Lord makes it impossible for us to have the novitiate in Paris, either because of the locale, or for some other important reason, we would be very happy to have Marseilles. For myself, I don't hold to any particular place, but to what is best.

Is your ex-sergeant trying out his vocation? Do you find he has the foundation and signs of a vocation?

We will begin the novitiate exercises on St. Michael's day, when we will take him as the protector of novices. We will begin a novena for this purpose on September 21, and we will say the *Veni Creator*, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, and the prayer for the feast of St. Michael the archangel. Please join with us.

In a few days you will see Mr. Perret. He is at La Salette, and from there he is to go to Saint-Maximin (Var).

I recommend myself to your good prayers, I need them. Seeing everything there is to be done or which has to be undergone sometimes frightens my poor human nature.

I remain in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Fraternal regards from everyone.

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[71] finished on the 18th.
[72] Literally: un dipot. Perhaps a calcium deposit?
[73] "I do not refuse the cross."

P.S. -- I have reopened my letter. I forgot to tell you something about Mr. Carri. He was very reluctant about going to Marseilles. I didn't feel I should command him to go. It seems that our Lord doesn't want it yet, since it isn't possible for him to go.

He told you a few words about the finances. But that's one of the lesser motives, though very real. I put my trust in God, for trips connected with the foundation, in a month or two. However, if the future brother you have would be suitable for the foundation, it seems to me that it would be good to form him there, since God sent him there in the first place. Then, too, it would be one less expense, as you know that all we have is our daily bread.

Sep 13	*Conf. Ser: Solitude, recollection.*
Sep 16	*Conf. Ser: Continuation on recollection. Various ways of entering into the presence of God.*
Sep 23	*Conf. Ser: Trials. The first three churches, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Cenacle.*

873

CO 873

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 51/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 23, 1859

Very dear Father,

I am expecting your ex-sergeant, unless he gets stopped on the way. We seem to have the grace to frighten people away; because when they've seen us, especially in action, they become afraid and no longer even answer. So also, when our Lord promised the Holy Eucharist, everyone deserted him except the twelve, at least temporarily. It seems to me that a good vocation wouldn't run away in fear. However, it's possible to be unfaithful. So, we must learn not to count on requests and promises until they happen, when our Lord draws them and binds them to his divine service. -- Sometimes when I am alone, it even makes me laugh.

For the moment, everything here is the same as usual. Everyone is preparing for the feast of St. Michael. Ask our Good Master to give me the graces and virtues I so greatly need; because it isn't sufficient to have children; they must be educated.

About my departure for Marseilles; I will leave only at the end of October, better still, during the week of All Saints: I need time to get things underway here and to prepare everything. We must pray to our heavenly Father to send good and genuine adorers to his divine Son. Thank you for your 50 francs and for the rest. I still don't know the total. Mr. Carri isn't able to go out yet. He's better, but not enough for his adoration or to attend all the parts of the Divine Office.

I'll buy the two lamps and send them to you.

I thanked the Good Lord for Fr. Hermann's good advice. I am sad to see that my words made him keep away. It's really true! We don't even deserve to be called religious. How can we dare prepare to join the holy and distinguished militia of the ancient religious Orders. So we will return to our rightful place, the <u>last one</u>. Mme. Bonnefoy is still here; it's a new cook who has fallen sick. Sr. Benoite has just left for Clermont to see her sick mother and for a change of atmosphere because she is still feverish.

The mail is leaving. Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

On September 29th, under the patronage of St. Michael the Archangel, Fr. Eymard officially inaugurated the novitiate in Paris.

Sep 30	*Conf. Ser: Your work comes from God. Grace of foundation*

874

CO 874

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 17/104)

Paris, October 2, 1859

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

More deaths, crosses, and victims! Really, I would cry over it with you if I didn't consider these deceased persons as flowers and fruit ripe for heaven; if it weren't that our Father in heaven came to seek these children in exile to lead them to their beautiful and beloved homeland. Oh! This life is a life of death! Or rather, the death of a life which lets us see the vanity of all earthly and human things so that we might place ourselves and find our rest in God alone. Dear daughter, rest securely on the burning breast of our Saviour in the shadow of the tree of life, Calvary. Let your life come from him, be for him and in him alone. It's good that you should feel the bitterness of exile and the pain of divine love.

The pain of humiliation and powerlessness is necessary for you so that you may find your virtue only in trust in God and holy surrender. Continue to receive Communion: it's the bread of the poor, a remedy for the weak, a grace of love.

I will be in Paris until the beginning of November. I would be happy to see you before I leave. So come if you can arrange that with your affairs in Nantes.

Very dear daughter, believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior SS

P.S. Thank you for giving me the sad news about Mr. Le Vavasseur's death. I'm praying for him and his fine wife. I will write to her.

Oct 4	*Retr. Ser: Humility, giving oneself completely to God.*
Oct 7	*Conf. Ser: We must serve God according to our state.*

875

CO 875

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 52/181 VI 4)

Paris, October 7, 1859[74]

Very dear Father,

I received a charitable gift from Divine Providence. It came at the right time. It's our good fortune to be poor with Jesus Christ, and I dare hope, for Jesus Christ.

1. The brother you mentioned didn't come and didn't give any sign of life; so we shouldn't count on him any longer.

2. I don't know the source of the letter you returned to me; it mentions the arrival of a brother. Look into it and make a decision.

3. I don't have anything against Clement; it might be better to organize the kitchen with him and pay him a wage, rather than take a chance with the first person who comes along as a brother. If the one who is offering himself would present some references and knows how to do the work, that would be better.

I suppose you have someone for the kitchen. It would be suitable to have a brother for the community and for the parlor, etc., for nothing disturbs the house and good order so much as a vacancy in that employment. We suffer a lot from that here.

Since Brother Charles is alone here, he cannot really learn how to cook; and I really believe he would never do that employment well. I keep thinking of bringing him from here to Marseilles, hoping that God would send us someone else for Paris. We are praying and searching, but it's so difficult to find someone who gives himself fully and is coming for Jesus Christ alone.

4. We expect to leave here on All Souls day, November 2nd, or the next morning.[75]

We'll have First Communion for our adults on All Saints day, there will be six in all. We have to hurry them, because after All Saints day they can no longer come. After that they'll be working every day until ten o'clock p.m.

I'm really hoping that Mr. Perret will be here at that time; you must have seen him or will see him when he returns. He's really loved here: he's such a devoted apostle and such a good friend!

5. You did well to give the Good Master everything for when the King is lodged and happy, his servants are happy.

I understand that the benches are better than chairs. So I am asking God to pay for them. That reminds me to tell you that in Rome there are two separations at the altar of Exposition: the first is reserved for those who have a choir attire. The second is for religious in their habits, guards, etc. Couldn't we have a moveable separation in the choir; one for us who wear choir attire, and the other for the lay adorers who would come to share our adoration as associates?

6. Prepare what is essential for those who will arrive in November, so that these fine soldiers who are still not too accustomed to war and to temporary encampments may have the ordinary things of life.

Now I will discuss the local news.

1. Join us in thanking our Good Master: he sent us two fine priests, who preach, sing, adore and obey well. One is from Angers, the other from Moutiers in Savoie. You must have seen him in Paris; he is a fine and excellent priest who will become a fine adorer.

See how good our Lord is! We weren't expecting them, and they came to us, drawn by the love and grace of the divine Eucharist. I'll bring them both to you, as well as Brother Charles, if necessary. If a third should come, I would give him to you as well.

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[74] October 7 and not October 1, as published. (Troussier)

[75] To go to Marseilles.

When we see these two fine gentlemen, who are so dedicated, Fr. Champion and I say over and over: How good God is! He wants Marseilles!

2. Mr. Clavel preached a week ago. He stunned us all, his voice could shatter windows. He has a broad range, and he gave us a beautiful instruction on the Eucharist. Eloquence seems to come easily to him: imagine how nervous I was at first. But then, our Good Master knows that he needs both disciples and apostles.

3. A priest who is as devout as an angel came to make a retreat! Mr. du Coudr from Angers. He is the one who was supposed to begin the Reparation branch with Fr. Colin and Mother Marie Therese. He told me all about it; but I doubt that he will come. He has his own piety, his own works, he is 68 years old, and has 1500 pounds for income. He told me that what had been holding him back until now was the question of the vow of poverty. If he should come, he would be a devout adorer, but I would be very surprised; it could happen.

4. A good priest from Vannes came to see us. He is 35 years old, I like him. He was sent to me by someone who is fully dedicated to our Work. When he left he had decided to follow the advice of his director (who is a Jesuit). He has just written to me that his director is encouraging his idea to come, but advises him to discern a bit more. That is cause for hope.

5. Mr. Chanuet came to spend a day with us. Before giving its consent, his family obliged him to submit his vocation and his actual entrance to Fr. de Pontlevoy, the Superior of the Jesuit Fathers. He told him to give up his thesis, to leave everything, and to come to us immediately.

May God reward that good Father a hundredfold!

6. Sister Benoite is at Rioms with her sick mother. She saw a good and holy priest whom she knew and spoke to him about the Society. She writes that this priest wants to come to Paris for a retreat with us, to study his vocation.

7. The novitiate began on the feast of St. Michael. Everything is going well. There are two conferences a day, one at 11:00 on the liturgy, the rubrics; at night on religious life. When the scholastics come, there will be a theology class at 3:00 p.m. Mr. de Leudeville hasn't made his vocational retreat yet. I know that he is thinking about it; it was postponed until November. We must pray for him, because, although he is very generous and devout, he will still have many sacrifices to make.

8. Fr. Champion suggested that I call Brother Michel to simple vows. He has been with us for two and a half years, and very dedicated to the community. In fact, he has rendered and is rendering us many services with total selflessness. He is fine, and on the days of exposition, he makes four hours of prayer. Brother Michel also asked me to let him make his vows. For my part, I don't see any obstacles either. He has really worked on his character, and when he commits a few faults, he quickly corrects himself. Tell me your feelings about it. I'll receive Mr. Carri for vows. It has also been one year since Mr. Clavel entered; he could also be admitted.

I will have Brother Charles make his vow of obedience; then everyone will be bound to the service of our Good Master.

I see through experience that it is better not to delay the vows too much, otherwise worry and sadness overcome one's spirit. The Church, which is so wise, has foreseen all that, by determining the time of probation, intending that we dismiss them after that time, if there is no vocation.

9. I've often thought that the space between your altar and the wall is not sufficient to pass comfortably with vestments. The entrance on the Gospel side is neither beautiful nor dignified, with so many doors to open and close. Then, too, heads can be seen passing behind the altar. However, if the rubrics are such, I bow to it. It's just that I would like something better.

10. I wonder how we will manage for the trip. Pray to the Angel who carried St. Philip to carry us also; at least that wouldn't cost anything.

Think about all your errands from Paris before we leave.

The mail is leaving. Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau Marseilles

876

CO 876

TO MR. JOSEPH AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 5/24)

Paris, October 9, 1859

Very dear friend,

Last night I received your lovely and tasteful gift made for the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you in the name of our good Master and our own! It's our most beautiful vestment, and so it will be used for our great feasts. The names of all the members of your lovely family are written on the book of the Most Blessed Sacrament, but even more in the heart of Jesus and his love. May God repay you with temporal and spiritual blessings.

I will pass through Lyons, but without stopping, during the first week of November. I hope to pay you a brief visit when I return.

In the meantime, believe me ever in the divine charity of our Lord,

Dear friend, all yours,

Eymard, Superior S.S.

Mr. Carrel
Textile Merchant
Quai d'Orleans, 3
Lyons

877

CO 877

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 8/14)

Paris, October 9, 1859

Very dear friend,

I am leaving for Marseilles the first week in November. I would have liked to visit you before leaving.

Have you had your retreat? Has it confirmed you in your present state [of life], or do you have something else in view? Whatever may be the outcome of this supreme and decisive resolve, you will still be a dear and beloved [friend]. What pleased me so much in this matter is that you chose a director outside of ours or any other Congregation. At least your decision will be made very freely and purely because there are two things at issue here:

First: A general vocation to the religious life;

Second: A particular vocation to a certain group and with this purpose.

At this very moment, dear friend, I have received your letter telling me that you have one more angel in Heaven. I deeply share in the sorrow you all feel because it's a great loss. And then, it's

so painful to leave one another at this time, when we love one another! But for the Church, it's an eternal birth, and for Heaven, a beautiful victory. That poor child wouldn't want to come back to this world even if it were given all the crowns in the world. That's because Heaven is our goal, and this world is only an exile.

In any other circumstance, I would have gone to see you. I will make up for it by prayer.

Please! My friend, have courage! We will be in this world such a brief time. We must hasten to glorify our good Master and be entirely his.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Mr. de Leudeville
at Leudeville-en-Hurepoix
Marolles-les-Arpajon (Seine-et-Oise)

Oct 11	*Conf. Ser: That we must serve God according to the interior condition of grace, strength of attraction, vocation, gentleness.*
Oct 14	*Conf. Ser: Interior attraction of recollection, of vocation, of perfection, of direction.*

878

CO 878

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)

(VII 1/17)

Paris, October 17, 1859

Madame,

This letter is, in the first place, to thank you for writing about the vocation of Mr. [Chanuet], your son. Dear Madame, I understand the prudence and wisdom underlying your desire that Mr. Chanuet not make vows until the time of his priesthood. I will let you judge the matter for yourself, I will do nothing without you. - My opinion that your dear son is called to the religious life was confirmed by the feelings of Fr. Pontlevoy. I just saw him recently and he assured me that he has recognized this vocation in him for a long time. Through prudence, he had let him finish law, and now, he is of the opinion that he should enter right away.

Madame, this gift you are giving to our Lord will be repaid a hundredfold. It's the most beautiful as well as the greatest which you could offer him; I hope that in his divine goodness [God] will let you find some joy in this gift. Your dear son is coming to be with friends. He will find his center of devotion. You will come to see him, and if you cannot, I will send him to be with you a little during the holidays.

We are expecting him toward the end of the month to organize the classes.

Dear Mother, please consider us henceforth as your family, and believe me in Jesus Christ, your respectful and devoted servant.

Eymard, Sup.

Mme. Chanuet (widow)

at Lantignie via Beaujeu
(Rhone)

Oct 19	*Conf. Ser: Eucharistic attraction, attraction of recollection.*
Oct 21	*Conf. Ser: The Eucharistic thought*

879

CO 879

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 18/104)

Paris, October 23, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm still praying for the dear little one, for her heroic mother, and for you who are the center of this pain while being the friend of those who suffer. While I see heaven open over this suffering angel and the glory of Jesus Crucified increased by the virtue of her mother and everyone, yet, life is a grace, and can be requested. I do request it as God wills. I dread receiving some news of bereavement, your silence makes me hope there is an improvement. Praise God!

Dear daughter, you must be suffering in the midst of so many crosses. Don't lose sight of Jesus' gaze; it will be your strength.

On November 2nd, I hope to leave for Marseilles; our house is on rue Nau 7, Marseilles. I will stay there some time, perhaps a month. I will write to you a few days before I am due to leave there.

I hope to hear from you here one more time. I'm sad and upset for all of you.

Our Lord sent us two more priests, praise him for us.

I bless you in his divine heart.

All yours,
Eymard, SS

880

CO 880

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 25/52)

Paris, October 23, 1859

Miss Stephanie

I read everything you wrote to me with interest, dear daughter, because everything that concerns you is dear to me: everything that can interrupt you on the path to Heaven distresses me.

To begin, what good, holy and happy news! Your grandfather had the joy of receiving Communion! desiring to receive Communion! doing so in public! Oh! How good is the Good Lord! How infinite is his mercy! Yes, I do thank him and I will thank him with my whole heart so that he may crown his work of mercy.

So you are finally rid of that poor housekeeper, so much the better! It should have been done a long time ago! There is nothing to be gained by jealousy and selfishness. Let her say whatever she wants; don't say anything negative about her to outsiders.

You did well to answer your new servant in this way. Don't become too intimate with your servants, while still full of charity and trust toward them. It would expose their pride and sometimes also their virtue [to temptation].

Don't inform them about your personal affairs before you are sure of their prudence. What I mean by personal affairs are your external good works.

Alas! Poor daughter, how can you expect to find selflessness, dedication and gratitude, when people hardly fulfill the bare minimum of their duties to God.

Then, the times we live in have overturned [patterns] of thought, revolution can be found even in the heads of servants. What can you do? Bear with it, encourage the weak ones, correct faults with charity and insist on a sense of duty before all else.

As for your dear mother, it's your daughter's love that longs to see her be more prudent about herself.

It's true, she should take better care of herself; but there are circumstances when it's better to leave others alone than to ruffle them: it would hurt them.

Approach it otherwise. When you see that your dear mother insists, let her be. She has her reasons and you know that God blesses her.

Surely, this dear mother ought to take better care of herself.

We expect to leave Paris for Marseilles on November 2nd. We will bless you as we pass. I won't be able to stop in Lyons on the way. I hope to do so when I return. If you need to write to me, here is my address (two words erased).

Dear daughter, belong entirely to God through love, entirely to your neighbor through a gracious charity, entirely to the divine Eucharist by the offering and sacrifice of your whole self.

Bear with yourself in the patience of our Lord. Try to serve him as if you were always happy.

We began the novena for a Pastor. We are really praying so that God may give you one who is pleasing to his heart.

Don't share your troubles or worries with him. Keep your treasure of the Most Blessed Sacrament and, if you mention it, let it be only to give this explanation: the Bishop and the deceased Pastor gave us the Blessed Sacrament; they would not want it to be removed now.

Goodbye, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

881

CO 881

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 37/76)

Paris, October 24, 1859

Good and dear daughter,

I share in your happiness. I thank our Lord wholeheartedly and ask him for perseverance.

Continue to have a childlike trust in our good heavenly Father. Belong to him at every moment and depend on him for everything. God has neither past nor future, he always is. Well, dwell in his existence of love, in his divine Providence of the moment and leave to him the care of the future and of the past. This is the prayer which is in your heart-locket:

"Oh Mary, Mother of Beautiful Love and holy Hope, receive this weak pledge of my gratitude and love. Keep in your heart these hearts which I give you. Save all my family. May they always love Jesus and you. As for me, the poorest of all, take charge of my weakness. I want to belong entirely to Jesus through you, my good Mother."

I must leave here November 2nd. I will bless you in passing. I will stop in Lyons when I return.

Excuse this poor letter which I am sending with this blot.

All yours,
Eymard

Oct 25	*Conf. Ser: We must renew our fervor in the love of our Lord.*
Oct 27	*Conf. Ser: The Eucharistic thought. (Idea or project)*

882

CO 882

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 53/181 VI 4)

October 29, 1859, Very dear Father,

We will be leaving here Wednesday, November 2, at 1:45 in the afternoon. We won't make any stops, and we will reach Marseilles Thursday night, around 6:30. The gentlemen's names are Fr. Leroyer (from Angers) and Fr. Golliet (from Moutiers). Our Lord is really the one who has sent them.

For the last month, we have been working only on the rubrics. When you get them you will find them a bit thinned out. However, the Office in choir isn't perfected yet.

I spoke with Fr. Champion about your comment regarding Matins. He thinks it would be better simply to sit and listen, as one would listen to our Lord preaching, etc... For my part, I won't oppose it. I'll leave this house free until God shows us more clearly. No one says the Office until seated, since they rise for the responses: the principle to recite the Office standing is safeguarded.

I saw Mr. Koll. The last job he finished will cover the difference, if you agree. He keeps saying that he never expected to furnish the hinges at his own expense; that that is not usually done, that if he had known it would be that way, he simply would have added this additional expense in his memo and that he gave very close estimates.

All the orders will come with us, even the one from Mr. Picard.

Since the arrival of the new adorers, we have added adoration on Wednesdays and Saturdays until noon.

On All Saints day, we will have a lovely First Communion for 12 of our children.

This morning at 7:30 we will have the Baptism of a Protestant Lady whom we instructed and who is very well disposed.

Mr. Clavel has faculties from Paris and a paper which I obtained for him. He's very happy about it, but he still has a long way to go. Still, he has improved.

Nothing new, except that a theology student is requesting entrance. But like so many others, he has no money.

Mr. Chanuet hasn't arrived yet.

Mr. de Leudeville hasn't made his retreat with the Jesuits to settle his decision. Kind Fr. de Pontlevoy is the one who will discern his case, his parents hold to this.

Goodbye, dear Father. I hope that our Good Master will also bless us in Marseilles, because we want only his greater glory.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. We received all the money you sent as specified.
To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Priest-Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7, rue Nau, Marseilles

883

CO 883

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 111/145 VI 10)

Paris, November 2, 1859

Good and dear sisters,

I am leaving for Marseilles today; I will stay about one month, I'll write to you from there.
I am bringing a few religious to our new foundation.
Continue to pray for us and our beautiful Work.
I am sending your form for the Aggregation. I'm feeling fine. Everything is fine. God is blessing us beyond our hopes.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

I have time enough only for this short note.

Miss Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

CHAPTER IV

The Eucharistic Family

Marseilles

- **Formal Inauguration of Community Life and Mission**
- **Eight day retreat to inaugurate Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament**

Paris

- **Novitiate of the Society established**
- **Draft of Rules for the Society of the Blessed Sacrament**

Spiritual Teacher

- **Conferences to the Servants**
- **First Communion of Adult Workers**
- **Parish Missions at**
  - **Tarare**
  - **Amplepuis**
  - **Tours**

Disappointments

- **Nantes, Unstable Vocations**

884

CO 884

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) & SERVANTS

(II 199/395 VI 2)

All for Jesus Hostia *To No. 66, On the train, November 2, 1859*

Very dear sisters in our Lord,

It was impossible for me to bid you farewell and bless you when I left. I did so in my heart and I do so at this moment.

I sent to each of you my little Blessed Virgin;[1] this good Mother will keep you and lead you. I leave you under her maternal protection and St. Joseph's.

Even if I should die, my sisters, you would have nothing to fear. You belong entirely to Jesus and he belongs entirely to you: what can you fear, little flock, under such a good Shepherd? Who could knock you over if Jesus defends you? Who could kill you if Jesus is your life?

No, no, you have nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. However, remain very closely united to our good Master. Serve him with purity and fervor, with simplicity and joy, with love and sacrifice, and you will be ennobled and strong. You will become a true Cenacle, the privileged family of Jesus and Mary. Don't let yourself be worried or troubled by anything. Yesterday your heart must have suffered because of the vote you had to give before God. It is done and done well. God wanted it so, and his holy Will was clearly manifested: that's fine.

Let that show you, dear daughters, how you ought to praise God for your vocation. You have it: keep it carefully. You have been chosen; consider yourselves fortunate. I am telling you: one day, other religious and the princesses of the world will envy your happiness and your graces. Be courageous and confident, dear daughters.

I remain very united to you with a father's care in the love of our good Master and I bless you with all the affection of my heart.

Eymard

P.S. Miss Guillot

I gave 50 francs to Mr. Carri to give you for Mme. Spazzier, supposing that she would need money.

Let Sr. Benoite stay in bed a little.

Now that the cross is over, don't worry over it. Consider how God is gentle and firm in his divine Providence.

I bless you with my whole heart.

Eymard

[1] a small statue?

885

CO 886

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 36/52)

Marseilles, November 5, 1859

Dear sister in our Lord,

Here I am in Marseilles; I couldn't stop in Lyons on the way because of those who were coming with me. I hope to see you when I return. I wrote this to the Pastor of the Madeleine in Tarare. It would be a great joy for me to see you again after such a long time, and to speak with you about our dear work of love for the good Master.

Your dear father must have written to tell you about his joy in the Lord, to see your dear brother return to the fold, and how he was brought back by divine goodness. We must pray to our good Master to complete what he has begun.

I am sending you a letter about the Aggregation with our little Society[2] which you love, and which is strongly united to you. I was saddened to know that you are ill, and I ask our good Master to heal you, because there are still some battlefields to be covered for his glory.

Goodbye, dear sister, see you soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.
Soc. of the Blessed Sacrament

Mme. Tholin-Bost
at Amplepuis (Rhone)

886

CO 887

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 12/19)

Marseilles, November 5, 1859

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I received your fine letter this morning. I understand very well that your spiritual hopes have been dashed and it is a great sacrifice for you; but accept it simply and do not harbor hopes in your heart which can only disturb and trouble you - take up this cross and bear it with our Lord. Do not try to analyze it because it will leave you constantly depressed.

My feeling, therefore, is that you should come to Hyeres - that you should give up your apartment in Paris and surrender to divine Providence. Why should you want to pay rent in two places?[3] at the very time when we expect to leave that area as soon as we can?

You tell me that God has only permitted but not willed this rejection. No, my poor daughter, God has so willed it. For myself, I do not want you to try again.

[2] To be inaugurated on Nov. 17th.
[3] Punctuation as in original.

You will always be our dear daughter and sister in our Lord. - I will help you with all my heart, with my advice, to find holiness where you are, but on condition that there is no further question of religious life with these Ladies. Your soul can be entirely dedicated to the divine Eucharist and very holy in the midst of your work and contacts with the world; your mind and heart belong entirely to God. You have nothing to fear about that.

There is nothing new here - we will begin exposition only at the end of the week.

If you wish to stop [to see me] here, I will be happy to see you; but in order to avoid all the trouble with your belongings, you might do well to purchase your ticket for Toulon either in Lyons or in Paris. That would be simpler, since it is possible to make one stop for a day on the same ticket by informing the Station Master.

Please, dear sister, give yourself entirely to God and his will.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup. SS

887

CO 888

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION
(I 1/5)[4]

Marseilles, November 6, 1859

Very dear Father,

We are here in Marseilles preparing our living arrangements. Today I must determine with the Bishop the date for the Exposition which he desires to be very solemn.

The Chapel is suitable, richly decorated and in good taste. Everyone is very pleased especially with the canopy. There aren't any here, and it is very lovely.

Our arrival brought joy to the whole neighborhood and among all the devout people; but Fr. de Cuers is the one who is especially beside himself with joy. The Bishop is happy about our arrival. Yesterday there was a large procession because of the relic of St. Lazarus, brought by Msgr. d'Autun. The whole city was excited.

As for us, it seems that everything should go well; today we began the Office in choir.

So now we are ready; but I'm afraid that Picard's shipment won't arrive on time and that he has done the same as in the past. The box has been on its way for 10 days, and they have no news about it at the station.

Please have someone go to his place and find out the exact date of the shipment, because I want to complain to the administration, to know whether your packages are being kept too long at the station, as has already happened.

I thank God for Mr. Capdeville's departure. What a lesson, and especially, what a person!

My love to the whole family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

[4] First of 5 letters addressed to Rev. Cyr Armand Champion, Third Superior General of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

888

CO 889

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 200/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, November 6, 1859

Mademoiselle Guillot,

Thank you dear daughter, for your brief note. I wrote to Mme. Spazzier clearly enough. I suspect that she will share my letter with you. That good lady is really not thinking; the position she wants to take can only lead to a disappointment. I've decided to break off relations rather than entertain this illusion.

All has been going well until now. We are preparing for our great feast; I don't know the date yet, but it will be this week.

Please pray and have others pray for us, so that the beginning may fulfill its purpose; the important thing is to begin well, that God may be pleased. Everything needs to be done and done with new men. The more I go, the more I appreciate your Work and your grace. How beautiful it is! How great it is! Whatever is too hectic is feverish; whatever is too conspicuous is too vulnerable and often very empty. Stay close to our Lord; act in such a way that he may be pleased with you. That is the essential thing: people are powerless, they are nothing…. Whatever Jesus wants, happens. Consider yourself happy to be in his adorable service. Be happy in your life, actions, and relationships; for you have every reason to be so, since you are the family of our Lord.

I leave you at His feet.

All yours,
Eymard

889

CO 890

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)

(V 9/14)

Marseilles, November 6, 1859

Very dear friend,

Let us bless God on all our paths, by everything which happens to us. It's always for his greater glory and for our greater good.

I agree that you should wait for Rev. Father Ponlevoy. The matter is too serious for you to put it into the hands of an unknown judge if you do not feel drawn to do so. It's better to sacrifice something, to stay a little longer on the cross. Then, grace has time to grow and come to light. - You are ill, dear friend, and you tell me about little Marie's angelic fate.

Oh what laziness! Take care not to think about retreating when we must walk forward! On the contrary, we must multiply ourselves a hundredfold near the divine King and fight his good fights, because evil men are so numerous, Christians so lazy, souls truly committed to his glory so few!

Please! Good friend, you must not leave so many graces buried within you; you must produce a hundredfold in love.

I am sending your affiliation[5] for your consolation; it is a spiritual bond which will unite us more closely in our Lord, in whom I remain,

Very dear friend,
Always all yours,
Eymard, Superior

Mr. E. de Leudeville
Leudeville-en-Hurepoix
near Marolles
(Seine-et-Oise)

890

CO 891

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 6/24)

Marseilles, rue nau 7, November 8, 1859

Very dear friend,

I am sending your form for the Aggregation from Marseilles, signed in Paris. I wasn't able to stop in Lyons, since I had a little colony with me. I hope that the good Master will give me that joy when I return in about a month. I will go to see and bless your whole family. Tomorrow, we will begin Exposition. The Bishop will come at 7:30 to do it. So, our Lord will have one more throne on earth, and please God that we might be good and faithful adorers! Because, in order to respond to so many graces, we need to become new men.

Continue to love our Lord greatly, dear friend. Have your family love him and serve him well, because that is the meaning of your fatherhood.

Continue to pray for the one who is very deeply and fondly united to you in our Lord, and remain in his divine love.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Sir,
Mr. Carrel, Merchant
3, Quai d'Orleans
Lyons

[5] Affiliation as a member of the Third Order of Mary.

891

CO 892

TO MME. ROTTIER (SR. ANTOINETTE DU SS)
(III 2/4)

Marseilles, 7 Nau St., November 11, 1859[6]

Good Lady,

Since I wasn't able to give you this little token of affection in our Lord, before my departure, I'm sending it to you from here. It provides me with the opportunity to express my affectionate regards and recommend myself to your prayers and those of good Mme. Milot. Our first exposition took place on Wednesday the ninth, by the Bishop, with a large attendance and universal joy. We are continuing it with joy.

We are preaching an octave of the Most Blessed Sacrament, in order to explain to the people how to adore and serve our Lord.

We are having very fine weather, but Paris is always Paris. I leave you, dear Lady, in the divine Heart of Jesus.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

To Madame Rottier
14, Impasse des Feuillantines
Paris

Nov. 9th - 17th. - Preached an "Octave" (eight days) in honor of the Blessed Sacrament - to explain to the people "how to adore and serve our Lord." cf. Doc. 891. It closed with the inauguration of the Aggregation in Marseilles.

892

CO 893

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 23/26 VII 17)

Marseilles, Nov. 17, 1859

Mademoiselle and very dear Sister in our Lord,

I received your good letter from Paris. I find in it your friendship as of old, and that feeling, still so deep, which I am far from deserving, but which is most sweet to me. But I am grieved to read of the fulfillment of those sad words I gave you on neglect. I promised to be faithful to you, even beyond death.

I am very glad that you cleared up that business about the Opie convent. - When I get back I shall give Sr. Pauline her Deed. I haven't seen her since my return from Rome. I suppose she is still in the same place.

[6] Fr. Troussier changed the 11th to the 17th, but the photocopy reads the 11th of November (Garreau).

How brave you were! to come all the way to Marseilles! I was very sorry not to have been here at the time - I am sure I could have seen you if only for a short while, but on my way back I shall stop in Lyons for a few hours and will give you a long "hello."

You are right to spare yourself, especially at the beginning of winter. But you must find our Lord where you are, and be completely his in your inner life; for, dear Sister, when the sun begins to set and the shadows lengthen, we must hasten our steps so as to arrive before nightfall.

Do not be troubled by those natural little feelings against Holy Communion - the child fears the master and loves his own freedom. Nevertheless, when the master is present, he works and obeys him.

Holy Communion always does more good than harm.

The Bishop came on Wednesday, October 9,[7] to open our chapel and begin the first Exposition - It was a very happy and beautiful day for us. To honor so great a grace, we are preaching an Octave on the Most Blessed Sacrament day and night. This is the evening of the last day, and it has been well attended.

I am sending you an enrollment form [aggregation], as I fear I may have forgotten to do so. I began it here only today; about 100 people have enrolled.

Here we have 4 Priests and 2 Brothers - but we must pray that our Lord will choose good adorers for himself - that is what you are doing. -

I hope to be in Lyons in 3 or 4 weeks, and there, be ever yours in our Lord.

Meanwhile believe me, in his divine charity, dear Sister,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene
Lyons

893

CO 894

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SSS) AND SERVANTS

(II 201/395 VI 2)

Feast of the Presentation, Marseilles, November 21, 1859

Very dear daughters,

I presented you to our Lord, in union with the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that you might become good and faithful Servants of Jesus like your good Mother.

I offered him your mind so that it might become one with the mind of Jesus, meek and humble of heart like his, with the simplicity and directness of his own truth, totally still at his feet like Magdalen, to listen to him, and joyfully receive his divine word. Receive it with respect and gratitude, feeding your souls upon it, as the Virgin Mary herself would do.

I offered him your heart, that he might be its Master, its only King and Spouse, where he finds delight, and reigns supreme.

I offered him your will, to be his willing servant, so that your only desire and happiness would be to serve him well.

I offered him your body, to be a holy and living sacrifice, which is pleasing in his sight, by its modesty and self-control.

[7] It was November 9th.

That is how your holy Mother offered herself with unlimited devotion and unconditional love. Indeed how pleasing she was to God. She truly became like a sweet-smelling sacrifice in his presence.

Give yourselves completely and truly to Jesus, my dear daughters, then you will be true Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The gift of self is the only proof of true love, that's all that God wants. "My Son, give me your heart," he says.

"You will love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole heart, your whole soul and with all your strength." That is the first and greatest commandment. It is our whole life and purpose in this world and the next.

Could anything be more appropriate than to give oneself to the One who has given us everything! What could be more comforting than to give oneself to Jesus as he gives himself entirely to us!

Oh! Why then are we so inconstant, so greedy, so ungrateful toward this good Master?

Nevertheless, he asks us for the total gift of ourselves only in order to make us happy and to be able to give himself to us in the same way!

What else could we desire for our humanity, than to sanctify and divinize it in Jesus?

I know very well that while it is easy to give oneself fully to Jesus in a general way, it costs a great deal to immolate oneself each day for his glory, to die at every moment to our will for love of him. It is because it costs a lot that we become true adorers.

Oh! my good daughters, often remember how generous you once were toward your relatives and friends, and even more toward yourselves. So when something costs you, say to yourselves: What! Would I not do for Jesus what I did for the world, for my own satisfaction!

Often reflect on what there is in you that is not yet given to Jesus, is not his. Then immediately return to our good Master what your love had already given him.

Consider yourselves as foolish, as outsiders, or as wanting, until Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament becomes your only possession, your only happiness, your only joy, because you are not yet fully his. He doesn't yet reign as a sovereign master in you.

Oh! If we were fully his, he would be the constant thought of our hearts, the only law of our lives! Oh! how beautiful, gentle and strong our life would then be! It would be Jesus' life.

Here, we are trying to set the fire of Jesus, and a great number of associates have already been received.

Our Exposition began November 9th, and is well attended. It is truly inspiring.

I expect to stay here another two or three weeks because there is still much to be done. Then I will be happy to come and be at your service, dear daughters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

894

CO 895

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 54/181 VI 4)

Adveniat Regnum tuum[8] *November 22*[9]

Dear Father,

Thank you for last night's brief note. I much prefer that you write me about your suffering. It didn't hurt me, since it had not been my intention to call anyone to vows without consulting the professed priests, especially you. The proof is that I told these men I would submit their profession to the study of the council, and that their election depended on that.

That's all I said, and not even to all of them.

I certainly have enough responsibilities without having that one as well!

If I mentioned it to you in the morning, it was in order to be able to discuss it with you later and not forget it. It happens to me so often to forget things, even important ones, that I expected you would bring it up to me again.

Dear Father, that is the whole story! We've been speaking about it with Fr. Champion for such a long time as something imminent, that I didn't consider it as a decision by the mere fact of having mentioned it to you.

I hope this simple explanation will be enough to satisfy your friendship and [allay] your fears.

I'm very sorry, when I am the cause of your sorrows. But I'm happy when I can share your hopes and joys in the service of our Good Master, in whom I am, good Father,

All yours,
Eymard

895

CO 896

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 202/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, November 23, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I wasn't able to write to you for the Feast of the Presentation. I didn't have enough time, because there is so much to be done here. I feel your sufferings very much, and if it were possible, I would like to spare you from them. But our Lord's crown was made of thorns, and his life was only a cross. So my dear daughter, we must glorify our good Master by every kind of suffering; that is how we will build a throne for him on Calvary. However, when our human nature is afraid, when our minds can no longer explain anything, when everything seems shaken, we need to go to the feet of the Master to humble ourselves, admit our incompetence and unworthiness, beg him to take over the helm, give orders to the storm, give us a hand on this turbulent sea. We must be careful not to let our human nature take over at such times. My dear daughter, I would like to see you physically a little stronger, that the cross would not upset you so much nor give you migraine headaches.

[8] "Thy Kingdom Come." This invocation, with its variation "Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come" (A.R.T. or A.R.T.E.) is to appear again and again in Fr. Eymard's correspondence, notably after 1862.
[9] Fr. Eymard was in Marseilles with him at the time if this placement is correct. Ed.

There will always be something that goes wrong in a house, because God must have his share and his glory.

Adam's children have inherited such illness that they are often delirious and agitated, when they seem to be calm and reasonable; the doctor must recognize and treat them according to their condition.

Human beings are like a portrait which has the strokes of a masterpiece alongside signs of great weakness and stupidity. We shouldn't be surprised at it, but simply esteem what's good and repair what is wrong insofar as we can.

What do the Angels and Saints need to make them happy? God, Jesus Christ. Well! We have him, we are with him, we are at his gracious service! Oh how pitiful! Isn't he enough for us! He is with us, and yet we are discouraged. He is our all and he isn't enough for us! What a shame!

I'm really sorry that poor.... is so sad and so weak. Surround her with care. Then, if she doesn't enter into the spirit of her vocation, let her leave, and even tell her to do so if she has misgivings or gives in to whims. Don't worry. I am hoping to find a good sister Martha for you, but not in Provence. I won't look for one here, because of the different customs. It is better to look farther north, in Lyons or in the North.

On November 9th the Bishop exposed the Blessed Sacrament for the first time in the presence of a large and devout gathering. We preached twice a day for the Octave: it was well attended. At the end, I received a great number of Associates. People continue to come to adore our Lord. It's really impressive, there are always some people in our beautiful large chapel, and sometimes many. We will have adoration every day, but only until noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. On the other days until 9:00 p.m.

Fr. de Cuers is fine, he has earned much merit for this foundation. He lived so frugally that it makes me very sad; he lived on bread, cheese and fruit alone; no coffee or meat, nothing hot, and he was very happy. Our Lord must have been with him.

As for us, we have what we need to live, but our cells are very poor, as they should be. Here everything has been done for the Master; but little by little we are buying pins, needles; every now and then we laugh because we don't have what can ordinarily be found even in a shed, it's delightful! On the other hand the chapel is magnificent, adoration is going well.

I hope that the two priests whom I brought will adjust well.

Poor human nature had its fears; they desire a life which is too missionary. Let us pray so that they may understand that the Master must pass ahead of the servants. Unfortunately! there are so few men, so few priests for whom Jesus is enough!

I am fine. Goodbye, very dear daughter. You are always with me at the feet of the Good Master.

Eymard

P.S. Ask Fr. Champion to send me a thousand flyers for the Aggregation.

896

CO 897

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 26/52)

Marseilles, rue Nau, 7, November 24, 1859

Very dear daughter,

Let your thoughts and feelings flow from your pen as they come to you. Don't worry about their length or apparent unimportance. It will take great simplicity on your part to write to me as you are, naturally and simply.

Oh, dear daughter, surrender to the breath[10] of God's grace, [have] an open and childlike simplicity with God, yourself, and your dear mother. Be like a child with God, without soul-searching or afterthoughts. The true simplicity of God's children consists in holy surrender to his holy and ever gracious Will, clinging to this fatherly Will through love, with the simple desire of pleasing him; of accepting everything without distinction from his divine hand, especially natural frustrations, sorrows that come to us by way of our neighbor or by necessity. God likes to frustrate the earthly and immature sentiments and preferences of our evil nature.

Speak to God like a 6 year-old speaks to his dear mother. Think in him, act in his presence. Remind him of everything you have seen, heard and done. Be simple and open with your good mother, even be happy if she sees your imperfections, in order that she may know you as you are.

Be simple with yourself. Go directly to your duties through obedience, to what is proper and charitable at the moment, without prideful self-scrutiny. For that purpose, consider only God, his truths, his holy Will, his good pleasure. Behave this way and you will have a strong steadfast peace in the depths of your soul, and our Lord will be pleased. Oh! Love our good Master who dwells in your home only for you. Let his Tabernacle be your Tabernacle, and may your heart be his living ciborium.

I do pray for you all and, dear daughter, I leave you with our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

897

CO 899

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 38/76)

November 25, 1859, Rue Nau, 7, Marseilles

Dear daughter,

I'm eager to hear news about you and about your whole family. Kindly send me a few words about it. I expect to stay here another two weeks. On November 9th we had the joy of inaugurating[11] Exposition in our chapel. Everything was beautiful and devout. The Bishop said holy Mass. A large and devout gathering of the faithful attended, beautiful music made the feast more attractive. Our Lord must have been pleased. The new chapel is quite suitable and large.

[10] Literally: wind.
[11] Literally: the cult of Exposition.

We preached a eucharistic Octave which was well attended. Adorers are very numerous. It gave us great joy to see the Master surrounded by his children in a city where unfortunately the devil has so many slaves.

I will stop briefly in Lyons for a day and I will be happy to see your dear and fine mother and your respected father, if I can. Should divine Providence bring you there, I would be very happy to see you.

Dear daughter, always remain the child of divine Providence. Let yourself be led by it as if by the hand. Let it plan, prepare, arrange everything. Everything is the fruit of its love for you.

Be calm and free within yourself as much as possible, and learn how to put aside peacefully the things you love, whether good or unfinished, when our Lord wants you elsewhere.

I bless you, good and dear daughter, I am going to holy Mass to pray for you.

All yours,
Eymard

898

CO 898

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)

(III 13/21)

Marseilles, rue Nau, 7, November 25, 1859

Very dear daughter,

I have kept you waiting for an answer. It is because until now I have been weighed down with business. I'm beginning to breathe a little so I'm hurrying to say a quick hello.

I read your welcome letter with real interest and I saw that our dear Master is not forsaking you, but he is drawing good out of evil. - So he replaced Fr. Galtier very well; he sent you kind Fr. Pillet, who helped you so; he rewarded you a little for the good you had done him. So your gratitude is very legitimate and without sin.

When we suffer, when we are on the cross, it is such a great grace to find someone who understands and helps us!

So this good priest is dearer to me, because he was kind to you.

You are truly where the Good Lord wants you for the moment; however, dear daughter, profit from it. You have enough opportunities to be patient, gentle and charitable; just profit by it, and never let yourself be overcome by sadness and worries. God is there.

Continue your Communions: you need them as much as bread and air. - You say that you are not making progress. Alas! dear daughter, true progress consists in fulfilling God's holy Will, in always renewing our courage, always starting over, and constantly saying: I will do better.

Don't be too upset because... or think, that is human weakness. You did well in not paying attention to it: that is progress… our Lord entrusted it to you.

Write often to your sister Marguerite; open your heart to her and always tell her your sorrows; she is so kind!

I will let you know beforehand when I'll be coming to Lyons! I hope to pay you a quick visit, as well as the dear Gaudioz family and the Marcel Ladies.

Goodbye, good daughter, God loves you.

All yours,
Eymard

899

CO 900

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 13/19)

Marseilles, November 27, 1859[12]

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your good letter this morning. You have now arrived at Hyeres and are settled. Do like the child in a family who agrees to be wherever he is told and remains there as [long as] his father and mother will. Neither look back nor too far ahead; be like a child of [God's] fatherly Providence, which will take good care of you both spiritually and materially.

I read your daily schedule; it's fine. However, you will need to adjust it when your lessons require more time. Duty comes first; provided you have had holy Communion and said your rosary, be flexible about the rest.

Do not be sad about this little setback from the art teachers before you; God will give you your generous share. Take the nourishing diet you need, and do so without scruples.

You are and you will be the disciple of the Blessed Sacrament and our daughter. Jesus is at your service; live in him. I expect to stay here about 2 weeks. Everything is going well, adoration is well attended; we are very busy. Mme. de Guichen wrote to tell me that her husband is out of danger and is making progress toward a good recovery.

I leave you in our Lord, dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard, S.

900

CO 901

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 37/52)

All for the love and glory of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament

Marseilles November 26, 1859

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I have just received your dear letter. It gave me both pleasure and sorrow. I won't be able to see you at Jasson then, since I will be here another two weeks. If I can shorten my stay by a few days, I will do so. But since you must come to the South, it would be better for you to hurry and come sooner. However, please tell me when you are leaving. I have acquaintances at Hyeres who could help you. I am at your service. It would be good to reserve an apartment ahead of time. In that regard I advise you that Hyeres is preferable. I know the pastor there, who is a holy man and Mr. Laure is an excellent doctor in every way.

