

Life and Letters
of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Volume Five
1865 - 1866

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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The Plowman

“The Good Lord is blessing the Society. It is growing, and I, poor man, am here as its plowman.”

To the Countess d’Andigne, June 27, 1866

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INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the year 1865, St. Peter Julian was in Rome, his stay extended by the incessant delays caused by changes of agenda for the Assembly of Cardinals.

Unknown to him, his request for permission to break a centuries-old decree prohibiting access to the Holy Land to anyone other than the Franciscan Order was also being stalled because of false accusations that he had sent a women's group ahead of him to Jerusalem to get things underway.

If his attempt to secure the needed permissions failed, this journey proved to be a blessing in disguise. During this time, while waiting for his ardently desired permission, he entered into semi-seclusion and made a serious retreat. The Lord worked powerfully for Peter Julian and gave him the keys of the inner kingdom, the inner Cenacle, by insight into the gift of self, whereby He, Jesus, would become the focus and center of his life by a total inner transformation:

“I meditated on the words:

‘As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me will live because of Me. - John 6, 57.

‘It is as if my Savior said: In sending Me through the Incarnation the Father has torn out of Me every root of self-seeking by leaving Me without a human person and uniting Me to a divine Person in order to make Me live for Him; in the same way, through Communion, you will live for Me, for I shall be living in you. I will fill your soul with My desires and with My life, which will consume and reduce to nothing everything that is personal to you; so much so that it will be I instead of you that shall live and shall desire everything in you.

‘Thus you will be entirely invested with Me; My heart will beat within your body, My soul will act through your soul; your heart will be the receptacle and the pulsation of My heart. I shall be the person of your personality, and your personality will be the life of My person in you. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” (Gal. 2, 20)

- From the Retreat of Rome, Mar. 21, 1865

It was with this “new spiritual bread”¹ that St. Peter Julian returned to France to dedicate himself to the work of the Society. He called a General Convocation of the Society in the hope that another would now be chosen to lead it. Elected Superior General for life, he dedicated himself beyond his physical energies. He established three foundations and preached 21 spiritual exercises in a period of one and a half years. That is, seven retreats to his religious men and women, and fourteen Adoration or Parish Missions.

In the meantime, negotiations had begun for the transfer of two existing properties: Paris because of the city plan to develop Boulevard Arago, and Angers for a transfer of property.

While cholera raged in the city of Paris, taking an unbelievable toll of lives, Peter Julian continued to work there and to travel around France and to Belgium. He interpreted a serious attack of shingles while in Brussels as a first signal that the end was near and mustered his remaining energies to bring about the growth of the Society he loved.

¹ cf. Guyot, Mar. 11, 1865, Doc. 1539.

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 often 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.

Acknowledgements

Lastly, it is with a grateful heart that I wish to acknowledge the support and help of all those who contributed their efforts to this task: Sr. Janine Bourque SSS, who willingly researched information in the archives in Rome; Fr. Andre Guitton SSS, France, who supplied previously unpublished letters and responded to requests for clarification; Fr. Edward Stalmans SSS, Belgium, who supplied a travel journal; Mrs. Margaret Denat from Australia, who did the rough draft of translation from French Vol. VIII and part of Vol. VII; Mrs. Judith Abeyta who transcribed the

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

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

Sr. Catherine Marie Caron SSS

CHAPTER I

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II) January - June 1865

*“The inner gift of self is the real gift, because then our Lord
... becomes our Savior ... by giving us his own form of life.”
To Mme. Lepage, Feb. 4, 1865*

The Cenacle of Jerusalem - failed attempt

The Great Retreat of Rome

- The Interior Cenacle
- The Vow of Personality

The Spiritual Teacher

- Sermon at St. Andrea della Valle, Rome - Epiphany
- Mission at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Paris - June

Preparations for the General Convocations

1515

CO 1518

TO POPE PIUS IX¹

(U)

Most Holy Father,

Peter Eymard, priest and Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, canonically established in Paris, presents: that on July 16, 1848, in a receipt issued by the Propaganda, His Holiness graciously granted him the power to “bless crucifixes to gain the indulgences of the Way of the Cross by those who cannot go to church because of illness. In order that this blessing may not be lacking in anything and to dispel any anxiety over the explanation of this impediment, the Presenter requests that these words “*propter infirmitatem*”² may be understood in accord with the definition of Clement XIV on January 26, 1773, that is: the sick, persons at sea, prisoners, those who live among unbelievers or are otherwise legitimately unable to visit the Stations of the Cross. May God, etc.

1516

CO 1519

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 273/395 VI 2)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*³

Rome, January 3, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

May our good Master grant you the blessed peace and joy of his service!

You must have received my letters; I received yours.

Fr. Crepon⁴ arrived safely; he is happy. I can see that he is very supportive of your dear family;⁵ he suffers a little because of Fr. Leroyer.

May this fine pastor remain with you a long time. I am pleased, dear Sr. Benoite, that you fear him less; get beyond that fear: God wants it.

I urged him to write to the Bishop to forewarn him about any calumnies by Sr. Rose’s mother, or by Sr. Rose herself should she leave.

I’ve just received [a copy of] Fr. Crepon’s letter to the Bishop. So now his Excellency has been warned; so here is my advice: send Sr. Rose away as soon as possible. Her presence is detrimental to the house. God will take care of the rest; when you have told her about her departure, see that she has no contacts with anyone. Prepare her things in advance and be firm. I’ve learned that she is having tantrums⁶... one reason more to dismiss her as soon as possible. For my part, I wouldn’t keep her even a single day.

Goodbye, dear daughter, these are the trials of the Work and the lessons of inexperience: little by little we will reach our goal.

¹ From “*The Audiences*” by the substitute of His Eminence the Prefect, 1865.

² In case of illness.

³ Thy Kingdom Come.

⁴ Fr. Auguste Crepon, pastor of the Parish of Notre Dame in Angers where the Servants were located. He later attempted to enter the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, but did not persevere.

⁵ famille bnïe: literally, “blessed family.”

⁶ French: des crises; could also be translated as seizures.

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

Hon. Sister Marguerite
Superior of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
10 bis, rue de l'Hopital
Angers
Maine and Loire

January 6 - 15: Preached at St. Andre della Valle during the solemn octave of the Epiphany.

1517

CO 1520

TO MSGR. ANNIBALE CAPALTI, SECRETARY OF THE PROPAGANDA
(VI2/3)

Epiphany 1865, [Rome]

Monsignor,

One year ago, on this beautiful feast of the adoration of the Magi, we resolved to go to Jerusalem to found a house of adoration, and devote ourselves to reclaiming the Cenacle, the first Church of the Christian world, which has been a Turkish mosque for 600 years.

A first journey in March proved to us that the moment to ransom the Cenacle had not yet come. Following the kind suggestion of His Excellency the Patriarch, we suggested to the Sacred Congregation that we might make a foundation in Jerusalem, so that we would be on location and more readily able to acquire the lands adjacent to the Cenacle which are coveted by protestants and schismatics and already partly owned by them.

The Sacred Congregation was kind enough, in two successive letters - in May and August last - to praise and encourage our plan, and warmly recommended us to the Patriarch.

Fearing obstacles and difficulties from our Government, as a religious congregation, we informed His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs about our plan and [about] the encouragement [received] from the Propaganda. He was happy about it and even promised his help if necessary. He even gave us a letter for the Consul-General in Jerusalem, Mr. de Barrare. That was as far as we would go for civil protection, since we wished to keep our religious independence and be answerable to the Holy See alone.

For some greater good, God has not granted success to the two journeys we have made to Jerusalem and the three to Rome in the same year. I am returning for the fourth time, determined to come 10 times more if need be, for the success of so great a work.

At this moment - you know better than we, Monsignor - Russia is taking over parts of Jerusalem, with its Consulate, which is really a fortress. The English are buying lands and building protestant schools in the holy city. The Jews are conspiring for their ruined Zion. One could say that the future is moving toward the holy places.

The reestablishment of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem is, as it were, ushering in a new era. Already some Congregations of women have preceded us. When, oh when, will come the hour for the *dilata*⁷ to be lifted! - It was inspired by wisdom, no doubt, but it must now be replaced by a *crescite et multiplicamini et replete terram*.⁸

⁷ *dilata*: decree of prohibition.

⁸ "grow, multiply and fill the earth."

There is no longer any need to fear conflicts or bitter religious rivalries: all that is past. We are now on the battlefield, unity gives strength, isolation brings about defeat or at least powerlessness.

The Sacred Congregation must meet now to make a decision about the religious dimension of the holy places. I hope that the glory of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament will win the victory. At least that is the object of all our hopes and prayers.

Pardon my boldness in writing to you, Monsignor: it is to make you even more aware of our cause; and please accept my sentiments of heartfelt and respectful gratitude.

Your humble servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.⁹

1518

CO 1521

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 22/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, January 20, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

Your letter was delayed at sea, that is why my letter will be late to reach you. Keep our Lord¹⁰ with the Bishop's permission and don't worry about the rest. Your conscience can be at peace with the support of such a holy Bishop and I consider as useless, impossible and perhaps even counterproductive any steps we might take to please you. Please, don't bring it up again, if you don't want to be treated like an outsider, even in Rome. You have asked for it twice, don't come back on it, it would be a temptation.

The essential thing is to strengthen our trust in God, feed upon his truth, dedicate ourselves to his glory as our sovereign love, love him in everything, everywhere and above everything!

Abide in God! Outside of God, we are like a poor street person or a traveler during a storm; but in God, however, we have a peaceful, gentle, holy and joyful dwelling place; we are at peace.

Goodbye Madame, I bless you in our Lord.

P.S. I expect to leave here in two weeks; nothing has been done yet. May God's grace lead us!

1519

CO 1522

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 149/181 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, January 21, 1865

Very dear Father,

Another difficulty! Our request was not handled on Monday; as it was the last one on the agenda, it was put off for two weeks. I saw His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect as well as Msgr. Capalti, who gave me their word that it would be [taken care of] at the next general session; let us

⁹ Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

¹⁰ Permission to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in her home.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

wait, pray, and hope against hope. Certainly, dear Father, they seem to be making fun of us, but that is all good and will balance the scales!

I saw Cardinal Pitra! I have stopped making visits, because it is useless: what is necessary is the debate and the grace of the moment.

I am praying as much as my poor health allows.¹¹

I am working for the Blessed Sacrament; our Good Master led me to find an excellent book in the seminary library, and I am analyzing it.

Try to improve your health, dear Father, don't get sick, keep yourself warm.

Goodbye, or better, see you soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Do not forward any foreign letters.¹²

1520

CO 1524

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 274/395 VI 2)

Rome, January 21, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Another little difficulty! Our request has been delayed for [another] two, perhaps three, weeks. May God be praised!

Thank you for giving me news about poor Sr. Benoite; I was worried about her and I do pray for her. Poor one, our dear Master surely knows how to find and crucify her! She must offer all her sufferings to our Lord for Jerusalem, or rather, so that the holy will of God may be done; trials are only graces from God.

You must spend a little more time in the Novitiate, so that they will not disturb or fatigue the dear patient; see to it that the novices are not idle, or anxious, but fulfill their duties. What I mean is that they shouldn't always be in a state of indecision and anxiety.

I am studying religious life here in Rome, in order to give you what is best.

Be sure that the novices ask you for the permissions required from the Mistress of Novices until our dear patient is able to resume her simple routine without getting overtired.

I bless you, I bless our dear patient, I bless you all. Don't write again until you receive another letter from me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

¹¹ Literally: my weakness allows.

¹² "*lettres etrangeres*": alternate translation: letters from outsiders.

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I28/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, January 21, 1865

Very dear Father,

I really thought I had written to you for New Year's, I still believe I did: my letter must have been lost on the way.

Thank you for your wishes, your prayers; we need them for the great affair of Jerusalem because it is a very serious matter. It is unfortunate that we didn't stay in Jerusalem because an accomplished fact would make us stronger here, according to the letter of the Propaganda.

God didn't permit it, and we thought we were doing for the best: so then, may God have the glory and we the humiliation, it doesn't matter! provided that our Good Master may triumph.

They had promised to present our request to the General Congregation of Cardinals which met last Monday, but the Cardinal Prefect told me that it was deferred another two weeks. So I will wait two more weeks. Then, if I see that the matter is being continually deferred, I will leave for Paris.

I don't have enough time left to request your indulgences. If you have a special letter, that suffices for you to do it *modo publico*¹³ with the *exequatur*¹⁴ from the local Chancery.

Yes, willingly, call Brother Henry to Holy Orders for Lent. He is a fine religious, a simple and upright soul.

I am told that the Rule of the Ladies¹⁵ should be revised, but, I believe, only the last part. So, you could explain the first chapters to them. I know that they enjoy you very much.

Your bulletins are being studied by the Bishop of the Congregation and a Consultor of Rites.

Goodbye, dear Father, have people pray, for we must hope against all hope. My soul would be sad, if I didn't adore God's plans, which are always for our greater good. Fr. Crepon is doing well and running from place to place like a real pilgrim. Fr. Bompois is getting younger. And Fr. Lamoureux is fully given to his liturgy.

Regards to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

¹³ publicly.

¹⁴ permission.

¹⁵ Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 3/15)

Rome, January 21, 1865

Very dear Mr. Amedee,

I am thrilled with your plan for a chapel dedicated to All Saints, and with the happiness which will be yours to have the Reserved Sacrament near you.

It is the greatest joy of all. So [then] I will go to see you as a family in the Good Lord, and you shall be like the house of Obedom with the Ark, like Nazareth with our Lord, like a Paradise on earth. So, have courage and confidence.

I agree with you, [have] no outside decorations, but [keep it] very simple. As for the inside, it is the Holy of Holies, but in good taste, as you have it. Then, we will give you some relics for your chapel, and the Relic of Relics.¹⁶ - we cannot make any requests until everything is finished - you will obtain it, don't worry - I'm writing a little note to your dear wife - ... (three lines erased).¹⁷

I'll be here for another two weeks at least. My request hasn't been handled yet - but Jerusalem is worth it.

Do pray for me, I do so for you all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard,S¹⁸

Fr. Eymard began what is known as the "Great Retreat of Rome" on January 25. He went to the Redemptorist Monastery near St. Mary Major's Basilica to pray and wait for the final decision from the Church authorities about his request for the foundation in Jerusalem. His withdrawal to the Redemptorist Monastery was interrupted from time to time. (cf. Doc. 1522 and 1523.)

Very few letters were written during this period. Occasional visits into the city were made to investigate the progress of his business with the Cardinals and to go to the French Seminary for his incoming correspondence (cf. Doc 1522, 1524, 1525 and 1527). He would also go into the city to visit Churches where 40 hour devotions were held.

¹⁶ The Blessed Sacrament.

¹⁷ We do not have that letter.

¹⁸ Superior.

<i>Jan 25 - Mar 30 Great Retreat of Rome.</i>		
<i>First day</i>	<i>First Meditation:</i>	<i>On St. Paul.</i>
<i>Second day</i>	<i>First meditations:</i>	<i>(Indisposed)</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>“Why do you persecute Me?”</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>“Lord, what will You have me do?”</i>
<i>Third day</i>	<i>First meditations:</i>	<i>On Jesus Christ and sin.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>On my sins.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Passion of Jesus Christ.</i>
<i>Fourth day</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Service of our Lord by the gift of self.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Gift of self; its consequences.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Levity of character.</i>
<i>Fifth day</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>(included in summary of third meditation of preceding day.)</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Insensibility of heart.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(not included).</i>
<i>Sixth day</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Levity, insensibility, causes and remedies.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(not recorded).</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Mortification.</i>
<i>Feb 1</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic vocation.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Characteristic virtue of an adorer.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Reasons for self-abasement of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
<i>Feb 2</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The Presentation.</i>
	<i>Second and Third meditations:</i>	<i>(not recorded).</i>
<i>Feb 3</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The presence of God.</i>
	<i>Second and Third meditations:</i>	<i>(not recorded).</i>

1523

CO 1526

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 150/181 VI 2)

*Adveniat R.T.E.*¹⁹

Rome, February 3, 1865

Very dear Father,

May God be praised for everything! Our request was due to pass last Monday, when something brought about a delay: Cardinal Barnabo is ill. The general Congregation took place in spite of it, but as the Cardinal Prefect and the Secretary told me, there was a long discussion about the Treasury of the Propaganda, and then, they ran out of time. I don't need to tell you my disappointment, even my sorrow: now it's put off until the first Monday of March. They both told me that it would pass, but they have said that so often!

If I listened only to my grief, I would go home right away; but everyone tells me that I am wrong, that since I have done so much, I must wait out this additional month... That I would have too many regrets if the matter fell through because of my absence, which could perhaps cause indefinite postponement; that I should see a few Cardinals beforehand to prepare their vote, so that they will not treat the matter lightly.

So, dear Father, this is the state of things; my heart is sick over it. But then, we are asking for

¹⁹ *Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum: May Your Eucharistic Kingdom Come.*

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

such a great grace, the devil must be so furious to find himself attacked by the Cenacle itself.

So then, I've decided to wait, unless some absolute necessity should require my return to France. I will withdraw in solitude for a while at the kind Liguorian Fathers, near St. Mary Major's. There, I will be far away from any noise, from everyone who is not connected with our affair.

If you need to write to me, you can continue to do so at the French Seminary.

My health is good.

I bless you all in our Lord. Continue to pray, dear Father, for the decisive moment is coming, either for or against. Perhaps after so many difficulties, consolation will follow! We will always have the consolation of having sought the Holy Will of God.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1524

CO 1527

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 275/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.E.^{!20}

Rome, February 3, 1865

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your letters. How good God is to bless you so! [Your] fine Bishop is such a good Father; benefit from it.

Fr. Crepon is returning a happy man; this trip was really good for him.

God takes care of everything. So Sr. Rose is traveling now: that's fine! We'll see how well she will do and how she will bear the trial. We must pray so that she doesn't return, if she isn't going to be a good religious. However she has very fine qualities, and I think highly of her.

It would surely be a good thing if you could take the Trottier House. Perhaps you could pay half to begin with, and the rest later; look into it, ask him what the terms would be.

I'll be staying here another month. I've just learned that the matter has been deferred until the first Monday of March. I adore God's plan, his holy and adorable will. No suffering is too great for such a beautiful cause: to purchase the Cenacle!

I'm going to withdraw to a Convent, further in the country. Except for some great need, don't write to me. I need to go hide with our Lord. Deal with questions, settle them and do for the best.

I bless you wholeheartedly in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. In Lyons, I intend to see your sisters, and Mme. Bertin, [Mme] Montoux, and especially [Mme] Marcel.

²⁰ See Doc. 1523.

Great Retreat (cont.)

Feb 4 First meditation: Trial.

Second and Third meditations: omitted.

Note: He attended the ceremony at the Church of Santa Maria della Pace for the Triduum - the Holy Father was present. The subject of his meditation was the trial of the delays by the Congregation to handle his petition.

1525

CO 1528

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 6/26)

Rome, At the French Seminary, February 4, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

Your letter reached me here during a retreat I was making at the same time as yours. I was at the monastery of the Redemptorists. Today, I read your letter with joy. I prayed for both of you and for all of you, because we need to know our Lord in his own light, by his own love.

Then we must give ourselves to our good Master without any interior conditions; the exterior has belonged to him for a long time.

But the inner gift of self is the real gift, because then our Lord becomes the master of the field to be cultivated, the tree to be grafted. He becomes our Savior, also, by his choice of the graces to sanctify us, divesting us, first of all by self-denial, then by giving us his own form of life, according to his will.

To sum up, he is the God of our heart, the spouse of our soul and life: the bride is only a minor according to the divine law of this heavenly Bridegroom.

No doubt you reflected carefully upon this during your retreat. Now you must cultivate it carefully, by greater recollection, especially during the first two weeks after you leave and return home.

1526

CO 1529

TO MSGR. VALERGA, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

(VI 2/3)

Rome, at the French Seminary, February 4, 1865

Excellency,

I must begin by giving you my heartfelt thanks in the name of our religious whom you received so kindly; and to inform you also of the state of the matter regarding our foundation in Jerusalem. I would have liked our two religious to remain with Your Excellency instead of returning to Europe. They believed they were doing the right thing - may God be blessed and glorified!

I have been in Rome for three months. I had the good fortune to present the state of the matter relating to the old Decree Dilata to His Holiness. His Holiness ordered the General Congregation of Cardinals to study and make a decision on this matter. It was supposed to have been judged a month ago, but, since His Eminence Cardinal Barnabo is ill, our request was deferred until the first Monday in March, when the Cardinals of the Propaganda will convene.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

I hope, your Excellency, to get a favorable reply. The Holy Father was full of goodwill towards our project. His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect is quite favorable to it. Your Excellency is on our side; and above all I hope that our Lord will be on our side, or rather, favor his glory, since it is a question of reclaiming his Cenacle, and glorifying him in the very place where his love instituted the august Sacrament of his Love for us.

I bless God, Your Excellency, for this long trial, which will make us appreciate better the favor we are requesting with so much insistence. I hope that Your Excellency will have no cause to regret what your zeal is willing to do for us. I do assure you that we shall not be ungrateful. If Your Excellency judges it wise and prudent [to do so], I beg you to confirm by letter your goodwill for our project, so that, if necessary, I may use it as evidence for their Eminences, whom I have been advised to visit and inform on this matter. Mgr. Capalti, the Secretary of the Propaganda, told me yesterday that he would not have anything printed. He would simply make a presentation of the matter. He appeared to be favorable; but, as the question must be very clear, I shall see the key Cardinals.

Kindly accept the most sincere and devoted respects with which I dare to say that I am, in our Lord,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant,
Pierre Eymard
Sup. of the Congreg. of the
Most Bl. Sacrament

Great Retreat (cont.)

<i>Feb 5</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Anniversary of my holy Baptism.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>God's goodness since my Baptism.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>The flesh, enemy of the Holy Spirit.</i>
<i>Feb 6</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Character of the life of Jesus Christ.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Jesus mortified.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Interior warfare.</i>
<i>Feb 7</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Mystery of the Incarnation.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Spiritual Incarnation; sanctification; union.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(not recorded)</i>
<i>Feb 8</i>	<i>(no meditations recorded)</i>	
<i>Feb 9</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Union.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Does God love me?</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Reasons for God's love for me.</i>
<i>Feb 10</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Do I love God?</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>On the Cenacle.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Adoration at St. Agatha (40 hours).</i>

1527

CO 1530

TO MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE-MARIE DU SS)
(III 18/21)

Rome, February 10, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I will be here until March 10th or 14th. The request for the Cenacle will be handled only on March 7th, the first Monday of March. St. Joseph may perhaps want to find lodging for our Lord.

I will come to visit you on my way back, as well as Mme. Manoux and Mme. Bertin.

I am writing a note to good Mme. Marcel. Pray very much for the great undertaking of the Cenacle. I obtained the greatest favors for you from the Holy Father: the one I sent to your dear sister for indulgences. Nowadays it is nearly impossible to obtain such graces.

I bless you wholeheartedly as well as your dear sister Jenny, whom I will be happy to see again.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1528

CO 1531

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(U)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, French Seminary, February 10, 1865

Dear respected Friend in our Lord,²¹

Thank you so much for your letter! It pleased me both on the level of faith and of charity. God used it as a means of consolation for me. I came here for two weeks, and it is already three months, and the request for the Cenacle is still not to be handled by the General Congregation of Cardinals until March 7th. Then a few days more will be needed to receive the reply if it must go back to the Holy Father. May God be praised! It is surely the best thing I can do and wait for. God knows it better than we do. Now I can see that if it had been handled too late,²² the cenacle would have been lost for us. I recommend it to your noon day prayers.²³

Well! dear papa Dupont, the Holy Spirit sees more clearly than our so-called liberals, who think they know more than the Pope! The bomb of truth exploded sooner than was expected by these enemies of God and holy Church, these advocates of progress in material things and especially in ungodliness.

What is sad is to see people about whom our Savior said, *vos estis lux mundi*,²⁴ become darkness and join with the enemies of the faith! Truly, papa Dupont! [17]89 and its liberalism is the most dangerous error which the Church has had to bear, because it presented an ideal which misleads the weak and the upright souls that are unaccustomed to the wiles of the serpent! However, our Master tells us: *estate prudentis sicut serpentes*.²⁵ The blow has fallen, the fury of those who are involved

²¹ This letter, addressed to a friend, is without doubt the most explicit document on the political opinions of Fr. Eymard. (Fr. Guitton) For an explanation of the implications, see Appendix I.

²² in the day.

²³ at the home of Mr. Dupont.

²⁴ you are the light of the world.

²⁵ Be as prudent as serpents.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

proves that he has hit it on the head. Now we fear that the men of the Correspondent and of Montalembert's old liberal school might come back to life with some of the statements made by the Bishop of Orleans! It would have been so much better if this bishop, who is otherwise zealous, had spoken to us about the filial and blind submission of his former school, rather than give such high praise to their names and their degrees. This is very feeble support for their past cause.

Finally, to sum up! Holy Church is built on the divine rock! The Holy Spirit is the guide, the Pope, the commander of the ship. Let us praise God!

Today, while reading the 13th chapter of the Apocalypse, verse 18, numerous enim hominus est, and numerus ejus 666,²⁶ I thought of Ludovicus.

v	v	v	d	500
			c	100
			l	50
in Italian the u is v five	v x 3	=	15	
		I	<u>1</u>	
		total	666	

Then, the sign of the free-masons, the favors that are theirs, their hatred for whatever opposes them.

These are the headlines.

Goodbye, dear and respected Friend. My regards to the fine Rosemberg [family].

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Great Retreat (cont.)

<i>Feb 11</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Interior service.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(omitted) Letters-cattivo (bad).</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(omitted) Confession.</i>
<i>Feb 12</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Dangers of working for others.</i>
	<i>Second and third meditations:</i>	<i>Same subject.</i>
<i>Feb 13</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Exterior modesty.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Reparation for sins against modesty.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Practice of modesty.</i>
<i>Feb 14</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Modesty, a royal virtue.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(in town)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Modesty as a virtue.</i>
<i>Feb 15</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Chastity.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>On the text of the Imitation (Bk.III, Ch.53).</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Chastity of the heart.</i>
<i>Feb 16</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Gift of self.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Same subject.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>The spirit of our Lord.</i>
<i>Feb 16</i>	<i>Gift of himself to our Lord.</i>	
<i>Feb 17</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Means of acquiring the spirit of Jesus.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Same subject.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Spirit of Jesus through love, what is it?</i>
<i>Feb 18</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Jesus, humble of heart.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Act of reparation; negative and positive humility.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>How can I acquire humility of heart?</i>

²⁶ The number of the man is 666.

1529

CO 1532

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 65/104)

Rome, February 18, 1865

Dear Madame,

I will be in Rome until March 11th. The business regarding the Cenacle will be handled only on March 6th. Pray a little on that day so that the Cardinals may express the holy will of God and so that the devil may not be part of the council, for he is so evil. He entered into the first Cenacle by means of an apostle and he saw to it that all Christians would be chased away by the Turks. Now we want to chase the devil and the Turks and place our Lord on a magnificent throne made of human hearts and of gold.

I did see your cousin and we spoke about that great grace.²⁷ He had promised me that he would go forward. I think he retreated when he saw the difficulties. In fact, they are quite overwhelming. They are more exacting now than ever. It's even forbidden to present a petition during a pontifical audience. Notice! We would need a Bishop for that! I may leave Rome March 11th and return immediately to Paris. I'll write to tell you when I arrive.

My religious respects to your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1530

CO 1533

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 20/24)

Rome, February 18, 1865

Dear friend in our Lord,

Thank you for your little note. I would have much preferred to bring you mine [in person], but I will be here until March 12th. The great question will be judged by the Cardinals only on the 6th. Pray a little to our Lord for that intention on that day. - So [now] I won't pass through Lyons until about March 18th and I will go to embrace you in passing.

Poor friend! the cross has received you upon it, or rather, you have carried it as a Christian! Our good Master wanted to speak to you alone, to keep you close to him, to give you one more insight and grace. I believe that he was pleased with his soldier on this new battlefield.

Rome is great and holy like its Pope: it is in peace and fully confident in God. The seas and their crests are rumbling a little; the Garibaldian and Mazzinien sect isn't dead, but very weak and disgusting; people who speak nothing but threats, have only hate in their eyes, fury in their hearts, and a hidden sword in their left sleeve. And those very people are called brothers by the Parisian newspapers, "Le Siecle" and "L'Opinion Nationale." A million Frenchmen believe they are decent people, but it is enough just to see them. Those French dupes would all need to make a trip to Florence, to Naples, and especially in the little towns of Italy where life is more secure. Recently, a

²⁷ Some request she wanted to make.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

French priest was almost stabbed by the polite Italianissimos during his meal at Macerata. The Prefect, to whom he complained, told him: Leave quickly! General Montebello was telling a Frenchman lately: “I can answer for your life on the Pope’s territories but not on those of the Italian Kingdom!” So much for the beautiful civil and civic progress, the magnificent United Kingdom, especially the friend of France! Traitors! that’s all we should say to these fine Italians. The French here know it, and the French soldiers more so!

See you soon, dear friend. Best wishes to all your dear family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

<i>Great Retreat (cont.)</i>		
<i>Feb 19</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Spirit of the poverty of Jesus.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Failings against poverty.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Same subject.</i>
<i>Feb 20</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Spiritual poverty.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Poverty, a remedy for vanity.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic vocation.</i>
<i>Feb 21</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Service of Jesus Christ.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(not recorded)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic service.</i>
<i>Feb 21</i>	<i>He chose the Incarnation as a model for the gift of his personality to God.</i>	

1531

CO 1534

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

(I 151/181 VI 2)

Rome, February 21, 1865

Very dear Father,

Thanks for your kind letter, and Fr. Chanuet for his; they bring me some comfort, my trust comes especially from your prayers. I am still on retreat with the Liguorians. If Brother Eugene has not arrived yet, it may not be worth his making such a long trip for such a short time. However, see what is best; because if God should favor us, we should not delay the earliest possible departure.

Nothing new, except to wait.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
religious of the Blessed Sacrament
68, Rue Faubg. Saint Jacques
Paris

<i>Great Retreat (cont.)</i>		
<i>Feb 22</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Servant.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Same subject.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(on pilgrimage)</i>
<i>Feb 23</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Working for our Lord.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>The glory of our Lord.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Spiritual review.</i>
<i>Feb 24</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Minister of Jesus Christ.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Thanksgiving.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Society; graces.</i>
<i>Feb 25</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The Society and I.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(in town)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Need for God.</i>

1532

CO 1535

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 276/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum!

Rome, February 25, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

The Bishop is right: you need the third part of the Rules for government or administration. I didn't give it to you because there were some difficult points; and then, since it is the principal part, I wanted to submit it to the Bishop first. Thank you for his notes, they are excellent. They really show that His Excellency is very informed about religious questions. The Bishop's request proves that he is really interested in you.

"Wash your dirty linens at home," says the French proverb. Be assured that whatever internal problems we may have are nothing but clouds which must be allowed to blow over as long as the basics are there: that is, obedience, humility, charity, at least a return to humility.

Fr. L. is right: satisfaction should be hoped for and requested for the glory of God; as for me, I would prefer that she remain outside. She has a bad spirit and gets excited. You would do well to call your Council together, and tell her that the Council asks her not to return; then that would enable you to see whether she wants to make reparation. Leave the rest to God.

Whatever you receive from the Chancery, just reply that I will be back soon, around March 13th. Send me at Marseilles, rue Nau 7, by prepaid mail, what the Bishop sent you about religious life, so that I may see what he has done.

Dear friend!²⁸ you will really owe me a lot for postage! Send someone to the post office for stamps, because your 20c are lost and the 2 fr. are being requested anew. Good faith is not enough, an extra half-gram costs 1 fr.

I am still on retreat here; that's why this delay is a comfort and a cause for thanking our dear Master ... If you write to me again, give me news ... suffer ... and pray, because I know very well that the Good Lord is the only one who can bring about a yes. I bless you, dear daughter, you, Sr. Benoite, and your whole family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eyd.

²⁸ Literally: bonne fille.

TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS, SSS
(VI4/7)

Rome, February 25, 1865

To dear Brother Marie,

Thank you for your fine letter, dear brother. It proves to me how much our good Master loves you and how much you, also, wish to remain in his service. Yes, I will indeed pray for you and with you to our Lord, who holds your destiny in his hands, to watch over you and to our good Mother, to give you a favorable number²⁹ and I shall join with you in your novena to great St Michael, the guardian angel of the Society.

Don't give in too much to sadness, dear brother! nor to anxiety. Put it all into the hands of God. You know how he has protected you so far; that he has given you the grace of vocation twice. Ah yes! may he give you the full grace, and I am sure that you will be an even better Adorer.

I bless you affectionately in our Lord,
Eymard

Great Retreat (cont.)

<i>Feb 26</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Adoration.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Quis dabit mihi pennas sicut columbae? (Who will give me wings like a dove.)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Dangers of the world.</i>
<i>Feb 27</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Adoration.</i>
	<i>Second and third meditations:</i>	<i>(day off at Castel Gandolfo.)</i>
<i>Feb 28</i>	<i>Morning meditation:</i>	<i>(adoration at the Gesu - Closing of 40 Hours.)</i>
	<i>Evening meditation:</i>	<i>Recollected prayer at the feet of our Lord.</i>
<i>Mar 1</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>On penance.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Quam dilecta tabernacula. (How I love your tabernacles.)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>The Rule.</i>
<i>Mar 2</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The Rule, my virtue.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Thanksgiving.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Life or death of the Society.</i>
<i>Mar 3</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Jesus sacramental is not loved.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(at the Propaganda)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>The sacrifice of love.</i>
<i>Mar 4</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The eucharistic center.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(at the Propaganda)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>+++</i>

²⁹ He was No. 269 in about 300 (probably in the military draft)

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 152/181 VI 2)

Rome, March 4, 1865

Very dear Father,

I am sending you a few words to tell you that yesterday I saw His Eminence Cardinal Barnabo. I found his attitude favorable, even regretting that Msgr. Capalti, to whom he had entrusted the mission, had not presented our request in spite of his illness. He kept repeating: "See the Secretary, so that he may not forget it again." So I am always on poor Msgr. Capalti's back, he gives me his word, and then no longer dares to see me.

However, the Cardinal assures me that it will be done at the next general Congregation in March. Only, dear Father, either I made a mistake, or Msgr. Capalti did: it won't be on Monday the 6th, intended for matters pertaining to the Oriental Rite, but shortly after; they couldn't tell me the date, I'll find out next week.

I had almost decided to leave right away, seeing that our petition would not be handled on the 6th, especially after Msgr. Capalti's reception yesterday morning. But as I thought about it, considering what Cardinal Barnabo told me later, I'll wait a little longer. I am unsure about Msgr. Capalti, since he is not the one who judges, but who presents the matter. I've been well-advised to present it myself to the various Cardinals. Two of them are already in favor: Cardinal de Reissach and Cardinal Pitra, add to that the kind Cardinal Prefect.³⁰

What a sad day I spent yesterday! But God will take it into account. I learned unbelievable details about Jerusalem from the Cardinal Prefect, difficulties caused against the excellent general Custodian because he is on good terms with the Patriarch: he was harassed to the point of resignation. However, the Holy Father didn't accept it, and even named him to be the Apostolic Visitor for all of Syria.

The devil is putting his share into it, and those weak-minded people are harming themselves here while showing their poor spirit.

The General of the Franciscans in Rome also expressed his position on this sad matter which has just happened.

I am saying foundation Masses. Here I am doing the same as you do, they give a snack in the morning, and I can fast that way. It is water-based chocolate and coffee, mixed if you wish; then a small morsel as wide as four fingers, and all is well.

That is how the strictest groups in Rome fast.

Have confidence, the Cenacle is on the way.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.³¹

³⁰ Cardinal Barnabo.

³¹ SS: Abbreviation for Superioir of the Society.

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU

(V 23/52)

Rome, March 4, 1865

Madame,

Trust in God, your collection will succeed very well.³² We are already pleased with its outcome; it will be sufficient for everything, don't worry about it, do what you can do peacefully. Even if there were only two to take up the collection, the Good Lord will be the first; he is surely worth 10; I will pray for you from here. I will try to go say Mass in the chapel of your holy Patron Saint.

I was happy to see Fr. de Charnac who gave me news about you. You did well to write to Angers;³³ they were worried about your silence. We must treat the sorrows of others as the Good Lord does and with his grace, seeing the part played by human weakness, the exaggeration of the moment's feelings, and also to some extent the temptation of the devil. Once that has been done and taken into account, the clouds scatter quickly because the sun shines again. Let us never espouse the sorrows and weaknesses of others, because we don't have their grace, nor the temperament which makes them natural to that person. So, be sure that when a problem is expressed it always seems more painful to the person who is listening through his heart and compassion, than to the one who feels it. Smoke thickens as it leaves the fireplace which it clears.

Allow me to share with you a great treasure I have discovered: I hope you will reap good fruit from it.

God loves us personally with a great benevolent love, with an infinite and eternal love. This benevolent love consists in willing purely and exclusively what is good and what is best for the person who is so loved.

In God, benevolent love is personal. God loves a person, loves you as if you were his only daughter, because his love is one and infinite.

God's divine attributes are all at the service of his benevolent love for you, in order to make you holy in his love and grace, in order to be able to communicate his happiness and glory to you eternally because love seeks union, and union, the purpose and triumph of love, brings about a sharing of goods and life. Love doesn't want to be happy alone.

The great attributes of God which are used by his benevolent love upon a soul, upon you, are:

Divine Wisdom which chooses what is best for the good and current situation of the beloved soul; divine Prudence applies these means of sanctification; divine Power helps us, sustains us, defends us. Mercy always has the heart of a good mother at hand to forgive us, lift us up, because the child has two enemies or rather two claims to mercy: its weakness and its fickleness - I might say, its stupidity and its presumption. Divine Providence plans all the events, occurrences and circumstances around this dear soul, as if it were the center of the activity of heaven and earth, in order that everything may serve its supernatural purpose. - And so, there are some people who try us, make us suffer, remind us that we are in a time of exile, of expiation, of crucified love with Jesus Christ our good Savior - others guide us a short part of the way and then disappear, because God replaces the Angel Raphael, Moses, Joshua. - Others are a mirror where we see our own weakness - at least, our potential - for evil, in the evil dispositions of Adam. Others are a book of holy living; others, God's poor ones. - The Imitation says: "There is no creature so small or so vile that it doesn't represent the goodness of God in this world." Do not sinners also show us the goodness of God who does even material good to them, who invites them, waits for them, with their forgiveness in hand?

³² Collection to help finance the Work of First Communions.

³³ The Servants.

Divine Providence places on our path not only those who will test us in the practice of some virtue, but in its divine goodness for our soul it even determines our physical condition, illness or good health, because that is the prescribed diet of the day by which to glorify God that day. It is the day's message signed by divine Providence.

Natural states of soul are also determined by this gracious Providence by the graces God gives and the works he will request. Sometimes he gives more vitality to the mind, other times to the heart, always to the will because it is the head of the house, the servant of God.

Spiritual states of soul are always guided by divine Providence, because they are the real means of holiness. From this springs the great rule of our lives: we must proceed according to the direction given by the wind of grace, and honor God by our natural and supernatural state, make use of everything which is sent to us and placed on our path by divine Providence, see his holy and gracious Will in everything around us and in us, act under its guidance, consult its inspiration, offer it our first intention, pay tribute to it in every expected event, in every encounter, recognize it everywhere, suppose it when you don't see or hear it, because it likes to be veiled, since it loves faith-filled obedience and dedicated love.

The conclusion then is easy:

The best state to glorify God is my present state.

The best grace is the [grace] of the present moment.

The law of duty is the one which love inspires and love fulfills. Hold on to this definition, it comes from our Lord, found in his sermon at the Last Supper: I love my Father, I fulfill his will and dwell in his love.

With that principle established, let us now look at the difficulties.

1. "If I were sure that God loves me as you say, I would be too happy!"

- You can be sure that God loves you with that benevolent love, your life is a continual proof of it. If you could write the story of divine Providence in your life, it would be a continual miracle of kindness, means, helps [given]!!!

2. "But who can assure me that God loves me?"

- He will [himself] in you. Don't you feel that your soul is in him and ultimately, wants to belong to him alone? Is he not the only good, the only God, the only desire, the only pleasure of your heart? Does not all your grief consist in the fear of displeasing him or of having displeased him? Wouldn't you give anything in the world to buy his love, his good pleasure, sinlessness in order to never offend him or lose him, or even go to Purgatory, something which frightens you so? - "Yes" - therefore God loves you with a personal, true love. I won't add: Therefore you love God above all things [because] it is really saying the same thing.

3. "But who can assure me that he has forgiven me?"

- Your humble trust, your faith in his mercy. To seek certitude in this world is like wanting to be in Heaven already. Wait!.... It's necessary that humility, trust, surrender, a bit of mud on the way show us that we are still on the way and that we must be God's beggar, God's poor one, and be indebted to him for his forgiveness, his grace and even his heaven.

4. "But, since God loves me, why am I so sad, so desolate, so forsaken even by him?"

- You are neither sad nor desolate, nor forsaken! Look around you: So many natural blessings! So many means for serving God! So many supports that so many others don't have! You have an education, you have faith, piety, means of nourishing that piety. So then what is lacking? Everything and nothing.

Everything, because you are still in this poor world of adversity and you don't savor God, but experience a struggle, a war within yourself, between the old Adam and Jesus Christ, human selfishness against the spirit of Jesus Christ: that is the struggle; there is no enjoyment on the battlefield. And then, everything is a void without God, without feeling him, without the gentle peace which his goodness gives us from time to time, and that is a good sign. It is a protection against the spirit and pleasures of this world and its creatures. It's a breath of love toward God, and it is very good.

5. "But I get discouraged and feel despair!"

- That is your trial, to a degree, it is natural to you within this supernatural state. This state would be very pleasing to God if you knew how to make it supernatural, that is to honor God in your weakness, your poverty, and your neglect! Do this now at this season of the passion of Jesus Christ. It's the grace and virtue of the time.

However, listen to my advice: Although the spiritual soul is fed in this state of interior suffering for which it is not responsible, take note of the three following rules:

1. Do not put aside any of your duties of piety, nor holy Communion, because of your state of turmoil.

2. Avoid the thought that it is the result of some secret fault, of some displeasure of God, who would leave or punish you by such means: that is a temptation of yours.

3. In this condition make acts of positive love for God, of respect for his holy Will; that is, take the opposing virtue, or honor a similar state of our Lord.

So I am running out of paper, and I close with this royal word:

Abide, not in love, for that would often be the cause of a thousand and one temptations: "Do I love? Am I loved?"

Abide in the house of God's divine fatherly goodness, like a child who knows nothing, does nothing, damages everything, but dwells in this gentle kindness.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. I had written to you at the home of Madame your sister at Mee.

1536

CO 1539

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 21/24)

Rome, March 4, 1865

Dear friend,

A little more patience! I still don't know the date for the decision about my request; they say that it will be during [the month of] March. But I will go to pay my debt of friendship [to you] and bail you out. I will write to you from Marseilles about my [time of] arrival. Fr. Maurel, a Jesuit, had thrown some doubt on my faculties for the Indulgences. I have just resubmitted them to the Holy Father through His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of the Propaganda and the Holy Father has confirmed and even extended them; so, I am safe in that regard.

I am pleased with what you tell me about your fine daughter. God can only bless a soul which is so pure, upright and devout.

I congratulate you; you found her a God-fearing man of good conduct: that is the best protection and the greatest wealth!

God is blessing you and will bless you and yours,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

<i>Great Retreat (cont.)</i>		
<i>Mar 5</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Center of Life.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Recollection.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Goodness of the divine center.</i>
<i>Mar 6</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The Law of this center.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Re-creation.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Why is our Lord loved so little for Himself?</i>
<i>Mar 7</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Religious service.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Act of Reparation.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Thanksgiving.</i>

1537

CO 1540

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I29/54)

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 7, 1865

Very dear Father,

Another little trial!

There was no general Congregation for the Cardinals yesterday; it is put off until later this month. Since I have waited so long, I will wait a little longer; continue to ask that the Holy Will of God be done.

In Rome, both the officers and the simple soldiers are exempt from fast and abstinence.

I am still here on retreat with the good Redemptorists. That is what is consoling and helping me.

Fraternal regards to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I am pleased with the ordination of dear Brother Henry; give some thought also about Brother Chave, see whether he isn't getting a little discouraged: that is his temptation! Once he becomes a Sub-Deacon, he will be freed from that.

<i>Great Retreat (cont.)</i>		
<i>Mar 8</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Presence of God, a rule of love.</i>
	<i>Second and third meditations:</i>	<i>(not recorded).</i>
<i>Mar 9</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Poverty of our Lord - religious poverty.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(not recorded).</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Tumult (the storm).</i>
<i>Mar 10</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Reasons for holy poverty.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Virtue.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(not recorded).</i>
<i>Mar 11</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The Most Blessed Virgin.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Submission.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Jesus the Master.</i>

1538

CO 1541

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 59/75)

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 11, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I am still in Rome. However, I hope to leave here within two weeks. Nevertheless, I am no longer keeping track of things with the Good Lord because my calculations are always wrong.

I still hope to pay you a quick visit in the Lord in passing, to listen to you, to share whatever I can with you, and to help you and your dear daughter a little.

I am very grateful to the Good Lord for the grace which he gave me, to make a month's retreat here in solitude near St. Mary Major, far from the city and visitors. If I leave here spiritually poor, at least I'll have a better understanding of an excellent door which opens when we wish; I mean the door of prayer.

I really felt sorry for you, because losing a good director is losing a lot; but you still have our Lord. You must try to live a little more under [the influence of] his interior movement and to profit as much as you can of his bread of life. That is, live with him, within him, more than within yourself.

He said: Whoever abides in me and I in him, that one does great things.

So then, abide more in our Lord.

From time to time I see dear Mme. Nugues.³⁴ She is still ill, and if she weren't so virtuous I would pity her a lot.

Goodbye dear Madame, I will see you soon, God willing.

All yours,
Eymard

1539

CO 1542

TO MOTHER GUYOT
(V 6/8)

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 11, 1865

Dear Mother in our Lord,

I am still here, but I hope only for a brief time. I was fortunate enough to make a retreat of one month at ease outside of Rome; now I am waiting a few more days to learn whether the Propaganda will finally give us an answer. Otherwise, I will leave without it, and I will wait for divine Providence to send it to Paris because it may not yet be the time [for it], although I am hoping against all hope, in spite of everything.

I admire the good Master's way of forcing me into solitude, and now, I'm very happy about it. Not that I want anything more, no! but I see more clearly.

All that remains now is to knead this new bread of my poor soul. I won't give you any today, that would be taken from the old [bread] which you have been familiar with for such a long time

³⁴ Her sister-in-law.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

and which did not always suit you, because it was too old! We will give you something new when we arrive.³⁵ In the meantime, let me tell you very simply: try not to look for alms from poor people, poor directors, poor books, poor holy pictures, or even beautiful hymns: that all dries up very quickly. Live from our Lord, in our Lord, and for our Lord. - “Whoever abides in Me and I in him, says our Lord, that one does great things!” Therefore, dwell in our Lord; but you say to me, how?

By putting yourself aside.

On that note, I bless you in our good Master and I am,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Try to see Fr. de Cuers a little more. I assure you that he is better than he seems, or rather, than you think.

<i>Great Retreat (cont.)</i>		
<i>Mar 12</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Interior meekness of our Lord.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(not recorded). Third meditation: Exterior meekness of our Lord.</i>
<i>Mar 13</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Meekness of the silence of Jesus.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Means of that virtue.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic meekness.</i>
<i>Mar 14</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>God is love.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>My state of soul.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(St. Peter's - 40 Hours; St. Frances of Rome.)</i>
<i>Mar 15</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>On silence.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>+ (in town).</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Patience in humility and confidence.</i>
<i>Mar 16</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Rules for supernatural living.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>+ (three Cardinals; the Cenacle.)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Personal love of Jesus. - Knowledge.</i>
<i>Mar 17</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Jesus' life of love for me.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>The Most Blessed Virgin.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>The Sorrows of the Most Blessed Virgin.</i>
<i>Mar 18</i>	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Personal Passion of our Lord.</i>
	<i>Second and third meditations:</i>	<i>(not recorded.)</i>

³⁵ New spiritual insights.

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

(I 153/181 VI 2)

Rome, March 18, 1865

Very dear Father,

I am still here and waiting out the month of March.

I saw the influential Cardinals: they are well-disposed; but everything will depend on how Msgr. Capalti presents the matter.

I will go see him the preceding evening, it will take all the courage I have. The truth is, I hardly dare go to the Propaganda now; I seem to annoy them so much.

I'm sending you the note for a case of books which you will receive in about a week; they are not all for us, nor the small box inside.

I was fortunate enough to purchase the great work of canon law reprinted by Pope Gregory XVI, which is considered the best one. I was also able to find some good works of theology and philosophy, and the right edition of Noel Alexander with corrections.

I won't say that I am lonely, that I would like to leave here. The Good Master knows it; but we must give priority to his eucharistic matters. Time is nothing for God, his glory is everything.

I am fine; Lent is not going badly. I don't have any local news, because I'm living as a hermit. I know that the holy Father is fine, and for Rome and the world, that is everything!

My fondest regards to all our dear family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. We agreed on 31 francs for a hundred kilos. I don't know the cost of entry and customs.

Rev. Fr. de Cuers

religious of the Blessed Sacrament

68, Rue Faubourg St. Jacques

Paris

Great Retreat (cont.)

Mar 19	First meditation:	St. Joseph.
	Second meditation:	Consecration to St. Joseph.
	Third meditation:	St. Joseph, adorer.
Mar 20	First meditation:	The life of the Holy Family.
	Second meditation:	The Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph.
	Third meditation:	Crosses.
Mar 21	First meditation:	Crosses of the saints; perpetual vow of personality.
	Second meditation:	Vow of personality.
	Third meditation:	Same subject.
Mar 21	Vow of personality to our Lord. "Nothing for me who am nothing, and asking for the essential grace: nothing by me." Cf.R.R.	

1541

CO 1544

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 277/395 VI 2)

Rome, March 21, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you the letter for the Bishop; seal it with a bit of wax under the seal, and have it brought to His Excellency.

If he asks you whether you know what I wrote, say that I told you about it. If His Excellency complains that he wasn't informed, it's because it was a personal matter, and after all, it was the confessor's place to do so, if he needed to; for your part, throw the responsibility back on us.

It's a trial and that's all. God will draw his glory from it. Have courage! Dear sister! you give too much importance either to the success of the Work, or to its trials. It's only natural and no doubt supernatural, for someone as dedicated as you are to our Lord's work; but we must pray, let our good Master calm the winds and storms, and never be troubled.... but stay at his feet.

... [three lines erased] Don't be troubled... That word "it must"... comes from human limitations... with such an alternative, I ... would answer to think, pray, and leave. For should anyone put me in such a difficult position, I would begin by punishing the first one who threatens; but try not to give it any importance. Remember that a Superior should consider as not said, not true, and not subject to correction, whatever is not said to him officially or with culpability.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

Copy my letter to the Bishop

1542

CO 1545

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 2/12)

Rome, March 21, 1865, Feast of St. Benedict

Dear Sister Benoite,

I wish you a happy Feast Day. Indeed I did wish it for you this morning at Holy Mass. I am asking our good Master to give you his holy love, and that you would suffer all for him and him alone, for his only pleasure is to receive the first offering of everything.

Be simple and gentle like the Most Blessed Virgin, like St. Joseph, who was so small in his own eyes, like Jesus meek and humble of heart.

Do not dwell on your spiritual difficulties; absolutely cut short any turning back on self.

Our Lord loves children - now children soon forget past troubles and always live in the present. That is what gives them their simplicity and their peace.

Pray for Rome, - for the Secretary of the Propaganda and for the Cardinals. I believe our waiting will come to an end the first Monday of April. May God be blessed and glorified in all things!

I bless you in our Lord.
Eymard

<i>Great Retreat (cont.)</i>		
Mar 22	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Union of our Lord with us.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>My union with our Lord.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Crosses in our Lord.</i>
Mar 23	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Life of union.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Maintaining union with Jesus Christ.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Center of Union.</i>
Mar 24	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Jesus Christ, our guest.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>The Passion - Compassion of our Lady.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(not recorded.)</i>
Mar 25	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>On the love of God in the Incarnation.</i>
	<i>Second and third meditations:</i>	<i>(at the Minerva - presence of the Holy Father.)</i>
Mar 26	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>The Most Blessed Virgin's first adoration of the Word Incarnate.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Adoration at 40 Hours.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(in the evening the same.)</i>
Mar 27	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Review.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Jesus, our King.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>(40 Hours.)</i>
Mar 28	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>What more could our Lord do for me?</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>Our privilege.</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Self-surrender.</i>
Mar 29	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic militia.</i>
	<i>Second meditation:</i>	<i>(at the Propaganda)</i>
	<i>Third meditation:</i>	<i>Via Crucis.</i>
Mar 29	<i>Received a negative reply concerning the Cenacle.</i>	
Mar 30	<i>First meditation:</i>	<i>Offering and fortitude.</i>
Mar 30	<i>End of the retreat.</i>	<i>At night, departure from Rome.</i>

1543

CO 1546

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

(I 154/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 30, 1865

Very dear Father,

Let us adore God's plans and praise his holy will! the "dilata"³⁶ has been maintained by the general Congregation of Cardinals. Yesterday, Msgr. Capalti told me himself that, on the 28th, the Sacred Congregation decided to leave the status quo and not to change anything in the previous order of things, and that nothing can be done for the moment.

When I left the Propaganda, I went to have my passport checked. I would have left right away, I couldn't take the train; I'm leaving tonight by land, I'm afraid to be too sick by sea, since I am a little weak. I will travel a little every day, in order not to spend too many sleepless nights.

This news shook me up somewhat; I am anxious to leave, though I was expecting more or less anything. However, the influential Cardinals seemed well disposed, especially the Cardinal Prefect.