I will be happy to go to Tarare and make an appearance at Amplepuis from there. Dear daughter, you can understand that it will be hard for me not to find you there: that is life! it's a journey where we only greet one another in passing.

[12] Listed as November 25, 1859 by Fr. Andre Garreau.

I really shared in your joy over the return of your dear brother to his religious duties: the foundations are laid: your dear brother is a good man, he has a good heart and with this quality a person can return from great distances. We must complete through prayer what divine mercy has begun.

Our chapel was opened to the public by the Bishop on November 9th. Since that time, we have daily Exposition and many people have become associates.

So now we have raised a new throne to our good Master: may He rule there until the end of the world!

As for you, dear daughter, don't leave the battlefield yet, nor leave our good Saviour who is deserted by so many people. So, bow your head toward the Cross and the Tabernacle of love: that is sufficient for a loving soul.

My most affectionate greetings to the good Mother, Sr. St. Claire. Regards to your two dear children.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SSS

901

CO 902

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION
(I 2/5)

Marseilles, December 1, 1859

Very dear Father,

Our Lord made the storm pass over just in time, I think. Fr. Leroyer is fine. In the last few days he was telling me: "I don't know how I could think and tell you everything that happened between us!" So he is fine, a good adorer. I hope that he will become a good religious. He had a good upbringing. He is very sensitive and shows tact in his holy Ministry. He still is very zealous and has a great need to be doing good, but that is only natural, since he is coming from a purely active life, and has much energy to spend. Our Lord will lead him gently to belong fully to him. The one danger about him is that when zealousness sees an obstacle or a deficiency, then it is exposed to excesses...

Fr. Golliet is fine, he accepts guidance and corrections well, and these happen often, because he is distracted and not good at ceremonies, or he becomes easily confused. Good Fr. de Cuers is fine. From time to time, when something doesn't go well, he has an initial reaction against it that could upset the calmest person; but they will get used to him, and he controls himself as much as he can; he is pleasant and generous in every way. He dreads my departure; however, I must leave soon; I hope to go next week. During this last week, I've been suffering from a little cold. Today it seems to be loosening its stubborn siege.

Here is my plan: I would like to go see my sister for two days, for a family matter, since I am so close.

I promised the Pastor of the Madeleine, at Tarare, to visit his Adoration Association on my way. He wrote me a very fine letter about it. I will spend a few hours, perhaps one day in Lyons. After Tuesday of next week, don't write to me in Marseilles any longer. I want to try to leave quickly. I see that the house can function. As long as I am here, they depend on me. The material aspect is beginning to function, the cooking is suitable and sufficient. Little by little, they are getting organized. So many things are needed when a house is being organized.

Also, write a word to Fr. de Cuers to encourage him. He has so much confidence in and affection for you!

A word about the Chapel: many people and conversions; the Work has a good reputation; the reverence, the Office, the seriousness of worship, everything becomes a lesson and a source of edification.

Three days ago, I was surprised to meet three priests coming down the street. Guess who? Fr. Marcel, Fr. Rochet, and Fr. Dumont, going to Rome,[13] imagine my surprise! Cordiality and simplicity characterized this happy encounter. I accompanied them a long way; they invited me to supper with them; I declined: they are real friends. I was sorry to learn about the death of Fr. Fayolle which happened a few days ago.

Fr. Choizin is Superior at Toulon and is replacing Fr. Girin, who at this time is preaching at La Seyne.

If you could send me a pack of flyers for the Aggregation between now and Tuesday, I would be grateful. If not, send them to Miss Mariette at Fourvire.

See you soon, dear Father. My best regards to our whole family. Is dear Br. Michel feeling better? news[14] of his illness saddened us all for he is the St. Joseph of the house.

How many times we say here: Ah! if Br. Michel were here, we wouldn't be in so much trouble.

All yours,
Eymard

902

CO 903

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 203/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, December 3, 1859

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was very pleased to read all the details you gave me about yourself and about your household. I laughed a little to see that you are so worried about us here, while we have everything we need. It is true that at first so many things were missing, but in time everything fell into place; so, we don't need anything. I had a cold, and they filled me with syrup.

Miss Dalaca came to see me twice with Miss Caroline and another young woman; Three days ago they came with her dear mother. I was happy to see her. That fine family continues to be very generous. I expect to leave Thursday at the earliest; tell Fr. Champion about it so that he might send me the flyers for the Aggregation here, as he mentioned in his letter yesterday, that is, without the printed seal and with the indicated corrections, and then have the indicated words removed from the consecration.

My cold is better; here everything is fine for the moment.

I expect to visit my sister only briefly. I'll see your people in Lyons and, if possible I'll give Mme. Galle at least two hours.

Be totally God's and if he so wills, by means of being rejected and humiliated. It is a good path, the shortest one. I have time only to say that I am,

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Guillot
rue du fg St. Jacques 66
Paris

[13] Probably Marists.
[14] Punctuation as in original.

903

CO 904

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 33/75)

Marseilles, December 6, 1859

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am leaving here on the 8th; I will arrive in Lyons at night to enjoy the lights for the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception. The following day I will be at your home in the afternoon. Since I don't expect to have the pleasure of meeting you there, I will have that of seeing your dear fine daughter. I will stay in Lyons until Saturday around noon and leave from there for Tarare, where I will preach for several days to the Association of the Most Blessed Sacrament, at the Parish of the Madeleine.

We are really praying for your dear patient. She is dear to us, since she is dear to you, dear Madame. We are asking for her healing if it is better for her salvation. If in his mercy God wants to shorten her exile, open his Paradise to her sooner, we will ask not only for resignation to accept what God wants, but for trust which prefers his divine Will to every other good, a childlike abandonment which surrenders itself to his divine good pleasure like a child, a love which purifies, sanctifies, perfects the soul so effectively. Oh! Blessed are those who die in the Lord! says the Holy Spirit. In the presence of so many scandals and defections, if we did not have the holy Eucharist as a consolation and center, who could accept to live a long time on this wretched earth of sin and slavery?

Recommend me to the prayers of your dear patient, because suffering united to prayer is all-powerful.

Dear Madame, I remain in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. You can be sure that if you were in Lyons on Saturday morning, you would complete my joy.

Mme. Jordan C.
at Chervinges
by Villefranche (Rhone)

904

CO 905

TO MME. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL

(V 7/24)

Marseilles, December 6, 1859

Dear Lady,

As I promised my good friend, I will arrive at your home around 7:00 p.m., next Thursday. If through some unexpected event, I were not there by 8:00 p.m., don't worry. Some unexpected event would have held me back and I will arrive Friday morning.

I will be happy to see your whole family again and bless you all.

Believe me in our Lord,
Dear Lady,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Madame,
Madame Carrel
Quai d'Orleans 3
Lyons

905

CO 906

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)

(VII 2/17)

Marseilles, December 6, 1859

Madame,

They have written from Paris to tell me that you wish to see me when I pass through Lyons. I also will be happy to meet you and to speak with you about your dear son[15] who is edifying us all and who will be a blessing to your family, Madame.

I will be in Lyons on Friday and on Saturday morning. I will stay with Mr. Carrel, Quai d'Orleans, 3. However, dear Mother, it will be my pleasure to go see you on Friday afternoon at [the home of] Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet.[16] In the meantime, Madame, please believe me in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

December 9th and following: Missions at Tarare and Amplepuis.

Dec 24	*Conference Servants: The spirit of foundation.*

[15]Fr. Michel Chanuet.
[16] Her son-in-law.

906

CO 907

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 55/181 VI 4)

Paris, Christmas, 1859

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your letter and expressions of friendship; I didn't have either the energy or the time to write to you. I came back with a bad cold, then we were kept very busy with our First Communion which took place today. Eighteen [children] were given this joy. It was devout and moving! a beautiful and royal work! we must support it personally and materially: it's the work of zeal par excellence, it deals directly with the reign of the holy Eucharist. They will be confirmed tomorrow. Our chapel was so joyful today. These young people were celebrating with the Child Jesus.

I found everything here the same as usual; I was happy to return to the feet of our Good Master.

Sr. Benoite was anointed last Sunday. I found her near death, everyone thought she would die and so did she; but God healed her. She is better, until something changes.

Your house leaves me with a keen sense of its piety and virtue: it will be blessed by God. Continue what we have begun; beginnings always have greater graces and insight.

I know that beginnings are fervent, and then [the fervor] decreases. However, in our case, it should always increase and rise like the sun toward high noon, because we are always exposed to the ardent sun of the Eucharist.

I was very sorry to read what you told me, that Fr. Golliet has gotten a wig. The reason I regret this is because it is an exception to the common law, and also that he has become more sensitive or sensuous with us than before he came, since he didn't have one. I won't accept their assuming new practices, which they didn't bring with them, nor submitted. I don't know whether Fr. Golliet will hold to his wig more than to his vocation. But whatever be the case, please tell him kindly first of all that he should get back as he was when I left him. He should have spoken to me more seriously about it; in community, we must be more open. If he shouldn't want to give it up, kindly write and tell me, and I will inform him immediately. But I don't think we will have to give a definite command.

I'll go to the candle makers tomorrow and make arrangements for your candles.

Good Fr. Ricoux wanted to have a canopy made for about 60 francs; he would really need three times that much. We'll see what he'll decide about it.

I hope that the milder weather has you back on your feet, dear Father, because I was quite worried about you.

My most heartfelt greetings to all the Fathers and Brothers. Believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear and kind Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

907

CO 908

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET[17]

(VII 1/14)

Paris, Christmas, 1859

Dear gentle friend,

I am writing to give some news about myself and news about the house. I was passing through Lyons last Sunday, and on Monday I was sorry to learn only [when I got] here about your arrival in that dear city. I would have gone to greet[18] you when I arrived, because it seems like a century since I had the pleasure of seeing you.

I spent six weeks in Marseilles. I left the house functioning fully with daily exposition. They are six there, three are priests, one theologian and 2 very charming brothers.

The chapel is very busy. What a joy it is for us to be partly responsible for the establishment of 40 hours in Marseilles! The Bishop told us that without our community he couldn't begin it, since he does not have enough churches. We are also beginning the Work of First Communion for adult workers there.

Paris is the same as usual. Mr. Chanuet is edifying us. I think you know that he has been with us for two months.

We have a porter who is a tailor and seems like a courageous young man. We are eight here, and we are expecting two priests. Today we had a great feast! First Communion for 18 children; some of them were from 16-18 years of age.

They really edified and consoled us; what a change takes place in them. These wild, rude, brutish types when they arrive, these little street urchins, become gradually more humane. They become attentive, grateful, good and virtuous. First Communion changes them completely. They are no longer the same! Their hearts open and we find generous and gentle sentiments.

That is our work, dear friend, but it is still in its infancy, because there is still so much good for us to do! Nevertheless there have been 42 since August 15th! Thirty are to be Confirmed by His Eminence.

Mr. Carrie received the 200 francs which you sent us. *Deo Gratias*! Add to that the little which we found, we are paid up to date. The Pastor from St. Jacques gave 30 francs for his.

Now that Marseilles is functioning, I am looking to see where God may want a third Exposition. My heart goes straight to Lyons, but we must wait for the will and a sign from God.

It is well understood, dear Mr. Perret, that wherever we have a house, you will have your room, as a friend.

Thank you for remembering us. Everyone loves you here and embraces you very warmly. I am the first, and most loving in our Lord.

Eymard, Superior Soc.

Dec 27	*Conference Servants: Spirit of foundation. A single eucharistic family.*

[17] Architect in Lyons.
[18] Literally: embrace.

908

CO 909

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 19/104)

Paris, December 28, 1859

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been here in Paris for several days. I'm waiting to hear from you now and for news about your family. You have been a long time without writing to me! I think that Calvary has passed and we have reached resurrection and thanksgiving. I unite myself to it with all my heart.

Our house of Marseilles was functioning fully when I left. They have daily Exposition: it is a tiny fire enkindled in a large city.

Now we want to begin another, wherever it will please our good Master to establish his throne of graces and love. Lyons has been mentioned. I don't know yet whether it is the divine will. Our little community is increasing, we are now 15. What we need are true adorers.

I visited two Adorations[19] on my way: one at Tarare, a little city near Lyons, where I gave a short eucharistic retreat; and the other is at Amplepuis. How edified and happy I was to see so many fervent adorers in the parish.

Dear daughter, you are the very first one to whom I'm wishing a holy, happy and very eucharistic year. The holy Eucharist is the all of religion and all the perfection that can be found in this world. Ask from our Good Master that I may have the same love as Saints Peter and John, and I will be pleased with you.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior SSS

909

CO 910

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 56/181 VI 4)

COLLECTIVE LETTER TO THE FATHERS AND BROTHERS OF THE CENACLE OF MARSEILLES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

Paris, December 30, 1859

Happy New Year, very dear Fathers and Brothers! You finished the last one well: God was the one who did the planting. In this year ahead, you are the ones who will water and cultivate the tree of life. You will take this divine graft and graft it onto poor human nature, so that this foreign element may become natural and fruitful.

Yes! Find inspiration in the spirit of death and life which comes from the divine Eucharist. It is by death to ourselves that Jesus reigns in us!

Each day, renew the entire gift of yourselves to the love and glory of Jesus Eucharistic, and you will see that you'll always find something to sacrifice and give.

May our Good Master bless you, crown you with his grace, unite you to one another in his kindly love, the life of all your actions! That is my wish.

[19] Adoration groups.

Ask the same for me and for your brothers in Paris, who join in embracing you very fondly in our Lord.

Eymard

Dear Fr. de Cuers, I imagine that you must have received the ciborium that was supposed to be delivered to you on Saturday morning.

We are waiting for the money order from Marseilles.

I am united to you a thousand times over in our Lord.

910

CO 854

TO MISS J. BILLARD (SR. JOSEPHINE DU SS)

(III 1/1 VI 1/1)

RULE OF LIFE[20] FOR MISS BILLARD, IN RELIGION
SISTER JOSEPHINE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Sundays, make an hour of adoration in the afternoon.

For Vows:

1. For poverty, behave in the house like a good servant who is only the Lord's steward.

Take care of all the needed expenditures.

Every month render Miss G. an account of your expenses and receipts.

If you can foresee a week in advance that major personal furnishings need to be bought, ask permission for it.

2. For obedience, observe the rules below.
3. For the eucharistic vow:

Make a half hour visit to the Most Blessed Sacrament, and when you cannot, be recollected at home, in union with the adorations which our Lord receives in heaven and on earth.

On Sundays and feast days, make an hour of adoration. It may be divided. Then, remember that you gain a plenary indulgence.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Always remember that a servant belongs entirely to the service of her good Master, and serves him joyfully and devotedly.

Remember that a spouse belongs fully to the love of her divine Spouse, and seeks to please him alone and find her joy in him.

Live by the divine Eucharist and for the divine Eucharist, like the angels who live only for God in heaven.

[20] Date unknown, but Miss Billard joined the Servants in time for the Retreat of Vows July 1859. It seems likely that this document would have preceded that date. It is placed here in keeping with the listing of Fr. Garreau.

911

CO 854

TO MISS J. BILLARD (SR. JOSEPHINE DU SS)

(VI 1/1 III 1/1)[21]

DAILY SCHEDULE

4:45 a.m.	Rise	:	2 p.m.	Reading
5:30 a.m.	Meditation	:	3 p.m.	Our Fathers to replace
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	:		the Way of the Cross
8 a.m.	Manual work	:	5 p.m.	Afternoon tea
10 a.m.	Five Our Fathers	:	6 p.m.	Rosary
with the workers		:	6:30 p.m.	Visit to the Bl. Sacrament
11:55 a.m.	Personal examen	:	7 p.m.	Supper
Noon	Dinner	:	8 p.m.	Evening prayer
1 p.m.	Recreation	:	9 p.m.	Retire
		:		Bless the hour

912

CO 911

TO MISS LOUISE DE BRISSAC

(VIII 1/1)

Mademoiselle[22]

I am writing to tell you, in a few words, what you requested.

In September 1848 a young lady of thirty-one fell ill. Towards evening, her confessor was called. She was getting weaker, and she wished to see him herself. When the priest didn't come, I went to the sick woman's house to see how she was, only to find her confessor leaving: "How is the patient?" I asked him. "Better; there is no danger." "You heard her Confession, just in case?" "Yes." "Since I am here, I shall go and pay my respects." He came upstairs with me. I found the patient surrounded by her friends. She recognized me and greeted me. I spoke a few words about trust and surrender into the hands of God. Then, after about ten minutes, her condition changed all at once. She couldn't speak, and her eyes were glazed. She could no longer see nor hear. I felt her pulse; no pulse. Next, a cold sweat; her mouth opened in a death-rattle. So, turning to the confessor, I said, "But don't you see that she is slipping away, the death agony has begun? She'll be dead in a few minutes. Quick! give her Extreme Unction." "Alas!" he said, "It's too late; I have no time to go and get the holy oils." One of her friends heard this, and came up to the dying woman, and poured a few drops of water from La Salette into her mouth. The ability to swallow was gone. After that, the rattle ceased; no more movement, no more sound, but the chill of death. She fell back on her pillow, stiff and cold. Everyone thought she was dead and moved away, shocked and saddened. "Who will tell her family this sad news?" I asked. I fell to my knees at the foot of the bed; I tried to say a "De Profundis" but could not finish. I was obsessed by a thought, a gentle reproach to the Most Blessed Virgin: "O Kind Mother, good Lady of La Salette, she is dead, dead without receiving the sacraments; and yet we invoked You, and she drank water from La Salette. It's too much! You, who are so kind!"

[21] (Collected writings) Vol. II, p. 149. This timetable is perhaps complementary to the one printed in Volume III of the printed letters, p. 215, date: 1859. cf. Doc. 910.

[22] End 1859 or 1860

I stayed a while longer, crushed beneath the weight of this death, so unexpected. I raised my head towards the dead woman, and what did I see? She opened her eyes, smiled and said: "What's the matter?" I stood up. No one dared answer her. "We thought you were dead," I said. "No, of course not! I am all right, the pain has gone." She sat up on the bed, talking and laughing. Everybody was filled with amazement. After a quarter of an hour, full of surprise and joy, we went away.

I was sure that she wouldn't be able to get up for several days; but the next morning, as I was saying the 6 o'clock Mass, the first person to receive Communion was that woman - walking with firm steps, her face beaming with joy and perfect health. When I saw this I almost exclaimed aloud. I could not believe my eyes. After thanksgiving, I sent for her in the parlor. "What! You! so early in the morning!" "I am cured," she said. "No more pain; I had to come and thank the Good Lord and the Blessed Virgin." "But what happened? How were you cured? Do you remember seeing me last night?" "No; all I know is, that after my confession, I felt myself fainting away and dying little by little. I couldn't see, hear, or feel anything any more. I was choking, and I seemed to be holding on to life by a thread, and as if I had one foot ready to step into eternity, when the Blessed Virgin came and said: "My daughter, I have obtained mercy for you." I opened my eyes, and felt no more pain." - "What was the Blessed Virgin like?" "She had a crown of diamonds on her head, like uneven rays. Her robe was white, but such a white as I have never seen - bright as light. There were flowers in front, and she had a great cross on her breast, with pincers and a hammer. Why did she have a cross like that on her breast?" she asked. "I've never seen the Blessed Virgin like that." "But," I cried, "it was Our Lady of La Salette who cured you. We invoked her, you drank some miraculous water, and now you are cured. So now you must love her and serve her well!" "Oh yes," she replied; "otherwise I'd be very ungrateful."

The person who was cured is in good health today, and she has kept her word. She dearly loves Our Lady of La Salette, and she serves the Good Lord well.

There, Mademoiselle, is the story of this grace to which I was witness. If I had not [already] believed in the Apparition of the Most Blessed Virgin at La Salette, this would have opened my eyes.

Many people still don't believe it. They are not to be condemned for it; for prejudices, ignorance, influences and subservience can all draw a veil over our eyes. And besides, today, people do not want miracles; they make mockery of the miraculous. They refuse to allow that God has power to communicate with his creatures - poor, ignorant, wretched, full of faults.they are afraid of being deluded and they rush into rationalism. They cry "Imposture!" and dare to condemn all those who believe in La Salette; .as if it were a question of self-interest, partisanship, or ambition.

We are always being told: "It isn't possible that the Blessed Virgin appeared to those two children!" There is only one reply to all those poor subterfuges: "Can God do it, or can he not?" If he can, we say that he did; and we can show you the pilgrimage to La Salette with its conversions, its graces obtained, its well-attested miracles, its triumph in the midst of all its enemies, its glory without human glory, its trust in Her, She who has deigned to promise the salvation of the world, if people do penance." Alas! they would do better to be converted.

What makes me rejoice, Mademoiselle, <u>is to see Devotion to Our Lady of La Salette taking all its vitality, its whole mission, from its aim, which is:</u> <u>Reconciliatory Adoration</u>. Adoration is now being made on the holy mountain. The Most Blessed Sacrament is exposed solemnly on various days of the week. <u>Pilgrims are becoming adorers</u>. They are coming to the help of Our Lady of Reconciliation, who says: "I cannot hold up my SON's arm. The sins of men make it too heavy and provoke divine vengeance." Well then! we must come and be at the feet of our Savior, beside Mary, our kind Mother, and we will disarm the just wrath of Heaven, and save the world in spite of itself.

Forgive me this long letter, Mademoiselle. My heart has run away with my pen - but I know that we think alike.

My humble respects to Mr. & Mme. de Brissac, and believe me, in Jesus Christ our Lord,

Your respectful servant,
Eymard, Sup.

913

CO 915

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 34/75)

Paris, January 1, 1860[23]

Dear daughter,

Yours is my first New Year's letter. I shouldn't have to say so, but I want you to know that you are always my eldest daughter in our Lord and I protect your right as eldest. Well, one more year has passed, is finished, over, like one day's sunlight, like water in the torrent, but I hope that it was God's. It has gone ahead to wait for us in eternity.

What kind of year should I wish for you, dear daughter? The kingdom of God's love in you? Oh! Yes, this kingdom, because it is everything. If God reigns in us, his truth will be our light, ever true and just; his will, our rule; his law, our inviolable law; his glory, our purpose.

January 8th - Imagine that I was not able to continue my letter until this date!

I have just given a retreat to our Community for five novices who made their vows on the feast of Epiphany. That is what kept me busy.

So, your dear lady friend died? Let's hope that she was received in our Lord's mercy. We must pray for her still, because Purgatory is long and painful. One must be so pure to go to Heaven!

Pray and have a few Masses said for the repose of the soul of your former Pastor, Fr. Brun-Buisson, and you will be doing an excellent work of mercy.

I would like to offer a white cape to our Lord as a New Year's gift. The essentials are lacking: I only have 60 francs and it is costing me about a 100 francs. I am writing to see if you can help me. In that way, you will have Saint Martin's share.[24] Wait a little because New Year's must have drained your pocketbook. Just start saving until you come to Paris. That is my gift.

Goodbye, dear daughter, I must go quickly to [help] others.

I remain in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. My wishes and blessings from Heaven and earth for your dear Mathilde.

[23] Finished Jan. 8th.
[24] Half.

914

CO 913

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 112/145 VI 10)

Paris, January 1, 1860[25]

Good sisters,

Before retiring I want to write to wish you a happy New Year; I made this wish for you this morning at the holy Altar; tonight I am wishing it simply as your brother.

May Jesus be your joy, your love and your happiness! Continue to grow in virtue before him, like a tree watered from above! You are really free to serve him and the poor [as well], make good use of this freedom. Do all the good you can while you still have some energy and strength, for illness will come later, followed by the years when our energy is gone.

The Pastor tells me that you are doing a great deal of good and that he is pleased with you; that is fine, provided our good Master says: Amen!

The sick person about whom I had spoken to you, is better, she was a breath away from death. God is leaving her with us for our edification.[26]

We are a bit more numerous now, fifteen, which keeps me very busy.

On Epiphany, four will be making their vows. Pray for them.

January 4 - I wasn't able to finish my New Year's letter. I'm trying to do so this morning, at this early hour. My health is quite good, I hardly ever have migraines anymore; I have a slight cold like everyone else. Paris is the same as usual, people run after one another during these visiting days, hoping to miss each other; what a sad thing this social life is!

We are very happy to have the duty of our adorations to keep us tied down at home and to our beautiful service.

Our house in Marseilles is going well, our Lord is truly honored there, people come in crowds. Forty Hours were established in the diocese on our account; it is a great thing!

Goodbye, good sisters, continue to love our Lord and have others love him very much.

All yours in him,
Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. This is your gift[27]: pronounce your consecration after Communion.

[25] Finished Jan. 4th.
[26] Perhaps Sr. Benoite.
[27] New Year's gift.

915

CO 914

TO MME. ROTTIER (SR. ANTOINETTE DU SS)
(III 3/4)

January 1, 1860

Dear Lady I am sending you, as a gift, one of the Good Lord's little girls, in order that you may instruct her in her religion. I blessed you both from the heart at the holy Altar this morning, as well as your good desires.

Eymard

Madame Rottier
14, Impasse de Feuillantines
Paris

916

CO 916

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 3/17)

Paris, January 1, 1860

Dear Mother,

I join with your dear children in their wishes.[28] I want to bless them and add to them in our Lord.

Since I last saw you, the thought of you continues to be with me at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament and I constantly offer you to our good Master for his greater glory, because you are a mother only for his sake.

Also consider us as your little family and as your children.

Please offer to your dear son, [Mr. Amedee], to Madame your daughter, to Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet, my best wishes and fond respects, and believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mother.

All yours,
Eymard

[28]New Year's wishes.

917

CO 917

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 38/52)

Paris, January 3, 1860

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your wishes[29] at the feet of our little Saviour. May they grow with him and be consumed with him in his divine Sacrament!

I am happy to know that you are with the Dalaca family. I know that nothing will be lacking for your health there; that fine family is so kind! However, you may not have enough sunshine.

I surely prefer to see you there than at Hyeres. I am convinced that Mr. Laure[30] didn't settle or conclude anything; consequently, you will not owe anything. However, I'm surprised that they didn't write to you. That would seem to indicate that nothing was done.

Enjoy Jesus, his sunshine, his freedom, his divine goodness.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Give me news about yourself from time to time.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin

918

CO 918

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 57/181 VI 4)

Paris, January 4, 1860

Very dear Father,

I write to congratulate you for your eucharistic feast of Forty Hours, and for the outstanding honor of beginning the year in this way. But honor has its obligations! If only we could be with you to fulfill the glorious service!

We have been on retreat since Monday. The beautiful day of Epiphany will also be celebrated with the profession of Fr. Clavel and Mr. Carri, Brother Michael and Brother Charles; pray and have others pray for them, in order that they might be a true eucharistic guard.

Fr. Champion must have told you that your candles are on the way. I believe that you either have received them, or will receive them today. In the "*Universe*" we read an extract from the mandate; we are expecting the mandate itself. On the days when you don't have adoration, such as the Diocesan Forty Hours, it seems to me that you ought to limit yourself to 12 candles on ordinary days; what the Bishop has required for Forty Hours in his diocese doesn't concern us; that is also Fr. Champion's feeling. We have a tailor and former military man as a porter, he seems well disposed. We also have a new cook who seems to be a good religious; Brother Michel is working in the garden and inside.

[29] New Year's wishes.
[30] The doctor.

Fr. Amatori hasn't shown up yet. I think that the Bishop of Lyons held him back for the holidays. The one from Angers wrote to make a definite request of entrance. Nothing else is new, except for the New Year's visits which take all our time.

Have courage, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

919

CO 919

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 6/36)

Paris, January 10, 1860

Dear sister in our Lord

May Jesus be your life and virtue: these are my wishes for you! That you should be consumed for his adorable kingdom in his divine Sacrament; that is its crown! Oh! What value is there to the richest, wealthiest, most prominent, happiest life without Jesus and his glory?

My heart is very sad and my eyes tearful to see the triumph of the devil on earth. Satan's apostles are more faithful and committed to the ruin of souls than the apostles of Jesus, our good Savior[31]; when I see how few believers there are who understand Jesus Christ and his Gospel even now, so few adorers at the foot of the divine Tabernacle.

Oh! Hell is victorious and evil men are proud and happy to reject the religion of Jesus Christ and his priesthood... Oh! We were not sufficiently vigilant and committed to God's cause. We haven't fought sufficiently for his glory, and storm-bearing clouds are approaching. We must, therefore, really pray and become victims of reparation.

Since I last wrote to you, I went to Marseilles to begin our little foundation. I left three priests, one cleric and two brothers there; 6 in all. They have daily exposition; a great number of devout persons come to adoration.

The Bishop established Forty-Hours in the diocese since Jan. 1st. Our Work is to be complementary to it, because without us, the diocese wouldn't have enough churches for perpetual adoration. What a joy it is for us to serve at least for this great grace!

We are nine here, a few vocations are on the way; but, unfortunately people are afraid of adoration. This eucharistic vocation, which is so beautiful, holy and lovely, frightens people. I always hear them say: "I need the active life," as if divine love were not active, as if the flame which comes out of the hearth is not living and powerful! But that is nature speaking, and they think it's zeal.

I didn't receive any news from your dear, fine curate. He is obeying, that's fine, and he struck me as a good adorer. He is a man of God.

I established the Aggregation at Marseilles. The Bishop wanted to be the first member. A large crowd was enrolled. - When I returned to Paris, I visited the Parish adorations at Tarare and Amplepuis near Lyons, and I associated them. It's a preparation for something more perfect.

I'm also sending you your title; it's only right.[32] Then you can send me my gifts.[33]

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[31] Than the disciples of Jesus are committed to good and salvation.
[32] Membership in the Aggregation.
[33] New Year's wishes.

I leave you in our Lord and Master and I am in his divine love, dear sister,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior Soc. SS

P.S. I'll send the faculties for the association to the priests you will indicate.

Jan 17	*Conf. Ser: We must know our Lord; the antithesis, God of glory, annihilated God.*
Jan 20	*Conf. Ser: How our Lord is our means (no intermediary between him and us).*

920

CO 920

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 58/181 VI 4)

Paris, January 21, 1860

Very dear Father,

I was waiting for your letter to answer all your questions without needing to acknowledge your registered letter.

1. I received the 500 francs, that is, 200 for the candles, 100 francs for the Masses, and 200 francs for the house.

2. Mr. Picard began your work last Monday and definitely assured me that you would have things at the determined time. However, he said he might possibly ship the case via freight as far as Lyons, and in Lyons (the longest point of delay for merchandise for Marseilles) on the express, which, he said, wouldn't increase the cost much.

3. The Feast of the Epiphany was very joyful and devout. We had four professions which were very edifying. These were followed by great [personal] improvement. It was the grace of the vows, the blessed fruit of a tree which belongs totally to God.

Mr. Chanuet made his vow of obedience and he is edifying us all. He is a special person, a true adorer.

Mr. Amatori hasn't arrived yet; I don't think he will come. When they stay that long without giving any sign of life, it's either a proof that they don't have manners, or don't have a clear vocation. I learned that he had asked to enter the Fathers of the Holy Spirit in Rome, who had refused him on the grounds of inconstancy.

Mr. de Leudeville comes to see us; he wasn't able to make his retreat yet as Fr. Pontlevoy won't be free until after Lent.

God has replaced these two stragglers: Fr. Bissey from Angers has been here since the 13th, and Fr. Martin, a deacon from Nantes, since the 11th.

Eymard, Sup.

921

CO 921

TO THE MLLES BOURGES
(V 2/4)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia[34] *Paris, January 22, 1860*

Good and dear Demoiselles,[35]

If we often put our friends last, it is in order to be able to give them more time.

Thank you for your kind wishes, especially for your dear prayers. They mean a lot to me; you are a little like my family. Everything that concerns you is dear to me, especially your love for our good Master and your beautiful apostolate over the young hearts you are forming so well to [the practice of] virtue. So, that is a reason to love life, and take better care of your health to work a little longer. We will rest in Heaven so we should work for the glory of God [now]. In a certain sense, time is more valuable than Heaven, since Heaven will replace it eternally.

Love the Good Lord dearly, dear daughters in our Lord, because that is the fullness of humanity and of God. Let your rule of life be [found] in his grace of love, your virtues [found] in a single one: love. Then you will be very pleasing to God.

When will I go see you? I want to but I don't know. I do so daily at the holy altar. God is greater than this world, everything lives in him. That is where I bless you and remain,

Dear Demoiselles,

Always ever yours,
Eymard, Superior

922

CO 922

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 59/181 VI 4)

Paris, January 25, 1860

Very dear Father,

I'm writing to tell you that I received your registered letter. Thank you, it's a help from Providence.

Thank you also for the information you gave me about Mr. Bissey; so far we have only been edified by his behavior and his conversation. He has been very open with me. His personal attraction is more for the life of adoration, zeal is only secondary. He strikes me as very educated. So far, I can only thank our Lord for him.

I was in such a hurry, when I wrote to you last time, that I forgot to speak to you about Fr. Hermann's visit. It really surprised me, and I am still wondering why. I think and believe that it was out of his feeling for our former friendship.

He also knew that I had stopped in Lyons. He may have felt sad when he learned that I hadn't gone to see him. It was better not to go. After the letter he had written, I had firmly resolved to put him aside until God should place me in a situation to break the silence.

[34]This text was printed as a letterhead.
[35]Their brother was a priest and curate at La Seyne-sur-Mer.

Our conversation was friendly, but we didn't speak about the details of the Society, since other people were there and it wasn't appropriate.

I returned his visit; he told me several times: "Let's remain united, let's remain united."

I was too hurt by his behavior and his words to be as open as in the past. It may come, but not until there are some new signs....

For the loan, I understand that it would be creditable to pay what is most urgent. I wasn't able to find anything here, the time isn't right, people are worried about the outcome of events in Italy. You mentioned Mr. Guerin to Brother Carri: that was a good idea. All yours, Eymard

923

CO 923

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 20/104)

Paris, February 12, 1860

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

You yourself are somewhat the reason why I haven't written to you. In your next to last letter you told me that you would send me a detailed letter. I was wrong to wait for it and then a thousand and one things delayed me until today.

I expect to be in Paris at the time you mention; if I make any changes, I will write to tell you ahead of time. I would be very happy to see you. It has been so long since I've seen you! And the last time you were under such duress.

Regarding your plans for La Salette, it's too soon. It's still too cold in our mountains! Wait for the good weather. You would risk being unable to go up the Holy Mountain and taking unnecessary chances. No, no, wait for the good weather, as I must make a trip to Marseilles, we could coordinate our trip as far as La Salette. I would be so happy to do it, but under one condition; that condition is that you would spend half a day in my little home town of La Mure.

I must tell you that one of your friends is dying in Paris, Mme. George. I've just seen her and heard her confession, she received the Last Sacraments, she really longs to go to the Good Lord. What a beautiful soul! I go to see her when I can. Death appeals to her. Oh! How lovely is the death of one who loves the Good Lord! She was glad to know that I knew you and I to know that she is your friend...

Very dear daughter, it would make me happy if God wanted us at Nantes, among those good people! I'm now asking the Master where he wants us to found a third cenacle! Ask him that for us. Who knows whether the Bishop of Nantes might not want to receive us! Couldn't you ask him? In that case we would prepare ourselves for it; otherwise I would let things develop in Lyons. I always loved Nantes; my father was a royalist, it's the land of the brave.

Don't look for any other will but God's, dear daughter. The best thing is his will at each moment, received with trust and holy surrender.

Don't look for any other virtue than that of a daughter's love which goes towards Jesus, for him and through him, and not through you or for you. Oh! What lovely faults and blessed poverty that create such a great need for our Lord in you!

The poor person loves his rags because they are his claim to charity. So receive Communion every day, dear daughter; and if we could receive Communion a hundred times a day, I would tell you: receive Communion a hundred times. That is where your strength and life are to be found.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I don't have time to reread my letter. I have had a tooth infection until today and it made me lazy.

All yours,
Eymard

924

CO 924

TO MR. ROSEMBERG AND FAMILY
(VII 2/9)

Paris, Feb. 17, 1860

Very dear friends,

I expect to arrive tomorrow night, Saturday, please God. I don't need to tell you the joy in my heart to go see you.

What also makes me hasten this trip is the desire to visit and comfort our dear holy Mr. Dupont. I was expecting to stay with him, unless you prefer otherwise.

Kindly inform good mother Marceau. I am afraid I may not have time to write to her.

All yours,
Eymard

Feb. 18-22 - Sermons to Adoration Society - Lazarist Chapel, Tours.

925

CO 925

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 25/181 VI 4)

February 21, 1860[36]

Good Father de Cuers,

It has been a long time since you have given me news about yourself, and you know how pleased I am to receive it. So I am sad when it is slow in coming. I know that your time is short, and your strength limited, so it is rather for personal satisfaction that I desire it. I believe that you must have received your candelabras in time, because I also inquired in time whether they were on their way.

For a few weeks now we have had Exposition every day without interruption until 9:00 p.m., and we will prolong nocturnal adoration. It is only right to give more, when we receive more.

All the Fathers and Brothers are well. However, we have one less aspirant-brother, the porter, a new tailor, whom Fr. Champion had tested during my stay in Marseilles. He didn't have the vocation, to say the least. He is gone.

I went to see good Mr. Dupont at Tours. He has just lost his distinguished mother; he was deeply touched by this sign of friendship. I preached for his Nocturnal Adoration group which is doing well; he still loves you very much and asks to be remembered to you. Our theologians are doing well, I went to see the Bishop of Marseilles to request the tonsure for Mr. Carri.

The Sisters at No. 66 are doing their share for the Eucharistic service, especially by suffering.

Sr. Benoite was very sick; as it is her mission to suffer, we eventually get used to it. Her graces are still exceptional; they are especially for the Church and the Sovereign Pontiff. Heaven and earth need prayers, penances and reparation.

[36] Although published as 1859, the content of the letter indicates that it was written in 1860. (Troussier)

Fr. Leroyer writes to me that you are not very well, good Father. Please take care of the small spark you still have within you, because we still have work to do for our Good Master and a few battlefields to cover.

Here, my natural feelings sometime surprise me with fears like those [which] pagans have: wondering where we will find what we need to live, to meet our expenses, since we don't have any regular resources, except yours and our Masses. But trust in God quickly chases this devil away and hopes against all hope in our Good Master, who has given us so many proofs of his infinite goodness. It often happens that I don't have anything, not one cent, then I thank God, who knows it well and wants to test us: *etiamsi occiderit me, in ipso sperabo*.[37] Goodbye, dear Father. My love to the Fathers and Brothers.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Feb 22	*Conf. Ser: On mortification.*

926

CO 926

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 21/104)

Paris, February 25, 1860

Dear Lady and dear sister in our Lord,

This morning I saw the Bishop of Nantes at 10:00. I was very pleased to meet such a devout and friendly Bishop. We had a great deal to talk about; our little Society, its purpose, its works. He listened to me sympathetically. When we parted he told me that he hoped that our Society would work in his diocese some day. In everything his Excellency told me, I could see that our Work would correspond to his spiritual [inclinations]; his Vicar General also seemed interested.

So, dear lady, the first step has been taken. You will take the second if God so inspires you; and if he wants us in Nantes his kindness will provide us with the means. I was told that there is a beautiful chapel which is free and would be suitable for adoration: the one at the Oratory.

It would truly be Providential if we began Exposition in Nantes during this year. We would begin with six people, as at Marseilles. This number is sufficient for daily adoration.

I received a letter from Miss Aglaee de Martel who was asking about the Aggregation. Perhaps she might become interested in the Work?

What a grace for Nantes, if it were God's will! We are discerning whether we should start with Lyons or Nantes. A few smaller cities would like us to come, but as I told the Bishop, we would prefer the large cities, in order to have influence over a greater area.

Mme. George, a fine lady, died about 10 days ago, with a most gentle and strong trust in God's mercy. She was pleased with your letter and your friendship. In her great desire to be one with God and no longer offend him she said to me: "Father, tell me that I will die soon. Oh! How happy I would be if you would tell me that I will die today! I have really offended God, but he is so good that I trust in his infinite mercy." Then, when some fears would come to disturb her soul, she would cry out: "Oh Mary! Mary! My dear Mother! I trust in you, in you who are so kind, you whom I have loved, and whom I love. No, you will not forsake me." Then she would say to me: "I am afraid that the Blessed Virgin no longer loves me. - Why? - Because I can no longer recite the

[37] Even if he killed me, I would trust in him.

Office of the Immaculate Conception now. Is that a sin for me? Eight years ago I promised the Blessed Virgin to say her Office every day, until my death, and I have always said it." "No, no," I told her, "your condition dispenses you from it and so do I." Then I gave her a short prayer to say. "So then, you believe that Mary still loves me?" - "Oh yes, and very much." Then, this poor dying woman who could no longer make herself heard, unless we leaned very close to her, raised her hands toward heaven, and cried out in a voice which could be heard throughout the house: "Oh Mary! Mary! My dear Mother, my hope, yes, those who call upon you will never be forsaken. Help me at this time, defend me against my enemies. I will owe my salvation to you. I love you. Oh yes, I love you." As she said this she fell back into her state of agony, and she died a few hours later. Oh what a happy death!

I've just returned from Tours where I preached the Forty Hours for my friend Mr. Dupont's adoration group. That explains my delay. I thought about you. If only you had been just a few hours away, I would have gone to see you.

I can't tell you yet whether I'll be here at Easter. I'll write to tell you later.

Goodbye, dear lady and dear sister in our Lord. Love our Lord very much and be fully given to his glory.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.

I've just received your letter. Thank you. Pray, and go directly to the Bishop. See whether there is any hope. I will gladly make the trip to Nantes to assess the possibilities. I feel something in the depths of my heart which pushes me strongly toward Nantes. Well then, long live Nantes in our Lord!

927

CO 927

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 39/76)

Paris, February 27, 1860

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your kind letter. I really wanted to receive news from you. It's true that I am late with you. I offered my wishes[38] for you at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament, and you know what I wish for you, the love of our Lord, that is, a simple childlike surrendering love; a love which keeps nothing for self, which does nothing for self, which wants nothing for itself from anyone on the human level. Oh! happy the soul who loves in this way, for whom Jesus is every good, every joy, every desire!

Dear daughter, be like the blind man, the paralytic, God's own beggar, and you will live by Jesus Christ. May my wishes for you also include your dear daughter. She hasn't given me any sign of life for a long time. As for the letter of Fr. M., it made me happy to read it. Through his words we can perceive a devout soul which belongs entirely to God, but which is embarrassed to make a request. Now, about the money, if it weren't Fr. Mayet who was telling you about his plans, I would say no, because the project will take place in any case. But it seems to me that there is a delicate question here. So then, make your little offering.

[38] New Year's wishes.

I was hoping to see you come to Paris, but God is holding you back. May he be praised anyway! I bless you, dear daughter, as well as dear Stephanie. May God fill you with his holy love!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was sorry that I didn't see your nephew. I would have sent him to a Polish doctor, a priest at the Cemetery of Fr. Lachaise, who has permission from the Minister to treat eye problems. We are continually praying for your father, Mr. G., and your whole family. Oh! count on the mercy of God!

Unfortunately, it is the consequence of stubbornness, your maid caused problems. So forgive failings of the heart, errors, etc., but be firm about authority.

Miss Boisson, teacher at Thorins,
Romaneche (Sane and Loire)

928

CO 800

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 50/52)[39]

…[40]

The month of St. Joseph is near. It is your dear mother's month.[41] We will celebrate it as fervently as we can and place you with us at the feet of this great Saint.

Your poor mother really needs you and your influence of grace. Stay near her as if you were carrying our Lord in your hands. There is an influence of grace, just as there is an influence from nature: the first is more spiritual, but just as real... and of conformity to the divine Will.

Please don't forget me in God's presence. Your souls are always present to me in Him.

All yours in Our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Feb 28	*Conf. Ser: The month of St. Joseph (various thoughts).*
Mar 1	*Ret. Serv: Routine.*
Mar 2	*Ret. Serv: Faults.*

[39] Excerpt form a letter.
[40] No indication of date. Tentative placement.
[41] Patronal month: her mother's name was Josephine.

929

CO 928

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 2/14)

Paris, March 4, 1860

Very dear Mr. Perret,

I had begun a letter to you and a thousand and one things obliged me to put it aside. I hope this one will succeed better.

We certainly shared in your pain and sorrow over the illness and death of your dear brother. You are always the one to console everyone else, and so I hope that you will find great comfort in God's mercy, and that your brother will owe a Christian death partly to you. Then again, he was so kind, so generous toward the poor! And he suffered so. These are forerunners, initiations into the grace of salvation. We continue to pray for him.

So, dear Mr. Perret, you have been ill. This made me very sad because I know very well that you have responsibilities for the family, and here we would have been so happy to see you and heal you quickly. - I think that you are bedridden because of so many painful emotions and night vigils.

We will pray so that you can come back to us quickly; you have been away from us for so long! You will find good friends and brothers here: Mr. Chanuet, Fr. Bissey with a golden heart, and others. Now our Exposition takes place all day, every day. Our only ambition is to see it perpetual, day and night.

We are 11 here and 6 in Marseilles. I would have liked to found the third house in Lyons, Mary's city, at the feet of prayerful Fourviere, where I received so many graces! and especially the first thought of the Work of the Blessed Sacrament, but it seems that our good Master doesn't want it, and then, His Eminence of Lyons doesn't want it.