³⁶ "permission", term used by the Roman Curia.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

How was the matter presented? I don't know, I can only say: fiat voluntas tua!³⁷

The Rev. Father Superior of the Redemptorists was exceedingly kind toward us, and toward our big request; he took action to favor it, he really deserves our gratitude.

See you soon, I hope.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.³⁸

Rev. Fr. de Cuers
religious of the Blessed Sacrament
68, Rue Faubourg St. Jacques
Paris

1544

CO 1548

TO MR. AUDIBERT
(I 1/2)³⁹

1865⁴⁰

Dear Father,

It was my plan to go and pay you a brief visit at Carnoules on my way back from Rome. I traveled by land as far as Genoa, but as I was afraid of the distance, I took the train from Turin. First of all, I wanted to see you, because it has been so long since I've had that pleasure; then to speak to you about Rome and praise you for your noble decision not to pursue (the case) in Roman court. As I see it, with great edification, virtue is stronger than insult: merit and honor will grow proportionately.

I won't speak to you about your dear son; you know him, he is loved by everyone here and blessed by God. Blessed father, and blessed mother, to have such a son! fortunate brother, fortunate sister to have such a brother!

If you had given him to us, it would be impossible for us to pay our debt; but it is to God and to Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament that the gift has been made! You are therefore the great creditor of this Good Master! For our part, we love to be part of the family's friendship, since through Fr. Audibert we have become yours to some degree.

Farewell good Father, good mother, or rather au revoir.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁷ Thy will be done.

³⁸ S.S. = Superior of the Society.

³⁹ First of the two letters from St. Peter Julian Eymard addressed to the father of Rev. Fr. Joseph Audibert.

⁴⁰ The year shown in the French volume is 1863. Troussier places it in 1865.

1545

CO 1549

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 278/395 VI 2)

Paris, April 18, 1865

Dear daughter,

Patience, prayer and trust.

Our Lord's resurrection will give you all new life and restore everything.⁴¹

Always be very prudent in any authority conflict, and always be for the Bishop.

I am better, but still very weak.

Hello, Sr. Benoite, a greeting from our Risen Lord! Don't be sad.

My wishes and blessings to all your dear daughters.⁴²

I bless you.

Eymard

I'll write you a longer letter tomorrow.⁴³

1546

CO 1550

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 30/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 20, 1865

Dear Father,

Thank you for your kind letters and prayers; my flu is leaving me gradually; when I feel better, I will visit Angers.

Fr. de Cuers and I think that Fr. Audibert cannot go to Angers at this moment; he has just done much work at Beauvais. That would overburden him and wear him out. Give the retreat yourself, dear Father: that pious audience likes to hear your voice.⁴⁴

You are there and can be the best judge, but after the Jubilee, Lent, and Easter, it might be better to have the retreat later. Once again, the local Commander can judge better than those who see things only from a distance.

Nothing new, everyone here is fine, fraternal regards to all.

All yours,
Eymard, S.

⁴¹ Reference to Easter.

⁴² The novices.

⁴³ There is no evidence of such a letter.

⁴⁴ Of whom is he speaking? The Fathers, the Servants, the Aggregation?

1547

CO 1551

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 60/75)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 22, 1865

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your many thanks, which led me to read your letter a second time. You don't owe me any Masses. I will pray for that wedding, because I see that it's suitable and well-intentioned.

So you will be going to Calet! I envy your happiness. I am back into this maze of visits and business: may God be praised! but it makes me a little sad. When I arrived I got the flu; it forced me to stay in the house while dragging myself; it provided rest for the soul. You were given the first fruits of Rome;⁴⁵ others have only had a few leaves. That was only right since I was only a poor receptacle which still had the perfume of what it had received, so kindly, from God. Learn how to be pleased with God and yourself. Learn how to feed on his natural and supernatural divine Providence at each moment; be lovingly united with him by the simple feeling of your heart and desires, when no particular thing stimulates your love and, especially so, when you receive some helpful interior grace.

I do bless your silkworms in order that the good Master may make them grow to full term.

Regards to the dear daughter of your heart.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Please write the names of the two associates.

1548

CO 1552

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC

(VII 13/17 VIII 26)

Paris, April 22, 1865

Mademoiselle,

I was the first to regret that I could not see you again; I must admit that I would not have gone without fulfilling this duty - a duty of the heart and also of gratitude, because the friendship of souls has its sweet and legitimate rights, - but I did not feel very well. The dragging feeling of Paris lay hold of me and when I came I had to go to bed, I was held down with the flu. It is leaving me little by little.

So, now I can reply to your good letter. Were you then worthy of love or hate? The object of love and mercy. Yes, surely, yes, you can see that in spite of yourself, our good Master is still a jealous spouse toward you. He takes everything away from you in order to be your only possession. He even takes away your virtues and your ability to work in order to be your only virtue and activity. Well, it's a sure principle that when God strips a soul, it is because he wants to clothe it with his graces of mercy. He strips you from yourself and to reach that final state of doubting even

⁴⁵ When he stopped at her home, she was to receive the first outpouring about his retreat of Rome.

your good works and unable to be confident in anything except surrender to the infinite mercy of God and the infinite merits of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God loves you very much. He always had your heart first. You have always suffered. He has given you good judgement; this has been a good protection for you and your conscience which is a bit strict has sustained you. You find that your prayers and meditations are very poor and deficient. It is true that when we get older, our natural feelings become more youthful and our supernatural feelings weaken from day to day, to yield to a spirit of pure faith and fidelity to virtue. That is where you are. Be faithful and ever concretely faithful to your practices of devotion; at least as much as your health and strength allow and God will be pleased with you. Our temperament remains the same. That is natural; it's even necessary.

Where would the daily struggle of virtue be if we possessed perfect peace? Never make peace with your defects of character, but love it for the virtue which will become its reward and strength.

Our character⁴⁶ is ourselves.

For brief confessions, continue - that's fine - they are the rule for your situation. A beggar's only introduction is his habitual poverty. Prepare confession in the morning, if possible; this preparation becomes a habit. Thanksgiving will gain from it.

Recollection must be very difficult for you - especially examination of your conscience and actions - that comes from the monotony of your life, your sickly condition and also a little from your mental laziness. Look at your conscience with simplicity. Reject whatever is unclear or imprecise as a temptation. Alas, dear sister, we must be resigned to serve God only by the heart. The heart inherits what the other faculties lose, and God wants our heart; he is always at our disposal. As we journey toward Paradise, let us desire this beautiful heaven, repeating often: *Adveniat regnum tuum.*⁴⁷ - As always, many thanks for your kind remembrance. Your gratitude does not grow old. If only I deserved it more! In our good Master,

All yours

Eymard, Superior

1549

CO 1553

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I31/54)

Paris, April 24, 1865

Dear Father,

I hope to arrive tomorrow night and spend just a few days with you in Angers, to handle or at least study several matters about the Knoll.⁴⁸

We all thought that Brother Anatole would not be able to stay with us: this life is too contemplative and doesn't suit his kind of over-active mind, nor his health. I advised him toward a more active life, he understands. I think the Marist Fathers will receive him: he is a good subject, capable and a good colleague, but we cannot jeopardize his health. He has written to his respected family and he will come with me.

I am thinking of sending Fr. Carri from Angers to Paris only for a few days: it will do him good. Tell him to be ready by Wednesday night; he will help Fr. Chanuet preach his First Communion retreat which begins next Thursday: he will give four talks.

⁴⁶ French: caractere: character, temperament, personality.

⁴⁷ Your kingdom come.

⁴⁸ Section of Angers.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

We will see you soon, dear Father, and speak freely about our small and beloved Society and about the glory of our good Master.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1550

CO 1554

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 66/104)

A.R.T.

On the train, April 26, 1865

Dear Lady in our Lord,

I am back from Rome now. When I returned to France, I had the flu, I am well enough now. I will be here in Angers until Monday of next week.

Surely, if I were going to be here longer, I would go see you; but I am afraid I won't have time. If you should want to see me in Nantes, I would need to know that you are ill; then you can be sure you would see me for a few hours.

So, I'm waiting for news about you; you know how devoted I am to you, in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, S.

P.S. My religious regards to your dear sister.

<i>May 1</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Eucharistic annihilation, life of annihilation.</i>
<i>May 3</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Counsels, joy.</i>
<i>May 4</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Counsels, liberty, purity, obedience.</i>

1551

CO 1556

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 3/12)

Angers, May 5, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I thought I was saying the right thing yesterday, so that everything would be peaceful. It isn't possible that you can have taken everything I said otherwise.... Poor Sr. Benoite, you mustn't give way to this depression. I never even thought of what you seem to have imagined.

How could you think such thoughts about me when I have shown you so many proofs of confidence?

This is a serious temptation. It is the devil who is wearing you down. Be at peace again, be assured that I have not wished to take anything from you nor belittle you in any way.

I beg you for the love of our Lord to be calm and work at your commitments.

I bless you.
Eymard

1552

CO 1557

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 67/104)

Paris, May 6, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I'm returning the pious photograph; it is the likeness of a saint.

It was on March 25th that we saw her leave for her Homeland, she was happy and beautiful. When will it be our turn?...

I thank our Lord that I saw you and I would thank him even more if I could have helped your soul more, because it's very dear to me in our Lord.

I am here in the heart of Paris and in the midst of a thousand and one things. May God be blessed and glorified! But my soul is suffering from it as is my spirit of recollection.

Always stay closely united to our Lord; that is the only true life, since it is our grace, our virtue, and our happiness.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

1553

CO 1558

TO CARDINAL ALESSANDRO BARNABO, PREFECT OF THE PROPAGANDA

(VI 3/5)

Paris, rue fg S. Jacques, 68, May 8, 1865

Your Eminence,

In your charity you have always welcomed me with so much kindness, and so I beg you to hear me this last time.

On arriving in France, I learned that we had been accused at the Propaganda as having a branch of religious sisters who, being under our obedience, shared our work.

I was assured that Your Eminence had received a letter from a most trustworthy person, declaring this to be so; and that some religious (men) whom I will not name, who were jealous of our project, had made the same accusation to Monsignor Capalti.

I am no longer surprised, Eminence, by the coldness of Monsignor, the Secretary nor by the ever-prolonged delay in examining the question of our foundation in Jerusalem. I am actually surprised that you showed me so much patience and consideration. I would like simply to tell you of my distress at not being consulted on this matter. Well, Your Eminence, I assure you that the fact is false, that we have no religious sisters, that I sent no one to Jerusalem with that intention, and we have no such intention, knowing the intentions of the Holy See on this point.

I do hope, Your Eminence, that my absolute denial without any equivocation will be favorably received in your unbiased way, but it may perhaps be said that those who spoke the contrary must have had some positive grounds? It is possible that in France we are seen as the Superiors of a Community of Women Adorers founded in Angers with our support; but, these Ladies are dependent upon and under obedience to the Bishop. Their Confessor and Chaplain are secular priests of that city, chosen by the Bishop.

What may have confused our detractors, and perhaps the Patriarch of Jerusalem, is that a Parisian lady called Marie Michel, who knew of our plans, went to Jerusalem although I had told her we did not wish to join with any ministry by women; that we would do nothing of the sort, especially in such a corrupt country. To which she replied that she was free to go if she wished. Therefore, I cannot be held responsible for her words or her plans, if she has any. Besides, she must now be back from her pilgrimage with the French tour group. This being the case, Your Eminence, it is very painful for us to have been so severely treated by the Sacred Congregation, especially after the two letters from the Propaganda which so clearly encouraged us to carry out our project for a provisional foundation in Jerusalem, and had recommended us to the Patriarch. By this recent decision of the Sacred Congregation, we are in an embarrassing position with His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom we had informed of Your Eminence's letter. What reason can we now give for the recent refusal? We have done nothing to make us unworthy; we were prepared to go to great expense for this foundation; could it be the fact that we are French which is causing difficulty? We keep hearing about the privileges in the Holy Land, but we respect and shall go on respecting them. We cannot compete with the Franciscan Fathers since we are only adorers and they are parish priests and missionaries.

It is very hard, Your Eminence, to glimpse the promised land from afar and to die on Mount Horeb. But Moses had sinned through lack of confidence, and we have perhaps sinned through over-confidence.

I trust Your Eminence will kindly pardon this expression of my sorrow, one last time; but it is also an expression of my hope in your justice and love of truth.

It is with the deepest respect that I kiss the hem of your sacred Purple and am happy to be,

Your most humble and obedient servant,
P. Eymard
Sup. of the Society of
the Blessed Sacrament

1554

CO 1559

TO MSGR ANNIBALE CAPALTI, SECRETARY OF THE PROPAGANDA
(VI/3/3)

Paris, rue fg St. Jacques, 68, May 8, 1865

Monsignor,

An accused man is allowed to defend himself, and one unjustly condemned to demand justice; and so I take the liberty of writing you this letter. If I were responsible to myself alone I would remain completely silent; but I must not let the honor of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament be compromised.

On my return to France I was informed that the serious reason motivating the refusal of our request for a foundation of adoration in Jerusalem was that we had, to aid us in our work, religious sisters or devout persons, two of whom were already preparing everything in Jerusalem, - so it was said. I confess in all sincerity that I was most surprised by such an accusation through a letter to

His Eminence the Cardinal-Prefect; and then by a deposition of some religious to yourself, Monsignor, if what I am told is true. [When] I was in Rome, I annoyed you very often. How, in your charity, or at least your impartiality, Monsignor, could you not have questioned me?

The dignity and the importance of the persons who accused us of such things might indeed suggest the semblance of proof. However, I was there, accused without knowing it. If your serious deliberations are shrouded in secrecy, Monsignor, the matter must be examined and discussed. So, with the Holy Gospel which says yes, yes, no, no, I declare absolutely and unequivocally that these things are all false. We have no religious Sister, nor any one else attached to or connected with our proposed work in Jerusalem. I declare that we do not wish to have any. If it has pleased a lady from Paris, Marie Michel, on pilgrimage in Jerusalem, to make plans and to say that she was commissioned by me for anything relating to us or our projected foundation, it is all untrue. I told her so myself when she left, and she replied that she was free to go to Jerusalem. I know that she has made the acquaintance of Madame de Nicolai, who has been in the Holy Land for three years - a rich and devout person, completely devoted to the Franciscan Fathers. If they have made plans and projects, and even spoken to the Patriarch - that is quite possible, even probable. I am not responsible for it. I am certain, Monsignor, that if you do not believe my word, you can make a more complete inquiry, first in France, in the cities where we have houses - Paris, Marseilles and Angers. In conclusion, Monsignor, I make an appeal to your justice, to your well-known love of truth, and to your charity, that you will restore the facts which concern us to His Holiness, who must have been affected by what was being ascribed to us; and also to their Eminences who have been led astray in our regard.

If I have spoken the truth in my statement, Monsignor, the question should be reexamined. The two letters from the Propaganda which were sent to us remain as they were, and we have not changed in our feelings or position. If we had stayed in Jerusalem, the Sacred Congregation which encouraged us would not have been proven wrong. We remain at your disposal.

Kindly accept, Monsignor, the most profound feelings of respect from your most humble and respectful servant.

Pierre Eymard, Super. Soc. SS.

1555

CO 1560

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 279/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 10, 1865

Thank you, dear daughter, for your letter which I was anxiously waiting for, in order to have news about Sr. Benoite.

It was a trial that God had in store for her unknown to me when I left; I had no idea about it. We certainly want to do only the holy will of God, and we will do it with his help.

I'm happy that Sr. Benoite went to holy Mass and received Communion; that will help her get better more quickly.

Don't worry about the future; live from day to day, and especially be strong when painful feelings [assail you].

I am in the midst of so many heavy responsibilities.

God be praised! We must sacrifice ourselves for his glory.

I bless you; I hope to have better news about our dear patient whom I bless in our Lord.

Eymard

1556

CO 1561

To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)
(IV 68/104)

Paris, May 10, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I was told only this: she is in Heaven. She went on the second feast. What is that second feast? I don't know. I showed her the picture twice and she persisted in saying the same thing. The idea that it might have been March 25, came from me. Return the photograph to me within a month, if you wish. I may have the opportunity to see her again.

Don't worry about the administrative scolding. That's all it is. There was neither sin nor indiscretion on your part. Besides, people know you to be quite discrete and you are.

The brief instant of peace you experienced proves only that it was a temptation. The sense of agitation and trouble which followed only prove one thing; the return of the sorrow is because the temptation had totally engulfed you.

Take courage! Continue to have confidence in Fr. R., after as before. He deserves it. You would do well to be still and not bring it up to him again.

The news from your retreat is good! Take this resolution and maintain it. It will uplift your soul and bring you closer to God. Holy recollection, the presence of God through love and self-offering, dwell in the goodness and gentleness of God toward you in order to be good and gentle towards others: that is the ordinary flow of piety.

Good bye, I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

1557

CO 1562

TO MISS MARIE GAUDIOZ
(VII 1/1)

Paris, May 11, 1865

Dear Miss Marie,

Yes, I am praying and I will pray especially on the 1st for your Christian marriage. I always thought that was your vocation. God will bless you, since you have sought only his holy will - and have accepted only a young man who is Christian and well-known.

Besides, your good parents love God and your happiness too much for you to have done otherwise. So listen carefully to their advice. Experience is the great science of life.

When you are married, hold to your Christian practices; they become even more necessary, because your duties are greater. Place yourself under the protection of Our Lady of Fourviere and St. Joseph. I bless you both; may God keep you in his holy love and his divine and fatherly Providence.

My best wishes to your dear parents, and to you, dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1558

CO 1563

To Fr. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 32/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 13, 1865

Dear Father,

Brother Henry is accepted for the diaconate, and Brother Chave for Perpetual Vows and the sub-diaconate. May they prepare themselves well for these two great graces; besides, they are in your hands, these are the flowers and fruits of your labors.

I'm sorry I didn't see the Very Honorable Mother.⁴⁹ I had asked for her before I left: it seems that the message was not transmitted. As for poverty, just read her our Chapter 30 on poverty. Numbers 1, 2 and 3 are taken literally from the Apostolic Decree and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. It is the rule given to all Congregations now.

I - or one of us - hope to go to your ordination, to share in the happiness of these two fine brothers.

Father will take care of your errand for the medals.

Religious and Eucharistic regards to the whole dear family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. We still cannot take Brother Paul here. Keep him a little while; it depends on other plans. You will need to send us Brother Alexander for the novitiate. He can use the half-fare ticket and take third class.

1559

CO 1565

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 280/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 16, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I sympathize with you in all your difficulties. God allows them so that we may ask him to calm the storms. It's very evident that the devil is furious against the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament: he is doing his trade. Pray, pacify, reason, if possible, with the poor people from the alley ... [two and a half lines erased]. I am sending you 500 francs here enclosed, debts ... that you have.

There is no truth in your fears that Fr. Leroyer will be changed. At least that's the first I hear of it. On the contrary, his being chosen at the Cathedral indicates the administration's intention to leave him there. However, I would prefer a chaplain who can both confess and preach. In that case, I would like it to be Fr. Crepon, your superior. We would always understand one another very well; and then, he is so dedicated to you. However, be discreet to avoid causing him any difficulties.

⁴⁹ Mother Marguerite.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

I've just filed a claim at the Prefecture of Paris for the old taxes on your furniture here. Send me a letter in an envelope, with the Angers postmark, saying:

"Mr. Prefect,

Having left my furniture in Paris, rue St. Jacques, 66, in May 1864, and having settled in Angers since that time, at rue de l'Hopital, 14 bis, please grant the claim which Fr. Eymard, the owner of no. 66 is filing in my name.

I am respectfully yours, Mr. Prefect,

Your very humble servant,

Marguerite Guillot."

I'm very sorry to know that Sr. Benoite is so weak, especially for the same reason.

I am praying our kind Master to take away that cross from her.

In our Lord I bless you and all your daughters.

Eymard

Receive Mme. de St. Bonnet very well. I am very much in her debt. It was in her home that I worked on your Rule and on the Directory. There are cases where rules must be set aside.

My recommendation was that visitors should be allowed only at set times, so that the common exercises would not suffer from it. Be kind.

If you can provide lodging for Fr. Leroyer, as you say, I don't see any obstacle to it.

I just reopened my letter. Yes, offer the room temporarily; no breakfast; that would bind you.

I praise your firmness with.... Please! Have a little courage!

Let Mr. de Russon complain. Terminate with him, and he will stop.

I bless you.

Eymard

1560

CO 1564

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I33/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 16, 1865

Dear Father,

Fr. Chanuet is accompanying his dear eldest sister to Angers. He will return soon, because we need him.

Thank you for your kind letter. We are writing to Brussels, determining clearly the conditions for accepting. I don't know whether they will accept them, but we cannot expose ourselves to the possibility of being dismissed. We need two guarantees: one for the independence of our Work, and the other an assurance of stability.

Fr. Boone is the one who wrote to tell me all the options regarding his Work.

Your wine is on the way.

I was pleased about your feast on the 8th. Here we had as many candles burning as there are people in the Society.

Recommend me to the prayers of your house.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO FATHER BOONE, S.J. (RE MISS DE MEEUS)
(VI 8/22)

Paris, May 16, 1865

Very Reverend Father⁵⁰,

Your most estimable letter of May 12th should indeed be enough to make us respond to your wishes. All the religious activities surrounding your adorers, the extension of the work in good Catholic countries of Germany and, with all this, their goodwill towards us - it is like a blood relationship.

Since you have so kindly made a fresh and final appeal to our Society, allow me, Very Rev. Father, to present you with the basis for our collaboration. We would request:

1. complete freedom of the chapel and its furnishings for worship;
2. the Lady Adorers to leave the choir, and keep the use of the stalls opening to their apartments;
3. the Lady Adorers to share the expense of Exposition, in a sum to be agreed upon;
4. a time-table of services to be set up for the Ladies, as well as for our religious, to organize activities on the days when the two communities would need the chapel at the same time for either an ordinary or extraordinary service;
5. the Rev. Fr. Boone would be completely in charge of the Ladies' Work; the religious would be concerned only with the Work of adoration and the duties of the Sacred Ministry in the neighborhood of the chapel and within the community;
6. the Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament cannot merge with the Work of the Ladies, nor depart from their aim which is to adore and bring others to adore our Lord; therefore, they cannot accept this foundation in Brussels unless they are guaranteed the full use of the chapel of Exposition and lodgings for the religious - the use of which could not be taken from them except by reason of cessation of adoration by the religious, in the case of impossibility or infidelity to their duties in the service of adoration;
7. an agreement to be drawn up, - precise and well-detailed, - for these different functions, signed and exchanged between the two groups. At that time only would the Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament be committed to begin as soon as possible.

These, dear Rev. Father, are the principles upon which we ask you to reflect with Miss de Meeus. In other words, we take seriously your desire for the glory of our Lord, and we would be happy to collaborate in response to your goodwill towards our little Society.

Please believe me to be, in our Lord, Most Reverend Father,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard
Sup. Soc. SS.

⁵⁰ This letter (n.8) was addressed to the Rev. Fr. Boone, S.J. but concerned the projected foundation with Miss de Meeus.

1562

CO 1567

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 281/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 20, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Rewrite your letter to the Prefect on paper stamped with 15 centimes and send it to me right away. Did I leave my silver pencil case there? If so, return it to me with Fr. Chanuet.

I don't see any advantage in such a visit to the Bishop, nor is it appropriate. I thank God that things are peaceful with your neighbors, for the improvement of Sr. B's health and for your courage.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1563

CO 1568

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 282/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 20, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Fr. Audibert didn't bring your papers to me. Ask for them from your notary. I'll see Mr. False before leaving.

I don't know what to tell you about that dear priest. Wouldn't it be better to offer him a hundred francs more, and let him lodge elsewhere? Whatever may be the case, it isn't appropriate for him to receive students in his room, because of your neighbors. On the other hand, it's good to have a priest near Exposition, near the Community. If you had a chaplain who could both confess and preach that would be a beautiful mission.

Send me the measurements of the width and depth of your tabernacle as well as the height of the place for Exposition.

Thank you for the articles you sent for the lottery at la Mure. I bought many things that they will like. Thanks again.

Pray a great deal during this month of the Blessed Sacrament. Do so piously with public reading. The month of Mary ought to be a preparation for the royal month.

I only have enough time to bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT COMMUNITIES/(FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(VI 2/2) (VI 2/4 VII 181)

CIRCULAR LETTER OF CONVOCATION FOR THE GENERAL CONGREGATION⁵¹

TO REV. FATHER DE CUERS, SSS, professed priest and Superior of the house of Paris

Dear Colleague in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Gratia Domini et caritas Dei et Communicatio S. Spiritus sit cum omnibus vobis. 2Cor. 13.⁵²

Since the Holy See, by its Decree of June 5th 1863, has kindly given canonical approval to our Society under the beautiful and beloved title of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, it is time that all its professed priest members proceed to the canonical election of a Superior General. If you were not summoned before now, it was largely because of preparations for our foundation in Jerusalem, which took a year and a half. Also, I needed time myself to make the corrections to the Constitutions prescribed by the Holy See. During our five months' stay in Rome we consulted the men who were best informed about the regular life. We submitted our Constitutions to them for examination. We will submit their judicious comments to you.

Shortly you will also receive some materials to be studied and discussed at the Sessions of the General Chapter.⁵³ The General Congregation is set for Monday, July 3rd. It will be held in the Mother House in Paris.

As a professed priest I therefore summon you, dear colleague, to come on the appointed day, and request that you bring this letter of convocation as your personal right of admission to the Chapter.

In order to call down upon the Society and on each one of us the most abundant insights and graces, the month of June, otherwise known as the month of the Blessed Sacrament, will be entirely devoted and set aside for the intention of choosing the One who is truly chosen by God; consequently, the only one who can bring about the welfare and honor of the Society.

This will be the most solemn and important action you can perform, dear Colleague; it must be an action which is completely supernatural in its intention, wise in its choice, and carefully considered. You must base your judgement on your conscience. Place this decision under the protection of the Immaculate Virgin Mary and all will be well.

Allow me the consolation of hoping for a position as a simple religious, together with some solitude - *certamen certavi*⁵⁴ - let someone else lead the Society in its time of peace - *alius est qui seminat, alius est qui metit*⁵⁵. I ask you, therefore, as the greatest favor and the greatest proof of friendship, to leave me out of the contest. I shall obey whomever you name as the representative of J.C. and his Vicar; and I will be most pleased to consecrate myself to the welfare and purpose of this dear Society as the least, but happiest, of its children.

In the charity and unity of our Lord, I am, dear Colleague, your respectful and devoted servant.

J. P. Eymard
Sup. Societatis S.S.S.⁵⁶

Feast of Mary Auxiliatrix
Paris, May 24th 1865

⁵¹ This letter of convocation was sent to each of the Capitulars. They were all the same, except for the way in which at the end of each one, Father expressed his wish to be relieved of the Superiorate. (Ed. Tenaillon)

⁵² May the grace and love of God and the communication of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2Cor. 13)

⁵³ Literally: General Congregation.

⁵⁴ "I have fought the fight."

⁵⁵ One sows, another reaps

⁵⁶ Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

1565

CO 1569,2

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET, SSS
(VI 1/2 I 29)

(After the words: the welfare and the honor of the Society:)

It is, therefore, a most solemn and important action that you will perform, dear Colleague. The life of the Society may depend on it. Let this action be supernatural in its intention, carefully considered and wise in its choice. It is an act which bears upon our conscience. Place its direction under the protection of the Immaculate Virgin Mary; she is our Mother and our Queen of love.

Our Lord said to his Apostles: "If you love Me, you will be happy that I am going to my Father." I say the same to you, dear Colleague. If you wish to show true charity towards me, and even an act of friendship, leave me totally out of the election. I have been battling for eight years; during four years of preparation for the Society, I experienced every possible kind of trial: now that the Society is approved and moving forward, my mission is over. I long for solitude, silence, and the death which is life in our Lord, hidden in his divine Sacrament.

In this hope, and in fraternal union in our Lord, I am, dear Colleague, your loving servant,

P. Eymard
Superior General

Feast of the Ascension
Paris, May 25th 1865

1566

CO 1569,3

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION, SSS
(VI 1/2 I 5)⁵⁷

(Instead of paragraph "Allow me...")

I long for the time when I will be relieved of such a heavy burden. I shall obey to the least, without ceasing to devote myself to this dear Society for which I would be willing to die.

1567

CO 1569,4

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER, SSS
(VI 1/1 I 54)⁵⁸

Let me hope for my freedom... Or rather the sweet yoke of obedience. To each his mission; mine is over. The society has been approved; that is all I wanted before I die. Another will do better, since he will come to coordinate the victory and the reign of peace.

⁵⁷ Variant added to the Circular letter of May 24, 1865.

⁵⁸ Variant added to the Circular letter of May 24, 1865.

1568

CO 1569,5

To FR. CARRIE, SSS
(VI 1/2)⁵⁹

I have commanded long enough and fought long enough. I feel the need for solitude and rest for the spirit. That is the greatest favor your friendship could give me.

1569

CO 1569,6

To FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT, SSS
(VI 1/1)⁶⁰

Allow me the consolation of hoping for the grace of being a simple religious. I have the happiness of seeing the Society approved. There is no more fear for its existence. I wish to withdraw into the solitude and retreat of adoration.

1570

CO 1570

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 283/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 26, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am hoping to be in Angers during Pentecost week, a few days before the ordination. We will settle everything then.

My advice to you is to postpone everything: the demands are too great and may be a scheme. If anyone brings it up to you, say that you have decided to drop everything and to reopen the street, that you will build a footbridge across.

Poor daughter! You suffer so much! Offer these flowers, blood red with love to our Lord. It's the agony, not the death of the Work, but its life.

Was the Feast of the Ascension nice? ... a word!

Give me news about ... Mme. d'Andign is going to you with a happy heart; always receive her as one of your daughters. She is a postulant.

I bless you all, and especially the poor suffering one.

Eymard

I took care of Sr. Marie's errand with Mr. le Clere.

I'll ask Fr. Audibert for your papers. He didn't give them to me.

I didn't travel with the Monden ladies. I saw them at the station, but didn't speak with them. As for sleep, spare your health, through obedience.

⁵⁹ Variant added to the Circular letter of May 24, 1865.

⁶⁰ Variant added to the Circular letter of May 24, 1865.

1571

CO 1571

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 284/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 28, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

They are still bringing me the bill for the censor we ordered. We received it in Angers via railroad on the day of the feast. I am sending you the bill for it. Check in your accounts to see whether you may have paid for it. I doubt it.

I was happy and grateful to learn that Sr. Benoite's health has improved. I would have liked to hear the same about yours; try not to lose any sleep; that is the way to renew your mental strength. Your migraine headaches come from staying up too late.

I recommend myself to the prayers of all. I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

1572

CO 1572

TO MSGR. VALERGA, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

(VI 3/3)⁶¹

Paris, rue fg S. Jacques 68, May 28, 1865

To His Eminence the Patriarch of Jerusalem,
Your Excellency,

The Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda will no doubt have informed Your Excellency about the failure of our request for the withdrawal of the Decree Dilata. Their Eminences the Cardinals of the Congregation postponed the annulment of that Decree on April 4th; and, by this decision, our foundation in Jerusalem is postponed also, despite the permission and encouragement given in two letters from the Cardinal Prefect sent to us for this purpose. We were ready; we had spent a great deal to assemble the furnishings for this foundation and the objects of worship; two journeys to Jerusalem, four to Rome for this foundation; the French Government was disposed to favor this work; and now it has all been stopped. For what motives? I can scarcely believe what I have heard, as the thing is untrue, even absurd.

I was told that we had been accused at the Propaganda as already having two religious women in Jerusalem preparing the foundation and wishing to form a community of women there. To that I say only a Christian "no". If Miss Michel left Paris for Jerusalem with the French tour group, she is well aware how strongly I told her not to go to Jerusalem on our behalf, nor in the hope of a foundation of religious women, which we did not want. To that, the lady declared her freedom and her devotion to the holy places. I had nothing to say against her freedom.

I feel deeply hurt by the Cardinal Prefect and Msgr. Capalti. If this accusation was made against us at the Propaganda, they could at least have told me about it. I stayed in Rome five months; there are no secrets against justice and a man who is going to be judged.

We asked, upon the wish of the Cardinal Prefect, that there should be free entry into the holy places for all religious, "in order not to be selfish," he said. We obeyed; and now we are punished for it after getting the right to make a foundation with, indeed, Your Excellency's encouragement.

⁶¹ Manuscript copy.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

Now what remains for us to do, Your Excellency? It seems to me that since permission has not been granted to you, we should remain in the state we were when we went to Jerusalem. I am almost certain that Your Excellency, by approaching the Propaganda, could obtain the confirmation of our first letter stating our desire for a foundation and, as Cardinal Patrizzi told me, if the Patriarch grants you permission, there is no problem.

So we are once more in your hands, Your Excellency. Please deal with us as your wisdom and devotion lead you to do.

I am, with the deepest veneration,

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant and son in Jesus Christ,

P. Eymard

Superior of the Society of the
Most Blessed Sacrament

1573

CO 1573

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 131/145) VI 10

Paris, June 2, 1865

Dear sisters,

I have just sent you a case by express train, completely prepaid. It is addressed to you and contains objects for your lottery. I chose them myself and Miss Guillot paid for them, except for the shipment of six to fifteen cents, and the case which I paid for you. Notice the little rat: it is wound like a watch; the key is attached to it. After you wind it, put it on the floor. It's so funny, it runs, that will make your people laugh. In the middle of the case you will find a small package with two small boxes. One has a lovely gold medallion of St. Peter's basilica and square in Rome, in beautiful mosaic. The other is a head of Christ and I suggest you keep it, for it is very lovely.

I am well, always overburdened with work; but with God's help, everything gets done.

The beautiful weather is beginning now in our mountain region, pilgrimages are beginning at La Salette. I really do want to make another pilgrimage to Notre Dame du Laus. As you know, it has always been the grace and joy of my life. Oh! my heart goes there so many times to greet this good Mother who has such a heavenly face, at her place behind the altar.

Goodbye, my good sisters, don't get too tired with the lottery.

I am, in our dear Master,

All yours,

Eymard, S.

1574

CO 1574

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI9/22)

ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM

Paris, June 2, 1865

Mademoiselle,

I am unable to come to Brussels next week, as I have to go to Angers on Thursday for a profession, and on Saturday for an ordination.

So we shall wait until you return from Holland. Meanwhile, His Eminence will return from Rome and we will surely find a way to see him even during his visits.

I pray God may bless your journey and your holy undertakings and I am, in eucharistic union, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.

1575

CO 1575

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I34/54)

Paris, June 3, 1865

Very dear Father,

Don't count on me for Thursday, Corpus Christi. I am busy in Paris with the men's adoration. I will be giving them the retreat which you gave yourself last year.

I will be with you Thursday night of next week, for Brother Chave's vows on Friday morning.

Prepare and guide their ordination retreat yourself. It is right that they should owe you everything.

As a preparation for the General Congregation, we will pray the month of the Blessed Sacrament in the morning right after Exposition, by reading one day of the "Visits to the Blessed Sacrament" by St. Liguori; the Veni Creator followed by the recitation of the Litanies of the Blessed Virgin with the invocations to our three protectors: St. Michael, St. Joseph and St. John. - Try to do the same. Everything is the same as usual.

I am in our Lord, for you and all our dear Fathers and Brothers,

All yours,
Eymard

1576

CO 1576

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 285/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 5, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, your money and prayers.

I hope that the Good Lord will draw his glory from this convocation.⁶² It was my duty to convoke it to remove any pretexts, and let each one exercise his right to choose a Superior.

It would surely be a great grace for me not to be named Superior. I would serve the Good Master better in the simple lifestyle of a religious. So I am asking him for this grace, as I also requested it in my letter of convocation to each priest of the Congregation.

To have the Blessed Sacrament for ourselves is to have everything. Then, isn't it time for me to be buried a little with our Lord, or rather, entirely so, dead to the world?

But even if I should do so, do not be afraid that I would ever forsake you, dear daughter, no, no. I will be dedicated to you in life and death.

I'm enclosing the bill for the censor.

I'll reach Angers only Thursday night.

I bless you all in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

I'm happy that poor Sr. Benoite is shuffling along a bit better. I hope that my blessing will help her.

1577

CO 1577

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 286/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 6, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Yesterday I forgot to tell you to begin the retreat for your daughters who will receive the habit and make profession Sunday, the feast of the Blessed Trinity - if you want me to do the ceremony. If not, someone else can do it later, as I won't be able to stay in Angers for Corpus Christi, since I must preach the retreat for the Paris adorers beginning Thursday. You have enough material to put them on retreat. The essential thing is that they should keep silence, be entirely given to their retreat and dispensed from all their employments.

I am in our Lord, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

⁶² General Congregation of his Society: meeting to elect a new Superior General.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

To the V. Honorable Mother Superior
Of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament
14 bis Hopital St.
Angers
(Maine and Loire)

1578

CO 1578

To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)
(IV 69/104)

Angers, June 11, 1865

Dear Lady,

I will be in Angers until Tuesday at 9:00. I greet you and bless you from a distance. I came for an ordination on Saturday, giving us a Deacon and Subdeacon.

I'm returning the picture. They continue to say the same thing. Without guaranteeing it, they say she has a high place.⁶³ Her eyes are even larger, which indicates happiness. If she is not in a high place - it is someone who looks like her. We will see whether there is anything new on Monday, visiting day.

Goodbye in our Lord. I only have time to bless you all.

Eymard, P.S.

1579

CO 1580

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 4/15)

[Angers], June 11, 1865

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I am sending you a brief greeting from Angers. Your dear Mother is fine; she is still a good and fervent religious.⁶⁴

Sr. Benoite is not well. I hope that the springs at Clairmont will help her. She will be going there in a few days. The chapel which your devotion is leading you to build must be progressing and already standing. I am pleased with this inspiration which will win you so many graces.

Goodbye, dear Mr. Amedee, my faithful and devoted and respects to Mme. Blanche.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶³ In heaven?

⁶⁴ Sr. Camille du S.S.

1580

CO 1579

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU
(V 24/52)

Angers, June 11, 1865

Madame,

Please excuse me if I cannot go to l'Isle. Tomorrow, I will give the retreat to the Ladies and I want to leave on Tuesday for Paris. It's a sacrifice, but duty is calling me elsewhere. I was deeply touched by the kindness of the Count.... Please express my deep regrets to him and believe my most faithful sentiments, Madame Countess, your respectful and devoted servant.

<i>Jun 12</i>	<i>Retreat Day to Ser: Serve our Lord in simplicity and generosity - qualities of an adorer's love.</i>
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June - A week's retreat at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

1581

CO 1581

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 287/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 16, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Your dear daughters arrived safely. I've just put them on the train for Nemours, and tomorrow night Benoite will leave for Riom, where she is due to arrive at 5:30 a.m.

Mme. Genoir (Monthion St., 10), the corset maker, tried the cincture. It gave her some relief.

So dear Miss G. isn't well! My God! What will happen? We know that they are the beloved children of divine Providence which will never fail them.⁶⁵

Please take some rest; find a way to get some sleep; don't work beyond your strength.

Let one of the young professed take the responsibility for the ordinary permissions. As for directions, do only what is essential; just remember that the Good Lord will do the rest even better.

Nothing new here. I am preaching every night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

My health is satisfactory.

I bless you as well as all your daughters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶⁵ Perhaps Miss Stephanie Gourde and her mother.

1582

CO 1582

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU
(V 25/52)

Paris, June 21, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

Our Lord is the one who wanted that sacrifice, because everything was providential: the charity which kept you at home, duty which kept me in Angers, and finally, on Tuesday, although the promised day had passed, Mr. D'Ambray came to get me at 7:00 a.m., to leave me at your gate. But I had to let the coach leave [without me] and stay behind for urgent work, and to leave again on Wednesday. So, as you see, it was really God who frustrated all my plans so that we might submit to his holy Will. That is what you did, and I am almost proud of this act of virtue on your part.

You must enjoy the present: you have our good Master who never leaves you; and you don't leave him either. Remember that one act of surrender is worth a thousand freely chosen deeds of virtue.

Everything is arranged with the Ladies. You will be welcomed there just as before. But don't come back on it because of your fears and hesitations. It is settled.

Pray for me beginning July 3rd, the General Chapter⁶⁶ of all our Fathers for the election of a Superior will take place - in order that we may name the one who will be pleasing to God. So then I hope to be free from this great responsibility and have the joy of being a simple religious with responsibility only for myself, because I have been struggling for eight years. A corner at the feet of our Lord and a good grace like Mary Magdalen⁶⁷ would benefit this poor soul which has been tossed about by so many things.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Madame,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

1583

CO 1583

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 288/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 23, 1865, Feast of the Sacred Heart

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received this letter. I am sending it to you in case they haven't written to you. Her stay will have prepared her for the springs and helped her a little.

I'm afraid that you aren't well. Try to rest your mind by living at the Master's feet with no other concern than to love and serve him from day to day, according to his holy will and as your strength allows. Remember that as superiors we aren't bound to the most perfect government, but simply to the virtue of good will.

⁶⁶ Literally: General Congregation.

⁶⁷ Recollection.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

Ask all your sisters for me to begin a novena to the Sacred Heart on Sunday for our General Chapter and for those who will attend it, like the disciples in the Cenacle before Pentecost.

Nothing new here, except for this waiting which is difficult for some; but God will come in his own time, he doesn't want to forsake this little Society, in spite of my poverty and faults. I may add, when we seek God alone, we surrender to his divine providence which is ever so wise and caring.

I bless you and all your dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1584

CO 1584

To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)
(IV 70/104)

Paris, June 23, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing you a note about my trip to Angers. It was learned that the person who is already in Heaven was another who had many contacts: Miss de Genest from Riom.

On June 12, she saw someone with such a sweet childlike smile; she said to her: "Since they told you about me, pray for me. I am the one whose picture you saw." She is not suffering very much. She is the 5th or 6th in line to leave. That is what I was told. I had asked them to pray for that.

Because of that, therefore, we must continue to pray. I was surprised to know that she was in heaven so soon. Yet, she had always told me the same thing.

What are you doing? It has been so long since I've received any news from you!

Today is the feast of the Sacred Heart. Plunge yourself more deeply into this source of grace and love. It is the grace of our time, since our Lord is giving us his Heart to be adored, loved and glorified, because he is complaining about indifference and ingratitude. That is a proof that he wants to give us all the riches and tenderness of his Heart.

Be as loving as this Heart, be gentle and humble like his, receive fully all its fire.

I beg you to pray and have others pray for our society. On July 3rd, we will have our general Chapter for elections. I will ask you to make a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for this purpose.

I bless you and I am, in this divine Heart,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

1585

CO 1585

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD AND MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD

(V 37/52)

Feast of the Sacred Heart, Paris, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for having written to me and giving news about your family to which I am ever lovingly dedicated in our Lord.

I praise the wisdom by which you both suffer in the presence of God alone in order to maintain your freedom and peace for God's service. It is truly for him that you are acting this way. Oh! May he reward and heal you through his pure goodness, that is my prayer and my desire!

However, you would do well to consult someone in Lyons if you think it might be good and helpful, so that, if God wants to help you with treatments, you may be part of his ordinary Providence.

Dear daughters in our Lord, be one soul in two bodies in a single life and service of our Lord.

Have a great love for such a mother; and you, mother, love your dear daughter in our Lord tenderly. She is the spouse of our dear Master.

Today is the feast of the Sacred Heart; I give you to him and place you very deeply in this ocean of grace and love.

Please begin a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Sunday the 25th so that God may bless our general Chapter which will take place July 3rd, so that our Lord may preside over it and govern it in his Holy Spirit. I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Stephanie

1586

CO 1586

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 71/104)

Paris, June 29, 1865

Madame,

Are you ill? This thought pursues me; perhaps you have some sadness or sorrow? In order to get rid of this thought, I am writing to tell you.

Our elections will take place on Thursday of next week. I recommend them very much to you in our Lord and his holy Mother.

I am burdened with work to prepare for the General Assembly. But God is so good to me that he is doing everything!

I bless you in our Lord, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.

1587

CO 1587

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 289/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 30, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I had a presentiment that you weren't well since I hadn't received any news from you. Your letter proved that I was right.

Grant yourself all the personal permissions you would grant to others. In case of doubt, you have good Fr. Crepon. It's very clear that when we aren't well or even in doubt, we aren't bound to the Office nor to the "Our Father."

Your generosity exceeded your strength. Please be a bit more indulgent and prudent toward your physical weaknesses. Your poor body is the coach for the journey.

Thank you for your prayers, but not for your wishes and hopes. Since I am convinced that it would be a great blessing for my soul, I would consider as the better part whatever would allow me to spend more time at the feet of the Good Lord to prepare better for death.

I surrender myself to everything that our good Master will ordain or desire, whatever it might cost me! The election will take place neither on the 3rd nor the 4th, but on Thursday morning. I think I will have it preceded by two or three days of retreat.

I bless you very generously in our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

CHAPTER II

July - December 1865 The Mark of the Passion

*“Eucharistic vocations always have the mark of the Passion in them.”
To a Foundress, Oct. 9, 1865*

General Convocation of the Society

Reelection as Superior General for life. July 1865

Illness of his sister Marianne

Preparations for Two Foundations

- Nemours for the Servants (Dec. 9, 1865)
- Brussels

Search for an Ecclesiastical Superior for the Servants in Angers

Spiritual Teacher

- Retreat to the Servants
- Missions in Tours, Mauron, Nemours, Dreux, Angers, and Brussels

1588

CO 1588

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 290/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.¹

Paris, July 7, 1865

Dear daughter,

My first letter and my first blessing are yours. I won't discuss my reelection: may God be my light and my strength! I was longing a little too much for rest and to be free from a few crosses! May he be praised!²

Sister B. is here, as you know. I barely had time to see her ... [4 lines erased].

Yes, the least religious would be preferable, you did well to complain. I will do so if you want me to, and if we can hope for some good from it.

That fine Bishop has fixed ideas, but he will give in to your good reasons, for wouldn't he be creating a struggle between his Superior and us?

Since he is the one who would name one of our religious, that religious whom he would name who would also be under obedience and so can not be displeasing to him.

I'll take care of all your errands with Mr. Le Clere.

I have only enough time to bless you all. I'll say Holy Mass at the Good Shepherd.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Miss Sterlingue left immediately for Paris to see her father who is ill.

1589

CO 1589

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU

(V 26/52)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 7, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

Yesterday God imposed the burden of Perpetual Superiorship upon me once again. Pray for me! It was difficult for me, because I was hoping to have some rest and solitude from everyone in order to belong more to God alone in solitude, I was dreaming and planning for it... (four lines erased).

I find that you are very fortunate to be the little servant of Jesus, his adorer, his hostess and his dwelling. Esteem this happiness, it is great and gracious.

¹ A.R.T.: "Adveniat Regnum Tuum:" Thy Kingdom Come.

² "When he heard the proclamation of his re-election, under the illusion it would not occur, Father became pale, his hands shook and his eyes filled with tears. He did not have the strength to speak, except to say: 'You can all go to sing the Te Deum; as for me, I don't have the courage to do so!' And he withdrew to his room. When they went to get him for dinner, they found him on his knees, fallen on his heels, and bathed in tears." (from the biography by Fr. Tesniere)

The Mark of the Passion

Forget your faults, even your sins, to live a little like in Heaven, where we bless, give thanks; where we love the most blessed Trinity ever more perfectly and creatively; where we see our sins only in the mercy of God; our works only in his grace, our happiness only as a ray of divine happiness.

I leave you in our Lord; I am going to celebrate [Mass] and pray for you, and for all your loved ones.

Believe me in our good Master,

Madame,

Your respectful and ever devoted,
Eymard

1590

CO 1590

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 291/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 15, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Here's the letter to ... thank you for yours. Don't get discouraged ... [2 lines erased]. So have no fears on that subject.

Listen to everything and weigh everything in God, don't get so discouraged. Even if you had been laboring for the Work for twenty years, your love should keep you ever young.

I devote myself to it, even though I have less aptitude³ than you do for the interior life.

Monday, I'll go to see Mr. False: you can imagine that I'm still overburdened with work.

Fr. de Cuers is still here. Sister Benoite is leaving tomorrow night to spend two or three days at the Thorins with the Gourd Ladies, while waiting for the Nemours affairs to be settled. Today I will write to the father to propose an amount for a pension.

Take care of yourself, we must continue to work and for a long time.

I don't have any fresh news about my sister. I hope that our dear master will keep her for me a little while longer.

I bless you,

Eymard

³ Less aptitude or fewer possibilities.

1591

CO 1591

TO MME. CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT)
(III 1/5)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, July 15, 1865

Dear Sister Marie,

Let us forget the past!

The Pope said to Fenelon: you sinned by too much love; and to Bossuet: and you, by too much zeal. God permitted this trial to test your vocation further after twenty-six years. Well! It will be the last time. You are with the good Master, stay there in peace. You are in the family of the Most Blessed Sacrament, continue to be its daughter and sister.

And so I bless you with my whole heart and give you back all that I wanted to take from you, or perhaps hide from you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

To dear Sister Marie of the Blessed Sacrament

1592

CO 1592

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 132/145) VI 10

Paris, July 16, 1865

Dear sister,

So you are sick! This news made me very sad. I couldn't fly to La Mure to see you because I was in the midst of the General Chapter with all our priests, from July 3rd until last Wednesday, ten days in a row without a single moment, not even until today, Sunday, because I had to send each one on to his destination and settle everything.

I really prayed our Lord, dear sister, to relieve and heal you, because you are all I have on earth. I know that heaven is worth more than this poor life, but I would like to request something similar to the grace of St. Benedict and his sister St. Scholastica.

I don't know when I will be free, but I hope to go see you soon, perhaps within two weeks. It would be a great consolation for me, but it is all in God's hands. Stay in his hands, dear sister, don't worry about anything. If God should want you before me, I will take care of our good Nanette and I will not forget your soul, nor your intentions. But I hope that the Good Lord will leave you longer on earth to honor, love and serve him.

I will bless you both.

Your brother,
Eymard, Superior

1593

CO 1593

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 24/36)

Paris, July 16, 1865

Dear sister in our Lord,

Every day I wanted to write to you and scold you a little. Fellowship in our Lord must not be sensitive or count its rights, but only intentions.

So then! So it is! I owe you! But listen. Our General Chapter, which began on the 3rd, came to a close on July 12th. There was a retreat, a re-election, sessions; consider how busy I was.

I was re-elected Superior, in spite of my begging to be left alone with God and free.

So now I am chained for life to men whom I must chain very securely to the throne of our royal Master, and whom I must feed each day.

The good Master really presided over these sessions. The devil tried to turn everything upside down, but our Master was in the boat.

Oh! How right you are! I just preached a retreat to the adorers in Paris, I didn't hide my distress.

Beneath the pulpit at St. Thomas I could see 300 lay adorers who serve and adore the Master every night in spite of their fatigue and daytime work.

But where are the priests? We speak about our Lord - it's the glory of our time! We point to the divine Eucharist, it's the spiritual movement of our times; like posts, the priests stay where they are, or they are content with admiring and showing the way. Oh! My heart is sick over it. I wanted to hide from everyone, or else be free to go into the world to embarrass some and encourage others.

People are afraid of the eucharistic vocation; they come as far as our door, but quickly run away. People are afraid of adoration of Jesus the King.

What can we do? Love, adore, consume oneself in place of all these lazy ones.

Thank you for your office; I don't have the time to read at the moment, although it would please me very much.

Therefore, pray for us, so that we may become saints ourselves in order to make saints, and then apostles in order to set the divine fire in the midst of the forests of this lazy and timid world.

I bless you,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. My residence is still in Paris, and my letters are respected.⁴

⁴ Left unopened.

1594

CO 1594

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU
(V 27/52)

Paris, July 16, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you so much for your last letter and for your prayers for me. This is real charity.

I admit my weakness: I wanted to escape from crosses and hide, thinking I would belong more to God. Our good Master did not will it, may he be blessed! I understood one thing: It is that household crosses are terrible, their source of pain comes from their closeness and continuity. Sometimes they seem light when a beautiful sun releases their dampness; at other times they are overwhelming when water from heaven, or feelings of abandonment by God, adds to it all.

And so, suffering is necessary from everyone and everywhere: it is the seed of Calvary scattered throughout the earth. It seems that divine love always enters into the heart by a new wound, and likes to pierce the heart in order to let its heavenly flame enter in. Well, long live the cross of the Good Lord! And long live those persons who give it or who crucify us to it!

So then, are you a little lazy?... Nonetheless I praise you for your fidelity, a debt of honor is always paid. Then, on a beautiful day, the dry season becomes mild, less harsh, - a gentle rain comes and gives new life to this poor dry earth. Our good Master says a word, the soul awakens, rises and runs to the divine Gardener.

I hope I will not delay too long before I [can] go to Angers. Father Audibert is the one who is replacing Father Leroyer who is destined for Marseilles with Father De Cuers. Father Champion is coming to Paris.

I promise I will do all I can, yes, yes! Your soul belongs to God as does your heart. Have courage and have confidence, I bless you in our Lord.

1595

CO 1595

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 10/22)

Paris, July 17, 1865

Mademoiselle,

Fr. Leroyer must have told you that we were in general chapter and that we would discuss Brussels, but the chapter finds at present that, given our small numbers and Fr. de Cuers' illness, it would be unwise to begin in Brussels. Much as we desire to work with you, Mademoiselle, putting Brussels before all other requests, it isn't possible at the moment because of elections and nominations which changed all the Superiors. Fr. Leroyer is being sent to Marseilles to replace the Fr. Superior who was named Assistant and has to return to Paris.

I am very sorry, Mademoiselle, to have to tell you this. I had been hoping, myself, not to be renamed Superior and leave the mission of this foundation to someone else. All I can promise you is to give it first place and my wholehearted interest in it.

Believe me, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, Superior

1596

CO 1596

TO MR. JULES LECLERC, BOOKSELLER, PARIS
(VII 1/1)

Paris, July 17, 1865

Dear Mr. Jules,

The time is fast approaching when we will have to ask you to reimburse our 60,000 francs. I wasn't expecting to leave them with you so long, hoping that the purchase of the property in Angers would take place sooner. On the other hand, I am happy that this amount was able to help you in some way.