The Work of First Communion continues to grow, 63 children plus 4 older adults, and weddings to perform.

35 children are preparing for First Communion at Easter - They are well-behaved. The lotteries always perform miracles; the good points are like gold from California. Mr. LeRebours found 300 francs to help us dress the children, but it will not be enough.

If only you were here, good papa Perret! This is your work, you sowed and watered it! See how God is blessing it. We prepared guidelines for the Work. It is new. I am sending you a copy. Mr. Prevel liked it.

Give us news about yourself or have someone tell us how you are, RSVP.

I am very fondly and devotedly yours in our Lord, dear friend and brother.

Eymard, Sup.

P.S. News! A few days ago they told me: The porter is gone with the watch, money, Masses etc... It seems that we are meant to be poor. - I ran to your house, the gates were well closed - the Angel was watching over them. - I saw your shoe repairman.

Mr. Louis Perret, Architect
8 Quai de l'Archeveche
Lyons

Mar 9	*Conf. Ser: Simplicity.*

930

CO 929

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 22/104)

Paris, March 9, 1860

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I've just received your kind letter telling me that God's time hasn't come yet.[42] I thanked him for letting me know so clearly. Well then, dear lady, we will prepare for it. We'll work, not at becoming greater, more numerous, more eloquent, wealthier, but more nothing in the love of our Lord. Then, when the time will have come, the doors will all open by themselves, because everything obeys our Lord.

You have been given a beautiful mission, that of prayer. It is great and all powerful. We will join with you. So, we will leave our Lord in the tomb a little while longer.

While you were working for the foundation of Nantes, we were on a small cross. A porter ran away after stealing everything he could from us. Then, not satisfied with this escape, he returned during the Office on Monday, and took everything that was left, as he pleased. Well, we must thank God again, because that poor wretch only stole things from us. Fortunately, he didn't touch the sacred vessels.

We still have Jesus. We are rich enough. But now we will have to appear before the judge, and it's naturally distasteful.

I am definitely staying in Paris during Lent. On Easter we will have a beautiful ceremony of First Communion for our adults, and I must prepare them. May God be all in all for you.

Goodbye, dear lady.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior.

Madame de Grandville
8 rue Saint-Laurent,
Nantes

931

C O 930

TO MISS FANNY MATAGRIN
(V 5/5)

Paris, March 11, 1860

Dear Mademoiselle,

Your letter was the first from Tarare, but also the first in my heart. Thank you, thank you for your good thoughts; not for your gratitude, because I have done so little for you! But I hope it will be an account [from which you draw.]

[42] For a foundation in Nantes.

You really pleased my heart when you told me that adoration is going well and has increased a little. It is truly the royal work, from which all the others flow, and it is the grace and purpose of them all. So, dear Mademoiselle, continue to be very committed to it. It's the duty of the Angels.

When you find the time is right with the Pastor, we will go to give a good eucharistic retreat. But we would need to give it a full week, to do something a little solid and consistent.

Mme. Tholin writes these words to me from Toulon (where she is convalescing): "This is what Fr. Duffieux from St. Chamond wrote me: For some time I have been hoping for Fr. Eymard's visit. Please assure him, when you have the opportunity, of my respect and sincere affection."

So, you see, everything is not lost and unfortunately I am not yet on the path of canonization.

But now, let's talk about you, that would be better.

The holy will of God at every moment, as indicated by necessity, is the greatest grace. It's worth more than any work of zeal, than holy Communion itself, because it is our holiness. When you cannot go to beg the bread of life, then, receive Communion spiritually in order to maintain a hunger and thirst for God, and your soul longs for the gift of his love, while remaining where you are like St. John the Baptist.

Accomplish your vocal prayers as a duty, that's all, but be faithful to prayer of the heart. That will always have more feeling, because it expresses the present feelings of your soul.

Get as close to an interior life of union with God as you can, by uniting your heart and by the adherence of your will to whatever God wants for you at each moment. That's the fountain of love which gives and love which receives.

How sad I was that I didn't know that good Fleury was at Tarare! I would have been happy to see him, but I will make up for it by praying for him.

My health is good enough, since I keep going, and I am working more than the others. So, I must be well.

My faithful greetings to your good devout sister, to Mme. Duttrel, and believe me very sincerely one with you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

932

CO 931

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 39/52)

Paris, March 12, 1860

Dear sister in our Lord,

I am upset with myself for having neglected you so long! though your charity forgives me. So, we need to forgive something.

Our good Master sometimes visits us with his grace from Calvary, but also with the strength of his love. It's good to see this divine love lighten his Cross. This dear daughter[43] must come to us from Heaven, otherwise we would remain quietly on Mt. Tabor.

Things pass quickly: the sun is more beautiful after the storm, when the clouds have passed.

I didn't write to you about Alger, dear daughter. Nothing was clear to me.

Your good sister, who can travel free, would do better to come to see you in Toulon.

I am sending you the two flyers requested for St. Chamond.

[43] The Cross.

I was perhaps wrong to send a certificate to the Pastor of St. Peter's to associate adorers. My only consideration in all of it was the spiritual welfare of souls and a pledge of friendship toward this kind Pastor. Does he see it as a search for an invitation or does he feel a need to be reserved because of the Marist Fathers? May God be praised for everything!

I'm happy to know that you are getting better and are at home. Mr. Tholin must have been happy to see your health improve.

Yes, dear daughter, there is still much to do in this world; Heaven is eternal, but this life of Calvary is passing.

Be good and write to me without fear of disturbing me. You know how happy I am to receive news about you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Tholin
at Mr. Dalaca's, Restaurant keeper
rue Bourbon
Toulon

933

CO 932

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 60/181 VI 4)

Paris, March 13, 1860

Very dear Father,

Your letter reassured me a little. I can see that you are ill, and very ill. I won't tell you: take care of yourself, take care of your health, do only what you think is prudent for you to do: that would all be true, and both friendship and charity require it. But I'll go further, I tell you: find your strength in our Lord. You are a poor invalid serving the Good Master, and everything must serve his honor, just like old veterans who honor their King.

For my part, I ask our Lord to spare you, so that you may work yet a while. On the battlefield we need all our soldiers; and each one must devote himself until death. Obey what your condition requires.

Now about your errands:

The candles have been ordered as you wish. Here enclosed is the bill for your purple vestment; I deposited the money for a hundred and twenty Masses.

Really, that poor Mr. Picard has no brains. I went to see him and he said: "The first shipment left by freight. I will send the other by freight as far as Lyons; (from Lyons) to Marseilles by express. It won't cost much and we will gain eight days."

It's really distressing, it's finished with him. We will go elsewhere for your things; at least we will be served better and more properly.

I'm pleased with your plan to send Fr. Leroyer here for profession, but only one month before. You need him, and one month here will be enough for him. He will have a Eucharistic month and be the first one.

Therefore, I will send you Father Clavel. I'll send him ahead of time so that he may have time to be trained. This dear Father has improved a lot. He is broadening out and beginning to do a great deal of good. However, as long as you have a breath of life, good Father, your shadow must

be the Superior, unless our Lord says the opposite twice over. It isn't talent, nor human prudence, nor virtue that makes a good Superior, but obedience and trust in one's grace of state.

Have cells made on the south side when you can. Then our Lord will pay for them and fill them.

I wasn't able to see the Bishop of Marseilles yet. You know how many times you had to go sometimes.

You didn't tell me anything about Fr. Golliet! Is it because things aren't going well, won't go well? Is he just a Mr. Huan?[44] That frightens me. Thank you for your remittance from the Legion of Honor. It arrived just in time, as divine Providence always does, letting me wait until my last penny.

At the city hall of Observatory (which is ours now), I was told, as at the Pantheon, that you need only to go to the city hall in Marseilles with the note I'm sending you, and you will be paid there.

I'll write to Fr. Leroyer soon.

Everyone embraces you.

All yours,
Eymard

934

CO 933

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 23/104)

Paris, March 13, 1860

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your letter and offering at this very moment: may Jesus repay you. I will also pay daily interests,[45] because I feel how pleasant and sacred is my debt toward you.

Yes, there is still hope that we will go to Nantes. That is always how our Lord acts toward us and through us. The foundation is already written in Heaven. I've made my plans: you will be the first associate and the first sister.

When we are ready, I'll write to tell you, and you'll see how simple things are for the Master and how all the doors will open when he arrives.

I asked St. Joseph for one year. It will be his foundation and his cenacle.

Don't come to Paris yet, the weather is too nasty. It's already something that you can lessen negative things. What is positive takes place in heaven at the same time, but you don't have to see it.

Dear daughter, love and put wood on the fire.

You can begin getting the furnishings for the foundation of St. Joseph with sacred linens and a few purchases for the altar. I have great confidence. Goodbye.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

Madame de Grandville
8 rue Saint-Laurent,
Nantes, (…Loire)

[44] Name of a candidate who had left at the beginning of the foundation. cf Doc. 732.
[45] Through prayer.

Mar 14	*Conference Servants: We must cling to our Lord more than to his gifts.*

935

CO 934

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 3/14)

Paris, March 14, 1860

Very dear Mr. Perret,

Are you feeling better? We hope so - we are praying very much for your prompt and complete recovery because there is so much good for you to do. However, since I have received no news after the [first] one telling me you were ill, we are quite worried, and if Lyons were not so far, or if we could heal you, we would come to you right away.

Very dear papa Perret, kindly have the charity to send me or have someone send news about you to your children[46] and friends - who are waiting and counting the days until you arrive.

The little, rather, the large catechism family is still increasing - 63.

The children for Easter First Communions are well-behaved. Now it is really a family.

The gentlemen of St. Vincent de Paul always come to help us.

But now it's time to clothe them. I do go to beg a little for them, but I know so few people. - However, I have 5 pledges.

God will come to our help.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very dear Mr. Perret,

All yours,
Eymard

936

CO 935

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 113/145 VI 10)

Paris, March 15, 1860

Very dear sisters,

If I wrote to you as often as I think of you, you would often receive letters from me, for you are my only family on earth, and I love La Mure because of you. So, if you should die before me, I would go to La Mure only to cry.

I must admit that I really want to see you. Perhaps our Lord will grant me this opportunity in his divine goodness, but I don't know when and how. We must entrust it to his divine Providence.

You must be suffering a lot from the extreme cold, so, dear sister, you must stay at home more when you are unsure of the weather or when you are not well. Avoid sudden changes from hot to cold; that has always been your great problem. Though we all must do penance, nevertheless, you should spare yourself in regard to penance and to your weakness. Let Nanette do a little more.

[46] The First Communicants in Paris.

And you good Nanette, like the heart, you never stop; that is fine. St. Martha will receive you gladly in Paradise. But don't wear yourself out too quickly because each of you must live as long as the other.

As for the will, I don't know what should be done, except that you simply put me in both of yours. Here I have made mine in your favor, both of you. On that point consult Mr. Arnaud, or better, don't mention me in it.

Everything is going well in Paris; we always have much to do; our beautiful Work is still giving us great consolation and could keep a hundred people busy. Our house in Marseilles is going well and doing much good. We are now seventeen.

These good women are fine;[47] Sister Benoite is always the crucified one; what an extraordinary person! I don't know whether there is anyone like her; what is admirable is that she is not aware of her graces and gifts.

Pray very much for us. Goodbye, good sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Please forward this letter as addressed. Send me the name of the military person you spoke of and a certificate about his mother's poverty and infirmity, signed by the Mayor, and one from the doctor, if possible.
Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
la Mure d'Isere

Mar 16	*Conference Servants: Self-love.*
Mar 19	*Conference Servants: The knowledge of our Lord.*
Mar 20	*Conference Servants: St. Gabriel. It is difficult to be recollected. The best adoration.*
Mar 23	*Conference Servants: Adoration.*
Apr 3	*Conference Servants: The last days of Holy Week.*

937

CO 936

TO CARDINAL MORLOT, (PARIS)[48]

(VI 2/4)

Eminence,

Bishop de Langalerie, Bishop of Belley, by the enclosed permissory letters of March 18, 1860, authorizes Fr. Marie-Michel Chanuet, a priest of his diocese and a member of our Congregation, to receive the Tonsure and all the Sacred Orders at the hand of Your Eminence or any Bishop delegated by yourself. The undersigned Superior of the above-mentioned Congregation requests Your Eminence to kindly delegate for the Tonsure Bishop Sarra[49] Jean-Marie Benoit, Bishop of Perth in Western Australia, who is passing through Paris; and also to allow him to confirm the young workers for First Communion, who number 45.

[47] the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.
[48] Approved and signed as follows: Fiat ut petitur
die 3a Aprilis 60
S. Buquet
[49] Is it Bishop Serra, cf Doc. 939.

It is with the deepest respect that I am happy to be, Your Eminence,

Your most humble and devoted son in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

Paris
April 3, 1860
fg St. Jacques 68

938

CO 937

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 24/26 VII 17)

Holy Saturday 1860[50]

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in J.C.,

I greet you with the first Alleluia and wish you a Happy Easter! Your Lent is long and excruciating, always in prison with your cross,[51] but how good and beautiful Easter in Heaven will be! Desire it with all your heart for it is truth without a cloud, goodness without trials, love without pain.

And yet I don't wish it for you just yet, because there is no fruit without the tree and no crown without combat. And I would not wish for your happiness yet; this is the time for great profits; since the capital of Grace is immense, the gain must be proportionate.

Take your state of health as your rule for devotions. Illness takes the place of everything, to the highest degree; the state of suffering counts for much; let that be the weight in the scale.

The Holy Will of God at a given moment: that is the best timepiece!

You mention a retreat with me later - you may count upon my heart for that - for it [my heart] would be happy to help you. -

I saw Mme. Spazzier here one day; she came to Nancy with a lady from Hyeres. She returned to Hyeres yesterday at 11 a.m., where she is to stay another month.

I continue to think that the religious life is not her vocation - I advised her to settle at Notre Dame de Laus, where, with her small income, she could live simply and piously, but I told her to think about it further.

I have seen the good Lady from Leusse - with the greatest pleasure - what a beautiful soul!

I have not yet given Sr. Pauline your document. I found her address only these last few days.

I would be pleased to meet the holy Priest from Valence whom you mention, but let's wait until he has more time. I don't usually believe in that excuse of lack of time when something important is involved, since I reproach myself, with good cause in such matters; I have been very <u>lazy</u> in this regard. We waste so much time on trivial things.

Tomorrow we are having the First Communion for 36 adults - what a fine harvest! and on Quasimodo Sunday,[52] 45 to be Confirmed. How good the Lord is to console us like this!

Our house in Marseilles is doing wonderful things - it is enough to inspire a Holy[53] jealousy; the city of Marseilles has more fervor, even more than Lyons, where they want nothing more - <u>not even the Forty Hours</u>.

[50]Paris, April 7, 1860.
[51]Perhaps she was a shut-in.
[52] Sunday after Easter.
[53] Capitalized in original.

Our Paris house is going well - there are 22 of us. We have exposition daily and part of the night.

We've had an adventure! We were robbed[54] by a new caretaker, by the name of Joseph Riboulet, former sergeant of prison guards in Toulon and tollkeepers in Roussillon. If ever that rascal approaches you, as he has some acquaintances, be warned - he is a crafty thief and a hypocrite - an image of our [own] wretchedness before God who has done so much more for me than I ever did for that poor devil.

I was unable to go back to see you on my way through Lyons. I had to leave suddenly when I learned that someone in the community next door was dying. - God cured her.[55]

Goodbye, dear daughter. Alleluia.

All yours,
Eymard

939

CO 938

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 61/181 VI 4)

Easter Monday, 1860[56]

Very dear Fr. de Cuers,

I was eager to write and wish you the Resurrection *Alleluia* or even to write to you sooner. I couldn't do so, my little migraine headaches come back in the spring, and in this state I am lazy and stupid.

We've been crushed with work, yet very happy. Yesterday on the holy day of Easter, thirty-three young workmen made their First Communion in our chapel, along with three girls.

Bishop Serra, Bishop of New Holland, came in the morning to Confirm them and conferred the tonsure on Mr. Chanuet. If you have seen the Bishop of Marseilles, His Excellency must have told you about his visit to our house, and that he conferred the tonsure on Mr. Carri on Passion Sunday. So now we have two additional clerics.

During my stay at Marseilles, Fr. Champion had temporarily taken a sergeant tailor from the Dauphin; we had ended by making him a porter. He seemed to be devoted and capable, then one day, during Benediction, he disappeared, taking with him a watch, money, clothing. He had the audacity to steal a second time. During the morning Office, he took all Mr. Carri's secular clothes.

That was a small trial: the worst part was that we had to appear before the commissioner, the judge of instruction, while waiting for the courts.

God be praised for everything!

Mr. Perret is still in Lyons where he lost his older brother. He writes that he will come to Paris at the end of the month; in Lyons he took up all his good works. He is a holy man.

Here everything is the same as usual. I've just had an excellent sergeant-major make a retreat of discernment. He seems to have excellent dispositions, he is intelligent, we are studying to see whether he is suitable for us.

[54] In the margin, he wrote: twice.
[55] Sr. Benoite.
[56] Probably April 9, from Paris.

940

CO 939

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 40/76)

All for Jesus, Host of Love *Paris, April 21, 1860*

I'm sorry that I made you wait for my reply, dear daughter. I had forgotten.

1. Don't commit yourself to the request on your own or in your own name, without consulting Mr. G., for many reasons which you can understand. If he says no, definitely no, consider it as a sign from Heaven. However, you can still present the reasons in favor.

2. If the answer is no, you can make it known while expressing your good will for a later date.

3. Dear daughter, although the Blessed Sacrament is your royal dwelling and your abode of love, since you are still living a social life you have social responsibilities and duties which cannot appropriately be left aside. In that case (if you cannot do otherwise) you must consider what is suitable to your situation, your submission and peace, and do for the best.

4. I was happy to learn that your father fulfilled his Easter duties on Wednesday. May God be praised and may he bring to completion what his divine mercy has begun so well! The time which followed the conversion was a time of great grace: it's the time to plant seeds for Heaven.

If he had died immediately after his confession, there was no doubt to hope for his salvation; but while he is living under the influence of sanctifying grace, he can praise God and beautify his crown.

Dear daughter, love our Lord very much, for he loves you so. Belong entirely to him, in your intentions, actions, and suffering. It's only right! Constantly give yourself again and again to his love. That is the sign of true love.

May God be everything in you!

Goodbye dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Read my letter to Miss Stephanie.

Apr 18	*Conference Servants: The different lives of our Lord.*

941

CO 940

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 27/52)

April 21, 1860

Miss Stephanie

Finally, dear daughter, I have a few words from you! But you are easily excused since you are at the service of everyone and since our good Master is your all. It is the greatest consolation I can have to see or hear that my spiritual children use every means to go to God and belong to him independently of everything else. Yes, use everything as a means, rest only in Jesus. Be available for everything like a servant, but belong only to your one Master and Lord Jesus.

Listen to the Angel who speaks God's words to you, but esteem and love him only as a minister of Jesus the King, who alone must live, reign and find pleasure in your heart.

However, I do regret the loss of your curate, for I see that he was good and prudent for your soul. If he were to stay, I would tell you: Continue with him. But since he is leaving, see whether the Pastor will help your soul remain in peace and be free in its duties and in God.

I can't remember the book I wanted to recommend to you, unless it is a book about the Blessed Sacrament. I really like the meditations of Fr. Dupont on the life and mysteries of Jesus Christ, republished by Perisse, I believe, or is it by Pelagaud? However, the best book is Jesus, and the best copy is your heart united to Jesus.

In general, when you receive Communion, let holy Communion or thanksgiving be everything and replace everything. Why do you want to be introduced when you are with the King? to look for a piece of bread when the King is placing you at his divine table?

The possibility of a vicariate would be good, if that were the absolute condition to keep the Reserved Sacrament. But, as long as they leave you the Most Holy Eucharist, be happy.

Be kind, pleasant and gracious in small sacrifices, dear daughter. That is the flower of divine love.

Goodbye, I bless and leave you with Jesus.

All yours,
Eymard

Apr 22	*Conference Servants: The essence of love is suffering.*
Apr 24	*Conference Servants: The mystery of suffering, the virtue and grace of suffering.*

942

CO 941

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 62/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 24, 1860

Very dear Father,

1. Fr. Leroyer must have told you that I received everything you had mentioned before. Thank you very much, it really came at a good time.

2. As I told you, we have exposition every day until an hour after midnight, except Wednesdays and Saturdays, when it ends at 9:00 p.m., to clean the chapel. When will it be perpetual? The Master must pay for the increase of candles and feed his new soldiers.

3. Kindly mail me (postpaid) 6 bound offices of the Blessed Sacrament from Chauffard, addressed to Miss Guillot, Marguerite, rue du Juge de paix 17, Fourviere-Lyons. I will inform you of the cost.

4. I'm happy about the good news from Marseilles. Nothing can please me or console me more than to see our Good Master rise and reign.

I'd like to see your church built in gold, and your vestments be the most beautiful in the world; a daughter is always adorned more richly.[57]

5. I'm sending you my letter to Mr. Golliet, it's final and sad. He also was only a temporary worker and not a son of the family.

6. If he makes his decision immediately, write to me and I will send you Fr. Clavel sooner.

Nothing new here, everyone is working and very busy. May God be praised!

[57] Marseilles should be more beautiful than Paris.

I can't tell you how pleased we are with your letters and how much your courage for the service of our Good Master does me good. In him I am,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

943

CO 942

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 14/19)

Paris, April 24, 1860

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I have just received the letter from the fine Fr. Superior at Laus; I am sending it to you; surely the conditions are very minimal. You will see when you get there. There is also a large house below with a big garden; you are familiar with it. With 100 fr. you will be able to manage, and 400 fr. for your maintenance.

It seems to me that a secluded life near a religious group and a man of God like Fr. Blachard is an attractive situation from the point of view of your salvation.

I don't have any other insights, dear daughter, except to see the suitability of your desires, as you cannot and do not want to be a boarder in a convent.

Because to be next to the Ladies here without being part of them,[58] would always be [a cause of] inexpressible suffering. - It's better to avoid that.

I believe that you will find a way to keep busy and be helpful at Laus and if I can find some designs for small holy cards here - as I hope, everything will go well.-

I didn't say anything about your plan to Mme. de Prailly except to tell you that I had written to Laus. As I was expecting the reply any day, I didn't want to write twice.

Continue your little exercises and meditation as Miss G. had told you, but without being a slave to them. We must follow the attraction of grace at the time.

Try to come to Gap on the day there is a coach for Laus. I think it will be in service throughout the month of May.

May God bless and accompany you, dear daughter. In his divine love, I am

All yours,
Eymard, Sup. S.

Madame
Mme. Isabelle Spazzier
8 rue Massilon, Maison Giraud
Hyeres (Var)

[58] She had been dismissed from the community.

944

CO 943

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 114/145 VI 10)

Paris, April 25, 1860

Very dear sisters,

I am still a little lazy. But I hope you will forgive me in your charity for it isn't ill will. There are times when one is so busy, like Easter time.

I received the answer from the Emperor's chamberlain saying that the petition had been returned by the Minister of War to the general of Corporal Oddoux's division. I have also been told that this matter is going well. Please tell Bethoux the postman that I am taking care of his business matter.

I will write to Madame the Countess d'Harenc about her little niece. If she can no longer stay at the convent because of her age, she should learn a trade in Lyons.

I am fine, our little Society is progressing well. We are eighteen adorers.

I don't know when I'll be able to go see you. I'm like the birds who don't know where they will fly to on the morrow, nor even one hour in advance.

I would love to go kiss the rock of Notre Dame de La Salette and the stalls of the church of Laus; but as God wills.

I will reproach Miss Guillot, because I had made her responsible to give you detailed news about us. She is also very busy.

You have no idea what life in Paris is like and how busy one is in every way; there are so many people!

Spring is coming, dear sisters, be on the watch against pleurisy; at least, take care of your weak health; as for me, the Good Lord is taking care of it.

I bless you, good sisters, and I am in our Lord,

Your very affectionate brother,
Eymard, Sup.

945

CO 944

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 24/104)

Paris, April 26, 1860

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I have a few moments to give you now. We have been very busy with a beautiful and very touching First Communion day for our adult workers; 36 on the holy day of Easter. Well, to prepare this large family worthily for the royal banquet, we had to devote ourselves totally to it. Now we are beginning to prepare about 30 others for the feast of the Assumption. It is a beautiful mission which is hard, naturally speaking.[59] It's repugnant to a self-seeking person, but faith makes it so beautiful and love so pleasant!

[59] Literally: goes against nature.

I expect to be absent, only for the Feast of the Holy Trinity, from June 3rd to the 10th, when I will be giving a retreat of adoration at Rouen.

The Archbishop wants to know about our Work and wants to see me. If Rouen were close to Nantes, I would tell you: come to this retreat.

So you are beginning St. Joseph's preparations, to lodge our Lord a year from now.[60] You don't really seem to believe it. It's because you don't put your trust in people; you would be right if our foundation were based on them, but that isn't where to start. The wind goes where God pushes it, and everything which is on the path of the heavenly wind moves with it. And so it must, unless it be a rock... and even the rock obeys God.

Well, what about you, dear daughter, what are you doing? Are you loving God dearly, this Good Lord who loves you so much? you, whom he is choosing in his love from among all the daughters of Israel! who has become your sun, your feast, your daily life! May this divine sun itself remove the frost covering over your actions and your faults! It will happen faster that way. May this royal feast be the joy of your soul, have none other. May your life be like the life of the branch and the vine, like the lily's flower, like the fruit of love.... When rays penetrate crystal, it becomes full of light. Then why do we remain opaque in the presence of this sun, always cold when exposed to this divine flame, always numb under the action of divine power? It's because we are still sick, still bound by things, full of ill-will which troubles our spirit and makes us falter. Oh! pool of Siloam, this is the remedy for all evils! Jesus is this bath, this life.

If Nantes were as close as Orleans, I would have gone to see you, because it's been a century since I've seen you... but we must wait for the time to come and go and orders to leave.

Goodbye dear daughter! You are always very dear to me in the Eucharist and united in our Lord in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

946

CO 945

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 35/75)

Paris, April 26, 1860

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

It has been so long since I've written you anything! First of all, thank you for sending the Masses and for the Blessed Sacrament. The cope is made and is honoring our Lord.

I wanted to write to you through your niece. I couldn't do so; I chose to wait for a more quiet moment.

I was told that Joseph Riboulet (from Roussillon), our thief, was jailed in Lyons. It seems this was not his first attempt.

We had a very interesting First Communion at Easter with 36 of our neglected children. They were well prepared and I hope that our Lord was pleased with these little hearts. Now we are preparing about 30 for the Assumption. Paris is a "*refugium peccatorum*,"[61] where, I believe, the devil sends everything he finds elsewhere.

Here we are moving with joy and happiness toward the fulfillment of our royal purpose: perpetual adoration. Exposition takes place each day. Adoration continues until one in the

[60] Plans for a foundation.
[61] Refuge of sinners.

morning. See how kind our good Master is to increase our graces and to remain on his throne of love at night, just for us!

So, I do place you there at his feet, as my eldest daughter and dear sister in our Lord, also your dear Mathilde and all your loved ones. It's only right since it was promised.

Soon you will be going to care for your silkworms. Why aren't they succeeding any more? The devil is in it.

I just had this thought: Promise to tithe to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the King. If he gives you a wonderful harvest, what would you fear? Either way, you will gain.

So, don't get discouraged.

The month of May has come, the month of mothers and children. Honor the Blessed Virgin a little more as a model adorer, and in the last period in her life in the Cenacle.

Don't always stay behind at Nazareth, when the Blessed Virgin is in Jerusalem and at the Cenacle.

You will soon receive a copy of the Office of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It is on the way.

When will I see you? I don't know. I can understand and really accept the reasons which have made you the keeper of the house.

It is the religion of duty and charity; very well!

The Good Lord is involved with events, it is his struggle;[62] who can overcome him? We will regain lost authority, the basic principle of our faith, who is the Pope.

Temporal considerations are only a pretext in this case, be sure of it. Secret societies wanted to cancel [him] out by divesting [him] to chase [him] by dispossessing [him]. I am aware of admissions and principles which would be an eye-opener for many people.

Goodbye dear daughter, you know how united I am to you in our Lord.

Eymard

947

CO 946

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 63/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 29, 1860

Very dear Father,

1. I'm sending you the answer to Mr. Golliet's letter. I excuse him, because in this case he didn't understand the meaning of certain terms. However, I want to teach a lesson to whoever wouldn't be honest with the Society and would seek something other than its purpose. Yes, whoever comes into this Society for human motives will either be sent away or suffer a great deal because of it.

2. I'll send you Fr. Clavel as soon as possible, he is arranging his things. He'll arrive there this week.

3. About the 30-year-old priest:

1) First of all, ask him whether his Bishop will give him a dimissory letter or a dismissal. If it is a dismissal, don't accept him. It's a bad sign.

2) See if he has selfish motives; I don't like such pressure.

3) If he gives some hope of a good vocation, you could study him more closely during a few days of retreat.

[62] Socio-political events.

4. About the habit for the brothers who go out. My feeling is that they should have a little cassock which closes in front, replacing a sweater; a straight collar like one on a cassock. On this little cassock we could put half a cassock going down to the bottom, from the belt. That way the extern brothers won't constantly need to change: a round hat, black pants, a white collar in the house.

5. Brother Carri will write to you; he is burdened with work, his theology, his Latin, his children, his sacristy. He promised me he would write to you soon.

6. Mr. Golliet could go to Corsica with the help of Mr. Meynier. Mr. Meynier knows the Bishop personally.

Everyone embraces you in *osculo sancto* [with a holy kiss].

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
Marseilles

948

CO 947

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 40/52)

Paris, April 29, 1860

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I fully share in the new cross which our Lord is offering to you. I understand how it must touch you. Fortunately, you belong entirely to our good Master and his beloved will. You know that everything is weighed in the scales of divine Goodness.

Live a bit on your savings; economize the strength you recovered under the Southern sun. Alas! Poor daughter, your soul is a field in which everyone comes to furrow a row and God throws into it a seed for eternal life.

Tell your dear father that I am praying for him, your dear brother that I love him even more, your fine husband that I am devoted to him. - And as for you, dear lady, believe that I am ever, in union with our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. Mr. Favrel has just told me that God has called your dear devout father to himself. May Heaven be his dwelling and Jesus Christ his crown! Be consoled by your hope, dear Madame. Let it be a consolation that you were able to assist him until his last breath. I will pray for him and for all of you.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Amplepuis (Rhone)

949

CO 948

TO MISS JENNY GAUDIOZ
(VII 2/3)[63]

Paris, April 29, 1860

Very dear sister in our Lord,

Your dear letter of the 13th is here, claiming its turn. It would have been first, before everything else, if I could have found a moment, but the Paschal season and an excess of work prevented me from answering you until now.

Dear daughter, I am pleased with your happiness. We are always fine where the Good Lord wants us and blesses us - we would be unhappy elsewhere, even if it were in an earthly paradise. I am not surprised that you are happy in that holy and gracious Community of the Sacred Heart where Jesus is love and glory, where adoration follows upon action. You must desire only one thing, it is the confirmation of your vocation. The holy habit is long in coming! and yet you have the first habit, which is the one of total gift of self to God and the joy of his service.

Yes, dear daughter, give to God unconditionally, as a perpetual annuity, and you will lose nothing. Remember that religious life is the hell of sin, the Purgatory of mediocrity, the Paradise of love.

To be truly happy here, we must will only the greater service of God by death to self. Then, when self-love finds no more sustenance, no more escape, it surrenders, it is easily replaced by love for humility, charity and Holy Love.

I don't know whether your dear sister Marie is thinking of the religious life. At least, I don't believe she is thinking of her Aunt's, which is beautiful in God's sight, but is nothing in the sight of men because one must die before bearing fruit.

Your aunts are well. Sr. Benoite is well. I see them in passing. I have so much to do, that I can hardly do the essentials.

I was very sorry that I could not see you when I passed through Lyons. I was so taken up by errands and the bad weather that I hardly saw anyone.

Friendly regards to your fine gracious parents, to your Sister Marie.

Especially, do not forget to remember me to your Rev. Mother Superior and her charity toward me. I always keep in my heart that precious memory of my visit to Sacred Heart where the love of God is breathed so purely. I bless you, dear daughter, and I am in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

[63] Niece of Marguerite Guillot.

CHAPTER V

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire I
May 1860 - June 1861

Preacher and Apostle:

- **Parish Missions**
- **Rouen: Adoration Retreat**
- **Tours: Octave of Corpus Christi**
- **Marseilles: Octave of Epiphany**

Spiritual Direction and Formation:

- **SSS Novices, candidates to sub-deaconate**
- **Servants (retreats and conferences)**
- **Spiritual correspondence**
- **Discernment, Vocations**

"Fire does its own work"

Concern for the Poor: The Banquet of the King:

- **First Communion of Adult Workers**
- **Visit to the Prado in Lyons**

May 1	*Conference Servants: The month of Mary. The Bernard, Mary as model, Mary our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament completes the mystery of Christ.*
May 2	*Monthly Ret. Ser: Three lives, qualities of a good religious.*
May 4	*Conference Servants: Protect grace, make it bear fruit, recollection.*

950

CO 949

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 64/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 4, 1860

Very dear Father,

1. Through Mr. Signoret I received 200 francs for candles and on your order Brother Carri gave me 50 francs for 50 Masses to be said. So your things are settled.

2. I added a note for you on Brother Carrie's long letter, where I told you that Fr. Clavel would leave Monday for Marseilles. You'll have a fine religious in him. He has improved a lot since his vows.

I'm satisfied that Mr. Golliet is leaving, because he doesn't have a eucharistic vocation. He is under an illusion regarding the Barnabites: I was told that those in Paris don't want him.

He was helpful for the initial period.

We also will have the Month of Mary after the rosary; we'll read the "Month of Mary" by Belley. Yes, nourish devotion to the Blessed Virgin: she is the Gate of Heaven, the Queen of the Cenacle, the Mother of John.

Be vigilant about people who are in too much of a hurry, especially if they are a bit older: they rarely tell the whole truth. If his Bishop doesn't give him a dismissal (which is a refusal) but a dimissorial letter, it is a promise. With vows, there would be less to fear because he would remain under his Bishop, who would call him to ordination only upon our request.

It seems that the question of clothing has its difficulties, its clouds. Well! Do what's best; let's wait.

News. The administration for the Orleans railroad is granting all the religious of the Blessed Sacrament half price on its lines, provided that the religious have a certificate from the Superior with the Community seal. This certificate (or letter of obedience) will stay with the clerk at the station.

That's how our Lord is giving us an alms and is opening the way for us. Thank him for it.

Our regards to all. My thanks to good Fr. Leroyer for all his printed materials: I'm very happy about it, since it does a lot of good. By their fruits....

Goodbye, good Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

951

CO 950

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 41/76)

Paris, May 4, 1860

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

May our Lord form himself in you by his grace and love. Let him work [in you] and help him when he is working. Be attentive to follow the movement of his divine Spirit.

Be like a day laborer who does what she is told and doesn't worry about what she will do the following day. Give your attention to your husband before anyone else, that is the order of charity, established by God. It pleases me to imagine the two of you[1] surrounding him with kindness and thoughtfulness. If God wanted you to do other things, he would give you the time to do so. This rule of love is so beautiful and easy! Be content with God's holy Will at each moment.

Dear daughter, I understand that it was difficult for you to give a negative answer.[2] God willed it. He will make all things work out for the best.

I began the Masses for your sister immediately. You know that Saturdays are always for your intention.

Your father's word indicating some kind of doubt isn't anything. On the contrary, what he had previously said and done shows a decisive faith which doesn't seek to probe the unknown future. I really favor the feeling of some theologians who say that suffering borne in the state of grace has merit by that very fact. They say that the Holy Innocents, who were martyred when the Messiah was born, must have received a more beautiful crown than children who die after Baptism without having suffered. Therefore, your dear patient's suffering condition is a grace.

I advise the Gothic style for your chapel. Keep it simple with few decorations; otherwise it would be too expensive. The Gothic style is very graceful and there is something serious and religious about it.

However, your husband should plan carefully with the workers and the architect. If you wish, I could ask a friend of mine, Mr. Perret, to prepare a plan for you. In order to do that, I would need to have the length and breadth of the area.

Remember me to your dear fine mother, whom I would be so happy to see.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very dear daughter,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. However, don't let my offer of a plan cause any problems, because architects are sensitive. Gothic windows and ceilings, a crypt-like or semi-circular choir is all that you would need.
Madame Gourd

May 6	*Conference: SSS - Daily explanations of the Rule.*

[1] Mme. Gourd and her daughter.
[2] An alms that had been requested of her.

952

CO 951

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 65/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 6, 1860

Very dear Father,

I am sending you Fr. Clavel; he is happy to obey and also to go to be with you. He has confidence in you and loves you; use him in such a way as to help him become a perfect religious. He has really edified us; he is a religious in every way and is very generous.

He is bringing you three copies of the Rule which I gave to everyone here. I'm explaining it every day in chapter. It's the one I brought to Rome, that you've seen. It's surely not a perfect Rule, nor final; experience, the love of our Lord, the spirit of the Society will help us.

The introduction at the beginning will explain my thought to you. I will always be happy and grateful for your observations and your fraternal charity, because we are serving the same cause, we have the same Master, we have the same desire.

Everyone here embraces you, and is fondly united to you in our Lord, especially the one who is,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Give a copy to Fr. Leroyer and loan the other one to Mr. Bossy. I am sorry that he is still undecided.

953

CO 952

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 28/52)

All through Jesus Host of love *Paris, May 6, 1860*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to answer your letter which I read with pleasure and attention. I like your freedom: the state of soul shows through more simply.

1. First, let's talk about laziness. I think that in part, it's physical, in part a fault, and also because of too many things to do.

What should you do to correct yourself? Don't put off an essential duty. Sustain your strength with good food. Eat meat, even on Fridays, as the doctor wants. Don't deprive yourself of necessary sleep. Once this is done, then consider sleep [during meditation] as a temptation, and the fear of effort as bad-will, stemming from your poor selfish nature.

2. Surrender to the Good Lord and you will always be well cared for, or he will care for you himself. That little disappointment of missing the curate's Mass was willed by God. I am pleased about your new confessor and especially that you are in the hands of the divine Director who is the Holy Spirit.

No extraordinary mortifications, that isn't you, but I am in favor of your kissing the ground. However, I would like you to have less human respect in your mother's presence and that you would act as if you were alone, except anything that would be too extraordinary.

I agree that you would kiss the statue of the Blessed Virgin through respect and love and that you should feel free, very free, about the rest. Except: 1. Devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament, but from the heart;

2. Holy Communion, that is the royal devotion which replaces everything;

3. A part of the rosary, at least one decade, some long-standing prayers, and that is all.

Belong to God, like birds in the air and fish in the sea.

4. Your dispensary is a fine charity. Well, it is better to give to everyone who comes; it is more Christian. Then, since your father is bearing the expenses, you need only to give graciously and virtuously.

5. I would prefer your chapel as your father wants it, even if there were windows only on one side, because it could be larger and have a lovely sanctuary.

6. Dear daughter, what is this little mosquito buzzing around your head about religious life? Well then, let it buzz. You need only to live by the grace and duties of the moment. There is no other grace for you at this time. Be yourself.

7. Are you insensitive? You say: yes. I say no. You just don't like troubles and frustrations, that's all.

Don't accuse your heart, it is fine... but rather, your poor will.

Have courage, dear daughter, be a good Stephanie, I mean, a crown for our Lord. How fortunate you are to be free and entirely God's! Be closely united to Him through grateful love and renew your gift of self to Him a thousand times.

Goodbye. I bless you wholeheartedly in our Lord.

Eymard

Miss Stephanie

May 8	*Conference Servants: Three kinds of recollection - in one's conscience, in grace and in our Lord Jesus Christ.*
May 11	*Conference Servants: Recollection in our Lord by a spirit of love.*
May 18	*Conference Servants: The Ascension.*

954

CO 953

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 25/104)

Paris, May 20, 1860

Dear Lady and dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to let you know that I will be preaching the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament[3] at Tours, in the Church of St. Julian, beginning Sunday the 10th, until the 17th.

Since I will be so near to you, I immediately thought of going afterwards to visit you briefly at Nantes.

[3] Corpus Christi.

I will be going to Notre Dame du Bon Secours at Rouen and there I'll tell this dear mother everything you would tell her.

I see that you gathered a few flowers from that retreat. That's fine. We gain only by making our soul more attentive; but you should do so preferably in God and with God. Avoid and flee from yourself because that leaves you disturbed.

There is one thought that pursues me about you; that you should found a little family of adorers in your own house in Nantes. We will talk about it. It may be ridiculous, but I am telling you anyway. Poor daughter! don't worry about the light fever you feel regarding that former affection, it's only nerves. Jesus is enough for you, and everything is good in Jesus.

La Salette! I would really love to go, but I am in a cloud which hardly lets me see ahead [of me].

Goodby. I remain very united to you in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

955

CO 954

TO MISS PROUVIER[4]

(V 1/5)

All for Jesus Hostia *Paris, May 25, 1860*

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

It is a great joy for me to know that you are wholly devoted to our Lord's love in the Blessed Sacrament. That is why I desire to see you and confer with you about our life, in my free moments.

I will leave for Rouen on Trinity Sunday. I will stay there until Saturday; and then I will leave again for Tours, where they are expecting me to establish an Association of the Most Blessed Sacrament. If you prefer to come to Rouen, you could take advantage of a little retreat there and we might be freer to see one another.

In that case, I would write to the good priest where I am going and who is the chaplain of a community, to ask for hospitality for you.

I asked a small and simple family community here to offer you hospitality at least for a few days with your maid. The Superior is ill, but in spite of that, they gave me hope to receive you for 5 or 6 days, because they are expecting someone after that. That will facilitate my seeing you more easily, since it is next to us, on rue Faubourg St. Jacques, 66 at Miss Guillot's home.

So then, see you soon.

May Jesus lead you and fill you with his blessings.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. I was very pleased to meet the fine lady from Mauvise.

May 29	*Conference Servants: To be recollected in the goodness of our Lord.*

[4] Foundress of the Virgins of Jesus & Mary.

956

CO 955

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(V 1/2)

Paris, May 29, 1860

Very dear friend and brother in our Lord,

May God be praised for everything! Your dear letter is the occasion for a very great sacrifice. Your spiritual friendship weighed heavily in the scales of my choice of Tours. But, it will be a reason for me to arrive early on Sunday, the 10th, to enjoy at least a few hours of your stay.

I will bring you the flyers for the Aggregation. I have just seen the Pastor of St. Julian's, who insists that I lodge with him. That is a sacrifice for me in one sense, because I like the pilgrim's cell, the Holy Face and its servant.[5] If you had stayed in Tours, the matter would have been settled; but since you are leaving, I cannot make any arrangements other than these.

Sunday night I will go to spend the evening with you and to share your brotherly bread.

Farewell then!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. My best wishes please, to the dear Rosemberg family. I don't have time to write to them, but I love them dearly in our Lord.

Jun 1	*Conference Servants: On the grace of foundresses.*

June 10-17 - Preached the Octave of Corpus Christi at the Church of St. Julien in Tours where he established a center of the Aggregation.

957

CO 956

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 26/104)

Tours, June 18, 1860

Dear Lady,

I'm leaving from Tours for Nantes tomorrow at 6:45 in the morning, - at least by the second coach. I'll go directly to see you with a worn-out voice but happy to go see you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

Madame de Grandville
8 rue Saint-Laurent
Nantes

Jun 22	*Conference Servants: Vocation, hidden eucharistic life.*

[5] He likes to stay with Mr. Dupont.

958

CO 957

TO MME. DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)
(VII 1/9)

Paris, June 22, 1860

Madame,

I have just returned from my trip and I found a letter from our fine Mme. Chanuet for you.[6] I am sending it with all my wishes and hopes.

I am constantly praying about this great matter, and it seems to me that it has been prepared and desired by divine Providence. It contains all needed and desirable guarantees.

Therefore, I am at your disposal for a second visit. Please let me know your feeling and believe me ever in our Lord, Madame,

Your ever devoted and respectful servant,
Eymard, Sup.

Mme. de Couchies
at Faij, near Nemours
Seine-et-Marne

959

CO 958

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 66/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 24, 1860

Very dear Father,

I was very deeply grieved by the news of good Fr. Brunello's[7] death. So quickly and so soon! What a lesson!

So, we must really place ourselves into the hands of Divine Providence with this new blow about Fr. Clavel. It's a sadness and a great cross, but we must bear it with his holy grace. His kindness has sustained us so marvelously until now; it won't forsake us. For the one or two who withdraw, he will double our merit and our personnel.

He is asking me for a letter. I'm sending it because we cannot keep people in spite of themselves. He will leave and he will experience what he has lost.

The three women from Marseilles are here now. Miss Gagnerie, who at first was all on fire and very happy, is now beginning to fear and question the contemplative life. I lifted up her spirits a little. Miss Bretonne is happy.