We will need the full amount toward the end of the month of September. I hope that you will have it ready for me, because the land in Angers will be sold at Auction. We want to buy it at all costs, because it is the motive for our foundation in that city.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mr. Jules,

Your loving and devoted servant,
Eymard

1597

CO 1597

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 292/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 19, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

... [11 lines erased]. You weren't included in the deed because of another arrangement.

The father⁵ seems inclined to help. We are purely and simply going to have a sale. We would need to have 6,000 francs for the expenses. Might one of your sisters get them? That is the main thing. Then we will sign a deed to establish a pension for Mademoiselle, for 5,000 francs a year, including her lodging. She will sell the house, a lot and a mill. Tonight we will discuss it in detail.

Tomorrow, Thursday, I am expecting the "little mother."⁶

I need to have the power of attorney for the sisters. I will request it from you either by telegraph or in another letter. This authorization would be to grant to Sr. Benoite, [and] to Miss Larousse, Adelaide, Donreau St, 41, the power to sign the deed.

I've just received news from my sister. She isn't well. The doctor who wrote to me is concerned about the outcome of the illness. I cannot go just now. I may be able to go next week. May God's holy will be done!

She is fine, that ... I think she is the one who was working in the garden, and not another who also wanted to enter with you. I don't remember her name. The one who was working in the garden is very fine, and since she is being asked to withdraw, my advice is that you should give her a try, on condition that she not speak about ... For us, the Eucharist is Carmel.

I bless you wholeheartedly,
Eymard

⁵ Property of Nemours, father of Miss Sterlingue.

⁶ Nickname for Sr. Claudine du S.S.

P.S. I know which clock they are describing to you. I had one in the Major Seminary. A few directors disliked it. Every thought that honors our Lord is good, but find his divine Heart where it is: in the Blessed Sacrament. That devotion is fine for people on the outside or for those who are not adorers. You are the Guard of Love: that is much more than the Guard of Honor. You are continually serving him.

1598

CO 1598

TO THE RELIGIOUS OF MARSEILLES AND ANGERS⁷ (VIII 1/1)

Very dear Fathers and Brothers in our Lord,

We are sending you an authentic copy of the deliberations and prescriptions of the General Chapter, so that, for the love and the greater glory of our Lord, and the greater good of the Society, you may apply them straightaway as the rule of your eucharistic vocation.

If, because of your small number, you cannot fulfill all the ordinances, accomplish at least those which are possible for you. In case of doubt or difficulties, you may submit them to us, in simplicity and submission in our Lord.

From the motherhouse in Paris, July 19, 1865.

P. Eymard
Sup. Soc. S.S.⁸

[L + S]

1599

CO 1599

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS) (II 293/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 20, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

My letter had just left yesterday, when we began the feast of St. Marguerite at Vespers.

I immediately offered you my wishes in the presence of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and [did so] again this morning at holy Mass.

Yes, be a Marguerite, that is, a precious stone in the presence of God, a diamond shining with virtue, strong with love, and even more beautiful in the darkness of trials and sacrifices!

So St. Marguerite, Virgin, bequeaths you Jesus as your spouse; as a martyr, she gives you the law of love. Now crowned in heaven, she is envious of your crown of thorns. To sum it up, you are both serving the glory of the same Master.

The Nemours affair is progressing slowly, because we need all the documents.

⁷ (Letter following the General Chapter) Identical text in both letters. The only difference are:

(1) To the priest and Brothers of the Marseilles House

Very dear ones in our Lord J.C.

Dear Fathers and Brothers in our Lord.

(2) To the Fathers and Brothers of the Angers House, Priests

Very Dear Fathers and Brothers in the Lord.

⁸ Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sr. Benoite was due to arrive today. Our good Master did well to keep her back until Saturday.

Thank you for Nanette's letter and for the prayers. Thank you for those of Miss Dalaca; don't worry, I won't leave you at the mercy of anyone's discretion. People may talk, but believe only what I write to you.

I'm sending you the letter from the Thorins even though it is torn. I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

1600

CO 1600

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 294/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 22, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Sr. Benoite arrived. She is the same as usual.

The deed is ready.⁹ It will be signed Monday morning. I will explain why your name cannot be included. It's because we are crediting you with the deposit.

They want the contract on stamped paper. I'm sending you two sheets on which to have it transcribed. Return them to me, so that I may have them Monday morning without fail. I bless you.

Eymard

I received 2,000 francs from Mme. Mason; send me what you have: we will need 7,000 francs. We need them right away without fail. Ask Mme. Chanuet to advance what she can. I don't know where to find it at the moment, we have only an eight day waiting period.

1601

CO 1601

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 295/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 22, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm sending you the contract for the pension; have it signed by the three, have a copy made, but not by you. Have the second copy signed and return them both to me immediately.

Yesterday I went to Meaux¹⁰ to ask the Bishop if he would receive you. That fine Bishop is very happy to receive you. He told me he would write to the Bishop of Angers about it as a courtesy. I asked him to do so only in a week's time, so that you would have time to inform the Bishop of Angers.

⁹ For the Nemours foundation.

¹⁰ See city for the foundation of Nemours.

I'm expecting Sr. Benoite this morning; I saw the notary yesterday. If the authorization I will request from you by telegraph is legalized and received here by Monday, we could sign the deed.

The notary said Sr. Benoite can sign for everyone. That simplifies matters.

We will be doing something very important. It will give the Society of the Servants more solidity and freedom of action.

Fr. de Cuers left yesterday at 2:00 for Lyons with Brother Jules.

My blessings to you in the Lord.

Eymard

1602

CO 1602

TO MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANN-MARIE DU SS)
(III 19/21)

Paris, July 23, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

While waiting for a freer moment, I kept waiting until today. Even so I can write you only a few words.

First of all I want to tell you that I received your letter and the 200 francs for Masses for Miss Billard. Please present my sincere regards to her.

My sister is sick. I hope to go see her in a few days, and I will see you, not on my way down, because I don't expect to stop anywhere so as to arrive at La Mure sooner, but on my return to Paris. Then I will give you a little time for direction.

Today I received a letter from La Mure, telling me that my sister's condition has not worsened. So then, I expect to find her still with us. I recommend her to your prayers.

Sr. Benoite is due to leave tomorrow night for the hot springs at Riom. She is ill.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1603

CO 1603

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 296/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 26, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Fr. Audibert is leaving, he will be truly devoted to you. He will give the same conferences as Fr. Leroyer: have confidence in him.

As for the question of a Superior,¹¹ I'll write to the Bishop to reach the following understanding: the status quo remains the same.

¹¹ An ecclesiastical Superior for the Servants.

Everything is finished, but keep it quiet.

I am returning 280 francs; I can't think of leaving you penniless. I'm sending you the receipt from the notary for 7,300 francs. I borrowed the rest from a deposit by Mr. Sterlingue.

I'm sending you the contract. The "little mother" will sign it. I didn't have time. Keep it secret.

Miss Sterlingue entrusted me with her valuables to deposit them at the Bank in your name for greater security. We accomplished that procedure yesterday, the contract the day before. That is why we didn't include you or your sister in the contract, because the valuables are credited to you and that was more important.

It will be necessary to send Miss Jenny Sterlingue a notarized authorization giving her the power to withdraw the interest and titles if necessary. Send it to Nemours by registered mail.

I'm expecting to leave for La Mure soon. Yesterday, I received a letter from Marseilles. She has a lung infection. That means that it's serious. May the Holy Will of God be done!

I am expecting to leave tonight or tomorrow morning.

Sr. Benoite left for her village yesterday.

God has guided this matter ... [2 lines erased]. But everything went as we had hoped, everything came at the right time.¹²

Pray for my sister and for me.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1604

CO 1604

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 50/52)

Paris, July 26, 1865

Dear Madame in our Lord,

Finally, I can see that I must send you the certificate for the Pastor at St. Andre-de-Tarare, since I lost his address again. Please write it after the word "Dom." It is really my fault. I don't dare excuse myself because of my business and travels. Ask God to forgive me for this negligence.

I was really pleased with your dear son in Paris. I am happy to see that he behaves as if he were under his good Mother's wings and that he is faithful to his good principles.

I saw your sister. She was preparing to go see you. She has a real mission in the Delys family. She is very helpful to good Mme. Lepage. I really hope this fine friendship will continue. It has been a century since I wrote to you, but you must tell yourself that I wanted to do so many times. Then, I was carried by succeeding waves, expecting a rest that never comes.

I'm writing to you before I leave. I'm going to La Mure d'Isere to see my poor sister who is very ill. I recommend her to your prayers.

My regards to your fine husband, to your son.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

¹² Financial aid.

1605

CO 1605

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)
(V 9/14)

Paris, July 26, 1865

Excellency,

Fr. Audibert left this morning to take over his responsibility as Superior in Angers. He left happy, because obedience has entrusted him with this mission, and also because Your Excellency has been so kind toward him. He is the best and most qualified person I can send you, Excellency. I hope that he will measure up to your great kindness toward us and to your zeal for good.

An offer is being made to the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament of a charming property near Paris, at Nemours, for a little foundation. The gift is worthy of such a beautiful purpose as Adoration. Before accepting, I saw the Bishop of Meaux, to seek his approval. He accepts the foundation of these little Servants with great joy and he will write to Your Excellency about it.

I would see this second house with great pleasure, Your Excellency, to transfer those who need a change of locale. Your Excellency knows better than I what a sick head is capable of [doing].

I submit this to your wisdom, Excellency, as also I hope to go to Angers soon and to propose to Your Excellency the idea of naming as a Superior to the Ladies, one of our Fathers who is wise and prudent, if you should see it as a greater good.

Please accept my sentiments of deepest respect and gratitude with which I am happy to be, Your Excellency's

Most humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. S.S.

Fr. Eymard went to La Mure Aug. 1 to be with his sick sister until approximately the 8th.

1606

CO 1606

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 297/395 VI 2)

La Mure, August 1, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

My sister thanks you sincerely for your prayers, your letter, your kindness toward her. Today I brought her holy Communion: she was very happy about it.

She isn't out of danger, the doctor isn't confident. Today, I'll be going to Notre Dame de La Salette on her behalf.

I don't expect to return to Paris before a week.

Don't worry about Nemours. When I explain everything to you, you'll see that the responsibility you worry about doesn't exist, that every prudent means was taken; but I can't explain it to you in letters. I wrote to the Bishop that I'll go to Angers to reach an agreement with His Excellency about a Superior ... [4 and a half lines erased].

I know that some may have thought that Sr. Benoite's presence in Paris was my doing. You know, dear daughter, that I had asked you to tell her not to come during the Chapter, but it was too late. God sent her in spite of it: blessed be God!

Since whatever may be said in my regard about that would be false, I don't need to worry about it, nor am I responsible for all the gossip resulting from human weakness. If God is for us, those who are against us will be very weak!

Your letter had a tone of sadness and discouragement which would make me sad if I didn't know that grace quickly takes the upper hand over your feelings.

Dear daughter, try to see things in God and for the greater good. You know very well that I am devoted to you in life and death.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

To Very Honorable Mother Superior
of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
10 bis rue de l'Hopital Angers
(Maine and Loire)

1607

CO 1607

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE
(VIII 3/4)

Aug 1, 1865¹³

"A gentleman of Lyons, the father of a family and head of a business enterprise, had long resisted the tender and urgent pleas of his devout sister to return to God and his Christian duties. A good example to set his children, the hereditary piety of his family, his Christian past - nothing moved him. On the contrary, he held it all up to ridicule, and grew insolent when they tried to insist."

At the end of her resources, one day his sister said: "Well, brother, since nothing can move you, I'm off to La Salette to ask the Blessed Virgin for your conversion!" "You can go to Rome or Jerusalem if you like," replied her obstinate brother, "go, then; you'll find me the same as you left me." His sister went rather upset, as her brother had not promised to say an Ave Maria for her. She went on her pilgrimage with devotion; she prayed fervently and with tears on the Holy Mountain. She asked all the pilgrims for their prayers, and she felt that the Most Blessed Virgin had granted her request and that she would find her dear brother in a better frame of mind.

She went away and returned to Lyons; and when she saw her brother she said with some emotion: "Has my wish been granted? I have prayed hard for you, I offered up all the fatigue of the pilgrimage!" The brother said nothing; he was nervous. "Won't you say anything?" begged his sister. "What do you want me to say! I want to remain as I was when you left; I leave you alone, leave me alone, I'm not doing harm to anyone, I'm a decent man. Goodnight, sister; go to bed!" "Oh! the sister went on, "it is impossible that Our Lady of la Salette didn't grant my wish. is your heart harder than a stone?" She could say no more. The brother went to bed, almost angrily.

The poor sister could hardly sleep she was so sad. She prayed, she implored the Good Mother to come to her aid. Well, the next morning, there was a knock at her door. "Who is it?" "It's me, your brother." "What do you want?" "I've had enough; get up, I want to talk to you." She got up, and there was her brother saying: "Take me to your confessor, I want to make my confession. All night I've been suffering like a soul in hell. I've reflected; and I've realized that I was living the life of a

¹³ On August 1st 1865, Father Eymard was giving Evening Instruction at La Salette. He told the story of a CONVERSION, and transcribed it later in the Sanctuary Album. How prematurely aged his handwriting appears!

brute instead of a Christian. I was frightened by my behavior. I'm serious: I want to be converted." The poor sister wept for joy as she embraced her brother. She came with him to see me: the conversion was simple - the Blessed Virgin had done it. He made his confession, and after a period of preparation, he received Communion next to his sister. He was the happiest of men. He was tasting the true happiness of the house of God, and he has persevered. His example was a salutary one for his employees, and a great joy for his family. The tree continues to bear fruits of salvation.

Eymard

1608

CO 1608

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE

(VIII 4/4)¹⁴

"Some time ago,¹⁵ a devout person (sic) had fallen ill. Seeing that she was very weak, her friends sent for her confessor, a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It was evening. They had just recited Matins in the house of the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament. When the confessor had been away a long time, I went to get news of the patient, who was known to me. I found the priest in the courtyard, just coming down from seeing her. "Well, how is the invalid?" "Not too bad," he told me, "I don't think there is any danger." "Did you hear her confession?" "Yes, as a precaution." "Well! since I am here, please come with me to greet her." He came upstairs with me; the patient recognized me. I spoke a few words to her about the Good Lord, and spoke with her friends about her sudden illness; then I saw that she was going into the death agony; she could no longer hear, her eyes were glazed, her limbs motionless. I immediately tried to find her pulse, but it was gone. A cold sweat was beginning, and the death-rattle told me that she would soon be gone..I exclaimed: "She is dying; quick! Extreme Unction!"

At these words, her friend flung herself upon her and cried out, in tears: "Our Lady of La Salette, save her!" She gave her some water from the miraculous fountain. We did not attempt to go for the holy oils, for, scarcely had we given her the La Salette water then the death-rattle ceased with her breathing, her limbs stiffened, and the chill of death told us that it was all over. We let her head fall back on the pillow - until then we had been holding it to ease her. Everyone burst into tears, for she was a good, devout person.

I knelt beside the bed to say the De Profundis, and, as I was reciting it, unable to continue, I complained to the Blessed Virgin. "How can it be that Our Lady of La Salette, who is so kind and so powerful, has not allowed her time to receive the last sacraments?" I said to myself.

Five or six minutes went by, and then the dead woman rose, sat down, and looked at us in surprise: "What's the matter?" she said. "You look so sad; what's happened?" When we saw her move and speak we were so astonished that no one could answer her. I stood up trembling, and leaned against the wall, while the others murmured in astonishment. "We thought you were dead," I said to her at last. "But I am not in pain, I am well" - and there she was, talking away to everyone, and the next moment they brought her some soup which she drank.

My confrere and I went away, blessing God. I thought the poor lady would need at least a few days' convalescence; but, next morning, as I was saying the 6 o'clock Mass, the first person to whom I gave Communion was our resurrected lady. Respect for this sacred function and the holy place made me hold my surprise in check, but increased my gratitude. The cure was complete.

After Holy Mass, I sent for the happy lady in the parlor, and asked her what had happened the

¹⁴ To the same audience, on August 1st, 1865, the Father repeated the story of the cure of which he had written first to Miss de Brissac and transcribed it in the Album du Sanctuary, August 3rd, 1865.

¹⁵ Fr. Eymard wrote to Miss Louise de Brissac about this cure at the end of 1859 (Doc. 903). However the Blessed Sacrament Fathers were founded only in 1856. He also refers to the cure of Miss Guillot in Doc. 134 to Fr. Melin, Dec. 8, 1849.

day before.

She replied, "I was about to pass from this world to the other, I felt I was holding on to life by a mere thread, a breath, when I seemed to see Our Lady of La Salette, who said to me: 'My daughter, I have obtained mercy for you.' I opened my eyes, I could hear, and I felt I was cured."

"But," I said, "how was the Most Blessed Virgin dressed?" "She wore a crown made of rays of light, she had seven swords in her heart, and a cross with a hammer on one side and pincers on the other."

"What was her robe like?"

"I can't say for certain - it was white, but such a white as I've never seen."

"And her face?"

"Oh! she looked kind, but dignified - it was such a kindness that it opened your heart and made you want to go to her; but such dignity, such a noble great manner that inspires respect, but a loving respect."

This is the story of a grace of which I was the happy witness. The lady is still alive, and she has gratitude and devotion for Our Lady of La Salette which keeps her always happy and faithful.

La Salette, August 3rd 1865

(Signed) Eymard

1609

CO 1609

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)

(II 298/395 VI 2)

Paris, August 11, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Here I am in Paris. When I left my poor sister she was still very ill. When I was leaving Wednesday morning she said to me: "We won't see each other again." Could it be true? May the holy will of God be done! She is so weak! I continue to recommend her to your prayers; she really likes to receive your letters; she told me to tell you so. When I arrived she insisted that I write to you: you know that she loves you very much.

I haven't seen or done anything here yet.

Fr. Champion will arrive shortly. I went to Notre Dame de La Salette, and stayed there three days, but I was unable to go to Laus: the bad weather stopped me. Then also, I was a bit tired from my climb to the holy mountain.

I brought you water from the miraculous fountain to Paris.

I'll send it to you in the mail. You will have twenty liters.

I saw ... your dear sisters. I was very pleased to find your sister Jenny well. I had the joy of saying holy Mass at Fourviere. It's understood that I didn't forget you anywhere, nor your dear daughters.

I bless you and leave you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1610

CO 1610

TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS
(VI 5/7)

Paris, August 11, 1865

Dear Brother Marie,

This is just to greet you briefly from the heart - and to tell you how glad I was to hear of your complete exemption from military service. - So now you are quite free from all worldly bonds. So, dear brother, you must belong completely to our good Master, to his service and his love. It was for this that he has shielded you with his protection, that you might be his true Adorer. The devil may perhaps show you the world in bright colors, and the example of those who find salvation there. Do not listen to him, dear brother. You are in the ark of salvation; be sure to stay there. You are in our Lord's family; bind yourself to it wholeheartedly. Love your Superiors as Fathers, as they love you tenderly; and I am the first, as I keep in mind your devotion to the service of the good Master.

I bless you, dear brother.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

1611

CO 1611

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

Paris, August 16, 1865

Thank you, dear sister, and you too, Nanette, for giving me news about yourselves. I am so far away and I worry about you; although when I left you were slightly better. But I am afraid lest that improvement may be set back by your weakened state. I am praying to the Good Lord for you, dear sister, and they are praying for you in all the houses of the Society.

May our Lord comfort and heal you! However, dear sister, we must always conclude with our good Master's own prayer: "My God, may your holy will and not mine be done." If the Good Lord wants to call you to Heaven, to be with him, to be perfectly lovingly his! I certainly do not wish to delay your happiness, and you, my sister, you love God more than life, more than anything. But I like to hope, and I pray for a little delay, so as to keep you a little longer, and I always end by saying as you do: whatever the Good Lord wills!

I believe you have put on your Scapulars again; do keep them on.

I had a good trip and arrived in Paris Thursday evening and I began the retreat on Friday. Have trust and courage.

And you, dear Nanette, look after yourself a little more, to be able to look after your sister.

I bless you. All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,
Eymard

1612

CO 1612

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 133/145) VI 10

Paris, August 19, 1865

Dear sisters,

I sent you the books I promised. Keep a copy. I am happy to give it to you, it is: The Sorrowful Passion and the Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, seven volumes in all. Fr. Faure and Fr. Girolet¹⁶ will send for their copies. I wanted to pay for the postage here; but it was not accepted because of the intermediary coaches. The kind Fathers will reimburse you for it.

Since I didn't receive news from you, dear sister, I suppose that your strength must be returning little by little and that, with the help of God and the Blessed Virgin, you will soon recover from the serious illness which obtained many prayers for you and, I hope, many merits before God as well.

As for me, I am here in the midst of all my affairs, but I am well.

Believe me in our Lord,

Dear sisters,

All yours,

Your brother,

Eymard, S.

1613

CO 1613

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 72/104)

Paris, August 19, 1865

Madame in our Lord Jesus Christ,

I am back in Paris after a trip to La Mure, where my poor sister is very ill. She was still sick when I had to leave her since duty was calling me back to Paris. Everything went well during our General Chapter. Our good Master presided over it, peace and harmony prevailed.

So I find myself reelected for life: these are really the galleys of religious life because it means sacrificing one's freedom, almost one's peace.

I prayed a great deal on your beautiful anniversary, which must be very special to you, since it brings back such beautiful and holy memories.

I am planning to go to Angers at the end of the month. I'll write to you from there. If I can find a free day, I'll even go to Nantes.

We'll discuss the retreat, but if you are a little tired, don't think about it, you would do it poorly.

Leave death where it is: for your part, place yourself in our Lord's life, in his goodness and infinite mercy. We must owe everything to his divine Heart, and rest securely only in him.

Therefore, I bless you in him and I am, dear Lady,

All yours,

Eymard, S.¹⁷

¹⁶ The parish priests.

¹⁷ S. = abbreviation for Superior.

1614

CO 1614

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU
(V 28/52)

Paris, August 19, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I have just returned from La Mure. I left my poor sister still very ill in God's hands. For her, death would be a gain, but a loss for the village because she does good there. However, the greater good is the holy Will of God. May this holy Will be done. Therefore, I adore it in advance and submit to everything.

Oh! This visit showed me the emptiness of this world, and how great is the grace of God which helps us to sanctify this poor life and to glorify God by our Lord!

I was thinking so seldom of Heaven, drawn on by activity or by the desire that God be glorified. Heaven is more present to me, more desirable, more everything. It is the Ocean from which flow all the little streams of our small virtues, our weak merits; it's the perfection and consummation of divine love, and that's saying everything.

Continue to direct your heart to this beautiful path, but a heart that has wings, the two wings of trust and generosity.

This life is changeable, but one thing must not be, that is fidelity to the love of our Lord.

And so, as long as this fidelity is operative, things are fine. Whether we have more or less feeling is only incidental.

I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your devoted servant,
Eymard

P.S. I am planning to go to Angers at the end of this month.

1615

CO 1615

TO MME. GAUTHIER (NEE COURT)¹⁸
(VII 1/1)

Paris, rue fg St. Jacques, 68, August 20, 1865

Dear Lady,

I am keeping note for your brother Jules. It was too late to arrange things for him at this time, for the Assumption. We will work for the next promotion. Tell him not to become discouraged, that he will get there. It's true that patronage is very powerful now as always. But with his sense of responsibility and his studies he will not be without it.

Thank you for your friendship toward my dear good sister. I am so sad about it, it makes me ill, because I am really afraid to lose her. I am begging the Good Lord to leave her a while longer. However, she belongs to God before being ours - may his holy will be done. If La Mure were not so far, I would return very quickly.

¹⁸ From La Mure

The Mark of the Passion

I would be grateful if you would go see her, and give me news about her. Nanette is quite concerned.

I'm very united to you in our Lord, dear Lady,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Please have the enclosed letter remitted to proper address.

A letter to Marguerite Guillot published in French as Aug. 21, 1865, is misdated. The contents indicate it was written Nov. 29.

1616

CO 1617

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 1/20)¹⁹

Paris, August 21, 1865

Madame,

I only have time to tell you that Mr. Octave Ravache, (Avenue de la Sante, 11) gratefully accepts a position as accountant under your son. As soon as you have a vacant position, he will be happy to fill it. I am leaving for Angers until Friday night.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was happy to meet your dear son.

1617

CO 1616

TO AN UNKNOWN DIRECTEE
(VII 1/1)²⁰

Paris, August 21, 1865

Very dear Sister,

Thank you for your good letter. I was worried about you.

I left my poor sister quite ill. May the Holy Will of God be done! Do pray for her, because the priests of the village neglect the sick.

I prayed for you at Notre Dame de La Salette. I didn't have time to go to Notre Dame du Laus and then I was not well.

¹⁹ First of excerpts from 19 letters and a spiritual schedule.

²⁰ The original belongs to the Fraternite Sacerdotale.

The Mark of the Passion

I will leave at 9:00 this morning for Angers. The Bishop wants to name a Superior;²¹ he is waiting for me. I will do what God wills. I will stay in Angers until Friday, because I will preach for adoration here in Paris on Saturday.

Write to me in Angers. If you can, give me a message for Mme. d'Andigne. I suppose that you will wait for my return to Paris, in order that I may see you.

I bless you. Belong entirely to our Lord on the Cross. Offer him everything and when he shows you the sins and frailties of the world, it is so that you might ask his forgiveness and pray for sinners.²²

I bless you again.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I am sending you a picture of Rome for your desk

Aug 23	Conference Servants:	(Angers) Be happy with God.
Aug 24	Conference Servants:	Calm.

Aug. 26 - Return to Paris.

1618

CO 1618

TO MISS DE MEEUS
(VI 11/22)

Paris, August 28, 1865

Mademoiselle,

I shall be with you tomorrow, Tuesday. I've been in Paris only two days, which is why I have been late in answering the good Father's letter. I will go to Brussels to see you and tell you of my goodwill, but also that it is impossible for us to make a foundation at this time.

So we shall see what is to be done for the glory of our good and common Master, in Whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

²¹ for the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

²² At this point the page is cut about 33 to 34 millimeters.

1619

CO 1619

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 300/395 VI 2)

Paris, September 2, 1865

Dear daughter,

I'm sending you Nanette's letter. My poor sister is going to the Good Lord. I'm very busy here in Paris.

Monday morning I'll go to see Mr. False. I've just arrived from Brussels, where I didn't settle anything. My purpose was to listen.

I believe that you have signed the authorization.

Mr. Sterlingue wanted to go to extremes. The court officer said that bad advice had brought him to that.

Thank you for Sr. Benoite's letters. I have your money. I'll send it to you. I have time only to bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1620

CO 1620

TO MLLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 127/145)

Paris, Sunday, September 3, 1865²³

Dear sisters,

I have a few free days ahead of me, and I plan to go see you.

I will get there Tuesday night or Wednesday of this week, Thursday at the latest.

May the Good Lord bring you relief, dear sister, may he bless my arrival and my stay.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

²³ In the French Volume, 1863, but Sunday, September 3, was in 1865. Troussier.

1621

CO 1621

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 301/395 VI 2)

Paris, September 4, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,²⁴

I've just seen Mr. False. What a difficult man! He no longer wants to dialogue. He wants to keep his rights, while leaving you free to build. - "Yes," I answered, "but what guarantee would they have that you wouldn't harass them later on after they have built? Will you give it to them?" - "No" - "Well! They cannot." - Then he leveled every kind of criticism against the closed alley, every imaginable thing that could be said. I came back to it 5 times, but no way. I offered 600 francs. He didn't give in. Finally, I said to him: "You are the only one, everyone else has agreed." - "What do I care? I am keeping my rights," he said. "But if we had taken your architect at his word when he asked for 600 francs, it would be done." - "No," he said, "I hadn't given any order. I consulted and I was advised to keep my rights."

I tried every persuasive argument and every reason. Finally we had to give up. He showed me his stores and finally, at the door, I argued with him again. His sister had written him a very nice letter in your favor. Finally, I was very sad. Then he promised to write to his architect in Angers saying that he would send me his decision here. I hope, in spite of his harshness, that he will let himself be won over. So be patient for a few more days.

I'm leaving tomorrow for La Mure: I received a letter from the doctor. Write to me there.

Fr. Champion will conclude the negotiations with Mr. False. I am keeping 800 francs for that and returning 1200.

I have time only to bless you.

1622

CO 1622

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 302/395 VI 2)

Paris, September 4, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,²⁵

I am sending you 1200 francs. I kept 600 francs for Mr. False and 200 francs which I am borrowing from you. I am leaving immediately; the doctor's letter implies that the end is near. I bless you.

²⁴ This letter was copied from a text in Rev. Mother Marguerite's handwriting, not from the original.

²⁵ This letter was copied from a text of Rev. Mother Marguerite, not from the original.

1623

CO 1623

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

(I 155/181 VI 2)

Paris, September 5, 1865

Very dear Father,

I am sending you the plans for the foundation written by the Ladies from Brussels. I added my own notes to it, in agreement with Fr. Champion. Please examine both, share it with Fr. Leroyer and tell me your opinion.

I had to go to Brussels, obliged by these Ladies, because of the lodgings they have and in order not to cause them any loss. I saw His Eminence, he was very kind. It is quite evident that we cannot do anything this year; I told them so.

Pray for my sister who is at the end of her life. My consolation is that she belongs fully to God.

I am all yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.²⁶

1624

CO 1624

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)

(II 303/395 VI 2)

La Mure, September 8, 1865

Dear daughter,

We are here at La Mure with Sr. B. and Miss Sterlingue.

I thought it was necessary to see Nemours and the work being done there, before coming here, as I don't know how long I will stay here. Sr. Benoite was there. I brought her here as well as Miss Sterlingue who really needed it. Sr. B. made the trip without being overtired. However, she hopes to go to Notre Dame de La Salette to fulfill her vow. We found my dear sister's health improved. Because of the novena which ended last Monday she has seemed to be much better for the last three days.

This morning, I said holy Mass for her in her room and gave her Communion. She was very happy about it, and so was I. This afternoon she was very sick and tonight she is very weak. Poor sister! Might this be a ray of hope just to comfort us for a moment? Heaven seems to be calling her.

Thank you for your good idea about the vows. I will give it some thought and do it, if possible.

I had mentioned a young 20 year old woman to you, a friend of ours who doesn't have a dowry at this time. She is fine. See whether Sr. Benoite could bring her with her. I find her very fine; she knows how to sew well, has good health, is modest, and belongs to a good family. The mail is leaving.

I bless you.

Eymard

²⁶ SSS = abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

1625

CO 1625

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 304/395 VI 2)

La Mure, September 11, 1865

Dear daughter,

I'm writing to give you news about myself. My sister is still with us, her condition hasn't changed. Fatigue and weakness follow after an apparent improvement. However, on Monday, at the end of the novena you had requested for my sister, she was much better. She has since attributed this improvement to the novena, and it's only right.

We are leaving today for Notre Dame de La Salette, hoping that our good Mother will complete what she has begun, or obtain us all the grace to glorify God in these solemn moments which are so painful to bear. Sr. B. is well in the afternoons. Mornings and evenings she isn't well. Some sediment has settled, sometimes she suffers a great deal. I hope that Our Lady of La Salette will give her a little more strength. My sister was happy to see her ... [two lines erased].

Every day I say holy Mass in my sister's room. It's a great consolation for her.

Continue your prayers for us, we will not forget you.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

1626

CO 1626

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 305/395 VI 2)

La Mure, September 15, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

We've just safely returned from Notre Dame de La Salette and from Laus. You know that we remembered you and all your dear daughters.

Sr. Benoite made the ascent and descent of the holy mountain without fatigue and without incident.

When we arrived at La Salette on the evening of the 11th at 7:30, Sr. Benoite went to the miraculous fountain and was instantaneously healed from the sediment in her head and ears ... [8 lines erased] happy at Notre Dame du Laus. She stayed at the same place you did, she prayed for you. This pilgrimage was a source of grace and consolation.

We were at Laus on Wednesday the 13th when my sister nearly died. She regained consciousness after a weak spell that lasted three hours.

Today the 15th, when we returned, we found her as well as when we had left her, which gave us great comfort. She isn't out of danger yet. I'm waiting a few more days before deciding about my return. If I were not to return soon, I would send back Sr. Benoite and Miss Sterlingue to you. This trip helped them both very much, and really pleased my sister ... [2 lines erased].

I'm quite surprised by Mr. False's refusal. When I go back to Paris I'll see if there is any way of coming back on it.

About Nemours, we all thought the Good Lord wanted this foundation in order to have another throne, and also to provide the motherhouse of Angers a very useful annex.

As far as the other difficulties are concerned, our Good Master is there to come to our aid.

Some difficulties kill a work, others make it live and grow. I hope your difficulties will be the latter. Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1627

CO 1627

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 306/395 VI 2)

La Mure, September 20, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to give you our news. My sister is better, her coughing stopped when we returned from Notre Dame du Laus. That evening I anointed her with oil from the sanctuary lamp of Laus, she slept well and did not cough in the morning. Since that time, I have been anointing her with holy oil, with the same results. So, because of this grace, she promised to go thank our good Mother at Laus. I think I'll be able to leave my sister toward the end of the week. I will try to go see your kind sisters and Miss Baillet, as you said. Sr. Benoite left Monday for Grenoble and Lyons, accompanied by Miss Euphrasie Ravanat and Miss Jenny Sterlingue. They left a big vacuum here. My sister is constantly saying: "Oh! The house is so empty."

I informed your sisters and Mme. Gourd about their arrival.

Our pilgrimages were successful.

... [14 lines erased].

They keep a delightful memory of Laus. It's because they were very recollected there; it's the grace of the place.

From Lyons, she will go to Nemours to see the repairs. I thought what had been done was fine, it will be enough to begin and won't cost much.

From there, she will go to Angers. She has been absent from there for so long!...

My sister and Nanette made their profession on Sunday, on the feast of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, September 17. They are very happy about it. My sister has already repeated to me several times to tell you that you are now her mother and her kind mother and that she is your daughter, the same for Nanette.

She is very happy to have holy Mass every day.

I long to return to the Most Blessed Sacrament: one feels so poor, so ill at ease, far from that sun of love.

Your letter informs me that you are getting weaker and weaker. Please put aside all the exercises that tire you, for you must recover the necessary strength to work for the greater glory of our Lord. The Work is still so weak! There is generosity, that's true, but not deep roots. It must be watered by one's sufferings, prayers and virtues, in order that it might flourish in God's sight.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you, you and all your daughters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. In Paris I kept quiet about the trip.... I didn't even say anything to

1628

CO 1628

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 73/104)

La Mure, September 20, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to give you a sign of life. For the last two weeks I have been with my sister who is gravely ill. I owed her this comfort and my godmother, too. She has been somewhat better for the last few days, thanks to Our Lady of Laus and la Salette. So, I expect to return to Paris in a few days. I'm eager to return to my prie-dieu, because, when we aren't meant to live in the world, we feel very uneasy there. We hardly know how to serve God when we are outside of our source of grace and life.

This experience shows me how necessary it is to maintain a spiritual schedule, to be strict about our daily exercises, under pain of barrenness and great suffering. I want to tell you that because I know how strictly you keep to your schedule and how obedient you are to follow the way that was outlined; rely on that for your progress in virtue and your perseverance in the love of God.

I leave you in our Lord and expect to receive news from you in Paris within a week.

Believe me in our Lord,

Madame,
Your totally devoted,
Eymard, P.S.²⁷

1629

CO 1629

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 29/52)

La Mure (Isere), September 20, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to give you news about my dear sister who was ill and dying, the reason for my trip and stay here. I didn't even think that I would find her alive. We prayed so much to the most blessed Virgin; we even made a pilgrimage to Notre Dame de La Salette and Laus. It really made us feel good to find her better when we returned.

The anointing done with the blessed oil from the sanctuary lamp of Laus stopped her coughing which was exhausting her so. She was able to rest. This improvement will allow me to leave for Paris in a few days.

We must truly love the Good Lord for himself, that is true and pure love. - He loves you so - that is what I am asking for you. Because to love God is everything; to be loved by him is the supreme happiness; to serve him through virtue and obedience is sovereign perfection.

I am in our Lord, Madame,

Your all devoted,

²⁷ P.S. = abbreviation for Priest, Superior.

1630

CO 1630

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 5/15)

La Mure, September 21, 1865

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I am really late with you! Two trips to my sister, who was really ill, kept me busy.

My sister is a little better and I expect to return to Paris in a few days. Should you have any errands to give me, I shall be in Lyons around the beginning of next week, and I will go to get them at Mr. de St. Bonnet, rue Sala, or at least from his Porter.

I am happy to see that your chapel is almost finished and will be ready for All Saints. If I can respond to such a fine invitation, I would surely be happy to do so.

As for your mother, I still cannot answer, because the Bishop is difficult about granting such permissions. Only a necessity could make the Bishop budge; he did not even want to give Sr. Benoite permission to go to the springs, even though she was very ill.

If I had a day to myself, I would go as far as Lantignie, but with my sick sister, I cannot make any plans.

May God bless your dear and holy family, and let you share in the hundredfold of the Gospel.

My devoted respects to your dear wife.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1631

CO 1631

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION SSS
(I 4/5 VI 1)

La Mure, September 23, 1865

Very dear Father,

Miss Guillot from Angers wrote to tell me about her difficulties in regard to the alley which is to be opened or closed.

Mr. Placet, the notary at the post office of Angers, notified the Ladies to pay 500 francs within a week, or once this extension passed, he will force them to open the alley.

Mr. False is the only one opposed, after requesting 600 francs in compensation and creating a thousand difficulties. I went to see him before leaving. He had promised me he would take care of it and write to tell me so in Paris.

Dear Father, kindly go to see him and bring him my letter immediately. If you don't gain anything, write to tell Mother in Angers (Rue de l'Hopital, 10 bis). They will have to redo the wall of the alley, open it and lose the 400 francs they have already given. Hell is let loose.

I will be with you at the end of next week. My sister's health continues to improve.

All yours, dear Father,
Eymard

1632

CO 1632

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 307/395 VI 2)

La Mure, September 23, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I wrote to Fr. Champion and to Mr. False, asking Father to write to tell you the answer immediately, which I hope will be favorable. Write a note to Mr. Placet, the notary, in the following terms:

“Sir, I am still determined to give you 5000 francs for compensation. I am waiting for Mr. False’s answer regarding his share.

I’ve just written to him, begging him to bring the matter to a close.

Therefore, Sir, kindly wait a little to allow for the time needed to receive his answer. We regret that this matter was so poorly handled. We deeply regret it and we have decided to bring the matter to a close, and if necessary, even to go elsewhere.

I have the honor of being respectfully yours....”

My sister is holding her own. I hope to be in Lyons Monday night or Tuesday morning.

Take heart, dear daughter. Difficulties are only opportunities for virtue. Let trust in God be your armor.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1633

CO 1633

TO MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANN-MARIE DU SS)
(III 20/21)

La Mure, Monday, September 25, 1865

Dear sister,

I was due to leave this morning and go to spend the night in Lyons, but last night my sister was not as well. So I stayed here today. I will probably not be in Lyons until Wednesday morning. Sister Benoite wrote to tell me to go see Mme. Morel at her home. Therefore I will go to the Carthusians, then to you, in the afternoon, I hope. It is all very conditional, for between now and Wednesday, how will my sister be? So I mention it tentatively, because I can’t know when I will leave from Grenoble for Lyons.

Sr. Benoite found Mme. G. very sick.²⁸ We must really pray for her.

I bless you dear daughter. My sister was very happy with your letter and your kind regards, as was Nanette. Greetings from the heart for your good sister Jenny.

All yours,
Eymard

²⁸ Mme. Gourd at Lantignie.

P.S. - I re-opened my letter to tell you that my sister has just had a weak spell so I cannot specify the day nor the hour when I will come. If she has no others, I still hope to go spend the night in Lyons; but don't expect me, because I would be arriving too late.

1634

CO 1634

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 14/14)

La Mure, September 25, 1865

Dear friend in our Lord,

I'm really late with you! not in God's sight, but according to the law of friendship.

I shared deeply in the Christian death of Madame your mother. This death must have been very painful to such a son's heart!

She died as she had lived, as a holy soul. God gave her a great consolation when he gave you to her devotedness. You helped her until her last breath; that must have given your heart such grief, and yet it was also a grace for both of you.

So, dear friend, all our near and dear ones are leaving. A void is being created: God remains, replaces and fills everything. We will meet again in Heaven, walk toward it with giant steps, in the shadow of the cross of our divine Master.

For the last four weeks, I have been here, near my sister, who is very ill; she was in imminent danger of death. God is sustaining her between life and death. However, I expect to leave her tomorrow or the next day and return to my prie-Dieu.

Goodbye, good and dear friend, have courage and surrender into God's hands.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

To Father de Leudeville
at Leudeville
via Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seine-et-Oise)

1635

CO 1635

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 308/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 1, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I arrived in Paris yesterday morning. I didn't have time to write to you right away.

I left my sister in fair condition. I left her Wednesday.

I couldn't leave sooner because she nearly died from a slight indigestion on Sunday and on Monday from a weak spell. Thanks be to God, the danger passed. I hope she will soon be better.

In Lyons I saw your two sisters; Sr. Mariette is much better. Sr. Jenny is well enough, they are especially very prudent.

I saw Miss.... Her condition frightened me Wednesday night. I saw her when I arrived; she expressed the desire to see me on the next day, Thursday. I stayed because of her; fortunately she was a little better on Thursday.

I saw Nemours in passing, it will be ready soon. It will be the Good Master's Paradise.

Fr. Champion saw Mr. False and gave him my letter. He was proper and said that if his tenants consented, he would gladly consent. So then, it is a matter of calling his tenants together. It might be done by Mr. Neveu, your notary, at his place, or by Dussouchet, your architect.

See what needs to be done. I don't see what advantage there would be in my bringing them together, since we have Mr. False's word. Look into it and write to me, because if my presence were necessary I couldn't refuse you anything.

I have time only to bless you and tell you, dear daughter, that I am in our Lord, devoted to you and your dear family.

Eymard

P.S. ... will tell you the rest. I saw Miss Baillet. She is better than I expected. I think she will come right away, I am writing to her today.

1636

CO 1636

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 4/12)

Paris, October 1, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Mother will tell you why I was so late in leaving La Mure. My sister had an attack of indigestion and was very weak, but I left her in better health and convalescing. She always remembers her dear Sister Benoitte; you helped her a great deal. I have brought her photograph, but it isn't very good. Nanette said she would have another taken.

I hope our Lord will let us keep this dear sister; I found her very ill, but slightly better on Thursday. I went to look for you on Thursday in Nemours. I saw Baudin on Saturday. He had only one more hour of work to do.

Mr. Laret is to send me all his notes for the altar and the various furnishings.

The good Master didn't will that I should find you still here. You are in his dwelling and at his feet. Your heart must have felt a great need to see him again and adore him upon his modest throne.

We must pray to ask him to bring these little problems in Angers to an end; or ask him whether it is a sign that the house should be moved elsewhere, or whether we should limit it to one if the little street is opened, but may his holy will be done.

I hope, dear daughter, that you have rested a little from your journey and your fatigue. You really needed it.

Your daughters and sisters and especially Mother must have welcomed you with great joy, and I am very glad of it. You may write to me in image and sign, as you like. Do not forget how hard you must pray for me and for my three graces.

I don't need to tell you that I do the same for you. One does not forget a child whom God has entrusted to us.

Every blessing in our Lord,
Eymard

1637

CO 1637

TO MME. HOMMAY
(III 1/1)²⁹

A.R.T.

Paris, October 2, 1865

Madame,

I've just arrived from a long trip, and on my return I found your letter which had remained here.

I hold good Miss Ann Lecointe in high esteem. She has had terrible trials which she has borne and sanctified well.

I would like her to be received with the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, but it has become difficult in Angers, because of the Carmelites, and the confessor to the Carmelites who is also the confessor for these Ladies.... This poor sister has suffered quite a bit! I had written a favorable letter for her, when I received one showing me the present impossibility. - Keep her if you can, for she truly loves God. Present her my faithful regards and tell her that I do not forget her before God.

With respect I am in our Lord,

Madame,

Your very humble servant,
Eymard, Sup.

1638

CO 1638

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 2/20)

Paris, October 2, 1865

Madame in our Lord,³⁰

I have just arrived from my sister's home. I left her feeling a little better. God has delayed her reward, for she is entirely his. When I arrived, I found your letter of September 2nd. So you have been waiting a long time. Come when you want to, especially in the morning. We will discuss the little journal, your schedule and your soul.

In our Lord, Madame, your respectfully devoted,

Eymard

²⁹ Letter about Sr. Constance (formerly Miss Ann Lecointe). The name of Mme. Hommay is provided by the Archives of the Servants.

³⁰ Excerpt from a letter.

1639

CO 1639

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 309/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 4, 1865

Dear daughter,

Thank you for today's letter: mine was already written. I am sending it to you just the same and I am submitting it to you for study. Believe me that I have nothing ... on the contrary. I am totally dedicated to help her, but we must see things as they are. I will go see Mr. False. I would also want to see a lawyer.

I promise to take care of your affair. If the Bishop comes to see you, say that my sister's illness kept me there with her.

I have time only to bless you.

Eymard

1640

CO 1640

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 310/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 6, 1865

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your letter. Yes, it requires reflection, prayer and strength, for we must find a mistress of novices for Angers, a Superior for Nemours, and choose the subjects. We must do so trusting in God.

I don't know whether the feelings I experience come from any other motivation than God's, but I favor putting Sr. B. in closer union with God. So much external life must fatigue her soul and harm her grace; it is clear that she needs God.

The dealer for the oven will be going over there on Tuesday. Do you want him to go as far as Angers to fix yours? He says it is not working. I will wait for your answer.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I wrote to your sister Mariette in Lyons to send Miss Baillet; however, I am the only one who knows her. So I must go to meet her; I will do so once I know the day and time of her arrival.

1641

CO 1641

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 12/22)

Paris, October 6, 1865

Mademoiselle,

I am at your disposal. I would like, however, to have our meeting as soon as possible, on account of many things which may call me elsewhere.

Your proposal has made our Fathers a little less enthusiastic. I like to believe that a frank and clear conversation, as you like to have, will show everyone our mutual goodwill.

I shall wait for you to kindly set a date and am in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.

1642

CO 1642

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 74/104)

Paris, October 8, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I have just returned from la Mure, I left my sister feeling a little better. Now I'm back to my usual pace. I still don't know when I will go to Angers; I'll let you know. I think it will be after the 15th.

You belong completely to God and your neighbor at this time, that's fine. Both laws are fulfilled. However, be sure that God is the law, grace and purpose of everything.

Good Fr. R. is urging you to be gentle, that's fine. Often make this invocation:

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine.

I leave you at the feet of our good Master and bless you very personally in his divine love.

Eymard, P.S.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 51/52)

Paris, October 8, 1865

Dear sister and daughter in our Lord,

Your letter delighted me. My soul often went to Joasson alone and returned the same!

In your charity, please forgive my silence, but I don't excuse it myself. My great fault is to wait to have more free time for my friends, and this is almost always lacking.

I stayed in Rome five months and since I arrived I have done nothing but travel. I can't remember your letter [expressing your] inner distress. Your soul is too dear to me to neglect it. Your letter must have missed me; but God didn't fail you. This is what consoles me. He will never fail you, for you are entirely his. However, God likes to cast a soul into a mysterious abyss, so that it may free itself and attach itself more purely to him.

I remain devoted to you, whenever your needs and thoughts tell you to write to me. I may perhaps be more fortunate then, at least I will always receive news from you and your loved ones with joy in our Lord. Then, from time to time, we need to open our soul, to submit it to obedience, and to God's blessing.

I really regretted that I couldn't see your dear eldest [son] more often. The best time to see me freely is in the morning or after 6:30 at night. I may be freer, but I must admit that I am not a strong column, but a very weak reed. I am happy with the good news about Albert; the heart is usually a sign of God's voice. He loves the Marists; that is a good sign, since they are so good! I can only bless such a thought.

Courage, dear daughter and sister in our Lord, the love of Jesus is really neglected and even humiliated in the Christian world; devout souls too often forget the God of the Tabernacle: so he really remains alone. Feed this fire which God has enkindled through you; that is your mission, you can't have a more beautiful one.

Please believe that I remain very united to you in your good and divine Master.

All yours,
Eymard, S

P.S. I must have sent the certificate for the Pastor of St. Andre-de-Tarare; but lest I didn't do so, I am sending you this one. Since I'm not sure of his name, please write it where there is a star. I will say your Masses at the first open date.

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 30/52)

October 8, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I owe you a little note. I have been here in Paris for a few days. I left my sister slightly better.

I am back to my usual life here. We are preparing a beautiful First Communion for All Saints Day. If only you could be here! You would be edified and consoled by it.

I don't know when I will go back to Angers. I hope to go during the month or after All Saints. I will let you know.

I am sending you a charming little book in the mail. I hope that it will help you.

I am pleased about the person God entrusted to me.³¹ She has suffered greatly from moral, physical and even spiritual sufferings. Her state was very sad, close to despair. Her poor thoughts were at the point of exasperation, and blasphemy even rolled around her soul like the thunder of the storm. Poor soul! and alone at that! I really felt badly, and I would pity her greatly if I didn't know that her heart belongs entirely to God in the midst of such horrors, that her virtue which has been so tested has remained faithful to her Communions and to a strict and military obedience. That is what is saving her and makes her very pleasing to God, for she certainly loves God more than herself, and God is very pleased with her, for she is suffering martyrdom in this painful state. In fact, it isn't when God is carrying us, feeding us with his consolations, sharing all his favors with us, that our love has value, but truly when, like Job, we praise him in adversity. Like our Savior in the Garden of Olives [our love] drinks the offered chalice... and suffers with still greater love, even the desertion of his heavenly Father. Then love is generous and victorious.

That soul is very dear to me in our Lord. I must let it suffer, since God wills it so, but I offer it to God a hundred times over and pray for her. I recommend her to you so that she may be patient in bearing with herself, faithful to obey (because that is her life-raft), generous in overcoming herself, and always kind to those who surround her and who have no doubts about her interior martyrdom.

I recommend myself to your prayers in your devout and blessed chapel, where Jesus finds delight in his solitude of love, having only you as his court and for his graces.

Kindly believe me in his divine charity, Madame,

Your respectful servant,
Eymard

³¹ Using the third person, St. Peter Julian describes her state of soul.

1645

CO 1645

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 7/26)

Paris, October 9, 1865

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to tell you that I am in Paris. When I left my sister she was feeling better after several visits to the gates of eternity. I hope that God will let her work a little longer.

I am drinking the water you gave me,³² thank you. I would remember you without it, but more so with this charity of yours.

So now you are at home at Rennes, and our good Master with you. Be at peace there and faithful to your times of silence and prayer. Now that you have found God, be sure to be with him and be his good and loving companion.

Please ask your dear friend to send another letter to her father for me for my protege in view of the job we are requesting. I left hers at La Mure, after addressing it carefully and [putting it away] not to lose it.

Give me news about both of you.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1646

CO 1646

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 61/75)

Paris, October 9, 1865

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to answer your last letter briefly.

I returned a second time to see my sister. The doctor had written to tell me that she would die. God has left her on earth for a while. She was better when I left.

I was very happy to see good Fr. Peuriere again. He is truly a man of God! Draw all the good you can from him.

So dear Father Seymat is at Pont! That village really needs a saint. On your part, you ought to thank God for knowing them and for having been able to benefit from them. God alone remains. You are at Calet! You will have more time for yourself there, to belong more to God, to be more at his service! That's fine; we must breathe deeply in God, with a deep breath, and live in him.

After all, a life of union with God is the only true life. Exterior activity only exhausts our weak virtue.

Thank you for the news about Mme. Nugues. It would please me to see her again. May God help her and console her in her states of suffering.

My religious respects to your dear Mathilde who shares your life and goes directly to God.

³² Spring water? Blessed water?

I bless you in our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.³³

1647

CO 1647

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 3/20)

Paris, October 9, 1865

Madame,³⁴

Allow me to send you the little letter I am sending to your son as a souvenir. My poor young man is suffering and I with him, but I hope that his waiting will soon come to an end. It is truly a good work to help these fine young Christians whom the world rejects and whom the devil wants to drive to despair.

In our Lord, Madame, your respectful and devoted servant,

Eymard

1648

CO 1648

TO A FOUNDRESS OF A CONGREGATION OF ADORERS
(VIII 1)

Paris, Rue fg St. Jacques 65, Oct. 9, 1865

Very esteemed Mother,

I owe you many thanks for having thought of us. It is true that, as we are consecrated to the same end - the service of adoration of our Lord in his august Sacrament of love, we are brothers and sisters in our vocations; and so I am happy to learn of your existence and your tribulations. Eucharistic vocations always have the mark of the Passion on them, since the divine Eucharist is the admirable and perpetual continuation of the Passion. Do not be discouraged by your trials. Do not unite yourselves to any other Institution. Keep your initial grace - coming from God as it does, the work will bear fruit one day. I pray and will have prayers said for you. I ask you the same favor.

(If a young Miss Proux from Rouen, formerly a novice with the Benedictines, asks you to let her enter, I do not advise it. I believe she has already made several fruitless attempts.) I await your rules or projects for rules and if I can help you I shall do so gladly.

My respectful good wishes to your good Sister Assistant whom I unfortunately do not know very well.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.Soc.SS.³⁵

³³ S.S. = abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

³⁴ Excerpt from a letter.

³⁵ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 13/22)

[Paris, October 12, 1865]

Miss de Meeus
Superior of the Community
of the Ladies of Perpetual Adoration,
Brussels

Mademoiselle,

I am putting before you, in all simplicity, the reasons for our Fathers' reservations about the foundation you do us the honor of offering to us.

In our letter of May 16th this year we requested:

1. complete freedom of the [use of the] chapel and objects for worship;
2. the Lady Adorers to leave the Choir, and keep the use of the stalls connecting with their apartments;
3. lodgings for the religious;
4. the Lady Adorers to share the expenses of Exposition;
5. a time-table of annual service to be set up for the exercises, ordinary and extraordinary, of the Lady Adorers.