The young twenty-five-year-old woman is an excellent person, but she has an infirmity which doesn't allow us to keep her. She has such bad breath that people next to her can neither eat, nor bear it. Then she has a weak stomach, and can hardly kneel more than a few minutes. Her director,

[6] Her daughter, Madame Blanche Chanuet.
[7] Fr. de Cuer's former spiritual director.

who knew it, should have said so, and begun by telling the truth instead of calling for charity; that really annoyed me.

Dear Father, I don't need to repeat how pleased we will all be to see one another again in Paris. I don't say that through diplomacy, but with fond and devoted love. I think that your stay in Paris will be helpful to study many things. You can then tell me personally your observations about the Rule which I was happy to send, hoping it would also please you.

Mr. Golliet wrote to me eight days after his departure. His letter was good enough, but he still doesn't understand his civil position: that concerns him.

I was very happy with the "Eucharistic Weeks" which Fr. Leroyer sent me; you can do all these things in Marseilles, but here, people are cold, and then our chapel is so small!

Some rumors are circulating that they will soon begin work on our boulevard. May God be praised!

My regards to all the Brothers and Fathers, everyone sends you theirs.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I received information about your business affairs from Mr. Marzioux.[8] There are no dividends yet. However, it seems that it will go well, and that you will withdraw good profits.

No vocations! Mr. de Leudeville made his retreat on rue de Svres; they sent him to Rome for his theological studies. Everything else is the same as usual.

God is good to send you help from Miss Marin! Keep it for yourself, since we are God's beggars here: a bit more or less doesn't change anything in the situation.

I am really looking forward to the compulsory sale for our liquidation because, if your expenses are great, ours here are also very heavy. We also have interests to pay, enormous taxes, etc., etc. To date, God has been such a good Father!

Miss Auzert (the one who is 25) doesn't have any money to return to Marseilles. Her parents should send her some.

960

CO 959

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)

(V 10/14)

Paris, June 27, 1860

Very dear friend,

So, your great decision has finally been made! and decided preferably for Rome! May God be praised! You searched simply and generously for his divine Will. You are sacrificing even your tastes and friendship to it. I am pleased about that because God comes first!

The path of sacrifice does not deceive. God always rewards it. So follow it, either as a preparation, or as a vocation, according to God's grace.

My friendship for you, dear friend, has no color or conditions. It was before, it will be after, because it is in God.[9]

[8] A financier.

[9] Mr. de Leudeville added the words: "My visit interrupted this letter." He took it with him nonetheless.

961

CO 960

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 41/52)

All for our Lord Jesus Christ in *Paris, the Most Blessed Sacrament, June 28, 1860*

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I have just returned from preaching two eucharistic retreats: one at Rouen, the other at Tours.

The Holy Eucharist is light and life, strength and love! Devout souls came running to the exercises of the retreat and I hope that our Lord will draw some glory from it, and these good souls some benefit.

From Tours, I went to Nantes where we had been asked for a foundation, but we are still too small and too weak.

I was quite surprised when I received your letter. I thought I had written to you before I left three weeks ago, and it seems that I did not.

I am pleased by what you tell me about St. Chamond. It's my favorite city, where I worked the most. I am also happy to know that adoration is thriving there. I would surely return with joy for the eucharistic retreat - provided the question of the Marist Fathers was not an obstacle or a difficulty. For my part, I still love them as much and I will be happy to go see these dear Fathers. These little questions of a group or of influence are so ugly and paltry that it hurts me even to suspect them. Are we not all soldiers of Jesus Christ? with a different uniform, that is all. But isn't it the same flag, the same Master, the same table? It seems to me that such personal ideas of the honor of the Group are not in my heart, nor in yours.

They asked for me in Lyons and that is even closer than St. Chamond.

As for the Aggregation at St. Chamond, I would advise the Pastor to add this grace to his Work and not make it a separate Work. Then it becomes only an encouragement and confirmation to the established rule: that is what we did at Rouen and Tours.

I don't expect the Pastor to write to me, it might embarrass him. I understand his delicate position.

I'd be pleased if Miss Hervier obtained many indulgences, but I'm afraid she won't get all those she hoped for.

I am happy to see that you decided in favor of your own health. Small treatments are a great mortification; so do them.

May God bless your dear children, your fine husband, and fill you to overflowing with his graces of love and tenderness, dear daughter.

I am, dear sister, in his divine love,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Here everything is the same as usual including myself. However, the good Master is giving me a lot of work.

962

CO 961

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 67/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 1, 1860

Very dear Father,

I received your letter with a note enclosed for 100 francs, 20 francs of which are for Masses. Thank you for it. It's our Providence at this time.

So Fr. Clavel is gone! It's a suffering which God is sending us. Even if it were a punishment, we should receive it with a true spirit of penance.

I believe that the end of your letter was dictated by the sorrow you felt; that's how I took it and read it.

I cannot send you the young aspirant; it's too soon. How could he continue his classical studies in Marseilles? Here, he is working very hard, so I'm very sorry! Your first letter, on the 25th, asked me to wait a while, and I must tell you that it would really have been difficult because I didn't have the means to pay for his trip. Even today, I have only your 80 francs.

We will really pray so that God may provide us with some means. I'm on the point of sending away one of the new brothers who doesn't seem to have a good spirit.

Miss Gagnerie will leave around Tuesday. I have nothing to say about her vocation, except that she doesn't have a shadow of one, nor the will for it, and that we can do nothing with her turn of mind and such an uneven temper. She may tell you what she wills, but as for me, she seems to be dangerous, even in a community.

Miss Marie is making her retreat, in the midst of all the storms caused by Miss Gagnerie. I believe she will gather the fruits of the trip; it seems to me that she has a vocation.

Today, I saw Mr. d'Herceville again, Mr. Marzioux's associate. Your 100 francs are doing very well with interest, but the actions of the Maritime Union still do not yield any dividends.

We are living in hope.

Nothing new about the compulsory sale. They say we will know something definite only around the month of September.

Dear Father, I leave you in our Lord,

Eymard, S.S.

963

CO 962

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 68/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 3, 1860

Dear Father,

I'm really worried about you. The thought came to me to send you Brother Martin, deacon. He is rendering great services here, it is true; he is an excellent gardener, and this year our garden is plentiful. However, your need must be put ahead of our commodity. He'll leave tomorrow, Wednesday, and reach you Thursday afternoon, toward evening. He is full of good will and is happy to be with you. I told him that you would be a good Father, and you must be, to be a good

Superior in Jesus Christ. He isn't perfect; so be it, you won't find any in this world. So we must use people as we want them to be, and make them good according to the grace they have.

You've been in the midst of difficulties; but, dear Father, think about the difficulties in Paris and have trust. Be open and kind in trials; it's the day of God's glory. You asked me to make a definite decision that trips be done on third class. I have reservations about doing so; I see that other Communities don't do it. It's often unsuitable, sometimes it might be too difficult. My feeling is therefore between the second and third class. I leave third class as a virtuous choice.

My dear Father, on the battlefield we mustn't attack our neighbor because we have been wounded. We aren't angels, but weak men, who rather deserve compassion, and always, mercy.

When someone leaves, it isn't always the Superior's fault. He may be guilty, yet the one who leaves is more so. So, please! Let grace overcome nature, and confidence be stronger than difficulties.

God knows how I desire the welfare of your house and your heart's consolation: that is my habitual prayer.

I'm very close to you in our Lord, dear Father.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

964

CO 963

TO MR. RATTIER
(VII 1/2)[10]

Paris, July 3, 1860

Dear Mr. Rattier,

I am enclosing the letter which Mr. Chanuet wrote to me. You will read into his soul and his happiness.

I returned from Faij like a person returns from a delightful garden, perfumed with the fragrance of devotion and the lovely friendship which surrounded me. The sweet thought of it, I dare say, its gentleness, are still with me.

God has done everything - He will crown his work and we will all be happy.

Dear Sir, I remain in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Jul 6	*Monthly retreat Servants: Health of soul, Jesus Christ the center of the soul.*

[10] Mr. Rattier, the brother of Mme. De Couchies and the uncle of Sr. Philomena.

965

CO 964

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 69/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 7, 1860

Very dear Father,

I'm writing to acknowledge receiving your registered letter. Thank you for it.

Mr. Mnage will send you your two bills; they weren't ready.

I believe that Brother Martin must have arrived; he was very happy to go to Marseilles. He is generous.

We are having the monthly retreat. Sr. Benoite is in Lyons to settle family affairs; she is very ill. If God were not sustaining her, she would have died a long time ago.

Regards from everyone and to everyone.

All yours in J.C.,
Eymard, S.S.

966

CO 965

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 115/145 VI 10)

Paris, July 8, 1860

Very dear sisters,

I received your letters with great pleasure, for everything that touches you interests me very much. I am grateful to see that the Good Lord came to your aid to help you find a good farmer. So, always have great trust in his fatherly care and he will not allow you to lack anything.

You will be receiving the visit of Mr. Ratel from Tours. He is going to La Salette with his devout wife.

The fine Madame Marceau, the mother of the holy Captain about whom I have often spoken to you, wants to send you a little picture. It is not a picture of a saint, but of a poor priest who wants to become one.[11]

The request we made for Mme. Oddoux failed. We had succeeded with the Minister, but the Colonel of his regiment blocked everything.

We have tried from another angle.

I don't know, dear sisters, when I will be able to go to La Mure. I am so busy that I don't have a single moment. It would happen only if I were to go to Marseilles. These are the sacrifices that God is asking. It certainly would be a pleasure for me to see you and speak with you about our beautiful Work which God is always blessing.

I went to give a Blessed Sacrament retreat at Rouen and one at Tours. God consoled me greatly in these two cities.

My health is good.

[11] Probably his own.

Goodbye, my dear and kind sisters. Your mission is to pray, and mine is to pray and preach our Lord Jesus Christ.

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

Jul 9	*Retreat Servants: Charity, sins against charity.*
Jul 10	*Conference Servants: Silence, recollection, hidden life.*

967

CO 966

TO THE MLLES BOURGES
(V 3/4)

All for Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 11, 1860*

Dear Demoiselles,

I have and do share deeply in the cross which is weighing upon you. Oh! Must joy finish so quickly in this world: a very blessed joy, since it was for such a good mother! This cruel illness is very painful. So, you must sympathize with so much suffering, as your heart and devotion are wont to do! God is still leaving you on the cross, dear Demoiselles. It seems that he is quite at home with you, and that since you love him above all, he is coming to rest a little with you on his way to Calvary, and from there to Heaven.

Kindly tell your dear mother from me, our deep feelings about her state of suffering. We are all in prayer for her relief and healing. I will be so happy to see this dear mother once again in Marseilles when God gives me the grace and joy to be sent there. I still do not know [when] because we are very busy with our very numerous First Communions for adults here.

So you are all gathered as a family now. Only one is missing: the one who was its center and glory. But he is in Heaven, this dear brother's crown was complete! The holidays are coming, dear Demoiselles, you must be like a soldier falling from fatigue at the end of the battle. Courage! You need to rest a little, because there is still a way to go. In Paris, I saw fine Mr. Seigneret. I was very happy about it, but in Paris, people miss each other and run after each other. In Marseilles, I hope to repay his kind visit.

Believe me in our Lord, very dear Demoiselles,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Warm greetings of longstanding friendship to your dear brother.

The Mlles Bourges
Boarding School Directors
rue Curiol, 29
Marseilles

968

CO 967

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 31/33)

All for Jesus Christ *Paris, July 11, 1860*

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Be peaceful and tranquil about your good Charles! He is still worthy of his mother, of her piety, of her love. He is always well behaved, I see him often. I saw him just two days ago, usually on Saturdays.

His health is adequate. I told him as I told you, to have some ribs on Friday, since he feels a little weak. He assures me that he is [feeling] better.

However, I am waging war with him so that he will not go to bed so late, as it is a sad and bad habit in Paris; for he needs sleep. I am watching over your good Charles, dear Lady. So don't torment yourself.

I can see from your letter that you are very sad. I can understand that Charles' absence is the reason, but what comforts me is that your fears are unfounded, since you really love the Good Lord. You spoke to me about the Heart of Jesus. You really brought joy to my soul, for that is the treasure of divine love and its mold. Take it where it is, in the divine Eucharist: all living, all afire, all goodness. Unfortunately this divine and beloved Heart is not known or loved, even by many devout persons who keep themselves busy with a thousand little devotions, which are good in themselves, but [they] neglect those which ought to be the life and purpose of them all: the Heart of Jesus which created Calvary and the Eucharist.

You are not sensible in Lyons. I am told that the Pastors begged His Eminence to adjourn the promised exposition. They fear the expenses: the drapes, the candles. They fear that there will not be adorers; how is that for Lyons! when towns considered to be secular that are the same size as Lyons, even the poor Diocese of Versailles, wake up and become enthusiastic for adoration. It seems that there is a real fear that the little Society of the Blessed Sacrament will go to raise a throne to Jesus in Lyons. Poor people! The day and the hour will come when Jesus our great King will say: I want to have a house in Lyons, there will be one, in spite of them or rather invited by them, because Jesus is always the Master.

In the meantime, I keep your long-standing place for you. I pray a great deal for you. I bless you, and your dear husband, and I am in our Lord, dear Madame,

All yours,
Eymard

Jul 17	*Conference Servants: Exterior and interior silence.*

969

CO 968

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 70/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 18, 1860

Very dear Father,

As your last letter was filled with sadness in our regard, I will tell you that there has been peace and charity in our house ever since I sent away our new brother cook. Nothing has occurred since then which might have offended charity.

I don't know what the Ladies, Fr. Clavel and Br. Martin told you. Each one says things as he sees them or as he feels. I know that you are too much a brother and too religious to condemn the Superior, based on accusations made in his absence.

Then too, don't believe that this uneasiness came only from Brother Michel. No, no, the devil first of all, then each one a little share, then finally, everyone is guilty.

No matter how skilled a sailor may be, the storm comes in spite of him and carries him away with his sails and engines. So, the weather comes from above. Our fault consists in not being ready to resist the storm.

You complain that I don't give you news about the house. Every time there is anything important or interesting, it's a joy for me to write to you about it; but we forget the little gossip, the faults, the passing clouds that cover the sun.

I'm sorry that you believe that our house in Paris isn't functioning well. In that case, it isn't my place to say that it is. All I can say is that there is good will.

I hear that Fr. Clavel is doing well. May God be praised! I hope that he will send someone to replace him.

The installation of Fr. Hiron, the new pastor at St. Jacques, will take place tomorrow. We regretted losing the former one; he became pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas.

On the Feast of the Assumption, we'll have forty children for First Communion; they seem well-disposed.

No new requests for the Blessed Sacrament. Someday soon you will receive a visit from Mr. Ngre, deacon.

Believe me in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7, rue Nau
Marseilles

970

CO 969

TO MISS GIGUET
(VII 6/6)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 18, 1860*

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

So now you are a French woman, so much the better! I am so happy to see the pious woman from Savoie becoming French again!

In your last letter you shared that you were sad and discouraged, that darkness was laying hold of you, and that you were fearful about your Communions.

Dear daughter, I understand that our poor [human] nature might be sad and discouraged sometimes. You have suffered so much! and you still suffer. But don't look too closely at your crosses, nor at the battlefields where you were attacked. Look at heaven, at Jesus Christ, his grace, his infinite mercy toward you, his charity which carries you.

That will give you a better perspective.

I know very well that you have never loved the world; this is not the time to begin.

Do not let yourself be troubled by your past; everything was forgiven a long time ago. Do not worry about the future, God is there waiting for you with his love as Father and Savior.

Courage! Drag yourself with your crutches as the Good Lord wills and be happy to carry your cross for the love of God.

Goodbye dear daughter, if I were going near Yonne, yes, I would go see you and bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

971

CO 1050

TO MME. ROTTIER (SR. ANTOINETTE DU SS)
(III 4/4)

July 19, 1860

Madame,

I am willingly changing the time of the conference for this evening; we will set it for 4:30.

Tomorrow I will also say holy Mass for you.

What you say is right, you will be entering into Paradise: Paradise is the place where Jesus is King and God.

Perform this action well: as you go from the world to God.[12]

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

[12] As she entered the convent.

972

CO 971

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 36/75)

All for the love of Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 19, 1860*[13]

Dear Madame,

Yesterday, on the feast of St. Camillus,[14] I thought of you, and I wanted to hurry and write to you because I remembered that it was your beautiful feast day. I was happy about it, but I didn't have a moment to write to you.

I was thinking that you are very lazy because I had first rights; you owed me.

So the silkworms have failed again! It may be the last time. So don't get discouraged with one harvest. God can repay you for all the past.

I was envying you in those beautiful and beloved mountains, those ladders to Heaven; Heaven is more beautiful from mountain tops; the soul is closer to God.

You have read very fine books. There is an excellent one which is ever new; the one which God has written on every plant, on every grain of sand, and within yourself. It's the book of divine love. So then, honor this beautiful book and add a few pages of praise and gratitude. Read all books in this one, and interpret them all in its light, and you will have the key to the understanding of creatures and God himself.

If you knew how much God loves you! You would be proud, almost prideful. If you really understood your grace, how rich you would be! Have courage, dear daughter! We should not cry or drag along when we follow such a good King as Jesus, the King of love!

To the degree that the prison is falling into ruins, the temporary prisoner rejoices because his seclusion will be over.[15]

Try to wait for me, do not go to the heavenly Father too far ahead of me, but help me because I still have a lot to do. Is your dear Mathilde traveling? I would really like her to pass through Paris. When will I see you? I have no idea. Just as Angels do not know anything ahead of time, nor does the servant. I am here [on duty] like the Good Lord's orderly, happy to be at his feet. That is where I think of you and all your loved ones.

Goodbye, I bless you and I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Mme. Jordan
10 rue de Castries
Lyons

[13] French edition dated July 9th.
[14] Her husband's name was Camille.
[15] Allusion to death.

973

CO 972

TO MISS PROUVIER
(V 2/5)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 19, 1860*

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

It has already been 19 days from the date [of your letter] and I haven't answered you yet! You see what we can expect from human beings. And yet, I was so happy to learn that you had the exposition of the holy Ciborium, that is, of the veiled God! How fortunate you are to have been the first ones in this divine service! to have received the favor of the Bread of life so quickly! And so, watch over it carefully, so that you may not be replaced by hearts that are purer and more fervent! The service of the King must be royal, beautiful, magnificent, and sovereign in everything. Everything is subordinated, everything is due to it.

Be convinced that for you and for your daughters, that is the hidden treasure, the grace of life, the mission of love. The rest will only be a form, or one of its rays.

Direct toward the eucharistic body all the movements of the eaglet's wings. I say eaglets, you are not yet eagles. That will come under the divine action of love.

Dear sister, you tell me that you have turned in on yourself. Then you must have hurt yourself, because we hurt ourselves when we fall on a sharp stone.

You must quickly rise again and walk with your head up high and your heart even higher. Our head gets dizzy when we look at an abyss or a rapid current.

We need to eat to have strength; so eat the Bread of the strong, and not those debilitating things which make you ill. When will God be our strength and our support? Courage! Remember that you are <u>blind</u>, and that you need a divine hand to guide you; <u>deaf</u>, and that you must listen to the <u>inspiration of grace</u> and love; <u>paralytic</u>, and that you need the commands of Jesus to proceed. But above all, don't forget that you are the spouse of the eucharistic Heart and that purity of heart is your dowry, as well as your adornment. So then, be beautiful in purity, limpid in your intentions, selfless in your actions, free in your affections. Be free in the life of love, as love is free and happy in its center of activity. No more spider webs, no more fever of self-love, no more sterile begging from those who have nothing to give. You have the noble Heart of Jesus, that suffices. Let sterile storms blow.

Goodbye dear sister, be on fire - first under the ashes, focused within, to store up its explosive force.

I bless you with all the fondness of the charity of our good Master, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. The eucharistic heart of Jesus was emphasized in Rouen and Tours. I gave a special sermon at Tours. This is the sowing [of the seed].

Mademoiselle
Miss Prouvier
at Lons-le-Saulnier (Jura)

974

CO 973

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 16/17)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 19, 1860*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am always late with my friends. I know that they are so kind and indulgent that I end up with great regrets.

Thank you for your letter and for the happy news it brought me about the ordination of your dear, pious nephew. How devoutly he must have said his first Mass! How the Blessed Trinity must have received both sacrifices, that of Jesus Christ and that of its new Priest! How his saintly Father must have been happy from heaven above to see his dear beloved son become Jesus Christ in action - in the holiness of Jesus!!!

I am still rejoicing over the happiness of each one! his good and pious mother who must have felt no more sorrow, or sadness, on that day since both heaven and earth were there - around the altar, oh! happy mother! to have such a son, who will be the blessing of Jesus Christ in the family!

How happy this dear Marie must have been! to see her brother so close to Jesus Christ, yes Jesus Christ.... Marie and Moses,[16] Marie and Jesus Christ. She must have cried with joy and gratitude to be so great in her beloved brother.

And dear Joannes must have been there - with his young man's faith and his brother's heart - other battles for him, a different glory - but, were he King - he would always be the brother of such a good brother. And good beloved Tonny, he must have suffered so, as head of the family, since he could not be there at the place which was his as father. He must have been there, his heart knows no obstacles.

And you, dear daughter, what were you doing there at Belley? You were crying, praying, loving, you were the painter of the Supper and the friend of all.

Did good Fr. Mayet not come to Belley? I would be upset with him, if he thought that best. I was hoping a little that he would have passed through Paris and that I would have had the joy of seeing him.

Yes, it is a good thing that Claudius comes to understand that goodness has its limits, or rather, that one must nevertheless become a man and a perfect man. He is equally capable of good or evil. Poor child!

Goodbye, dear Mademoiselle and dear daughter, [you are the] center of the family, ever be its joy and happiness.

I remain very faithfully united to you in our Lord. My regards to all, but to Fr. Mayet with my heart and soul.

Eymard

P.S. Everything is the same as usual here. Miss Guillot also. The little family is increasing, they will be nine.[17] They love our Lord very much and he must love them.

[16] Her brother has become an intercessor like Moses, like Jesus.
[17] Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

975

CO 970

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 7/36)

All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 19, 1860*

Very dear sister in our Lord,

What a long silence from Mauron! Are you still struggling? Always subject to a thousand requests? Take courage! Don't be so forgetful toward your elders.

I should have let you know that I received your last letter. I am doing so now, yes, and all its contents as well. Thank you.

So then, you are working on Calvary. Yes, it must be. The divine blood must be mixed with ours in order for a Work of God to bear fruit, especially a eucharistic Work.

The Works of the Most Blessed Sacrament don't begin like others... It's only right. They deserve the honor of being closest to our good Master, since he is the Work itself.

But then, they grow well where other works fail! As grace is victorious over nature, so Jesus is victorious over the very ones who should have worked with him.

May all the glory belong to Jesus.

Don't let yourself be discouraged or depressed, dear sister. Storms fill the sails and clear the air.

A eucharistic Work is founded upon death and lives by God alone. Oh, I see it every day! Every time we want to put in our own will, we harm God's work.

Trust in your grace and pursue it as a mission of love. The price you will pay is your own immolation. Obedience to the will of God as we know it is the first and final act of love.

I had the joy of speaking about Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at Rouen and Tours. People came and listened devoutly: the seed is planted.

Jesus Eucharistic isn't known! Even by those who ought to make him known! Oh! How little he is loved! even by his own! It's startling and frightening. The devotion of pious people is so unenlightened and misguided. These poor people are kept busy with little pious nothings, tied into a slavery of little practices; they become scrupulous over grains of sand. Oh! Oh! How sad it is! So, my thought is that divine mercy will free these slaves by the grace of the Eucharist.

Dear daughter, we also have our little crosses. Sometimes it's a storm which breaks out on all sides and we no longer know where to turn, then Jesus reappears in the Sun of his goodness, and we are like a person saved from a shipwreck.

Goodbye dear sister.
Yours in the divine Eucharist,
Eymard, Superior

Miss Virginie Danion
at Mauron (Morbihan)

Jul 20	*Conference Servants: Interior silence.*

976

CO 974

TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 14/21)

Paris, July 26, 1860

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Sister Benoite is going to see you, I'm happy for you….

I'm happy to know that you are better. It will have served as a little retreat. God showed you that we must take advantage of the graces we receive while in good health… [*3 lines erased*]….

So, may that console and strengthen you in all your trials…. God's good pleasure must be your whole happiness.

Surely, we prayed very much for you here, and that is why you were so strong.

Yes, dear daughter, filial abandonment to the holy will of God, let that be your crown and your perfection. Don't seek any other.

Surrender to God the care of your life and your future. Have only one desire, one pleasure: that of serving him according to his holy Will.

Goodbye, good daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Mariette Guillot
17, rue du Juge de Paix
Fourviere, Lyons

Jul 27	*Conference Servants: The chapter of faults and grace.*
Jul 29	*Conference Servants: Announcing the foundation retreat.*
	Annual retreat - "Foundation Retreat" to the Servants from July 30 to August 5, 1860.
Jul 27	*Conference Servants: The chapter of faults and grace.*
Jul 29	*Conference Servants: Announcing the foundation retreat.*
Jul 30	*Opening. Spirit of love and recollection.*
Jul 31	*1st Meditation - Total gift of self.*
	Conference: Openness of heart.
	2nd Meditation - Esteem and love of the eucharistic vocation (service of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament).
Aug 1	*1st Meditation - Eucharist, purpose of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.*
	Conference: The Rule.
	2nd Meditation - Adoration, mission of prayer, reparation.
Aug 2	*1st Meditation - The love of God in our vocation.*
	Conference: The spirit of nature of grace, dominant grace.
	2nd Meditation - The grain of wheat.
Aug 3	*1st Meditation - Purity.*
	Conference: Extraordinary states of soul.
	2nd Meditation - We must go to God through love.

Aug 4	*1st Meditation - How little Jesus Christ is loved.* *Conference: Explanation of the two first chapters of the rule: Service of Jesus, Spirit of love.* *2nd Meditation - Hidden life. Exterior recollection, modesty.*
Aug 5	*1st Meditation - On the vows.* *Conference: Immediate assault on the dominant fault.* *2nd Meditation - Work assignments. We ought to be pleased with the good Lord.*

977

CO 975

TO MISS PROUVIER
(V 3/5)

Paris, August 1, 1860

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I hasten to answer your letter. I hope that our good Master is the one who inspired my reply.

1. Take care of your body, just as the doctor wills.

2. Take even better care of your soul, in gentle and gracious union in our Lord. God is offering you a grace of recollection.

3. Deal very gently and patiently with your proud Marie. She is too ill for violent remedies. Open her eyes by your compassionate charity.

And pray a great deal for her, as well as for us, your little brothers in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All yours,
Eymard

Mademoiselle, Miss Prouvier
at Lons-le-Saulnier (Jura)

Aug 7	*Conference Servants: Daily schedule. The final rule - union with God by the grace of feeling, of light, and by mystery.*

978

CO 976

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 71/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 9, 1860

Very dear Father,

I received all the money you referred to and sent me, courtesy of Miss Marie. I divided it as specified. I'm sending you the bills.

The office of the Legion of Honor replied that you would be advised only in July 1861 whether you could withdraw a salary in Marseilles every six months.

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire I

Last week I gave a retreat to the Ladies at No. 66. An aspirant from Toulon, Miss Vital (without Toulon knowing about it), came to study her vocation. She left three days ago, she seems to be deciding favorably; now she is free. The young woman from Marseilles is settling down courageously to her new lifestyle. She will have sacrifices to make. She is a bit uncomfortable right now from the change in temperature. It seems that it was very hot in Marseilles. It's almost cold here and always raining.

Our little theologians will have their second test in theology. Brother Carri is beginning to settle down. He really had difficulty at the beginning, because he didn't understand his classical author sufficiently.

We'll have a lovely First Communion, thirty-seven young adults, many of whom are 17, 18, 19 years old, and two girls. I want the Ladies to begin the Work of First Communion also, for girls. They will have some after the Assumption.

A theologian is presenting himself. It's the one from Gien who was with Mr. Golliet. Since he didn't have his dimissorial letter, he had been delayed. He wrote to tell me that his Bishop didn't refuse it. I answered that we should first see each other and have a retreat of discernment. I haven't received his answer yet. He has already completed one or two years of theology.

There is nothing new about the compulsory sale.

Your hope that Mr. Olive will charitably pay the memorandum [which has] come due is good news. He can do it, and it's a beautiful loan to our Lord.

Believe me, dear Father, my affection for you hasn't changed.

I hope that I really do love the divine Eucharist, and so how wouldn't I love its first knight, the adorer who preceded the beginnings, a companion in arms!

So when I wrote to you last, my written words evidently didn't convey my thought.[18] I only wanted to forewarn you against false or exaggerated impressions, which persons or circumstances can create. I'm more upset about your pain than my own, because I know that you want only what is good and best for the Work and for me. I'll explain things to you face to face.

I'm sorry that I don't have anyone to send to you, at least for a month, so that you could have time to come to Paris. If I had some money, I would suggest that Fr. Champion or Fr. Bissey go to spend a few weeks in Marseilles, even if that might make it difficult for us here and could cause gossip about our small numbers, but that wouldn't be anything. On August 7th, I withdrew your interest from Mr. Marziou's, 50 francs. They are hoping to succeed with the transatlantic liner. The Gazomotor invented by a friend of Mr. Marziou's succeeded well. I gave the 50 francs to Brother Carri.

I only have enough space and time to say that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. You sent only 320 francs for your vestments, instead of 330. Brother Carri and I counted it four times.

Aug 10	*Conference Servants: Strength and rest, the work of adoration is everything.*
Aug. 15	*Bishop de Charbonnel, Cap., passing through Paris, confirmed Fr. Eymard's 38 First Communicants.*
Aug 17	*Conference Servants: Three kinds of peace: conscience, virtue and God.*

[18] Literally: my pen evidently...

979

CO 977

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 8/36)

Paris, August 17, 1860

Dear daughter in our Lord,

You will be receiving the crosses. Your book on holy Abandonment is nowhere to be found. I will press them to reprint it. Thank you for kindly remembering me in the presence of God. Do so often: I need it.

Try to become like stone, marble and diamond under the blows of the hammer; that whole thing is very sad. He should request to be changed, it should be requested for him: it would be a grace. See him as being out of his wits, unable to listen to reason, so forceful to spread criticism and even more forceful in scolding you.[19]

When he comes to you, I permit you to get upset with him but only to the point of anger. It's idiotic to try to reason with madness; it's a stupid kind of charity.

Please, have no more weaknesses of patience, humility and forbearance. It will never end! It's better to break off completely. Your reputation belongs to God, your freedom is yours. - Do what is right and let others talk; don't even allow anyone to discuss it with you. Bury that name fifty feet underground, and you will be free and wise.

Serve our Lord well, and then what will you care about the mosquitoes in the valley?

Be happy, self-controlled, peaceful, constantly at the feet of our good Master, and let the little Marthas scream.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

980

CO 978

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 29/52)

Paris, August 19, 1860

Miss Stephanie

So you are feeling better now, dear daughter! May God be thanked and blessed for it! We were very sad to know that you were so ill.

It was an illness for the glory of God like that of Lazarus. Oh! It was too soon to go to Heaven at such a young age! and then your eucharistic mission isn't finished yet.

So God heard our prayers, may he be praised! Sickness is worth a good retreat! So now you are purified, entirely God's!

It really hurt me to hear about the behavior of that S.[20] Oh! Yes, tell her Superior. It's a charity because whoever has the plague must be exposed. However the Superior should be discreet

[19] Her pastor? A chaplain? A confessor?
[20] Sister?

and not reveal your name; it's useless. If, in fact, you have motives to fear this, impose the secret upon her, in order that you may be able to keep it quiet.

Our good Master is the one who healed you! So he has his plans; that is, that you should give yourself entirely to his glory. Well, yes!

You see what men are like and do! Alas! Poor humanity! But God is the best doctor.

They say that there is no worse doctor than a family friend.

Renew your strength at the springs and follow the required treatment without scruples.

Belong to God with your heart, not with your head.

Goodbye, dear daughter, I bless you with my whole soul.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

981

CO 979

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 4/14)

Paris, August 20, 1860

Very dear Mr. Perret,

We all share in the sorrow and pain of your heart at this time. We do so especially through prayer, asking our Lord to give you strength and acceptance, and to your beloved brother, God's love to crown such a devout life and apostolic zeal which was so humble and persevering.

Poor friend! Alas! So many crosses this year! Surely God finds his glory in it and you find your crown. Such is life in this sad world, a life of farewells or of eternal rendezvous at the feet of God.

You are investing your wealth well! since it is the wealth of God's poor [people]. So, thieves will never take it from you.

Our First Communion on Assumption Day was thrilling. Thirty-seven very devout adults, all dressed in new clothes, formed the little army of Jesus Christ. Among these 37 some were Angels. I was at the point of tears when I saw these poor forsaken street children whose parents were almost all irreligious, or even less, praying so fervently, approaching the Communion rail with a touching modesty. What the grace of God and the charity of Jesus Christ can do? One hundred seven young men have made their First Communion this year. That is [what happened to] the seed of your visits to the Fosse-aux-Lions! Two girls who had been forsaken also made their first Communion.

That evening, after Vespers, Bishop Charbonnel, Capuchin, came to Confirm them all in our chapel, so the feast was complete.

What really consoled us is that not a single one of these communicants went to the civil celebrations and the fireworks, but they stayed quietly at home.

The retreat was more complete this time. - We kept them for 3 days - We gave them breakfast in the morning; then we were in better control of the situation.

Yesterday, Sunday, they came to receive the scapular. May Jesus and Mary keep them!

Nothing new here. It is a little like heaven; the divine service is always the same. -

All the Fathers and Brothers ask me to express to you their feelings of friendship and their fond dedication, and I, dear Mr. Perret, remain united with you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. Please express my longstanding sentiments of fondness and union in our Lord to your dear brother. I constantly pray for him.

Aug21	*Conference Servants: Confidence in the grace of vocation, seeking only for grace, attentiveness to grace.*
Aug 23	*Confernce Servants: Avoid banalities. Preparation before adoration.*

982

CO 980

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)

(VII 4/17)

Paris, August 23, 1860

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you! Thank you so much for your last letter. It allowed us to share in the great joy and happiness of the first reception.[21] Praise God! It is like the joy of Tobias' return! you are the happy mother! I implored our Lord to give you a share in our hundredfold, and I hope to see that I have been heard.

Let Mme. Blanche carry out her duties as a daughter. She gains by it and so do you. It is her duty and joy.

The day after your letter, I saw the fine Mme. Couchies here.[22] She was pleased with my words about her dear Blanche. She will go to see you with Miss Benjamine[23] when they call her. She is very happy to go see you. She is free; her brother went back to Sens.

You will have a little more time for yourself, dear Mother; you must even know how to find some, so as to give more time to God and to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. You must have the young ones do the work.

Brother Michel is resting a little. - I gave them two weeks without studies. He is taking advantage of it to be more united with our Lord. He is surely right, because that is the whole of life. Dear Mother, go often to drink from this fountain of living water. Do so by means of your heart and the gift of your will... Take care of your affairs with our Lord and he will take care of your [family].

Goodbye, dear Mother. I like to receive news from you. It's family news.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

[21] Brother Michel' Chanuet' - first visit home from seminary.
[22] Her son's mother-in-law.
[23] Perhaps a name, perhaps also a pet name for the youngest in the family.

Mme. Chanuet, mother
c/o Mr. Blanc de S. Bonnet
at St. Bonnet via Vaugneray
(Rhone)

P.S. The Blessed Virgin would say to her divine Son: they have no more wine. Kindly do the same, but on condition that we pay the cost. It is so difficult to get natural wine here. Naturally I thought of you, although with some reserve. Please, if you have none to sell, ignore this request. Otherwise I will hesitate in the future.

Aug 31	*Conference Servants: We must serve God, in him and for him.*
No date	*Conference Servants: The hidden life in silence and recollection.*
Sep	*Conference Servants: Penances.*
Sep 3	*Retreat Servants: Humility of love, practice of humility.*

983

CO 981

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 72/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 3, 1860

Very dear Father,

Fr. Bissey will leave Paris Sunday, September 9, at 1:45 p.m., and will reach you on Monday at 6:30 in the evening. By sending you this dear colleague, I am proving that I love you more than myself, as I think it will not just be for a month, but for definite residence, since you would be left alone too much.

What makes me happy is that you will soon have four priests, since Brother Martin is close to it.

We will remain two here. However, I hope that God, who has always assisted us in need, will send us help when he judges opportune. In the meantime, we are able to continue his holy service, even at night.

Our young theologians will return to their theology tomorrow after two weeks of rest. They are few, but provided that they are good, it's enough.

I heard about a priest from Sens who is thinking of coming. I'm waiting for his request, will he be among the elect? I don't know.

We will be very pleased to receive good Fr. Leroyer. If we had been more numerous here, I would have preferred to go to give you the annual retreat, and receive his vows at the end; but it isn't possible: the service of the Master would suffer from it.

Goodbye, dear Father. Difficulties are seeds of grace. I dismissed the brother who came. He hardly knew how to read Latin. Brother Martin is still a bit stubborn, but has persevering courage. I would like to see him a bit calmer, and especially very charitable toward those he thinks are not good.

Very dear Father, I am,

United to you in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Your box left yesterday by freight. We scolded Mr. Carpentier, as we weren't too satisfied here either.

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
Marseilles

984

CO 983

TO THE MLLES BOURGES
(V 4/4)

Paris, September 6, 1860

Mademoiselles and dear sisters in our Lord,

My deepest sympathy for the pain you felt at the death of your dear and kind mother. Oh! It is a sad life which makes us say such painful farewells; and you have already said so many! Poor Demoiselles, you must not let yourselves grieve too much because your parents are saints, and you will find them again in Heaven one day. Then, there is a final consolation that you were able to assist your own at that supreme moment, and to have fulfilled that last duty of friendship toward them.

Your mother was so kind! She loved her children so! In her final illness she was purified by God's divine mercy so that he could reward her sooner.[24] I always do pray for her, and for your beloved brother,[25] who, I believe, is in Heaven, and for your father, whom God has received in his mercy.

Dear Demoiselles, I don't know when I shall go to Marseilles, but my first visit will be for you.

Take a good rest during the holidays; you must really need it. Rest especially at the feet of our Lord.

Goodbye, my dear sisters in our Lord, I bless you wholeheartedly.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

The Mlles Bourges
Boarding School Directors
rue Curiol, 29
Marseilles

[24] Allusion to the Sacrament of Reconciliation? (Ed.)
[25] This brother was a priest and had been a curate at La Seyne-sur-Mer.

985

CO 982

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 8/24)

Paris, September 6, 1860

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

What a surprise this morning! Through your help divine Providence sent me bread for his children, news about a good friend whom I was expecting here as usual, a fine invitation to Bethany.[26]

Therefore, thank you in the name of our good Master. I will lodge at your home when the Master sends me to Marseilles in a few months. So you are disabled, dear friend of God! Can it be that you are in that condition, you, who are called upon by everyone! The good Master wills it, may he be blessed! But I will ask him to heal you quickly and he will heal you.

Thank our good Mother for me, since it is through you that she sent me God's gift.

Fortunately, our Master is rich and powerful, good and loving. He will repay it all generously in this world and in the next.

Here everything is as usual. Our Master is everything and we are nothing.

I embrace you *toto corde et animo*.[27]

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

Sep 7	*Conference Servants: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.*

986

CO 984

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET, NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 5/17)

Paris, September 7, 1860

Dear Mother,

I cannot write to Mr. Amedee without greeting you in our Lord.

The mother directed the hand of her sons and tomorrow, our good Master will be crowned by your devotion.[28] Congratulations, dear Mother, because your divine debtor is rich and kind! Thank you for the wine which your farmer promised me. This is an account we have opened with you, isn't it, dear Mother?

I remain closely united to you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

[26] Alms for the Work of First Communions and an invitation to visit the Carrel family when in Lyons.
[27] With all my heart and soul.
[28] Meaning unclear, perhaps some gift that serves for worship.

987

CO 985

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 9/24)

Paris, September 9, 1860

Dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I couldn't help laughing this morning, when I received a letter from Mme. de la Goutte explaining that she had sent 200 francs for her children who were traveling. I thought I was rich with an additional 200 francs for a few days; what an illusion! Now, I find myself rich with more than half, since the Good Lord will be my debtor. So, dear friend, it's a misunderstanding on my part, which is no obstacle to my happiness and joy to be

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. The 200 francs are available for Mr. Paul when he passes through [Paris]. Kindly send this letter to Mr. Creuset, Third Order member, I don't know his number.

Sir,
Mr. Carrel, Linen merchant
3 Quai d'Orleans
Lyons (Rhone)

Sep 12	*Conference Servants: The Work of First Communion and the priests who have left.*

988

CO 986

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 42/52)

Paris, September 12, 1860

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am far behind with you; that is the sin of poor people.

I received news indirectly about you and your family. Congratulations on the success of your dear children, but especially for their good behavior and their true desire to love the Good Lord. May these dear children continue, and divine wisdom will bless them. May they keep themselves always truly pure, for God is light and we ought to be children of light. God is love and we ought to love him in his divine love.

So then, you will soon be going to Hyeres, dear sister! You do well, especially to attend entirely to God and your health. Mr. Laure[29] will be good for you. Obey him.

Visit dear Mme. Laure, my longstanding daughter. I said and I repeat that someday she will be a great saint. Her conscience is suffering: that is her cross; but we must help her to carry it.

At Hyeres you will find an excellent Pastor, Fr. Liotard; remember me to him.

[29] A physician known to St. Eymard.

I am accompanying you with my prayers and wishes. Scatter a few eucharistic sparks everywhere.

I remain in our Lord,

Madame and dear sister,
All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Mr. Adolphe and Mr. Paul are well. I gave Mr. Adolphe a lovely book for you. - I left him in spiritual freedom.

My very respectful regards to his kind mother.

I am having the Office of the Most Blessed Sacrament printed. Please find out whether they might want some [copies] at Tarare, at both parishes, and at Amplepuis. It will cost little.

989

CO 987

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 5/14)

Paris, September 12, 1860

Very dear Mr. Perret,

We all felt both afflicted and comforted by the painful and edifying news you gave us about the death of your dear holy brother - Oh yes! He is a saint; his holiness was so gracious [toward others] but so strict toward himself. What a delicate conscience! How devoted he was to his beautiful Work of the Propagation of the Faith. How much gratitude the Marist Fathers owe him! It is due to his zeal and affection that they have received major support - that good Priest! It was always a joy for me to meet him and exchange a few words with him.

If there is still time, recommend me as well as our little Society to his prayers. Here, we are all praying for him.

And you, poor dear friend, you must be the consolation of all your loved ones, and you must be at their bedside of pain and death. That is the mission entrusted to your devotion - we will try to replace your family, and to give you what you give so generously to others.

The Work of First Communion is praying for you; I do thank you for what you have sent for it. It was really Providence!

Believe us and especially myself, dear Mr. Perret, {to be}

Your friend in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

990

CO 988

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 73/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 13, 1860

Very dear Father,

I am writing to acknowledge your kind letter with its contents. Your letter really consoled me. You saw the trial in the same way as we did; that is, as a grace: few and good.[30] As long as we are enough for the service of our Good Master, everything is going well.

We are doing more than you in Marseilles, with nocturnal adoration five times a week here. No one even seems to think that we are doing much. Love never says: it's enough. People in the world work more than we do. So, if someone complains, it would be a bad sign. If they continued to complain, they should be sent away as lazy and dangerous servants.

I really approve the idea of sending Fr. Leroyer here, if your young man arrives.

Our retreatant is fine and has good will. He seems to esteem and love our life. But we shouldn't judge him too quickly since we have been taken in so often. However, he is humble, and that gives me hope.

Jesus, the Emperor of Emperors, is too poor, too mortified, too pure for the world, and even for devout people. Oh! There are so few souls who love Jesus for himself and want to serve him for his glory! It's frightening, so we must help the youth.

Goodbye, good Father. My friendly regards to all, and from everyone to everyone.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. Yes, may this fatherly Providence be praised which so kindly feeds us every day. It's a proof that he loves us and is pleased with our services, imperfect though they be, at the feet of Jesus our love.

It happens so often that I am at my last penny, that I wonder what God is going to do, and from which side help will come. You know our resources. Our expenses are great, especially the false expenses, the enormous taxes, interest, etc. Well! everything comes in its own time.

I often don't dare buy myself something for fear of increasing the Good Lord's debt, and then each thing comes in its own time. I might say that it's like a continual miracle, it's like the manna of the desert, which falls each day.

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
Marseilles

[30] It is better to be few and to be good (religious or adorers).

991

CO 989

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 116/145 VI 10)

Paris, September 13, 1860

My very dear sisters,

I understand your heart's desire to see me at La Mure. Mine would desire the same for your sake, but we must know how to sacrifice pleasure to duty, and at this time it is impossible because of our exposition which I cannot leave. It might be possible only in the winter or the spring when I hope to go to Marseilles; but since I would be going to La Mure not for the Region, but for you, the time of year will not stop me.

You are having minor difficulties about the house and about business matters. God will help you. These are the small crosses of life. Everyone has some difficulties.

The essential thing, dear sisters, is that our good Master be well served and very happy with us. We have such a short time to live on this poor earth; we must take advantage of it to love the Good Lord and serve him well in his Most Holy Sacrament.

Be grateful that you are able to do some good to your girls[31] and around you, that is the joy of the Christian life.