Those, Mademoiselle, were the first conditions we set as a basis for our acceptance. Now, according to the written conditions which you handed me on my last trip to Brussels:

1. We would have only the use of the Church and not its administration; the offerings and the monies from the seats and boxes would not be ours; nor would we have the offerings of the Eucharistic Weeks: all of which were granted us by the Carmelite Ladies of Angers, along with the complete administration of the Church.

2. We would not have the freedom of the old chapel, but would be obliged to ask for it from the Superior (fem.) of the Institute. Now, dear lady, this chapel will be as necessary to us as the Church. It is there that we must continue Exposition on the days when the Church is being used for various services. It is there, too, and only there, that we will hear Confessions and not in the Church, on account of the Most Blessed Sacrament Exposed.

3. If we were to accept the foundation, it would have to be understood that except for the Rev. Fr. Boone, or the religious sisters' confessor, no other priest would have the right to hear confessions in the Church or the chapel, at least without the consent of the Superior (masc.)

4. As regards lodgings, it is stated that if the Fathers need the apartment rented by the Ladies, they must pay the annual rent of 1800 francs.

Now, since in our houses the number of religious is strictly 16 because of the service, this expense, soon to come upon us, added to the cost of luminaries - normally 5000 francs, without counting the ordinary maintenance of worship, would be too heavy an expense. The answer will be that donations and offerings will be sufficient. We do not believe so, at least [not] for the early years. And so, Mademoiselle, although we have been very touched by your offer of yearly support for a limited time, when we consider what a great burden it would be for you, we must not proceed.

Also, regarding the furnishings for worship which you kindly offer to put at our disposal, we will accept it only in the beginning, as we intend to have our own furnishings for worship, so that all our houses may be uniform.

We would suffer from not having a garden, as we do not go out.

We shall say nothing about the article determining the distance of a foundation other than the one under consideration. We intend to keep our freedom. Besides, we have no intention to create competition, nor expansion at the expense of the first.

These, Mademoiselle, are our feelings. They will perhaps seem demanding. No, they are merely positive. At the moment we are being urged to accept a Church, house and garden in a big city, and another in the centre of France, but since you came first, Mademoiselle, we have kept yours as a priority.

However, it is natural to prefer something which is an advantage and not a burden.

Please tell us what you think, Mademoiselle, and I trust it will be either the final obstacle, or our freedom [from obligation].

Please believe me, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.

1650

CO 1650

To Count Jean Raymond De Cuers (Fr. De Cuers SSS)
(I 156/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 14, 1865

Very dear Father,

I will receive young Carnatti warmly and be attentive to him. I will try to guide him in this city which is dangerous for a young man who is inexperienced.

The cholera is rampant here, the hospitals already have quite a large number of victims. They say that it is spreading especially at Montmartre and Batignolles. The St. Germain quarter has some cases, the sisters of Bon Secours are the ones who told us about it. And now the exaggerations of fearful people, and of women, are creating a stir. People only talk about the cholera, think about the cholera. What is good is that people with faith think about their conscience.

Our dialogue with Brussels continues. I have just written to them following your advice which everyone shares; that is: that we want not only the use of the church, but its administration as well; that we are asking to have the right to use the chapel, lodging without rent, etc. I expressed my surprise about their reflections in our regard. As a proof to the contrary, I transcribed the basic conditions from the letter we had written jointly on May 16. I am waiting for that answer.

This was not done by Miss de Meeus. Fr. Boone must have a part in it.

We are waiting for the nomination of the Bishop of Marseilles. They say that Fr. Guiol is a possibility, the Bishop of Gap and Fr. Deplace, the pastor of Notre Dame, an ex-Jesuit.

Vocations are scarce; the cholera frightens people and the absolute service of the Master, even more.

Nothing new; as for the compulsory purchase, complete silence.

Dear Father, thank you for your prayers for my sister. I left her slightly better, about two weeks ago. I haven't had any news for the worse, I left her in God's hands.

My fond regards to the kind Fathers and Brothers of the Eucharistic family.

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

1651

CO 1651

TO MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 134/145)

Paris, October 15, 1865

Very dear sisters,

I am longing for news about you. I hope it continues to be good and better, that you are convalescing now, and getting stronger every day. May God and the Blessed Virgin be praised for having healed you!

But we need to be prudent during convalescence. That is why you should watch out for changes in temperature. You know that is what always makes you sick.

God is giving you a long retreat, poor sister! But your soul must have benefited from it. From time to time the Good Lord puts us on a bed of suffering, to make us go through our purgatory, honor his Passion and multiply our merits a hundredfold for heaven.

Illness is a letter which invites us to Calvary and heaven.

I am well, there is no cholera in our sector, it is very healthy.

When you answer me, tell me if papa Bonnois died on the day I left. That poor man did not expect to die but I am sure that he fulfilled his Christian duties well.

My affectionate respects to the good Lesbros family and to your fine doctor.

I bless you in our Lord, very dear sister, especially you, dear Nanette, you must be happy about our sister's improvement, but you must also need rest badly.

Your brother,
Eymard

1652

CO 1652

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 14/22)

Paris, October 15, 1865

Mademoiselle,

I received your esteemed letter this morning. It will be very difficult for me to come to Maubeuge this week because of several prior commitments. It could be Monday of next week, if that suits you. We will leave Paris on the train you indicate in your letter.

We do not doubt your goodwill in this matter, dear Lady. It is a test from God, and perhaps from nature too.

If God is with us, it will all turn out well.

I am, in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Your respectful servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc.

1653

CO 1653

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 16/19)

Paris, October 15, 1865

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your kind letter. I could not answer it right away, because of the sick and other duties. I do approve your little schedule for adoration. However, begin by consulting your strength. I know that you need God, the Blessed Sacrament, adoration. This need will precisely be your law, just as you went to Blois to get some rest, sunshine and strength. That is the rule of your sojourn.

If you do not like it [there], here is the address of the community of Chigny, near Tours. We [get there] by taking the Angers train as far as Port-Boulet. The house is called the Priory. Board and room is 300 Fr. I am giving you this information in case you should need it.

Cholera is now hitting faubourg S. Germain and is showing up a little everywhere. That does not prevent the children of Babylon from enjoying themselves and forgetting God. Alas! What can the merciful goodness of God do with so many unbelievers and wicked men!

Dear daughter, always leave your soul in the hands of God, keep your mind as serene as the truth which enlightens it, your heart as active as the divine fire which enlivens and inspires it; you belong to God everywhere.

I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.

1654

CO 1654

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 311/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 16, 1865

Personal: - Make it a rule always to read my letters before talking about them.

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you Nanette's letter about my sister: she is still very weak. I'm afraid that she will pass away. May the holy Will be praised in all things!

I'm also sending you the letter for Miss Prou. Read it. It isn't possible for me to give the retreat she is requesting because of the one by Fr. Audibert. I still don't know if I can give it and yours as well, I mean the one for the whole community. I cannot go to Angers without having your Rules finished and I am burdened with concerns and visits, even though I avoid half of them, - but they are men, and priests. Please pray that I may finish. You are right to say that I begin things and do not finish anything. It's true, I admit it. But I would need to hide and I don't know where.

I can't find your note ... that's what is delaying my letter. I put it away so carefully that I can't find it anymore.

So you aren't well? My God! I suppose you spent nights doing ... that's what tires you. If that's the case, don't do it any more You must be more reasonable. Get help for those things your illness requires ... [2 lines erased]. Please ... You belong to your Community above all. Our dear Master wouldn't be pleased about it, nor would I.

The Mark of the Passion

Please! my dear daughters. If you need to economize your time, let it be for greater recollection and union with God.

From Nemours we are constantly receiving letters about furnishings, and work. Fr. Champion was there and will be very helpful. I think that it will be ready soon.

What I read about Mr. Barret confirms my opinion that he isn't very intelligent, doesn't have a good spirit, and is scandalized by everything. So, I don't want him. Such vocations would take away our peace and simplicity.

I bless you and all your dear daughters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1655

CO 1655

TO MR. ADOLPHE BLANC DE ST. BONNET
(VII 3/4)

Paris, Oct. 18, 1865

Esteemed Mr. de St. Bonnet,

You graciously invited me to go to your delightful countryside to work, to enjoy the charms of solitude and peace, and those of a family which is too kind toward me.

There is no oasis for me in this stormy world. As God's messenger, one must go further toward the unknown. However, I was so happy and so comfortable at work at St. Bonnet! I often think of it, especially of the interesting conversations which awakened in me a love and desire for beauty and truth, which I could perceive with my weak understanding.

But this is the time of struggle for me, and I must keep my tent ready, desiring to see my souls only on the battlefield.

Remember me a little among your lovely family and in your friendly heart. Here, you are all present and all very alive and blessed.

I was pleased to read your work in "Le Monde." It is the truth; it is such a beautiful mission which God has given you, but so little appreciated. Like the Apostles, our reward will come only in Heaven.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mr. de St. Bonnet.

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

October 19 - At the estate of Ostreignies, near Maubeuge, he signed a contract with Miss de Meeus for the foundation of the first house in Brussels.

1656

CO 1656

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI1/7)

[Paris, rue fg S. Jacques 68, October 20, 1865]

Eminence,

Desirous of working for the glory of our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament in your Archdiocese, under the protection of your most Catholic zeal, the Superior of the Society of the Most Bl. Sacrament (whose seat is in Paris) dares to beg Your Eminence to bless this religious project.

Miss de Meeus of Brussels would, in that event, be happy to let us use the expiatory Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament of the Miracle. There, according to the particular aim of our Society, we would have perpetual adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament exposed, and work to increase, or at least sustain, the faith, devotion and worship of the August Sacrament of the Altars.

But, so that Your Eminence may learn for yourself about the nature of our Institute, the means it employs to achieve its ends, and the spirit which must animate all its members, I am sending you a copy of our Constitutions and one of our Decree of Approbation by the Holy See.

Trusting in a favorable reply, I kiss, with the deepest respect, the hem of your Roman Purple, and dare to call myself, through our Lord,

Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant.
Pierre Eymard
Sup. Soc. SS.

Oct. 21 - Departure for Angers.

Oct. 23 - Healing of Mother Marguerite Guillot.

<i>Oct 24</i>	<i>Conference Servants</i>	<i>Holy Communion, life, food, strength, perfection.No</i>
<i>date</i>	<i>Conference Servants:</i>	<i>Counsels, recollection of mind, heart and will.</i>

1657

CO 1555

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 312/395 VI 2)

Angers, Saturday, October 24, 1865³⁶

Dear Daughter,

I'll go for holy Mass tomorrow morning.³⁷ I'm very surprised by what the Bishop is telling you. There was no question of ... nor for anything, his judgement was even favorable ... [4 lines erased]. Fr. Crepon was quite free to respond to such an insulting letter. What is the meaning of all those letters? ... Poor people! Soon, it will be the last straw.

³⁶ In 1865, October 24th was a Tuesday, not a Saturday. Troussier.

³⁷ He was writing from the monastery of the Fathers in another sector of Angers.

The Bishop had indicated several months to me, even 5 or 6 before making any changes. So, let people talk. Pray and keep everything to yourself in our Lord. It will all pass. If we must obey, we will obey with God's graces.

Don't invite Fr. Crepon tomorrow. The Bishop might be displeased by that.

Begin a novena for the most abandoned souls in Purgatory, for the Bishop and for inner peace: that's the best remedy.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

I saw Mr. Trottier; he will grant you full rights over half of the alley. He will make an agreement like the others, but for the time being it can't be touched because of your tenants.

1658

CO 1657

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 31/52)

Angers, October 25, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I really share in your sadness and cross, and if it could help, I would pay a visit to Mr. d'Andigne and yourself. In this matter we must consider only what is appropriate and right, and not a personal desire. I know that you are generous and strong in major events, and that you know how to rise above weakness and sadness. You are doing so at this moment.

Continue to place your trust in God, surrender yourself entirely to his divine goodness which has never failed you.

Please, leave the future to God. - Thank him for the present good and trust that everything will turn to his greater glory....

You see how good it is to stay firmly united to God our Lord, to live by him, in him, through him. He will never fail you, he is ever our good Father and Savior. Human beings, on the contrary, even the most helpful or desired, are either barren or absent. - God remains with us, the divine Emmanuel whom you have with you at home. Adore him from every corner of your house, love him in all your works, praise him in all your interior states! Establish this continual extension between your heart and the divine Tabernacle, and this divine Lover of Angels, this eucharistic Prisoner of love will be happy.

I place you everyday on the holy Paten and I offer you, and your whole family, to God the Father through our Lord, in whom I am,

Madame,

Your respectful and ever devoted servant,
Eymard, SSS

P.S. You must have received a letter from me a few weeks ago.³⁸ I had promised to send you a book, I forgot to do so, but will later. I don't know yet when I will leave again.

³⁸ cf. Oct. 8, 1865.

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)
(V 10/14)

October 29, 1865

Excellency,

I am happy to submit this third part of the Constitutions to Your Excellency, in order that you may examine, correct, and approve it if you judge it opportune.

I took advantage of the fine information you were so kind to give me which has the marks of experience and wisdom.

Excellency, I had promised to send you Fr. Champion for the Ladies right away. I could not, since I myself had to go twice to [the bedside of] my only sister, who is very seriously ill. I will send him when I return.

I had presented to Your Excellency the plan for a little foundation of Servants of the Blessed Sacrament at Nemours in the diocese of Meaux. The reasons that led me to present this desire were: the good which can come for certain people to be changed from one house to another, the need which even exists sometimes for this change; the natural opportunity such a foundation would provide for the separation, desired by Your Excellency, of the triannual professed from the novices, and finally, to raise one more throne to our Lord.

One favorable reason for this foundation is the offer of a building which would be very suitable for a community, given for this purpose by a single woman who would bring it as a dowry. Following the advice of Your Excellency, I accepted it for the Ladies. There were quite considerable expenses for the deed and for repairs, the total rising to 10,000 francs.

The benefactress is urging for the beginning of this foundation, and if we delay too long, I fear that it will be lost. - But Your Excellency will ask, "Do you have subjects, and subjects that are sufficiently formed?"

Yes, Your Excellency, we can, without harming the service of perpetual adoration of the house of Angers, take ten or twelve sisters on 32. As for the religious spirit, I dare to assure you that it exists in this community. I have been working to form them to the religious life for eight years. But can we find a qualified Superior? - I believe so, Your Excellency. When there is a good spirit, the practice of religious life, a bit of experience, God will do the rest.

Besides, it seems to me that a contemplative life, which has neither education, nor external duties as its purpose, needs women of silence, especially [women] of prayer, of interior life. Well, it's my consolation to assure you these qualities exist generally among the members of the Community.

Before I have the pleasure to see Your Excellency and receive your final answer, I have taken the liberty to present the motives of my request and I beg you to weigh them before God.

The Bishop of Meaux, whom I have seen, is willing to receive the Ladies if Your Excellency does not place any obstacles to it, which is my hope.

Please receive my homage of filial respect with which I am in our Lord, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Superior

Angers
October 29, 1865

Oct 27 - Nov 3 Annual Retreat to the Servants.

Oct 27	Grace and glory, God's good pleasure and will, partakers of God's glory.
Oct 28	Inviolability of the vows, serve our Lord with joy.
Oct 29	The gift of self, direction, name of spouse.
Oct 30	Condition of spouse, simplicity with God, reparation. Counsels, interior recollection.
Oct 31	Prayer, preparation for adoration, meekness.
Nov 1 or 2	Humility, obedience to the rule, void of self, "absque sui proprio."
Nov 2 or 3	Closing. After retreat - patience, confidence. Virtues of postulant, novice, TP.

1660

CO 1659

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I35/54)

Angers, All Saints, 1865

Dear Father,

I am writing to you from Angers, where I have been for 10 days. I came about the matter of the Knoll and the hospital. They had written to me that the hospice administration would soon sell the vacant property. I came right away, only to wait for the auction notice to be posted. There will be many difficulties, as I believe that the Mayor, the Pastor at the Trinity, and the School of Arts will do all they can to prevent us from having it. The Diocese will not do anything, but will be happy if we have the Knoll.

I'm getting information about everything, but I'm afraid that the Mayor is playing his dice: one of the administrators told me so. Finally, we will do all that we can.

If our Lord wants the Knoll, he will bless our efforts.

You know that the question of Brussels is settled. What we still need is the acceptance of His Eminence, and Rome's approval.

Miss de Meeus was very generous: a bond of 99 years for the church, the house and the church furnishings.

When will we go to begin this fourth Service for our Good Master? I would like it to be soon, but we must wait for God's moment and Rome's moment.

I saw your brother, your brother-in-law, and your holy mother. Everything is fine at your home. Your fine brother-in-law told me that this is the time when they have most work.

The house here is fine. I don't know whether the departure of the Prefect will change anything. The Bishop hopes so, for he was fine with the Bishop of Laval. We will see.

Nothing new about the compulsory sale in Paris. We are constantly waiting for news, or rather, in the hands of God and his holy grace.

The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament spoke much to me about you. They remember very gratefully your kindness towards them. They are the same as usual; their alley is still in the same status quo.

Goodbye, dear Father. My best regards to dear Fr. de Cuers, and to kind Fr. O'Kelly and to all the Brothers. Share my letter with Fr. de Cuers and thank him for his in my name.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1661

CO 1661

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 15/22)

Angers, All Saints 1865

Dear Reverend Mother,

Thank you for your kind letter; all our Religious shared your joy and we have all praised God for it. Now comes the commitment. It will come in God's time, which we will make our own. Indeed there is something providential in this union of Works, born at the same time in two neighboring, friendly capital cities; in Rome at the same time, at the feet of the divine King's Throne, with the same sentiments - it all seems to speak of a spiritual relationship.

Thank you for the news from Malines. As soon as I have received the support from His Eminence, I shall send it to Rome.

I need no longer ask for the prayers of your community. It is now a mutual right.

I remain truly united in our Lord, very esteemed Mother.

Your devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.

1662

CO 1660

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 32/52)

Angers, All Saints Day, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

On Tuesday I began a retreat for the Ladies, and it will be finished next Tuesday. There will be a ceremony of profession at 9:00 a.m. This is to invite you.

But I really would like to go to the Pontifical funeral for the General on Monday; I hope to find you there.

Today, this heavenly feast [is] the feast of our relatives and our brothers in Jesus Christ. One day it will be yours, for you have a place there which the love of our Lord has prepared for you.

We must desire Heaven because it is the possession of God, it's the perfect glorification of God. Then, there will be no more sins, no more temptations, no more obstacles to his love and ours. Beautiful Heaven! When shall you be my dwelling?...

May my heart at least be there, while waiting for the rest of this human baggage!

I am religiously in our Lord,

Madame,
Your devoted servant,
Eymard

1663

CO 1662

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 17/19)

Angers, November 3, 1865³⁹

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am writing to reply to your good letter. I do not advise you to come to Angers, this very humid city because of its two rivers and [also] because of your pain.

The church of the Fathers is very drafty.

The first plan is still the best: go to Hyeres - they haven't had any cholera. It has also left Marseilles and Toulon, according to the letters I received. Your health requires that climate.

I will be here until the end of next week.

Everything is the same as usual.

I had spoken to you about Chigny. It is a boarding house for women at 300 fr. near Port-Boulet, via the train from Tours to Angers. But you may not like the company; I can't tell you to come.

I am entirely at your service, dear daughter, so then, believe in my fond dedication in our Lord.

Eymard

1664

CO 1663

To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)
(IV 75/104)

Angers, November 4, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I arrived in Angers a few days ago. I'm preaching a retreat in the cloister of the Ladies of the Blessed Sacrament. It will finish Tuesday.

Wednesday will be the Bishop's 50th birthday; couldn't you come to Angers? I'm expecting to leave on Friday. This time I cannot go to Nantes. I will be returning here toward the middle of December then I will pay my debts.

I'm leaving immediately for the funeral of the General de la Moriciere.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁹ Fr. Eymard had written October instead of November, in distraction. The contents indicate it was November (Troussier).

1665

CO 1664

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 76/104)

Angers, November 8, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I received your note. It's impossible for me to go to Nantes at this time. I'm leaving here Saturday morning for Paris. If a few hours would be enough for you, tomorrow or Friday, I would be happy to help you. I really wanted to go see you; God didn't will it.

I must be back here for Saturday of the Christmas Ember Days, even a few days sooner. So, think about it. I was happy to see Fr. Richard: what a holy man! You are fortunate to have such a holy director. I bless you.

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

Nov 9 *Conference Servants:* *Patience and trust.*

1666

CO 1665

To Mlles Marianne Eymard and Nanette Bernard
(III 135/145) VI 10

Angers, November 9, 1865

Dear sister,

I am writing to you from Angers where I have been for over two weeks. I bless and thank the Good Lord with all my heart for your improved [health] and ask him that you may have the strength and energy to be able to get up and return to your ordinary daily routine. I know that after being so sick and weak, one's strength doesn't return immediately; but be consoled, it is coming and it will return gradually. That was a very long retreat you made alone with God, dear sister.

You must have seen the vanity of this poor world and of life itself, except insofar as it is for heaven... Oh! illness is an eloquent teacher and a lesson of wisdom and virtue.

The Ladies are very well. They will make their foundation at Nemours for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Pray a little for this intention, because the devil is doing all he can to make it fail.

Miss Sterlingue has been here for a few days. She still remembers your kind friendship with pleasure. Everyone asks me to tell you their love, and you, too, dear Nanette.

Winter is coming, dear ones. May God help you! Take care of yourselves and avoid the changes in temperature.

I am well and I regret only one thing: that the days are too short to do all that I should.

All the Pastor's errands have been done. I didn't have time to send them to him before leaving. I will do so when I arrive.

I imagine that the Oddoux woman from Paris must be at La Mure. I have the funds for her trip. Let's hope that I wasn't tricked! I had given her a bottle of water for your eyes. Give some to Euphrasie Ravanat's⁴⁰ friend.

⁴⁰ French Volume III - misspelled as Ravinet.

I bless you with all my heart, dear sisters,

Your brother,
Eymard

1667

CO 1666

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 18/28)

Angers, November 9, 1865

Dear Mademoiselle Antonia,

You couldn't have made me happier than by making and sending me these lovely symbols. Thank you then, many thanks. I will keep them as a subject of prayer, especially those about the holy Eucharist. You should really create a little book of pictures about the Eucharist. I will come back to this later.

So then, you are a bit more "religious;" that's fine. Friendship will only be stronger and more heartfelt.

Protect your moments of silence and solitude: the soul needs them and God wants them to visit souls and converse with the heart which dwells in his love.

I still haven't done anything about your dear brother. I will do it when I return. I have been here for almost 18 days. I'm leaving Saturday for Paris. If Rennes were on my way, I would go to greet you on the way, but I can only bless you from a distance. The feast of the Presentation will soon be here: it is the feast of virgins. Give her [Mary] a lovely white and perfumed flower on that day.

Poor daughters! Purgatory is often painful and hard. But consider that it is only purgatory, and that, if it is endured well for God, it will win for God those poor souls which are far from him.

Goodbye, dear daughter in our Lord. I bless you and I am devoted to you.

Eymard

1668

CO 1667

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 8/26)

Angers, November 9, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

I've been in Angers over two weeks. I'm leaving on Saturday for Paris.

I considered Rennes attentively from here, hoping for some voice indicating God would be calling me there for your sake. But I have several retreats to give these days, for two adoration [groups] in the city: Tours, and Angers in December.

I was sorry to miss your dear father: I had delayed my trip in order to see him. I had been waiting for him from Sunday to Thursday, the four days mentioned in your letter. Since he didn't come, I left the same day. It wasn't the right time yet. As you say, we will pray even more, nothing resists prayer.

The Mark of the Passion

I read your letter carefully.

I'm happy with your faithfulness to silence and the hours of solitude. Friendship benefits from it and the soul even more.

No, no, don't reproach yourself for this affection, this openness of heart. It is both good and helpful! The overflow is poured out, but the heart remains full of God and his love for your neighbor.

I am pleased with your heart's need for God, your need for the infinite, for divine goodness: these are proofs that your heart really belongs to God. God usually leaves sadness in a suffering soul so that this sadness may lead it to God. Then, when the soul has found a moment's relief with a friend of God, God replaces that sadness by a greater thirst for Him so that he may always be the only center of the soul. Yes, focus on eucharistic thoughts: they are the best because they spring from true life: ponder and carefully nourish these quiet feelings which move you. This is your good bread for the day.

God has no greater desire than to communicate himself to the one who loves him.

I will say the Masses for your good and holy husband whom I knew and who is often present to me, I often look at his picture.

I bless you, dear Madame, and I wish you all of God's gifts. In him I am,

All yours,
Eymard

Mme. Lepage, nee Delys
8, rue de Toulouse
Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine)

1669

CO 1668

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 6/15)

Angers, November 9, 1865

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I am writing to you from here to tell you that you need the permission of His Eminence or his Vicar General to bless your chapel of All Saints. Be sure to indicate the titular and who is to bless it. Your dear brother does not need permission to baptize your child; he can do it.

I will be happy to go see you and bless your whole family for the 15th. We will leave the 14th by direct train at 6:45 a.m. We should arrive at Belleville around 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.

Your dear mother is fine, I have just given their annual retreat.⁴¹ She was the first to tell me that in spite of the joy she would have to see you all, she prefers to stay, especially because of the difficulties, since the Bishop doesn't want to give such permissions. In that, I saw the great virtue of your fine devout mother; she offered this pleasure to God.

See you soon, dear Mr. Amedee.

All yours,
Eymard

⁴¹ To the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

1670

CO 1669

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 4/20)

Angers, November 9, 1865

Madame,⁴²

I am not writing about your difficulty and agitation; it's nothing. It was a storm! It's over, I hope. There was nothing positive in it; it was all negative, without any reason for it. In such cases, the recipient examines, and when he sees that things are functioning as usual, presumes that everything is fine.

I will get to Paris only late on Saturday. So then, come rather on Sunday or Monday. Write to tell me your hour [of arrival] in Paris, in order that I may wait for you. That is more reliable.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

Nov. 10 - Return to Paris via Meaux to meet Bishop Allou regarding a foundation for the Servants at Nemours.

1671

CO 1670

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 313/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 10, 1865⁴³

Dear daughter,

I've just arrived from Meaux. Bishop Allou is pleased to receive you paternally and unconditionally in his diocese.

I told him that you would be established for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. So, thank God; the good Master loves you, and serves you like a kind Father.

I bless you,
Eymard

P.S. I didn't find any money. Pray. Will I find any in Lyons?

⁴² Excerpt from a letter.

⁴³ November 13, Archives of Servants and Troussier.

1672

CO 1672

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 5/20)

Paris, November 13, 1865⁴⁴

Madame,⁴⁵

I was really sorry about your fruitless trip. I waited for you this evening, but I must leave tomorrow at 8 o'clock for Lyons. I will be in Paris next Saturday.

If you have a positive reply for Mr. Octave Ravache, I would be grateful if you would write him a word in order to help him to be patient.

All yours in our Lord

1673

CO 1671

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(VI 4/41 181)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, November 13, 1865

To Reverend Father de Cuers,
My dear Colleague,

Your letter of the 7th instance has filled me with deep sadness. You must indeed be dead tired to be asking to be relieved of the service of Adoration. Certainly, your condition excuses you from it. I leave you free for adoration according to your strength, or rather according to your physical weakness and illness, as you say.

It isn't presently possible to replace you with a professed [priest]. We must wait until a profession gives us some. And then you know that we have to prepare a small group for Brussels, and you are aware of our poverty. If need be, Marseilles will contribute, as Angers is doing so zealously.

You handed over the organization of the House to the Rev. Fr. Leroyer as your Vicar. Yes, it is his duty to replace you. A religious cannot, of himself, be freed from obedience. A religious Superior is not like an officer; I would have preferred if you had written to me before you did this. In any case, I shall go to Marseilles. I haven't seen the house there for a year, and I shall decide myself whether I should replace you.

Since you are ill, dear Colleague, you have no responsibility, but I want them to consider you as Superior of the house. My dear Father, at 58 one is not yet old, and you know from experience that things can get better. We are asking this for you from our Lord. We all consider you as the servant from the first hour. Come now, dear Father, consider as a temptation your idea of withdrawing from the service of charity!

I remain truly united to you in our Lord.

Eymard S.

⁴⁴ Published in French as Nov. 18th. According to Fr. Garreau; Nov. 13th.

⁴⁵ Excerpt from a letter.

1674

CO 1673

To Count Jean Raymond De Cuers (Fr. De Cuers SSS)
(I 157/181 VI 2)

Paris, November 20, 1865

Very dear Father,

During my visit to the house of Angers.⁴⁶ Fr. Audibert told me that we owe 600 francs for the candles. I told him that you would send him the amount of your October quarterly pension. Please send it to him directly. As you know, that poor house barely has any resources; we had decided together that your pension would be its annual income. If you find it more convenient to write to him so that your candle salesman from Angers would draw this amount from you, for reimbursement, there is nothing easier, Fr. Audibert said. This was his idea.

Nothing new about the Knoll. I am told that the public notice of sale will be made in the month of January. I haven't received the answer from Malines either.

Nothing has been said about the Boulevard yet. So everything is proceeding as usual.

I am praying our Good Master to give you relief, dear Father, and even heal you for his dear service.

I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. -- We received the new postulant. He seems to have good will, we will see how he does.

1675

CO 1674

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 36/54)

To Fr. Leroyer

Paris, November 20, 1865

Dear Father,

We received the aspirant you sent us. He seems to be filled with good will, we will see how he does. We put him in the kitchen with Brother Francois.

Before leaving Angers, I visited and spoke with your wonderful mother. She is fine, her legs are a bit stiff, but she goes to church morning and evening, in spite of it. I also saw your dear brother, the priest. He is always very happy and working a great deal.

At the 50th birthday [celebration] of the Bishop on the 8th, many of your friends asked for news about you with fondness, especially the Pastor of Louroux and the one from Beaufort.

I hope that God has blessed your great retreat for the Aggregation, and repaid you amply for your work.

⁴⁶ Oct. 23 - Nov. 10.

The Mark of the Passion

Nothing new here: everything is the same as usual, except our Good Master who is ever new in his kindness and mercy toward us.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,
All yours,
Eymard, S.

1676

CO 1676

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 6/20)

Paris, November 21, 1865

Madame,⁴⁷

I am on the road again, on my way to Tours until Monday. If I can help you, come Wednesday for sure, or later.

Thank you for giving hope to my young protege.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1677

CO 1675

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 299/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 21, 1865⁴⁸

Dear Daughter,

I've just sent Miss Sterlingue 2,500 francs. I'm sending you a thousand francs for your needs. It's a loan that I just made at the Bank for you. I still have a small amount on reserve for the sacred vessels, and a thousand francs on reserve for whatever you wish.

I'm leaving for Tours until Monday to give a retreat to the Ladies of Adoration.

I wrote to the Pastor of Nemours to inform him, and I requested his discretion.

I bless you ... and all your daughters.

Eymard

Nov. 21-27 - Eucharistic Retreat preached to the Women's Adoration Group in Tours at the Cathedral of St. Gaitien.

⁴⁷ Excerpt from a letter.

⁴⁸ The manuscript reads August 21. The contents of the letter indicate it was written November 21. (Garreau)

1678

CO 1677

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 314/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 1, 1865

Dear daughter,

I saw Nemours yesterday. Miss Sterlingue tells me that we should come only on the 6th. So, leave only in the evening of the 5th, to arrive in Paris on the morning of the 6th.

There are departures for Nemours at 8:00 a.m., at noon, at 2:00, and at 6:00 p.m.

I will take care of the altar, except that you should bring two altar stones, the linens, and the vestments from Angers.

Whether things are finished or not at Nemours, we will have Exposition on the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception.

I am afraid that your packages didn't arrive at the train station in Orleans. Try to check it out at the station in Angers to speed it up.

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

1679

CO 1678

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS

(VI 16/22)

Paris, December 1, 1865

Very esteemed Mother,

I was committed to a city retreat for the Christmas season. I will get a replacement; you may count on me. It is only right that I should give you this first sign of confidence and dedication.

I shall arrive the day before. I have only the time to add that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

On November 21st His Eminence's letter and mine were sent to Rome.

1680

CO 1679

TO MR. ADOLPHE BLANC DE ST. BONNET
(VII 4/4)

Paris, Dec. 2, 1865

Very dear Sir and friend,

I prayed and cried with you over your dear holy mother! I knew and loved her. She was so worthy of respect and love!

You were such a good son! This separation must have cost your heart very dearly!

But the fruit was ripe and her crown complete. Heaven was claiming its property and our Lord his victory. Your good and holy mother! Every finite reality is finite; it is infinity which is beginning and will ever be renewed in the bosom of God.

I ask God to keep you for [the service of] his Church and for your family of friends, dear Sir. You are sowing in a modest way [the seed of] your most beautiful grace and truth; I only see your day rising. I wish it could be the same as it was for Joshua: Sol sta contra Gabaon.⁴⁹

I can only pray for you, for Madame and your dear daughters.

Believe me, dear Sir and friend, all yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

Mr. Blanc de St. Bonnet
Lyons

1681

CO 1681

TO MADAME BETHFORT
(VII 1/1)

Paris, December 3, 1865

Dear Madame,

I have owed you a letter for a long time and the time never comes. Finally! Here it is a bit in haste.

I saw your dear daughter not too long ago. She is well, very reasonable and responsible. You will love her even more when she has the joy of returning to be with you. I congratulate you for having such a good daughter.

We spoke together about a wine merchant in Paris. I was supposed to write to you about it. I think he would buy all your wine.

I believe he is very honest. He is Mr. Garcin, Rue Frochot, 10. Please send me your exact prices, with a little wine for this Gentleman to taste. My address is Rue fg St. Jacques 68 - or send it to the Gentleman.

I would be happy to render you this small service, and all those of Heaven and earth.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Lady,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

⁴⁹ The sun stood still at Gabaon.

To Mme Bethfort
at Jambles via Givry
(Saone and Loire)

1682

CO 1680

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 158/181 VI 2)

Paris, December 3, 1865

Very dear Father,

I am sending you your pension sheet, so that you may return it with the reference, which cannot be done legally in Paris, but only in Marseilles, with you present for the deed. Angers really needs it.

Miss Meeus is insisting that I go to Brussels to preach the usual Christmas retreat on the 17th. I see that as a good and easy way to see and prepare, on location, whatever will be necessary for the foundation.

On November 21st, I received a very complimentary letter from His Eminence of Malines. I sent it to Rome to support our request for approbation.

I think I will begin this foundation myself, as we have done the others. I will bring with me either Brother Henry, who will then be a priest, or Fr. Viguiet, with a few brothers.

I am recommending all that to your prayers, as well as our two candidates for ordination on December 23.

I saw the Archbishop of Paris. Please tell me how subjects are ordained in Marseilles and by whom.

Is the Bishop of Marseilles better? Can he accept or give a dimissorial letter?

We really prayed for you, when Fr. Leroyer wrote that you were very ill. I hope that the acute pain has passed.

Believe me in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1683

CO 1682

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 315/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 4, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Please tell Miss Prou that it's impossible for me to give her a retreat in the month of December. I must go to Brussels on the 16th, about the foundation. It is impossible for me to put off this trip.

I am expecting you on the morning of the 6th. Leave your things at the station. We will go for them.

We will certainly pray for you.

I bless you.

Eymard

1684

CO 1683

TO MME. FELICIE DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)
(VII 8/9)

Jesus Hostia

Paris, Dec. 4, 1865

Dear Lady in our Lord,

I did not write to you because I was hoping to see you at Faij. Now, it is almost too late. I am writing to you at both places.

The foundation⁵⁰ will take place on Dec. 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Ladies⁵¹ will arrive the day before. Your mother's heart will find her daughter,⁵² and the Good Lord will find a good adorer.

The chapel will be blessed at 8:00 a.m. on the 8th. This means that you have a special place.

Everything will be done quietly, without invitations. We will be able to speak freely. Excuse my brevity, dear mother.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1685

CO 1684

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 7/20)

Paris, December 7, 1865

Madame,⁵³

I will expect you at Dreux next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I will leave Paris on Monday to go there by nightfall. I am sorry that my time is so short, I would have greeted you in passing, as well as your family. Please ask your dear son in my name to find a position for Mr. Ravache as soon as possible. He accepts wholeheartedly whatever he can find for him; and when the time comes to put him under orders, he will be happy to be under him, and so will I.

In our Lord, Madame, I am your ever devoted,

Eymard

Dec 8 - Foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament at Nemours followed by a retreat preached at Dreux (precise dates unknown).

⁵⁰ Of the House of Nemours.

⁵¹ Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁵² Sr. Philomene

⁵³ Excerpt from a letter.

1686

CO 1685

TO M^{LL}ES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 136/145) VI 10

Paris, December 16, 1865

Very dear sisters,

I was absent from Paris for quite some time, that explains my long silence. I've just preached three retreats in different places. I hardly had time to breathe. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, I had the joy of opening a new Cenacle for the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, near Paris, at Nemours. Sister Benoitte is there with twelve religious. Good Mother Guillot is also there for the moment. She is hoping to go see you if the weather is not too bad and if she is not too tired.

Never worry about me, God is taking care of me. Nothing happened to me. Besides, there is no more talk of cholera in Paris, and when there was, we hardly worried about it.

I truly thank God, dear sister, for the improvement of your health. It is coming very slowly, but then it is coming. Take care of yourself while the winter weather lasts.

The Child Jesus will go to see you, and he will give you his good gifts. Love him dearly.

And you, dear Nanette, you are entirely given to charitable deeds. You hardly have time to pray, but be consoled, we will do it for you. It is for God that you do so.

I won't stay so long without writing to you. Tomorrow I'll be giving a retreat in Brussels, in Belgium, where we will be making a foundation. But I will be here for Christmas.

I bless you in our Lord.

Your brother,
Eymard

Dec 16-25 - To Brussels to preach a Christmas Retreat.

1687

CO 1686

TO MR. RAVANAT
(III 1/5)

Paris, December 16, 1865

Dear Mr. Ravanat,

The foundation of the Sisters of Angers at Nemours took place December 8th. Sr. Benoitte is Superior of the second house. So then, if God inspires you to go there with your two dear daughters to serve God more peacefully and fervently, your place is all ready. You would be like the father of this new family, and they would honor you with this title. I think it would be easy for you to rent your house and your shop. Besides, I would like it to be soon.

I would be obliged if you would write a word about it to Mother Superior, Madame Guillot, at Lyons, rue du Juge de Paix, 17, at the Carmelites where she is at this time, and to me in Paris, rue Faubourg-Saint-Jacques, 68.

You would surely be happy there, and your dear daughters, also.

I am very affectionately in our Lord, dear Mr. Ravanat,

All yours,
Eymard

Mr. Ravanat-Taillandier
La Mure (Isere)

1688

CO 1687

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 8/29) VI 2

Brussels, December 20, 1865

Very dear Father,

Please look in my cell for the letter from the priest from Magny which I had asked you to read. Send Brother Eugene to the Picpus novitiate to seek information, unless you go yourself. If the information is good, write to tell him to come for a retreat.

On Friday, send Brother Marius to Angers for the ordination of Brother Henry. Give him one or two forms for half-fare, put number 81 at the top and mark the place where the two bulletins are taken from. Sign for me, if you don't find any already signed: the stamp is on my table or my dresser. I will get there early Sunday.

God is blessing this retreat. It was useful for me to come here to see and prepare things.

Pray for the one who is affectionately united to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.

1689

CO 1688

TO HENRY BILLON SSS (LATER FR. BILLON SSS)
(III 1/2 VII 1)

Brussels, December 20, 1865

To dear brother Henry

Very dear Brother,

God wanted this sacrifice from us. It cost me a lot, I would have been so happy to impose my hands upon you! Good Father Audibert will do it for himself, for me, and for the whole Society. Everyone is praying for you, and I as much as I can. The affection I have for you is united with the hope of having a good adorer and apostle, and the joy of our good Master's greater glory.

So now you've reached the sacred priesthood which will bring you only graces, surrounded as it will be with the graces of the Society and adorned with the benefits of religious life. That is the true royal Priesthood.

Therefore go forward confidently, dear Brother. I say more; go toward it with joy, for you are going toward the greater love of God.

Today you are brother Henry, but Saturday you will be Fr. Billon.

May God pour out his favors upon you, just as I bless you with all the affection of my heart.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1690

CO 1689

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

Brussels, December 20, 1865

To Sister Mariette.

Dear sister,

I am writing to greet you briefly from a great distance.

You must be very happy to see your dear sister and mother, and I am very happy for you all, because it is so difficult for her to be absent!⁵⁴ Profit well by it.

So your poor sister Jenny is very sick! Poor daughter! She will have a beautiful crown in heaven, for she was always very candid, very pure ... [4 lines erased]. I love her very much. She will always have her place as a sister and daughter in the Society.

You are the mother of the sick and the suffering. Always be very kind, and God will substitute your charity for your piety.

I bless you, good daughter, and wish all of you my first New Year's wishes and a special place in the court of our King Jesus.

All yours in Him,
Eymard

Dec 25 - Return to Paris from Belgium.

1691

CO 1690

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 316/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 26, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for visiting my sister. She must have been very happy and Nanette as well. Thanks again.

I am receiving letters from Nemours, they will explain why I allowed Fr. Champion to stay. What he says is true. I think that it is a satanic trial for the Society. I would be desolate if I didn't put my trust in God.

Get some rest. It is better to take a day or more and not risk being sick.

I wasn't able to go to Nemours, because I was overwhelmed with business.

I thank your dear sister for her little note.

I bless your kind sister Jenny, you and Sr. Mariette.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁴ Mother Marguerite was in Lyons visiting her sisters.

1692

CO 1692

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 317/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 28, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. Yes, that is only prudent, wait until you are better, because I prefer your health over the joy of seeing you back sooner among your daughters.

Please bring me some fur soles: two or three pair, no more.

Try to see Miss Zenaide de St. Bonnet, on rue Sala, across from the Poor Clares; she needs to see you. I think you would help her and could console her over the death of her mother.

I will try to go to Nemours to see you there.

I bless you in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1693

CO 1691

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 37/54)

Paris, December 28, 1865

Very dear Father,

May God repay you with a thousand new gifts and graces for the Eucharistic wishes which you were the first to offer me.

Knowing how your zeal for the glory of the Good Master is so great and full of dedication, how much you love this small but dear Society, and what kind and cordial affection you have for me, though I am unworthy, I can only ask our Lord to bless such warm and generous feelings and use you for the Lord's holy struggles.

Never has a cloud existed in my soul between you and me. Where would it come from? True fraternal charity cannot have any. It is therefore a white ray, pure and on fire. Oh! Dear and loving Father, believe me, the thought of you in my soul is like that ray. I have too great an appreciation for your sincerity and affection in our Lord. See how necessary your presence is to Marseilles! And also how God is blessing you and consoling you there!

I am very happy about the good news of dear Father de Cuers' improvement. He must be controlled a little in his austerities, especially, don't let him work beyond his strength. That is what the Good Master wants, honoring his suffering by our patience, obtaining many graces for us in that way.

It seems that in Angers it was magnificent and very touching. Father Billon said his first sung Mass with deacon and sub-deacon on Sunday. There was a large crowd with an impressive general Communion. He also sang Midnight Mass with equal solemnity. Brother Chave was honored to be given first place in the ordination; he said the Gospel with the Bishop.

Fr. Audibert preached at the cathedral for Christmas Vespers. God blessed his words. Here we also held and sang the Offices. Brother Francois prepared a lovely creche for us.

I came back from Brussels Christmas night. Since I was not needed there, I preferred to come back to my own religious family.

The Brussels retreat was not very well attended morning and evening. There were enough people for the afternoon conference. The reason was precisely because of the King's birthday, which was celebrated for two days.

Many good things are being said about the young King; but his father is leaving him a sad inheritance, as he ended with government actions similar to the life he had lived since the death of his holy wife--that is, by scandal. In Flanders, no one wanted to hear any more about it: that is the real situation.

During my stay, I prepared all that I could: beds, tables, small utensils, for there is nothing else except four walls, and justly so.

Miss de Meeus is really very kind. They are happy to see us come. His Eminence received me very well. There is much glory to be sown there and to nurture for our Lord. Everyone remembers you well and with gratitude.

Miss de Meeus has set up the cloister and, I assure you, it is strict; almost too much so, but it is prudent.

When shall we go? When Rome responds; but in Rome things proceed as in the universal Rome, each has to wait his turn. But then, on our part, everything is done. It is all in God's hands.

I leave you, dear Father, at the feet of the Divine Master, and I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1694

CO 1693

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 14/17 VIII 26)

Paris, December 28, 1865

Mademoiselle,

It has been such a long time since I have had news from you! Now, New Year's Day is approaching when everyone gets in touch, but I am writing first, to send you my wishes, which are fully Christian and ever the same: love the Good Lord dearly, serve him in your holy life; surrender yourself to his divine goodness in everything; live from day to day; then, be simple and peaceful in this frame of mind.

Ask the Good Lord for my gifts,⁵⁵ I really need them. I feel overwhelmed by business matters and weak in virtue, if at all, because I act more as a robot than as a director of work.

I have not been able to sleep lately. We are preparing a foundation in Brussels. I recommend it to you before God.

I want to come to Lyons and see you there, but when? I still don't know. It will always be with the same joy and the same eagerness.

Believe me in our Lord, dear sister,

All yours

⁵⁵ Spiritual gifts for the New Year.

TO MME MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 10/19)

1865⁵⁶

You are called to a life of union with our Lord. He is the one who wants to direct you by coming to dwell in you.

Human beings can do nothing of themselves. They are inclined to evil and can commit any crime unless God sustains them. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself without remaining attached to the trunk of the vine, so we cannot bear fruit unless we remain attached to Jesus Christ.

Oh! if we could understand these words of St. Paul: "It is no longer I who live, it is Jesus Christ who lives in me," and this other: "Jesus Christ must grow in us until we reach full maturity."

Yes, Jesus Christ has a spiritual birth and development in each person. He wants to glorify his Father in each one of us. Let us then say like John the Baptist: "He must increase and I must decrease."

In order for him to dwell in us, we must dwell in him; we must respond to his call.

Let us give him not only our heart, but our mind. God hasn't asked for this sacrifice from everyone: it's too difficult. He only asks for their heart: "My son give me your heart."

It is only from a small number that he asks for their mind, intelligence, judgement: "Whoever wants to be my disciple, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me." It is easy to give our heart, but to give our thoughts, our judgement, our intelligence, that is a more difficult sacrifice. It is like being stripped alive. It costs a great deal. We can't understand God's thoughts; but later, what light he gives us! His wisdom blinds us.

How can we attain such divine union, you may say. You have complete freedom on the choice of means, rather, use everything to obtain it. Let everything speak to you about God, and yourself speak about God to all those with whom you are in contact, pray to him for those who don't know him, ask him to be like the virtuous people you see, not to be more beautiful [than they], but to serve him better.

Don't let the thought of God remain abstract. Always bring your heart into it. Remain especially in praise and thanksgiving. Be constantly happy to repeat: "How good God is! He alone is good!"

Also use concrete helps to think about God; for example, when the clock chimes, and give yourself a penance if you fail. Our body must be treated like a slave.

Don't remain in the abstract, make positive resolutions. During two or three weeks concentrate on the same fault to be corrected, the same virtue to practice. You may not always have the opportunity to practice the opposite virtue. You could always make positive acts of it and ask it from God. In everything, even in the smallest events of life, we must see the Will of God, and let ourselves be directed by it with love.

For prayer, have a book you like and read until some thought strikes you, in order to avoid spiritual laziness which prevents you from knowing yourself.

Be on guard against temptations of zeal; the result would be that by thinking of others, we neglect ourselves.

⁵⁷My daughter in our Lord, practice these maxims; it seems to me that they will always suit you. It's quite evident that the root provides life and strength to the tree, but in a hidden way because it must work in mystery and peace.

⁵⁶ This letter has no date: probably Paris, 1865. It seems to be a summary of a conversation. The first part is a copy in the handwriting of Mme. Giraud-Jordan. It is written in Fr. Eymard's handwriting beginning with the words: "My daughter, practice..."

⁵⁷ Here begins Father Eymard's own handwriting.

The Mark of the Passion

To create great power, steam and chemical gas are condensed, followed by a powerful explosion.

Well, it's the same in the spiritual life: charity, the virtues, external works are and must be only branches, the same is true for vocal prayer. The life of these works lies entirely in recollection, in the union of the soul in God. It is its nourishment, its life and strength. That is why you must come closer to God in prayer, listen to him, rather than always speak to him, be recollected in homage at his feet rather than perform acts of generosity where the soul ordinarily puts aside its recollection to become scattered by sentiments that are foreign to it.

The activity of the soul is often our great enemy. It seems to warm our piety, but this ardor is often artificial and debilitating. True spiritual activity is the one that takes place in God, or near God, because the soul unites itself through charity to its end and immediate grace. That is why nothing is more active than the true love of God, because it is the action of the flame in its hearth.

Apply yourself carefully at becoming spiritual (interior), my daughter, that is, to living with God, to working in union with God, to be happy in God.

Then his light will be the inspiration, the motive of your thought and the rule of your judgements.

Follow his divine Providence, like a trail of personal kindness, and you will be surprised to see how much God is concerned about you, even preoccupied.

This view of Providence, of goodness and love is the soul's greatest happiness, and constantly renews our feelings and insights. It's a little like Heaven!

So watch over your thoughts, let them be God's and let your heart be its echo and fruit, because to see God is the law and measure of love, love of virtue.

I will also send you a little book and one for your dear mother. I believe that she is still at Calet.

I thank God with you for the news you give me. You can see the realization of these words of the Prophet: "I placed my trust in God and it will not be in vain."

Goodbye! I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard, P.S.

CHAPTER III

January - June 1866 The Transplanted Tree

“Pray for us, that is the only way we can water the transplanted tree and make it grow.” *To Fr. Leroyer, Feb. 6, 1866.*

Foundation in Brussels Feb. 2, 1866

- Introduction of the Roman Liturgy
- Adoration by five men for fourteen hours

At Death's Door

- Shingles March 1866

Rumors of expropriation in Paris

Spiritual Teacher

- Retreat to his religious in Angers
- Retreat to the Servants in Angers
- Public missions in Paris

Octave of the Epiphany

Octave of Corpus Christi

- Retreats in Brussels, Ghent, in Flanders, Bergerac, and Maunon

1696

CO 1694

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 137/145)

Paris, January 1, 1866

Very dear sisters,

I am writing early in the morning to wish you a happy New Year.

As usual, my first Christmas Mass was for the two of you. It pleases me so to offer you to the Child Jesus! for he is so good and lovable in his divine crib!

This year may God give you his love, dear sisters! Last year he gave you his cross; you received it well, bore and sanctified it well.

Praise God for everything, even for the cross!

I have often asked our good Master to soften and lighten your cross, to give you the strength and courage to serve him better by continuing your works of zeal.

I was very happy about good Mother Marguerite's visit to you. It must have made you very happy, as well as the visit of her dear sister. We don't often find such friends. I feel they are like our own family.

I am well, although very busy. As you know, these Ladies made their second foundation at Nemours (Seine-et-Marne) on December 8th. I hope that our Lord will really be glorified by it! We are preparing one for ourselves at Brussels in Belgium. I have just arrived from there, everything is ready; we are waiting only for a letter from Rome. Pray very much for me, dear sisters. I always need it very much, because too many concerns are an obstacle to piety.

I bless you wholeheartedly today and every day.

Your brother,
Eymard

1697

CO 1696

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 8/20)

Paris, January 1, 1866

Madame in our Lord,¹

Thank you for your wishes in prayer - I also wholeheartedly do the same. I ask our Lord and Master to bless you and your whole family. I would have been [happy] to know all its members, but divine Providence has postponed this pleasure for me.

I am very grateful to you for the kind invitation from Mme. Marechal, but our rules bind us in such matters. If they were not so wise, I would regret them in this circumstance! But duty comes first. I bless you on this beautiful day and in our Lord, I am Madame, your respectful and devoted servant,

Eymard

¹ Excerpt from a letter.

1698

CO 1695

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 17/22)

Paris, January 1, 1866

Very esteemed Mother,

My first [New Year's] wishes are for you and your dear family. You know what my wishes are: a most abundant blessing upon your excellent and holy Work; a blessing on our modest collaboration, so that our good Master may be better known, adored and loved for, alas! he is acknowledged so little!

There is no news from Rome. They are on holidays there - what can we do? Wait a little longer, so as to do all things as God does, with order, deliberation and moderation.

You are all [included] in my family memento: I am sure you will do the same for us.

I remain in our Lord, very esteemed Mother,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

1699

CO 1697

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 159/181 VI 2)

Paris, January 2, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am writing to wish you a happy eucharistic year, and all your dear family as well. What can we wish for adorers, especially you, dear Father, except a more abundant grace of adoration in the love of our Good Master, and for his greater glory?

The year which has just passed was marked in part with the seal of Calvary, and you are still on the cross yourself. You are suffering for the good of the Society. Still, I ask our Lord to relieve and heal you, for "messis quidem multa, operarii autem pauci."² The worker of the first hour is more deserving than those who follow.

I went to Brussels to prepare the principal things, like beds, tables.... The Cardinal received me well. They really want to have us there, and there is much to do, especially as regards Roman Liturgy.

I still don't know when we will receive the answer from Rome. It will be difficult to go there [in time] for the royal feast of the Epiphany. I expect to go and begin it myself, when our Lord's hour will chime.

I leave you now for the terrible season of visits,³ and remain always united with you in our Good Master, and I am, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.⁴

² "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few."

³ New Year's visits.

⁴ S.S. = abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

1700

CO 1698

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 25/36)

Paris, January 3, 1866

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

I didn't have time to send you the wishes I formulated for you near the blessed Crib, nor those for New Year's day. I am writing them to you on the train. I tried to adore our dear mutual Master in union with you and the whole Work of Thanksgiving, because that beautiful work was begun on that day. The little grain, the food of the Elect, the Most Holy Eucharist, germinated at Bethlehem. It fell into the earth, there to become our bread of life.