As for me, I am well. Our holy and beautiful Work continues to be our consolation and happiness in the midst of the little trials caused by subjects who come from time to time, but that helps to increase our trust in God.

The women are fine also and their happiness consists in serving our Lord.

Come now, my good sisters, have courage and zeal, rejoice always in the grace of our Lord and kind Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

992

CO 990

TO MISS PROUVIER
(V 4/5)

Paris, September 13, 1860

Dear sister in our Lord,

I read your letters with pleasure. The struggle of nature and grace are evident there; and then, your poor soul is always somewhat tangled in the spider webs. Oh! If you would consult the Holy Spirit within you a little more, and have a little more trust and inner dependence on divine grace, you would have a good and wise director!

I think you need more freedom; but you don't know how to use it well, nor to maintain it, nor to conciliate it with obedience. So then, ask our Lord for that.

[31] Nanette's orphaned nieces.

Your reasons in favor of the Third Order of Mary as a preparation strongly impressed me. At first, I would have had some things against it. Today, I am in favor of it, and I urge you to do it, if you still feel inclined toward it.

The Marist Priests are fine religious. They have a good spirit and are the beloved children of the Blessed Virgin. So, you cannot make a better choice. Be a good, gracious, devout mother. When the mother's labors will be upon you, remain at the foot of the cross, with the Mother of mothers.

Be like her, standing, strong, and pure in suffering.

Pray a great deal for me. I do so with joy for you and for all your daughters.

Goodbye in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

Sep 14	*Conference Servants: The Book of Penances.*
Sep 18	*Conference Servants: Scapulars, explanation of schedule*

993

CO 991

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 6/14)

Paris, September 19, 1860

Dear friend and beloved brother in our Lord,

We grieved with you for your fine devout brother who was taken from you. We do pray for him, for one must be so pure from all the dust of this world to enter into Heaven.

We will willingly say the Masses which you desire to have said as soon as possible. - Having known and loved this dear brother, it will be a double reason to pray more fervently for him.

Your nephew kindly came to give us news about you. Yes dear Mr. Perret, consider us as yours, as your family, forever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

P.S. All the Fathers and Brothers want me to tell you that they shared in your loss and love you, and especially Brother Chanuet.

Sep 21	*Conference Servants: About the Book of Penances*
Sep 23	*Conference Servants: You must be God's good employees*
Oct 1	*Retreat Servants: Sadness*
Oct 3	*Conference Servants: The hidden life*

994

CO 992

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 27/104)

Paris, October 4, 1860

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

You are right to complain about me. I still wouldn't have enough courage to write to anyone except to you. Alas, poor Italy! Unfortunate Italians! Evil is triumphing.

I would have liked to go for a brief visit, but my time was spent nearly always traveling. You know how dear your soul is to me in our Lord.

So, be very faithful to your morning prayers. As for the evening, do them freely according to your duties. You aren't obliged to put aside everything to do them: no, no.

You would do well to go into seclusion on the day of your monthly retreat.

I cannot send you that monthly retreat yet, nor my notes; I didn't have time.

Let me tell you what they wrote to me on September 19th about the person I had mentioned to you: I copy: - "The Blessed Virgin said: 'On a certain day I came down to the mountain to foretell great misfortunes. These will happen, if my people do not convert. I can no longer hold back the arm of my Son. Oh! my poor children! If you knew all the sins which are taking place!' And while saying this she looked toward the Blessed Sacrament. Big tears fell from her eyes. After a long pause, she said: 'You are doing what the angels do in heaven; All in Heaven envy your happiness. Benefit from it. My daughter pray especially for bad priests. There are so many who do not love your little Jesus!' Sister said: 'But Mother, there are so many good ones!' She answered me: 'Oh my child! There are many who are considered good, who cover themselves with good and do evil! Oh Poor France! Italy! Austria! Spain! Pray that disaster will not come and touch the Work.'"

So dear sister, this is my letter.

Goodbye. The mail is leaving.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Madame de Grandville
8 rue Saint-Laurent
Nantes, Lower Loire

995

CO 993

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 43/52)

Paris, October 4, 1860

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I will send you the Offices of the Most Blessed Sacrament later, because they aren't ready yet. I want to prepare a Manual for the associates and the adorers, which, I hope will accomplish your purpose and hopes, so please wait.

We need to cover our walls with a white hanging. We will need about a hundred meters of muslin with large brocade, not too expensive, because it is only temporary. Could you send us some samples with the price? We would see whether we can manage this expense. We had a beautiful hanging of white damask, but since it is already darkened, and since we cannot change it at the moment, we plan to cover it with muslin.

I saw your younger brother who came to ask me for a letter of reference. I liked him, he strikes me as having a strong personality. He is very dear to me, since he is your brother.

Dear Madame, you will find a new place for your two little children. May God truly bless them and may they always be pure, in order to be pleasing to Jesus and Mary: it's the virtue of the Angels and of all those who love God above all.

As for you, dear Madame, you are going to Hyeres; my hope is that your health will be completely restored. Mr. Laure [the doctor] will be devoted to you.

Goodbye dear Madame and sister, I bless you in our Lord and I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

996

CO 994

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 17/17)

Paris, October 4, 1860

Dear Miss Elizabeth,

Your devout and lovely memento is in my room. I wanted to enjoy it freely; it recollects me and makes me think with pleasure about our good Master whom you have so beautifully drawn. Thank you most heartily for your gift - I find it very touching and it also brings back so many good memories! I had not forgotten that portrait, since I first saw it. It seems to me I can still see it in the lovely family living room where we were so happy and so welcomed.

I am truly sorry that I didn't see dear Claudius who brought it to me; I would have thanked him twice [over]. Paris is so large. Your dear Tonny is the one who brought it to me from Lyons, do thank him for me. I understand that he could not come this far, with all his business, it's so far. I love him just the same.

Your silence tells me that you haven't seen your dear priest-brother. I was hoping to have a little talk here when he passed through [Paris].

We spoke about him often with Bishop de Charbonnel, the Capuchin who became our neighbor. This dear Bishop came for supper with us on the feast of the Assumption, after a Confirmation. He is even more delightful with his beautiful violet cassock.

The Ladies whom you know are doing well.[32] They do love God very much - and especially, they imitate the simple and hidden life of the Blessed Virgin and of our Lord. That is what gives me such hope.

We are fine as well, sometimes by means of the cross, sometimes with joy, but what does it matter! Provided that the Good Master is pleased!

And you, dear daughter, love the Good Lord dearly and be the center of the Mayet family, that is the right and privilege of older sisters. That is the better part.

[32]The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

Goodbye. Believe that I am ever, as I was 20 years ago,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

997

CO 995

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 9/36)

Paris, October 5, 1860

Dear sister,

I missed the mail[33] in early September and we are already in October. But you have an increase of grace now, you had your retreat: you are holier now, you belong totally to God and the glory of Jesus, a host of love to the Blessed Sacrament. May you be blessed for it.

I really did pray for your retreat. It's too important to me! I would have liked to see you in Paris, to speak a little about our eucharistic struggle. I see that our thoughts meet on the subject of our friends, pious people, zealous collaborators. My opinion has changed: nothing is to be gained by associating with such people: the cost is too high. What we need is new men, people who want only Jesus Christ and his glory, and not their own spiritual preferences, desires (stemming from self-love) and their zeal (stemming from restlessness).

Oh! Oh! How few people there are given to a pure and selfless service of Jesus! I never would have thought there were so many who are enslaved by their own ego in the midst of God's graces and favors. Now, we will imitate the King in the Gospel: since those who were invited have refused to come, we will seek out those who are poor and rejected by the world; or rather God is sending them to us, and they are well received.

Yes, surely, dear sister, we want to be closely united to your dear Work[34] and be part of it, as you are with ours. It is not without reason that Jesus found us at his feet in Lyons! He has his plans, and I can assure you that our good Master's every desire is my supreme law and only happiness.

Pray for us; the grace of the cross often comes to visit us. The devil is furious against our Work; false vocations crucify us, and bad ones, unfortunately! would make us die, if Jesus were not our life.

Everyone has forsaken us; but my soul is in heavenly bliss because we have no human protectors, no friends even among religious, other than our own. So, my great ambition is to be the knight of pure Love for Jesus, and his greater glory in the Blessed Sacrament.

Recently I saw Sr. Isabelle who has left; she asked me to remember her to you.

When will you come to Paris? Or when will our paths cross? You know that I am, in our Lord,

Ever yours,
Eymard, Superior

[33] Perhaps a personal opportunity to send mail? Ed.

[34] The plan to establish a community of Thanksgiving does not seem to materialize for several years. cf; letter to Miss Danion, June 26, 1867.

998

CO 996

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 10/36)

Paris, October 11, 1860

Very dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your kind letter. I give thinks to our good Master for having flooded you with graces during your lovely retreat. We will all benefit a little from it. Yes, yes, like you I am convinced that in the adorable Sacrament, we have life and eternal life. We will be his guard of honor, his little eucharistic court, until the end of the world. People, demons and our imperfections shake this little boat, but it carries Jesus Christ. I dearly love your Work; it is life-giving and royal: it has my whole heart, and holds a prominent place here. Before every prayer, we use the invocation of praise and thanksgiving, both in public as in private. *Laudes ac gratiae sint omni momento Sanctissimo ac Divinissimo Sacramento*.[35]

The condition of one Mass per month to become part of your association would prevent us, because all our Masses are given for the luminary, and it would cause difficulties for the other houses. So then, consider us as only one and inscribe the house of Paris. We will say the monthly Mass on the first Saturday of the month, and I will take responsibility for it; after me, it will always be the Superior, etc. The other conditions are easy.

You are right, dear sister, we don't need people who are like beggars, who accept everything and who don't take anything into account. There are many devout people who think they are doing a lot just by receiving.

Get a few good souls who will weigh heavily in the scales; that will be better.

Sister Isabelle left a long time ago. I've been seeing her for at least four years. When I spoke to her about you, she cried with joy; her first desire was to go see you. She had to go with the others. I don't think her eyes are good enough for sewing. She has cried too much, and still cries a little.

Have courage, dear daughter and dear sister, have courage! We are serving a good Master and we don't need anyone's protection to serve him.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

Oct 12	*Conference Servants: Joy and graciousness.*
Oct 16	*Conference Servants: Hidden life and the virtues.*

[35]Oh Sacrament most Holy, Oh Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

999

CO 885

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 32/33)

Paris, October 16, 1860

Dear Madame,

Since I cannot stop at Lyons for the moment, I am sending you your dear son's letter. I saw him a few hours ago. This dear Charles is a responsible [young man]. He will always be, and will be worthy of you and his good father, to whom I beg you to offer my feelings of friendship.

Yesterday, I wanted him to come and eat with us, but he was expected elsewhere.

On leaving, I recommended him to my colleague, and I advised him to go see Bishop Segur who is so devout and kind!

If I can stop in Lyons when I return in approximately a month and a half, I will greet you briefly on the run.

Pray to the Good Lord a little for us. I do so for you and I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1000

CO 998

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 74/181 VI 4)

Paris, October 17, 1860

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your letter, which I loved. It really consoled me. I was waiting for it. I really wanted to have news about you. As I knew that Fr. Leroyer had written to you, I didn't do so. I was also a bit disturbed about his long stay in Angers, and I was waiting for his return to write to you. Finally, he arrived this morning. May God be praised! He is beginning his retreat to prepare for vows. He really interested us by telling us so much about you and Marseilles.

I'm happy to see that he is very devoted to the Work and that he has a heartfelt attachment to you.

Now about your letter:

1. About the priest from Rennes. I'll write to the Archbishop tomorrow for information. Age doesn't matter, if he is totally dedicated to the Work, and if he can fulfill its purpose. Better yet, if our Good Master is the one who is sending him, let him be welcome!

2. The position you have taken toward Porte, the young philosopher, is really the wisest.

3. You can count the two Brothers' novitiate as beginning on Assumption or from Sunday the 21st, the feast of the Purity of the Blessed Virgin.

I even think that this time of probation is too long. The longest should be from three to six months....as we see in several Communities, like the Benedictines, I believe. What should be noticed is that, in a Community of honor, the postulancy is always very short.

4. Now about purchasing the house. We cannot count on Sr. Maria, who is here. As I see it, she has no vocation, and I was told the same. I believe she is thinking of leaving because she is frustrated these days. She is only staying here through virtue.

The only other resource I can offer is the hope of selling our house here. We are still waiting to hear about the decree. We are being told that it will probably be next year. If that is how things are, we would give you all you need. I don't like to have the Sisters and Brothers share the same chapel. Fr. Champion and Fr. Leroyer are of the same opinion. For the moment, perhaps, it wouldn't be any great problem, but this evil world gives us cause to fear.

I'm very happy about the Bishop's good attitude. As you are in the situation, you see better than we do.

It seems to me that if we should purchase, it should be done through Mr. Gurin, in his name or in ours, by private contract. When a public contract is made, they put the names they want.

Fr. Leroyer will make his vows on Tuesday, the feast of the Holy Redeemer. He will reach you at the end of the week crowned and embroidered with the gold of divine love.

Forgive me. I didn't write to you sooner, because I was waiting for a letter from you every day. I would say to myself: I'll wait and make it a single reply.

Everyone here embraces you, especially myself.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

I will write to Miss Gagnerie.

Oct 19	*Conference Servants: Hidden life and piety.*

1001

CO 999

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 75/181 VI 4)

Paris, October 25, 1860

Very dear Father,

Good Fr. Leroyer is happy to return to you. He misses his beautiful chapel and your beautiful adorations; so much the better! I'm convinced that he will have a new grace which is even more eucharistic for the service and greater glory of our Good Lord and Master.

Have the cells made on the second floor; it's time, the harvest is ripening, the adorers will come, we must stretch out our little tent a little. Our Good Master will pay for it; our Heavenly Father is the divine guarantor for his divine Son and if it were necessary, we would sell what we have for his service.

See also whether you might not be able to make a small room in the hall where the latrines were, next to the sacristy. This small room would be very useful for men's confessions, to receive a man privately, for a thousand things. You would only have some bricklaying to do, and a window for the exit door.

Fr. Leroyer is bringing Mr. Golliet's belongings; I didn't know they were in the house. Brother Charles had put them in a corner of his linen room.

As for the 30 francs, Rev. Mr. Meynier doesn't know about it; if he received it, he gave it to the lawyer. Besides, he told me that if these 30 francs are worth something, they must be used to pay the lawyer's fee.

I might add: we advanced 40 francs on Mr. Golliet's account for his proceedings. He had told me he would reimburse the house of Paris, and I haven't received anything.

I advanced 50 francs to Fr. Leroyer for his trip to Marseilles and 14 francs for his trip to Angers. It's billed to divine Providence, but my poor purse is disappearing, and if our Good Master weren't so kind, I would be afraid for tomorrow.

Goodbye, dear Father, be happy, my love to all, Fathers and Brothers. I would also really like to see them soon.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. Brother Michel is so happy to send you the jam he made, and Brother Charles his fruits, and we, all our hearts.

Oct 26	*Conference Servants: Sr. Philomena; holiness of our Lord, obscurity.*

1002

CO 1000

TO MR. ROSEMBERG AND FAMILY
(VII 3/9)

Paris, October 26, 1860

Very dear friends,

A brief greeting from the heart, and in honor of the divine Eucharist.

You are ever present to me at the feet of the adorable Host. I love to make a little crown with your whole family at the feet of the throne of the divine King.

I urged the fine Madame Fegely from Fribourg to see you, with her good daughters. Be a little like the Angel Raphael for them and show them the ruins of St. Martin's, St. Gatien's and St. Julian's. I would really like it if Madame de Lignac, that good dear Mother, would welcome them and pray for them.

Goodbye, dear friends,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

Nov 2	*Conference Servants: We must live the interior life of our Lord.*
Nov 3	*Retreat Servants: Purity of life.*
Nov 5	*Retreat Servants: Life of love, knowledge of love.*

1003

CO 1001

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 76/181 VI 4)

Paris, November 10, 1860

Very dear Father,

I'm sending back to you my letter to the Bishop about Brother Carri. It made a tour of France and returned to me.

Your candles are ordered, Mr. Marziou advised. I'm waiting for his answer, which I hope will be favorable. His Gazomotor is keeping him busy, he is expecting immense profit from it.

Except for the cold, which is making everything freeze, things here are the same as usual.

Take care of yourself and please protect yourself against the cold.

I don't need to tell you how happy and joyful we will be to see you after such a long time.

Kind regards to all.
All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Dec 1	*Retreat Servants: Life of Jesus Christ in us. Humility, characteristic virtue.*
Dec 3	*Retreat Servants: Purpose of the redemption.*

1004

CO 1002

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 7/14)

Paris, December 3, 1860

Good and dear friend and brother in our Lord,

I am writing to acknowledge receiving your good letter and its contents for Masses.

Everyone was worried. They were afraid that you were ill; I was going to write to you. The poor and interesting blind person is waiting for you like the Messiah. Fr. de Cuers is here; he asks me to express his deepest friendship, and that he would have been happy to see you. - He must leave in about 10 days.

The ordination candidates, Brothers Carrie and Chanuet, will receive the four minor orders on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. They recommend themselves to your prayers.

I must go to preach the feast of the Epiphany at Marseilles. If I can stop in Lyons, I will be happy to come to see[36] you.

With great regrets for your absence, we praise God for it by seeing the good he is doing through you.

Yes, good and dear brother, do a great deal [of good], because there is so much evil being done.

We are always happy here at the feet of our dear Master.

[36] Literally: embrace.

From time to time, give us your dear news.... Since we are all one, we must tell one another again from time to time.

Therefore, I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1005

CO 1003

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(VII 5/5 IV 75)

Paris, December 6, 1860

You do well to reproach me, because I was reproaching you first, believing that you owed me. But no, we are not bound by etiquette. It's true, a great sadness binds my hands - how could I not be sad to see the sky so dark and so stormy? - When we see Rome and the Father of the faithful persecuted and forsaken by his own, - having only the poor and the women on his side, and what is most surprising, that he is being blamed. Oh! wicked people and secret societies are victorious at this time; they frighten kings and catch them in their nets, and kings make promises as they did at Constantinople, like people acting in fear.

Our Holy Church is now very free from any royal patronage, she who has consecrated and defended kings. Not a single one comes to her side; their rule is to save their own skins. But David's second psalm will come to pass: "Quare fremuerunt gentes."[37] God is always God and Jesus Christ is and will always be King of Kings.

Here we never discontinue praying and imploring at the foot of the throne of mercy; it is our mission.

And you, dear Lady, what are you doing? We will surely meet on the path to Heaven and to Rome.

We must pray a great deal and reawaken our faith and trust.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception will save us, because the Immaculate Virgin has not yet rewarded the world for her feast day. I believe that Lyons will celebrate the 8th again this year as it is celebrated nowhere else, because Lyons is Mary's first city.

I will go to Marseilles from January 3 - 21. I will pass through Lyons to greet you as my eldest daughter. (If I am to say holy Mass at Ainay, I will write to tell you.)

Goodbye, see you soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

[37] "Why do the nations fear?"

1006

CO 1004

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 77/181 VI 4)

Paris, December 26, 1860

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your kind letter. How grateful we are to you for having given us news about yourself right away! We were all very worried about you.

Your departure was a great loss and a great sorrow. God wanted you to continue on the battlefield, where I will go to join you soon.

The day after your departure, I settled something quite natural and liturgical: it is that the lay people not serve at the altar when there are clerics. Consequently, our Masses are served by our acolytes, wearing surplices. Every morning, when I saw the lay clothing serving my Mass, I wanted to bring it to a stop. But when Mass was over, the thought would leave me; now it's settled.

I'm sending you the good news from Mr. de Benque. Let's praise our Lord for it. It's a real victory for those who love him. Our First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies were very edifying: 42 young men, 16 girls and others renewing.

It was all done in our chapel outside of the presbyterium, in order to safeguard the principles. The children filled half of the chapel. There were fewer lay people, but the rule was observed.

For Christmas, we had terrible weather, as is seldom seen: snow swirling all day. Surprisingly, all the churches were full.

My fondest regards to all. It's a real pleasure for me to go embrace them all, and you especially, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. I've just met Mr. de Villequiet. He asked me for news about you, and whether we would all go to Marseilles as a haven after our compulsory sale. This good man only counts by numbers, it seems. He is happy. Mother Superior is better and is working actively. Good news!

Dec. 27 - Inauguration of the Guard of Honor in the Paris chapel.

1007

CO 1005

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

(I 78/181 VI 4)

COLLECTIVE LETTER TO THE FATHERS AND BROTHERS OF THE CENACLE AT MARSEILLES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

Paris, December 31, 1860

Very dear Fathers and Brothers in our Lord,

May you be blessed during this New Year which God's grace opens before us for the greater glory of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! May it truly be a eucharistic year for everyone. That is, may it help us become good religious adorers.

We have a beautiful place in the kingdom of God, dear Brothers. It is the best one, the holiest one of all, since we possess the kingdom of God fully in the Divine Eucharist. So then, there is nothing to envy in other religious Orders, except their holiness, in order to serve our divine King better.

Their privileges, glory and distinctions shouldn't be a cause of envy for us. The God of the Eucharist is our only glory, law and dignity on earth!

Oh! Very dear Brothers, if the heavenly court could, it would envy us. We are the royal Guard of the Savior of the world, his family of love!

But to respond to so many graces and so much honor, let us always be good religious of the Blessed Sacrament.

Let us always be faithful to these four fundamental points:

1. May the Divine Eucharist be the only purpose of our lives. Consequently, may the service of adoration be the royal service, to which everything else is subordinated and which everything else respects.
2. For eucharistic worship, total and absolute obedience to the liturgical rules of Holy Church.
3. May truth be the unchangeable and inflexible rule in our relationships and actions.
4. Let nothing be done outside the common Rule: consequently, no exceptions, nor favors from the world.

With these four foundations of a truly eucharistic spirit, our little Society will be great before God and powerful over all.

Let us never stray from this, if we want to prosper in the service of Jesus Christ and accomplish greater good in God's Church.

Thank you, very dear Brothers, for your wishes which were so heartfelt and filled with such good will.

Thank you for your kind and heartfelt brotherhood towards everyone.

In a few days, I will personally bring very fond wishes to you from all your Brothers in Paris.

I will be happy to come to see you, and to embrace you in our Lord, in whom I am, very dear Brothers,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior S.S.

P.S. I expect to arrive there Friday night around 7:00. The four Angels have been purchased.

1008

CO 1006

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 117/145 VI 10)

Paris, December 31, 1860

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to wish you a happy New Year as I have done since my childhood, adding, however, one more grace, that of our holy and lovely vocation.[38]

Yes, may this new year which God is offering us in his divine goodness be a good and eucharistic one! It may be the last one, may it be the best of all!

Let us really love our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament, dear sisters. Let us serve him even better. Let us go visit him every day with greater fervor and piety, doing everything to please him, doing everything for his love. Then this year will be the royal year of our lives.

Dear sisters, I don't need to tell you that I am praying constantly for you, what I ask for myself I ask for you; it is so natural!

Return these wishes to me at the foot of the holy Altars, especially at our Good Mother's altar and I will be happy.

I am leaving for Marseilles January 3rd. I will stay two weeks, and if I should have three days at my disposal when I return, I will go see you, but only for twenty-four hours. I must be here at the end of the month for a clothing ceremony.

I am well, so are the Ladies. It will be a great consolation for me to go see you, good sisters. It will be a little flower in this poor life of sorrows.

I will see you soon then, if the good Master so wishes.

Your brother,
Eymard, S.S.S.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

1009

CO 1007

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 28/104)

Paris, December 31, 1860

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

There has been such a long silence between Paris and Nantes! Nantes is waiting, and I still don't have anything. Paris is waiting, and I don't receive anything even from Nantes.

Are you ill? or are you waiting? I am on the point of leaving for Marseilles on January 3rd (rue Nau, 7). I'll stay about two weeks. I'll visit our house and speak a little about the divine Eucharist in that land of fire.

[38] His New Year's wishes include the prospect of their coming to join him in his eucharistic vocation.

When will I go to do as much in Nantes? I am very sad about your news.

Are you upset?[39]

I wish you a year that belongs to God, is totally God's, totally given to the holy Eucharist, our only path against our enemies.

I don't know whether it is a beautiful dream, but it seems to me that God will forgive us and he will bless[40] us for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. He will be the one to do everything: so then, to him be all the glory.

Please present your kind sister my respectful greetings and tell her to maintain hope.

Believe me in our Lord,

Dear Lady,
All yours,
Eymard, SS

1010

CO 1008

TO MISS JENNY GAUDIOZ
(VII 3/3)

Paris, December 31, 1860

Dear Sister in our Lord,[41]

I am really late with you, to thank you for your good letters and rejoice with you for the signal grace of your vocation and clothing day. That pleased me greatly, and it will even more so when you receive the full and perpetual grace, that of religious Profession. Dear Sister, you have the better part, you unite the two lives of Jesus, the two hands of love, the two graces of perfection. May God be praised and thanked a thousand times!

As God always wants to complete nobly what his kindness has begun, trust in the future. Besides, you have nothing more to wish for, you have the Eucharist and the Cenacle, the Apostolate and Love.

Therefore, be faithful to this good beloved grace; grow in humility, in the death of Jesus, to reach the opening to his divine heart. His heart opens only to the extent of our death to self. The spear which will open this heart of love is a spear like the one of St. Theresa, of St. Julienne, which wounds the heart of Jesus and opens it in order to be able to enter into it; may it be your dwelling!

In fact, dear Sister, I must go to Marseilles for January 6th. I hope to stop in Lyons and go see you, as well as your dear Mother [Superior], whom I do not forget, as well as her whole community.

My deepest expressions of friendship to your dear parents, whom I love with all my heart and please convey to them my best wishes and expressions of dedication.

Dear Sister in our Lord, I remain,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

[39] Perhaps, the failure or delay of their hopes for a foundation in Nantes.
[40] Literally: repay.
[41] Niece of Marguerite Guillot.

1011

CO 997

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 33/33)[42]

Dear Madame,

I am writing quickly to tell you that your dear son's plan was unknown to me. You are the one who is telling me about it. Consequently it is quite new. It needs study. Prayer and advice will not be lacking. As for me, I don't know what God wants from Charles, or from you in this circumstance, but I will begin by saying no. I hope that he will be received, for he has done such lovely drawing. He is still very devout, responsible and very simple, in a word, worthy of you, dear mother.

My respects to Mr. Franchet. I only have time to say that I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1012

CO 1010

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 11/14)[43]

Dear Mr. Perret,[44]

We do miss you here for the holidays! I am writing to offer you my wishes from afar in the hope of greeting you when I pass through Lyons, on my return from Marseilles where I will spend about two weeks. I am leaving next Thursday or Friday.

If I could have two hours free, I would go to greet you, but I am afraid I will not.

So then, receive from everyone here our sentiments of deepest and most devoted friendship, especially from

Your loving servant,
Eymard, Superior

Jan 1-6	*Retreat preached to the public in Marseilles for the Feast of the Epiphany.*

[42] No date, on the railroad.
[43] Architect in Lyons.
[44] This was written at the end of a letter by Father Carri, dated December 1st, 1861; but the content of this letter indicates that it was written January 1, 1861 (Father Troussier). The letter of Fr. Carri which relates the celebration of First Communion day is Appendix III of this Volume.

1013

CO 1011

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION
(I 3/5)

Marseilles, January 19, 1861[45]

Dear Father,

Thank you for your letter and the good news it contained. Is it possible that Michel forgot the ticket? Look in the book again. Besides, he is lying when he says that I am the one who put it in the drawer. I gave it to him personally. I assure you that I feel relieved about it all, because even with all his qualities he often made me suffer, etc.

Everything is fine here. The Octave was magnificent and followed with much enthusiasm and piety.

Our Lord recruited a good priest for himself: Fr. Daspres. He would have come with me, if he could have obtained his permission right away, but the Bishop is very sick at this time.[46] There is fear about his condition. He had a heart problem that required an operation, and the wound is not healing. His lungs may be affected....

For the last three days, I have had a bad cold. Impossible for me to leave. However, as soon as the cough quiets down, I will hurry to return. I expect to stop a little in Lyons.

My best regards to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Rev. Fr. Champion
Religious of the Blessed Sacrament
rue Faubourg St. Jacques, 68
Paris

1014

CO 1012

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 204/395 VI 2)

Miss Guillot *Marseilles, January 19, 1861*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you Sister Maria's letter, read it. Everyone here is unanimous to say that she cannot remain in that state.

I've had a bad cold for three days, that is what is delaying my departure. But, as I said, I hope to be back before February.

The retreat was well attended and our Lord really sustained me, because I wasn't tired.

I found a few good vocations being prepared here.

[45] Although published as 1860, the place of origin (Marseilles) indicates this letter was written in 1861. (Ed.)
[46] Bishop de Mazenod of Marseilles.

The question of Miss Gagnerie will stay at that, I hope. I made a final decision. I saw Miss Dalaca in Toulon as well as the two sisters, everything is going well. Miss Vidal is growing in her vocation. I found her very fine, but her business matters aren't settled yet. If it's too cold, and if my cold isn't better, I will not go to see my sister.

If you need to write to me, do so at your sister's place in Lyons.

I will still stop there on the way.

Goodbye, dear daughter, my blessing to everyone with all my heart in our Lord.

Eymard

Sister B. should behave and pray a lot for my trip so that everything may be for the glory of God.

1015

CO 1013

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 29/104)

Paris, February 12, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I have been here in Paris since February 2nd. I have no plans to travel. If I need to leave after Easter, I'll write to tell you. I would surely be so happy to help your dear soul which is so loved by God.

I'm always waiting for the grace from Rome. I'm hoping to receive it through Msgr. Fiaramonti, to whom I wrote from Marseilles, as the first person failed me.

I'm returning your precious petition to you. So, dear Lady, you are still sick!! This is your retreat with Jesus in the Garden of Olives, the purification of your soul.

Know how to find Jesus on the cross and even better, to stay with him at his feet. We are well wherever divine love places us, but we need to be there as God wills.

Go to our Lord through your heart and with surrender. That is the royal path of the Eucharist, shorter, sweeter, worth more than all the others.

Goodbye, dear daughter and sister in our Lord. May Jesus bless you.

My respectful and devoted regards to your good sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1016

CO 1015

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 6/17)

[Paris], Wednesday, February 14, 1861

Mme. Chanuet, mother

Dear Mother,

I am writing you a brief greeting from the heart. I thank you for your kind welcome, your Providential help. I only received your kind letter of invitation here, but I know now and in the future that I have a family, and a leading family in Lyons. Brother Michel is fine. He is preparing for the sub-deaconate on February 23rd. Pray for him. When he is sleeping or not praying enough, his Angel wakes him up saying: Michel! Michel! - Everything is the same here.

I only have time to say that I am, dear Mother,

All yours,
Eymard

1017

CO 1014

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 79/181 VI 4)

Thursday morning, February 14, 1861[47]

Very dear Father,

Heartfelt greetings.

I am still waiting for the dimissorial letter from Nantes, in spite of the fact that I had written immediately. Truth becomes justice (of mercy).

There is much flu in Paris, we have some here. Brother Eugene has had it for a week, and I have had it a little. It makes me lazy, especially for writing!

The rest goes on!

The ordination of the three Minors to the Subdeaconate, February 23: pray. - Thank you for the cash box. I will write you a long letter shortly.

Regards from everyone, especially from yours devotedly,

Eymard

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
Marseilles

[47] The 14th and not the 15th. In 1861, the 15th was a Friday. (Troussier.)

1018

CO 1016

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 80/181 VI 4)

Paris, February 19, 1861

Very dear Father,

This is the second letter I am sending you. You didn't receive the first one yet, due to a mistake in how I sent it. Since I have arrived here, so many things have happened!

1. Brother Eugene was sick. -- He went back to his usual schedule yesterday. I was afraid of pneumonia. Fortunately, it only seemed so.

2. Our second cook almost left, because of temptations against his vocation. Today he is back to work. It's just that he didn't dare be honest, or that rather, he was afraid to be sent away if he were too honest.

3. The priest from Rennes who had offered to come has just been refused. He runs from one community to another, and is extremely scrupulous.

4. Arras has come back with its request, offering us a foundation for next March 19 under the name of "Work of Expiation." I've just told them that we can't accept with these two conditions.

5. Our small ordinary expenses are getting paid. In Lyons, a kind person gave me a deposit for 500 francs without interest. It was a providential gift, together with an alms given to me by one of my penitents. It paid for the two months due. Brother Chanuet donated toward this, but the taxes are pursuing us closely! Praised be divine Providence!

6. We were offered both the house and land of the Patronage of the Ramoneurs, on rue des Fourneaux, with the two brothers' school. We refused, as we should.

7. A friend came to tell us about a piece of land that is being sold cheaply, 29 francs per meter (the lowest possible price, impossible to find). There are 7000 meters. It is on rue Notre Dame des Champs. It is that large deep garden, near the beginning of the street.

There would be enough for both branches,[48] the church in the middle with all the necessary conditions. This friend is the head engineer for the city. He could help us sell to the city, either on friendly terms or by jury. He is already proposing to offer it to the Prefect. Mr. Deschamps, whom he saw, told him to get the estimate, and propose a price to headquarters. He was told that the boulevard is a sure thing and that the Prefect holds to it. It seems to me that Providence is coming to our help. We were offered the land. This friend is offering to do the spade work, to direct our affairs at headquarters. He is afraid that a long delay would make us lose that land. What do you think? I am going to get an estimate on it and prepare my letter for the Prefect. They say we aren't risking anything. If the offer isn't good enough, we'll refuse it. I am told they would give us time to build, that would be a big undertaking which makes me perspire already.

8. The Bishop of Nantes has just written to tell me that he will give the dimissorial letter to Brother Martin only under two conditions:

1. That his vows be perpetual;

2. That he commit himself in writing never to seek ministry in the Diocese of Nantes.

His Excellency writes that as soon as he receives this document, he will send the dimissorial letter. Please tell Brother Martin. However, since the matter is so urgent, and as the documents wouldn't arrive in time for the ordination next Saturday, his ordination will be put off until Saturday of Passion Week. He will prepare himself well for it.

9. The practice of the universal Church for at least two centuries, according to Fr. Champion, has been to allow eggs, milk products and cheese on fast days and during Lent. So you are two-and-a-half centuries behind! Consequently, no alms need to be paid.

[48] Men and women.

I only have time to embrace you. Forgive Brother Martin, while showing him his fault. God has already imposed a penance upon him.

All and always,
Eymard

1019

CO 1017

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 11/36)

Paris, February 26, 1861[49]

Dear sister in our Lord,

Fr. Champion informed you that we received your Masses, but he cannot replace my heart for your Work and my desire to serve it. Therefore, I am continuing your Masses of thanksgiving, on Tuesday at 6:00, like today. This remembrance is fed at the holy Altar, and extends to you and your beautiful Work. May God bless it! It's truly pleasing to his heart, because there are so many beggars and so few grateful people! Then also, devout people and many priests think so rarely about the God of the Eucharist! Oh! How heart-wrenching! How many make it a profession! In search of respect and vanity! So few are those who draw from the gifts and benefits of loving the Lord Jesus!

I know that storms are on their way. I can see arrows soaked in the divine blood which is forsaken and forgotten. I see the cup of merciful justice becoming full. How sad! Everyone is looking at Italy, Rome and evil people! And no one thinks of beginning with a personal act of reparation. Courage! Dear sister Anne of the most Blessed Sacrament,[50] you must be multiplied a hundred times and given the responsibility of reparation for a thousand bad ministers.

Thank good Fr. Levoyer for me. His Masses really help us, or rather give honor to our great King. When he has some in surplus, would he kindly save them for me? We don't receive any in Paris, since we are known only by those who are poor and in need.

Yes, I pray for your sister. I bless the death of a just one! Blessed are those who die in the love of the Lord. It does one so much good to hear about the flight of the Elect!

Goodbye, dear sister, speak to me more often, especially at the feet of our Good Master.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

[49]February 26 or 2nd. Troussier.
[50] Her name when she was a Reparatrix sister.

1020

CO 1018

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 81/181 VI 4)

Paris, February 28, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am getting an early morning start to answer your letter of February 21st.

1. About the land at Notre Dame des Champs. Nothing has been done, we are in dialogue. Everyone says that 29 francs per meter is cheap. We visited the catacombs, they are in good condition for building. The embankment would not expose them; the architect tells me that this embankment would just about make up for the additional expenses for the foundations. Besides, it wouldn't be necessary to shore up the garden on the west side, that is, two or three thousand meters. This is the shape: from 80 to 83 meters street frontage. If we put the chapel in the middle and kept the garden, we could either sell or build on the rest on rue Notre Dame des Champs. They say this would be a good thing. It would assure an income, or pay for most of the land purchased.

As for the purchase, we have competitors. However, we asked for time to study it first and know whether the city would be willing to buy our land now (which I requested), and for how much. I am told that this is a favorable time. Then, the head engineer for the city, that devout friend who so badly wants to have us near him, knows all these people and he is at the headquarters.

So I can't tell you anything else, except that we are praying very much, we are studying it, we will do all the necessary research to see the reasons for and against.

The reason why this land only costs 29 francs is that the street hasn't been changed yet. The owner wants to sell everything at once. Since there is no opening on the west street, there is too much land for a single owner. But we could have a passage, which wouldn't be expensive. The engineer told me, however, that we ought to let the neighbors come to us. They would desire nothing better than to see such a passageway be opened.

2. The affair of Nantes doesn't have a dark or dishonoring aspect for us. It was always agreed with the Bishop that the vows would be the condition of the dimissorial letter, because His Excellency didn't think that Mr. Martin would do in a parish, because of his unpleasant voice, his appearance; then he did not succeed in teaching, and there were problems...

Fr. Richard, the Vicar General, added in the presence of the Bishop that Mr. Martin was not guilty. He was sure he didn't deserve the initial suspicions held against him. His behavior seemed fine to him; on these grounds we tried him out and received him. The Bishop didn't speak to me about that writing, and I was told that he doesn't like to see religious return. There have already been others, and he has been strict on this point, because it creates a bad impression in his diocese which is so devout.

3. About eggs and milk products. You may use them without any other dispensation. Rome tells you so, since this law has fallen into disuse even in Rome. There are no dispensations given there, no alms, it has become universal custom. So you can refer to general custom. Fr. Champion says that a Bishop cannot deprive me of a general good granted by the Church. -- But Marseilles requires a dispensation to be given and alms to be offered? -- The answer is that sometime ago, among the precepts of the Church, there was a tithe, and still today: vigils, fasts, etc. In short, you can refer to general custom, give an alms of 50 centimes to the diocese; and retain the glory of the "*sine privilegio*" (no privileges).

Our ordination was beautiful. Now, find out whether there will be an ordination at Marseilles on Passion Saturday, February 16. Fr. Ngre will be ordained in Toulon that day. We could send him there, and then I will have the dimissorial letter done in the name of the Bishop of Frjus.

I have time only to embrace you fondly in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.

Mar	*Retreat Servants: Thanksgiving.*
Mar 4	*Retreat Servants: Gratitude and fidelity.*

1021

CO 1019

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VIII 25/26 VII 17)

(L & S) *Paris, March 10, 1861*

Mademoiselle and dear sister,

I am sending you the result of the steps taken regarding Thevenet. Mr. Faure, my friend, who did the work, is a most conscientious and sensible man - having worked for the Welfare Office.

No news, except black clouds, and worry by all decent folk.

The wicked triumph. They have strength, money and daring on their side.

We must remain at the feet of our Lord.

I have time only to say, dear Mademoiselle, that I am, as always,

All yours,
Eymard

1022

CO 1020

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 82/181 VI 4)

Paris, March 11, 1861

Dear and kind Father,

I received your dear letter and its contents. Everything will be faithfully fulfilled.

Truly! The devil of theft is after us! I think that the daughter has to imitate the mother.[51] There is nothing to gain with thieves, you did well to bring it to a close; but you have to go to Aix! Oh! we should be used to it by now!

I am waiting to be called before the justice of the peace. I wrote to Michel about it. He may pay dearly, as he will have to give an explanation for that note for 500 francs. May God help us!

The status quo of our house under compulsory sale could take two, four or six years, if the city doesn't meet our hopes. Sometimes that saddens me, because our chapel cannot remain like this. Let's wait for God's time.

Is this a door for Lyons? I believe so. I've just received a letter from a holy priest I know,[52] I like it, I like the Work of First Communions. It's the royal Work of the Eucharistic wedding. In Lyons it would be beautiful! We need a work to go together with adoration.

What do you think of that letter? I still haven't told anyone anything.

[51] Marseilles was robbed as Paris had been.
[52] Fr. Chevrier of the Prado.

Our new cook left us, because he didn't know what to say at adoration, and he couldn't get up like the Community. When he told me that, I told him that he wasn't in the right place, and that we don't keep strangers.

Brother Charles is working in the kitchen, and so am I. They liked my cooking very much; I forgot to put salt in the soup.

We have an aspirant who is a good adorer.

Thank good Fr. Leroyer. I will include the "Eucharistic Weeks" in the Manual, it's progressing. I am working like a Trojan.

My intention would be to give a little white cord as an insignia and sign of the Aggregation. What do you think? And what does Fr. Leroyer think of it? The cord is symbolic and is in the spirit of the Church.

You tell me nothing about the dimissorial letter. Has the Bishop not sent it yet? Write to me right away. If there is a delay, we still have time.

I am wholeheartedly yours, dear Father,

Eymard

P.S. Arras has asked again with the same conditions as on May 1st, and I answered: "*Sint ut sunt, aut non sint*."[53] No concessions!

1023

CO 1021

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 83/181 VI 4)

Paris, March 14, 1861

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your Brother Paul, our kitchen is functioning well. Brother Charles does very well, I am no longer cook. The second brother seems to be doing well, and we will be able to use him as a cook if we need to.

I will require the brothers who are here to learn to cook a little, in order to be helpful, if needed.

The white cord which I mentioned to you would be the insignia of the Aggregation. However, they would not be obliged to wear it, as a condition of belonging. I like the white cord.

I'm writing to Lyons and I'll see what will come of it. First of all I am asking Fr. Chevrier to see the Cardinal and tell him about his plans, and to show him my letter, if need be.

If God wants us there, the Authority will say: Come. That would be the first sign.

I will write to you soon about Brother Martin.

I have time only to embrace you in Christ,

Eymard

[53] "Let them be as they are, or not at all."

1024

CO 1022

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 30/104)

Paris, March 20, 1861

Dear Lady and dear sister in our Lord,

Monday, I received the answer from Rome. It is negative.[54]

Msgr. Fiaramonti did all that he could to obtain it, there was no way. - Couldn't your Bishop grant you what I see so many others grant? I really am sorry that I couldn't do so myself.

Not to forget, I must tell you first of all, that I really don't know when I will give a retreat to the Ladies here. I'll let you know when it will be. -For the written retreat, I promise it to you, but I need to correct it, and I didn't have time. I'll get to it right after Easter.

Now about you, dear daughter. If I were at Nantes, or if you were here, I would scold you often, even daily. It isn't wise for you to think of giving up daily Communion. That's all you need! Where would you find your food? your center? your grace? even your virtue? Please, a very bad idea! You're becoming feverish again. Worry is taking over and your good confessor should chase you out of the confessional to receive you there only once a week.

Dear daughter, you must absolutely correct that servile fear [that resides] in your conscience. There may also be a physical cause, and then you let the cloud of past worries enter in.

Trust me. Never examine whether you should receive Communion or not, in between your ordinary confessions. Consider Holy Communion as a merciful invitation from our good Master. You shouldn't leave an empty place at Jesus' table.

Whatever your sins may be in the interval, go forward! You can gather them all up on your confession day, like we gather dust in a room when we are cleaning it.

Put aside all that poor fasting! You cannot nor should not fast! Better if we tell you: don't fast, and everything is said.

Yes, yes, I would like to see you follow a more perfect and full obedience. It would make you very happy; but our Lord would need to find a special convent for you from his own hand. In the meantime, be a disciple of obedience to passing graces, to the grace of the moment, to the needs of our sickly and suffering condition. That is all very good; but the heart! The heart! Let it remain free, beating always for its divine Master. Be a bit more concerned about Jesus, your God and King, and less about your spiritual beauty, he will be happier and so will I.

Please dear daughter! Write me soon that you are doing as I wish. I bless you with all my heart in our Lord in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

[54] Permission requested to keep the Blessed Sacrament at home.

1025

CO 1023

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 12/36)

Paris, March 20, 1861

Very dear sister in our Lord,

Since I'm not sure whether I answered your last letter of March 9th, with the Mass stipends, I'm writing to take the safer and most proper course.

Your 77 Masses are being said continuously. Fr. Champion and another priest are saying them.

I reserved your Masses of thanksgiving for myself. I was only too happy to pray for a Work which we share in the love of our dear Master, and also your three personal Masses.

Once again, thank kind and dear Fr. Levoyer for me. I am so grateful to him for his charity toward us! Yes, yes, we will be just as grateful to receive the stipends of one franc. Well, dear sister, there is enough [happening] to fulfill our eucharistic goals, especially reparation.

Oh! You are so right, evil is coming from higher places, especially from the sanctuary. While we were sleeping, evil men sowed the bad seed, set passions on fire, and now it's a conflagration which can only be extinguished by water from a flood of graces, with ashes and with a hair shirt. Oh! How resourceful hell is! How powerful is the demon of darkness! It almost seems like the beginning of the victory of the Antichrist. What is horrible and appalling is the lack of public courage on the part of Catholics who flow with this stream of error and wickedness, or at least keep silent or cry out: Peace! Peace!

Peace consists in justice and truth; they don't want it.

Your wish is mine, dear sister, but you are so far away! Then also, one's duty is local. I'm convinced that, if God so wills, what seems like a difficulty will not be one.

When the number of members in your Work is numerous enough, you can invite me to give you a eucharistic retreat; and if I am able to do so, it would be a sign of God's will. Pray very much for us, dear sister, because we are in the midst of important tasks.

I leave you at the feet of my divine King, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1026

CO 1024

TO COUNTESS FEGELY DE VIVY
(V 1/3)[55]

Paris, rue du Faubourg St. Jacques 68, Mar. 20, 1861

Madame Countess,

I am so late with you! I spent a long time in Marseilles, and your letter stayed here. I was also ill because of the flu; but that is nothing compared to your sorrows and anguish, dear fine Lady! Oh! Oh! The cross never leaves you! And yet, you belong entirely to God and his good service.

So it seems that our Good Lord and Master was looking for some generous and strong soul to help him to save our poor society once again, and so he stopped a little at your house with his cross. However that did move me deeply for your sake and we are praying so that this heavy cross may blossom and be for you, with so many others, a generous spiritual and temporal blessing.

I do miss you in Paris. Your kindness had accustomed me to seeing you very simply. Why is Fribourg so far? I would have paid you a visit from the heart, and also from dedication.

I hope that your fine daughter, Miss Aloysia, is much better; that the country, her lovely house, the beautiful countryside have brought back her natural joy. Please say a word to her for me, as well as to good Miss Marie, whom I also present daily with you all to Jesus, the host of love and grace.

Dear mother, when you have a few moments, write me a little note. It would be a great charity.

Please believe me ever in our Lord, good and dear Lady,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Mar 21 Retreat Servants: Superior and inferior parts of the soul; loss of time.

1027

CO 1025

TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS, SSS
(VI 1/7)

Paris, March 20, 1861

My dear son,[56]

I am pleased to see that your desire to belong wholly to the Blessed Sacrament is fervent and persevering; that you truly appreciate this grace. Continue to be patient and your time will come.

Always remain very pure, for to serve the King of Kings, our Lord Jesus Christ, we would need to be Angels - take care to avoid sin, especially whatever might offend holy modesty. Be always devout towards our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and toward his divine Mother. If you wish to hasten [the date of] your entry, speak to our good and glorious St Joseph - he is the all-powerful protector - he is the first and most perfect adorer of Jesus.

[55] Rue de la Prefecture, 28 Fribourg, (Switzerland) and to Miss Marie, one of her daughters.
[56] Literally: dear child.

Be confident, my dear child. What God has initiated will reappear[57]; the devil who was jealous of your happiness and your salvation tried to harm you, but he will be vanquished, and what happened in Marseilles will only serve to make you appreciate your vocation better and make you more worthy of it. Write to me now and then: I am always pleased to have news about you and to read your letters.

My regards to your good, devout parents. You are indeed fortunate, dear child, to have such good parents - listen to them and obey them as Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph.

I bless you with all my heart.

Eymard, Superior

1028

CO 1026

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 84/181 VI 4)

Paris, March 23, 1861

Good and dear Father,

I am sending you my letter for Brother Martin, read it, and give it to him sealed, if his was given to you sealed; or do as you think best. If he should take it badly, write and tell me, then I would use a different approach. It may be a bit strong, but we must take advantage of the moment.

I really liked the letter from that seminarian. It seems to me that there is reason to hope in that vocation.

Here is the bill for your candles: 1108 francs. The next time we will send you the other bills.

Brother Henry is the happiest of men, he is and will be a good religious.

Brother Chanuet is under our Lord's banner. He belongs totally to his Good Master. He has given himself fully, he will be the saint of our times.

We are expecting a priest-novice around the 15th of April. He is the one whose letter I had read to you. I refused a scrupulous priest who would become a problem and a burden.

Michel is doing nothing, saying nothing. He will keep quiet because of my threat to push things further.

Nothing from Lyons. We must always enter through the door of Authority. It is the royal road of the Eucharist and the *in hoc signo vinces*.[58]

The city will accept the compulsory sale beforehand. The documents and the estimate are being prepared; we are waiting. Our Good Master sent me Adolph (a former servant). I took him on a daily basis to teach our two brothers how to cook. He is happy and so are we, he loves you very much. Finally, he is asking to be a religious; I will try him. He asked me a hundred times to go to be with you.

Goodbye, good and dear Fathers. A thousand and one Easter wishes to you all, Fathers and Brothers.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

[57] Brother Marie reentered in October 1861; he had been with Fr. de Cuers in 1858 and had left.
[58] "By this sign you shall conquer."

1029

CO 1027

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 85/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 13, 1861

Very dear Father,

I have had the worst flu since Monday. I cannot even make my adorations. However, I was able to say Holy Mass every day. I think it will last a few more days, if God so wills.

In a few days, they will tell me how much the design and impression for your medals will cost. I had a thought, let us put Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament on the reverse side of the medal, represented as follows: the Blessed Virgin holding the Child Jesus before her, the Child Jesus holding a ciborium in one hand and a host in the other. They say this idea is new and fine, what do you think of it? We would put the names of the separate categories around it.

I think nothing [further] will happen for a while about the compulsory sale. I'll tell you more about it.

I no longer have the courage to write to Fr. Martin about the trip to his family. My feeling is that he shouldn't go, but simply thank them. It is neither the right time nor the right occasion. We had difficulties with the Bishop of Nantes, it would look like a small victory.

Goodbye. I embrace you.

All yours,
Eymard

1030

CO 1028

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 118/145 VI 10)

Paris, April 14, 1861

Very dear sisters,

Excuse me if I haven't written you yet, I have been so burdened with business. Then since Tuesday, I have had a cold which has kept me at home without, however, missing saying Holy Mass.

First of all, let me tell you that you will have a magnificent banner. I dare say that I doubt whether there is a more beautiful one in La Mure. It will cost you two hundred and twenty francs. The subject is the emblem of Mary on one side, embroidered in semi-fine gold; on the other side will be a decor of Mary. It will have what is needed to display it.

I still do not have any news for Madame Seymat and Madame Julie. At this moment there is much work in Paris, and the men at the Ministries are so busy with current affairs and preparations, that we are continually told: wait a little longer. That is all I can say to those fine ladies whom I would be so happy to oblige. Assure them that I am following up their affair, but at this moment a strong hand would be needed at the prefecture of Grenoble in favor of Miss Seymat.

Don't let yourself be too alarmed by all the appalling news which is circulating. God is here, the Blessed Virgin is protecting us, Jesus is always with his Church. God's glory alone will emerge from this conflict.

Goodbye, good sisters, continue to love our Lord well and his holy Mother. Stay at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament like the angels, and let the world be agitated like straw in a whirlwind.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

1031

CO 1029

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 86/181 VI 4)

Paris, April 21, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am much better and I was able to return to my service [of adoration] last Thursday. I still feel some discomfort in the morning; but it's nothing. It's only one-fifth of [what] a migraine headache [is like]. I took my turn to preach: that proves to you that I'm better.

I'm sending you the bill from Mr. Picard. Thank you for all the money you sent us, or rather which the Good Lord is sending us through you. It came at the right time.

Your medal is being struck, and it won't be very expensive, it will be well done. I had the tiara replaced with the royal crown, it does look better.

For the reverse side, I will have them reproduce them like those you sent me for the three groups. The JHS might appear a bit small (the original had an IHS surmounted with a radiant host). It might look right in the middle. Your silence will indicate that we should let them follow the first plan.

	PRICE
Design, Monstrance, etc.	fr. 75
Die cast	" 12
Three dies with writing for reverse side	" 36
	123

PRICE FOR THE MEDALS
No. 8 - silver, the 12th, 27 - the medal 2, 25
white or yellow copper: Large, 10 francs -- the medal 0.0694

I would like to send you a brother, if I could. I can sense how alone you will be, unless the Good Master has already replaced the deserter.

I was sorry to learn about the disappointment of Fr. Daspres. He wrote to me today, alas! God doesn't want those who are fearful or hesitant.

We have a priest here as a retreatant and postulant, he is 28 years old, a former marshal of the lodges. He seems fine. However, we must wait to make a good judgment: at first glance, he seems fine, and is pleasant.

Nothing from Lyons. It seems that some difficulties have emerged. I haven't received anything for a long time; let's wait and pray; besides, our personnel aren't ready yet.

Nothing new in the Ministerial Bulletin about Congregations. It's only a shot to frighten people, I think; some say it's only against foreigners.

The Lord of Paradise will know how to take care of Himself.

Goodbye, good Fathers and dear Brothers.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

Apr 25 - Visit to Lyons to see the work of the Prado and meet its director, Father Chevrier.

CHAPTER VI

Spreading the Eucharistic Fire II

The Retreat Master

Paris:

- **Spiritual formation of novices, subdeacons and**
- **Servants of the Blessed Sacrament**
- **St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Octave of Corpus Christi**
- **St. Sulpice, Novena to the Sacred Heart**
- **Communion Retreat, Adult Workers**

Beauvais: **Ordination Retreat**

La Pierre-qui-Vire: **Annual Retreat to the Benedictines**

May 1	*Conference to SSS novices: Counsels.*

1032

CO 1030

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 87/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 1, 1861

Very dear Father,

1. I am well now, very well, actually, don't worry. Nothing further happened to my arm, I was careful.

2. You can try the young man, but send Raymond away and consider Father Victor only as a day-laborer. The Society must pass through every human difficulty: it's only right that we should acquire experience about poor human nature. As the service of adoration is the royal service, we must use those we have at the moment, so that the Divine King may not come down from his throne.

3. Your medals will be fine; they are working hard on the designs.

It pleased me when you repeated to me what Fr. Leroyer had said about St. Joseph, we can see that the Eucharistic grace is shaping this generous soul, fire does its own work. If I had some little Eucharistic retreat, I would let you know, but I still don't know anything.[1]

4. Fr. Latil is afraid of the Blessed Sacrament. He's afraid that God is calling him, he wanted to give this attraction a try and be drawn in a way that satisfied him. God was silent, and he left. Don't talk to me about these people who come for themselves, and who don't find the noble and pure love of our Lord to be sufficient motivation!

5. I began the novitiate exercises today. The principal element is a daily conference on the religious and eucharistic life: then a strict application of the Rule. It will be a great deal of work for me, but with God's help, everything will be done.

6. Your candles are ordered.

7. Five days ago I went to Lyons. Fr. Chevrier wanted to see me, to examine the situation and the persons there. I stayed 24 hours and saw no one else.[2] I was very edified by Fr. Chevrier, who adopts the Society without any conditions and wants to give himself to it entirely. The place he rented for 6 years for 4000 francs, which one of his friends is paying for the first year, might be suitable for the chapel.

But here is the secondary question: Fr. Chevrier has the beautiful Work of First Communion, to which he has been devoting himself for several years. His house is organized to keep poor children, who are preparing for First Communion, under his care, as his own children. He keeps them two or three months according to their ability and virtue. The good he is doing is real. His work has the sympathy of everyone. We also need a work to occupy us with eucharistic zeal; otherwise in their free time, our adorers will waste their time. Everyone cannot do [priestly] ministry, and the children require an organized ministry. For my part, this work suits me. I feel that some organization would be needed in order that it always remain secondary. That work would be the condition of our being received in Lyons. In Paris, our Work of First Communion obtains for us all the support of the ecclesiastical Authority. A purely contemplative life cannot be fully eucharistic: the hearth has a flame. Now we are waiting to explain it to the Cardinal. Fr. de Serres, his nephew, is in favor of our merger. Bishop de Charbonnel and Fr. Chevrier will take the steps with His Eminence.

[1] Plans to send Fr. Leroyer. (Ed.)

[2] Marists, Third Order members, directees.

8. I don't have the courage to tell you anything about Fr. Martin and the letter. I had an intuition about it for some time. Was my last letter given to him? I don't think so, because he doesn't mention it to me. I regret that you didn't give it to him today. However, you were in the situation; it was for you to judge.

Please give him these few lines. We shouldn't make a decision yet, he is professed. We must see what he will do. If he withdraws on his own, it won't be our responsibility.

If that should happen, you would then be too few. Write to me right away, and I'll send you a Brother from here.

Let's remember that *per multas tribulationes oportet nos intrare in regnum Dei*.[3]

My regards to all.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Don't worry about my requests to the Chancery of Nantes. I was only asking for an explanation, as I thought no Bishop had been indicated. Honor has remained untouched.

May 2	*Conf. SSS Novices. The novitiate is required by Holy Church as well as by the Council of Trent.* *Conf. 2 and 3: unavailable.* *Conf. 4: on Silence.*
May 3	*Conference Servants: Life of Mary in Cenacle.*
May 4	*Retreat Servants: Tepidity.*

1033

CO 1031

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 88/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 6, 1861

Very dear Father,

I received your registered letter.

I am very sorry about your two disappointments. You can be sure that it isn't our fault, and if it were, you would be charitable enough to cover them with mercy.

1. Three molds were broken while making your medals, enough said: the workman feels terrible. Nothing like that ever happened before! Three times the metal was defective! Finally, the fourth one was a success. They don't dare promise them for a set day; they told me, in a few days.

2. Fr. Locudent was due to arrive Saturday. I permitted him to visit his sister on the way, something needed to be settled, it was decided. What happened? I don't know.

Another time, I will try to have them be more punctual, or I will be less explicit.

What can I say! people will talk. God's will will continue, and saints will go forward nonetheless.

3. About the "Superior" matter, I haven't forgotten it. However, before applying a principle, we need the materials, and we are now few, as I am not counting at all on Fr. Dh. His father's situation will oblige him to withdraw.

[3] "It behooves us to enter the kingdom of God by many tribulations."

Take courage! Dear Father, *bona mixta malis* (good is mixed with evil). Our Lord's honor will be stronger than any sorrow or disappointment. Your account number is 1187.

I have time only to say that I am

All yours,
Eyd.

May 7	*Conference Servants: We must start by love.*

1034

CO 1032

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 8/14)

[Paris], May 10, 1861

[4]Hello, good and loved friend and brother!

We all want to have news about you.
Our news is the same [as usual].
Our hearts are always,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

May 19 - First Communion and Confirmation of 63 workers.

1035

CO 1033

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 89/181 VI 4)

Paris, May 20, 1861

Very dear Father,

1. Yesterday, on the feast of Pentecost, we had a consoling and magnificent First Communion and Confirmation: 63 in all.

2. Tomorrow begins the retreat of our candidates for ordination, to take place Saturday at St. Sulpice at 7:00 a.m. And as they insisted so much, I will be preaching a retreat to the candidates at Beauvais. How fortunate, if God would touch the heart of some adorer!

3. Your medals are being struck; you will have them Friday or Thursday of this week. They are very lovely.

4. Fr. Martin is in Morbihan. He wrote to me, and you can imagine about what! He wrote to me that he will enter the Trappists of Timadeuc; I do advise him to do so.

[4]A note from Fr. Eymard added to a letter from Fr. Carrie.

5. When we have our deacons, I'll send you Fr. Locudent; I wanted to send you a Brother, and now instead of going to Marseilles, he is leaving the Society today.

Goodbye, good and dear brother. Praised be the cross! The cross saved and sanctifies us: someday it shall blossom.

All yours,
Eymard

A thousand brotherly wishes to good Fr. Leroyer and to everyone.

May 21-25	*Ordination retreat at Beauvais. (The manuscript of this retreat entirely on the love of our Lord was reproduced in "Le Pretre", p. 195.)*

1036

CO 1034

TO MOTHER MARIE ROSA DU COEUR DE JESUS (LEBLANC)[5]

(VI 1/3)

(Communication of Privileges)

1. Rev. Mother Marie Rose du Coeur de Jesus
2. Mother Marie-Dominique du Sacre Coeur
3. Mother Marie Thomas du Saint Sacrement
4. Mother Marie Catherine du Saint Nom de Jesus
5. Mother Marie-Agnes de la Nativite
6. Mother Marie-Philomene de la Croix

Misses: Uselding, Terrade, Darde, Caspar, Davaille, Luce, Milliante, Lanrey, Gauthier, Besson, Jourdan, Agar

We receive with joy into the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament all the above-mentioned persons, that they may participate in the indulgences of the Aggregation and in the merits of the Society.

Paris, Corpus Christi, May 29, 1861

Eymard, Sup.

[5] Foundress of the Dominican Sisters of the Rosary. On Nov. 9, 1860, Fr. Eymard was named by the Archbishop to be director of theis community.

1037

CO 1035

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 15/19)

[May, 1861]

I consent very willingly, dear daughter in our Lord, to your eucharistic vow, made annually, to be renewed annually at Corpus Christi.[6]

The matter for this vow will be your adorations determined through obedience, but in order to avoid any conscience problems, you should know that your vow is not binding when travelling, in case of illness or if you were not well enough to go out prudently; in that case you would offer your sufferings as adoration.

As for the spirit of the vow, it consists in relating all your actions to the glory of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and to make it the purpose of your life. Jesus said: Whoever eats Me, will live for Me.

Make this vow on June 1st. It will be the first eucharistic flower that you will offer to the King of love.

Eymard, Sup.

Jun 1	*Monthly Retreat Servants: Our Lord's royalty in the Blessed Sacrament.*
Jun ?	*Octave of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Paris.*

1038

CO 1036

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 31/104)

Paris, June 9, 1861

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

You are right to complain about me; not that I forgot you (I may never have prayed more for you), but my strength failed me. I had the flu, I preached a retreat at Beauvais, an Octave of the Blessed Sacrament[7] and our First Communion for 63 children at Pentecost, and then my poor nature was a bit lazy.

I wanted to send you the written retreat; it's finished, you will have it in a few days. As for the retreat for the sisters next door, don't count on it: I think it will take place toward the end of June.

It seems that our Lord wants you to make a retreat in bed, with suffering and recollection. Well, do so in his holy will: that is the best penance and most perfect purgatory. Everything is to be put aside in illness, except union with God, a few good and frequent invocations, and patience as your Queen.

I wanted to scold you for two things: first, for your temptation to omit receiving holy Communion because of your faults and failings. Don't do that! What would become of you without Holy Communion which is your only virtue and the best one of all?

[6] cf. July 30, 1858.
[7] Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

The second is that you let your faults of character affect you too much. It's true that you are as they said, and you will be so again. It's the bark of the tree, the flower's protecting thorn. Please, poor daughter! Don't get too upset against poor Father Adam, because of the thorns and thistles he bequeathed to us. It keeps us humble, makes us practice patience towards ourselves, and tells us how good Jesus is!

I've just preached an Octave of the Blessed Sacrament[8] at St. Thomas Aquinas. I finished last night, pleased to be able to speak about our good Lord and Master.

Please, don't punish me for being silent too long by doing the same to me.

I bless you in our Lord, and I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1039

CO 1037

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 13/36)

Paris, June 10, 1861

Very dear sister,

I am writing to thank you, at the end of the Royal Octave,[9] for remembering me at first Vespers, and to tell you that, since I always think of you along the way or at the feet of our Good Lord, it's only natural to offer one common tribute to his divine love.

You must be very happy during these blessed days of paradise and your eyes must devour the sacred Host. You are right, feed on this God of love and life.

I'm told that the Eucharistic Octave[10] was well attended everywhere.

It's a beautiful sun that will shine on these poor hearts of stone or wax.

Salvation is never far when we are at the feet of the Sacred Host.

I preached the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament[11] at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Paris, and I must admit that I was pleased to speak freely about our good Master.

I went to preach an ordination retreat at Beauvais at the Church of the Trinity, entirely on the love of our Lord. Hopefully, there will be some new sparks in these young priestly hearts, that's everything.

Eucharistic vocations are scarce. People are afraid to give themselves fully to our Lord - and those who don't come for our Lord alone, leave. Oh! Oh! I never would have believed there are so few spiritual men, especially here where love for the Eucharist should be as it was in his Cenacle!

[8] Ibid.
[9] Octave of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.

Goodbye, dear sister, let us be faithful to our grace. I haven't heard anything about the Reparation,[12] except that Mother is better and that they are very happy with their foundation at Chalons-sur-Marne.

I bless you in our Lord.
All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1040

CO 1038

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 30/52)

Paris, June 10, 1861

Dear daughter in our Lord, I have been wanting to answer you for such a long time. I didn't know how to find free time to do so. I gave several retreats which absorbed a lot of my time. If my pen didn't write to tell you, my prayer followed you and constantly offers you to our Lord, you, the disciple of his Heart, whom he has adorned with so many favors on his Heart. So, if you don't know what to say at least you have much for which to thank his divine Goodness. See how great it is toward you. It is for you alone that he is in his divine Tabernacle next door. No one has more favors!

So, don't listen to that stupid idea that your presence is more dishonorable than your absence; that you would do better not to present yourself as you are in the presence of our Lord. A sleeping child who suffers, who is weakheaded, is still at home and loved in his father's house, and his presence gives pleasure to the heart that loves him.

Therefore, always go to our Lord and try to offer every aspect of yourself in detail, to adore Him especially through recollection, and at his feet; during your adoration try to set aside any thought which is foreign to adoration, however good it might be in itself, and don't worry about anyone except Jesus and yourself.

If you need to pray for your people and your affairs, if you will, keep 10 or 15 minutes for this only at the end.

Make sure to take the sleep you need. No deprivations. I find that you go to bed a bit late.

As far as organizing things, that will come little by little. You are head of the house, first of all.

Goodbye, dear daughter, always remain in the hands of divine Goodness and let yourself be led by it like a one-year-old child.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

[12]Reparatrix Sisters where Virginie once belonged and where Fr. Eymard first met her.

1041

CO 1039

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 9/14)

Paris, June 11, 1861

Dear Mr. Perret,

I am sorry I am late to thank you for the beautiful flower you sent for First Communion at Pentecost: It [the First Communion] was the most beautiful and devout of all: 40 boys, 23 young workers = 63. The Good Lord has honored us so by giving us this beautiful, beloved Work! Mr. Daus has rented near us. I am the one who found him a lovely apartment across the way with a beautiful view.

He is still in Turin. He writes that he is due to return toward the end of June. We will be good neighbors.

Fr. Chevrier from la Guillottiere has also created a work for First Communions. He would like to join us, and draw us to Lyons. Bishop Charbonnel took the responsibility to make this request to His Eminence. I don't know what the result will be, but if God wants it, it would place us on the road to Lyons among the unfortunate. - Fr. Chevrier has rented the former ballroom in the parish of St. Andre de la Guillottiere. It could hold 2000 people.

So you are working hard up there, at Sauvages? What a beautiful mission you have there, dear papa Perret. It's worth a thousand others. It's a perpetual sermon.

May God give you all the joy of the Work itself.

Your good, dear, blind woman was happy to have news about you. We will even be happier when you return.

See you soon, dear Mr. Perret.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1042

CO 1040

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 90/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 14, 1861

Very dear Father,

1. Your medals were sent by train Wednesday, you should receive them Saturday the 15th. Poor Mr. Coltat broke six dies, I have five of them as a proof. The workmen whom I saw told me that such a thing had never happened to them. The only one that held firm was the one for the Fraternity.

I don't know if he enclosed his bill.

I saw 401 francs on the account, and 1 franc in cash, that is 402.

2. I am enclosing the letter from Fr. Martin, so that you can tell me your feelings about it, and those of Fr. Leroyer.

Fr. Champion is of the opinion that we should receive him {Fr. Martin} again, because of his repentance, the admission of his fault and also because he didn't commit any fault in the Society which deserves a dismissal, except for his recent guilty conduct.

The Rule also says: *Pateant illi semper viscera misericordiae*.[13]

3. About the local Superior. I think we should adopt the common rule of other Communities, and the spirit of the Church which is to name them for three years. At least, it gives time to be formed and fulfill a serious administration.

4. I still have the cassock of Fr. Locudent. I'm expecting the cousin of the Mlles. Bourges to bring it. I don't think he has left yet; he had promised me to bring it.

Nothing new here, the material situation of Fr. Dh is still the same, he can't stay because of his father.

I preached the octave for the feast of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas Aquinas, at 8:00 at night. It was the first one we preached in Paris, it was sufficiently well attended.

My most heartfelt greetings to all the Fathers and Brothers.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

1043

CO 1041

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 32/104)

Paris, June 17, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I'm sending you the little retreat I promised you via the Nantes railroad. I hope you will like it, but you will need to have it copied and return the manuscript to me which belongs to the Ladies for their retreat which begins Sunday night. (They don't know that I am sending it to you.) - My opinion is that you shouldn't follow it, because, as it will be on religious life, your soul wouldn't be fed on it. It's better to wait until you are stronger, and make one which would be more personal: your soul will find its grace of attraction more easily that way.

I will be very happy to see you again in Paris, dear Lady. It has been so long since I've seen you! If the Good Lord wills that I should help you once again I will be even happier.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1044

CO 1042

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 91/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 18, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am waiting to hear your views before answering Fr. Martin. I will continue to wait until Friday morning. For my part, I lean toward mercy, because he is repentant and his departure was the result of temptation rather than crime. So, shouldn't the Society be merciful? It wouldn't be worthy of its Master otherwise! That's my feeling. Dear Father, please tell me yours.

[13] "Let them show him profound mercy."

About your resignation, I keep in mind the violent reaction you have to the burden of Superiorship.

However, with your hand on your conscience, and the honor and love of the Master whom you serve in the balance, tell me whether it isn't a temptation. May God forbid that I would shorten your life and impose an impossible burden upon you! I love you too much to place such an obligation upon you.

So therefore, I am expecting a word from your charity, and soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

1045

CO 1043

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 33/104)

Paris, June 21, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

In spite of our mutual desire to see you participate in this retreat, I believe that it is better to wait, first, until you are stronger and I am freer to see you. I would hardly have time to see you. - I imagine that my manuscript has reached you by now.

I've just accepted to preach the novena for the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St. Sulpice, from July 5th to the 14th. - If you are in Paris, you may come, but it wouldn't be worth a brief meditation at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament.

Please! Dear Lady, be consoled by hoping for more than all that.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. They are asking me for information about an institute of agriculture that you have near Nantes, at Grand-Juan. Is it moral, religious, proper? A family distinguished both by its nobility and its piety would like to place two of its sons there.

1046

CO 1044

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 119/145 VI 10)

Paris, June 22, 1861

Very dear sisters,

I received your registered letter and your banner is completely paid. I am glad that you liked it. I'll see about the flowers so that you may have them for Notre Dame d'Aout.

Please forward these little notes to their respective addresses. There was no way to have lodging for your friend's mother-in-law, Mme. Jouardet-Morel. She did not meet the requirements.

I would also like to find a place for Miss Seymat who sacrificed herself for her family. I am hoping.

I am well, my good sisters, don't worry about me. I have a good doctor, it is our Lord. We are all well here; no doctor has ever had to come here to care for any patient. The Women are fine, I will give them their annual retreat next week.

May Jesus bless you and fill you with his graces and gifts.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Spiritual Teachings 1861

Jun 23	*Annual Retreat Servants:* *1st Meditation - Death to self, the eucharistic life.*
Jun 24	*1st Meditation - A servant of the Blessed Sacrament was created for our Lord.* *Conference: Recollection of grace and virtue.* *2nd Meditation - Eucharistic vocation (Jesus Christ your purpose, vocation of love).*
Jun 25	*1st Meditation - Our Lord wants you entirely for himself, only for himself, always for himself.* *Conference: On silence.* *2nd Meditation - We must honor our Lord Jesus Christ, dead and living, in the Blessed Sacrament.*
Jun 26	*1st Meditation - State of death of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Model of our death, vows.* *Conference: On solitude.* *2nd Meditation - The state of victimhood of our Lord on the altar.*
Jun 27	*1st Meditation - The eucharistic humility of body, mind, heart, will.* *Conference: On modesty.* *2nd Meditation - Public instruction at the chapel.*
Jun 28	*1st Meditation - On meekness.* *Conference: Poverty of our Lord in the Eucharist.* *2nd Meditation - Obedience of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.*
Jun 29	*1st Meditation - Risen life of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.* *Conference: We must work for perfection with strength in the humility of love.* *2nd Meditation - We must not dwell on ourselves but on our Lord.*
Jun 30	*Closing. Vows, recollection, union with the Blessed Virgin. Employments. To a novice - presentation of our Lady in the Temple. Profession.*

1047

CO 1045

TO MME. DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)

(VII 2/9)

Jesus Hostia *Paris, July 2, 1861*

Dear Madame,

I am very late [to respond to] your charity and I owe you so much gratitude. First, I want to thank you for the flower designs you sent with your friend. I will tell our Lord that they are yours.

I am happy about the good news from Lantignie. Dear Lady, you deserved this grace from Heaven. Charity is always rewarded on earth. I am praying for this first fruit[14] of God's goodness upon them and today, the day of the sanctification of St. John, I will pray even more for dear Mme. Blanche.

I found someone who fills the needs expressed by Miss Sterlingue: a young man who has many qualities: 21 years old, he writes well, intelligent, he is already familiar with commerce. As he always lived with his family, he is presently free. He is in Lyons. But Mademoiselle would need to pay for his trip. I believe it would cost 30-35 francs.

Please ask her right away if she wants him. We wrote to ask him whether he would accept. I know his family well. I knew him as a young man. I believe he is responsible, and he would have to be, knowing that I have found this position for him.

My fondest respects to your fine and beloved family. Fr. Michel[15] also presents his.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

1048

CO 1046

TO MR. JULES DE LISA
(U 1)[16]

(seal of the Congregation: Adveniat Regnum tuum, Societas SS Sacramenti around the monstrance)

Paris, July 3, 1861

Dear friend,[17]

In order to spare you part of the journey, I will go to wait for you in the Church of St. Genevieve, in the afternoon. Everything is ready at quai d'Orsay 106. I am happy to arrange for you for this little scientific outing for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mr. Jules de Lisa
Student of the Polytechnical School
Paris

[14] A grandchild.
[15] Fr. Michel Chanuet, her daughter's brother-in-law.
[16] U = unavailable in current collections of letters.
[17] Mr. de Lisa was a former student of the College of Ste. Marie de la Seyne where he had met Fr. Eymard. The church of St. Genevieve mentioned here is now the Pantheon. The building had been given for Catholic worship in 1853 and was then called the National Basilica of St. Genevieve - until 1855. It is not clear, however, what was meant by a "little scientific outing." (literally: pleasure.) Fr. Andre Guitton.

1049

CO 1047

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 92/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 8, 1861

Dear Father,

1. Your registered letter arrived safely. Thanks.
2. We are waiting for your Abb Palmuro. He will be well received, since you are sending him.
3. Fr. Hermann told us about the death of Miss Manin, urging us to say many Masses and have a few services, etc.

We said a few Masses here. I suspect you did as much in Marseilles.

4. May our Lord bless Mr. Olive and make his heart overflow!
5. We saw Bishop Cruice today,[18] with Brother Carri; he was happy to receive your letter, he received us very well, he is enchanted with the Adoration at Marseilles, he seems to have fatherly feelings for Marseilles. I don't think Marseilles has lost anything.

Nothing new here.

Please express a thousand and one fond and eucharistic wishes to the Fathers and Brothers.

Everyone embraces you *in osculo santo*.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

July 12-20 Preached the Solemn Novena of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice. cf Doc. 1052.

Jul 16	*Conference Servants: Explanation of the Rule. What is the Rule.*

1050

CO 1048

TO MISS ZENAIDE BLANC DE ST. BONNET
(VII 1/5 V 3)

Paris, July 17, 1861

Mademoiselle,

I was waiting to receive your letter before writing to you, in order to have a more specific starting point.

To begin, do not be afraid to be too long, that would be a little laziness. Then, write your thoughts just as they are at the time. Nature and grace both come together spontaneously and not under observation.

You love God, that is sure; you are submissive to the will of God, that is the right path, the royal path. God has kept your heart, that is the greatest grace of your life; now you want to be entirely his. Well! we will help you fulfill this noble task.

[18] The new Bishop, successor of Bishop de Mazenod.

I thought I noticed your love and need for freedom. Consequently, we could fear the temptation and fault of independence, even spiritual independence, consequently: a fearfulness of grace, virtue's imperfections, little sacrifices and also, as regards your duty or expectations, a desire to get your work done, in order to be free later. I say that this could become a natural temptation, but you should not worry about it.

The key principle you must follow in your whole life, Mademoiselle, must be to do the known Holy Will of God with a willing heart. You can know it either through duty, or by circumstances, as well as by the interior light of his grace. As for the future, maintain the attitude of accomplishing with a willing heart whatever the Holy Will of God will ask from you in its own time.

That is the best focus of life you could have - from which you must not stray - your love of freedom will find vitality there, and your love for God [will find] its rule and perfection.

We must also be devoted to duty, that is, determined to accomplish faithfully your ordinary practices of devotion.

In another letter, please tell me what your ordinary practices of devotion are, because we must begin by determining our spiritual schedule and keep to it as a condition of health.

Then, we must follow it through our love of duty, without any other hope of consolation, because this motive can be just as strong. Maintain the holy joy of trust in God in your heart. You need it - I believe, you already have it.

We will pray for that sick woman, in order that you may have some relief.

Sr. Benoite, brother Michel [Chanuet][19] - also ask to be remembered to you and offer you their religious respects, as I do.

Therefore, Mademoiselle, I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

1051

CO 1049

TO MISS ADELE JULHIEN
(VII 1/2)[20]

Paris, July 18, 1861

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I am finally sending you the certification of your miracle.[21] I would have done so sooner, but I didn't know where to find your doctor. Then also, I was fearful, since he didn't know me.

So you are going to the Holy Mountain! May our Lord lead you there and fill you with his abundant blessings of love! You are his, he is yours. The Holy Cross makes you one; it is the bond of your covenant. May God be glorified by it and bless you. Carry it well, live as if you had none. Love loves the Cross and gives it another name, the name of surrendered love.

Your state of darkness and pure faith is the best one for you, since God's love has chosen it for you. This state frees the soul from every earthly bond, every natural feeling, of all self-pride, to become totally dependent on his grace and his love. The peace and calm you experience, Mademoiselle, are a sure proof that you are in a good state, and that God is pleased with you. Therefore, continue this way as long as it pleases the goodness of God to leave you in it. The will of God is the royal path of love.

[19] Her brother's brother-in-law.
[20] At Marseilles.
[21] She was cured miraculously by Our Lady of La Salette.

Keep your soul in constant thanksgiving, it is most pleasing to our Lord, the most refreshing for the heart. Turn everything into thanksgiving, because everything is a grace, everything can be praise of God. But if you want to be the beloved disciple of our Lord's heart, do as I tell you!

Go to his heart by pure love. Pure love is the flame which rises and emanates from the hearth without turning back. It moves toward its goal.

Pure love is the Angel who loves God without looking at itself, or does so only to give back to God what it has received from him.

Let this Good Master turn you to and fro as he likes, and be content with God's contentedness. You no longer belong to yourself, nor have you for a long time. Therefore, the Good Lord must be your Master to do what he wills with you.

Remember that the soul is never quite the same; God is always leading it to a new state, in order that its love may always be new. So, look at God within you and follow him.

Goodbye, dear Miss Julhien, I hope that you will not be upset with me in Heaven; and if you come to Paris, you will find me here.

Your ever devoted in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

Jul 19	*Conference Servants: The service of love.*

July 20 – At St. Sulpice conclusion of the preached novena on the Eucharistic Heart.

1052

CO 1051

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)

(IV 14/36)

Paris, July 20, 1861

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I received your Masses and those of your fine priest. Thank him for me. They are being said as you wish. We began them right away. I always keep the Tuesday Mass for myself, and I always say it with joy.

I saw your friend; she struck me as belonging truly to our Lord and to the Work of thanksgiving. This friend is very dedicated to you. Please God that our Lord could count them by the thousands! I received a fine letter from the Superior of the Ursulines at Quimper, thanks to you. Thank you. I plan to write to her.

I've just preached the solemn novena of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice. You can imagine that I spoke especially about the eucharistic Heart of our Lord. It is alive only there and in Heaven!

I spoke of his love, of human ingratitude, of the few faithful and dedicated souls who give themselves entirely to him.

See, dear daughter, people act in religious matters just as they do in worldly finances; a budget is set in advance and they don't want to exceed what is determined. That's the worst kind of servant.

Write to Mme. Lepage at Rennes for me; she is a beautiful person. Get to know her and become her friend in our Lord.

Goodbye; my affectionate regards to Fr. Levoyer.

All yours in our Lord.
Eymard, Superior S.S.

1053

CO 1052

TO MR. ROSEMBERG AND FAMILY
(VII 4/9)

Paris, July 20, 1861

I wanted to send you a letter with the friends from Tours, I couldn't.

Thank you for your kind letter, I knew everything. We must pray and pity that poor mother [allusion to Mme. Lafont, from Tours]. If she were to be judged on her words, she would be judged very strictly; but, alas! She is speaking like a woman of the world, like a frustrated mother, who is taking measures she may regret someday.

I informed her of her duties, and her daughter's rights of conscience. We can only pray. I left you out of it, as is only right: see what poor nature is like!

Well! Good papa Rosemberg! The month of August will soon be here? Your room[22] and our hearts are waiting for you. You know that you are at home here.

My regards to your whole family. May God bless you all!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

My expression of friendship to good papa Dupont, to good mother Marceau.

Jul 22	*Conference Servants: The hidden life - the vows.*

1054

CO 1053

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE
(VIII 2/4)[23]

Testimony to the cure of Miss JULHIEN (which took place on October 25th 1856)

I, the undersigned, Superior of the Priests of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Paris, certify the event which follows, in honor of Our Lady of la Salette for the cure of Miss Adele Julhien, of Marseilles. This young lady, who had been ill for a long time, had come to Paris seeking, in medical science, some relief from her very severe sufferings. But the science of the most eminent men in the capital was useless. The illness grew worse, and became so serious that they declared all remedies to be of no avail. That was the last word on life and death. Miss Julhien received this news like a spouse of Jesus, wishing to be reunited with the one she preferred to all others.

She asked for the Last Sacraments. Father Lance administered them; she was calm and collected, as all around were weeping. She seemed to have only a breath of life left, and the doctor had said that she would pass away in a moment of crisis.

[22] Literally: cell.
[23] The copy-manuscript is in the Archives of the Missionaries of Notre Dame de la Salette, Rome, No. 402, Vol. IV, item 645).

I arrived at that moment, as they had sent for me for fear that Fr. Lance might not get there in time. It was then that I said to the sick woman that Heaven was indeed very beautiful and desirable, but we must still work for the glory of God, and that she should join us in a novena to Our Lady of la Salette to ask for a complete cure, and promise to go (to la Salette) on pilgrimage. She agreed, and we chose the prayers we were to say. I gave her some miraculous water from the fountain. We must point out that Miss Adele, at first, had no confidence in Our Lady of la Salette. This confidence came to her only on the third day. Then, she was filled with hope, and assured all those present that she would be cured at the end of the novena.

The ninth day, indeed, was to be a blessed day for the patient and her friends. Holy Communion was brought to her for the second time, while everyone was saying to themselves "Poor girl! it will be her last." She had only a breath of life left; she was still consumed by a constant, burning fever. But - what grace! What joy in the household! Miss Adele was cured.

After she gave thanks, there was no more fever, no more pain; it was like a resurrection. I arrived at this point and found the sick lady up, free of pain; rather, joyful and talking constantly of the goodness of Our Lady of la Salette. She was indeed cured, and she left almost immediately for Marseilles. The cure had its proof of constancy and will always have proof of gratitude. How good Mary is!

(Here, the seal of the
SOCIETAS S.S. SACRAMENTI)

Paris, July 24, 1861
Eymard, Sup. Soc. S.S.

Jul 22	*Conference Servants: The hidden life; the vows.*
Jul 26	*Conference Servants: The gift of self.*

1055

CO 1054

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 93/181 VI 4)

Paris, July 26, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am writing to greet you briefly, and to say that everything is fine here. Every day we follow the eucharistic clock, our duties are always the same, and we always experience the same joy in fulfilling them.

In the world it is vacation time. So we don't see anyone, nor are there any vocations on the horizon. Everyone is running or wants to run. But the Bodyguard remains in place.

I am working as much as I can on the Manual. I am interrupted so often and so busy, that it is going slowly. Then also, my head is often empty.

The designs I sent you can be used with wax. The one with exposition can also be used as a dry seal. See for yourself.

Please give this letter to Fr. Locudent. Everyone embraces you and loves you. - Silence from Lyons.

Goodbye, dear Father.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. The Marziou affair is still not yielding anything.[24] There are great hopes for it. The Gazomotor is very popular. They say that your money will bring you significant profit some day. That's all I know for now.

Rev. Father de Cuers,
Superior of the Blessed Sacrament
7, Rue Nau
Marseilles

1056

CO 1055

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 37/75)

Paris, August 4, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

You must think that I am either sick or dead; a bit sick. I was not well after preaching responsibilities which were too much for my strength.[25] In this condition I neither had the taste nor the strength to write; all I could do was cough. My cough is a bit better. The rest is the same as usual; what I mean is, that I am doing as much as everyone else.

The more I go, the more Paris keeps me busy and robs me of all that I have. You know what this city of Paris is like.

Congratulations! You went to Notre Dame de La Salette! Beautiful and holy trip! The soul is closer to Heaven, and feels that it is there with its good Mother.

Surely, you took a supply of both waters - the miraculous water and the living water of God's love. You need it so! Alone, and as alone as you are! you must necessarily belong totally to God. Otherwise you would be sad and without resources.

It's a grace when we must find our happiness in God alone.

Yes, yes, be very charitable toward the one whom God has given you[26] to lead to Heaven; that is your mission and your Cross of virtue.

Spare some time for God to contemplate his goodness. You need it now more than ever, in order to attach yourself to it more strongly.

Have no more of those little passions of this passing world, of creatures who slip away. Leave all that aside, and I bless you. They are calling for me.

Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Aug 9	*Conf. SSS novices: Our Spirit.*
Aug 9	*Conference Servants: The spirit of the society (2 talks).*
Aug 13, 20	*Conference Servants: The spirit of love and sacrifice.*

[24] A financial investment.
[25] Novena of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice.
[26] Her husband.

1057

CO 1056

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET (NEE CROZET) (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(III 1/3 VII 17)

Paris, August 16, 1861

Good Mother,

I am sending you Brother Michel. You will be his Superior and his mother, and he will obey you well. Yes, yes, he will bring you the blessings of his position and of the whole Society as well, because you have also become our mother through him, since he is our brother! How happy he is! and would one not be so, at the foot of the throne of the God of all love? He has given up so much, but in Jesus Hostia he has found Jesus Christ entirely and all his loved ones as well! Good Brother Michel! you all loved him so much, that makes me happy! And you, good mother, what are you doing? Your first letter told me about your natural struggles, your second letter told me about your struggles of virtue. I will not answer about the first struggle, because you answered them a hundred times over yourself. This world is a mystery; it shows me God's respect for human freedom, even for evil people. And so I remember the words of Abraham to the rich man: "My son, you have received and enjoyed the goods of this life."

Lazarus had only sufferings!

Oh! blessed are the sufferings of Lazarus! The cross of Jesus! this cross which was a scandal for the Jews and foolishness for pagans!

The second struggle is better; I like [its] sadness, it is a grace; it has saved you, good mother. What makes one very guilty before God is the enjoyment of the goods and pleasures of this world as an <u>end in themselves</u>. You have enjoyed, are enjoying, and will enjoy nothing other than God alone. Dear mother! don't become too heavy-hearted about the difficulties and sadness of this life.

Let God hold its secret solution; that sadness could prevent recollection. Go a little more often to the feet of our good Master! Oh! yes, I would like to see you here in Paris for a long stay! And if I go to Marseilles in the fall, I will try to go and greet you when I pass by, because your house is a very comforting Bethany.

Goodbye dear mother. Pray for me. Pray for us all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1058

CO 1057

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 1/15)

Paris, August 16, 1861

Dear Mr. Amedee,

Brother Michel is happy to come see you.[27] I rejoice over the happiness he will bring you and the blessing he will bear to your house and upon your family.

I would have been happy to come with him, to repay your kind visits and those of your dear, fine wife, but it is impossible for the moment. If I could steal one or two days on my return from

[27] His brother.

Marseilles, I would go see you. How happy I would be to bless little Amedee Chanuet who was sent from Heaven to replace his uncle!

Goodbye, good and dear Mr. Amedee, my fond regards to Madame Blanche. May she have courage and confidence.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1059

CO 1058

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 94/181 VI 4)

Paris, August 22, 1861[28]

Very dear Father,

I waited to do all your errands before writing to you, and also to find a good moment to do so.

1. Bishop Cruice, whom I was able to see only yesterday, will go to visit your chapel on Monday the 2nd. As for the precise time, he couldn't be specific. He must make all his principal visits on that day. You will need to speak with his Vicar General to know his schedule or find some other channel. The Bishop didn't promise to preach; I understand his difficulty.

2. I saw Mr. Gondon and I gave him money which he badly needed. I was pleased with him and edified by his manner in church, where he went of his own accord. He has had great difficulties; he promised me to come back. I'll try to probe the wound, if there is one. I would like to believe there isn't.