So, the Cenacle and Bethlehem touch and complete one another. In both, we find the worship of adoration, consequently, of thanksgiving, because thanksgiving encompasses all love.

So, you must have been very happy on that beautiful day!

After yours, I gave a brief adoration⁵ at Nemours, where I am going to spend the day and then return to Paris tomorrow night.

The holy day of the Epiphany is the anniversary of our first exposition. Offer all your thanksgiving for me on that beautiful day! Then, you can tell me your wishes for me.⁶

I recommend to your [prayers] a foundation which we will soon be making in Brussels, in Belgium.

I bless you, and I am, in our Lord,

Totally united to you,
Eymard, Superior

1701

CO 1699

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 33/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, January 3, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I offered you to the Child Jesus at Christmas, to be his happy servant. On New Year's day, I offered you with my best wishes; I will tell you personally [what they are].

May the holy Will of the love of God always be accomplished lovingly in you, by whatever grace, virtue, or state that will please him! And may the yes of your heart be the answer to everything ... (omitted) ... tomorrow night, at 6 p.m.

I send this brief greeting with a blessing.

Try to come to Paris Saturday for our great Feast of the Epiphany, the anniversary of our first exposition and the day of royal adoration.

⁵ Retreat or mission.

⁶ He is waiting for her New Year's wishes.

The Transplanted Tree

In our Lord,

Madame,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

P.S. I give you every permission you need, for always, to go into the convent.⁷

Eymard

1702

CO 1700

TO MME. FELICIE DE COUCHIES (NEE RATTIER)
(VII 9/9)

Jesus Hostia

[Nemours], Jan. 4, 1866

Dear Mother,

I will have time for you in the afternoon.
Accept my best wishes in God, both in Heaven and on earth.
My fond dedication,

Eymard

1703

CO 1701

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 18/22)

Paris, January 8, 1866

Very esteemed Mother,

The hour of the Eucharistic Epiphany has not yet come - I was happy for a moment, when I received a letter from Rome on the 3rd - I said "Amen. Deo gratias - we are ready."

But, when I opened the letter, my friend had written that Msgr. S. V. Vegliatti is ill and that our request has not yet been handled, but he is keeping an eye on it. And so we await God's time. Dear Foundation! It will surely be very beautiful one day, since its roots go so deep!

I no longer ask for your prayers, but I remain united in our Lord, in whom I am, very esteemed Mother,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard

⁷ It was her custom to stay with the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament when making a retreat with Fr. Eymard.

1704

CO 1702

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 77/104)

Paris, January 10, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

My first wishes were for you in the presence of God and at the altar. Our Savior said: "What wish could I have except to see the fire of divine love embrace the whole world?" As for me, I want it to set your soul on fire. It is so dear to me in our Lord.

They say that fire makes the earth fruitful and makes blood flow into the heart; the fire of God's love is even more powerful and more fruitful. So then, love our Lord dearly, seek only to please him, to pour out all your sorrows and all your joys into his loving Heart, but above all, all your soul's affection, because if you love our dear Master so, he will be enough for you and you will be happy.

I've really neglected you, unfortunately! I was traveling so much and then I was so overwhelmed with business [matters] in December! We made a foundation of the Ladies of Angers at Nemours and I prepared one for us in Brussels where I hope we will be by the end of this month. I will go to begin this foundation myself, please God, and I may stay there a few months. I didn't go for the retreat in Angers, as I had told you;⁸ I didn't have time because of my trip to Brussels. I don't know when I will be going to Angers, but when I do, I really hope to go see you.

Believe me ever in our Lord, Madame,

Your totally devoted,
Eymard, S.⁹

1705

CO 1703

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 62/75)

Paris, January 10, 1866

Dear Madame,

You are right to scold a little, but with such a good heart. For the last two months I have been traveling or preaching retreats. It kept me so busy that I am behind with everyone, even with God. However, I can assure you that I wasn't so in my heart, nor in my prayer, but you would really pity me if you would see how busy I am and how I am called upon on the outside.

What can I wish you this year, except what you long for with so much devotion and grief? A little child from the Good Lord, yes, I am asking for it with you and for all of you, and I ask that he be perfect.¹⁰ Good mother, don't let yourself be frustrated by the suffering of expectation; on the contrary, strengthen your confidence and prayer.

And what shall I ask for you? Oh! Nothing other than one more spark of divine love, one of those red-hot sparks which burn away all dross, which purify gold and make it so beautiful.

⁸ The retreat of the Fathers and Brothers. He did give the one to the Servants.

⁹ S. abbreviation for Superior.

¹⁰ A little grandchild.

The Transplanted Tree

Keep your mind [free] from any sadness, because that would be to expose your soul to the most painful as well as the most dangerous of temptations. The heaven of your mind needs to be ever serene in order to see and contemplate the law of life, the truth and goodness of God.

In December, I made a foundation of sisters at Nemours; I am preparing one for us in Brussels. I recommend them to your good prayers, as well as your poor servant who is and will always be in our Lord,

Dear Madame,
Entirely yours,
Eymard, S.

P.S. When I will have the opportunity to see the sister, I will present your question; but she doesn't ordinarily have such insights. They are rather of a supernatural kind. Thank you for all the news about your dear nieces. I do pray for them, especially for Edmee.

1706

CO 1704

TO MME MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 11/19)

Paris, adame Mathilde, anuary 10, 1866

Dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your good wishes.¹¹ Surely, we met at the feet of our Good Saviour Jesus at the first hour,¹² exchanging prayers, because we don't forget our loved ones and the old bonds of charity.

I am praying and I will pray for your hope so that it may happen and that, like Anna, you may be the mother of a Samuel, or even greater. The fruit of prayer and blessing is usually great and holy.

Continue to beg, request, cry to God: it is allowable and even glorifies God. But dear Madame, don't give in to sadness, to a fixed sorrow, because that would mean losing peace, harming your piety, and weakening your trust in God.

Always remain simple in your grace, pious at heart, happy and joyful in your way of life. In a word, always be pleased with God and he will be with you.

Thank you for your photograph, but it's not really you. It isn't natural.

I bless you with all the blessings of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and it is my wish to apply all its benefits to you.

Dear Madame, believe me in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.S.¹³

¹¹ New Year's wishes.

¹² of the New Year.

¹³ P.S. = abbreviation for Priest, Superior.

1707

CO 1705

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 160/181 VI 2)

Paris, January 11, 1866

Dear Father,

In your letter of December 5, you said that you would send me the necessary documents to withdraw your two quarterlies which are now due. Could the royal feast days and your state of illness perhaps have caused the delay? Angers owes our Good Master's candles, and I had set aside that bill for you.

As in the other houses, we are doing things as magnificently as we can for the royal octave of the Epiphany. I am preaching every day, and our little chapel is sufficiently well frequented. But that is so little, compared to the other houses.

So Fr. Deplace has been named Bishop of Marseilles. I think that it will soon be public, and then the Archbishop will give us his consent for Brother Jules.

A week ago we received a Spanish novice from Cadix. He has been living with Mr. Le Marchand for two years. Today he entered as a postulant, he is really edifying us. He has a beautiful Spanish personality.

My Epiphany greetings to the Fathers and Brothers. Believe me in our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1708

CO 1706

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 22/24)

Paris, January 11, 1866

Dear friend,

I would have liked to be the first to send wishes on New Year's day: I did so in God's sight as I was at adoration from 1:00 to 2:00 a.m.

My wish for you is that [your] graces, your spiritual and temporal blessings may continue, because as father and head [of the family] you must have both; it is in keeping with [the way of] divine Providence. I am happy that your family is gathered around you: a father is always a father.

May I recommend one of my spiritual children to you, Mr. Baret. He knows bookkeeping, does fine writing, is trustworthy and sensitive. He is leaving a business which is closing and will go to see his family in Lyons (rue de Trion, 20). If you could hire him, you would have a faithful and devoted man.

Please offer my same wishes to your wife and believe me in our Lord,
Dear friend,

Always all yours,
Eymard, S.

1709

CO 1707

TO MISS ZENAIDE DE ST. BONNET

(V 3/3)

Paris, January 11, 1866

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

Thank you for your kind letter. It brought me comfort, telling me that you accept to conform to the holy Will of God and surrender as a daughter to his plans over you. Yes, we must wait for some sign other than the present situation. The wound is still bleeding in the family, your position is still too painful; and then the good Master seems to be asking you first of all to bring comfort to all the pain which surrounds you, to bring relief to so much weakness and suffering.

Stay at God's disposal, to please him in general, and to serve him with gentle piety both at his feet and among your family.

I would like to see you take a lot of rest and sleep. You must have a great need for it. Your poor head needs to consider only the glory of your good and holy mother, her love for God, his divine goodness over you, and the daily bonds in this chain of graces from Providence. Go often to rest in silence before the divine Tabernacle. That is how you will renew your strength and rediscover your courage.

Thank you for your kind invitation. I don't know when I will pass through Lyons; but be convinced that you will have my first visits. We are praying and will always pray for you, counting on the same in return.

Believe me in our Lord,

Dear Mademoiselle,

Your ever devoted servant,
Eymard

1710

CO 1708

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC

(VII 15/17 VIII 26)

Paris, January 11, 1866

Mademoiselle,

I had welcome news about you from Miss Guillot. I thank God that your health is maintaining itself in spite of the bad season. The best season for fruit is the end of summer; they become tasty and the harvests ripen under the good sunshine¹⁴ Therefore, have confidence and trust; the hours of the last stage of life are worth years in God's sight....

¹⁴ An allegory of the spiritual life.

1711

CO 1709

To Count Jean Raymond De Cuers (Fr. De Cuers SSS)
(I 161/181 VI 2)

Paris, January 16, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your kind note dated the 10th. We like to receive personal New Year's wishes from our old friends. May God be pleased with us, that is the most we can hope for.

I was very pleased with the good news about the priestly vocation you mentioned. We will be very happy to receive him on retreat.

We haven't received anything yet from Rome about Brussels. Msgr. Vegliatti, the Secretary, has been sick for two months.

I am returning the certificates to you so that you may simply endorse them. That is the answer they gave us at the Ministry of the Invalids.

The young Spaniard is called Saavedra Carmel Narcisse Joseph. He was in the Royal Marines as an officer and commissary. He is 27 years old, and really edifies us. He is a typical Spaniard.

The brother of Father Viguiet also entered; he is twenty-five years old and gives us good hope; he had not completed his studies.

Nothing new; our royal octave is over.

Religious greetings to everyone.

Believe me ever in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. I hope to see you before going to Brussels, but I still don't know when.

1712

CO 1710

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

Paris, January 19, 1866

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

Thank you for your good letter dated the 3rd. At the feet of our good and mutual Master, I offered you the very same wishes and desires¹⁵ to be one in his holy service and for his greater glory. Your soul must be united to our Lord by the grace of the moment, in union with its various sufferings. The soul, which is a spouse in time on its way to Eternity, must pass through all the states of our Lord to reach the glorious mount of the Ascension. These sacrifices make love flower in the midst of the desert, guided by the eucharistic column.¹⁶ What you tell me about your deep peace of soul shows me that love is at work. Very good.

¹⁵ Traditional New Year's wishes.

¹⁶ Like the cloud in the desert guiding the Hebrews by day.

The Transplanted Tree

Always be simple and tender in your prayers to our Lord. Your soul needs it, since it cannot enjoy anything in this world, it must make up for it and strengthen itself in this divine conversation, faithfully following the impulse of grace, the interior movement of the Holy Spirit.

I was very happy to hear that your dear Albert is a religious. That was your great desire, it will also be your joy as a mother.

Your good and brave eldest son will be in Paris. He will pass through trials like the children in the furnace, so always continue to be his angel.

I recommend to your prayers a foundation which we are preparing in Brussels, Belgium, in that sad country where secret societies rule. I also beg you to pray very much for me, because so many concerns often dry up my soul!

Remember me to Mr. Tholin, Mr. de Lagoutte, the good ladies Favel, Thivel, Duvillard and Miss Fannie.

I like to pray for her. Believe me in our Lord,

Dear Madame and sister,
All yours,
Eymard, S.

c. Jan. 20 - To Nemours and Meaux regarding the foundation.

1713

CO 1711

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 318/395 VI 2)

Paris, January 21, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your letter and its contents: thank you. Since you are poorer than we are, you should have let us handle that small expense which, like the others, is exclusively for the service and glory of our Good Master.

I didn't write to you, nor anyone else, because I had some discomfort and it made me lazy. It's a change in the weather here in Paris; many people are affected by it. I wasn't ill in bed nor stopped, I was just too lazy to write.

I went to Nemours Friday, with a fine Priest: Fr. Courtois, our former novice. I am hoping that he will be the chaplain for our little Community. I would be happy if it were so, because he is devout, has some income, and loves us. He has a fine spirit. It will be settled this week. I must go to Meaux to speak to the Bishop about it. I already mentioned it at the Chancery yesterday.

I was very pleased with my visit.

I had really scolded and left Sr. B. under the impression that I was quite displeased
[The end of the letter is missing.]

1714

CO 1712

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 19/28)

Paris, January 21, 1866

Dear Miss Antonia,

I will visit your brother at Gaze tomorrow at 5:15. He is expecting me. I had sent him the message; he seemed pleased to see me. I would really like to do the same for him as for his brother. Pray for my visit.

I received a letter from your sister. It's a good letter. Now she is separated from all her loved ones, but she still loves the Good Lord. Then, we must excuse her because she doesn't see what we see: there are so many near-sighted people in this world!

God's goodness is beyond admiration, that there should be so much peace and charity when there are so many fools in the world.

So, you have been ill, holy daughter of the Good Lord! We must sometimes pass through heaven's inn: it's a bit costly, but very helpful!

Yes, I like it when you are a bit proud, while still being kind and noble. Have plenty of heart, but no eyes, no ears.

I am so pleased to know that you are with your good dear friend! Divine Providence loves her so, and you, too!

Goodbye! I bless you. I am going to say holy Mass and offer you to the little Child Jesus, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1715

CO 1713

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 63/75)

Paris, January 21, 1866

Dear Madame,

As I read your letter I want to tell you how edified and happy I am to see dear Edmee be so faithful and generous. God will be more than a millionaire for her: her father and her family! May God bless and protect her! I am asking God to bring about, bless, and hasten the time for a little St. John¹⁷ for your dear Mathilde! Finally, you are as I wanted you to be;¹⁸ that's fine.

The first and last movements of the heart should always be for God.

It's possible that I may go to Marseilles shortly. I would be happy to pay you a quick visit as I did in the past. You know that you ordinarily get the first.

I bless you and leave you to go celebrate and pray for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

¹⁷ A child.

¹⁸ Spiritually

1716

CO 1714

TO FR. HENRY BILLON SSS
(III 1/1)

LETTER OF OBEDIENCE

The Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament (Faubourg Saint-Jacques, 68) begs the Chaplain of the Expiatory Chapel¹⁹ to allow Fr. Billon, bearer of the present letter, to celebrate Mass in the chapel.

Paris

January 22, 1866

Eymard

1717

CO 1715

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 19/22)

Paris, January 22, 1866, Sunday

Dear Reverend Mother,

Yesterday I received from Rome, at the same time as yours, the letter from the Sacred Congregation permitting and approving the Brussels foundation. Providence is with us.

Therefore everything is in order! we shall leave here next Monday, arrive in the evening and so be ready for your 40 Hours. I hope to get away earlier myself if it is possible! but don't expect me. I would like to be there on Sunday evening to prepare everything.

Please be so kind as to have 3 mattresses ordered from the manufacturer whom your porter knows, so that we may find them ready there.

I have just the time to commend myself to your prayers and say that I am, in our Lord,

Your respectful and most devoted servant,
Eymard

¹⁹ Expiatory Chapel of the Miracle; the Brussels foundation.

1718

CO 1716

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 34/52)

Paris, January 23, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I am leaving for Brussels Sunday night or Monday morning for a few weeks.

If you need me, I will be available Saturday or Sunday.

Pray for this foundation which is costing me a lot, but the glory of our good Master is never bought or obtained too dearly.

I like to think that your thoughts are always filled with a beautiful and soothing sunlight, your heart free like the air, and that the Good Lord is in you; that your will makes no choice other than that of the Will of God at each moment, loving all that God loves, indifferent to whatever doesn't converge toward God, spurning whatever is against.

Your poor body is given to suffering, you must always consider it as the little home of the Blessed Trinity, and always keep it worthy of such a divine dwelling.

In a word, root your life in the positive [considerations] of truth, grace, and divine goodness, and finally in the love which gives and receives lovingly.

I bless you in our Lord and leave you in his fatherly hand and his consoling service.

In Him, therefore,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

1719

CO 1717

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

(I 162/181 VI 2)

Paris, January 23, 1866²⁰

Very dear Father,

I've just received the rescript from Rome for Brussels. We are preparing to go and begin there on the feast of the Presentation, February 2. And as the diocesan 40 Hours begin on the 30, 31 and February 1st, I will go to preach for them.

So I will leave for Belgium Sunday night or Monday morning.

I expect to send the following: Fr. Viguier, who will make his vows first, for his time is complete. He has been recognized to be a good religious and a good adorer. The council therefore admitted him to profession for Sunday. He has been on retreat since Monday. Brother Antoine and Brother Marius have been admitted to triennial vows. They are also on retreat, and I am reserving them for the house of Brussels, with Brother Alexander, who has learned how to cook a little, as the sixth.

I am still undecided between the brothers.

So, dear Father, you will pray and have others pray for us. I am the one who will begin. As

²⁰ Or the 24th? Troussier.

The Transplanted Tree

there are many questions to settle about the liturgy there and to start things in the right direction, I thought it was my duty to go: Fr. Champion can really maintain things here for a while.

We have a young priest from Beauvais (27 years old) for a vocation retreat. He seems fine and is arriving providentially.

We are giving you a lot of trouble for your money orders. But at the bank they didn't want to cash them without it. However, Brother Eugene, who had sought all the information, had told me that one would be enough.

I hope that my letter will cross yours with the references, as the Master's candle bills are overdue.

Doesn't the house of Marseilles owe the house of Paris a small amount for the cloth it furnished? In that case, when possible, send us the amount to keep the income regular. The mother house has so many expenses that it greatly needs its resources.

Believe me, very dear Father, in our Lord,

Your very affectionate servant,
Eymard, S.S.

1720

CO 1718

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 20/28)

Paris, January 25, 1866

Dear Miss Antonia,

I saw your dear brother Claudius only last night. He gave me a nice welcome, and I was happy to see him again. He resembles you in so many ways! I wish it were in every way... But there are many fine things about your dear brother: a heart of gold, a sense of honor, honesty. If he had faith with it all, he would really be a great saint. The romantic feelings are somewhat past: that is the fruit of eternal life which you must cultivate and bring to maturity.

We spoke a lot about you: imagine how pleased I was to see that he really loves you, because you will be able to help him a lot.

I like to think that you are feeling better and that everything is fine, especially the eremitic life at certain moments, the cenobitic life in the common life, and the great life of love [that comes] from the Cenacle. Because, my dear daughters, we need three colors in the flag of perfection: white for the life of the Cenacle, red for the life of charity, heavenly blue for the life of solitude. May the sun of confidence and joy always throw light on your path and your works. We serve such a good Master! And then, you have always been his and you will always be faithful to him.

So then, have courage! Your noonday sun is rising toward heaven where it will set. You must rise with it.

Sunday night, I will leave for Brussels, to begin a foundation there, at 24 rue des Sols. Pray for me and for everyone.

I bless you with my whole soul, and I am in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

1721

CO 1719

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 9/26)

Paris, January 25, 1866

Dear Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am returning your ticket, made as you wished it [to be], thanks again. I like to think that your spirit is really at peace with the holy Will of God, that your heart is very strong throughout these family problems, and that your soul is still entirely given to our good Master.

Provided God is happy, let us be happy as well! When God loves us, what do we care about the rest!

When God is for us, how can we worry or become sad about what is against us!

In this divine center of the Heart of Jesus, how can we fear storms from the outside!

Even when Jesus seems to be sleeping, let us fear nothing, let us keep watch at his feet and rest at peace.

I beg you, don't let sadness take over your soul, nor worry take hold of your spirit. God is happy and loves you.

I will leave Sunday for Brussels (24 rue des Sols). We will begin a little foundation of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Pray for us, dear daughter. Needless to say that I never stop doing so for you and your loved ones.

Goodbye in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1722

CO 1720

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 319/395 VI 2)

Paris, January 27, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I kept you waiting a while for this letter, do forgive me. I hardly have the time or the strength to breathe. I am leaving tomorrow night for Brussels with Fr. Billon and four others to begin adoration and the new foundation on Tuesday the 30th. My work is almost beyond my strength, but God is here. It is impossible to postpone our departure. (Write to me at Brussels, 24 rue des Sols, Belgium. Put two stamps.)

I read Fr. Champion's letter for Benoite. That's his way of writing, we must see only his intention. Then, it doesn't take anything away from virtue; on the contrary, it will make yours greater, and make you become even more maternal.

I saw Fr. Courtois yesterday. He is leaving for Nemours this morning.²¹ He will do very well, it's a really Providential thing, a miracle. Let us thank God for it, because I don't know how we could have managed, since I had to recall Fr. Champion.

²¹ To be the Chaplain for the sisters.

The Transplanted Tree

I will send him to you right away ... [6 lines erased].

Fr. Champion will be good; settle things with him concerning the Bishop.

Trust in your grace and your mission from God.

God has given you prudence and wisdom, but you lack a bit of strength.

Before leaving I'll send you the answer to your notes. However, be a bit patient and merciful toward me. I am pulled on all sides.

Goodbye. I bless you wholeheartedly and your daughters as well.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. You could have given the retreat to the young lady. You would have gotten to know her.

I believe that good Fr. Champion will arrive there Tuesday morning or tonight.

I am sorry that you gave the 100 francs since you are so poor! And I am also, because we gave you everything for Nemours. I am pressing for the sale of the mill, it's necessary. Imagine that Mr. Le Clere loaned 4000 francs for Nemours, and that we borrowed 6700 francs from the bank of France for you, which must be reimbursed soon. Oh, how many expenses poor Miss Sterlingue has caused us, and what a cross it is for the house! Poor woman! she really should be pitied. But then, her father caused her so much difficulty! We must pray for her.

1723

CO 1721

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 64/75)

Paris, January 27, 1866

Madame,

I heard that dear Miss de Revel gave you a recommendation for Mr. Baret, a wise and intelligent young man in whom I am very interested and whose family I esteem highly. If I had known that you knew Mr. Onofrio, I would have recommended him to you first, because I know how dedicated and happy you are to oblige.

I'm leaving for Brussels for a foundation tomorrow night (24 rue des Sols). I will stay a few weeks; I recommend this to your prayers.

I constantly pray for you and your dear daughter.

Believe me in our Lord,

Madame,

Your respectful and ever devoted,
Eymard, S.

Jan. 28 - Departure for Brussels to begin the foundation there, and to preach the diocesan 40 hours on Jan. 30, 31 and Feb. 1.

1724

CO 1722

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 35/52)

Paris, January 28, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to give you my last blessing before I leave. May God keep you, guide you and be your consolation and strength!!!

Surrender yourself to his divine and gracious Providence. Let it lead you by events, by the laws of necessity, of state and duty, and especially, follow carefully the impulse of grace. May your soul, like the sails of a ship, open itself to the direction of this heavenly wind, may it cling to it in order to follow its impulse.

A spiritual person needs nothing else.

I saw the person I had mentioned to you. He is a Maitre D' and not a head cook, so I was disappointed.

I confide to you the dear Work of First Communions.²² Love it, it is your harvest to prepare.

I leave you in the Heart of our Good Master, in whom I am,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

P.S. I just received the little note from the pastor at St. Thomas. I am forwarding it to you right away. Please thank him.

1725

CO 1723

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 11/14)

Paris, January 28, 1866

Excellency,

At long last, I am able to send Father Champion, the Assistant of the Society, to Your Excellency. I had to keep him at Nemours to serve the new colony from the Motherhouse of Angers, because the Bishop of Meaux had no priest available. Today, Father is being replaced by a fine priest whom I know, and I hasten to send him to work with Your Excellency for the good of the little Community of adorers which you love and protect so paternally.

Your Excellency, allow me to recommend to your prayers a little foundation which we are making at this time in Brussels, that boulevard of free-masonry.

His Eminence the Cardinal of Malines has wanted us there for a long time; finally, we accepted the kind proposals which are being offered to us.

Please receive my deepest respect and devotion as I am happy to be, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, Superior

²² She organized collections to help finance this Work.

1726

CO 1724

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 20/22)

Paris, January 28, 1866

Very Reverend Mother,

Tomorrow morning Fr. Viguiier will come there with three Brothers. I was hoping to precede them or be with them, but as it is I won't be able to come until two o'clock, or 11:20 p.m., depending on how I can free myself from my duties.

At last, dear Mother, we are on our way, soon to be in the royal service of the good Master.

If you knew all the difficulties and obstacles which have beset us! But, God be blessed! Our Lord will have the victory, as late as yesterday and this morning the devil was about.

Yes, God wishes this foundation; it is marked with the cross and also with his love.

Until we meet, dear Mother,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.²³

Jan. 29 - To Brussels to begin a foundation there and to preach 40 hours on Jan 30, 31, and Feb. 1.

1727

CO 1725

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 2/14)

Brussels, January 30, 1866

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,²⁴

I have just received your letter and I'm hurrying to answer so as not to keep you waiting. First of all, let me tell you that everything arrived here safely, people and things.

How can we thank you for everything you gave and sent to us!

You are depriving us of the merit of trials and poverty; nothing is lacking! Thanks again. May God repay you a hundredfold!

The Society's adoration will begin Friday at 8:30, as is the custom in our houses, with an opening sermon, and daily Benediction at 3:00 p.m. because of the parish schedule. On the feast day, there will be a second sermon at 3:00 p.m. to explain the purpose of the Work.

I was beginning to feel my migraine headache this morning, but it vanished in view of all the errands that needed to be done. We need to provide our small house with everything, and I don't want to entrust this to anyone else, so I go to the merchant's myself.

Now about you.

I read your uncle's whole letter; poor man! He is dead, more so even than your aunt. I advise you to avoid details in your reply. I would suggest the following:

"Uncle,

²³ Abbreviation for Superior.

²⁴ Linen-maid in Paris.

The Transplanted Tree

“I accept your accounts and consider them paid. Please send me the 357 f. 50. Thank you for the offer of the valuables, but I prefer to receive the money; I will not discuss the details of your letter which are personal to me.

“I never would have expected such distrust nor such humiliating judgements about my life from my uncle. I will bear the humiliation of it, leaving to God and time the care of justifying me, if need be.”

Poor daughter! In your uncle’s letter he reveals himself, his lack of faith, etc. See how low an impious person will sink. God wanted yet another sacrifice from you; but it gives you full freedom. Take it and protect it. Let this cloud pass by and live in [the light of] the beautiful sun of the Eucharist.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

All yours,

Eymard

The postage is only 30 centimes.

Miss Thomas
25, rue Humboldt
Paris, (France).

1728

CO 1726

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI 2/7)

CONGREGATION OF THE MOST
BLESSED SACRAMENT

Brussels, January 31, 1866

Eminence,

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament, received with such good will because of your religious fervor, has three special works of zeal: the first is personal retreats for priests; the second is the work for First Communion for adults who might have neglected to learn Christian doctrine and receive this divine Sacrament; the third is an Aggregation of the faithful dedicated to the cult of adoration, who commit themselves to a monthly [hour of] adoration or to sanctify a eucharistic week²⁵.

So as to further the beautiful apostolate of poor churches, the associates received by us will form part of the Association of Poor Churches in Brussels.

Therefore, your Eminence, I earnestly beg you to bless the works to which our Society is dedicated, so that God may give them the grace which is the fruit of obedience and union with the authority of the Chief Pastor.²⁶

It is with the deepest veneration that I kiss the hem of your sacred Purple and am happy to be, through our Lord,

²⁵ Pay for the candles and flowers at the Altar of Exposition for a week.

²⁶ FACULTIES GRANTED BY CARDINAL ENGELBERT, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES to the religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Brussels, founded on Rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis, on February 2nd, 1866.

(1) Opening of Solemn Adoration, 2nd February 1866.

(2) Perpetual Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

(3) Daily Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the evening. (There follows a list of VARIOUS HYMNS for DAILY BENEDICTION.) (Those indicated in the Custom Book of the Congregation.)

Eminence,
Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant,

Pierre Eymard
Superior of the Society
of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Feb. 2 - Foundation in Brussels on Salazar street. He stayed there until April 23.

1729

CO 1727

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

(I 163/181 VI 2)

Brussels, February 6, 1866, Rue des XII Aptres, 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I am writing to give you some news about us; I've been so busy, that I haven't had a moment. I arrived here January 29 (Fr. Viguiers, Frs. Francois, Antoine, Marius and myself). On the 30th, we took part in the three days of the diocesan Forty Hours.

Our foundation took place on the feast of the Presentation of our Lord. We made it as beautiful as we could for our Lord. In the morning there were a few people, at night a bit more, the bad weather held back the lazy ones. Every day we begin Exposition after the 7:00 o'clock Mass and finish it at 9:00 p.m. The church is beginning to have a few adorers; since nothing was established, or at least continuous, this church was a bit deserted. Then, the Belgians are cold; however, I hope that this little foundation will one day give great glory to our Lord. But this life of adoration is so little understood!

Our relations with Miss de Meeus are simple and fine. These women are fully dedicated to the worship of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Our great struggle was to put aside all the anti-liturgical Belgian customs and to establish what is purely Roman. It is done, but everything still needs to be taught, corrected and formed. I still haven't heard any complaints from the clergy or the pious cliques. It's true that we don't see anyone, we are absorbed by our service.

We give Benediction at three o'clock, because the parishes give it at four, and our Pastor would cause us difficulties if we gave it at the same time as he did.

We decided to have beer, because wine is too expensive here. Fortunately, Fr. Champion sent us Mass wine from his village. Everything is going fine, each one devoting himself like country people do.

But the finances are very meager, and if we didn't know that Divine Providence has always been so kind toward us, it would be frightening. I didn't want to ask for anything, either from Miss de Meeus, or anyone. Until now, we haven't lacked anything. But I do have a debt for some of the bedding and the chairs. Couldn't you send me what you deposited with Mr. Guerin (500)?

I just received a letter from Brother Francois, in which he is asking me for the money he gave when he entered, in order to go and embrace his mother before she dies and then go into solitude. Poor Brother, how mistaken he is. I don't know what amount he gave. It is written clearly in Paris, but I don't have the notes here.

See whether it's possible to have him wait until my return to Paris. The difficult part is that we don't have a Brother cook to replace him in Marseilles. That shows how necessary it is to have Brothers in each house learn how to cook, in case of need. I will have them begin that here and in Paris.

The Transplanted Tree

We had problems here one day. On the day of the feast, I had to do the kitchen myself, Brother Francois had a strong migraine headache.

I beg you, dear Father, not to forget the new daughter of the Blessed Sacrament.²⁷ She is small and frail, but she has good will.

I remain closely united to you in our Lord, and I am,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - My fondest regards to the Fathers and Brothers.

1730

CO 1729

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 320/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 6, 1866, Rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Here I am. I was so busy that I didn't have a moment of my own. We are only five for the Master's full service and for the house: they are Fr. Viguiet, Brothers Francois, Antoine, and Marius.

The foundation began February 2nd. A foundation is always a bit crucifying, but it also has many consolations. What greater and more delightful one than to give our Lord a new throne!

I received your 300 francs, many thanks. I wish you hadn't deprived yourself that way. I do hope that you will please God by offering him all your difficulties.

I would like to see you a little like myself, with crosses that I cannot remove or prevent. I try to behave as we do when it is raining and we don't have an umbrella: we receive the rain from heaven.

I am fine and God does everything.

I have time only to bless you. I know that Fr. Champion is with you. I hope that he will help you.

Have courage and confidence! dear daughter.

All yours,
Eymard

²⁷ The new foundation.

1731

CO 1730

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 78/104)

Brussels, February 6, 1866, rue des Douze Apôtres, 2 bis

Madame in our Lord,

I have been here in Brussels a week. This foundation, which we have been planning for many years, began on February 2nd. We are only 5 to begin.

Beginnings are always difficult, naturally speaking, because we found the four walls bare. But God is so good to his own! Then, we must submit our confidence to the test of faith. Here as elsewhere, the devil is master for the most part, especially because of secret societies. We are hoping that the new king will do some good and correct some of the evil done by his father. The late king, once so highly praised, ended his reign despised by all who had moral values, even Belgian Flanders would have received him only as a reject.

They say it was time that he should die. He is leaving four illegitimate children, and in spite of all his skills for government, his son is inheriting a throne fraught with many difficulties. That is how the great ones who are without faith end their lives. I expect to stay here at least a month; so I will have time to hear from you and also to reply.

I won't say anymore today, since it's only to keep you informed.

I remain very closely united to you in our Lord,

Eymard

Excuse me if I don't stamp the letter. However, it's only 30 centimes!

1732

CO 1728

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 38/54)

To dear Father Leroyer

Brussels, February 6, 1866, rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I wanted to write to you from Brussels at the very beginning to tell you about the foundation, but we have been busy until now. We took over and settled here on February 2nd.

Everything worked out very smoothly with the Ladies.²⁸ They are so devoted to the service of the Chapel, and even toward us. But on that level, we are reserved and ask nothing for ourselves, since we can manage with the minimum.

I am consoled to see the good spirit and joyful generosity of our religious here. Each one lends a hand to everything.

Then the Roman Liturgy is taking its place in the midst of all the Gallic customs the Belgians have. We are firm on that point.

²⁸ Congregation of Miss de Meeus.

The Transplanted Tree

I haven't yet established anything for our works. I would need one of your forms for each work of the Aggregation, the Eucharistic Weeks, etc. Please send them to me in the mail as soon as possible. The Eucharistic Week that you sent us is limited to a small subscription for the luminary. I think I will speak about the Aggregation on Thursday. I already said a word about it in the pulpit on the first day: the ground must be prepared. They say that the Belgians are slow to take up new ideas.

So I hardly saw anyone, or rather no one. We have been so busy! Then, the church needs to form its audience. Everyone has fond memories of you, especially Miss de Meeus.

Those whom I brought here are Fr. Viguier, Brothers Francois, Antoine and Marius. We are few, but it is enough for the moment. I will stay here another two months to prepare the ground well and handle the major difficulties.

Pray for us, dear Father, as that is the only way we can water the transplanted tree and make it grow.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1733

CO 1731

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 3/14)

Brussels, February 7, 1866, rue des Douze-Aptres, 2bis

Dear daughter in our Lord,

The cross is truly following you! But so is God's grace and love! You had to be detached from everything while being crucified! Remember that love is stronger than death. I pray a great deal for you, because I feel that you must need it.

Poor Marie! She came to see her dear old friend. Where could she go if not to the one who always showed her such pure and loving devotion?

I feel the best thing might be to send her back to rue du Theatre, where she was. I find it difficult to understand a medical ailment that would require her going two hundred leagues away; what care could Mr. Evrat's friendship and great knowledge then provide her!

I think the Ladies of rue du Theatre would take her back. However, it is easier to judge on the spot, so I submit my judgment to one who is more knowledgeable.

I pray a great deal for poor Marie, because I feel real compassion for her. I feel a need to entrust her to God's care, her situation is so sad! However, God is supremely good and wise; so we must adore his hidden plans when our own limited vision sees only difficulty and pain.

When you have a free moment, give me news about yourself. It will make me happy.

I am so busy because we are only five for adoration. The good Master keeps us busy and we are happy about it.

Believe me, dear daughter, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1734

CO 1732

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I9/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 11, 1866, Rue des XII Aptres, 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I am sending you Brother Alfred's letter. I don't know his address. If you don't have it, I believe that Mr. Guillemain, rue Vaugirard 65, at the corner of Bonaparte Street on the right, can give it to you.

Everything is fine here; but we will need to have a sixth person soon. I see many problems in having Fr. Billon come now. We can't neglect the house of Paris. There is only Brother Henry, now that he is better. What do you think about it? We can wait a little while longer: nothing seems difficult, especially at the beginning. People are beginning to come often to the chapel.

Send me at least 100 francs, because I don't have enough to pay for the customs on the wine and the shipping. I don't dare talk about our poverty here. However, we must say that our Good Master has taken good care of us. We have until the end of the month to pay the accounts.

Lent is here! Follow our little morning tradition: not too much, nor too little; rather less than more, just to have some relief.

Believe that I am, dear and beloved Father,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1735

CO 1733

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 321/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 11, 1866, Rue des 12 Aptres, 2 bis

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I imagine that you must have received my letter of thanks for the 300 francs; it was truly Providential. When it came, I was going along the streets of Brussels with a down payment toward our debts, and I opened your letter. Imagine how my eyes turned toward Heaven and Angers! How good God is!

We are well, though busy like never before, since we are only five, our service comes every four hours. With a happy heart, nothing is hard for God.

Fr. Champion wrote to me that the Bishop received him kindly, that he will give you the conferences, that your house is going well, that everything is fine. I am happy about it, I didn't doubt it.

I think it would be well if Fr. Audibert were your extraordinary confessor. I even feel that it's desirable. It would attach him to your house; I will write about it to Fr. Champion.

Yes, Fr. Champion, Superior, as you say.

Lent is coming, be broad-minded toward the weak ones; nor do I want you to fast either.

The money for Nemours frightens me! What can there be for us to pay? What! twelve thousand francs to Nemours! May God be praised! But what a lesson!

We must absolutely sell the mill. Miss Sterlingue no longer has anything to do with it, unfortunately! However, we should pity her, because she is most unfortunate. She had been well-intentioned and wanted to be generous.

I bless you, you and all your sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

The Council will be as follows: Sr. Virginie, Sr. Marie, Sr. Claudine.

I am writing this to Fr. Champion; but tell the sisters and read this note to them.

The postage costs only 30 centimes.

1736

CO 1735

TO FR. CYR-ARMAND CHAMPION SSS
(15/5 VI 2)

Brussels, February 13, 1866, rue des 12 Aptres 2 bis

Very dear Father,

I am very happy to know that you are in Angers. I had promised you to the Bishop such a long time ago. I was sure he would welcome you.

Stay there as long as you need to settle and organize everything with His Excellency and with Mother. Together with knowledge, God has given you a conciliating and broad spirit, I bless him for it. Form them to the choir and to the religious life, as you did successfully at Nemours. Do encourage these dear daughters, they have been very deprived. You must see whether it might be better that Fr. Audibert be their ordinary confessor, and Fr. Crepon their extraordinary confessor, because confession every week is the ordinary rule.

The Bishop was to read the third part of the Sisters' Constitutions and make his observations.

Mother shared them with me. Here is my reply:

Page 1. - 1. The Bishop's idea that the visit of the houses should be done by the Superior General or by a delegated Sister is better than by an Ecclesiastical Superior, who has no mission for another diocese.

Page 2. - 2. The Chapter should have three Councillors instead of two.

Page 3. - For loans beyond 300 francs, the Council is required.

No. 2. - Twelve Chapter members.

The Superior has the right to challenge a chapter member.

Absolute secrecy by the chapter members about the deliberations.

Eliminate the election of two Councillors to remain in the Mother house to correct abuses, etc.

Not to give all the houses the copies of the Chapter deliberations.

Dear Father, I find all these notes by the Bishop to be very precise and wise: so then, we should receive them with respect and gratitude.

As for the nomination of the Superior for life, the Bishop is opposed to it.

I know that in Rome, the tendency is to name the first Superior for life, not only for the unity and stability of government, but also to avoid all the commotions that surround an election. Then, it is up to God to take the responsibility of removing a Superior.

On this point, make my observations and yours. If the Bishop absolutely holds to it, consider it as coming from God. In the way that His Excellency proposes, a person could be elected twice in a row, and a third time with the consent of the Bishop, which amounts to 18 years. I believe that in this way, it really is for life. But then, I would have liked it to be as it is for us.

The Transplanted Tree

Instead of one month at the Motherhouse for perpetual vows, the Bishop wants six months.

The cloister is necessary. This chapter is lacking; it should really be done.

Good Father, act in accord with His Excellency and Mother. Cut, remove, I give you all possible permissions. Since, according to the Bishop, six Councillors are required, the matter is already settled. There are six perpetually professed Sisters.

Name them immediately, in order that the Council might be formed and the Bishop approve it.

If the Bishop holds to having 12, take the professed Sisters lacking in Angers from Nemours. They will be named by right in case of need.

Ad alia:²⁹

I saw two beautiful confessionals here for 600 francs: Gothic, oak wood. Therefore, the workman from Paris who received 680 francs is well paid and beyond. How much that man cost us!

I wrote to Mr. Saunier from Nemours, before leaving for Brussels, about selling the mill. Sr. Benoite should have him come to the house to put pressure on him. I will write to Paris, for the deed of sale at Mr. Meignen's, in order to send it to Nemours. Fr. Chanuet wrote to tell me that 14,000 francs were sent to Nemours. I believe this good Father made a mistake; that it is 1400 francs. How could we have such an amount to pay? Ah! dear House. It will be a good one in the sight of God, because it is very dear in the sight of men.

Everything is functioning here. We have been busy with the service of adoration, from 7:00 (a.m.) to 9:00 p.m. These Ladies are admirable in their devotion for the church and in their desire to be of service to us, but I am careful on that point. We had misjudged Miss de Meeus. She is excellent. Write me again from Angers. Try to go see Mme. d'Andign.

Courage, good Father. God will repay you for the good you are doing for these good Sisters.³⁰ They are more deserving than we are. I will write to you shortly about the house of our Fathers.

All yours,
Eymard

(Postage, 30 centimes)

1737

CO 1734

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE SERVANTS (III 1/1)

To dear Sisters Virginie, Marie and Claudine,

Brussels, February 15, 1866

As Sr. Benoite was sent to Nemours and the Council of the motherhouse lacks one member; Sr. Claudine will be the third councillor. So, for the moment, the Council will be composed of four members, including the Reverend Mother. May each councillor seek in Council only the glory of God and the good of the little Congregation, and not the particular good to the detriment of the common good. But also learn to unite patience and strength, gentleness and strictness, charity and truth.

Decisions on vocations are always serious, so they must be made before God, with God, and for God.

I bless you with my whole heart, dear Sisters, and am in our good Master,

All yours,
Eymard

²⁹ *ad alia*: to other things.

³⁰ The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament in Angers.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 322/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 16, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to tell Fr. Champion to stay as long as necessary for your formation; so he will be staying in Angers. He must be expecting a letter from me. I asked him to explain the 12,000 or 14,000 francs, because Fr. Chanuet is quoting me 14,000. I want to see the accounts from Nemours before we pay; it isn't possible that we owe that much. Here we are furnishing our house with 1500 to 2000 francs. It's true that at Nemours there is the cult, the initial cost of the sacred vessels, etc., but 14,000 francs! In addition to the rest which has already been given! In short it is Miss Sterlingue's fault and ours as well for having given her carte blanche. She seemed to imply that she would be the one, and that we should let her take care of it. Today we are paying for it.

I like your way of proceeding. Yes, dear daughter, let no one (except God and me) know the depths of your sorrow, of your thoughts on these difficulties. Be very strong on that point, reproach yourself for any indiscretion, and punish yourself for it. My secret as a Superior belongs to God and to myself: let that be your rule.

Take what is good in each one, use that for the benefit of the good Lord's work. As far as faults are concerned, pinpricks, personal crucifixion, that is just manure for the tree. Use everything, but only for the Master's service.

This is what comforts me: our Lord is adored. He remains on his throne of grace and honors his Father, He is saving souls. What does it matter if mosquitos are buzzing at the door, or if the wind is gusting, or flies are bothering us! None of that disturbs adoration.

Yes, write as you said you would. Respond to what is good, guide what you feel can be corrected. However, regarding what is personal to you, what is put in question, a criticism or a condemnation, reply, not as a superior, but as a servant of the Lord: "I will try to learn from it"; or "I will examine before God what would be better"; or "I will seek advice"; or finally, "Thank you for your charity."

Be at peace about the future of your little Society; it will be great and holy. However, each one of your daughters will make you die twice for her vocation and for her perseverance. Divine life is purchased by death.

Since God blesses superiors and wants and loves good order, whatever might be said or done against Angers is like a single person's work. I'm not in favor of that idea. I want unity and subordination.

Let God act; you know that he has always blessed me beyond my hopes, in spite of my great unworthiness and limitations. I don't believe that Sr. Phil. would be so strong-willed by herself; if she is, it can't go very high or very far, no, no. Rather, I am afraid that she is too much of a confidante, but what can we do? Nothing ... [four lines erased].

I thought I had noticed in my last trip to Nemours ... [two lines erased]. I am afraid that that is disturbing them; however, they did not reproach me for it.

Always uphold authority. That is the first law of good government; make excuses to your sisters for human weakness and good intentions. Dear daughter, always keep your head above the storms, let thunder and lightning break out only at your feet.

So this is a long letter. Study the chapter about enclosure that I sent to Fr. Champion. Delete or add what would seem appropriate.

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

1739

CO 1738

TO MOTHER GUYOT

(V 7/8)

Brussels, February 16, 1866

Dear Mother and daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your dear letter. I was also thinking of giving you news about us here, because you are still the first adorer.

I won't say that I am busy, but that I am bound. Fortunately, it is to the throne of the Lord, because, since we are only five, we are doing the full service of the good Master. So we hardly have enough time to get some air. As for myself I don't, but our religious are happy, devoted, pious; they are doing the work of twelve. They have the initial grace of foundation. - We begin Exposition from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., with 5 or 6 Masses.

People are beginning to come to our adoration; but since I don't have time to see anyone or to hear confessions, I keep to myself and leave things for my successor. It's quite useless for me to make new acquaintances. I have enough, even too many of those which relate only to this world or a natural level.

I am fine. Imagine that we drink beer as bitter as boxwood. [We are] without a garden, without the little comforts, because poverty is the soul of every real foundation [that comes] from Heaven. Whatever Brother Francois asks me, and he is always asking, I say: I have nothing! Then God arranges everything. I don't perform any miracles, but God does.

Now about you.

Yes, both penances, but not the one at night, except on Fridays, if you are no more tired than usual.

Yes, spend Lent well in order to die and rise. - There are three Maxims for that:

Nothing for myself in my relations with others.

Nothing by myself in my religious life.

Nothing in myself in my prayer and thanksgiving.

Don't seek your satisfaction in your service of God. Please our good Master, be happy to see him loved and served by your daughters. As for you, be the happy portress who introduces fine gracious visitors to your good Master.

I leave you on that note. I still don't know when I will leave here. If I consulted myself, it would be tonight; but we must do all the planting first, then Our Master will tell me when his Heart wants us to leave. And so, I sleep quietly at his feet.

I bless you and all your sisters and daughters.

Eymard

Excuse me if I do not stamp this, I cannot at this time.³¹

³¹ Custom allowed letters to be stamped either by the sender or the receiver.

1740

CO 1736

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 10/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 16, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for the 200 francs; only my heart is sad when I realize that you have taken from your own needs and as soon as I have something, I will send it to you. The Good Master we are serving will not abandon his servants; however, it is true that we are serving him so poorly!

Thank you for the candles and the rest: the case for the clock. We are a bit lost without a clock, the soul of the eucharistic service.

You must have received my letter for Cormery through Brother Alfred, he will be pleased. The dedication of our Brothers is admirable! That's how I recognize true and genuine novices: when Brother Francois gets a migraine headache, everyone becomes a cook, and I am the chef. Then the service of Adoration is done joyfully by four persons. We are doing everything here as if we were 20. Each Brother serves two Masses and what I admire and praise God for, is that there is not a word, not a sign of being overburdened: these are true loving adorers!

We don't see anyone, because we are almost always with our Good Master; we have no garden, no wine, no heat, no jam. Well! We are happier than all of you: our Lord doubles our portion of graces.

Goodbye, good and dear Father. The more time passes, the more I see how much the good Lord has loved us by calling us to such a holy, such a beautiful, such a glorious vocation.

In our Good Master,
All my wishes to all of you,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Notice how many hours your six candles burn, because there is an adjustment that needs to be made.

P.S. Have Brother Eugene eat meat on the days when it is allowed. He needs it. Read the letter for Mr. Davon and send it to him.

1741

CO 1739

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 11/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 17, 1866

Very dear Father,

I have a few Masses here which are urgent. Please have them said for my intention: there are 11 of them. I will give you the stipends for 2 francs, the regular offering. Therefore, I will owe you 22 francs. Please begin them right away. Here, we are both bound by the daily foundation Masses.

Nothing new, except that our strict Roman liturgy has caused loud complaining, even by Jesuits. Fortunately, their reasons are very weak. They say: it's the local custom. What a custom!

it's contrary to the formal decrees of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. So the law moves forward and we let them scream. Knowledge, reason and virtue will come later.

Yes, keep dear Brother Henry a while longer, it's better for him to heal well; we are managing here for the moment. I hope that we will be able to send you 100 francs soon to help you. It makes me sad to feel that you don't have anything.

Limit yourself to necessary expenses. Let things which would be merely useful, wait. We will do the same here. I imagine that Brother Pierre is working at the garden.

Goodbye, good Father. May God sustain you, direct you and fill you with the strength of his love.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1742

CO 1740

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 1/11)

Brussels, February 17, 1866, rue des Douze-Aptres, 2bis

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

May our Lord always watch over and fill your soul and your life!

I read your letter [which was] so full of devotion! I would have liked to answer right away; but I was bound by our service and lack of time.

I do thank you for your kind prayers. They are precious to me, since you have so much charity for me which I don't yet deserve to such an extent, since I have done so little for your soul.

I would be very happy if I could be of great help to you, since you go to God with so much directness and determination and you have such a great desire to love and serve him with your whole heart. You do well, dear lady, to go to God in this way. But as for myself, I have nothing to say, because the Good Master's doorman is embarrassed to be the object of so much gratitude only for opening the door to Jesus and bringing close to Him a soul which is so dear to him.

You love St. Peter, my patron saint. You want to give your eldest son to the Most Blessed Sacrament: may God hear your prayers and mine, for he seems to be your echo, your very self.

I would advise you not to write to your relatives before bringing your son to Montmorillon. Since you have already decided, it might be better to do so only afterwards, in order to avoid comments and difficulties, because the devil always opposes good plans. Nevertheless your acquaintance with the family will enable you to be a better judge of what is appropriate: here I can judge only by what seems prudent.

You love your solitude, and you do well. It is solitude from the world, but a happy dwelling with God and his saints. In such good company we are well. So the Imitation says and rightly so, that solitude carefully maintained is delightful because Jesus shares it with us.

Yes, good daughter, God has really loved you. Your life is a fabric of grace and mercy. You must tell him: "My Good Master, since you loved me so much when I did not love you, now that I do love you and desire a perfect heart to love you more, how much must you love me now?"

Always go forward on this path of gratitude and the joy of serving our dear Master. It expands the heart and wonderfully prepares us to be generous.

Believe me, I read your letters with the grace which has led you to our Lord. So write things as they come, cross off, erase, do not do it over: I like simplicity.

I will accompany you with prayers and blessings for your dear son and will be there in spirit on the 24th. I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I know Mr. Billon's brother who is living with his parents in Paris. He seems fine to me, but I don't know him well. He made a good impression on me.

Madame T...with Fr. T...
Seminary of Montmorillon (Vienna)

1743

CO 1741

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 36/52)

Brussels, Rue des Douze Apotres, February 17, 1866, 2 bis

Postage is only 30c.

Madame in our Lord,

I just received your letter, and I'm hurrying to answer it. I didn't answer the first one, I was waiting for the second which would confirm your return to l'Isle.

Let's begin first with Lent. No fasting... if you can do without meat on the three prescribed days, you would do well. But if you aren't well, you should eat meat. It's understood that you would eat meat at both meals. - "But what would my penance consist of?" In the regret of not being able to do like everyone else; then, in your weakened state, and finally, in obedience.

What can we say, dear Lady! There are some poor people³² whom God feeds without any effort on their part, to whom he gives Heaven, so that they may always say a great thank you, who go to Heaven with the appearance of pleasures but who suffer from everything and everyone, - who do nothing good, or worthwhile, but whose heart belongs to God, their will is submissive, they love by the strength of love and not by its consolations and outbursts - beautiful souls who accomplish their purgatory, who are pleasing to God, who are always his in every situation and in every place. Don't change.

I assure you that our good Master loves this state [of soul].

Find your enjoyment in God, not in human beings. Besides, God doesn't will it, nor do you. Well! When a ray comes [our way] we are happy to receive it. When it disappears then we must wait for the sun, knowing that it is behind the clouds. Besides, God loves me, what is more beautiful, more fulfilling!

I am praying for your collection. I'll write to Madame your sister later. I'll go to visit her, if you think it would be well to do so.

Our foundation is progressing here, keeping us busy. I am not paying attention either to strong or weak whistling winds, to the criticisms or surprises. Our Lord is on his beautiful throne; it is for him that we have come, he is exposed 14 hours for five adorers.

What a treasure! What beautiful audiences! My soul is rebuilding itself a little in the presence of this good and beautiful Sun. I don't see anyone so to speak, nor do I have the desire to do so. Be sure that I present you, that I give you, that I constantly repeat your name to our good Savior and King.

Write a bit more often. You are free, and your letters will be a consolation to me.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

³² Using the third person, St. Peter Julien describes her state of soul.

TO COUNTESS DE FRAGUIER

(V 1/2)³³

Brussels, rue de Douze-Apotres, February 18, 1866, 2 bis

Madame Countess,

I don't know how to thank you for having so kindly espoused the work of your good sister, Mme. d'Andigne, by accepting to take charge of the collection for February 27th.

It is such a beautiful Work to help 150 workers a year to make their First Communion, who would probably never make it [otherwise], since they are beyond the age of going to catechism lessons in the parishes. They work every day from 7:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.! This produces such lamentable members for society and inadequate Christians who have received only baptism! Then, they marry without religion and live the same way! What poor families result from that! But once they make their First Communion, it becomes a starting point for their salvation. The conditions are in place for a Christian marriage, a powerful motive present for their return to God. When our Lord has taken hold of a man at least once through holy Communion, he leaves an indelible memory and the mark of his passage: it is like a conquered kingdom, where Jesus has reigned at least a few days.