3. Your lovely cruet has been fixed, it cost 8 francs. We had to have a special crystal glass made, and then have all the joints taken apart.

4. When your money arrived, it was immediately applied to its purpose. Since the order for candles had already been made as usual, I don't know whether they can change the forms.

5. It would surely be a great joy to go see you, but I cannot do so at this time. Fr. Dh is leaving us tomorrow, we will be only two priests left, and I am stealing every free moment I can to bring things to a close.

I'll write to Fr. Leroyer soon; the mail is leaving; I am short of time, thank him for me.

1060

CO 1059

TO MOTHER MARIE ROSA OF THE HEART OF JESUS

(VI 2/3)

Paris, August 22, 1861

Dear Reverend Mother,

A few days ago I received the reply from his Eminence concerning your community. It is bad news, very bad news! He does not wish to authorize either the profession of vows or taking the habit. In other words, he does not wish to give you his approval.

Fr. le Rebours, to whom his Eminence gave the unpleasant duty to tell me about this painful trial, added that his Eminence did not wish to take away your habit immediately, but will leave you

[28] Perhaps the 23rd, according to Troussier.

some time to choose a course of action if you wish to enter or be joined with some community. But the matter has been decreed and will not be revoked, that the Dominican Sisters in Nancy are sufficient for the Third Order of St. Dominic.

That, dear Reverend Mother, is the sad news I have been carrying for several days, making me complain to God, as I think of the sorrow it will cause you and your good, dear daughters. What does our Lord want? You must lift up your hearts and eyes to the One whom you have chosen and followed, and ask him what you must now do, and whether you should now move somewhere else. Often, what we think is a calamity is a blessing and a life-giving grace. Ah yes! God knows of my concern for you, and you deserve it indeed. And so I pray, with tears, for you and for all your daughters.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mother.

Your most devoted,
Eymard, Sup.

Aug 23	*Conference Servants: Dangers to avoid in the practice of sacrifice.*

1061

CO 1060

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)

(VII 7/17)

Paris, August 24, 1861

Yes, dear Mother, keep your dear son until Wednesday or Thursday. It's only right that you should enjoy him a little. Although he is a Priest, he will always be your son, and in heaven you will have a mother's rights.

Dear Mother, I only have time to say that I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

Remember me to your dear beloved family.

Mme. Chanuet (widow)
at Lantignie, via Beaujeu
(Rhone)

Aug 27 - Conference Servants: Spirit of sacrifice. Explanation of the Rule.

Sept. 1	*Received in the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice.*

Sep 3	*Conference Servants: The Eucharistic service.*
Sep 7	*Retreat Servants: Our Lord's eucharistic life.*
Sep 10	*Conference Servants: To please - not displease in the service of our Lord.*

1062

CO 1061

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 95/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 10, 1861

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your long letters, they made me very happy. I see that you are ever the friend, brother and religious who agrees on one fundamental point: the service of the Most Blessed Sacrament. We will always be so, on questions of what is good or better.

I read the beautiful thoughts of Fr. Leroyer with great joy and affection; they [spring from] the heart of the Society. But I will come back on that tomorrow or the next day, and also about the big question of the letters.

Today I have time only for two things:

1. About Mr. Gondon, I have seen him 5 or 6 times since. He seemed to me to be good and spiritual; I saw him go to the chapel on his own and he prayed to our Lord with great piety and reverence; he didn't know I could see him or that I knew he was there. We talked about practical matters, I think he is fine. But his brother must come to his help; he is in the greatest poverty; he doesn't know how he will live out the day. I cannot advance any money to him; I don't have any; the 200 francs were turned in and used immediately for outstanding debts; please speak to his brother about him. He expects to receive some compensation from the government soon, which would bail him out.

2. The second thing: Please write to Fr. Hermann yourself. Our correspondence hasn't gone any further with him. His last letter was a bit Jewish.

He is an old friend of yours. You would please me a great deal to liberate me from that letter.

Wholehearted regards to all.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1063

CO 1062

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 34/104)

Paris, September 10, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I had the consolation to see your dear fine sister. It would have been complete if you had been there, because it has been so long since I've seen you! And then you were ill, you are still suffering; often the soul suffers more than the body. Poor daughter! the cross of Jesus is your lot; but his love is your strength. Therefore, be great in love in order to be greater than your cross is, stronger than death itself.

Your fear of receiving holy Communion keeps coming back. Please, dear daughter, be without fear toward your Good Lord and good Father. Use your very failings as a right of entry, at his feet like Magdalen, at his table with the poor. Reject all your fears of sinfulness: it's a remnant of an old fever which you must cut short through the virtue of holy Obedience. Be at peace! your soul picks up the dust from the road as all travelers do, but it has neither mortal nor serious wounds.

So also, I would love to see you calmer in the storm, more gentle in frustrations, more silent in times of emotion! But if your nature is quicker than grace, your feelings faster than your awareness, don't torture yourself about it; it will be the penitential vestment you must wear peacefully without being too angry with yourself. Thorns are good, they keep rash hands away, and protect the flowers of the rose. Well, occasionally thank God for your external faults which humiliate you, and then go peacefully to receive him.

I don't have the last letter yet, but I don't want you to copy it yourself, it's too tiring; have others do it for you.

I don't know when I'll be away from Paris. Toward the end of this month or at the beginning of next month, I must go preach a retreat to the Benedictines of la Pierre-qui-Vire; I'll let you know in advance. Goodbye, dear daughter. Pray for the one who is,

In our Lord,
Devotedly yours,
Eymard, S

Sep 13	*Conference Servants: Explanation of the Rule. Detachment.*
Sep 17	*Conference Servants: Death to self. Reign of our Lord.*
Sep 20	*Conference Servants: Transformation.*

1064

CO 1063

TO MOTHER MARIE ROSA OF THE HEART OF JESUS
(VI 3/3)

Paris, September 20, 1861

Dear Reverend Mother,

Now the priest's retreat is over. May I suggest an idea to you: that I go myself to see his Eminence and ask him to give you one more term, which would give you time to settle somewhere, and to get some benefit from the beginning of your school year which is very promising, and thus pay off some urgent debts.

I hope I may obtain something, even if only from Fr. de Rebours, who is too honorable and conscientious not to perform this charity for you. For you must remember that as you are at present you are still under the power of authority, and you could be warned to give up your habit at a day's notice. How then can you live in peace under the weight of such uncertainty? Whereas if we can get a set time, you will be untroubled and at peace.

But I cannot go to see Monsignor without a letter from you to present to his Eminence, and this letter must state: that you asked me to ask his Eminence to grant you another year of waiting; that at the end of this new term you will either remove the habit or leave the diocese; that you are not asking for a revocation of the decision which has been made, only that you be granted a year of grace, as you are unable to leave at the moment without great disadvantage to yourselves and your creditors.

That is my idea, dear Reverend Mother. Think about it and decide. I think it is perhaps the only thing we can do, and even so I cannot be sure of its success. I pray continually for you and your dear community.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1065

CO 1064

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 96/181 VI 4)

Paris, September 21, 1861

Very dear Father,

Here I am, all for you, as I wanted to have enough time to write you a long letter.

I am adding the task of Latin teacher to my other occupations, since Fr. Dh is not here; that takes a brief hour each day. I am happy to do it while waiting for something better.

Fr. Champion was very happy to send you the first copy of the book of Fr. de Machault on the Eucharist. He wrote to you about his wine, we will talk about it again. He says that it's difficult to take care of; the answer to that is, difficulty is not impossibility. He is having a beautiful Roman Missal printed; we are now definitely using the holy Roman Liturgy in Paris; that was certainly due to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

About the Carthusian postulant. I haven't received any information about him yet from the Chartreuse. I wouldn't want to write to his Archbishop until there is some hope that he has a vocation, because it is delicate and a bit humiliating to ask for information on temporary candidates. Keep him awhile yet, because if the Chartreuse dismissed him as inept, or flighty, he shouldn't be received.

I am of the opinion that we shouldn't receive any candidate who was sent away for "non vocation": that's always a bad sign.

If our Lord gave him a vocation, I would make him a professor here. But since that's only an employment, and not a vocation, we should be sure about the first question; whether he has good health, whether he is pious, whether he has good will, loves the eucharistic life, has a good spirit. If so, we will know how to use him well in the service of our Good Master.

I really would like to have something to offer you for good Fr. Leroyer. I have nothing, nor do I foresee anything for the moment. If I knew where to find it, I would let you know, but the Master must be the first to open the door.

As I reread your letter, I see that it was the night-rising which provoked the departure of the Carthusian novice (whose name you didn't mention). Then, the question is settled. Here we rise at night, you will do it, and all will do it. Therefore, we cannot go any further until we are sure about the application of that point.

I'm very happy about your brother's return to confession. In the service of the Eucharist, it's impossible to stay very long at a distance from God, with a soiled conscience.

Think about getting the volumes of Fr. Machault's books and to return the duplicate which was mixed with the others.

I really enjoyed what you told me about the way to proceed: it's only right. However, God showed you and me that we must pass through trials and we cannot always see very clearly.

I know very well that I lack many qualities a Superior should have, that what your charity calls being good-natured is rather my weakness of character and a fault. I deplore it, and if it were God's will, I would give up ever being a Superior at this very moment in order to do the kitchen, or the least employment of the house, and do so happily. It isn't that I am discouraged; no, no. I humble myself about it before God; besides, I need that. It's necessary that you should know, dear Father, and all the others, too, that it isn't because of my qualities, nor of my virtues, that the Society functions, but by the pure grace of God, and that I only spoil everything.

The experience that I had with people and the active religious life is totally deficient for this present life. A contemplative life is an ever-present mirror where nothing is unnoticed, where nature constantly breaks out on its perpetual Calvary. Oh! How often I say to our Lord: please

send the right Superior! For myself, I am only bad manure for the tree, or an old foundation stone, which should be hidden.

My regards to good Fr. Locudent and to the Brothers. I will be very happy to go see you, as soon as the Master's service here will be assured: that will be the sign.

You really ought to have a scale for your letters. Your last one required a 16 cents surcharge.

As the Superior really needs prayers, here, after the rosary, we add an Our Father and a Hail Mary for the intentions of the Father Superior and those recommended to our prayers. I urge you to do the same; at least it will be a prayer of gratitude as well as of charity.

Goodbye, dear Father.

All yours,
Eymard

1066

CO 1065

TO MME. BLANC DE SAINT BONNET (NEE CHANUET)[29] [30]

(VIII 1/1 VII 1)

Paris, Sept. 21, 1861

... to communicate. As for your interior dispositions, and love of God, you should not examine them - that would be like being your own guide and judging your own Communion. Rather, you must go to our Lord through a feeling of need, of desire, of hunger for him. That, dear Lady, is the best possible preparation for you.

Use the comforts proper to your position and state, without worrying over mortification or penance - that would be a temptation. You must do those which the Good Lord sows on your path - that's enough; and even there, don't make it a great issue or a concern. You owe all your attention to God, with the power of your love. Don't divide it.

There now: sleep on the bosom of divine Providence. Let yourself be guided, carried and fed by it, and you will be always well provided for.

Goodbye, dear Sister. I leave you in the arms of our kind Mother - ever watchful, ever loving, ever protecting.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Sep 24	*Conference Servants: Solitude.*
Sep 27	*Conference Servants: Happiness in the Eucharistic vocation.*

[29] Fragment of a letter – The original is preserved in the SSS House in VIENNE GUMPENDORF.
[30] It is not clear whether this is to the mother or the wife of Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet.

1067

CO 1066

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 42/76)

Paris, September 29, 1861

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I have just finished reading your letter. I was busy until now with unexpected things.

1. You can help the fine young man according to your resources, more rather than less. It's an ecclesiastical charity.

2. You could have had your customary Masses said. In practice, be more generous than fearful, consult reason, propriety, the grace of the moment.

The peace you are experiencing is the fruit of obedience and the divine seal of God's pleasure.

Dear daughter, be available to everyone and to God's good pleasure in everything.

I'm sorry that I couldn't write to your dear daughter. I will do so when I return from a ten day retreat which I am going to preach tomorrow.

I bless you wholeheartedly.

Eymard

1068

CO 1067

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET

(VII 10/14)

Paris, September 29, 1861

Dear Mr. Perret,

I had to sacrifice the charming journey to Sauvages, in response to your gracious invitation.

I was scheduled to preach 40 hours today and I am leaving tomorrow for La Pierre-qui-vire where I will give the retreat to the religious for a week. If only you were there! I will see your beautiful works,[31] your lovely stations of the cross. And so, dear Sir, do you have a mission for the Way of the Cross? It's beautiful, since it leads to heaven; but be careful you may one day be crucified.

Mr. Daus has not arrived yet. I think he may have stopped in Lyons to greet you and may have had the joy of seeing your beautiful ceremony.

Everyone misses you here, also your good, devout, blind woman.

Goodbye, dear Mr. Perret, and remember your old friends who love you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

[31] Mr. Perret was an architect.

1069

CO 1068

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

(L & S) *Paris, Sept. 29, 1861*

Mademoiselle and dear sister,

If I were capable of feeling resentful on account of your silence, your kind, friendly letter would have done what the sun does on the morning fog. No, no, it's impossible, after such a past, to be indifferent in the future. I forgive your pen, your tardiness, - attribute it to the good intentions of one who is lazy.

You were gracious to make the enormous sacrifice of the bulletin. That equals a great victory, and the Lord has rewarded you well.

Don't worry about your restitutions: I have taken charge of that and I set you free of it - you have nothing else to do nor to give in that regard. So, no more fears.

And no more scruples about your Communions - I assure you that they have been, and are, good; I don't say perfect, but profitable and most helpful to your soul.

I should very much like to have a third House in Lyons. It nearly came to pass, but the Good Lord has put it aside for now.

Well, don't let such a long time go by, forgetting that the pen needs to express the heart's thoughts and feelings.

I leave you now, in our Lord, to go and preach.

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Oct 1-8	*Retreat to the Benedictines of La Pierre-qui-Vire.*

1070

CO 1069

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 97/181 VI 4)

La Pierre-qui-Vire, October 8, 1861

Very dear Father,

I am at the Benedictines of Pierre-qui-Vire, I am very edified by their lifestyle; I had been wanting to see them at close hand for a long time.

God provided me with this grace very providentially. The Father Superior, whom I had seen in Rome and with whom I had become friendly, came to ask me to give a few days of retreat to their community. That's what I'm doing. Fr. Dh is replacing me for a few days in Paris.

Here I met the Master of Novices of the Grande Chartreuse. He gave me very specific information about your candidate. Well, he should be sent away immediately. He made vows with the Jesuits, he had made vows a few days previous to his independent decision to leave the Chartreuse, in spite of his vows. He was with the famous Rosmini, I believe that is the name, who

strayed away from doctrine for a time. I had written to the Chartreuse, but Providence came through even better.

I also received information about the young priest from Verdun, who was in Marseilles and who is asking for admission in Paris; this is better. He left because of fatigue. However, he will need to be studied closely.

I'm leaving here Wednesday and I'll return to Paris, where I hope to find a letter from you.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1071

CO 1070

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE (NEE DE MONTAGU)

(V 1/52)

Paris, October 17, 1861

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

May our gentle Lord fill you with his blessings and fill your poor heart with his ardent and powerful love!

I understand that you are suffering greatly in this valley of tears, but that you find consolation beyond your present limits. When we know about Heaven and the God of the Tabernacle, we find no other happiness, no other consolation on earth. And you know how loved you are by this good Master! So you should also be proud of it and divinely noble! It is the nobility of divine love, and that one is eternal.

Be like the child who [only] feels, loves and gives thanks. Let God do the thinking for you.

Be like the pure white dove from the Ark which rests only in the holy Ark and has no other song, no other longing than the song and sighs of love. Don't look in the mirror of self-pride, you would frighten yourself; nor the in mirror of human beings, you would be afraid; nor on the scale of your merits, your poverty would make it tilt; nor in the false light of human words; but look at yourself in the kind Heart of Jesus! through his kindness which is so maternal, so tender! Then you will no longer be afraid.

Avoid counting what you give to this good Master, measuring what you lack. Throw yourself like a straw, like a piece of rusty iron into this white-hot fireplace. Oh! how quickly you would be purified there, quickly renewed, encompassed, become fire! Please, please, the most beautiful sacrifice to be made to Jesus is one's self; the most beautiful tribute is the heart; the most beautiful crown is the morning flower which opens to the rising sun and closes at its setting.

Goodbye Madame and dear soul in our Lord. I bless you and give you entirely to this great King.

1072

CO 1071

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 8/17)

Paris, October 17, 1861

Dear Mother,

I am entirely at your disposal, with the sole condition that you will receive me as a member of the family. If it pleases you to invite Fr. Devay, that would be fine: [however] my heart is going [there] for you alone.

I only have time to say that I am, dear mother,

All yours,
Eymard

Oct 18	*Conference Servants: Serve our Lord in union with the Blessed Virgin.*
Oct 22	*Conference Servants: We go to our Lord in union with Mary adorer.*

1073

CO 1072

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 2/15)

Paris, October 17, 1861

Dear Mr. Amedee,

It will be a great comfort for me to go bless and baptize the first fruit of your holy union, already blessed a thousand times over, and also to pay you my first visit. The double bond which binds us produces a third permanent one; it is the eucharistic bond at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament. You are among the first there every day, as well as your worthy and devout wife, your beloved mother, all your dear ones.

All yours,
Eymard

I will be happy to see the good and lovely de Couchies family. Please offer them my respects and fond regards.

1074

CO 1073

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 44/52)

L.J.C.[32] *Paris, October 24, 1861*

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

You must have received your indulgenced crucifixes. I took care of it right away. If our good Master gives me the time and strength, I would be very happy to visit your good friends in Tarare. I found beautiful souls there who hunger for Jesus. But to do something lasting would require a week's retreat: three days are not worth it. The iron is barely heated - it needs to be red-hot to make it powerful and capable of bearing the fire.

So, I would rather wait till later if necessary. Besides, I really can't do it right now. I have just preached a long retreat which tired me a little.

If I should need to go to Marseilles before the end of the year, I'll write to tell you, dear Lady, in order to know where to find you.

I praise God to know that Fr. Germain returned to St. Chamond; your children, especially Georges, will find all they need there.[33]

A child becomes reasonable only after his philosophy, that is where his ideas and judgment begin to mature; he begins to see.

In fact, it seems as if our good Master is asking you to sacrifice Toulouse. Your heart would be happy there, but not your body. In the winter you need the climate of Hyeres. So you must return to the South where the sky is so beautiful and the sea so vast. It is the same sea which comes from Carmel and Jerusalem.

Dear sister, take care of your interior life; don't let the divine fire dwindle; keep your hearth alive by union with God, the ordinary offering of everything that happens, especially your small daily sacrifices. When little drops of water succeed each other, they fill the cup, become a brook and then a river. Turn everything to wood - wood for the fire. The Apostle says that everything works out for the good, for those who love God. Well, it is for his greater glory that Jesus keeps you locked in, and suffering: the interior reign of his love. Amen!

Goodbye dear Madame.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

1075

CO 1074

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 98/181 VI 4)

J.H.S.[34] *Paris, November 4, 1861*

Very dear Father,

Your kind letter reached me after mine had left. Here is the reason for the delay:

[32] Abbreviation for Louez soit Jesus Christ, Praised be Jesus Christ.
[33] The school of the Marists there.
[34] Abbreviation for Jesus, Salvator hominis; Jesus, Savior of mankind.

1. Your medals will reach you in time. I cannot use yours here in Paris yet, since the Aggregation isn't established yet.

I'll see whether it would be possible to place them in Tarare, where there is a good number of associates. I hope to do so.

It seems to me that the written side of the medal is very bare. That is where I'd like to see the monogram which we had adopted at the beginning: JHS. The one which is on the small hosts from the Good Shepherd seemed quite fine to me; it has a Christ in the middle. Anyway, you know what I mean.

I had another thought, here it is: to represent the Blessed Virgin holding the Child Jesus and presenting him to the world, and the Child Jesus holding a chalice in one hand, and a host in the other. This idea is well received to represent Mary as Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Consider these two ideas and tell me yours.

2. The idea of the molds for altar breads is so natural that it is ours by right; and, when we have the money, we'll buy a house in the country with the Lord's field, to do our own sowing, cultivate the Wheat of the Elect, grind it and reduce it to its Sacramental form.

3. I saw several styles for a monstrance, what is referred to as a work of art is not very effective: it is lovely close up, it's a miniature. We need a monstrance which is effective at a distance, with large rays that are close. The decorations ought to be placed around the Sacred Host; as much decoration as they like in that place.

A goldsmith, Mr. Touquet, has one held by an angel which shows the Sacred Host with one hand and orders us to kneel with the other: that's an idea.

I don't like the Gothic monstrances, they are too steeple-shaped. If you come to Paris, we will see together; however, I haven't seen anything that I like.

I don't know any goldsmith in Lyons; you could see Mr. Favier's nephew, near St. Jean's (the Cathedral). He used to have lovely designs.

4. The most simple censers are the most beautiful. Mr. Touquet has some for 15 to 60 francs. Those for 60 francs are beautiful.

5. An organ with one keyboard is 200. For two keyboards, 300. There are some for 100 francs, but too small. We should have one of at least 200; shipping will cost from 15 to 20 francs, including the case.

6. His Excellency from Chambery was very kind, but nothing came of it. I wasn't aware of any offer.

Lyons should pass before Chambery.

About your last letter. -- We will pray for Mr. Bossy, I am pleased that he remains fond of the house.

I plan to give you one of our candidates, but later. Their moral theology isn't complete, they still have many things to learn before hearing confessions: they are so new! we would be exposing them if we launched them out at the moment. Remember that they have not been studying very long.

As for the young men, we can receive only one at the moment, we don't have room. I prefer to keep the two rooms we have left for two priests. As for the children from Pierre-qui-Vire, I am afraid that the eucharistic retreat I gave them caused their departure. However they hadn't said anything to me about it, and if they had spoken to me, I would have discouraged them from that idea, at least through delicacy.

I agree that when individual houses recruit members from the locality, they should have them make a good postulancy there. When their vocation is clear and tried, they can continue with a novitiate which will form and reform them.

What is least good about the houses in comparison to the novitiate is always a good thing for them. Then also, it is important that only subjects who have already been tried be sent here, because of the expenses and sad consequences.

Everyone is very happy to think of welcoming you. Please, dress warmly. During the night, use the first class [train] which is heated; the additional cost will be our gift.

We are in mid-retreat. It seems to be going well.
Pray well. To you all *in osculo sancto* (with a holy kiss),

Eymard

1076

CO 1075

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 99/181 VI 4)

L.J.E.[35] *Paris, November 6, 1861*

Very dear Father,

I am answering your letter to Br. Carri. I am not ill and only had a bad infection which made my cheek swell, then it left me with neuralgia, headaches, and loss of sleep. I'm better, though I cannot go out, since I'm still a bit disfigured. It was caused by a bad tooth, which I'll have pulled when I can.

I willingly accept your 500 Mass stipends. However, in order not to strip you too much, take what you think might help you.

We don't receive any Mass stipends in Paris, just one or two a week. Poor people don't have anything to give for them: and these are the people we know.

For an author in moral theology we have taken St. Liguori, presented by Fr. Smith, Redemptorist. It is more methodical than other compendiums.

Winter is beginning, we are also beginning to light the fire in the large room.

Goodbye, very dear Father, spare yourself a little, especially your head, because it brings on all the rest when illness settles there.

My fondest regards to all the Fathers and Brothers.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

P.S. -- I was forgetting to tell you that we finally received Fr. Clavel's library. The general works on Sacred Scripture and the ecclesiastical sciences are good. One more lovely gift from the Good Lord.

1077

CO 1076

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 120/145 VI 10)

L.J.E. *Paris, November 10, 1861*

Very dear sisters,

I am so embarrassed for having left you waiting so long for an answer from me. It would seem that I am becoming lazy. It isn't the case, because I think of it every morning when I plan my day.

[35] Praised be Jesus Eucharistic.

There is so much unexpected business, people who come, and so nightfall comes without my having done what I had planned to do.

Paris is not a city, it is a world, a kingdom. We don't have time to breathe, especially now that people are beginning to know us.

I am fine, and from time to time I hear that you are well also, I do thank the Good Lord for that as I have only you on earth. At our age, we no longer make new friends, we go back toward our past.

You also have your worries. I can see by your letter that the rents are very unpleasant.

In fact, I am very sad to think that there would be a cafe in our paternal home; I assure you that would be enough to stop me from going to see you, or at least from staying at La Mure. I beg you, don't do it, include in your restrictions that it cannot be, under pain of withdrawing your part of the contract. Think of all the evil which takes place or is read about in a cafe! I would rather close the house.

If you are contradicted, justice is on your side.

I don't know when I will go to Marseilles, but when I do, I will try to save two days to go see you briefly, were it even in winter. It isn't for the village that I go, but for you.

Tell the fine young Bianchi that I will study his question when I go to La Mure.

Winter is here, take care of yourselves and watch out for changes between heat and cold, keep your feet very warm. - Our houses are going well and the Good Lord is blessing them; we are eighteen.

I bless you, dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure d'Isere

1078

CO 1077

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 100/181 VI 4)

L.J.E. *Paris, November 12, 1861*

Very dear Father,

I received the 500 francs; they will be used as you specified.

It was very kind of you to inquire about my sore tooth, it's almost better, and it wasn't extracted. I could feel this problem coming on for a long time, I was surprised by the cold weather, the pain flared up suddenly. I used the creosote incorrectly; it caused a burn and swollen lips and it irritated an old swelling, which was itself caused by the swelling of the gums. Then I lost the sleep I needed and then had a fever.

Trying to be brave, I never gave up Holy Mass, and now I am back to my daily work. However, I had put everything aside, especially my correspondence; now it's over.

Good news! A fine 54-year-old priest, Fr. Auger, from Chartres, is here. He is devout, straightforward, simple, generous, experienced about community life, and above all a man of the Blessed Sacrament. His retreat is over, he is leaving to go for his trunk. (He is poor, therefore a good vocation; he could have been very rich.) His official date of entrance will be on the feast of the Presentation, the 21st. Let us thank the Good Lord, I think he will be the Novice Master I've

been asking from the Good Lord for such a long time. I feel I need one, I will form him well to start…. We had many little crosses, the porter nearly died, vomiting blood, like Br. Eugene, our courageous sergeant major. Both are better, we are expecting Br. Eugene around the 20th; he had to go home for his health, which was considered to be a very serious matter. Now he is better, thanks be to God! I really suffered over all that.

The house is functioning well; we will increase our night adorations, we'll be able to continue until 2:00 a.m.

The Englishman is doing well. He is a serious and solid person. He will be a good vocation; see how the Good Lord has pity on our weakness!

My sincere regards to all, Fathers and Brothers. I would really like to come see you, but I must get these novices underway; I am also teaching. I don't know where time goes: unexpected visits steal our time; people are beginning to know us; many are coming for information: the seed is being sown. There are so many people in distress right now!

Goodbye, dear Father. Stay on duty, as you did formerly on your ship. Keep your eye above the mast, and your heart strong against storms from the devil and the world.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

I requested a dimissorial letter from the Bishop for Brother Carri in time for Christmas.

Nov 15, 18 Conference Servants: Explanation of the Rule. On adoration.

1079

CO 1078

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 31/52)

L.J.C.E. *Paris, November 19, 1861*

I am now all yours, dear daughter; it's high time. I always read your letters with great interest. You do well to write to tell me all your thoughts and passing moods. That is how the soul gradually reveals itself, as well as its grace.

There is a great universal and eternal principle that we must always keep before our eyes and in God's presence. I mean, to belong fully and always to God, to know how to belong to God as one's goal, and be totally given to the present will of God as a means.

Belong to Jesus like the virgin of his heart, the servant of his Sacrament, the apostle of his love.

Belong to Jesus using means freely but with unity of purpose.

You love your present state of life as being the best one, since it is the one which his divine Will desires for you at this time.

Belong to Jesus like the Angels in Heaven, rejoice in his service, in the joy of his service, in the simplicity of self-giving without soul-searching, at least rarely. The flame which issues from the hearth does not return to it, it continues to rise because another flame pushes it. It neither has time to return, nor the impulse to do so: be the same, dear daughter.

You really could be a bit more exact about your little practices of devotion, when you have some time left.

There is something further to be done in your adorations: the movement of the flame toward Jesus; apply your imagination a little more to his holy Humanity when you are totally distracted and scattered, it will lead you wonderfully to recollection.

Yes, confession every two weeks is ordinarily sufficient. However, if a major feast falls during the interval, you could advance it in order to be purer for that feast.

1. As for the faults that lead you to criticism, to fault-finding, to speak too much about others, my daughter, watch this tendency carefully and then try to discover the natural or supernatural reasons for it; then tell me about them. There is something there that you need to watch, but be totally open with your mother.

2. As for your physical needs, yes, yes, that's a little corner where [human] nature hides, where the devil slips in. It's a very special grace to have observed it, and especially to understand it.

As for external penances, don't get upset when God gives you some. When there are none, impose a penance upon yourself for the faults you have committed toward your neighbor or for laziness in deferring your spiritual exercises, putting them last.

Be especially aware of spiritual laziness or independence of soul and mind.

Have courage, there is an improvement. There is a good wind. I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Nov 22	*Conference Servants: The right of adoration.*

1080

CO 1079

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 101/181 VI 4)

A.R.T. *Paris, November 28, 1861*

Very dear Father,

I am writing to give you some news about us. Everyone is fine. Brother Eugene returned and is back at work. A young scholastic came and is moving forward with young Ratons, whose approach seems to be very eucharistic.

Fr. Auger, from Chartres, hasn't entered yet, he is bringing his secular affairs to a close. I received the dimissorial letter for Brother Carri. The three deacons are preparing themselves as well as they can. Dear Father, you promised to come to the ordination of Brother Carri; you must keep your word: it will make us all very happy to see you again, especially myself. It seems like a century since I saw you. However, I would deeply regret it if the cold or the trip would make you ill.

In order to provide a solid beginning for the novitiate and the novices, I decided to give them an 8-day retreat, beginning Sunday night at 5:00 p.m. and closing on the 8th. We have 9 novices. Brother Pilin, a deacon, will make his three vows; Brothers Henry Billon and Eugene the sergeant major, and Brother Ren, the porter, will make the vow of obedience.

I really recommend this retreat to you[36] and to the prayers of the whole community: it's the hope of the Society.

The Work of First Communions is progressing and spreading. Last Monday, we had the baptism of an English Protestant woman; today the baptism of a Jewish woman, Rodriguez Henriquez, of Spanish origin. On Sunday, the wedding of an ex-military man married civilly since 1852. In a week, the First Communion of the mother of six children. A twenty-year-old soldier is getting ready: that's my portion. Fr. Carri is even better [at it]. So, *Deo gratias*.

[36] Literally: to your mementos.

Nocturnal adoration is growing; we are able to go until 2:00 a.m. So, every six hours.

(The Jewish lady gave us a beautiful ciborium made in Trojan form.)

Then, the ordination on the 21st, and after that, New Year's visits...

However, I must still finish the Manual. In order to do that, I would need to lock myself up or go into hiding for a week.

Oh yes! The royal soldiers of the Blessed Sacrament must not cling to their pet ways, their conditions, and opinions; and if possible, they should be without defects, at least external ones.

So, I told Fr. Dh that when he returns, he will have to give up his tobacco. Apart from the fact that it isn't appropriate in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, it's so dirty and bad-smelling.

Dear Father, would you believe that I've come to the point that I can barely support anyone using snuff near me! And to think I had that fault for 24 years.

Goodbye, dear Father. Regards to everyone in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Nov 29	*Retreat Servants: Purpose of a retreat, how to become virtuous.*
Dec 1-8	*Retreat to the new SSS novices.*

1081

CO 1080

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)

(I 102/181 VI 4)

L.J.C. *Paris, December 9, 1861*

Very dear Father,

It's a sacrifice for everyone not to see you here in Paris. It would be a celebration for everyone, because after all, we love you as a Father, a brother, a tender friend. However, I hope it is only a postponement.

You ask me to come see you. I surely would like to see you all, and speak with you personally about so many things. People are coming, and everything has to be well established; since we can't live on our traditions, we have to base ourselves on real principles and hold to them like an anchor of salvation; our life depends on it.

So then, I will come to see you for Epiphany; I will arrive on Saturday night, January 4th, God willing. However, don't do anything special about my arrival. Give me the pleasure of reaching you (incognito).

I will bring all your errands; send me a note with the things you want, I won't forget the two reams of stamped paper.

Our retreat was very edifying: everyone participated. It closed on Sunday night with a consecration to the Blessed Virgin.

In the morning at 9:00 a.m., we had the solemn profession. Brother Pilin made his vows. Brothers Eugene, Henry Billon and Ren the porter made their vow of obedience. A retreat does good. I will have to give you one, for a few days, but only as a family.[37]

Fr. Auger, from Chartres, is encountering a thousand difficulties in coming. Pray for him, he is very unclear and had refused everything. Then a debt of 1600 francs arose and brought everything to a halt for the moment.

[37] Private, not public.

I am writing to the Superior of Pierre-qui-Vire; I hope everything will work out. Your rich young man had too many possessions, and such do not come for the Master. The rich class is always the laziest and the greediest. "Woe to you rich!" So, we shouldn't count on the one who holds on to things with both hands.

Goodbye, dear Father. Fond affection to everyone.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1082

CO 1082

TO COUNT DE CUERS
(VIII 1/1)

L.J.C. *Paris, rue fg St. Jacques, 68, Dec. 10, 1861*

Dear Sir,[38]

I have been wanting to make your acquaintance for a long time. Your whole family is so dear to me, and so worthy of esteem, that I naturally desire to know the person who worthily bears the name of head of the family and its virtues. Your dear brother was so happy to visit you last year!

I thought I would please you by sending you the photograph of your good and saintly brother.

In order to get it I was obliged to pose for it with him. You know his modesty and especially his humility. I would have liked to erase my part of it, but that was impossible - so please look on me as a faithful friend beside your dear brother.

If you come to Paris, I trust that you will stay here with your brother, for we are all one family.

Kindly believe me, in our Lord,
Dear Sir,
All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I have to visit your dear brother at the beginning of January, so I shall attend to your business matters.

1083

CO 1081

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 35/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum *Paris, December 10, 1861*

Madame,

It has been so long since I have received news from you! This silence reproaches and worries me; you must be ill.

I didn't have one moment to work on my little Manual.

The number of adorers is increasing, and I'm responsible for everyone.

[38] Brother of the Rev. Fr. Raymond de Cuers, SSS

I must go to Marseilles at the beginning of January. I'll stay there a brief month in all. Then, I'll return to Paris. I would be happy if you could come and spend the Christmas holidays with us.

Finally, I have the last retreat which I gave; must I send it to you? I didn't have time to reread it. It's understood that you shouldn't copy it yourself; that would be enough to send you to bed sick.

Waiting for news from you,

I am in our Lord,

Madame and dear sister,
All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1084

CO 1083

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)

(V 43/76)

Paris, December 11, 1861

Dear sister in our Lord,

1. If the pastor appeals to you, grant it on condition of referring the matter to the responsible party. That is right and appropriate.
2. You did well to give alms to the poor traveler: necessity has no law.
3. You may still continue pious enrollments for adoration.
4. Put aside your adoration when the usual time for retiring has come and you haven't done it, either because it was impossible or because you weren't able to find the time. In that case, as a penance, say five Our Fathers and five Hail Marys in reparation with the adorers.
5. Make your adorations during the journey when traveling.
6. Dear daughter, go to our Lord in keeping with your state of poverty before him. Put aside your poor mind and place your heart at his feet.

I bless you and I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1085

CO 1084

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)

(VII 9/17)

Paris, December 12, 1861

Dear Mother,

On Saturday night our candidates for ordination will begin retreat. The ceremony will begin at St. Sulpice on Saturday, the 21st at 8:00.

So we are joyful and happy to expect you. You are the mother [of the candidate].

Please tell me if two or three of you are coming so that I may have the rooms prepared.

If, unfortunately, you should come alone, Miss Guillot has a room at your disposal.

You shall be distinguished and eminent, dear Mother, on the day of the ordination. They will say about you what was said about the blessed Mother of Jesus.

Yes! you are fortunate to be the mother of a Priest of Jesus! of a religious of the Blessed Sacrament, the Prime minister of the Great King, the Sacramental Father of Jesus, who joins into one the power of the Father, of the Son, of the Holy Spirit and of Mary.

As for me, how happy I am to have this bond of spiritual kinship with you, to have your son as my son!

How magnificent and kind the Good Lord is! so we will never adequately praise, love and serve him or have him praised by everyone.

May God pour out his love and blessings on the little girl I baptized, on her devout and gracious father and mother whom I married,[39] on all of you, whom I love greatly in our Lord, in whom I am, dear Mother,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior SS

Mme. Chanuet, mother
at Lantignie, via Beaujeu (Rhone)
Address correction:
Mme. Chanuet, mother
rue St. Helene 18, Lyons

1086

CO 1085

TO MISS ZENAIDE BLANC DE ST. BONNET
(VII 2/5)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum *Paris, Dec. 12, 1861*

Mademoiselle,

I am pleased about your letter.

The Good Lord has given you a tangible proof of the truth and holiness of the path [you are following], which I really hope you will always follow.

It is the right one - it gives you peace and peace comes only from God. God gives it only to the soul who is in harmony with his grace and faithful to his will.

It is the only one for you, at least for the moment - it gives you interior freedom.

St. Paul said: where the spirit of God is, there is freedom.

Spiritual freedom comes when a soul [has found] its energy of love.

Keep your freedom in your affections and actions.

Let the divine will of the moment be the pivotal point of your activities. Don't precede the winds from Heaven, wait for them, and when they come, always be ready to do the will of God at the moment, prepared to leave everything aside when God wills it.

I perceived the freedom of your affections and the prudence of your heart.

Always be the same.

Light the fire of divine love in your heart in the morning in order that it may last all day. Your meditation should accomplish this task, look for the wood, light the fire - then, from time to time during the day, rekindle it with a few simple acts of love, drawn from your duties, sacrifices or spiritual joys.

[39]Children and grandchild of Mme. Chanuet.

I will give you my meditations, but wait a little while. I must go to Marseilles for January 6th, I will pass through Lyons around the 3rd. I don't know whether I will have time to come to see you on the way down, as I expect to say Mass only at Aynay, then leave again, but when I return toward the end of the month.

Here is my address in Marseilles: (7 rue Nau)

I bless you, dear daughter, in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Dec. 14-21 - Retreat for SSS candidates to Ordination.

1087

CO 1086

TO MME. TESNIERE
(VII 1/2 III 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum *Paris, December 14, 1861*

Good Mme. Tesniere,

Since you left we have received no further news directly from you and yet Mme. Irlande has written to you, and you promised to give news about yourself. I received some several times, but if I knew how to scold, I would scold you a little.

But as I knew that you were on familiar ground and among good acquaintances of mine, I felt peaceful about it.

Chichery[40] is not in Paris, but Paris has many problems at this time. Everything is going so badly, all we hear are complaints and difficulties. There, you have peace, the country; let God be close, too, and especially his goodness. We must reach the point of submission to the service of our Good Master because you have suffered so!

Make the most of your suffering, since the Good Lord is sending it to you. Be like a little religious in your cell.

I believe that your dear son is fine. I was given good news about him a few days ago from the Chaplain, Fr. Deuth, who came to see me in Paris. He is fine and they are very pleased with him.

Goodbye, dear Madame, believe me ever in our Lord,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard SSS

Dec 17	*Conference Servants: Respect - Bearing.*

[40] Perhaps a political figure?

1088

CO 1087

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SS)
(I 103/181 VI 4)

Paris, December 17, 1861

Dear Father,

Come in the name of God, under the protection of the Blessed Virgin, in the company of St. John.

Your letter, which I have just received, fills us with joy.

However, take the second class coach and dress warmly, especially your feet.

I bless you wholeheartedly and I am expecting you.

Eymard, S.S.

P.S. I'm sending my letter to the station with the hope that it will leave tonight.

1089

CO 1088

TO MR. DE BENQUE
(VII 1/4)

L.J.C. *Paris, December 18, 1861*

Dear Mr. de Benque,[41]

We are certainly praying for your intentions as the Work needs it. I am astonished that Fr. Le Rebours has not obtained [permission]. He is so close to His Eminence. But the devil has his part against it, and poor human nature its fears. You will succeed because the honor of God is involved.

Good Father de Cuers has led me to expect his visit Saturday morning, the day when three priests will be ordained for the Society.[42] Please pray for them a little. If he arrives, I will let you know immediately, so that you may come at twelve, or at 6:00 p.m., to share in our fraternal meal.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard SS

Dec. 21 - Ordination of three men to Priesthood in the Society; Fr. de Cuers came for the occasion.
Dec. 31 - To Angers in view of a projected foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

[41] President of the Nocturnal Adoration in Paris.
[42] Saturday, Dec 21st at St. Sulpice.

APPENDIX I

The Following retreats given to the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers are undated, but could easily have been given in the period 1858 - 1862

Retreat to Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers
Six Days

Beginning of the Retreat - Preparatory Meditation.

First Day

First Meditation	God's Love in Creating Me
Second Meditation	Graces of Preservation
Third Meditation	The Love Shown in the Redemption

Second Day

First Meditation	My Need of the Redemption
Second Meditation	The Goodness Shown by God's Patience
Third Meditation	The Mercy of God

Third Day

First Meditation	The Love of Jesus Christ
Second Meditation	One Must Give Oneself Entirely to God
Third Meditation	One Must Consecrate Oneself Entirely to the Service of God

Fourth Day

First Meditation	Jesus My Highest Law
Second Meditation	The Life of Love
Third Meditation	Holy Abandonment to God

Fifth Day

First Meditation	Love's First Virtue: Humility
Second Meditation	Crucified Love
	Crucified Love (Second Part)
Third Meditation	The Holy Will of God

Sixth Day

First Meditation	Eucharistic Service
Second Meditation	The Holy Eucharist Is My Perfection
Third Meditation	The Eucharistic Life of Jesus

Retreat to Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers
Eight Days
On the Eucharistic Vocation

Beginning of the Retreat - Preparatory Meditation.

First Day

First Meditation	On Salvation
Second Meditation	To Serve God
Third Meditation	Knowledge of Oneself

Second Day

First Meditation	The State of Grace
Second Meditation	The Supernatural Life
Third Meditation	Combats of the Supernatural Life

Third Day

First Meditation	The Priesthood
Second Meditation	The Service of Jesus Christ
Third Meditation	The Spirit of Jesus in the Priest

Fourth Day

First Meditation	Serving Jesus Christ with Mary
Second Meditation	Two Classes of God's Servants
Third Meditation	Sacrifices of the Religious Life

Fifth Day

First Meditation	The Graces of the Religious Life
Second Meditation	Purposes of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Third Meditation	Eucharistic Worship

Sixth Day

First Meditation	Adoration
Second Meditation	The Eucharistic Apostolate
Third Meditation	Love of Jesus Christ

Seventh Day

First Meditation	Poverty
Second Meditation	Purity
Third Meditation	Obedience

Eighth Day

First Meditation	The Eucharistic Life
Second Meditation	The Marks of a Eucharistic Vocation
Third Meditation	The Grace of Vocation

Conclusion of the Retreat

First Virtue of a Postulant: The Gift of Self

APPENDIX II
RULE OF THE SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(Draft of Aug. 15, 1859)

FIRST PART
Basic Principles

CHAPTER I - PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

Art. 1 - The purpose of the Society of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament is to devote itself exclusively and forever, under the guidance and protection of the Most Blessed Virgin, their mother, to the service of love of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

Art. 2 - They shall serve their divine Master by the daily practice of perpetual adoration and reparation, in union with the eucharistic life of the Most Blessed Virgin in the Cenacle.

Art. 3 - They will apply themselves to honor principally the interior and hidden life of Our Lord in the divine Eucharist.

Art. 4 - In order to serve their divine King more perfectly, they will keep for his love the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and the eucharistic vow.

CHAPTER II - THE SPIRIT OF THE SOCIETY

Art. 1 - The Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament shall live by the spirit of Jesus, especially his spirit of love and sacrifice; the great motto of their lives will be: All for the service of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Art. 2 - They will strive for conversion and personal perfection only in order to be able to serve the God of the Eucharist more purely and more suitably, [which is] the goal of every grace and virtue of a Servant of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Art. 3 - It is by detachment from everyone and continual death to themselves that they will establish the reign of Jesus in their hearts and will be changed into him.

Art. 4 - They shall love and carefully maintain a life of withdrawal and silence if they wish to live in happiness with Jesus.

Art. 5 - Their contacts with the world will be only those which duty and obedience prescribe: to live unknown and unnoticed by the world, to belong uniquely to Jesus such ought to be the glory of a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament.

Art. 6 - They will serve Jesus in union with the Most Blessed Virgin, his first as his most perfect adorer, finding inspiration from the spirit of Mary, clothing themselves with her merits, her virtues, praying and adoring with her and through her, like a child adoring, praying and working with its mother.

CHAPTER III - THE PRACTICE OF ADORATION

Art. 1 - Precept: Each sister shall make three hours of adoration daily by rule, two during the day and one at night; each adoration will be for one hour.

Art. 2 - Directive. The hours of the day and the night will be divided equally among the sisters by the Superior. However, she could assign regular hours for the employments that require it.

Art. 3 - P. The Superior will not dispense anyone from the adoration prescribed by the rule without the permission of the Superior (masc.) She will submit to him the temporary dispensations she may have granted because of necessity.

Art. 4 - D. There will always be two adorers at night from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Art. 5 - D. A Board indicating the hour of adorations and the name of the adorers will be placed in an obvious place. The coordinator for adoration will see to it that each Sister be exact and faithful to her appointed times.

Art. 6 - D. The adorers will maintain great modesty and reverence in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. They will avoid any posture or action which would not be respectful. They will especially avoid speaking unless there is a great necessity.

Art. 7 - D. They will honor the Most Holy Eucharist by the four ends of Sacrifice by the practice of adoration and love, by praise and thanksgiving, by propitiation and impetration, in union with holy Church.

Art. 8 - D. In the practice of adoration, each Sister will follow her attraction of grace and devotion, and will apply herself especially to honor the various mysteries of Our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist, acccording to the feast and season as well as the feasts and virtues of the Most Blessed Virgin and the Saints.

Art. 9 - D. All the virtues of the Sisters as well as all the gifts and graces of God ought to make them fervent and perfect adorers. It is toward this goal that they should direct all their efforts, as toward their sovereign purpose on earth.

Art. 10 - D. They ought never forget that a Servant belongs entirely to her Master and for her Master, that their great mission is at the foot of the throne of grace and mercy, that they ought to consume themselves for his glory, like the torch which burns and is consumed at the altar, and becomes a victim of love with the divine Lamb, always immolated for the salvation of the world and the reign of God their Father on earth.

Art. 11 - D. They shall maintain in the presence of the adorable Host a perpetual mission of supplication and prayer, according to the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff, for all the needs of holy Church, for the members of the priesthood, especially to obtain good priests and holy apostles of Jesus Christ. They shall forget themselves, so to speak, to be entirely concerned with the needs of the Church, the salvation of souls and the glory of their divine Master.

CHAPTER IV - REPARATION

Art. 1 - P. Each Sister will be responsible, at least once a month, for the duty of reparation in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Art. 2 - D. Her day of reparation shall be a day of retreat and penance. The Sister who is doing reparation will maintain deepest recollection on that day, and ask the Superior for some private or public penance.

Art. 3 - D. Although all sins committed against the divine Majesty ought to be the object of reparation on the part of the adorers, they will however, consider themselves especially responsible to make reparation and to expiate the crimes committed against the adorable Sacrament of the Altar, especially by Christians and by those who are more especially consecrated to the service of Our Lord, and who belong to him by vocation.

CHAPTER V - THE DIVINE OFFICE

Art. 1 - P. All the Sisters will psalmody together the Office of the Feast of the Most Holy Body of our Lord in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and during this recitation they will observe all the signs of reverence and ceremonies prescribed by the Roman Liturgy which they will follow with complete exactness.

Art. 2 - P. The Sisters who could not recite the Office for a legitimate reason will recite in its place the Crown of Our Lord, composed of 33 Pater and Ave and Gloria Patri, divided as follows: nine for Matins, five for Lauds, three for each of the Minor Hours of Prime, Terce, Sext and Nones, five for Vespers and two for Compline.

Art. 3 - D. They will apply themselves to recite the Divine Office well, with faith, as being the prayer of the Church; with devotion, in union with the heavenly court; with modesty, in order to honor God with their body and soul; with deliberateness, reciting it with attention, distinctly on a moderate tone, and observing the mediant carefully; the ordinary tone shall be mi or fa.

CHAPTER VI - EUCHARISTIC WORKS

Art. 1 - P. All eucharistic works shall be dear to them, and they shall favor them insofar as the service of adoration allows, but, in order not to be turned away from adoration, their fundamental exercise, they will not direct any exterior works, nor accept to preside over them.

Art. 2 - D. The Work of First Communions will be their work of predilection; they will instruct, with charity and patience in Christian Doctrine, young girls or older ones who might have forgotten the truths of religion. They will prepare them for the grace of First Communion with all the piety and zeal which such a great Sacrament requires.

Art. 3 - D. In order to become capable of instructing others in our holy religion, they will become skilled themselves, and for that purpose, they will try to read or learn some truths of the Catechism every day, and from time to time they will be given some Doctrinal Instruction.

Art. 4 - D. They receive in their Cenacle persons who are worthy of trust and wish to make a eucharistic retreat at the feet of the most Blessed Sacrament. The retreatants will not be introduced into the community and they will have contacts only with the Superior, or with those she designates for this purpose.

Art. 5 - D. The sisters will labor at whatever relates to divine worship, especially in favor of poor Churches, insofar as their means allow. In this matter let them follow the rules and designs of the Roman liturgy, whether for materials or form.

Chapter VII On the Members
Chapter VIII Aspirants
Chapter IX Postulants
Chapter X Novices- Formula of Profession
Chapter XI On the Vows

Appendix II

Chapter XII	On the Vow of Poverty
Chapter XIII	On the Vow of Chastity
Chapter XIV	On the Vow of Obedience
Chapter XV	On the Eucharistic Vow
Chapter XVI	The Vow of Stability

Part II - Common Rules

Chapter I	Exercises of Devotion
Chapter II	Manual Work
Chapter III	On Food
Chapter IV	Rest and Recreation
Chapter V	On the Cell
Chapter VI	On Silence
Chapter VII	On Relations with the Public
Chapter VIII	On Penances
Chapter IX	On Fraternal Charity
Chapter X	On Relations toward Superiors
Chapter XI	Declaration

APPENDIX III

Letter of Father Carri to Mr. Perret - cf Doc. 1012

Very dear Mr. Perret,

Allow me to wish you a holy and happy New Year as I tell you the details about the beautiful feast we had last Tuesday. May the Lord always be known and loved by means of the holy and spiritual endeavors which you undertake to spread his kingdom and perpetuate his glory.

On the Holy Day of Christmas, at the early hour of 7:00 a.m., our 42 adults began arriving in the house; after examining their attire and several reconciliations (confessions?) the procession began. Given the size of our chapel, the adults found their relatives standing (among the 42 adults, there were 16 poor girls who made their first Communion; among them was the one who was accompanying your poor blind woman who is constantly coming to get some news about you.)

After going to their places, morning prayer began. Then the hymn to the Holy Spirit, then a meditation on first Communion, a hymn and then Holy Mass. When the Gospel was over, Rev. Father Superior, who was celebrating the Holy Sacrifice, gave them an instruction on the mystery of the day--he succeeded in coordinating so well the birth of our Lord with their first Communion, that the whole assembly was hanging on his every word. It was sometimes very moving. Finally holy Communion took place in the greatest silence, and in perfect recollection for children such as these. It was admirable. The Mass of thanksgiving took place afterwards during which they sang various hymns. Then the ceremony ended with the 5 Paters for the Church, our Holy Father the Pope, and the Benefactors. Before leaving they sang a hymn with so much heart that they really understood what they were singing.

At 10:00 o'clock we had a breakfast of sausages, meat patties, and for dessert, three spoonfuls of stewed apples; bread and wine to their hearts content. They were as happy as kings.

At 2:00 p.m. they were confirmed by a Neapolitan Bishop, who had been exiled from his See because he refused a Te Deum to the Piedmontese. I believe that it is Bishop Sanseno. After Confirmation, they had Benediction. When Benediction was over, they went to receive their gifts and rosaries.

Afterwards, they immediately returned to their relatives who were impatient to embrace their dear children. The weather was very bad. Snow never stopped all day. So these poor children were not able to play as usual. However, their joy was very great and last night, Monday, they came to spend their Credits. Some objects went for nearly 80 thousand B.P. [?][101]They would make you think they were acting like the rich. Most of them brought someone with them to replace them.

While we wait for the joy of having you among us, please receive, dear Mr. Perret, as of now, my wishes for a happy and holy year, and my fond expression of friendship in our Lord,

Fr. Carrie, Priest of the Blessed Sacrament
January 1, 1861

[101] perhaps "Bon Points" - that is: good marks.

APPENDIX IV

A summary of the writings and teachings of St. Peter Julian Eymard to be found in the SSS Archives in Rome and microfilm in Cleveland, as compiled by Fr. Eugenio Nunez SSS, now residing in N.Y.

ÉCRITS DU BIENHEUREUX

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(pp.962); (pp.129)

R, 14

(pp.550)

R, 15

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ANDIGNE, COUNTESS D'(nee DE MONTAGU)

Born and bred in aristocracy, Miss de Montagu married the Count d'Andigne in a fairy tale marriage and life. She lived on her estate at L'Ilse-au Lion-d'Angers in the summer, and in the winter at rue du Bac in Paris. A woman of wealth and influence, she was also kind and close to the poor. When in Paris, she regularly attended Fr. E.'s Thursday sermons. As her director, he challenged her to spiritual values, to treasure the Eucharistic Presence in the chapel at her estate, and to the true meaning of nobility.

She and her sister, Mme. de Fraguier, organized the group of women who took up collections to finance the Work of First Communion of Adults. In 1873, after the death of her husband and the loss of her property, she entered the monastery of the Visitation in Paris. She testified in the process of beatification as Sr. Francoise de Chantal de Montagu.

(V 1/52) #1071

BENQUE, MR. MONT DE

President of the Nocturnal Adoration Society at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Paris.

(VII 1/4) #1089

BETHOUX, MR.

Postman at La Mure.

(VII 1/1) #0759

BILLARD, MISS JOSEPHINE (SR. JOSEPHINE DU SS)

She was a benefactress of the new community until she entered. She was a member of the first group of Servants to make vows on July 31, 1859. She eventually had to leave because of her health and died an early death.

III 1/1 VI 1/1) #0910 (VI 1/1 III 1/1) #0911

BLANC DE ST. BONNET, MARGUERITE (MME. ADOLPHE, nee CHANUET)

Sister of Fr. Michel Chanuet and wife of the famous philosopher. She was a connecting link in Fr. E.'s circle of friends. At St. Bonnet he came to know the entire Chanuet family. Fr. E. offered her encouragement and support, especially at the time her mother entered the convent as Sr. Camille du SS.

(VIII 1/1 VII 1) #1066

BLANC DE ST. BONNET, MISS ZENAIDE

Sister of the famous philosopher, Miss Z. acted as Fr. E.'s secretary during his stay at St. Bonnet to write the Constitutions.

(VII 1/5 V 3) #1050 (VII 2/5) #1086

BOURGES, MLLES.

School teachers in Marseilles. Their brother was Priest and associate Pastor at La Seyne-sur-mer. Fr. E. wrote to console them over the death of their brother and later their mother.

(V 1/4) #0866
(V 2/4) #0921
(V 3/4) #0967
(V 4/4) #0984

BRISSAC, LOUISE DE

Fr. E. replied to her request for information about a miraculous cure which had taken place through the intercession of Our Lady of La Salette.

(VIII 1/1) #0912

BRUNELLO, CANON

Marseilles. Director of the "Apostolate for youth" in Marseilles. He was involved with the first group of aspirants for a new Adoration Society. He later became the Spiritual Director of Fr. de Cuers and influential in drawing Fr. de Cuers back to Marseilles for a foundation.

(VIII 1/1) #0804

CARREL, MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE

A member of the men's group of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons. Mr. Carrel was a life-long friend. He was a textile merchant in Lyons. In his travels, Fr. E. often accepted hospitality in this family which he referred to as a "dear beloved Bethany." This family had been constituted as a "House of Nazareth."

(V 4/24)	#0797	(V 6/24)	#0890	(V 8/24)	#0985
(V 5/24)	#0876	(V 7/24)	#0904	(V 9/24)	#0987

CHAMPION, FR. CYR AMAND SSS

Born at Chanos (Valence) Feb. 6, 1820. Ordained at Belley in 1846 as a Marist priest. As a Marist colleague, Fr. Champion had served in England and had worked with Fr. E. at La Favourite as Assistant Master of Novices. During Fr. E.'s time at La Seyne, he recommended Fr. C. to Marguerite Guillot in Lyons as a confessor. Fr. C.'s area of specialization was Liturgy and Canon Law.

He joined the Society of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris in Oct. 1857. He was among the first group who made perpetual vows after the approval of the Society and participated in the first General Chapter, where he was named Assistant General. He was a faithful collaborator, always ready to render service where needed in any of the houses of the Institute as well as to the Servants. He was made Superior of the Brussels Foundation where his knowledge of English was particularly helpful. He was the third Superior General of the Congregation, from June 29, 1871 to January 22, 1881.

(I 1/5)	#0887	(I 2/5)	#0901	(I 3/5)	#1013

CHANUET, AMEDEE

Brother of Fr. Michel Chanuet SSS, son of Sr. Camille SSS, brother-in-law of Sr. Philomene SSS. His wife was Blanche de Couchies. He planned and built a chapel in honor of All Saints at his home at Lantignie. He interceded for a new foundation to favor Sisters Benoite and Philomene, after the closing of Nemours.

(VII 1/15) #1058 (VII 2/15) #1073

CHANUET, MME. CAMILLE (nee CROZET) (SR. CAMILLE SS)

Mother of Fr. Michel Chanuet, Amedee Chanuet and Marguerite Blanc de St. Bonnet. In her son and daughter-in-law's home, St. Eymard felt so at home that he went to write the Constitutions for the new Communities. She eventually became a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament. She died at the home of her son Amedee.

(III 1/3 VII 17)	#1057	(VII 4/17)	#0982	(VII 8/17)	#1072
(VII 1/17)	#0878	(VII 5/17)	#0986	(VII 9/17)	#1085
(VII 2/17)	#0905	(VII 6/17)	#1016		
(VII 3/17)	#0916	(VII 7/17)	#1061		

COUCHIES, MME. FELICIE DE (nee RATTIER)

Mother of Sister Philomene, Sr. Vincent S.C., and Blanche (Chanuet). She lived at Fay-les-Nemours. Sister of Mr. Rattier.

(VII 1/9) #0958 (VII 2/9) #1047

CREUSET, MR.

Resident of Lyons, a member of the Third Order of Mary. He fulfilled the function of Master of Novices for the men's group, though reluctantly.

(V 8/8) #0754

CUERS, DE

Brother of Fr. Jean-Raymond de Cuers.

(VIII 1/1) #1082

CUERS, COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

Born at Port de Ste. Marie in Spain on July 29, 1809, and baptized the following day. He was the eldest son of a noble family. He had made a career in the Navy, where he had engaged in military activities all over the world. He had been indifferent to religion until his conversion in 1848 after the death of his sister.

Ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Marseilles, June 24, 1855. First companion of Fr. E. They had met in Paris when Fr. E. was Provincial of the Marists. Count de Cuers and Hermann Cohen had collaborated to establish Nocturnal Adoration for men in Paris. He and Fr. E. met again in Toulon where the Count was involved in establishing adoration. Fr. E. was named chaplain to the group. Fr. de C. urged Fr. E. to join him in a project to found an Order of the Blessed Sacrament. His zeal made him impatient with Fr. E.'s slow discernment. He studied for the priesthood and was in Paris during Fr. E.'s discernment retreat. Shortly after the foundation he left Paris to begin the House of Marseilles and be its Superior. There he began the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament and dedicated a chapel to Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.

De Cuers was radical and ascetic, which made it difficult for others to live with him in such extreme poverty. He was sent to Rome and Jerusalem to explore the possibilities of a foundation at the Cenacle. Later he was to ask for the dispensation of his vows to begin Roquefavour, an experience of solitude. Permission was granted by Fr. E. to begin the Work without dispensation.

He returned to the Congregation to be its Second Superior General Aug. 9, 1868 until June 21, 1871.

(I 23/181 VI 4) #0763
(I 24/181 VI 4) #0764
(I 25/181 VI 4) #0925
(I 26/181 VI 4) #0799
(I 27/181 VI 4) #0807
(I 28/181 VI 4) #0811
(I 29/181 VI 4) #0816
(I 30/181 VI 4) #0810
(I 31/181 VI 4) #0818
(I 32/181 VI 4) #0821
(I 33/181 VI 4) #0823
(I 34/181 VI 4) #0824
(I 35/181 VI 4) #0827
(I 36/181 VI 4) #0831
(I 37/181 VI 4) #0829
(I 38/181 VI 4) #0832
(I 39/181 VI 4) #0839
(I 40/181 VI 4) #0845
(I 41/181 VI 4) #0849
(I 42/181 VI 4) #0851
(I 43/181 VI 4) #0855
(I 44/181 VI 4) #0856
(I 45/181 VI 4) #0857
(I 46/181 VI 4) #0859
(I 47/181 VI 4) #0863
(I 48/181 VI 4) #0868
(I 49/181 VI 4) #0870
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(I 51/181 VI 4) #0873
(I 52/181 VI 4) #0875
(I 53/181 VI 4) #0882
(I 54/181 VI 4) #0894
(I 55/181 VI 4) #0906
(I 56/181 VI 4) #0909
(I 57/181 VI 4) #0918
(I 58/181 VI 4) #0920
(I 59/181 VI 4) #0922
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(I 63/181 VI 4) #0947
(I 64/181 VI 4) #0950
(I 65/181 VI 4) #0952
(I 66/181 VI 4) #0959
(I 67/181 VI 4) #0962

(I 68/181 VI 4)	#0963	(I 80/181 VI 4)	#1018	(I 92/181 VI 4)	#1049
(I 69/181 VI 4)	#0965	(I 81/181 VI 4)	#1020	(I 93/181 VI 4)	#1055
(I 70/181 VI 4)	#0969	(I 82/181 VI 4)	#1022	(I 94/181 VI 4)	#1059
(I 71/181 VI 4)	#0978	(I 83/181 VI 4)	#1023	(I 95/181 VI 4)	#1062
(I 72/181 VI 4)	#0983	(I 84/181 VI 4)	#1028	(I 96/181 VI 4)	#1065
(I 73/181 VI 4)	#0990	(I 85/181 VI 4)	#1029	(I 97/181 VI 4)	#1070
(I 74/181 VI 4)	#1000	(I 86/181 VI 4)	#1031	(I 98/181 VI 4)	#1075
(I 75/181 VI 4)	#1001	(I 87/181 VI 4)	#1032	(I 99/181 VI 4)	#1076
(I 76/181 VI 4)	#1003	(I 88/181 VI 4)	#1033	(I 100/181 VI 4)	#1078
(I 77/181 VI 4)	#1006	(I 89/181 VI 4)	#1035	(I 101/181 VI 4)	#1080
(I 78/181 VI 4)	#1007	(I 90/181 VI 4)	#1042	(I 102/181 VI 4)	#1081
(I 79/181 VI 4)	#1017	(I 91/181 VI 4)	#1044	(I 103/181 VI 4)	#1088

DANION, MISS VIRGINIE (SR.ANNE DE JESUS/SR.MARIE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT)

Entered Carmel and later 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 4/36)	#0745	(IV 8/36)	#0979	(IV 12/36)	#1025
(IV 5/36)	#0840	(IV 9/36)	#0997	(IV 13/36)	#1039
(IV 6/36)	#0919	(IV 10/36)	#0998	(IV 14/36)	#1052
(IV 7/36)	#0975	(IV 11/36)	#1019		

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 healing. Fr. E. often stayed there when traveling through Tours and the men worked together to establish a group of Nocturnal Adoration in Tours and to strengthen the group in Paris.

(V 1/2) #0956

EYMARD, MLLES. 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 there. Later she joined and promoted the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

The La Mure family home became a center of friendship for those whom Fr. E. would direct to La Salette. So, friendly ties were established especially with the Guillot sisters, Srs. Benoite and Philomene, Mmes. Jordan, Tenaillon and many others. Marianne and Nanette attempted a vocation to the Servants, but did not persevere.

In September 1865, Fr. E. spent 2 weeks in La Mure because of her 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. She died February 17, 1876.

(III 108/145 VI 10)#730	(III 113/145 VI 10)#936	(III 118/145 VI 10)#1030
(III 109/145 VI 10)#749	(III 114/145 VI 10)#944	(III 119/145 VI 10)#1046
(III 110/145 VI 10)#850	(III 115/145 VI 10)#966	(III 120/145 VI 10)#1077
(III 111/145 VI 10)#883	(III 116/145 VI 10)#991	
(III 112/145 VI 10)#914	(III 117/145 VI 10)#1008	

FEGELY DE VIVY, COUNTESS

From Fribourg, Switzerland, she and her two daughters, Aloysia and Marie, met Fr. E. during a stay in Paris. In his correspondence he encouraged the Countess in her wedding plans for Aloysia and repeatedly declined her invitation to visit them in Switzerland.

(V 1/3) #1026

FRANCHET, MME.

Member of the Third Order of Mary, Lyons. Mme. F. helped to copy the minutes of the Third Order of Mary for Fr. E. Her son Charles was a student at the Marist school at St. Chamond. He eventually came to Paris to study and was in contact with Fr. E. Mme. Franchet received many counsels from Fr. E., mainly to receive frequent Communion, to carry the cross, to seek her peace in God.

(VII 29/33)	#0862	(VII 31/33)	#0968	(VII 33/33)	#1011
(VII 30/33)	#0869	(VII 32/33)	#0999		

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 8/8) #0841

GAUDIOZ, MISS JENNY

Lyons. Niece of Marguerite Guillot. After thinking of a possible vocation to the Servants, she entered the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

(VII 1/3)	#0813	(VII 2/3)	#0949	(VII 3/3)	#1010

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 4/6)	#0772	(VII 5/6)	#0860	(VII 6/6)	#0970

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-to. 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. Benoite and Sr. Philomene at “Les Thorins.” Her spiritual attraction to the religious life led her to make vows of poverty and obedience to Fr. E., even in her married state of life. She was associated to the Servants of the

Blessed Sacrament under the name of Sr. Joseph du SS. She was close to the sisters and present with Marguerite Guillot during her last meeting with Fr. E. at Vichy. March 13, 1861, in the Oratory of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Mme. Gourd and her daughter Stephanie made perpetual vows in the presence of the community of the sisters and of Fr. E., with the intent of entering community when they were free from other obligations. This did not materialize. But in 1874, Mme. Gourd donated a house in Lyons to the Servants.

(V 25/76)	#0757	(V 32/76)	#0808	(V 39/76)	#0927
(V 26/76)	#0758	(V 33/76)	#0822	(V 40/76)	#0940
(V 27/76)	#0769	(V 34/76)	#0847	(V 41/76)	#0951
(V 28/76)	#0771	(V 35/76)	#0853	(V 42/76)	#1067
(V 29/76)	#0780	(V 36/76)	#0871	(V 43/76)	#1084
(V 30/76)	#0794	(V 37/76)	#0881		
(V 31/76)	#0801	(V 38/76)	#0897		

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 incaring for her sick parents and supported her choice for virginity furing a time of testing. Stephanie and her mother were present at Vichy with Marguerite Guillot during her last meeting with Fr. E. to discuss a foundationn 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 perpetualvows 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 21/52)	#0795	(V 25/52)	#0880	(V 29/52)	#0980
(V 22/52)	#0809	(V 26/52)	#0896	(V 30/52)	#1040
(V 23/52)	#0848	(V 27/52)	#0941	(V 31/52)	#1079
(V 24/52)	#0854	(V 28/52)	#0953	(V 50/52)	#0928

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 7/104)	#0744	(IV 17/104)	#0874	(IV 27/104)	#0994
(IV 8/104)	#0762	(IV 18/104)	#0879	(IV 28/104)	#1009
(IV 9/104)	#0766	(IV 19/104)	#0908	(IV 29/104)	#1015
(IV 10/104)	#0774	(IV 20/104)	#0923	(IV 30/104)	#1024
(IV 11/104)	#0786	(IV 21/104)	#0926	(IV 31/104)	#1038
(IV 12/104)	#0793	(IV 22/104)	#0930	(IV 32/104)	#1043
(IV 13/104)	#0814	(IV 23/104)	#0934	(IV 33/104)	#1045
(IV 14/104)	#0867	(IV 24/104)	#0945	(IV 34/104)	#1063
(IV 15/104)	#0837	(IV 25/104)	#0954	(IV 35/104)	#1083
(IV 16/104)	#0843	(IV 26/104)	#0957	(III 2/2)	#0742

GUILLOT, MISS MARGUERITE (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

The largest collection of letters by our Saint was addressed to Marguerite Guillot: 395 letters in all. They first met in Lyons when Fr. E. preached a retreat at the Charity of Bellecour. Her need became the incentive for his accepting to direct the Third Order of Mary in 1845. They worked together for the next 11 years, for its development and growth.

After the foundation of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, he invited Marguerite to Paris where she became the first Superior of the Servants. She was a discrete and attentive confidante. Their relationship, which was to last until his death, is characterized by openness and trust, of exceptionally high quality, not without suffering. Given the anguish of her soul, his letters often allude to Gethsemane and Calvary, but stressing always Christ's love for us more than suffering and our response to his love more than the cost or pain.

Her sisters Claudine and Mariette (Sr. Anne-Marie) were to follow her on her spiritual journey as members of the Third Order of Mary, establishing a "House of Nazareth" in their home, then to Paris as Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Their sister Jenny, who was sickly, died an early death. Fr. E. also corresponded with her sister Mme. Gaudioz, her brother-in-law Mr. Claude Gaudioz, and their daughters Jenny and Marie.

(II 182/395 VI 2)#0729	(II 190/395 VI 2)#0752	(II 198/395 VI 2)#0835
(II 183/395 VI 2)#0731	(II 191/395 VI 2)#0755	(II 199/395 VI 2)#0884
(II 184/395 VI 2)#0738	(II 192/395 VI 2)#0760	(II 200/395 VI 2)#0888
(II 185/395 VI 2)#0739	(II 193/395 VI 2)#0761	(II 201/395 VI 2)#0893
(II 186/395 VI 2)#0741	(II 194/395 VI 2)#0788	(II 202/395 VI 2)#0895
(II 187/395 VI 2)#0748	(II 195/395 VI 2)#0790	(II 203/395 VI 2)#0902
(II 188/395 VI 2)#0750	(II 196/395 VI 2)#0791	(I 204/395 VI 2) #1014
(II 189/395 VI 2)#0751	(II 197/395 VI 2)#0792	

GUILLOT, MISS MARIETTE (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)

Eldest sister in the Guillot family, Mariette was a practical woman who cared for others. After the death of Jenny, she joined her sisters in Paris and became Sr. Anne-Marie.

(III 6/21)	#0737	(III 9/21)	#0778	(III 12/21)	#0838
(III 7/21)	#0743	(III 10/21)	#0817	(III 13/21)	#0898
(III 8/21)	#0756	(III 11/21)	#0834	(III 14/21)	#0976

HUAN, FR.

One of the first aspirants at rue d'Enfer. Fr. Huan had not been able to continue.

(VI 1/1) #0732

JORDAN, NATALIE (MME. CAMILLE, nee BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

St. Peter Julian often referred to her as "my eldest daughter." Born in March, 1810, she outlived Fr. E. who directed her personally from 1846 and by correspondence from 1850 - 1868. He appointed her as Rectress of the Married Women's branch of the Third Order of Mary.

Both were born in the Dauphine Region of France and were proud of their common roots. They were close in age, conviction, feelings and ideals. On a visit to Lyons in 1865, Fr. E. told her that they were sister-souls going through the same stages of the spiritual life together. He kept her informed of the principal events in his life and visited her and her family in Lyons and Calet when he could do so. He also corresponded with her daughter Mathilde Giraud-Jordan and her niece Edmee de Montmorand.

(VII 5/5 IV 75)	#1005	(IV 23/75)	#0753	(IV 26/75)	#0783
(IV 21/75)	#0734	(IV 24/75)	#0775	(IV 27/75)	#0800
(IV 22/75)	#0740	(IV 25/75)	#0779	(IV 28/75)	#0805

(IV 29/75)	#0815	(IV 32/75)	#0861	(IV 35/75)	#0946
(IV 30/75)	#0833	(IV 33/75)	#0903	(IV 36/75)	#0972
(IV 31/75)	#0846	(IV 34/75)	#0913	(IV 37/75)	#1056

JULHIEN, ADELE

From Marseilles. Miss Julhien was cured miraculously by Our Lady of La Salette.

(VII 1/2) #1051

LA SALETTE, DOCUMENTS OF

(VIII 2/4) #1054

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 3/3) #0736

LAROCHENEGLY, MOTHER FRANCOISE DE

First Superior of the Cenacle at Fourviere. The correspondence between them took place while she was in Paris.

(VIII 1/2) #0765 (VIII 2/2) #0781

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. 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 7/14)	#0825	(V 8/14)	#0877
(V 9/14)	#0889	(V 10/14)	#0960

LISA, JULES DE

A former student of Fr. E., either at Belley or La Seyne. He went to Paris to visit Fr. E. after the foundation of the Congregation. He was received warmly and Fr. E. planned an outing for him.

(U 1) #1048

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 4/5) #0844 (V 5/5) #0931

MAYET, ELIZABETH

Sister of Fr. Gabriel-Claude Mayet. One of the members of the Third Order of Mary. She was single. St. Eymard called her the heart of the Mayet family and encouraged her to find meaning in her role in keeping the Mayet home.

(VII 13/17)	#0735	(VII 15/17)	#0812	(VII 17/17)	#0996
(VII 14/17)	#0776	(VII 16/17)	#0974		

MAZENOD, BISHOP CHARLES-EUGENE DE, O.M.I. (BLESSED)

(1782-1861) Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and Bishop of Marseilles. During the French Revolution, his family emigrated from France to Italy, where he spent his youth. He

returned to France in 1802 and became a priest. He devoted himself to the poor and the youth. Successor to his uncle as Bishop of Marseilles, he restored and reorganized the diocese while acting as Superior General of his Institute.

Bishop de Mazenod had welcomed Fr. E. at the novitiate of the Oblates in 1829 and saw him leave due to illness. In 1831, at a chance meeting in Grenoble, he became his spokesman for admission to the diocesan seminary.

Bishop de Mazenod provided a testimonial letter to Fr. E. to obtain the blessing of the Holy Father and later took personal pride in welcoming the second foundation of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament in Marseilles. It was with his approval that the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament was begun in Marseilles.

(VI 1/1) #0864 (I 1/1) #0830

MEEUS, ANNE DE, FOUNDRESS ADORERS of BLESSED SACRAMENT

Foundress of the Institute of Perpetual Adoration and Poor Churches in Brussels, later known as the Association for Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Work for Poor Churches. She invited Fr. E. to preach at her chapel in Brussels and later insisted on a foundation of the Fathers, sharing the same chapel. Her objections to a foundation for the Servants in Brussels led Fr. E. to accept for the Society the property which was being offered.

(VI 1/22) #0767 (VI 2/22) #0777

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 7/9) #0746

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 2/4) #0937

NEGRE, MR.

Father of Ernest and Rose Negre, both of whom considered a vocation with the Blessed Sacrament Communities.

(V 1/1) #0782

NEGRE, MME.

Mother of Ernest and Rose Negre, members of the Blessed Sacrament Communities..

(VII 1/1) #0798

THE NUNCIO OF PARIS

(VI 1/1) #0796

PERRET , LOUIS

An architect in Lyons. Was a member of the Third Order of Mary. He was in Paris at the beginning of the Society and was instrumental in gathering the first group of Workers for

catechism. He left Paris in Aug. 1849 (1859?), to establish a place of pilgrimage. (Notre Dame de la Roche at Sauvages - Rhone.)

(VII 1/14)	#0907	(VII 5/14)	#0989	(VII 9/14)	#1041
(VII 2/14)	#0929	(VII 6/14)	#0993	(VII 10/14)	#1068
(VII 3/14)	#0935	(VII 7/14)	#1004	(VII 11/14)	#1012
(VII 4/14)	#0981	(VII 8/14)	#1034		

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 the vigorous expansion of missionary work throughout the world. The centralization of authority in the Church increased. 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.

(0)	#0789	(2/2)	#0784

PROUVIER, MISS

Foundress of the Virgins of Jesus and Mary. She resided at Laus-le-Saulnier (Jura). She sought Fr. E.'s guidance in finding spiritual roots for her community. He encouraged her idea of forming spiritual bonds with the Marists.

(V 1/5)	#0955	(V 3/5)	#0977
(V 2/5)	#0973	(V 4/5)	#0992

RATONS, BROTHER MARIE, SSS

Brother Marie joined Fr. de Cuers in Marseilles as a youngster from Lyons. He left the community for a while, but later returned.

(VI 1/7)	#1027

RATTIER, MR.

Brother of Mme. de Couchies, uncle of Sr. Philomene and Mme. Blanche Chanuet. Mr. Rattier contested the will of his sister, Mme. Couchies, which favored Mme. Blanche, feeling that the inheritance should be divided equally between the three de Couchies sisters.

(VII 1/2)	#0964cf

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 20/26 VII 17)#0773	(VIII 23/26 VII 17)#0892	(VIII 26/26 VII 17)#1069
(VIII 21/26 VII 17)#0836	(VIII 24/26 VII 17)#0938	
(VIII 22/26 VII 17)#0842	(VIII 25/26 VII 17)#1021	

MARIE ROSA OF THE HEART OF JESUS (LEBLANC)

Superior of a Community that was being dissolved by the Archbishop.

(VI 1/3)	#1036	(VI 2/3)	#1060	(VI 3/3)	#1064

ROSEMBERG, MR. AND FAMILY

Residing in Tours, the Rosemberg family were Jewish converts, mutual acquaintances with Fr. Hermann Cohen, Fr. de Cuers and Mr. Dupont. Mr. Rosemberg was either a musician or "music teacher." Fr. E's letters to this family show real tenderness.

(VII 1/9)	#0806	(VII 3/9)	#1002
(VII 2/9)	#0924	(VII 4/9)	#1053

ROTTIER, MME. (SR. ANTOINETTE du SS)

Unknown

(III 1/4)	#0828	(III 3/4)	#0915
(III 2/4)	#0891	(III 4/4)	#0971

THE SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

(VI 1/1 II 2) #0858

SIGNORET, LEONIE

Unknown.

(VII 8 fragmnts) #0787

SPAZZIER, MME. ISABELLE

Mme. Spazzier joined Mme. Duhaut-Ally and her companions from Toulon to form the nucleus of adorers waiting in Paris for the foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Mme. Spazzier did not have a call to community life. Her bad health and her temperament indicated that she should leave. Fr. E. tried to help her find a living situation near retreat houses of sanctuaries where she could exercise her talents as an artist. He encouraged her to put aside the idea of the religious life and enrolled her (as well as Mme. de Grandville) as the first Lay Associates of the Order of the Blessed Sacrament.

(VII 10/19)	#0768	(VII 12/19)	#0886	(VII 14/19)	#0943
(VII 11/19)	#0803	(VII 13/19)	#0899	(VII 15/19)	#1037

TESNIERE, MME.

Mother of Brother (later Father) Albert Tesniere.

(VII 1/2 III 2) #1087

THOLIN-BOST, CLOTHILDE

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 27/52)	#0733	(IV 35/52)	#0865	(IV 43/52)	#0995
(IV 28/52)	#0747	(IV 36/52)	#0885	(IV 44/52)	#1074
(IV 29/52)	#0770	(IV 37/52)	#0900		
(IV 30/52)	#0785	(IV 38/52)	#0917		
(IV 31/52)	#0820	(IV 39/52)	#0932		
(IV 32/52)	#0819	(IV 40/52)	#0948		
(IV 33/52)	#0826	(IV 41/52)	#0961		
(IV 34/52)	#0852	(IV 42/52)	#0988		

WICART, BISHOP CASIMIR, Vicar General of Laval

Bishop of Frejus and Toulon, then 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 2/2) #0802

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St. Peter Julien Eymard, Fr. Troussier SSS.

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

January - June 1858

Feb 19	Fr. Eymard signed the deed to buy the house at Faubourg St. Jacques.
Mar 30	Permanent departure from rue d'Enfer.
Apr 4	Inauguration of the Chapel of Faubourg St. Jacques on Easter day. Father would later call it "the chapel of miracles."
May 25	Arrival in Paris of Miss Marguerite Guillot at noon with her sister Claudine and Madame Richard, to begin the Congregation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. They spent an hour in adoration which was commemorated each year by a "general adoration" from noon to 1 o'clock by the Servants.
May 30- June 6	Retreat to the Blessed Sacrament Religious (men).
June 8- June 17	Retreat to the future Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

June - December. 1858

June 17	Close of the retreat preached to the future Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.[1]
July 4	Precious Blood Sunday, Blessing of the house of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. He named Miss Guillot as Superior and gave them a Rule.
July 4, 6, 13, 16, 20, 23	Conferences to the Servants.
July 24	First trip to Brussels at the invitation of Miss Anne de Meeus.
July 26	Opening of a Triduum preached in the chapel of rue des Sols (Brussels).
Aug 3, 4, 5, 13, 24, 27, 31	Conferences to the Servants (Paris)
Sep 1, 3, 7, 10, 14, 20, 21, 24, 28	Conferences to the Servants.
Oct 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 28	Conferences to the Servants.
Nov 3, 5, 9, 12, 19 or 20	Conferences to the Servants.
Dec 3	Departure for Rome.

Rome: December 1858 - January 1859

1858

Dec 3	Friday. Departure from Paris for Rome via Marseilles.
Dec 8	Arrival in Rome for the first time in view of obtaining a Letter of Commendation for his Congregation.
Dec 9	In the morning, celebrated Mass at the altar of the Minerva, the Dominican church where the body of St. Catherine is kept. In the evening he entered St. Peter's Basilica on his knees.
Dec 20	At 11 o'clock, audience with Pius IX from whom he requested a Letter of Commendation for the Society, a blessing for the Servants and indulgences for adoration. cf. Docs. 784, 789, 802.

1859

Jan 5	Ecstasy at St. Peter's. The Sovereign Pontiff signed the Letter of Commendation, Blessing and Indulgences.
Jan 6	Epiphany. Father received the Letter of Commendation and Blessings. (cf Doc. 802 - footnote)

[1] Available dates and topics of retreats and conferences given to the Servants will henceforth be indicated at their proper places. Because a similar listing is not presently available for the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, a summary of this material and its Archive references can be found in Appendix VI.

Jan 7	First solemn sermon preached at St. Andre della Valle (the 2nd was to be given in 1865).
Jan 26	Return to Paris. Permission requested from the Nuncio for his community to follow the Roman calendar, granted Jan 31, 1859.

February and March 1859

Feb 6, 18	Conference to the Servants.
Feb 23	Father and his first colleagues began a retreat to prepare for their religious vows.
Feb 23	Conference to the Servants.
Mar 2	Ceremony of religious vows for the pioneers of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.
Mar 3	Departure of Father de Cuers to found the house of Marseilles.
Mar 8, 15, 18, 23, 30	Conferences to the Servants.

April - June 1859

Apr 2	Fr. de Cuers moved into the Convent (Monastery) of the Minimes in Marseilles, Saturday, the evening of Laetare Sunday.
Apr 3	First Mass at the monastery of Marseilles.
Apr 4	Monthly Retreat to SSS Fathers preached by Fr. Champion.
Apr 8, 15	Conference to the Servants, Paris.
Apr 24	Easter Sunday. Inauguration of the first chapel of Marseilles.
May ?	Final colloquy with the Holy Cure in the sacristy of Ars. (This latter was to die Aug. 4.)
May 24, 31	Conferences to the Servants.
Jun ?	Departure for Marseilles.
Jun 3	Opening sermon in Marseilles, in the presence of the bishop and several priests, explaining the Work of the Society.
Jun 12	Pentecost, First Mass in the large chapel of Marseilles.
Jun 16-23	Octave for the Feast of Corpus Christi preached in Marseilles.
Jun 23	First Exposition in Marseilles.
Jun 24	Departure for Paris, leaving Fr. de Cuers alone. Community life did not begin until Nov. 9.

May 1859

May	In early May, final conversation with the Holy Cur in the sacristry of Ars. (This latter was to die Aug 4.)
May	Conf. Ser: Spirit of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharist as means, end and center.

July - October 1859

July 2, 5, 8, 15, 20 or 22 Conferences to the Servants.
Jul 25-31 Annual Retreat to the Servants. First vows which were only private, at the close of this retreat.
Aug 3, 9, 12, 14 Conferences to the Servants.
Aug 15 First Rule of Life (Constitutions) given to the Servants. Inauguration of the Work of First Communion, 12 workers received.
Aug 17, 19, 20, 30 Conferences to the Servants.
Sept Entrance of Fr. Leroyer toward the end of the month.
Sep 6, 9, 13, 16, 23 Conferences to the Servants.
Sep 20-29 Novena in preparation for the opening of the novitiate.
Sep 29 Inauguration of the first novitiate with St. Michael as its patron.
Sep 30, Oct 4, 7, 11, 14, 19, 21, 25, 27 Conferences to the Servants.

November 1859 - April 1860

1859

Nov 1 First communion for 12 Adult Workers
Nov 2 Departure for Marseilles with the four religious who were to inaugurate the house on rue Nau.
Nov 6 The community of Marseilles began to pray the full Divine Office in choir even during the tasks of establishing and furnishing the house, before the house was even inaugurated.
Nov 9 Foundation of Marseilles
Nov 9-17 Eight Day Retreat to the people of Marseilles.
Nov 17 Inauguration of the Aggregation in Marseilles.
Dec 8 Departure of Father Eymard to Tarare and Amplepuis for Eucharistic Retreats at their Parish Center of Adoration, courtesy of Mme. Tholin-Bost.
Dec 24 Conference to the Servants.
Dec 25 First Communion of 18 children in Paris.
Dec 27 Conference to Servants.

1860

Jan 1-6 Retreat to SSS novices for vows.
Jan 17, 20 Conferences to the Servants.
Feb To Tours to preach to Nocturnal Adoration group.
Feb 22, 28 Conferences to Servants.
Late Feb Meeting with the Bishop of Nantes in Paris regarding a projected foundation.
Mar 1, 2, 9, 14, 16, 19, 20, 23 Conferences to Servants.
Apr 3, 18, 22, 24 Conferences to Servants.
Apr 9 Easter: First Communion of 35 Adult Workers.

January - April 1860

Jan 1-6 Retreat to SSS novices for vows.
Jan Visit to Mme. de Grandville.
Jan 17, 20 Conference to the Servants.

Feb 18-22	To Tours to preach to Nocturnal Adoration Group at the chapel of the Lazarists.
Feb 22, 28	Conferences to the Servants.
Late Feb	Meeting with the Bishop of Nantes in Paris regarding a projected foundation.
Mar 1, 2, 9, 14, 16, 19, 20, 23	Conferences to the Servants.
Apr 3, 18, 22, 24	Conferences to the Servants.
Apr 8	Easter: First Communion of 35 Adult Workers.

May 1860 - December 1860

May 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 18, 29	Conferences to the Servants
Jun 1	Conference to the Servants
Jun 3-10	Preached Adoration Retreat at Rouen
Jun 10-17	Preached Octave of Corpus Christi at the Church of St. Julien in Tours to establish a center for the Aggregation
Jun 22	Conference to the Servants
July 6, 9, 10, 17, 20, 27, 29	Conferences to the Servants
Jul 30-Aug 5	Annual Retreat to the Servants
Aug 7-10	Conferences to the Servants
Aug 15	First Communion of 38 (40?) adult workers Confirmed by Bishop de Charbonnel
Aug 17, 21, 23, 31	Conferences to the Servants
Sep 3, 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 23	Conferences to the Servants
Oct 1, 3, 12, 16, 19, 26	Conferences to the Servants
Nov 2, 3, 5	Conferences to the Servants
Nov 21	Marseilles: Presentation of the first statue of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament
Dec 1, 3	Conferences to the Servants
Dec 25	First Communion of 58 adult workers
Dec 27	Paris: Inauguration of Guard of Honor
Dec 31	Circular Letter

January - May 1861

Mar (undated), 4, 21	Conferences to the Servants.
Apr 25	To Lyons to see the work of the Prado and meet its founder, Fr. Chevrier.

May - December 1861

May 1	Beginning of novitiate exercises for SSS men in Paris.
May 3, 4, 7	Conferences to the Servants.
May 19	Pentecost. Sixty-three first Communions and Confirmations.
May 21-25	Ordination Retreat at Beauvais.
June 1	Conference to the Servants.
June	Octave of the Blessed Sacrament preached at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Paris.
Jun 23-30	Annual retreat to the Servants.
Jul 11-20	Novena of the Sacred Heart preached in Paris at St. Sulpice.

Jul 16, 19, 22, 26	Conferences to the Servants.
Aug 9	Conference to SSS novices.
Aug 9, 13, 20, 23, 27	Conferences to the Servants.
Sep 1	Received in the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart at St. Sulpice.
Sep 3, 7, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27	Conferences to the Servants.
Oct 1-8	Retreat to the Benedictines at La Pierre-qui-Vire (men).
Oct 18, 22	Conferences to the Servants.
Nov 15, 18, 22, 29	Conferences to the Servants.
Dec 10-8	Retreat preached to new SSS novices.
Dec 14-21	Retreat for SSS candidates to Ordination.
Dec 17	Conferences to Servants.
Dec 21	Ordination of three men to priesthood in the Society (Fr. de Cuers came for the occasion).
Dec 31	To Angers in view of a projected foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.