Oh! Unfortunately, this work of salvation, which is even a social work, is not sufficiently understood. They prefer to give bread to human animals, clothe them, feed them. That's fine, no doubt; but to take both body and soul and make them Christian is infinitely better. - In Paris there are many unbaptized persons. There is no First Communion that takes place here without some child being baptized, because Paris has a touch of China, Oceania, and Africa.

Oh! How I would like to see this beautiful Work of First Communion established in four or eight centers in Paris: one at Batignolles, a second at Belleville, a third at faubourg St. Antoine, a fourth at Grenelle, a fifth at Vaugirard, a sixth at the center of faubourg Mouffetard, then at the gates of Fontainebleau, and finally, here! That would enable us to launch an assault upon all these fortresses of the devil. - I have been thinking about this beautiful mission for a long time. We would rent a room in those quarters; and I would send out two catechists from the center every night.

Dear Lady, that is my ambition. We have begun with one. Pray so that apostolic workers may come to us. As for the money, the One who will send us knows very well that we must dress and help these little children of his grace. So then, you will do it for those who are preparing themselves, dear Lady. How pleased our Lord will be with you! That is surely when he will say with truth and love: You clothed me in my communicants, you gave me spiritual bread and some material bread! I say material bread, Madame, for when these poor little workers are out of work, they come to us whom they call their Fathers.

Thank you in advance, dear Lady. I will pray for you and for those who contribute to this beautiful and holy Work.

In our Lord, Madame Countess, I am,

Your respectful and devoted Servant.
Eymard, Superior

³³ Sister of the Countess d'Andigne.

1745

The document is deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume VI Doc. #2123 (CO 2123)

1745

CO 1743

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 164/181 VI 2)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your 200 francs. We paid for our beds; I'm happy. Paris also sent me 200 francs. Now we have caught up. Thanks again. No matter how economical we try to be, at the beginning we need everything; but now, we have only ordinary expenses.

I am putting forth all my efforts to organize the Roman liturgy, the blow has been dealt. There was some complaining, especially from a Jesuit Father. I told him and everyone as well: "We have come for our Lord, with the liturgical rules of Holy Church, and nothing will make us change. We will follow the prescriptions of the Ordinary; that is liturgical."

The church, which had been somewhat neglected, is beginning to come to life. There was so much to do! The Ladies next door have been so dedicated for everything which concerns worship. On our part, we have been sensitive, and we have kept our freedom.

It has been cold during the last few days. Otherwise, it has been like the moderate temperature in Paris. Our religious go joyfully to their service of adoration and there is a good spirit. It is easier with few; I'm very happy. I can see that the novitiate was very practical.

Take care of yourself a little, dear Father, during this Lent. As weak as you are, have coffee several times a day, since it helps you serve the Master.

Believe me as ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

(The postage is 30 centimes for 10 grams. Fr. Leroyer's letter cost 1.50.)

1746

CO 1744

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 39/54)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

To dear Father Leroyer,

Thank you, dear Father, for the forms. I am waiting for the one you promised. We are having difficulty organizing the Eucharistic Weeks. As it was only a fund-raising effort, it must be given its true spirit as at Marseilles. It will come.

I bless God that I came here at the beginning, as there are so many difficulties to avoid, to remove, to foresee, and then so much prudence and means to be taken, that I hope to leave this place ready and free for the one whom God and Holy Obedience will send here.

You are doing good, a great deal of good at Marseilles, dear Father. You ought to be happy about it: as a good religious, you only want to do the good which his love entrusts to you, and what you are doing in Marseilles is greater and more serious. So then, have good courage!

Believe me in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

1747

CO 1745

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 12/29 VI 2)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Very dear Father,

First, let me begin with your questions!

1. I will be united with you for the devotions of the month of St. Joseph. Put your whole heart into them: the chapel to be built, the house under compulsory sale, good novices, and lastly, that all become holy adorers. I will ask this good Saint for some money for you.

2. Do what is suitable for the chapel of the Blessed Virgin: Hugon still owes me. We might as well have him repay in this way.

3. Yes, a great big yes, begin perpetual adoration with the month of St. Joseph, the great and first adorer of our Lord. We must move forward with God's blessing! Our heavenly Father will pay for his divine Son, and the Holy Spirit will renew his eucharistic Pentecost. God loves strong acts of virtue: his grace is in it. As for your children, I still don't have anything to say, as I don't see a direction or a practical way for the moment. Divine Providence will show us later.

4. You would do well to preach on Sundays during Lent. We are doing it here. We must nourish souls a little with the divine Word.

5. A fine American! May God heal him, and let us receive him for he struck me as a holy adorer. We need saints, but we need a healing, which is easy for God to do. So awaken his faith in miracles.

6. Yesterday, I was meditating on the following text from the Imitation,³⁴ chapter 24, book III: "Domine, hoc opus est perfecti viri, nunquam ab intentione coelestium animum relaxare, et inter multas curas quasi sine cura transire." Apply that and what follows that number. It really describes a soul that is truly free in God and a prisoner of God; given totally to everything and to nothing, to everyone and yet to God alone. We need to extend ourselves toward our neighbor, but "in sole posuit habitaculum suum."³⁵

God loves you very much, dear Father; he tells you so every day. Be truly his "absque tui propria."³⁶

I am affectionately one with you in our Lord,

And all yours,
Eymard, p.³⁷

³⁴ IMITATION OF CHRIST, Book 3, Chap. 24. "Lord, it is the business of a man of perfect life never to loosen the bonds that bind his heart to heavenly things, to make his way through a crowd of troubles as if he had not trouble at all." (Trans. Knox)

³⁵ "But he put his dwelling in the sun."

³⁶ "Without anything for yourself."

³⁷ Abbreviation for priest.

We don't have the volume of the Breviary you mentioned to Fr. Viguier.
I am having flyers printed for the Stations of the Cross, wait for them.

To Rev. Fr. Chanuet,
Master of Novices
68, Rue Faubourg St. Jacques
Paris

1748

CO 1746

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 323/395 VI 2)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Let the good Lord act, he always does what is good and best. Seek only the good of the Work in your search for truth, or the reason for things, or the common good, and God will always be on your side.

Before you speak, suggest or act - don't wonder what people will think, say, or do, but consider whether you are following the law of duty, for the common or individual good, and God will always be with you.

God is always for order, truth, and justice.

God always draws his glory from personal sacrifices, from self-sacrifice. Entrust your reputation to him, dear daughter, the affection you need to do good things, the humiliations and sufferings too; then the divine Pilot will guide you to port by the ways of Providence.

Let them say, think, or do against you personally whatever accusation they want to make against you: your indiscretions, your past weaknesses, your faults, your sensitivity, as you say. Don't be humiliated or ashamed, nor ready to make fifty apologies, but thank God for this grace. It is like a spider-web which has been broken and removed; it's a liberation, a grace, greater glory for God. Maintain silence, and if you need to speak to avoid the impression of pouting, say that you'll try to learn from it all, and thank them for their good intentions.

Trust in the grace of your mission, but never rely on yourself.

Look for the grace at work within each person, to put it to use.

Should your neighbor be helpful or even Superior to you, don't behave toward them like a trusting child, that would be absurd, nor with total surrender, which might often be imprudent, but with a motive of faith, a motive of prudence, seeking the grace of the moment.

These, dear daughter, are a few simple helps, but the great one is: a sovereign, tender and dedicated love for our Lord, in whom I bless you very paternally.

Eymard

To the Very Hon. Mother Superior
of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
10 bis, rue de l'Hopital
Angers
(Maine and Loire)
France

1749

CO 1747

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS

(III 4/14)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you this short greeting. I wanted to thank you sooner for your letter but I couldn't. The good news about Marie really makes me happy. Oh! how kind and charitable you have been to her! God will repay you for it, through friends loved in God and for God. I am praying for you, I can feel the burden of your life, but I thank God for his virtue and strength in you.

I am praying for poor Marie. How good God was to her! How sad it makes us feel when we think of her future!

May God be praised!

My health is the same as usual. Our church is going well, the Brothers are happy. I hope that our Lord will find his greater glory there.

I bless you abundantly in his divine love.

Eymard

1750

CO 1748

TO CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE DU SS)

(III 2/5)

Brussels, February 24, 1866

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I read your reflections with great affection and attention: basically they are right, I thank you for them. At the opportune moment we will use them.

As far as what the Bishop of Angers said, it is true, you are in the Church through him, and under him, the holy Council of Trent gives him this right and responsibility.

Because of the Bishop's approval, you are almost canonical. In Rome, a religious body is never approved unless it has first been approved and tried under the direction of the Bishops. - So my good daughters, you should be very happy to have found such a good Bishop who is interested in you, and who gives you the benefit of his experience. As for me, I constantly thank God for it.

As far as diversities of opinions or points of view, that will all be settled when you will be presented to Rome. My dear sister, I want you to accept the charge of Councillor. You were among the first professed, your only responsibility is your vote; so your conscience cannot be troubled by it. Do it then for the love of our Congregation.

I bless your eyes. Poor eyes, I am the one who is tiring them! So then put my notes aside.

May God bless you as I bless you with my whole soul.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. Do pray for us. However, everything is going well. I thank God for the news I've just

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received. The Bishop wants you to be assistant. May God be praised! I want you to be, since God wants it. I never would have dared to ask you this sacrifice, but the good Master is asking for it. Accept it, trusting in his grace.

To very dear Sister Marie

Servant of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Mar. 1 - At Paris the beginning of strictly perpetual adoration.

1751

CO 1749

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)

(VII 9/20)

Brussels, rue des 12 Apotres, March 1, 1866

Madame in our Lord,³⁸

I am writing to you although I am still ill. I do not know what is wrong, whether it is measles, but I have been listless lately. Nonetheless, I keep going, in spite of the pimples which come and go - that is because I consider myself somewhat like a soldier on the battlefield.

I am truly sorry for having made you wait so long for my letter. This is to say that I will correct myself next time.

I find that their absolute interdictions are too strict. It's enough to kill you twice. - A middle way needs to be found. - The divine flame needs a little activity. I would distinguish between works which are required by one's state, position, or charity, and works which are binding, ever extending their influence and demands. I would be more strict about these and tell you: don't bind yourself, don't be the anvil, but if you are now so in fact, withdraw from the responsibility and use your health as a pretext.

It is understood that neither fast nor abstinence is binding because of your health - offer this as a sacrifice.

But, dear Madame, there are no limits or degrees for the love of God, the gift of self, personal self-denial. We must die daily and be like the sun which always rises as if it were the first time that it is obeying God, and follows its course until its setting. Live especially in the divine Eucharist. I will grant you the first blessing. I have just had the form printed for the Aggregation. I am sending you the first copy, you will be my eldest from Paris.

I bless you very faithfully in our Lord,

Eymard

You will have the consecration after Communion.

Mar. 2-10 - Fr. Eymard suffered a violent attack of shingles.

³⁸ Excerpt from a letter.

1752

CO 1750

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 324/395 VI 2)

Brussels, March 3, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Yes, I thank God for the twenty one years, and the initial grace.³⁹ So don't thank me for it, dear daughter, I've done so little! I can only say that your soul has always been dear to me, and that I have always been dedicated to it in God. God wanted us to work together, both for the Mother and for her Son. Now we need only to continue to suffer well, by means of everyone and everything, to water the little tree and make it grow. We must be humiliated, broken and ground into good fertilizer dust for his glory.

Is our Lord adored? Is he served? Is his service spreading? - Yes. The rest amounts to nothing. The poor ego must be oil for the eucharistic lamp.

Let's be happy when it is so.

I bless everything that is being done for your Councils and Chapters. It was necessary to begin.

I'll try to have Fr. Champion return briefly to Angers after Easter to satisfy the Bishop.

We must pray for Sr. Virginie; she is being seriously tempted.

Sr. Benoit has not written to me; it's also true that I haven't written to her either.

I believe that God is making up for it and then, I wanted to see how things would be.

Please take better care of yourself. Don't worry about me. God is taking care of me.

I won't thank you for your second letter. My God! it's too much. Since nothing was coming from here, I can see that God sent it from elsewhere; but enough!

Thank you for the news about La Mure, Mme. G., your dear sisters. I will write, but I've been so busy that I can hardly keep up.

Goodbye dear daughter. Let us work very purely, humbly, and devotedly for the service and love of our good Master. I am very close to you in his divine Heart.

1753

CO 1751

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS

(I 13/29 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Brussels, March 5, 1866

Very dear Father,

Don't worry about me. Today I returned to my eucharistic service. I don't feel any more fever, the belt of fire [shingles] is lessening, and disappearing. I didn't know why my shoulder hurt so much recently during the night, nor why there was so much pain next to my heart, when on Friday morning, I noticed those large pimples. The doctor came; I did what he told me; I'm not going out. Fortunately, he didn't order me to bed: that would be like putting me in purgatory.

What made me weak during these last few days was the purgative he gave me, but I am fine now; don't send anyone. If I should feel the illness returning, I would write to tell you. They had frightened me with the possibility of measles, or smallpox, but it was neither. I preached last night: that shows you how much better I am.

How did you manage for your monthly bills?

³⁹ Anniversary of her admission to the Third Order of Mary.

I have a few hundred francs here that were given to me which we had put aside for candles. I'll send them to you. If you don't have anything, Mr. Ravon would certainly wait a little longer. If divine Providence has come to our help, give the money to Mr. Ravon for the Brussels account and keep 50 francs for the house of Paris. The money for the eleven Masses said for my intention will be included.

True, good Father! Without mortification, it is impossible to have genuinely religious men: all that sentimental piety, with feelings of joy and happiness, is like a trip in a nice coach. I don't have any more faith or confidence in it. First of all, we must form men of virtue; that is, men of sacrifice. After all, our Lord established the basis of evangelical perfection: *abneget semetipsum* [deny yourself]. Whoever loves his own freedom and comfort, his own health and his little privileges--none of that is self-denial, but self-love.

God has allowed us to have rather bloody experiences in that regard. We can no longer hesitate: whoever cannot be led to the virtue of personal self-denial must be tried gradually and then sent away. As far as I am concerned, Brother Arsene is already judged on that point: I have seen very little generosity in him and very little initiative for [the practice of] virtue. Tell him clearly that it is his last grace period, or rather tell him: we have considered your virtue and made our observations to the Very Rev. Father; he had already seen the same as we do. He doesn't think you have enough virtue and courage to be with us. Either you are paying too much attention to yourself, or you are sick: make a decision. Then you will see what he does. If you think there is [possibility of] improvement, give him some time. If not, send him away.

You did well to make corrections; don't get weary. Come back on the same point in the same situation. In this case, the tone doesn't matter, but the content. Surely, if you can be calm and give reasons for your corrections by using the Rule, examples, etc., you would do better, but pray first and proceed with confidence.

I bless you wholeheartedly.
Eymard.

As it is too late to send you my letter, I'll send it later.

1754

CO 1752

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 37/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Brussels, March 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for telling me about the collection. God blessed it, may he be praised! as well as you and your good dedicated sister! I expect that it will be sufficient for our most urgent needs; and then, divine Providence is the loving and vigilant mother and provider for God's poor.

Please ask your sister to keep the money until my trip, after Easter, because it will give me an opportunity to go thank her at Mee, where I would like to see you.

So God wants you in his hermitage at l'Isle, his Martha in his Bethany. You are his respectful, devout sacristan, Mary at his feet, sometimes on his Heart, always in his love.

He wants you alone, no longer to be your own, but to be more his. He wants to be the means, the bond, the direction of your life towards him. That is why everything you would like to have as a means of edification, instruction, and help, is lacking: small loss! Since you go directly to Jesus and your efforts are more integrated because they are all directed toward his divine service, in his love, and his divine Will.

I have this great wish for you, convinced that it would increase the glory of God and your

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virtue as well. It is that you would avoid soul-searching for the love of our Lord; that you would consider as very small what you suffer, what you give him. But especially, don't be so dependent on feeling his love, his peace and the consolations of love.

God loves me: that is a truth. In all things he only wants what is good for me, I am all his and I want him alone. My weakness is my claim, my poverty is my treasure, my imperfections are my need for his grace.

This, dear Lady, is what must ever be put into practice, and you will find the kingdom of God in you.

I will stop now. For several days I have been suffering from what is known as shingles. I am better, since I am up, and I must be pleased with that, since it is passing more quickly than the doctor expected.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

Please don't say anything about it in Angers. I see that it won't be anything. For the sake of prudence, I am not going out. It's only a rash. I don't feel any more fever. My God! I'm sorry I told you, but I don't have the courage to rewrite my letter.

1755

CO 1754

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 14/29 VI 2)

A.R.T.⁴⁰

Brussels, March 12, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am feeling better, although there are some traces of the illness left, and it is slowing me down. They say that it could have become serious, but I didn't feel weak until Saturday. So I had to eat meat, which I had expected to avoid. What comforts me is that I suffer more in bed than up and around. So, it shakes off laziness a little.

Fr. Champion will return tomorrow. It is good that he has seen the situation. He will bring you what I had reserved for Mr. Ravon.

As soon as you receive my letter, please send Brother Eugene to Mr. Coltat to order a gross of medals for the Aggregation, like those from Marseilles. I need them for next Sunday; otherwise don't order them.

Have them include a gross of medium size medals of St. Benedict in the same package. Please don't forget it, because I am beginning a eucharistic retreat on Monday the 19th, and I would need these medals for the opening.

I received a letter from Brother Arsene. It is a good one. It seems that he was holding back a little secret which prevented him from being open.

Please have Brother Eugene entrust the enclosed petition, with that of Mme. Berthier, to the Mother Superior at the military hospital of Vincennes. Ask her to give it to the Minister of War. Please have Brother Eugene advise Mme. Berthier, rue Tombe Isoire 3, that this petition is being sent and by whom. If he cannot go, he should write her a note: that would spare me a letter. Or rather, let him do it only after giving the petition to the Mother Superior.

Continue to pray to good St. Joseph: he will come in his own time. I hope that the month of this dear Saint will not go by without our receiving its blessed fruit.

⁴⁰ A.R.T.: abbreviation for *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*, Thy Kingdom Come.

Goodbye, good Father. Pray for next week's retreat, so that I may have the needed strength and grace.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1756

CO 1753

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(U VI 20/22)⁴¹

Very Reverend Mother,

Father Champion will stay here until Sunday night - we have enough time to see to your requests. I think we need to prepare the final clause for our contract at Ostreignies.

You had told me that you ordinarily give your offering to the University of Louvain. I am waiting for it to bring our collection to the Dean. With the 190 francs from M. Decock, it amounts to 132 fr. 150.

Since I keep forgetting my little messages, I hope you don't mind if I write them [to you]:

1. The umbrellino - Nothing urgent; however, since there are so few in the procession, if one person would carry the umbrellino alone, the others could carry the candles.

2. The multi-colored Conopeum - If it cannot be ready [on time], it can ordinarily be replaced by white, but not by the other colors.

3. I am sending you the Sunday cope to have a wider border added to it.

4. You would really please Fr. Champion if you promised to let him soon have the small strip of land from your garden where he could let our young men exercise. Their heads are stuffy for lack of air. It is the first thing he asked me about. I told him that I was the one who had put it off because of the bad weather.

5. I have the bottles of Mass wine.

Fr. Champion is thrilled with Brussels, your church and you - I praise God for it.

In our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

1757

CO 1755

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 2/11)

Brussels, March 12, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I felt deeply about your suffering due to the illness of your eldest son. Your care and prayers hastened his cure. I really prayed for your dear son on his ordination day. Now, he has ascended another step in the sacred hierarchy, surely with an increase of virtue to accompany the holy orders

⁴¹ Previously unpublished letter from the archives of the Religious of the Eucharist, found by Fr. Stalmans SSS, 1994. This note was written while Fr. Eymard was in Brussels itself.

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he received. He is a beautiful example for his other brothers and a gentle consolation for their good mother.

So, dear daughter, you are now in your little Nazareth, be happy there. For that purpose, invite Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and be their happy servant.

Yes, work at holy recollection. That is, share your life of divine union and love with our Lord. May your recollection find its vitality in your heart rather than in your mind.

Always consider God's goodness for you; his past graces, his present love, his divine promise to be all yours forever.

Your strength comes from the heart, that is everything for you. That is how the good Lord has laid hold of you and keeps you. Since the heart's love brings more suffering than joy, you will have to suffer for God and with Jesus. The cross is love's struggle and its glory.

Oh yes! Love the good Lord dearly, the rest is nothing! Love him as he loves you, as he leads you to love him.

Thank you for your prayers, I am feeling better. The divine Master has given me a warning of the end, so that I may work better during the little time I have left. I never believed that shingles were dangerous. So, when they mention it to me, I say that the good Lord is my doctor.

I am sending you a form for the Aggregation which I have just had printed. It will be one more bond in our Lord in whom I am, Madame and dear daughter,

Devotedly yours,
Eymard, Sup.

1758

CO 1756

TO MOTHER GUYOT

(V 8/8)

Brussels, March 13, 1866

Dear Mother in our Lord,

I am writing to give you news about myself.

The good Lord didn't want me. He is leaving me here to do a little penance, so that I may not stay so long in Purgatory.

However, I have become a little lazy. It's my natural defect: totally on fire, or totally asleep.

So you feel a little hindered, because you weren't able to follow your attraction for penance. You can see that our good Master makes his [penances] pass first because they are the best.

No doubt we must offer, give, begin the crucifixion, like Abraham on Mount Horeb. Then God, who is pleased with our good will, will change the victim; the heart has been offered.

You complain, dear Mother, about your difficulties in becoming recollected; that's because recollection is the beginning of Paradise. But as no one enters Heaven except after having suffered, so it is with recollection, since it is defined as life in God, with God. Well, that is really Heaven.

So then, let your mind, then your heart, be recollected, then try to come as close as you can to a recollected awareness of the constant presence of God.

Oh! If we could see God more in everything, if we would consult him like the Angels do, we would behave more wisely, we would be more self controlled in everything, because we would be in such good company.

This, dear daughter, is what you must apply yourself to very much. Let that be the subject of your prayers. Begin first by chasing the mosquitoes⁴² in church, to be attentive only to God and

⁴² Image for distractions.

yourself, and you will gradually gain control over yourself.

Now, I leave you with God. I do pray and I will pray for you, your children and your sisters, counting that it will be reciprocal.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1759

CO 1757

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 11/20)

Brussels, March 13, 1866

Madame in our Lord,⁴³

I am feeling better, although still dragging a little and still weak. It's a great comfort for me to be able to follow this limited schedule and to be able to get out of bed. They exaggerated about the shingles. You know that some doctors get alarmed. But then, it's my own fault, if I had said nothing, it would have passed unnoticed. Good lesson!

Keep yourself strong in the struggle, peaceful in action, free in the midst of a thousand and one things, but ever in God. Never work for the sake of success, but to fulfill the Holy will of God, which is his glory first of all. Then [seek] the good, the salvation of your neighbor.

I know that you don't like half-measures, nor half-permissions, but there are situations of transition, of preparation for a situation, which are naturally quite unclear. What should be done in such a case except to consult obedience if possible, or one's duty, one's personal situation, one's attraction of virtue?

The great days of penance, of crucified love, will soon be here. Enter more deeply into the wounds of Jesus Christ, and don't forget the Mother of Sorrows. Be her compassionate daughter.

Eymard

1760

CO 1758

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 325/395 VI 2)

Brussels, March 14, 1866

... [heading erased] ... [four lines erased] I don't know anything about it. I only know that ... [a line erased]. If that should ... [one line erased] ... then at the end ... [a line erased].

On leaving this world, my only regret would be if I had not served our good Master well, for being so lazy and so negligent. Then, I could see one thing clearly, that at such time strength lies totally in trusting in the mercy of God and surrendering to his divine goodness.

Oh! how ugly our virtues seem then and how shabby our good works!

Place yourself safely under the wings of divine mercy, of compassionate love, of tender charity, and your peace will grow with your trust. Oh yes! no doubt we must work, pray, perform every

⁴³ Excerpt from a letter.

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Christian work because God commands it and wants it. But that being done, we must do like a child returning to his parents after school; enjoy their goodness and love which is greater than anything he can accomplish.

You asked me for a few thoughts on the Way of the Cross. Here are a few:

1st Our Father. - Adore the sacred wound of our Lord's left foot, the pain he suffered, the steps he took to seek his lost sheep. Kiss that divine wound with Magdalen and the holy women at the Resurrection.

2nd Our Father. - Adore the wound on our Lord's right foot. Kiss it with respect and love, for it traced the road to Heaven for you. He tired himself to search for you, to come toward you.

3rd Our Father. - Adore the wound on the Savior's left hand, the hand on the side of the heart, which took your hand to lead you and support you. Kiss that divine hand lovingly. Receive upon your head the divine blood which flows from it to purify you.

4th Our Father. - Adore the wound on Jesus' right hand. This hand bore you in your weakness, defended you in danger, protected you in struggles, blessed you so often. Kiss it gratefully, place it upon your head, on your heart, on your mouth.

5th Our Father. - Adore the deep wound in the Sacred Heart of Jesus; place yourself below this divine wound, so that the water flowing from it may purify you, and its divine blood sanctify you. Kiss this divine wound, breathe in the beautiful and lively flame which issues from it. Enter into this divine dwelling, place your heart there, in union with his.

That is one approach. You may add others, especially when you want to use this form to make the Way of the Cross as reparation:

1. - The wound on the left foot: ask forgiveness for sins of heresy.
2. - The right foot, for the sins of Christians who live like pagans.
3. - The left hand, for ingratitude.
4. - The right hand, sins committed in the sanctuary.
5. - The Sacred Side, the infidelity of hearts consecrated to God.

I will stop now ... [two and a half lines erased].

I will recommend to you a retreat which I will be preaching next week from the 19th to the 25th ... [two lines erased]. I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - About that, I ... [a line and a half erased]. God ... on the contrary, ... everything that you have. But ... [two words erased]. No, No.

1761

CO 1759

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 5/14)

Brussels, March 14, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you a brief greeting in the Lord.

Fr. Champion will tell you that my illness has passed. It could have become an illness, in fact it was only a passing discomfort.

I received the little package containing woolens, covering, etc. As I know you, I can thank you, but I didn't really need it.

Next week I will be giving the retreat to the Associates here. I recommend it to your prayers. These people are good, but they are so slow and so cold! They may be better because of it.

You are a bit lazy in writing to me, and yet your letters interest me twice as much.

I pray very much for you, dear daughter, so that your mission may be crowned with success. It's difficult to save souls, dear daughter, and Calvary is the condition for God's glory.

So have courage and trust, God has and will bless you.

I remain very united to you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I wrote a word to M. His (her) silence makes me uncomfortable.

1762

CO 1760

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 79/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

rue des Douze Apôtres, 2 bis, Brussels, March 14, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Telling you that I've been ill and am still suffering from shingles may excuse me a little.

I've been so busy - we are only five for fourteen hours of adoration - and then, there is so much to do. It seems that the sudden change from cold to heat made the rash break out. They tell me that it's fortunate, otherwise it could have killed me.

The fact is that I'm not working as usual today, but to the extent that my weakness allows.

I wasn't near death, except last Saturday. Oh! Then we see that life is nothing! that our pretended virtues are insignificant! and the little good we have done, defective! There is only one recourse left: the divine and inexhaustible mercy of God, the fatherly goodness of our Lord.

I really promised to place myself fully in our Lord's wounds so that his justice would touch me only in his mercy!

Our foundation is going well. There are many visits and prayers to our Lord. I hope that this grace, which is new here, will be a source of mercy for this poor country where evil rears its head and prevails. There are hopes that the King and Queen will provide a better kingdom than the late king who, in spite of his political skills, left the kingdom worse than before; so much so, that all of Flanders had withdrawn their respect for him, greatly despised him and would have insulted him.

Scandal brought to a head what had been begun by Masonic impiety. Unfortunately, Catholics were too silent, they were patient when they should have reacted, they hid when they should have spoken out. Now they are weak, because Freemasons are everywhere, make the laws and are at the ministry. But with the present king and with prudent and planned energy, they can stand up again. So, now I am into politics! Enough of that. Now let's speak about you.

1. Please, don't give up Fr. Rich; you would deprive yourself of the direction of a holy and knowledgeable man. Whatever you would gain exteriorly would not make up for this loss. He knows you, - he respects grace's action in you, - he uses life to direct you and not small personal means. So, don't give him up.

2. Yes, it would be a good thing if you confessed yourself only every two weeks, in order to avoid the images and memories which make you feverish. However, there are times of sorrow and struggle when we need it weekly. Adjust to your need, but aim to go less often.

3. I would surely scold you for fasting and for having fasted, if it weren't too late. You shouldn't fast, don't be afraid. Your illness, whooping cough, your weak health, nerves, and finally obedience, which is even more important, all these things tell you to be at peace.

I would really like to receive news from you. Your first letter written January 30th was forwarded to me in Brussels, but it ended up buried under a pile of other letters.

I hope that won't happen again. So, give me news about your dear sister and your family.
I'm sending you a new form for the Aggregation. It's better than the first.
I bless you very faithfully in our Lord,

Eymard, Superior

1763

CO 1761

TO COUNTESS DE FRAGUIER

(V 2/2)⁴⁴

Brussels, March 14, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I do need to thank you for your dedication to our little Work of First Communion for workers. It was impossible that our Lord would not bless it; it is directly for him, it is his Work.

You say rightly, Mme. Marquise: it is entirely a Work of faith. There is nothing conspicuous about it, very little consolation, etc.; but it's a rebirth of Jesus Christ in his children. Oh! How much more fortunate is your family of nine!

These dear children are brought up in your house, a great and tremendous grace! They avoid the almost certain dangers of contact with wayward youth. They benefit through innocence, piety, and family virtues, as much as they could gain in college life by edification, conflict and the contact of personalities. Small advantages compared to the first! A virgin soil is always more fruitful than soil which skill has spent.

You ask for our prayers; you can be assured of them, Madame, because we are becoming your debtors.

I am not forgetting the poor distressed person you mentioned to me. St. Joseph is so powerful and kind!

When I return to Paris, which will be Quasimodo Sunday,⁴⁵ I will be happy to go thank you personally. It would be a joy for me to offer my religious regards to Mr. de Fraguier and to see your whole family.

Please receive the respectful sentiments,
Madame Marquise,

Of your very humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Allow me to send you this little Aggregation.

⁴⁴ The sister of the Countess d'Andigné.

⁴⁵ Sunday after Easter, also called Low Sunday.

1764

CO 1762

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 18/19)

Brussels, March 14, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to greet you briefly as a member of the family and to recommend to your [prayer] a eucharistic retreat which I will preach here next week.

These people are cold but kind. When they learn more about the Blessed Sacrament, they will become good adorers.

I will be here until Quasimodo. When Fr. Champion comes to replace me, I will return to Paris.

I will not give you any news about my health; Fr. Champion will tell you that I am fine; it was only the shingles which makes the skin painful when it breaks out.

I am sending you a lovely engraving of the Blessed Sacrament. You have belonged to the Aggregation for such a long time.

I bless you very cordially in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. Excuse my poor stained paper; I don't have the time to rewrite my letter.

1765

CO 1763

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 10/26)

Brussels, March 15, 1866, rue des Douze Aptres, 2 bis

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

What must you think about my silence? I wasn't well and I'm still sick with shingles (a belt of fire) which really made me lazy. It's better now. God wanted to let me see the nothingness and poverty of this life.

I'll be here until April 10th or 12th. Then I'll return to Paris.

If Rennes were on my way, or only a few leagues away, I certainly would go for a quick greeting from our Lord.

So you have been through a lot of pain, dear daughter. It was necessary to gain your freedom and become strong towards yourself.⁴⁶ It's clear to me that the good Lord wants this sacrifice from you. You have taken a stand. I praise you for it, and I ask God to let this become an habitual virtue. Ask for the strength for it, because there will be times when it will cost you dearly. Since reason, love and generosity are on your side alone, everything in you will suffer and want to rebel. It then becomes an opportunity for great merit which should not be lost, because it comes only once in a lifetime.

Dear daughter, find your peace in God, and it will never be disturbed. It will always be gentle

⁴⁶ Alternate translation: strong inwardly.

and strong. Is God pleased with you? Yes! What does the rest matter?

Oh! We must struggle against our natural self with strength and perseverance in order to attain the freedom of grace and of supernatural life!

Everything needs to happen at once, the fire, l'Eveque Street, suffering, then distress, sadness and pain:⁴⁷ all together it makes a beautiful bouquet for God.

Have courage dear daughter, we must often raise our heads and hearts toward the cross, and then toward Heaven. It brings encouragement and consolation.

You would receive too much love and be greatly inclined to love and render services on a too natural level, if God didn't surround you with a few thorns.

Remember me to your dear holy Carmelite. You should know that I did want to write to her and that I couldn't find the name of her Carmel!

I count on your prayers, and remain, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Try to buy the Retreat by Fr. Huby on the love of God at Ruffet's or Perisse, in Paris.

1766

CO 1764

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 26/36)

Brussels, March 16, 1866 rue des Douze, Aptres, 2 bis

Dear sister in our Lord,

I don't know whether you are waiting to hear from me, but I am waiting to hear from you. It has been so long since I've received anything from you! - since January 4th; but you didn't have my address!

So our foundation took place last February 2, the feast of the Presentation of our Lord. It was made by God alone and with God alone, but for the greater glory of our Lord. The church is already beginning to fill with people and our good Master is prayed to and adored there! This is a great victory in such an evil city as Brussels, where the Freemasons rule.

I've been sick with shingles [belt of fire] for the last two weeks. If only it were a belt of divine fire! However, I am able to work, because it is very painful to stay in bed with this illness; but it's nothing.

There are five of us here; exposition begins at 7:30 [a.m.] until 9:00 p.m. We have what we need to live from our Lord and for our Lord. I expect to be in Paris for Quasimodo Sunday.⁴⁸

If Mauron were on my way or were not so far, I would certainly go see you. I want to see you and speak with you about the Most Blessed Sacrament, because I would like to see this fire break out from under the ashes and become a blazing fire. I know very well that we must wait for God's time; but who is telling you, dear daughter, that it hasn't come? As for me, I believe it has and I tell you: Have courage! Get to work! People must be forced to open the tabernacle door. Our Lord must not remain hidden to this indifferent or unbelieving generation. The Sun of the Eucharist must rise to scatter all the shadows of the night, melt frozen souls, and frighten away its enemies, if they aren't touched by his love.

⁴⁷ He lists the current trials she is experiencing.

⁴⁸ Sunday after Easter called Low Sunday.

The Transplanted Tree

When will I go to Brittany?⁴⁹ I have no idea. I expect to go to Angers at the end of April. If the detour were not too great, I will see how to get to Mauron.

Agreed!

I feel very happy about the year 1866. It seems to me that God will do great things for his glory!

Give me a lot of news about yourself. You are lazy and tend to finish a letter quickly. Please! correct yourself.

I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. I am sending you one of our holy pictures.

1767

CO 1765

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 21/28)

Brussels, March 16, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

You must also forgive me because of my illness.

In your dear letter you thank me for my visit to your brother: but isn't he your brother? Besides, he has such beautiful qualities, he would soon be superb if he knew our Lord Jesus Christ better. A heart like his could quickly catch fire and become dedicated. It seems to me that his great intelligence must be humiliated by the hideous and wretched idols of the flesh and vanity.

So you have been ill? That is the blossom of holiness, because you know that the vine weeps before blossoming and so does the beautiful chestnut tree. We suffer when we are crucified with Jesus, we weep and we are joyful: our two natures each yield their fruit.

But as you have great courage and you are stronger than your own strength, I'm not afraid.

I see that you have been prudent and strong during the little storms of l'Eveque Street. We need to know how to let these storms pass: it's time wasted to oppose them.

Patience and self-respect always finally get the upper hand, because, since passion has neither reason nor honor for its own, it finally surrenders, so we should not spoil anything.

We must know how to dominate our heart, in order to proceed only when we have safeguarded the rights of acquired freedom.

Continue to love the good Lord dearly. You are made only for that life, that feeling, that contagious happiness. Jesus is the sun that shines on the flower of grace: it can open only under that divine sun.

How happy I am to know that you are with Mme. Lepage who is so kind and has been so crucified!

Goodbye! I always bless you and I am always in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard S.S.

⁴⁹ At Mauron, in Brittany where Virginie lives.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 39/52)

Miss Stephanie

Brussels, rue des Douze-Apotres, 2 bis, March 16, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I owe you a few words; were it only a prayer, I pay that debt⁵⁰ toward you every day, but my poor pen has been lazy, as you also are a little....

Keep in mind these three rules of behavior which I am giving you:

1) Do everything to please God; let that be the general and specific intention of your actions: this rule refers more to awareness than to a constant thought. It blends with everything and allows for the simplicity of your actions. A general intention is sufficient. However, when there is something more difficult to be done, a sacrifice which is very painful, then a specific intention is very good for the soul. To please God means to love what he loves, to will what he wills; it also means to reject whatever is evil.

The second rule consists in dedicating yourself to everything in a spirit of simplicity, that is, to do things in a spirit of interior freedom, clinging to them only insofar as God wants and as long as he wants; in a spirit of peace, doing things in an orderly manner, one after the other, with moderation and patience; working to do things well, but not to get rid of them. Let your model be a child, who does everything through obedience and whose life is not bound by anything.

The third rule: Live a little more in God as center, and nothing will be a burden; nothing will distract you; you then will be aware of the presence of God who gives life to everything, who sees everything and who directs the soul in all its ways.

Oh! how loved you are by the good Lord, dear daughter! He has kept you as his and for himself! and that, in spite of everything. He loves you with a tender and infinite love! If he leaves you dry, arid and suffering in his presence, that is the condition of those souls to whom our good Master gives outward responsibilities so as to keep them united to himself by interior suffering, and also by a spirit of pure faith.

Continue to go forward, yours is a good path, God is the one who traced it for you. After holy Mass and adoration are done and your rosary is recited, if God calls you to outward duties and healthcare, that is fine. Then when you are free again, get back on course.

Goodbye dear daughter in our Lord. I bless you. I am very happy that our divine Master has returned to his tabernacle;⁵¹ love him and he will be happy to remain there and be your friend of Bethany after all.

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

⁵⁰ literally: duty.

⁵¹ The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the family's semi-private chapel.

TO JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 54/76)

Brussels, March 16, 1866, rue des Douze-Apotres, 2nd floor

Read Miss Stephanie's letter

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am very late to answer your letter. I hope that you will forgive me in your charity! I had (and I still have) the shingles, or belt of fire, which made me lazy, but I am fairly well.

I wasn't bedridden. The pain came as an external eruption; and then also, I am too sensitive. Someone else would have ignored it. In short, it's really humbling to be so inept in the means to benefit from God's graces.

Dear daughter, you have been ill again since your letter! Jesus crucified is visiting you with a particle of his holy Cross. Continue to receive it, for in this way you become the little garden which he cultivates with affection.

These small illnesses become retreats of the soul in God, in his holy Will, in union with Jesus crucified. Prayer is then the loving offering of suffering; prayers are prayers of invocation, and, since the mind is weak and sleepy, the heart must replace everything, offer and give itself in a thousand ways.

Dear daughter, believe me, your prayers of dryness and powerlessness are more pleasing to God than the most beautiful readings and the most sublime thoughts. At least you will be in God's presence like a poor person, a cripple and a child who doesn't know how to say anything but who loves.

Dear daughter, you know that the great natural temptation during convalescence is agitated irritability, impatience; these are our natural thorns. Yes, we must then really stay close to our Lord in order to be gentle and humble of heart as he is.

Surrender yourself ever to God's holy Will for you, dear daughter. You know that it is the great law of life, your grace and only virtue, and it is the mother of all the others. It is the sovereign virtue of Jesus.

Goodbye dear daughter. Give me news about yourself. I am longing for it here, so far away! I will be here until after Quasimodo Sunday.

I bless you with my whole soul.

Eymard, SS

Madame Gourd

Passion Week (date unknown) - Retreat in Brussels. March 25-April 1

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 326/395 VI 2)

Brussels, March 18, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was in pain and not ill. I didn't want to tell you because you have enough troubles of your own.

I read your letter carefully with the reasons you give me to change houses.⁵² You would surely be better there; you would have what you need to make a lovely and larger chapel in the left wing. The partitions could be thrown down and you could even make a vaulted ceiling.

That was my first plan when we wanted to buy it. The house is very solid and well built, with a magnificent garden. It would also free you from debts on the Bardet house. But in order to do this I would need to go to Angers to see things at closer range. Personally, I wouldn't like a common church between you and us; it would amount to cancelling you out. Then, prudence warns against it. Our Lord would also be losing a throne that way. God forbid!

You are at a time of transition, dear daughter. You must spare the Bishop who received you so kindly.

Experience, time, God's grace, all these will show what must be retained and what must be eliminated.

I would surely prefer to have you near Paris, not in Paris itself, because they would force a priest from the city upon you as a superior: that is an absolute rule in this diocese. The place where I would want you to be and wanted you to be from the first, would be at Versailles, a half hour from Paris, with such a kind Bishop. I hope that this initial thought will take place some day. Then everything will fall back into its proper place and order. You are still underground to ripen and sprout.

Don't think about Rome now, it isn't time yet. That would amount to backing away from the difficulties. We must be established first, because later we will be bound.

I agree with you about forming a mistress of novices; that is the most urgent thing in the world. We'll see to it as soon as we get to Paris.

... [three lines erased].

We share the same feeling toward ... [name erased]. But since it comes from the good Lord, we must benefit from the virtue which is present there, or the cross which results from it.

I beg you, dear and good daughter, keep your head free from upsetting things and difficult people. Always keep your head in the sun, calm and strong enough to repulse whatever is untimely, unsuited to the grace of the moment; that is my constant request and prayer for you.

I bless your sick sisters, and the little one from Lyons whom you will receive. I have one in Paris too, but she has a sufficient dowry.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Be happy with God, calm toward yourself, good and even-tempered toward everyone, and I will be happy.

Eymard

P.S. Fr. Champion told me as coming from you that Mr. ... had an accident. I was very sorry about it. I didn't know about it. He told me that Miss had told you.

⁵² Move the chapel to the other building.

1771

CO 1769

TO CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE DU SS)
(III 3/5)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Brussels, March 18, 1866

Dear Sister Marie,

I read your letter very attentively. Thank you for the comments and observations it contains: they are always for the greater good of the Congregation. I understand that a single direction is required in order to have the same spirit, and for that purpose the proximity of the two motherhouses. However, there are very great difficulties for Paris, and also the principal reason that if the Archbishop were to receive you, he would impose a priest from the city upon you. That is the general rule in Paris. This reason alone would make us adjourn this plan.

It is necessary to pray very much for Nemours, it is a daughter of Angers. We should not pay too much attention to persons, but to the glory of God and his grace. We must ordinarily pass through the pain of agony to reach the life of God.

Continue to be kind and encouraging for your daughters. You have the grace and mission to do so.

Goodbye, dear sister,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1772

CO 1770

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 11/26)

Brussels, March 18, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I hasten to tell you to leave it at that with Y.M.⁵³ The more you do the more demanding she will be. It's self-interest, a hurt ego and stubbornness. Let her come and go, but for your part, don't weaken: that would ruin everything. That is my advice. You are not a child: your position and situation left you single, that's true, but you are also the head of the house, you have the same rights as when your dear husband was alive.

You must consider your M.'s condition as a temptation and an illness. Pray for her, but don't allow yourself to think about it. When you must go, go as a duty and without expecting any return.

Oh yes! Go quickly to Bergerac, you will be better there.

I am also feeling better, although always dragging a bit.

I bless you and your dear friend.⁵⁴

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. We will really pray for the return of your dear father,⁵⁵ especially tomorrow, on the feast of St. Joseph.

⁵³ Difficulties with her mother? Ed.

⁵⁴ Antonia Bost, who was living with her.

⁵⁵ Return to the faith.

1773

CO 1771

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 165/181 VI 2)

Brussels, April 2, 1866

Very dear Father,

Fr. Champion told me about your feelings and prayers for me. I feel that they exaggerated my condition, based on one remark from the doctor. Yes, it could have become serious; God did not will it. Is it a warning? I must profit by it.

I really felt ill only for two or three hours, and then I was thinking of having you come before things became worse, in order to embrace you one last time. Then the reaction led to a change in my condition.

I asked God to let me die, for am I not more of an obstacle than a help? I place myself in his hands; he knows what I need. I don't refuse to work and devote myself; but for nothing in the world would I want to be Jonas in the ship which is bringing us to the shores of eternity with the graces and mission of the Society.

I will return to Paris next week, Fr. Champion will come here, for a while. Brother Paul has caused new difficulties in Angers by his behavior. I had him come to Paris, for he would have settled in Angers, and what difficulties would come of that! We found a place for him so that he would not be left on the street.

Adoration in Brussels is getting a following and is increasing. The Aggregation is beginning to catch on little by little, things go slowly here; but we must hope that it will be solid. Brother Henry is here. We are six now, and that is very helpful.

Goodbye, dear Father, my fond regards to all the Fathers and Brothers. I'm praying and did pray much for you all on the great feast of the Resurrection, as we all need to become stronger and more perfect in the risen life of our Lord.

Believe me ever, in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

P.S. - Here is the form for the Aggregation. I haven't made one yet for the Eucharistic Weeks, it is difficult to organize. We will prepare the ground for it up North.

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
(France) Marseilles

1774

CO 1772

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 327/395 VI 2)

Brussels, April 2, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I received what you sent me, may God repay you! Part of it was used to adorn the high altar suitably for Easter. That is enough though, and even too much.

Put off Mr. de Russon. If they pressure you, say that you are expecting me at any time.

Take care not to buy the land behind Mr. Allard.

To buy land where we would need to build everything means throwing ourselves into enormous debts. Personally, I can't say anything about the Russon house. If you were to buy the Allard house, it would be useless. If you don't buy it, it's because it is too soon; why buy it with the condition that Mr. de Russon would stay there until he finds a house to buy?

Bide your time, and don't let the Bishop finalize the matter without me, for any reason whatever.

I am pleased that Fr. Champion should go to Angers right away. He will get here sooner to replace me.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I hope that you will rise⁵⁶ into a more abundant life in the spirit and love of our Lord.

Listen to everything with consideration. Judge everything with the interest of your Society in mind. Do everything for the better service of our Lord. Beyond these three motives, do nothing to please human beings.

I bless you all,
Eymard

1775

CO 1773

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 328/395 VI 2)

Brussels, April 6, 1866

Dear daughter,

I do share in your cross; it also makes me grieve. Oh! the death of the saint of the house will be a great loss. I am really praying for her, I hope for her healing; yet may God's holy will be done! She will be happier in heaven, and will pray even more for us there. If God calls her to himself, have a simple but appropriate funeral, as is usually done for religious. She may certainly make her perpetual vows. Poor Sr. Françoise! Oh! Yes, I surely do bless her, and you also, dear daughter and tender mother to your children. Religious motherhood is paid dearly!

I will be here until Fr. Champion arrives.

Please! Have courage! Have trust and holy surrender.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁶ Allusion to Easter.

1776

CO 1774

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I40/54)

Brussels, April 8, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your letter and the two forms it contains. I sent one which was printed here with the beautiful picture of the Dusseldorf. We had to be concise to fit it in. I modeled the consecration on our vows, with the necessary modifications.

I still haven't dared organize the Eucharistic Weeks. Things must be done slowly here.

I am beginning with the Aggregation as the core of the other branches of the Aggregation. They have been slow to understand it and to come. Now they are coming: we have more than 120 Associates, at this moment, from Brussels. The retreat I gave to the Associates during Passion Week shook up the sleepers a little.

I hope that you will come to give a good retreat here later, and that you will complete what has been begun.

Belgium is cold, Brussels soft. We must say and repeat the same thing, but, with God's help, his eucharistic family will be formed.

Miss de Meeus was touched by your kind remembrance. She remembers you also very eucharistically in our Lord.

I hope to be in Paris at the end of the week. Now I can see that everything here is under way.

There would be a great deal to do for the English people in Brussels. Fr. Champion is beginning to bring them together for a few conferences.

Goodbye, dear Father. I'm very happy with your work and its success in Marseilles. I am praying for your new (young) vocation. Here, a Flemish man came. He stayed only two days, and he had enough.

My fondest regards to good Fr. de Cuers, to dear Fr. O'Kelly and to all the Brothers.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

(France)

Fr. Leroyer

religious of the Blessed Sacrament

7, rue Nau

Marseilles

1777

CO 1775

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 80/104)

Brussels, April 8, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I will be here until the end of this week. Then I'll return to Paris, and after a few days I'll go to Angers. This time I am planning to go see you in Nantes, even if it were only for a half day. I'll let you know a few days in advance.

The Transplanted Tree

Here things are beginning to be like Paris. I am called on in so many ways. It's my lot, it seems, to be everyone's poor errand boy. Happy would I be if I were the good Lord's!

I can see that too many occupations harm the soul, especially when we have very little of the virtue of recollection. You yourself aspire to this holy state of inner and exterior recollection. You are right: as we come closer to the end, we must come closer to our Lord's family and live more closely with him. That's the ordinary rule for the grace of holiness: we must let our good Master do what he wills.

I'm convinced that the frequent illnesses which force you to stay at home are signs of our Lord's divine jealousy, in order to have you be more with him.

I won't say anything more about my poor body. There are still some remnants of shingles, but I continue to go on and with God's help, it's as if I were not suffering.

Goodbye dear daughter. May our Lord be your all,

Eymard, S.

1778

CO 1776

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 329/395 VI 2)

Brussels, April 9, 1866

To the Honorable Mother Superior
of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament of Angers
rue de l'Hopital, 10

Very Honorable Mother,

I am sending you Miss Lefort as a postulant. I tested her long enough to believe that she has a good vocation. Please receive her as one of your daughters. She has a great love for the life of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Her only regret is that she did not give you her early youth. She is giving herself totally.

I am in our Lord, very Honorable Mother,

Your respectful and dedicated servant,
Eymard

1779

CO 1778

TO FR. ALMERICI, BARNABITE
(VI 2/2)

Brussels, April 9, 1866

My dear Father,

I know Miss Lefort! She seems to me to have the necessary qualities for the vocation of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I have spoken in her favor to the Mother Superior in Angers (rue de l'Hopital, 10 bis), and she can go there to try. I enclose a letter of recommendation

on her behalf.

Yes, dear Father, I shall indeed pray for your intentions, which are all for the greater glory of God, and also for you, who are very dear to me in our Lord, in Whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1780

CO 1777

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI 3/7)

Brussels, April 9, 1866

Eminence,

I dare to petition from your kind charity to grant us the faculty to set up the Stations of the Way of the Cross in our community chapel, under the patronage of the Most Blessed Virgin.

Before I return to Paris I shall, if Your Eminence judges suitable, solicit the faculty of Confessor for Fr. Champion (Amandus Cyrus) and Fr. Viguiier (Carolus). The former is named Superior of the Brussels House. He is Assistant of the Society and has been a professor of theology. His chief study is Canon Law and Liturgy. He was entrusted by His Eminence Cardinal Morlot to direct the publishing of liturgical works at Adrien Leclerc in Paris. If Father can be of any service to you in his field, I offer him gladly to Your Eminence.

One of the main reasons which lead me to deprive myself of his presence in Paris is that he has a perfect knowledge of English, having been in London for three years as Superior and Pastor. He could do here what he has successfully done in Paris - religious lectures to English people residing in Brussels. Fr. Viguiier has been a priest for 8 years.

I know that it is the rule in the diocese to give faculties for Confession only after an oral examination. However, Your Eminence, there is always a little more freedom given in the case of a foundation, and if it is acceptable I would beg Your Eminence to delay such an examination and grant provisional faculties for Confession.

It is with the deepest veneration that I call myself

Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant,
Pierre Eymard, Sup.

1781

CO 1779

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 15/29 VI 2)

Brussels, April 10, 1866

Very dear Father,

Oh yes! I also am longing for the foundation of the house of solitude, just as you are, I think about it day and night, it's the object of all my prayers. It seems to me that it will be the heart of the Society and the soul of the whole eucharistic life of our religious. That is the first thing I will

concentrate on when I return to Paris. So, dear Father, we have the same thought and the same desire, only we must pray a great deal. Besides, this is a good time with the transfer and the compulsory sale.

I wrote to Mr. Tassus' brother that it is impossible now; that we would see later. As for the one from Magny, I won't even answer him because this young man may not know that we are informed about his past.

I'm sorry to learn that your sister-in-law is ill. Let's all pray for her recovery.

I won't go to Paris this week, since Fr. Champion wasn't able to come here.

Next Friday, I'll go to preach a eucharistic retreat to a beautiful Association at Ghent.⁵⁷ I won't be in Paris until the Sunday of the feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph. Please tell Fr. Champion that he must be here Saturday at the latest, since I must leave Friday morning for that retreat, which could be useful for the Society and broaden its influence.

So, give up the Sunday sermon; it's too much for you. Put Benediction only at 5 o'clock. That was the agreement for the period between Easter and All Saints.

I'll probably bring you an 18-year-old novice, that is the flower we obtained from St. Joseph. He couldn't come sooner, because he drew his lot, and was a military substitute.

There isn't much to say about my health. I'm working the same as usual, although there are still some remnants left from the shingles, but it's nothing.

I'm happy that Brother Rene left for Angers.

Try to reason with Brother Alexander and Brother Peter: what makes them so self-centered is a lack of light and religious spirit.

I really long to see you.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁷ In the archives of the Religious of the Eucharist in Belgium, the following notice was found by Rev. Fr. E. Stalmans SSS in 1994. Another handwriting, perhaps that of Miss de Meeus, reads:

"Notes written by Fr. Eymard, Superior General of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament, to be published in the *Bien Public*" before a sermon he was to preach in Ghent in April 1866."

The notice, in Fr. Eymard's handwriting, reads as follows:

The Society was founded in Paris in 1856.

Its principal purpose is perpetual adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed - according to the four ends of sacrifice, that is: solemn worship with all the splendor of perpetual forty hours, thanksgiving, reparation and continual supplication for the Church, for the spread of the faith - the conversion of sinners, peace and harmony between Christian princes, and the reign of Jesus Christ by the Holy Eucharist, so that all may adore, love and serve him as their Lord and God.

It is a beautiful work, which was lacking in the garden of the Church; it was right that, like the other Mysteries of our Savior, the greatest, holiest and most loveable of the Mysteries from Divine love should also have its religious group entirely devoted to its worship and glory and be, as it were, its Guardian and Apostle.

The thought of seeing priest-adorers praying for those who, like Evangelists, go to proclaim the good news, must be a powerful encouragement for all.

The religious of the Blessed Sacrament do not limit themselves to the worship of adoration; the fireplace always has a flame or it dies. These religious receive priests for private retreats in their Cenacle, they even intend to found, as soon as they can, a large retreat house in order to receive, together with active religious, veterans of the priesthood who, before ending their pastoral career, wish to recollect themselves at the feet of their divine Master before dying. Besides this work of priestly retirement (retreats), the religious devote themselves to teach Christian Doctrine to the poor workers in the large cities who have gone beyond the age for first Communion, have neglected this primary Christian duty.

They also preach, but only retreat exercises, retreats of adoration, for first Communion and their motto is: May your Kingdom come - to adore, love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ, to make him known, loved and served by the whole world, that is the law of their lives.

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 330/395 VI 2)

[April 10, 1866]⁵⁸

Dear daughter,⁵⁹

I thank the good Lord for the improvement of Sr. Francoise [health]. I hardly dare to ask for her healing. However, if I were there, I would order her to ask for it for that holy woman must be very pleasing to God.

You will be receiving Miss Lefort from Paris, about whom I spoke to you. She has 10,000 francs: 500 francs of pension. She is strong and I have examined her long enough. She will give you a letter from me. A few vocations are possible here, but they must be studied carefully.

It is the lot of the Motherhouse to always be ill-served. Charity deprives itself for others. However, in case of need, everyone must be asked for a subsidy.

I have said and repeated: if Nemours should separate from you, they would separate from me, and I will no longer set foot there. There can be neither reasons, nor accusations. For me, there is only one thing: you are their Superior. The house of Nemours depends on the house of Angers. The fact that Rome has not yet approved your Congregation is not a reason to separate. On the contrary, it is a reason to unite, because after all, the vows are there.

Let them be, and be patient. God always blesses order and obedience. If you have faults they want to correct you for, that is a bit much. However, you understand how things are and how they see things.

Let us learn from it, when it relates only to ourselves personally, but when it refers to the role of Superior, the Rule must be followed.

I wrote very clearly to Fr. Champion to have them sell the mill at Nemours, I hold to that. I am surprised that they want to put it off; that doesn't agree with me.

You do well to be kind toward Miss Sterlingue. She is weak-minded. She needs our indulgence, unfortunately. Oh! God alone, the pure glory of God, our own self-denial, and even our own humiliation for the greater glory of God, that is the Superior's rule.

I will now be in Paris only on the third Sunday after Easter. I will give a retreat of adoration beginning next Friday.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you and your Sister Francoise, so that our Lord may heal her.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁸ Probable date. Troussier.

⁵⁹ This letter was copied from a text in Mother Marguerite's hand, not from the original. The date is probably April 10, 1866 (Troussier).

1783

CO 1781

TO BROTHER AIME FERRAT, SSS
(VI 1/2)

Brussels, April 10, 1866

Dear Friend,

About your little cousin: truly, his great desire touches my heart. If you wish to bring him with you, I shall give him a try. This is the first time I have made an exception, but if it is the good Lord who is calling him to so holy a life, one can never enter it too soon.

However, he must reflect seriously to find out whether he really has the good will to give himself to God. If he has the aptitudes, we will help him study to become a priest, if God is calling him to it.

Eymard

April 13-21 - Fr. Eymard preached a triduum at Ghent, the capital of Flanders.

1784

CO 1782

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 16/29 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Ghent, April 14, 1866, Quai-au-bois 40

Dear Father,

I have just received your letter and I am answering briefly.

I am here at Ghent, the lovely capital of Flanders. There are truly beautiful souls here; I would love to have a house here later on. The Holy Father is loved and served here as nowhere else. The retreat began yesterday morning at 9:30.

During the interval, I hope to go see our religious in Brussels for a few hours.

Tell Father Champion not to hurry: all the steps have been taken for the Sunday offices. He had told me about the absence of the Bishop of Angers, but I couldn't turn away from my commitment to Ghent any longer. Please ask him insistently to bring me a 2-franc bottle of eye lotion from Montmartre Street. Brother Eugene knows the address.

I am pleased about the visit from the borough-surveyor. I hope that during this year our Good and Royal Master will leave the little stable of Bethlehem. I am pleased about the things you are trying with the novices and with you. We only know well what we have seen and felt. Ah, egoism! That is the great enemy to be pursued and chased from heaven as seen in the proud Angels, and from the Church, in heretics; from religious life, egotists. This is the shout of life and death which we must constantly repeat: *si quis vult post me servare, abneget semetipsum, the Sine sui proprio, the Oportet autem illum crescere, me autem minui.*⁶⁰

Be strong, dear Father. You have seen a lot and won a lot in this struggle. It was good to see you at work, and also, God with you.

⁶⁰ If anyone wishes to serve me, he must deny his very self, without any self-interest; He must increase and I must decrease.

The Transplanted Tree

I will leave here Saturday morning. I will go to Brussels and probably not leave here until Sunday, the next day, at 2 o'clock. I will reach you in the evening around 9 o'clock, with a good Franciscan Father and a young novice. Have the two retreatants' rooms ready.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Poor old man Ricoux! I am very sad I cannot see him, I am weeping with sadness. If you see him again, tell him my deep affection and that he will always be remembered in the Society.

1785

CO 1783

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 3/11)

A.R.T.

Ghent, April 14, 1866, Quai au Bois, 40

Dear Lady and dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for the lovely bouquet for the holy feast of Easter. It lasted during the whole octave. It spoke well of your wishes and love for our risen Jesus.

I liked to think of you in seeing the violet, because it is so loved by God! and in the five beautiful white flowers which, like a crown of five florets, shine forth with purity and zeal for our Lord's glory.

You were expecting me Thursday and I am still in Ghent, the capital of Flanders, preaching an Adoration retreat until next Saturday. I will be in Paris only the evening of the Third Sunday or Monday, and who knows whether I shall return to Paris? If it should please God to shorten my path and bring it to a close here in a foreign land and call me to Him! Alas! I would leave many beautiful and holy plans unfinished! But God's hour is better than ours! May his holy will be done!

Continue to love our good Master; that is eternal life.

Always stay close to him; his hand will never leave you.

Often rest at his feet, it is the servant's place of love and honor.

Goodbye dear daughter, we shall see you soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Madame T.
Recommended to Brother Charles

1786

TO FR. FAURE⁶¹
(VI 1/1)

This document deleted because it is the same letter found in Volume VI, Doc. #2154 (CO 2155).

1787

CO 1784

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI 21/22)

ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM

Brussels, April 23, 1866

Very Reverend Mother,

I am about to leave for Paris. I am sorry I didn't have more time. I would have gone to see you in Lige. God wills this sacrifice from me.

I had the consolation of receiving, on Wednesday, the Rescript from Rome for the Brussels foundation. His Eminence has graciously given extensive powers to Rev. Fr. Champion and Fr. Viguier.

Today they are setting up the Stations of the Way of the Cross in our little inside chapel, which was my little bedroom. I am leaving the Community established, the chapel with its services organized, all will be well. Good Fr. Champion is full of goodwill towards you.

Now it only remains for me to commend you all to the grace of our good and common Master, whom we serve with joy and happiness.

I assure you that I will not forget you in my poor prayers, nor your religious family. I ask you for the same grace for us.

Your good daughters in Ghent will give you news about the novena.⁶² I found it most edifying. I trust that the good Master will nurture the grace he has sown in the hearts of the good people of Ghent.

I remain very close to you in our Lord, very esteemed Mother, and I am, respectfully,

Your most devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.

⁶¹ Pastor of Lavalens (Isere)

⁶² The religious community.

1788

CO 1786

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 12/20)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 25, 1866

Madame in our Lord,⁶³

I have been in Paris for two days and I am totally at your service. Thank you for what you have done for Mr. Ravache and even more for your good prayers. I repaid you a little.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1789

CO 1785

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 166/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 25, 1866

Very dear Father,

Finally, I am writing to you from Paris, where I have been for a few days. I left Fr. Champion in Brussels with the service of the Good Master well underway.

I brought two novices with me: one from Amsterdam, a young 20-year-old man who seems fine; another who is 25, from Anvers, who is studying Latin. A theologian from Nevers entered yesterday. All are on retreat. It is the result of the month to St. Joseph. A few other requests, which are actually not serious, have been made. It is a beginning. And how is yours doing? Is there good reason to hope? A young man coming from the Premonstratensians came today, saying that he had been at the house of Marseilles. We delayed him for more information.

The question of the compulsory purchase is stirring at this time. They say that there may be definite news by the month of July. We are trying to know something definite, in order not to be taken too much by surprise.

The month of April is here; if you could send the necessary documents to withdraw your pension, I would be grateful.

Make an effort so that the exercises for the Month of Mary take place as usual. We have such great need for the powerful help of this good Mother.

My fond and faithful regards to our Lord's whole family.

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

⁶³ Excerpt from a letter.

1790

CO 1787

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 81/104)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 28, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I returned to Paris a few days ago; I still haven't had time to breathe. Oh, yes, I am thinking about Nantes! But I must get some of the more urgent things out of the way; three months of absence have left many things lagging behind.

I share in the joy which is yours in Brittany for the wonderful success of our good and holy Fr. Richard. I was in Rome with him when he was pursuing this beautiful work.

I have nothing else to say today, except that I am entirely at your service,

And all yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

May 1 - Beginning of the spiritual exercises of the scholasticate in Paris.

1791

CO 1788

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 167/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 1, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am returning your document, in order that you may have your reference.

Fr. Audibert is here for 24 hours. It seems that there was an old debt to be paid to the carpenter. If so, please send him the 750 francs directly.

Today we received the four retreatants to the postulancy, and so we are beginning a little eucharistic nursery. A very distinguished family offered their only son, who is 12 years old, to be brought up in the religious life. This young oblate is a blessed child; pious, intelligent and in good health: he has everything. We will see whether we can find three or four, first of all, to begin a real core group. St. Benedict and many great saints were offered to God in this way. Youth is necessary for solid and strong vocations. I hope that this little seed will have your joy and blessing.

For now, our novitiate is building up a little, as the departure of the six for Brussels was a big loss.

On second consideration, we refused the postulant from the Premonstratensians. The whole thing was nebulous. They are talking about July or October for the compulsory purchase. So we are condemned to look for something. I am looking, but I hope that the Good Master won't forsake us. Please give this form to good Fr. Leroyer. He will find the part he was looking for. The rest⁶⁴ was only for Brussels and just a few.

⁶⁴ The rest of the form.

The Transplanted Tree

Is it true that Fr. O'Kelly is causing you difficulty? I was told about it today. Fr. Champion wrote me so. What! This poor Father would oppose you and become stubborn? I'm waiting for your reply to remind him of his duties.

In our Lord, very dear Father,
All yours,
Eymard

1792

CO 1789

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 331/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 2, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've been here in Paris for a week, and so busy that I don't have a minute. I hope that after this initial phase is over, I will have a little more free time.

I still cannot come to see you in Angers, because of the many affairs which are lagging behind. It would be a real joy for me to go see you as soon as the good Master wills it.

I found Miss Sterlingue more satisfied after her trip. The visit and your kindness helped her; she is pleased with you.

I thank the good Lord that Sr. Benoite made the trip; it will scatter prejudices and temptations, if there were any. I saw her very little, as I was very busy that day, but I could see that she was pleased with her trip.

When I have a moment, I'll go to Nemours. We must absolutely sell the mill ... [two and a half lines erased] ... because we are all exposing ourselves to blame.

And then, I want to see the bills that are paid or need to be paid.

It's true, our Lord is being glorified. But, poor Nemours, how high the price! No matter, the glory of our good Master is worth much more than all these small sacrifices.

I'm very happy about the improvement of Sr. Francoise's health. I would like you all to be well. Take better care of yourself.

I bless you, dear daughter.

Eymard

1793

CO 1790

TO FR. VAN DERKER, S.J.⁶⁵

(VIII 1/1)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, May 3, 1866

Dear and very Reverend Father,

I have to thank you for your very beautiful Relic of Blessed Berchmans. I have given it to the Novitiate so that this holy Protector may also be its model.

⁶⁵ Jesuit Superior at Ghent.

You must have received from the Superior of the Adoration the Manuale Decretorum.⁶⁶ At the end of it you will find the question about Holy Communion at the Mass for the dead.

I would like, very dear Father, to be of service to you in Paris. At least I shall count it a joy to pray for you, and for your holy and militant Company.⁶⁷ I ask you also for a small remembrance in your memento.⁶⁸

Times are very grave at this moment. The wise men of our generation are losing their heads. I was told yesterday that the Emperor had sent a message to King Emmanuel, telling him that if he made war on Austria, it would be at his own peril. France is strongly opposed to the war; debate begins today in the Chambers, and they say it will be lively.

The bankruptcies in the stock market are terrible - the god of wealth is cursed by despair.

Alas! if those who govern had at least some degree of faith in the Church of Jesus Christ! perhaps they will have it when they find themselves on St. Helena's rock,⁶⁹ or in tribulation.

Believe me, in our Lord, good and esteemed Father,

All yours,

Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS

1794

CO 1791

TO THE MODAVE FAMILY
(VII 1/4)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, rue fg. St. Jacques 68, May 4, 1866

To Mme. and Miss Modave
Dear Ladies in our Lord,

You have been so kind to us, that I am writing to thank you again from Paris.

Among my few acquaintances in Brussels you were among the first, so I do not want to, and cannot, forget you in my poor prayers. What I ask God for you, first of all, dear Lady, is health, and then at least by means of trust, the joy and holy liberty of the children of God's love, who live from day to day, from moment to moment under the wings of a maternal Providence, who see only the good side of the heart and of things, because they live in love. Your sun, dear Madame, is always beautiful and gentle, let it be without clouds and you will be the happiest of all.

As for you, Mademoiselle, I pray that you may also love our good Master and work for his glory. Your rosaries make people happy and they will also make saints.

I am like the poor sailor surrounded by waves here in Paris. My beautiful days in Brussels are over, that lovely Brussels which was so dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Ladies,

All yours,

Eymard

⁶⁶ Manual of Decrees.

⁶⁷ The Jesuits.

⁶⁸ Prayers at Mass.

⁶⁹ Mount Calvary.

1795

CO 1792

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 10/20)

*Paris, May 6, 1866*⁷⁰

Madame in our Lord,⁷¹

I do thank you for your interest for God's House. I do not know any of the jury [members]. I am going to Mme. de Padoue since you advised me to do so for the greater good.

God will repay you what you do for him and for us.

I bless you in our Lord.

1796

CO 1793

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC
(VII 16/17 VIII 26)

Paris, May 9, 1866

Mademoiselle,

Thank you with all my heart for your letter which was so good and so affectionate. It is very comforting to be on your list of friends. With all my heart I hold you in the same esteem and with the same duties [toward you], because I see the world just as it is, as you do. If it weren't for God and his law, I would even like to cross it out of my mind. Alas, this poor world is vain and poor without God! God is wise to oblige us to go to him by means of his goodness and also by detachment. St. Paul said that he was dying daily, and you can say the same thing. Then, real death will be powerless. It will only open the door of blessed eternity. It is a great grace of God's mercy to lead us into old age. It gives us time to sacrifice everything and love him for himself.

If we can work less at that age, we can have greater wisdom and the life of the heart replaces that of the mind. But, dear Mademoiselle, let me tell you that your mind is always as young as your heart. It is true that because you dwell in the truth of things and not in their seductive prism, your mind sees further and higher. The clouds of this world cannot darken your sun.

Can it be that you have been a recluse with God and his Holy Will for eight months now? I would pity you if I weren't afraid of being scolded, that is such a long time! It is true that the good Master goes to visit you from time to time and perfumes your stay with his adorable presence and his graces;⁷² and then, you love his holy will above all things. See how this divine conformity is a good companion, how it is a gentle consolation. It has been your virtue and now it has become your peace and joy.

I hope to go to Marseilles during June or July. You will have my first visit. It is due and it is so good for me. I left Brussels with a beautiful exposition, now I am planning another.

Believe me ever in our Lord.

All yours

⁷⁰ May and not March according to Fr. Troussier.

⁷¹ Excerpt from a letter.

⁷² perhaps that Holy Communion is brought to her.

1797

CO 1794

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 168/181 VI 2)

Paris, May 11, 1866

Dear Father,

I am returning your document, so that you may endorse it.

In Angers, we owe 1000 francs for candles; poor house! But our Lord is working on it.

Yes, let Brother Anthelme make the annual vow of obedience. Thank you for the comforting news about Fr. O'Kelly.

We are on retreat for First Communions. Sunday, 40 young workers will have the joy of receiving our Lord!

Nothing new about the compulsory purchase. It has been delayed, perhaps for lack of money. May God watch over it!

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

1798

CO 1795

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 82/104)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, May 11, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

Wednesday I will be going to Bergerac (Dordogne) at the Carmelites, to preach a Triduum, on May 17th, 18th, and 19th, in honor of Blessed Marie of the Angels. From there, I expect to go to Angers in order to give the retreat to our Fathers during Pentecost week and return to Paris after my retreat, which will close on the feast of the Holy Trinity. That is my itinerary. If I should change anything, I will let you know right away.

In Angers, there is an eminent and very devout doctor, Mr. Dzaneau. He is the doctor for our religious. What if you came to Angers to consult him? Needless to say, if you don't come to Angers, I'll go see you in Nantes, were it only for a few hours.

I bless your sufferings and urge you to make a novena to the holy Curé d' Ars. I am enclosing a small piece of cloth of his for you.

Poor daughter! suffering is your daily bread. It purifies you, protects you and unites you to God, it's true. How your poor human nature must long to be delivered from it!

Love the good Lord above everything.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1799

CO 1796

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 27/36)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, May 11, 1866

Dear sister,

I would really like to accept [the invitation] to preach your retreat for July 15, and insofar as I can, I do accept while admitting that it is more to see you and scold you, if I should, because time is passing. Finally, we will see then and there with God's grace. However, dear sister, if our good Master should place an urgent obstacle at that time, don't be angry with me if I had to stay here because of it. However, I don't foresee any. It seems to me that the good Lord would find his glory in it. What about my meditations? Please, get to work.

I bless you in Jesus Hostia,
Eymard, Superior

1800

CO 1798

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 17/29 VI 2)

Bergerac, May 16, 1866, (Dordogne at the Minor Seminary)

Very dear Father,

I reached my destination safely.

All day yesterday I prayed to God for your visit. Surely, I asked only for the holy Will of God, but also for his greater glory and the good of the Society.

I didn't stop at Tours, and it was a good thing because I would have been late.

Be careful not to tell Miss Michel where I am. Recommend the greatest discretion from Brother Eugene and Brother Charles in her regard, because that would block everything. Please remit the enclosed letter to Miss Thomas.

Send Brother Aime to La Mure after Pentecost, so that he may have enough time to take care of his business. Tell him to write to us from La Mure about the vocations he may find there, so that we can study them. Tell him what conditions of health, character, virtue, and the spirit that we require: to give oneself unreservedly, with a free status, to the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, so that she may give her children to the service of our Good Master as she judges best.

Pray for my little mission. I am staying at the Minor Seminary. Oh! If the God of the Eucharist could glean a few grains of wheat here!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Send me a page of the Ordo; I forgot mine. Open one of my letters carefully and slip it in.

To Rev. Fr. Chanuet
Master of Novices

The Transplanted Tree

68 rue fg. St. Jacques
Paris

May 17-19 - He preached a Triduum (three days devotions) for the beatification of Blessed Mary of the Angels at the Carmel of Bergerac. He stayed at the minor seminary, where he also preached to the seminarians.

1801

CO 1799

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 332/395 VI 2)

On the train to Bordeaux, May 22, 1866

Dear daughter,

I did not have enough time to write to you. I've just given a short retreat near Bordeaux with a eucharistic theme as always. I barely have time to breathe.

You can imagine that I can't pass through Tours without going to visit you briefly [in Angers]. I'll arrive there tomorrow night, Wednesday, or Thursday morning without fail. Let Fr. Audibert know, he must have expected me Tuesday. Please don't forget me before the Lord.

I'll go for a brief visit to Mme. Sauvestre at Poitiers, since I will be passing there.

Tomorrow, I'll go see dear Mr. Dupont and the devout Rosemberg family, while waiting for the evening train.

I've been eager to see you, dear daughter, for it has been a long time and my life has been so chopped up and scattered since your last visit. That is how the good Master wants it: fortunate will I be if I fulfill my task well!

See you soon, dear daughter. I bless you very paternally in our Lord.

Eymard

1802

CO 1800

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 83/104)

On the train to Bordeaux, May 22, 1866

Dear Lady,

I am here on the train to Angers. I will arrive there Wednesday, tomorrow night.

My first plan had been to go directly to Nantes tomorrow and arrive on the night express at 7:30; but, as I was afraid not to have enough time for you, as I must preach Thursday evening at 4:00 and so I might miss you, I'll wait to hear from you in Angers. Please write there to me right away, as I'll only be staying there a few days.

However, if you were ill and would like me to come right away, send me a telegram at Mr. DuPont's, 10, rue Saint Etienne, in Tours, before 2:00 p.m.

My religious respects to your kind sister.

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

Tonight I'll spend the night at Poitiers, since the train goes no farther. I'll be in Tours at 11:00.

1803

CO 1801

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 65/75)

Angouleme, May 22, 1866

Dear Madame,

I am writing to you on the train.

I have just come from Bordeaux to preach a retreat. I received your fine letter there. Thank you.

You know that I spent three months in Brussels for a foundation. They say that I almost died. But, I was like a poor worker who had not finished his task. I ruin so many things!

I am going to Angers; I'll be in Paris in a few days. I thought you were at Calet. I pray for your poor silkworms; especially for a little saint for your dear Mathilde, as well as for the mother and the grandmother. I'm sorry that you no longer like Calet. God is the one who makes it beautiful! and God is still there. Please, look a little more closely at the good Lord's flowers.⁷³

Thank you for the edifying news you give me about your dear nieces. I pray for them and bless them.

Be very recollected in your solitude, find how beautiful God is, how good God is! and become holy and good in order to be very beautiful in Heaven.

Goodbye.

If I go to Marseilles during the summer I want to see you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

P.S. I will return your little book in the mail.
May 23 - Traveled to Angers.

1804

CO 1802

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 18/29 VI 2)

Angers, May 24, 1866

Very dear Father,

Your letter telling me that you haven't found the Tabor (stand) for the Eucharist yet makes me double my prayers.

I must go see a house near Tours, it was a Benedictine abbey. Right now I am gathering information. All our prayers will surely bring results.

You will find the key for the safe hanging by the chimney of my room.

⁷³ Probably her blessings.

The Transplanted Tree

Don't do anything about Nemours. I will be able to end the bail.

Divine Providence will surely come to our help.

I don't expect to leave until Saturday or Sunday. Our Sisters have a profession [ceremony] which they delayed for my trip and I would really like to see that house near Tours which they say is very isolated.

I'm sending you the letter from the priest so that you may see whether we should begin his vocation retreat, or whether you think it is better to wait for me. Send him word that I will be in Paris Tuesday night.

The little house of Angers is functioning the same as usual. Our Sisters are fine, Sr. Françoise is better.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I addressed Fr. de Cuers' letter to you. Have the check withdrawn; the money is for Angers, minus 25 francs.

Fr. Champion is begging Brother Eugene to send him the 500 or 600 hosts as soon as possible. He wants to go back to the large wick (60 threads) for his candles, because of drafts.

He tells me that shipping 22 kilos of candles costs as much as 100 kilos.

1805

CO 1803

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 84/104)

A.R.T.

Angers, May 24, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I have been here since last night. I want to leave for Paris on Monday. Therefore, it would be too late to come only next week. Come on Saturday if you can. If you had come today, as you had thought, I would have been pleased.

I believe that tomorrow, Friday, I'll be busy all day.

It's most likely that I'll still be here Sunday.

I am so sorry that I'm not going to Nantes!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

May 27	<i>Conference Servants: Virtues of a postulant, a novice, a triannual Professed. (Profession ceremony.)</i>
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1806

CO 1804

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 169/181 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, June 7, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am a little late to write and thank you for your pension. I was in Angers where everything is the same as usual. I can understand how your good will and your weak health made the burden seem a bit heavy, but you have a good assistant. Then it seems to me that our Good Master must bless you more than others. However, I would be inconsolable, if I were the cause of your illness by not giving you relief. I will come to see you toward the end of June. If you think it would be a favorable time, now that Corpus Christi is passed, I would give the community the annual retreat. We could begin on the evening of Sunday the 24th, the feast of St. John the Baptist, and close the following Saturday. What do you think about it?

I did receive your request from Rome and the letter from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. I didn't understand the reason for it, thinking it wasn't necessary to gain the indulgence; I will respond as you suggest.

We are still looking for houses, but especially for a house near Paris to rent or buy for the Novitiate. They say that the compulsory purchase will come soon. Once the Novitiate is established, it will be easier for us to find a house to rent, if necessary. However, the prices are so high that we don't dare settle anything, especially without knowing the estimate to be given by the jury.

Good Fr. Chanuet, who is ever so devoted, is offering to pay for the Novitiate house, if we find one which has all the necessary conditions.

You can see, dear Father, that we really need your prayers.

We will make the royal octave⁷⁴ as beautiful as we can, in our little chapel, with daily instructions. Yours must be magnificent in Marseilles. My very fond regards to Fr. Leroyer, to Fr. O'Kelly and to the whole family.

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

1807

CO 1805

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 333/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 7, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm late with you, as always. I've been running so much lately, then preaching, and then so busy! Forgive me.

It has been arranged with Joseph that he will actively search for a garden to rent. Be firm about it. If it should be a bit far, it doesn't matter. Then, with the raise you mentioned to me, he will be

⁷⁴ Octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

very pleased to work.

June 8

I am leaving at this moment for Nemours, I've been travelling again.

Let Miss Lefort go. If I had known her better, I would never have received her.

Please receive this young aspirant. I'm sending you her pastor's letter as reference. Keep it for later.

I bless you as I leave. I'll write to you from there.

All yours,
Eymard

June 15-21 - Retreat preached at Mauron (Morbihan) to the group of Virginie Danion.

1808

CO 1806

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

Paris, June 26, 1866

Dear old Friend,

I owe you a letter, not of apology, but of regret because I did not succeed in helping your nephew, Baret. What I obtained was a letter of explanation, because, since there was no personal reform, they said they couldn't pass it on the basis of the family [reputation]. You can understand how happy I would have been to fulfill your hopes.

I imagine that his parents will make a sacrifice to exonerate him from service, because it's a bad time. Then, as you said so well, he is needed badly by his respectable and fine family.

Dear friend, I thought I could go to La Mure on my way to Marseilles but I am retained in Paris because of the compulsory sale of our house for Boulevard Arago. I must be there. Times have really changed, the future seems dark. Will God strike us? He is greatly offended, especially by the bourgeoisie with their pleasures, by the wicked and irreligious business world, and by evil workers. Oh! Secret societies are Satan's great lever and are preparing the universal reign of Antichrist. You cannot imagine their power in Europe. They are everywhere, they managed to get into all the key positions, they imposed themselves upon sovereigns, they control like invisible steam controls machinery. Alas! What hatred for Catholicism! What bad faith against the Church! Truly, I never could have believed that deception could be so well disguised and respected.

You are fortunate, especially you, in your peaceful countryside with your lovely church and all the good that you do!

May God always bless your work which is so apostolic, fill you with the joy of the Good Shepherd.

Believe me ever in our Lord,
Dear friend,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1809

CO 1807

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 38/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, June 27, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

In your charity, please forgive me. We've just bought a house for the Novitiate, two hours from Paris, and it has kept me quite busy. I've just learned that, in a few days, we will be subject to the compulsory sale for the Boulevard Arago. God be praised!

God is blessing our house, we are twenty. My health is maintaining itself. Our good Master is the One who is doing everything.

On July 15th, I will be at Mauron (Morbihan) at the rectory, to preach an 8-day retreat. If you need to write to me, I would gladly receive your letters.

I received a letter from ***. I certainly do think as you do, but there are situations where we are obliged to let ourselves be led by divine Providence. It's only right that the Works of the Blessed Sacrament should proceed through crosses and death; fortunate even, to be the unworthy instruments of so many graces!

I can assure you that the good Lord is too kind toward me: I would deserve to be treated very severely because of my omissions, my laziness and pride. That is what humiliates me, and in spite of it, the good Lord is blessing the Society. It is growing, and I, poor man, am here as its plowman.

In your last letter you don't tell me about yourself, which leads me to think that our good Master is pleased with his servant, and the happy servant is happy with such a good Guest. Yes, yes, be pleased and grateful! There is certainly enough reason for both sentiments. What is [the value of] this earth, people, and the goods of this world in the presence of our Lord? Nothing, only trouble. Learn how to be recollected at the feet of our Lord in the silence of love, to listen to him in peace of heart, to see him, contemplate him in his divine and awesome goodness, to give him to himself by giving yourself. You must always keep before your soul the beautiful mirror of our Lord, his virtues, which are the beautiful garden of evangelical flowers; but especially the divine motives for the Incarnation, for our Redemption, for the holy Eucharist. Before such beautiful scenes, the soul finds delight, or at least keeps itself delightfully occupied in God's sight.

Goodbye, etc.

1810

CO 1808

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

(I 170/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 28, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am writing to tell you and your Fathers and Brothers that we bought a house with a field two hours from Paris, by the Orleans Railroad, at St. Maurice, on the Vendome line. The stop is the Breuillet Station. This is a stroke of Providence, because there is everything we need for the Novitiate and later, for a house of solitude: 5.75 acres of enclosed land, a house in good condition which can immediately provide 25 rooms, and a suitable chapel. The property was sold in court as

The Transplanted Tree

a minors⁷⁵ property for the price of 77,000 francs. Good Fr. Chanuet, who is always so generous, will pay for it, at least most of it.

It is time to take our Novitiate out of Paris, where our young people are too distracted and are becoming a heavy burden. Besides, that had already been decided at the General Chapter.

The mother house, which is remaining in Paris, will become more simple and uniform. Then also, they say that the compulsory purchase order will be given soon, perhaps at the beginning of July. Mr. Legrand, the agent of the city for Arago Boulevard, is already pursuing us to buy our house on friendly terms. Tomorrow we must try to find out his offer. However, I believe it is better to take it to court and be well represented.

So now we are seeking for a third house in Paris. This time it will be the Cenacle, following Bethlehem and Nazareth. As we don't know what compensation we will be able to obtain, we are looking without committing ourselves. It's very difficult to find something suitable, and then everything is so expensive! But the Good Master, who has never forsaken us, knows that without him we can do nothing and that through him we can do everything. There are 20 of us, among whom is a Dutch priest who is 35 years old, he seems fine.

I can't tell when I will have the pleasure of going to Marseilles. I'm riveted to Paris because of this business with the city.

Pray for us, dear Father, especially for the one who is,

Very united to you in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

P.S. - The July quarterly has come. Please oblige me by sending it to Angers, they need it.

1811

CO 1809

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 334/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 28, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Finally, I have time for you, laziness got the better of me again. I won't excuse myself to you: your charity is broad enough. I had so many worries about D.M. Finally she is in a convalescent home. So, that is a big cross behind us.

We've just bought a house for the Novitiate which is two hours away from Paris. It is quite necessary for the formation of our young people, also because we will be obliged to sell in the month of July. So we will have to establish ourselves elsewhere. But where? How? God knows.

Fr. Crepon is on retreat about his vocation. He is entirely dedicated to you. Pray for him for he will need much strength if God is calling him to the religious life.

Dear daughter, I believe that you have received news from Sr. B.; I also received some. She has been better for about two or three days. It seems that she was bed-ridden for 8 days.... Fortunately, her kind secretary was there.

I received a letter from Mme. Gourd. She is in Vichy, as you may know. May God help and heal her! She is a beautiful person, pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The entry of the postulant is quite providential. As I said to the Pastor, we can at least give her a try. A working sister pays her dowry in fact.

Now I am riveted to Paris because of this compulsory sale and the little repairs we are doing to

⁷⁵ Could be "miners".

The Transplanted Tree

our novitiate house.

Now I am a little like elderly fathers who live from their children's labor. For the more I go, the busier I become.

However, we will have to settle the question of a sister for the Mistress of Novices, to help you. It's impossible for you to do everything. Make a novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After that we will settle the matter and do whatever will be for the greater good of the novitiate.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Whether I write to you more or less frequently, your rights and my dedication are ever the same.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1812

CO 1810

TO JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 55/76)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, June 28, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time, a very long time, and I also wanted to have news about you directly.

Thank you therefore, for you know how precious your soul is to me in God's sight as well as everything that concerns you.

God has touched you with the tip of his Cross. You have been suffering for a long time; put it to good advantage. It is Purgatory in this world, but more sanctifying and more glorious to God than the other.

A state of suffering always comes from God. It is the state which he chooses for our greater good and to grant us some special grace.

Let yourself be led by divine Providence and be simple enough to take the remedies which your illness and obedience to the doctor require.

Yes, you must eat meat when you go to the springs. You did well to submit to that. When we are in a situation which sets a direction for our life, we must accept the consequences.

They say that the springs enervate the soul. It's possible, but never one's heart. May your heart ever belong to God through purity of intention, by attachment to his love, by trust in his divine mercy. Often make aspirations of love toward this good Master. These aspirations are for the soul what breathing is for the heart. They are its life.

Have no more vocal prayers than those you mentioned; it is enough. If the 33 Our Fathers should tire you, put them aside while at the springs, always leave them aside when you haven't said them by 10:00 p.m.

I would really like to come see you, it has been such a long time! I must go to Marseilles toward the end of July. Where will you be at that time? I will write to tell you the precise time of my trip when I know it.

Please have courage, dear daughter. Continue to love our Lord who loves you so much, and in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, SS

1813

CO 1811

TO MOTHER AGNES DE ST. JOSEPH⁷⁶
(VI 1/2)

Paris, June 28, 1866

Very Reverend Mother,

Allow me to commend Miss Philomene, Sr. Beatrix to you. This good person has no joy nor peace since she left you. Assuredly, the accusation against her has no foundation - she was judged to be inclined to extraordinary ways and lacking in obedience. I must tell you in all sincerity that I have long known her to be most obedient. I believe her nature is stable and she even has an attraction for the interior life.

Take her back, most esteemed Mother. It has been a sad trial for her, and in spite of it she still longs to be with you. Besides, you know her well, and she has often told me that [you] showed a motherly concern for her.

In union with the work and the adoration of our common Master, I am

Very Reverend Mother,

Your respectful servant,

Eymard

Sup. of the Soc. SS.⁷⁷

1814

CO 1812

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 40/52)

A.R.T.

Paris, Feast of St. Peter, June 29, 1866

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to answer your last letter. Thanks be to God! you know yourself well. If you could get rid of all your spiritual weaknesses, you would be so happy! But you will have to carry them and drag them after you, dear daughter, because they are the baggage for your journey in this world. However we must [know how to] draw profit from them.

I will begin by saying: Continue your diet and have coffee without any scruples. Don't worry at all about gaining weight and do nothing different than what you are doing. Be sure to sleep, because the lack of sleep makes you nervous: you need it.

For spiritual matters, you would need to make a retreat of renewal. You will have to do it at home, when you can manage it, I will give you the subjects for it. It seems to me that it would shake you a little, because you have been following your ordinary routine for such a long time!

Always assure the essentials:

Attend holy Mass;

⁷⁶ Superior General of the Reparatrix Sisters.

⁷⁷ Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Transplanted Tree

Go to Communion daily;

Spend one hour in adoration;

Recite your rosary;

Make your examination of conscience at night, for three minutes;

Include a brief reading for a half hour, or at least a quarter of an hour, except on days when you have had an instruction. So much for piety.

For your interior life; walk with God, work with him and for his glory. Often make invocations to God, especially when the clock chimes.

Be patient toward yourself; poor, sick and infirm; always accomplish your duty whether you like it or not.

It seems to me that your soul is experiencing famine, that you don't concentrate enough during your meditation with God. Go to prayer with a set thought as your beginning topic, then our Lord will help you to develop it or he will give you a better one, because you will have prepared it.

Remember that a daughter's charity must be your great virtue in the family. As for your nerves, your little emotions, quickness of temper, it's nothing. Let God become your tranquilizer and begin to advance as before.

I bless you very faithfully before God and at the Holy Altar.

Belong entirely to our Lord, by your heart and intention.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Gourd

CHAPTER IV

Solitude in the Whirlwind July - December 1866

“Pray for me that I may be calm in the midst of the whirlwind of affairs and in solitude surrounded by the world.” To Countess d’Andign, Nov. 2, 1866.

Impact of the Cholera in Paris

From Nazareth to the Cenacle - Expropriation rumors in Paris

Purchase and Preparations for the House of St. Maurice: Novitiate, Retreat House, House of Solitude

Foundation at St. Maurice

Impending Storm at Nemours

Pilgrim to La Salette and Laus

Spiritual Teacher

- Work of First Communion of Adults
- Support for fallen priests
- Retreats to his religious men and women at Angers, Marseilles and Nemours
- Mission at Mauron

1815

CO 1813

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 335/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 4, 1866

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

The question of the alley must be brought to a conclusion. Friday, I'll go and bring Mr. False a hundred and fifty francs. I find that very satisfactory because otherwise we could be fighting forever.

It's settled for Friday.

I'll go to Mr. Le Clere. He is somewhat behind because they had trouble with their banker, they had to reimburse him for a certain amount. We really must put our trust in God now, since we have nothing: God, our kind Father, has been so provident toward us.

We won't have to pay our novitiate-house for another four months; and there is nothing urgent. What is more, the bonds for the Lyons railroad have increased in value.

Always be very kind toward Sr. Camille: she needs it and her age requires it.

Sr. Benoite spent a few hours here Monday, she brought us a young novice. Poor woman! She has become very thin, and she is having stomach problems; she did the right thing to leave Riom.

You also need to take care of yourself, dear daughter. So, I prefer to give you the best sister to help you, rather than to see you crushed by the work.

May God bless you and heal you!

Nothing new about our house in Paris. Everything is in God's hands.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1816

CO 1814

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 85/104)

*A.R.T.*¹

Paris, July 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I was going to write to you to ask for news about you and your household when I received your letter.

I didn't preach the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament at Tours, as I was supposed to. A telegram recalled me to Paris for the sick. It was Divine Providence that could see that my strength was insufficient for the task at Tours and called me away from the battlefield. I'm not sick, I'm working at full capacity! We are preparing a new foundation two hours away from Paris, on the way to Tours, for my dear house of solitude. The house has been bought; the workmen are there. I hope to enthrone our Lord and his little guard of adorers toward the end of next August. When too many people pursue me I'll go there to hide a little with our good Master: it's a beautiful solitary place.

¹ Abbreviation for *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*, Thy Kingdom Come.

Please! Try to be a little kinder, even though you find it hard naturally! Your difficulty is more physical than spiritual, it's nothing! At least try to lessen, soften, let the light shine through this little cross! I suspect that your spirit is weighed down; get some fresh air out in the country! Or better, inner freedom. God is beautiful, kind, tender towards you!

I'm leaving here for Maunon (Morbihan) from the 13th to the 21st. I don't want you [to come] there, I'll be overworked - 200 Associates. If Nantes were only close to Maunon, or on my way, I would see you on the way! I still don't know which way I'll take. Pray for me, I do so for you and all your family who are all dear to my soul in our Lord,

Eymard, P.S.²

1817

CO 1815

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 12/26)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

Today I am writing only to thank you for your good letters and to tell you how happy I am to see that you were well received by your family. God grant that it may last! What will last, however, will be your piety, generosity and love for God!

I beg you not to let your peace depend on people, says the Imitation, because that is like putting it on shifting sand.

Don't let it depend on your works, your piety, or even on your charity; that would mean to make it depend on yourself. But let it depend entirely on love for the holy Will of God which desires only your greater good, and in childlike trust in his divine goodness which will never leave you.

Since you have just come from a warm climate, and are now where it is colder, you are more vulnerable. So, dress more warmly or work more energetically to maintain the same temperature as Carmel.³

I will leave here July 13th. I'll be at Rennes in the evening and leave Saturday morning for Maunon (Morbihan) where I will give a retreat of five to six days. I hope to see you at Rennes on my way. I will stay with the Pastor at Saint Aubin. See you soon. I wanted to write to good Miss Antonia,⁴ I don't have time. I'm going to preach. I bless you both.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

² Abbreviation for Priest, Superior.

³ Is he speaking of a spiritual climate? Ed.

⁴ Antonia Bost, who was staying with her.

1818

CO 1816

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 39/52)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 5, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I want to write you these few words:

May God scatter such dark clouds! may the Sun of his love shine over you! may his peace replace the enormous turmoil in your soul! As sensitive as you are, you must be suffering deeply! Do offer this cross to the good Lord, but hide it from others.

Because you are innocent of it all, I can understand your suffering at being accused. Unite it all to the calumniated Jesus, it's the right moment to unite yourself to him and to find your peace in submission and patience. [You are] crucified by everything and everyone, but don't look at the nails or at the person who puts them, but at the One who wants them for his glory and for your greater virtue.

Don't look at people on the wayside. Do like a pilot, or rather like the helmsman of a ship, who keeps his eyes on the polar star, his nose in the wind and his hand on the helm which directs the ship.

You are what you are in God's sight! Provided that you don't sin, may God be pleased with you! What matters the grain of dust which soils our shoes, the wind which blows too strongly, whether it rains or snows, what does it matter? provided that the path leads to God!

Please, please! Snuff out this agitation quickly, with the words: "I obey"; have devotion in suffering, then the devotion of trust, finally that of pure love.

I am leaving here the 13th for Mauron (Morbihan) until the 21st. Then I will return here.

I bless you with my whole soul in our Lord.

Eymard

1819

CO 1817

TO THE MODAVE FAMILY
(VII 3/4)

Paris, July 8, 1866

Dear Madame,

Thank you for the fine letter you wrote to me in May. I wanted to write to you sooner, but time and travel delayed me until today. Your soul and your needs are ever present to me in God's sight. Your soul is very close and dear to me.

Yes, the good Lord does love you, and you also do love him, because you are and want to live only for him. All your thoughts and actions are for him. Dear Lady, throw a thick veil over the past, see only divine Mercy and the infinite goodness of God in your life. Make it a virtue and even a duty to desire not to see, nor to examine the past. The present is so good and beautiful for you.

I love our Lady of Good Counsel where I found you both. This good Mother is the one who was to place me on your path. I don't know when I shall go to Brussels, I hope that it will be

toward Autumn. It will be a joy for me to go see you. I recommend myself to your prayers, I promise you mine forever. It pleases me to pray for you, because you have been so good toward our foundation.

Believe me, dear Lady, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1820

CO 1818

TO THE MODAVE FAMILY
(VII 2/4)

Paris, July 8, 1866

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am writing to give you good news which will bring joy to your heart which is so dedicated to the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Last Sunday, the feast of the Precious Blood, I preached in our chapel about this beautiful redemptive devotion to the precious blood, the reasons for its divine worship, the excellence of its chaplet, the manner of saying it, its graces and indulgences, etc., etc. After benediction, I promised to distribute the chaplet to everyone.

Well, after Benediction, the entire large attendance came to the Communion rail to kneel and receive the beautiful precious chaplet. They kissed it respectfully as they took it, especially the medal which I had explained had come from Bruges. - I told them I had brought these chaplets from Brussels and from Belgium, where this beautiful devotion has spread.

Well dear Mademoiselle, this chaplet was so successful in awakening an unknown or dormant devotion to the precious blood, that I am now assailed with requests, and to console those who were absent, I promised I would write [and count on] your devotion and charity, because you are its Apostle and I am only the Agent. - I am convinced that devout souls who honor the precious blood of our Lord halt human bloodshed and appease God's wrath, which is so inflamed by so many crimes which fill the world.

If I were in Brussels, I would have gone to tell you my letter, but alas! I am very far from it here, and I cannot go to see this dear city yet, nor our friends in our Lord. - You have one of the first places in our memento; - so pray for us, also, dear Mademoiselle.

Respectfully and devotedly, your servant,
Eymard

P.S. Father Superior from Brussels will have an opportunity to send things to Paris shortly.

1821

CO 1819

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 171/181 VI 2)

Paris, July 9, 1866

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your letter. I'm writing to tell Fr. O'Kelly that I cannot make a decision unless he gives me some specific reason beyond feelings; that you always have shown the greatest charity toward him with me, even when he should have been reproaching himself for failures in religious behavior; that I will be going to Marseilles, and then I will hear his reasons when I am there. And finally, to be a good religious.

I learned that Bishop Place arrived in Paris to be consecrated. The exact time is not yet known.

I think you have everything you need in Marseilles to withdraw your pension. Please do so as soon as possible. It hurts me to feel that Angers is without resources.

I am united to you in our Lord, very dear Father.

Your loving servant,
Eymard, S.S.S.

1822

CO 1820

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 66/75)

Paris, July 9, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I've been wanting to write to you for a long time because I am eager to have news about you. How did your cocoons succeed? Are you pleased with your harvest? Do you have news from China? Are you in good health? Are you happy at Calet? Are you comfortable with God and with yourself? So many questions! I suppose I could create an answer for all of them, especially the last one, but I prefer to hear yours.

Solitude carries the pure and simple soul toward God. Well, you have such a beautiful solitude at Calet, between Heaven and earth, where you can pray, listen to God, contemplate Heaven.

The silence in the countryside recollects the soul naturally, and when we know how to read in every pure creature the good which God has placed in it for human beings and for his own glory. Oh! What beautiful aspirations we can send back to God, the author of every good!

However it is in church, perhaps very often alone in calm and silence, that the soul must pray, and converse with our Lord! You are his first adorer, you must be faithful to him; but you belong to us in our Lord, you must unite yourself to our adorations.

Then you are beginning to get old, like me. We must hurry to make reparation, to earn our ticket, to do what we must to pay homage to God.

I don't know when I will go to Marseilles. I think it may be during the month of August; if our good Master wants me to see you on the way, I would be pleased.

I won't tell you that I am well since I've never worked so much; but the good Lord is supporting this poor machine.

I bless you and I am in our Lord,

Dear Lady,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard, Superior

1823

CO 1821

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 12/19)

Paris, Madame Mathilde, July 9, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

Do not doubt the interest, joy and wishes of my heart for you, for your dear husband, and for this little creature whom God is giving you for your joy and glory as a mother.

I am sending him all the blessings our Lord gave to St. John. I am offering him to God to be his devoted servant. I am asking that he may be your joy.

The birth of great saints is always the fruit of prayer and holy desires.

Be very devout in order to communicate to him your virtuous feelings and graces.

Love the good Lord dearly, so that this love may sanctify and adorn two souls in one.

Unite yourself closely to the grace of the Blessed Virgin carrying the Incarnate Word in her womb. When you receive Communion, feed these two souls well.

I hope to go to Marseilles during the month of August. I still don't know the exact time, but you know that I don't pass through Lyons without seeing you.

At this time I'm very busy with the foundation of a retreat house in the outskirts of Paris.

Pray for the duties I still need to carry out, because I'm always late with everyone, even with God.

I bless you with my whole soul in our Lord.
Eymard, SS⁵

1824

CO 1822

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

Telegram Muret⁶

"Sr. Benoite very ill, danger, anointed, come quickly, she asks for you. I wait for you in Paris."

July 9, 1866

July 15-21 - Retreat for 200 Associates at Mauron.

⁵ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

⁶ According to the notes of Mother Marguerite.

1825

CO 1823

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 19/29 VI 2)

Mauron, July 15, 1866

Dear Father,

Here I am at Mauron, I will begin the retreat in a few minutes. I am the same as usual.

I am really worried about Sr. Benoite: they should be writing to me from Nemours. Ask Mr. Meignen, the notary, at 370, rue St. Honore, for the powers of attorney which I had arranged for Fr. Billon, to withdraw a registered letter, etc.

I am sending you the letter from Mr. LeBlanc, the chief engineer. Please send for that information and write to him at Dreux (Eure).

Please send someone to the druggist at rue Montmartre, Bergere City, to purchase a vial of 1 or 2 francs of eye lotion and mail it to me at Mauron (Morbihan).

Please pray for me. I do so for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1826

CO 1824

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 172/181 VI 2)

Paris, July 23, 1866

Very dear Father,

I received your two letters, thank you. In a few days I'll send you the balance, with your notes paid.

If the two vocations from Menton arrive in Marseilles, keep them there for a little while, in order to test their vocation first. Write to me about them before sending them to Paris.

The cholera has been here for the past four days; it is God visiting this large and guilty city. They say that 110 to 115 people die daily, but it's hardly noticeable.

I'm enclosing a little note for Fr. O'Kelly.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

To Rev. Fr. de Cuers
Superior of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7 rue Nau
Marseilles

1827

CO 1825

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 86/104)

Paris, Feast of St. Anne, 1866 [July 26]⁷

Madame in our Lord,

I am here in Paris, back from Mauron. I was pleased you didn't come, I was busy with so many things. I would have liked to come back through Nantes, but my time was limited; I would have needed two more days. So, I had to give it up, in spite of the joy it would have given me to help you a little in passing and to see your dear patient.

So, we must will what our good Master wills. I would be pleased with you, if you also would be more so; I see that you are on a real battlefield of charity that there are continual attacks, and that there is progress and many little victories in spite of a few wounds. So, continue this way. Our Lord may be leaving your patient a while longer in this world to provide you with a beautiful and unique opportunity. Someday, you will find comfort and joy in it.

I don't have any travel plans.

I bless you, and your dear sister and patient,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.⁸

1828

CO 1826

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 173/181 VI 2)

Paris, July 27, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am enclosing the money order to be signed, so that you may return it to me.

Two days ago the cholera was striking 300 persons a day in Paris. It is less intense now, we hardly notice it. Alas! It's a warning, which is hardly converting anyone.

Here everything is fine. Believe me in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.⁹

⁷ This date is not in Fr. Eymard's handwriting

⁸ Abbreviation for Superior.

⁹ Abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

1829

CO 1828

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 336/395 VI 2)

Paris, August 3, 1866

Very dear daughter,

Mr. Amedee is leaving for Angers. Let him see his dear mother alone,¹⁰ and if you think that a health trip is necessary, you may grant it. However it would be better for all concerned if she didn't go. I even think that such a trip would disturb Mr. Chanuet considerably since his wife is at the springs. I understood that by the answer he gave me about this [possibility].

You did well not to speak about the accident and the sisters did what they had to do.

Fr. Crepon is here. He will reach Angers, Saturday; his eyes are fine and his soul even better.

I am sending you the letters here enclosed. God will bless them, it's for his greater glory.

Have courage and confidence! very dear daughter, you are sacrificing and letting yourself be sacrificed for God each day. However, be like the lamb which is to be shorn or sacrificed: it maintains a wonderful silence. Suffer with God and for God. Let no one know your secret, especially ask God to give you the initial strength needed for unexpected reactions or upsetting things. It would be magnificent if you were always exteriorly in control over your inner reactions.

Don't be surprised about human weakness, dear daughter. God allows them to teach the saints humility, patience and trust.

We don't want a reward from God's children. Let God be served by them, and glorified by us; all our joy and reward in this world lies in that.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

1830

CO 1829

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 4/11)

Assumption 1866

Dear Madame,

Happy Feast of the Blessed Mother! Send Father home for a family meal, with your dear Edmond. I was able to obtain a place as a friend.¹¹ If Father is not close by, send a companion with your dear son. I would like to have them all,¹² but later, for they are almost as dear to me as their mother.

Eymard

¹⁰ Sr. Camille SS - the directive is to let her son into the cloister.

¹¹ Fare on the train.

¹² Her sons as religious of the Blessed Sacrament.

1831

CO 1830

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 56/76)

Paris, August 17, 1866

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am so grateful to you for having written to me and given me news about yourself! I wasn't worried, but I wanted to receive some.

I can see that you are feeling better, although a little weak. They do well to force you to rest, and God is using that to make you rest more often and more quietly at his feet, to be seated at his Table of love.

Although the rest is good and desirable in one sense, it is secondary. The principal thing is the life of God in you, to feed your poor soul with Jesus, to work only under the law of his divine Will.

God loves you, dear daughter! You know it. Do love him in your poor but precious condition.

God doesn't need your work, but he needs your heart and sacrifices. This is your daily task. You will glorify him by doing nothing, or better by doing everything he wills.

Therefore, be like a day-old child in his hands.

I hope to pass through Lyons toward the beginning or the end of September. I will let you know. Besides, since I have the custom of going to see your dear mother, and I really want to see her, that will be the best way of letting you know.

Poor Miss Jenny is leaving us.¹³ God is taking back what was always His. Hers is a very pure and beautiful soul. I hope to see her before she leaves for the Homeland. She is very happy to go to the good Lord.

Goodbye, dear daughter, I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord, and I ask him that you may have the consolation of seeing that dear soul who is one with you¹⁴ belong entirely to God and serve him.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

Madame Gourd

1832

CO 1831

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 41/52)

Miss Stephanie

Paris, August 17, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I read your last letter very attentively! I can still see your old nature flowering and refusing to be inactive or captive. Overcome these worries if they should return, because your heart belongs to God.

You did well to pass over all those crazy and wicked thoughts about God: it's all a proof of our profound weakness and a storm from the devil. You needed to go forward in spite of it and you did! It was also a stroke of the whip; was sluggishness setting in?

¹³ Jenny Guillot, the sister of Marguerite Guillot.

¹⁴ her husband.

When the good Master returned to Bethany he brought back peace and joy; may he be praised!¹⁵

Do love our good Master who is there with you, and for you alone! The rest of the faithful only benefit from it. Do visit this divine Guest and Friend. Because he loves you so much, it is right that you would give him what propriety and friendship require.

Adorn him well, because he is the King and the King of the heart. He loves the gifts of preferential friendship. You must give him a new bouquet every day, it is a matter of duty in friendship.

I am pleased that you have the opportunity to overcome physical laziness and to make reparation for the past by the present order of things. That is fine! But don't try to finish too quickly; everything would suffer because of it and everything would soon be in disorder.

Work one day at a time and do it all for God.

Always sing a canticle of love, since God loves you so much and you aspire only to love him more and more.

I bless you very faithfully in our Lord,
Eymard

1833

CO 1832

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 174/181 VI 2)

Paris, August 20, 1866

Very dear Father,

I referred Fr. Devze to you. He is a former Marist who left the Society about a year ago to help his mother who has just died. He wrote immediately to ask admission to our Society. The information I sought from several persons is favorable. I even wrote to Very Rev. Fr. Favre, Superior General of the Marists, who also made favorable remarks about him.

Before deciding anything, I advised him to make a retreat under your direction. He is to go see you. Receive him, and see whether he is really coming for the Blessed Sacrament, and whether he can become a good and true adorer.

A few days ago, the cholera took up to 140 people a day, the doctor said. These days it is only taking 50 to 60 people, but it is terrible when it strikes. We have had some light discomforts, but without any consequences.

I'm sending your receipt from Mr. Fouquet. I would need your document to withdraw the 125 francs from your Cross of Honor. Please tell me when the best time would be to come see you and preach the annual retreat. I would like it to be during the month of September. I must also give it in Angers.

My warm regards to the Fathers and Brothers.

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

¹⁵ The Blessed Sacrament was reserved in the family's semi-private chapel.

1834

CO 1833

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 40/52)

Paris, August 24, 1866¹⁶

Madame in our Lord,

I have just read your letter and so I want to tell you that I will be in Angers on Monday to begin the retreat for our Fathers. It will last the whole week. I still don't know whether I will give the one for the Ladies immediately after. I hope to see you a few hours in Angers, before you leave.

We must let our good Master arrange everything for the best. When you go to Mee, be sure of my wish to give and pass on to you the graces which God will give me for you, because I am only his poor agent who often damages what he touches.

You have been Martha, a good and gracious Martha, that is fine. Now you will be Mary, a good and devout Mary at the feet of our Lord. It's so good to be at his feet, when he speaks to our heart and opens his own to us!

I have business upon business relating to the novitiate house which God helped us to find and which is like a little Eden. God grant that it may be like the first, or better, a heavenly Eden where the serpent can never enter.

That is all fine; but what is better, what is more nourishing and life-giving, is the spirit of Jesus in us, detachment from everything, to live in him and for him.

People considered on the natural level, in the nature that comes from Adam, are scoundrels. Crystal is beautiful only in the light which shines through it.

Oh! Believe me, I am tired of people (even perfect ones). It's only a little smoke or a very faint ray. All I want is the Sun from Heaven or the divine Host on earth. Do the same.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard, P.¹⁷

1835

CO 1834

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 57/76)

Paris, August 27, 1866

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th. I was really frightened by the one from Miss St.¹⁸ We began a novena immediately for M.¹⁹

Oh I can really understand your grief and worry. You did everything that needed to be done. That was fine, it even seemed very effective. Now pray and wait for a favorable and natural moment.

¹⁶ This letter was erroneously printed as the 15th to Countess d'Andigné and dated Oct. 22, 1863. Its most likely date is Paris, Oct. 22, 1866, because 1866 is the date found on a very old copy. The last number is lacking on the original so it is impossible to verify. (footnote, French edition.)

¹⁷ Abbreviation for Priest.

¹⁸ Probably Miss Jenny Sterlingue from Nemours.

¹⁹ Probably for her husband who was ill and in need of conversion.

Oh! Yes, I am confident: this dear soul will not perish! God will have mercy on it; the most Blessed Virgin will save it.

I am going to Angers for about two weeks. I expect to pass through Lyons around September 15th. I hope that our good Master will give me the consolation of seeing you there either on my way down or on my way back.

Stay very close to our Lord, the Savior of poor sinners, the good Shepherd of souls.

Don't let worry invade your soul.

I do bless you in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

To Angers via Tours.

1836

CO 1835

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 38/52)

Miss Stephanie

August 27²⁰

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Continue to be close to your father like an angel from God with the gentleness and prudence of the true charity of our Lord. You have done well, now let grace do its work, and water it with your prayers and little sacrifices.

Pay attention to the favorable moments, but don't create them; if anything new should happen, write to me in Angers (rue Lyonnaise) until September 5th.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

1837

CO 1836

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 7/15)

Tours, Aug. 27, 1866

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I am writing to you on the train to Angers where I am going to give the retreat to our Fathers.²¹

Last evening I saw Mme. de Couchies.²² I assure you that she is feeling better and I hope that the good Lord will leave her with you for a long time.

She spoke to me first. She and Mr. de Couchies said that they do not want Mme. Blanche to come to Paris, and did not even accept my offer of Sr. Philomene.²³ I understand that with the good care she is receiving, Madame does not want help which could go on a long time and cause

²⁰ In Volume 5 this letter is placed in 1865, but Father Troussier favors 1866.

²¹ There is no indication that this retreat was given.

²² Mme. de Couchies, his mother-in-law.

²³ Their daughters - Mme. Blanche was his wife.

inconvenience to others.

We go to see her every day. Your brother²⁴ will make it his duty to replace you near this dear mother.
We are praying for all your sick ones, dear friend. It will be repaid with good health.
This is the time of the cross and of God's blessing.

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

Aug. 28-Sept. 1 - Retreat to SSS Religious in Angers.

1838

CO 1838

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 337/395 VI 2)

[Angers, Friday, September, 1866]²⁵

Dear daughter,

Fr. Chanuet is asking me whether his mother²⁶ should begin the hydro-therapy treatment, which the doctor finds necessary. What should we answer?

2. I received a letter from Sr. Emilienne's brother-in-law who says that her mother is very seriously ill and advises that her daughter should come to see her. What do you think about it?

I am sending you the address and note from the insurance. Answer that since you acquired the property from Miss Sterlingue, you do not intend to continue the insurance, and that you are giving up the benefits.

4. I've just received another sad letter from Miss Sterlingue, I'll answer it.

5. Sunday, we will go say holy Mass for you.

Pray very much for our retreat.

Eymard

1839

CO 1839

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 338/395 VI 2)

Angers, September (1866)²⁷

Dear daughter,

I can't come to see you, I am preaching tonight. Send me a copy of your Rule.

Tomorrow, I'll come say holy Mass for you.

I have been working a great deal and I haven't finished. Madame d'Andigne has arrived.

I bless you.
Eymard

²⁴ Fr. Michel Chanuet.

²⁵ Probably August 31, because it was written during the priests retreat. (Troussier)

²⁶ Sister Camille Chanuet.

²⁷ Probably written before August 31. (Troussier)

1840

CO 1837

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 339/395 VI 2)

(Angers, September 1866)²⁸

Forgive me, but I cannot come say holy Mass for you. The Bishop doesn't know that I have arrived, don't tell him anything.

I don't have permission for the Perpetual Vows.

Yes, Sunday we will come say holy Mass for you.

All yours,
Eymard

Aug 28	Conference Servants: Eucharistic union. (Doubtful date.)
Sep 1-7:	Annual Retreat for the Servants in Angers. Opening of retreat.
Sep 2	Sacramental spouses, recollection of mind, heart, will, interior and exterior. Three graces: natural, preparatory, effective.
Sep 3	Conditions for spouses: self-knowledge, love required from a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament.
Sep 4	Purity, vocal prayer, tenderness.
Sep 5	Delicacy, observance, crucified spouses.
Sep 6	Confidence, simplicity, title of SSS, poverty, fidelity, obedience.
Sep 7	Recollection (after retreat), cord, habit, transfiguration.

1841

CO 1841

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS

(I 20/29 VI 2)

Angers, September 2, 1866

Very dear Father,

Fr. Carri will give you the details of the news about us here.

Last night I began the retreat for the Sisters, it will finish only on Saturday because of their feast and their ceremony. I wanted to finish sooner; impossible! Therefore, I will be in Paris only Sunday night or Monday.

Mother Guillot wrote to tell your dear mother to follow her treatment faithfully.

I spoke about Nemours as a place for your dear mother, it's quite possible.

Take care of Brother John, we waited too long.

The pastor from Verneuil is here, he is fine.

Fr. Crepon has all the necessary permissions,²⁹ he is pleased with his decision. Do pray for us.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

²⁸ Probably written before August 31. (Troussier)

²⁹ To enter with the Society.

1842

CO 1840

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 7/11)

Angers, September 2, 1866³⁰

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I don't know what to tell you (which is not unusual). I had to give a retreat to the Sister adorers; it will finish only Saturday. So I cannot be in Paris before Saturday night, or more likely, Sunday night. However, I believe that the clock of our Good Master's service is still keeping good time and that the hands of the heart still tell the time of divine love, whatever the circumstances.

I will be deprived of seeing your dear children whom I love so much. I hope they went to the house of the dear Lord as to their own home.

Goodbye, good Lady, I do bless you and all your loved ones in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.³¹

1843

CO 1842

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 175/181 VI 2)

Angers, September 4, 1866

Very dear Father,

I am writing to you from Angers, where I came to give the retreat to our house.

Thank you very much for your last letter; you did well to dismiss that peasant right away.

I'm learning from Fr. Audibert that Fr. Devze began his retreat in your house. Study him well: I am afraid that he might have an active and busy imagination, rather than the simple and quiet spirit which is needed for a true adorer.

I hope to go to Marseilles around September 22 to preach the retreat, as I have done here. I'm putting it off until then, in order to wait until the initial necessary repairs for the chapel and the rooms are finished at our country house (St. Maurice).

When I return from Marseilles, I want to transfer the Novitiate there. It's time to do so, and it will free the motherhouse a little.

They are assuring us that we will receive the official notice of compulsory purchase on October 1st. I must be in Paris around that time.

See you soon, dear Father. It has been a long time since I have seen you and the dear house of Marseilles.

My warm regards in our Lord to the whole family.

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

³⁰ Published as Nov. 2nd in French, corrected by Fr. Troussier.

³¹ Abbreviation for Superior.

1844

CO 1843

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 67/75)

Paris, September 11, 1866

Dear Madame,

I have just finished preaching two retreats in Angers. I've just received your letter. I had received the first; I wanted to answer it, but didn't have time, then I ended up thinking that I had done so. Your letter tells me the contrary, and so I am doing it today. I congratulate you for your happiness. I prayed for this dear little one from the good Lord and for his good and dear mother.

I bless him every day because he is a blessed child. He is the fruit of prayer, the joy of saints. May he be great in God's sight, holy before men, powerful in works and words.

I would like to write to your dear daughter. I don't have time. May my letter be for you both.

I hope to leave for Marseilles from Paris, Sunday or Monday. I still don't know whether it will be during the day or at night. My wish would be to pass through Grenoble, to be at La Salette on the 19th and to go through Gap to Marseilles. If I don't see you on the way down, I will do so on the way back.

Believe me in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

1845

CO 1844

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 13/19)

Paris, Madame Mathilde, September 11, 1866

Happy Mother!

I can't help sending you a few words of congratulations and blessings.

So now your hopes are fulfilled, your long and numerous prayers heard! What remains now is an ongoing blessing from Heaven: it won't fail you.

Offer this dear little one very often to the good Lord and to the Blessed Virgin, and consider yourself as the nurse of a saint.

I bless you, this dear angel and his happy father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, SS

1846

CO 1845

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 176/181 VI 2)

Paris, September 20, 1866

Very dear Father,

Do not expect me in Marseilles for the 22nd. We have two vocation retreatants, and I want to see and decide on the outcome.

Then, since Bishop Place is not in Marseilles and as I want to see him, I prefer to wait a few more days. I've just learned that His Excellency is in Paris and that he will make his episcopal entry in Marseilles on the 30th of the month.

Therefore, I will be in Marseilles only at the end of next week. I long to see you all, for it has been so long since I have seen Marseilles, and especially yourself. Fr. Leroyer tells us that you are often ill. How I would wish to see you improve! However, our Good Master desires that all the mysteries of his life be lived and continued. Dear Father, you have the holiest and most glorious share, although it is most difficult naturally speaking.

While waiting for the consolation of seeing you, dear Father,

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

Sept. 25-26 - Last pilgrimage to La Salette.

1847

CO 1847

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 5/11)

La Salette, September 26, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing you a few words from Notre Dame de La Salette to say that I presented you, your husband, and your four dear children to our good Mother.

I tried to ask on your behalf for the graces you would have asked for yourselves if you had come. For you in particular, I asked for a strong and tender love which is both simple and magnanimous, peaceful and devoted toward our dear Lord in his adorable Sacrament. That is asking everything.

The one who loves gives everything; the one who is loved possesses everything. How fortunate you are to be filled with this divine flame! Fire is self-sufficient, it seeks only to be fed more and more. It is fed by love itself, for God is all love and all goodness.

Saturday I will be in Marseilles (7, rue Nau). My fond regards to Mr. T.... Greetings from the heart to your beloved children.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

1848

CO 1846

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 6/14)

La Salette, September 26, 1866

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am writing a few words to you from Notre Dame de La Salette to say that I did pray for you personally and for all your intentions. I also prayed for the realization of all the spiritual wishes I have for your soul and for God's Kingdom in you and through you.

I thank our good Master for your dedication to his service of love and his eucharistic worship. You have given yourself entirely to Him, body, soul, and possessions; there is nothing more you could give him.

May you always direct this absolute and perpetual gift to him. Never stop working on this gift; let it be the only rule of your life, as it is its merit.

I am leaving for Marseilles and on my way I will greet my childhood's place of pilgrimage, of love and of grace, Notre Dame du Laus. I will be in Marseilles on Saturday morning, at rue Nau, 7.

I really prayed to Our Good Mother to heal this poor, dear sick one. Did she hear me? May her greater will be done!

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.S.S.

Sept. 27-28 - Last pilgrimage to Laus.

1849

CO 1848

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 21/29 VI 2)

Marseilles, September 29, 1866

Very dear Father,

Today is your dear feast day. I wished you a happy feast day at the holy Altar and at the feet of the great prince of the heavenly court, the great captain of the glory of God: "Quis ut Deus".³²

Like him, let us often say: "quis ut Jesus?"³³ Who deserves more honor, love and glory than the God of the Eucharist? So, be a captain in the good service of the great King, ever happy to make him loved and served by all your people. It is a great mark of our Lord's trust that he is entrusting you with his family, his person and his glory. Be totally dedicated to that grace and glory.

I am here in Marseilles. I will begin our retreat Monday, or rather tomorrow night, I do recommend it to your prayers.

Have a novena to St. Michael for St. Maurice and for the house of Paris. Everything is going fine here. Fr. de Cuers is not strong: his mission is one of suffering. But God must be pleased with his good will, for he is doing all that he can; and then he goes so directly to God and his glory.

³² Who is like God?

³³ Who is like Jesus?

I bless you on this holy day; I prayed fervently for you at Notre Dame de La Salette and Laus. I never stop doing so everywhere, because you are the nurturing mother of the children of the Society.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. I was very pleased to see your good mother, your sister Miss Zenaide and especially good Lady Blanche, with whom I had a long spiritual conversation. In Lyons I had the good fortune to see your good brother Amedee. How good the good Lord is to put in my path those who are so dear to me in him!

1850

CO 1849

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 340/395 VI 2)

Marseilles, Rue Nau, 7, September 29, 1866

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I arrived here in Marseilles this morning. At St. Seine I saw Sr. Camille. That really pleased her, as well as her family and Miss Zenaide.

She had a boil, that might have a better outcome. I found her better than in Paris, but weak.

In Lyons, I saw your good and dear sisters. Miss Jenny is still peaceful; hers is such an honest and pure soul! She sees her own approaching death as a grace. That one is certainly well-prepared for heaven; however I hope that she will live a little longer.

Your sister Mariette stays with her like a mother with her daughter. I was happy to see that she still belongs wholly to God and his Society.

Mme. Gourd came and we were able to speak a little about her spiritual life. What a good Servant she is, humble and dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament! Her great suffering is Mr. G's procrastination in giving himself to God. We must really pray for him, so that this poor soul may respond to so many graces which surround him.

At La Salette, I prayed very much for you personally because your needs are a personal concern of mine. Your joys I will let you keep, but I'd like to take away all your crosses and sorrows, so that you might delight in greater joy, calm and recollection at the feet of our good Master.

Not that the cross isn't an excellent grace in itself; but with so many worries, so much work, and so many children to care for, a mother needs rather to feed on God, to rest at his feet.

I visited Notre Dame du Laus when we passed by. My sister and Nanette came there with me. We spent nearly two days there. We were thinking and speaking about that meeting which took place a long time ago, and had brought us all together at the feet of the good Mother, with your sister Claudine. What beautiful moments those were!

Finally, yesterday the 28th at Laus, I gave my sister and Nanette permission to leave La Mure, to go join you. They are happy about that grace and will prepare for it.

The Ravanat family will accompany them.

Many good young women from La Mure would like to follow them, but we must choose and wait.

Now I am in Marseilles. On Monday, I will begin the retreat. Pray and have others pray for it.

I bless you, dear daughter. Always be happy that you can work so nobly for the service and glory of our good Master,

In whom I am,
All yours,
Eymard

1851

CO 1851

TO EDMOND TENAILLON (FR. E. TENAILLON SSS)
(III 1/3)

Marseilles, October 3, 1866

Dear Friend in our Lord,

I can see that I won't be able to be in Paris for your departure. I had hoped that I could. All my blessings and best wishes will be with you and your two brothers. Don't thank me for the little I have done: you were a friend to me from the very first. How and why? That cannot be explained. There seems to be an affinity of souls! Then also, all the children and friends of the Blessed Sacrament are our brothers.

When I saw how soon you would be leaving, I said to myself: I will not go to bid them farewell, but to greet them at Montmorillon. I like that idea, and I tell our good Master about it.

I'm happy that you liked St. Maurice. If I had been in Paris, I would have liked to take you there myself.

You consult me, dear friend, about corporal penances. I say: not as a rule: your schedule, your studies and your duties are a continual penance. However, since virtue in general is nothing at all or very little, it is necessary to perform a few penances on certain days, like Fridays, and also when we have failed in a promise made to God with penance as a penalty.

Well, dear friends, I bless you all wholeheartedly, so that this year may be truly holy and fruitful.³⁴

Keep a joyful conscience, a free heart, and perpetual gratitude at the sight of such beautiful family graces which God is showering upon you.

You have such a good father and loving mother!

Goodbye, dear friends.

May God keep you always.

In him, all yours,
Eymard, Sup.

Fr. Edmond Tenaillon
at home
25, Humboldt St.
Paris

³⁴ Edmond Tenaillon and his two brothers were due to enter the Seminary of Montmorillon a few days later.

1852

CO 1850

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 22/29 VI 2)

Marseilles, October 3, 1866

Very dear Father,

I will answer your letters now. I wanted to take a few days to pray, before making a decision.

1. Dismiss Fr. Vancastel without regrets. It's one more good lesson that a religious who has been dismissed or who is leaving a good congregation is not worth anything for us. If you don't know how to proceed, I am enclosing a letter for him. Take advantage of a holiday to dismiss him; have his trunk prepared beforehand, because it's important that he should see no one when he leaves.

2. Also dismiss the young man from Rodez immediately. That was not truthful: these are rejects from others.

3. Take care of Brother Henry. Tell him clearly what reproaches are being made against him, but be on guard toward those who make personal complaints. I distrust those who accuse others, who complain. No doubt, we can learn from it, but be on your guard in regard to this mentality of tale-bearing.

4. I would really regret losing Brother Jean; that poor Brother may be a little better at St. Maurice; help him to struggle against that temptation. I know that, when one is not well, it's a terrible trial; but we must pray for him.

The retreat is proceeding well. Brother Francois and Brother Marie will make their perpetual vows Saturday. Pray for them.

Goodbye, dear Father. It seems that the city will not bother us before January 1.³⁵ Praise God!

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

1853

CO 1852

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 6/11)

Marseilles, October 5, 1866

Dear Mother,

I don't want to send a letter to your children without sending you a brief greeting from our Lord, to put you at the head of and in the heart of the blessing I am sending them.

Mr. Edmond's letter pleased me very much. He is on the right track and is growing in virtue and knowledge.

I still don't know on which day I will return next week.

The retreat ends tomorrow. I hope our Good Master will bless it.

Thank you for your letter, because a letter is read with the heart, it never finds it too long, and everything is interesting.

³⁵ For the compulsory sale in Paris.

I see that your trip was a plus for our Lord and also for you. I bless you.

Eymard

To Madame T.

1854

CO 1853

TO BISHOP PLACE (MARSEILLES)

(VI 1/1)

Marseilles, October 9, 1866

Your Excellency,

Before I return to Paris I would like to entrust to your great and tender devotion toward the Most Blessed Sacrament, our small family in Marseilles. Your two venerable predecessors have loved it and favored its beginnings by giving some of their members to it.

We have at present 2 professed religious from Marseilles - Frederic Stafford and Marius Billon, both in Theology. I would like to request, for the second (in Brussels) a Dimissorial Letter for the Tonsure and other Orders. The first, who is residing in Marseilles, would be happy to be ordained by his bishop.

We join in the happiness and joy of your good people, Your Excellency. We shall not cease to pray at the feet of the Divine Shepherd for your Episcopate, which is already so beautiful and so blessed in its dawning.

It is with the most profound and cordial veneration that I am happy to call myself, in our Lord, Your Excellency,

Your most humble and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. SS.³⁶

Oct. 13-14 - In Anger to negotiate the purchase of a new house for the Society.

1855

CO 1856

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 13/26)

Angers, October 16, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

An answer has been long overdue. What happened is that I stayed three weeks in Marseilles, and now I am in Angers, on the train to return to Paris where I will stay until November 20th.

I was very happy for the good news of family unity. May God preserve it! Be happy about it without letting your peace depend too much upon it.

³⁶ Abbreviation: Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

Receive this family grace gratefully; keep it alive with ordinary kindness; always retain your personal freedom.

You do very well to act legally and firmly in a business manner with the captain from Bordeaux. When we have to deal with worldly people, we must use the prudence of the serpent and the virtue of justice.

Act without fear or turmoil.

I will send you your christs³⁷ when I arrive.

With religious feeling and dedication to dear Miss Antonia.

Best wishes in our Lord to you both,

Eymard

Oct 16	<i>Conference Servants: The fruits of the mysteries of the Rosary. The year of stones (La Salette), recollection.</i>
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1856

CO 1854

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 87/104)

Le Mans, October 16, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I've just spent 2 days in Angers. I had decided to spend a day in Nantes. But it's impossible, the trains are not running.

I hope to return to Angers in a month to examine the repairs we are having done on a building we just bought on Saturday for our Work. I hope to have a better chance to see you then.

I've just come in from Marseilles, I am returning to Paris until November 20th. On the 24th, I must be in Brussels. Fr. Audibert told me how much kindness you showed when you received them: thank you for it. I'm sure that your love for the Blessed Sacrament was blessed. I've just learned that a Priest from Nantes is considering our Society. May God be praised and glorified!

I am praying very much for your deceased (fem), for your kind sister and for you, whom I remember daily to our Lord.

Eymard, Superior

On the train.

³⁷ Perhaps statues or crucifixes.

1857

CO 1855

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 22/28)

On the train to Mans, October 16, 1866

Dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

In exchange for the flower from St. Malo, I am sending you a flower picked on the holy mountain of La Salette. I was there September 24th. It will tell you that I am not forgetting you: that wouldn't be possible. We cannot forget our dear and beloved family in our Lord.

I would like to see you in better health. I still haven't written to your friend at Carcassone. I will do so soon.

I showed your brother's picture. He is among those sinners who are coming back, but have not begun to walk. That pleased me.

I bless you,

All yours,
Eymard

1858

CO 1857

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 15/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum!

Paris, October 22, 1866³⁸

Madame,

I felt very sad about you, without knowing you were ill... (2 lines erased). Your letter made me cry with sadness and joy. You can understand how much I thanked our Lord for healing you! And how much I ask him to keep watch over you! because you must still work for his glory and receive greater and more precious graces from his love. Oh! how upset I would have been to learn that you had died! I surely would have gone immediately on receiving the news, as I certainly owe you this charity. You did well to surrender yourself to the good Lord's good pleasure for death or for Purgatory: you could do nothing more pleasing to his Heart. So, as soon as you had made this sacrifice, the good Lord was pleased, and he put you back on the path of life. I was pleased with your prayer to the holy Cure d'Ars. So then, by healing you he will intercede for the other grace that you requested, I wish it for you with all my heart. You already have half of it with the Most Blessed Sacrament. This illness was worth a brief but good retreat. Coming back from the shores of eternity, you know the value of time and of God's grace. God does love you, you may be sure of it. Surrender yourself to his holy Will.

I bless and offer you to our Lord, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard

³⁸ This letter was numbered erroneously as the 15th and as 42nd of this collection dated: Paris, October 22, 1863. The likely date is Paris, October 22, 1866 because this date is the one which can be found on a very old copy. The last number of the date is missing on the original. So it is impossible to check. (Garreau)

P.S. I wasn't able to see the Ladies before writing to you,³⁹ as I wanted to thank you right away and hope to have news of you again. This photograph was just sent to me from Tours;⁴⁰ I am sending it to you.

Madame d'Andigne
Lyon d'Angers

Oct. 24 - To Brussels for a day. cf. Letter of October 16. Did these plans materialize?

1859

CO 1858

TO MR. RAVANAT
(III 2/5)

Paris, October 25, 1866

Dear Mr. Ravanat,

I'm expecting you with my sisters and all your dear daughters.⁴¹ Come confidently into the house of our Lord. You will be welcomed and loved there like a brother and father, for you will be Saint Joseph, the protector and guardian of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

You are leaving a great deal to serve him, but he will repay you with the hundredfold now.

Then, your dear daughters would be happy to have their father in the same vocation.

Therefore I am expecting you joyfully. And you, dear daughters Marie and Louise, come into the house of your dear Master. Come, while giving him your hearts, consecrating your life to him to adore, love and serve him until you reach heaven. Leave this world with joy, you will find a better one. Don't look at what you are giving up, but at the good things and the happiness that are awaiting you. You will see that you did not make a mistake, and that you have the better part. Therefore, have courage!

I bless you and expect you with your dear, kind father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mr. Ravanat

³⁹ Perhaps to make arrangements for her to come on retreat - a usual procedure on her behalf.

⁴⁰ Probably a photograph of himself.

⁴¹ He was expecting Mr. Ravanat, his daughters and Fr. Eymard's own sisters to come together from La Mure to Paris to enter the religious life.

1860

CO 1859

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 20/20)

Rule for Mme. Marechal
by Fr. Eymard

I

Rising and retiring at set times, insofar as possible. For example, from 11 to 7. In the winter 8 hours of sleep; in the summer 7 1/2.

II

Religious Exercises

8:00	1/2 hour meditation in one's room.
8:30	Mass and thanksgiving: 1 hour. Office of the Blessed Virgin in free time. Rosary in the coach, when it applies. Half-hour of spiritual reading in the afternoon.
6:00	1 hour adoration, including the instruction - But try to give 1/2 hour to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Meals

Take something after Mass. Lunch 11:30.

Dinner at 7:00.

During your free time:

Household duties, family duties, social necessities.

Simple works:

Aspire to be lovingly present to God - nourish this divine presence by the offering of each thing and by thanksgiving.

Have an ongoing plan for your mind, some thought or pious study, so that it may have a specific goal.

Love to read Sacred Scripture. This reading helps the soul aspire toward God, feeds it, keeps it delightfully occupied.

I bless you.

Eymard

October 25, 1866

1861

CO 1860

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 7/14)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 26, 1866

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, it pleased me. I can understand that you are suffering because you no longer see the adorable Host and you are far from this dear chapel which is your whole life. In that way you can see how much our dear Master has loved you and does love you by wanting you to be entirely his, with him and for him. It is true that he is hidden in the blessed Tabernacle, but our eyes seek him, and when they see him, it seems that our heart is closer to him.⁴² This happiness will soon be yours again, for I hope to see you soon. The chapel is grieving a little for you.

It is most likely that St. Maurice will be ready only in a month. I must go to give the retreat at Nemours, the week after All Saints, barring any obstacles. Then, I will go to Brussels around the 25th. I want to free myself from external matters so that I may remain here once the novitiate is at St Maurice.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

If you must stay longer, give us news about yourself.

There is nothing new here. Everything is the same as usual. The cold weather is beginning. Miss Larousse is fine.

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

1862

CO 1861

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 41/54)

Paris, October 30, 1866

Very dear Father,

We bought the Aubert Theater on Saumur Boulevard for 63,500 francs. As a business deal, it is a good one: the house and chapel will be very well situated, between the boulevard, St. Martin's Cloister and St. Aubin street. We have these three roads. We shall raze the theater to build a chapel for 300 persons.

On reflection, the Bishop thought he should not authorize worship in a theater, even after it would be transformed. Considering his thought as coming from God, we had it destroyed.

There are 2000 meters of land. Dear Father, you understand my surprise, when, instead of 25,000, it cost almost 75,000, all fees included. There was a mistake on the telegram; God allowed it. I would not have had the courage [to buy] at such a high price. We are being given time to pay it.

You have been included in the deed of acquisition; the three of us backed you up. However, you must send me your nomination for the purchase and administration of the property.

I ordered your medals. I'm giving your note to Brother Frederic. He will take care of it quickly.

⁴² He is speaking about the spiritual benefits of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Bishop's decision to give only an Exeat will force us to send for Brother Jules to receive Orders in Paris. The Archbishop has been more generous; but with that, I don't dare ask His Excellency for a deed for Marseilles, for fear that he might take away what he promised me for the ordination candidates for Paris. For that reason, I'm keeping Brother Frederic, and I'll situate the scholasticate in Paris, since Paris is causing us fewer difficulties.

I would have thought that Bishop Place would have been as kind to us as his two predecessors.

I feel very badly about the ill health of good Fr. de Cuers and Brother Marius. I'll wait until Brother is better to ask you to send him to Angers.

St. Maurice, the novitiate house, will be ready only at the end of November. The weather wasn't favorable for the work.

Nothing new about the compulsory sale in Paris. We are still waiting, but we have the Good Master with us.

Goodbye, good Father; continue to work for the glory of the Good Master.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1863

CO 1862

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 341/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 1, 1866

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I wrote to La Mure to tell them⁴³ to come before the cold weather. I haven't heard anything; I think they must be preparing for it.

I told them to send me a telegram when they leave. I thought I would go to meet them at Morel, bring them to Nemours, let them spend the day there, and then, if possible, I would bring them to Paris in the evening to send them on their way to Angers. I wouldn't like them to stay too long in Paris, nor could I refuse my sister the joy of seeing Nemours on the way.

I ordered two dozen clips. They are working on them. They told me that it was.... francs, per clip. Sunday night, or Monday morning, I will begin the retreat at Nemours.

I want to get all the external things out of the way, because once the novitiate is located at St. Maurice, I will be riveted to Paris since we will be only two priests there.

I expect to leave for Brussels, November 22. I will stay there until December 3rd or 4th.⁴⁴

Then I will establish the Novitiate on the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception.

I sent your letter to Nemours and sent one of my own after it, saying about the same thing.⁴⁵

I received a letter from Nemours telling me that the question regarding the kitchen is finished. I'll hold firmly to that, the time for concessions is over as well.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Work to become a saint, so that heaven may celebrate your feast. To be a saint, love our Lord dearly, sacrifice your personality to him, and joyfully consecrate your whole life to him.

I bless you very faithfully in our Lord, and your daughters, as well.

Eymard

⁴³ His sisters were coming to join the Servants in Angers.

⁴⁴ These plans were delayed.

⁴⁵ We do not have this correspondence.

P.S. I invited Miss Larousse to come to Nemours for her retreat. That will put things back in place; she was somewhat slighted.

1864

CO 1863

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 28/36)

Paris, November 1, 1866

Dear sister in our Lord,

I'm beginning my celebration of All Saints Day by writing to you.

God has called you to great holiness. Your present state, your past graces, the love which our Lord has always shown you, tell you so [better] than anything else.

Therefore, dear sister, be very holy, holy like Jesus your Master and Spouse. You are now on the path that he so loved, the last one he lived and trod. This period of difficulties and present troubles has brought you a bit more to the foot of the cross, and that is a great benefit. It obliges you to dwell more in humility than in zeal, more with God than with his creatures, scorned rather than esteemed - it is a divine thing.

It's time to bury yourself with Jesus, to tie yourself to the dock during the storm.

My thought then, is that you let charity be the servant of royal humility, that you be silent, speak about it only to God and to your Director, don't even give a thought to the injustices, calumnies, present persecutions, and even less to those of the past. Be greater than Job and say: May God be glorified the more by it! Don't focus your heart and mind on suffering, but on the glory of God which issues from these wounds and sufferings.

Goodbye, dear sister. Happy feast day on earth and in Heaven. I will be in Belgium from November 22 to December 2nd or 3rd. Pray for our little Society.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1865

CO 1865

TO FR. ARTHUR DHE
(VI 1/1)

Paris, November 1, 1866

My dear friend,

Go to Rome, go and kiss the feet of the Holy Father! There only, with all the majesty of truth do we find all the truth of charity and of his motherly heart. This beautiful idea of doing something serious, substantial, religious and proper for the poor stones of the sanctuary, soiled as they are, overturned and trampled underfoot with scorn and despair, - this idea offered by your poor servant to the Holy Father in May 1855,⁴⁶ was met with this word of consolation: "This thought comes from

⁴⁶ Perhaps August

God, I am sure of it; the Church has need of this support, it should be established without delay.” Indeed, dear friend, what desolation for good priests to see their brothers in the priesthood fall on the field of battle, and lie there without help for their wounds. Let us admit it is their own fault; but, really, because a man is a priest, is there to be no charity, no mercy for him? It is said that these fallen priests are without resources and have no sincere repentance. Alas! is it not because they are rejected and despised on a par with thieves and murderers? It’s easy to despise, and to speak of incorrigibility! He who is without mercy for his brothers, does he not deserve to be treated in the same way? Ah! if there were only a few who were brought back and reinstated, would that not be a huge victory over Satan, and a stroke of grace to delight heaven and earth? I say there would be many, for our Lord surely has more mercy for his priests than for the faithful. Holy Church has more tenderness and charity for them than for her children. See what was done in Rome for these poor priests: a respectable house, paternal ministration, a private retreat is in some way offered to them. There, they are rehabilitated progressively. There the Holy Father resides through the heart of his fatherly charity. One goes in, remains, goes out; and the world does not know who lives there. This is because honor is part of charity as charity is of God’s love.

So, my dear friend, go to Rome. Go and see for yourself that fine and holy Work which is lacking in France. We still give bread to these poor ones, but we leave them in despair or degradation. Then they feel the pinch, and sell themselves to iniquity or attach themselves to some Herodias. You know that two or three years ago there were as many as 900 on the streets of Paris. I know some of these poor human beings who ask no more than a charitable refuge! They are terrified by [the idea of] the Trappists. This is because that remedy is usually too strong for their weakness, and unfortunately it is a remedy which brings dishonor these days, even in the Christian world. What is needed for these men - dishonored, discouraged and frustrated - is gentle charity, honorable virtue, and a religious life, but with its levels of goodwill.⁴⁷ Would to God that the moment of grace has come! May you be the person I am looking for, who will devote himself to this Work of the Heart of Jesus, with his body, soul and possessions.

In this matter we cannot look at the difficulties, but at the grace of God and the service of His Holy Church. Count on my feeble help, as I count on your life, your death. Mother Therese⁴⁸ must espouse this Work along with the Work of the Holy Face. It is indeed here that the Holy Face of the Savior is covered with spittle, with blood and with slime upon the face of his priest. The first reparation to be made is surely that of the ministers of Judas, the unfaithful priests. Reparation for the lost glory of Jesus can only be truly fulfilled by penitent, rehabilitated priests. Oh, Mother Therese! It isn’t only to honor the disfigured image of Jesus Christ that you have been called to the devotion of the Holy Face. It is for the reality, for Jesus Christ at the Altar, but Jesus Christ a poor priest.

You possess nothing, my good friend, so much the better! If you had a fine house, with every comfort and a good income, rich connections, lucrative prospects..I would say, “Stay where you are..God has nothing for you to do.” The work of God begins at Bethlehem, is tested in Nazareth, and flourishes in the shadow of the Cross of Calvary.

I admit that if I looked at the difficulties awaiting this priestly work, the persecutions and disappointments it would cost, I would be overcome with terror, but God asks for trust and effort. The rest is his business. The mason who dies after laying the foundations of a colossal building is more of a founder than the one who completes it. Go to Rome. Any work must germinate upon the tomb of St. Peter to have grace and life. But come to see me before Monday, and do nothing without seeing me. I bless you and your idea.

Eymard⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Consideration for the degree they can handle.

⁴⁸ Mother Therese Dubouche?

⁴⁹ This letter is followed by the following petition:

Most Holy Father,

Prostrated at the feet of Your Holiness, I have the honor to put before you that, considering the sacred Character of

1866

CO 1864

TO LOUIS BAGARRE (BROTHER CALIXTE SSS)
(VI 1/1)

Paris, November 1, 1866

Dear son,

I intended to delay receiving you, but since you long so much to come to Paris and to be a good adorer of Jesus - come, I receive you so you may have this joy in preference to others who are waiting their turn.

I bless you, dear son; the vocation you are about to embrace is truly a great one - I hope that you will be truly faithful to it.

Give my respects to your dear parents who are giving you in this way to the service of God. You must never forget their goodness to you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1867

CO 1867

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 14/26)

Paris, November 2, 1866

Dear Madame in our Lord,

I believe I may have forgotten to tell you that I won't be in Paris next week. I'm going to give a retreat at Nemours. It is due to begin Sunday night. However, if I knew you would be in Paris next Sunday, I would begin only on Monday. If you are coming before Saturday or Sunday, send me a note.

I would be very happy to see you also go to Bergerac. I praise God for it; you will help your dear sister, and she will help you.

I can understand that you love that delightful Carmel! It is doubly lovable, so I encourage you to it. It's too bad that you can't bring your friend there, but I understand that she must stay in Rennes, especially if she isn't too well. Give her my best regards, like a member of the family and the [blessings] of God.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

poor priests under censure, the Reverend Father Eymard, founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, canonically established by the Holy See, and myself, Arthur Dhe, priest of the Paris Clergy, have agreed upon the project of consecrating ourselves to work for their rehabilitation, in keeping with a wise and prudent charity, and, to this end, to found in France a first establishment for ecclesiastical retreat, under the auspices of N.N.S.S. the Bishops, and with the assistance of the faithful, zealous for the honor of priestly dignity.

With this in view, and as a pledge of the fruits of penance which are the object of our desires, we beseech Your Holiness to grant to our ministry, our persons and those of our collaborators, the grace and consolation of the apostolic blessing.

12 Xber 1866

Reply from Pius IX.

Benedicat vos Deus et dives sicuti est in misericordia, pulset ad ostium peccatorum et redeant ad cor.

Pius PP.IX

Translation: May God bless you since he is rich in mercy, may he knock at the door of sinners and may they return to His Heart.

Pope Pius IX

1868

CO 1866

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 88/104)

Paris, November 2, 1866

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, but I can see that the cross still follows you. The greatest one is to be deprived of a priest. If only you were here! I would give you one right away, and if we were at Nantes I would do the same.

In Nantes, you need to have a house of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Your kind Bishop hadn't refused me, he had almost agreed. We are so unassuming here that I don't see how anyone could be afraid of us: there is nothing about us which draws over-zealous vocations: to come to us a person must be either on fire for our Lord, or dead to the world. Poor self-love only dies here.

I will be available to you⁵⁰ after Dec. 8th for your retreat in Paris. I'll be remaining there for awhile; because, since I will be establishing the Novitiate in the country on December 8th, I will have very few people left in Paris, consequently [I will be] obliged to remain here on a regular basis.

There is nothing else for today. I continue to pray for you, in order that you may be fully spiritual, in the grace and love of our good Master.

Think very little about yourself, a great deal about God and his glory.

I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1869

CO 1868

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 42/52)

Paris, November 2, 1866

Madame in our Lord,⁵¹

I received your letter, I am writing to reply immediately, for fear that I won't have time later.

I am leaving Sunday for Nemours where I will give the retreat during the week.

If you were free, I would invite you to come there; it would be more quiet than Angers, and you would be on time if you got there by Monday.

I could see that your soul was troubled because you had expressed your grief in my presence; as soon as you left, everything fell into place. It was an outpouring of your repressed and suffering nature. Don't give any importance to these spontaneous reactions, when you receive the grace to act, everything becomes supernatural. God leaves us the thorns of our human weakness: forget it completely.

Situate your state of soul, not in the outcome of your service to God, even less in good feelings - that is all too changeable and untrue.

⁵⁰ Literally: at your service.

⁵¹ Although authentic, this text was not copied from the original.

Solitude in the Whirlwind

Establish your peace - remember this well - in [your] trust in God, because He is good, because he loves you as his child.

So, put your lifelong confidence in his Providence which is watching over you at every moment. Everything comes to us in the name of God to fulfill a mission of salvation in our regard. So welcome everything as heavenly messengers.

Put your trust for the way in the holy and gracious Will of God, because what God wills is always the best for you, the best way to serve him.

And so, serve God with equal fidelity in whatever state of soul, body, or duty you may be.

Place your trust especially in God's love for you, which is so great, constant, fatherly.

I know many souls, I don't know any who are more privileged than you are. No, no, you are not putting your mind sufficiently at rest.

Holy surrender to the love of God produces the same effect on a soul as the love of a child for its mother. She carries it, she watches over it; it sleeps peacefully surrounded by the greatest dangers, because there is nothing to fear. Do the same.

I am praying for you by proxy, and you must be sure to pray for me and the thousand and one things that surround me, so that I may be calm in the midst of a whirlwind of affairs and in solitude surrounded by the world.

Please rejoice always in the Lord, rejoice in his divine goodness, live in gratitude, spontaneity, openness, affection, love, in the outpouring of your whole soul in Jesus, in whom I am for eternity.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Fr. Crepon is arriving Sunday.

1870

CO 1869

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(VI 7/10 III 145)

Paris, November 5, 1866

Dear Nanette,

I received your short note. Please believe that what you are suffering is only a temptation. Reject all that and put your trust in God.

Be convinced that the troubles you fear will not happen, but that many graces await you all in Angers, but do not delay your arrival for I have to leave Paris on November 22nd to go to Belgium. So hurry and come, and when you have decided on the day, write and tell me.

As for the Pastor, you don't have to get his permission, simply inform him - for, since the good Lord is opening the door of his Cenacle to you, come, my dear daughters, and I hope you will be content and happy.

I bless you, dear ones,

Eymard

Nov. 5-11 - To Nemours where he preached a retreat to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

	Annual Retreat to the Servants in Nemours:
Nov 5	On the Need for Repeated Conversion.The Eternal Love of God.On Spiritual Direction.
Nov 6	God Created Us for Heaven.Heaven is Given Only to Purity of Heart.On Examens of Conscience.
Nov 7	We must Live of the Mercy of God.The Virginal Love of Jesus.On Confession.
Nov 8	The Gift of One's Personality to Jesus.Jesus and Mary, Models of the Gift of Self.The Interior Education of an Adorer.
Nov 9	The Spirit of the Vows and the Gift of Self.The Virtue of the Gift of Self: the Humility of Love.On the Supernatural Life.
Nov 10	The Purity of Love.On Patience and Humility.Confidence and Repose in God Alone.

1871

CO 1870

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 342/395 VI 2)

Nemours, November 6, 1866

Very dear Daughter in our Lord,

We are now on the second day of the retreat. I am giving three exercises a day:

The first Meditation at 9:30 - Conference after the rosary. - The second Meditation after Vespers, at 4:30. - Benediction is given in the evening before retiring, at 8:00 p.m.

I expect to finish the retreat Sunday morning.

Sr. Benoite tells me, that for the simple vows, the sisters are within the requirements of the Rule

As Superior your personal consent is required to admit them. The Council here has accepted them.

The Sisters seem to be in good dispositions for the retreat. We must really pray for them so that the grace of the retreat may work powerfully.

They spoke to me regarding Sr. Philomena's profession. Since it would require a dispensation of 4 to 5 months, I will let you be the judge. They know that we dispensed a few others at the retreat in Angers. However, I hinted that there was still too much time left for a dispensation.

In Paris they received news about Mama Chanuet. It seems that she isn't well at all. The ideal would be that she return to the life of her religious family. I told Fr. Chanuet so.

Miss Sterlingue is still ill, she seems calmer. However we will really need to borrow in order to repay her some of the money she loaned us, because she is really in bad straits.

I bless you; believe me ever in our Lord, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - Sr. Benoite asks if you would send the cinctures immediately.

1872

CO 1871

TO MISS MARIE (QUERENEL)
(VII 2/3)

Paris, November 13, 1866

Dear Demoiselle,

You said you had 3,000 [fr.] sleeping at home. Wouldn't you be wiser to put them to work for 6% with a friend of mine, Mr. Coltat, the medal maker. He is a fine gentleman.

I am leaving for four days in Angers. It has almost been a year since I saw you. - I will not be in Paris from December 8 to the 26th.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Nov. 14-17 - Visit to Angers.

Nov. 14 - Letter from the Bishop of Nantes asking him to preach a Triduum.

1873

CO 1872

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 343/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 20, 1866

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to my sister to tell her to arrive in Paris tomorrow, and leave Thursday morning at 7:30, in order to arrive there⁵² at 3:00 p.m. or in the evening.

They are happy to go to be with you.

Papa Ravanat will leave with them for Angers.

I will try to have him go with them Thursday, he is so good. It would be a fine thing if we could keep him because I trust that he would prefer to stay with you in Angers and be close to his daughters. He is a holy man. In that case you wouldn't need to have a helper. He would be like a father for material things, he is a good buyer.

Study the matter. I told him not to say anything about it over there, just that he is going to see his daughter.

I know that Joseph has many qualities, but he's also a burden.

Believe me, I would prefer that you have a lay or turn sister for the outside, like so many other communities do. It isn't possible for you to stay without someone to do your errands.

I don't need to tell you that God alone has known my sorrow, that I didn't say a word about it to anyone.

It will all pass. These are crosses for the journey, planted by God in spite of ourselves, but which we must sanctify.

My poor migraine headaches are slow to leave me. I think it was caused a little bit by the cold: from time to time we need to have a little crown of thorns.

⁵² In Angers.

I bless you, dear daughter, and I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1874

CO 1873

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 89/104)

Paris, November 21, 1866

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Now it's my turn to thank you for your letter, for the good news about your chaplain. I was trying to see how I could find you one and I had almost done so.

Now news which will surprise you! The Archbishop of Nantes is offering me to go to preach a Triduum of Adoration in Nantes during the first two weeks of January. I've just accepted today - it will be a way to see you soon.

At this time I'm very busy establishing our novitiate at St. Maurice by December 8th. As soon as I see a week when I might be free, I will let you know; I would be happy if I could help your soul a little.

From time to time we need to return to the fire of the Cenacle to ask for a greater grace from the Holy Spirit. Your desire for it, the wise advice you have been given to do so, everything seems to indicate that Heaven is preparing this grace of graces for you.

Today, on the feast of the Presentation, I will present you to our Lord in the arms of the Blessed Virgin, your Mother.

Often give yourself to God and give him even more frequently all your thoughts, desires and actions.

I bless you and your dear sister whose healing I really hope for.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1875

CO 1874

TO MISS MARIE (QUERENEL)
(VII 3/3)

Paris, November 21, 1866

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I regret that I did not see you. I have been absent from Paris so often lately. I will be so again from December 8 to the 16th. Then I hope to be more stable in Paris. At this time we are founding a house and that is what is keeping me so busy.

Have you invested your money? You must not leave it like that, especially at home!

I wasn't able to stop in Grenoble. Consequently, I didn't see your sister. I was sorry, but I ran out of time.

I am very closely united and dedicated to you in our Lord.

Eymard, Sup.

1876

CO 1875

TO DR. GERMAIN BONNES, LA MURE
(VII 1/2)

Paris, November 24, 1866

Dear Mr. Bonnes,

I am writing to give you news about my sister. She and her companions had a good journey. I would even say that the trip did her some good. She was struck with awe about Paris, and to find such fine people here.

Friday, I put her on the coach for Angers, where she arrived in the afternoon. I accompanied them part of the way and left them happy. Nanette would think about La Mure occasionally and become a little sad, since she had never traveled and the thought of such a long trip left her even fearful of the company. Miss Moulin, from Prunieres, became frightened in Lyons and said that she was going to die if she went any farther. - She returned to Prunieres and that was a good thing, because a sad, tearful trip leads to the hospital.

Dear Mr. Bonnes, I need to thank you for all your fine and gracious care of my sister. After God, she owes her life to you. Her cure is a great success of yours, because she was so ill!

My sister told me that you wanted to put your kitchen in the shed and make a door through the present kitchen. - We consent wholeheartedly, since that is convenient for you, do as you wish.

I was sorry not to go back through La Mure on my trip to Gap, but since I had very little time of my own, I did like people who rush. I took the short cut through Sisteron, which saved me 24 hours.

Goodbye dear Mr. Bonnes. Believe me ever,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1877

CO 1876

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 344/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 27, 1866

Dear daughter,

I'm really worried about your dear sister Jenny and about both of you. Your silence worries me. Poor Jenny! If this beautiful and pure soul is still in this world, tell her that I bless her, that I receive her wholeheartedly as a Servant of the Most Blessed Sacrament, that she must be with us in heaven in the eucharistic court.

She always obeyed me and so she must do this, too.

I bless you and anxiously wait for news from you.

All yours,
Eymard

1878

CO 1877

TO CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE DU SS)
(III 4/5)

Paris, November 27, 1866

I request that Sister Marie receive this new candidate from Marseilles.

Eymard

1879

CO 1878

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 68/75)

Paris, November 27, 1866

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your letters. I was complaining [to God] about it, now I am quiet.

Great thanksgiving to the Mother and Queen of Mothers, good St. Anne. I was still hoping for this grace and continuing to do so; it is better than the best nanny in the world.

I do pray for your husband. I met him on my way back from Marseilles, I was happy about that.

I am thrilled that angelic Edmee prefers her dignity and the royalty of her heart to the most beautiful situations.⁵³ She is right a thousand times over. Since God is asking to be her preference, tell her when you write to her, that I am pleased.

Now that you are a bit more alone, you will belong more to Jesus in the desert, where he speaks softly, because the secrets of the heart are spoken thus to those whom we love like ourselves.

Try to stay there long enough to find him, hear him and enjoy him. Charity has its time, so also does recollection.

I am praying a great deal for you, for dear Mathilde and her little saint.

I bless you all in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.

⁵³ Probably a request in marriage. Ed.

1880

CO 1879

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 177/181 VI 2)

Paris, December 7, 1866

Dear Father,

Thank you for your authorization. - Your funds are being sent today. - I've been delayed by the preparations for the novitiate house at St. Maurice. Please forgive me; you know how easily I let myself become busy with present concerns.

In spite of all our efforts, the house of St. Maurice is not ready because of the painters, the rainy weather wasn't favorable for the work; so now we will have to wait until Christmas or the Epiphany.

I will take advantage of this time to go to Belgium.

I thank God for having saved Brother Marie. He may have a faster and better convalescence if you would send him here. I'll let you judge the practicality of this.

Dear Father, may our Lord keep you in the holy peace and charity of your love for him and for this little Society, which is so fragile and inexperienced in virtue. It has such a great need of prayers and strength.

In this Good Master, I am,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

1881

CO 1880

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 345/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 7, 1866

Very dear daughter,

Your letters reached me at St. Maurice, hence the delay.

I consent wholeheartedly that you send whatever sisters you choose to be with your dear saintly sister.⁵⁴ If only I were a sister, I would go myself!

However, I understand how it hurts you to leave her, so, if you think it's better, stay there. If Heaven were to open soon for this beautiful soul, it would be better to be there waiting for that heavenly call. If there is a delay, then find a way to work things out.

I have time only to bless you and tell you that I am,

All yours,
Eymard

I wholeheartedly bless the dear patient and receive her as a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁵⁴ Her sister Jenny who is seriously ill.

1882

CO 1881

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 346/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 8, 1866

Dear daughter,

I don't want to leave for Belgium without sending you a word.

It seems to me that it's better for you to stay a while longer with your dear sister Jenny, otherwise it would kill her.

Your house in Angers is going well. God is providing during your absence.

Fr. Audibert is going there often enough and writes to me that there is a fine spirit in the house.

So, dear daughter, don't worry about both situations.⁵⁵

Sr. Mariette is surely among those professed longer. Consequently her right and her place are acquired.⁵⁶ However, should we hope for a house in Lyons? I would really like that for you. It seems to me that it could hardly be done under the Cardinal.

What shall we do? It's safer to sell.⁵⁷ for who knows how long we would have to wait, especially since there is a convent of the Reparation? However, it isn't pressing at the moment.

I must stay about 12 days in Belgium.

I would surely be very happy to see you here when you pass through. I expect to be here a week from Thursday.

Tell Sr. Jenny that she is still my daughter, that I constantly present her to God, that I bless her every morning at Mass, that I give her all our prayers.

I don't forget you either, nor your good sister Mariette. Goodbye, it is eleven o'clock at night and I am leaving tomorrow morning.

Eymard

My address: Ghent
Quai au Bois, 40
Belgium (6 cents for postage).

⁵⁵ The Community and her sister.

⁵⁶ Her sister Mariette was caring for Jenny and therefore had not been able to enter the religious Community.

⁵⁷ A property being offered for this purpose.

1883

CO 1882

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 1/11)

Paris, December 8, 1866

To dear brother Frederic

Dear Brother,

Since the ordination is on the 22nd, it is necessary that you return to Paris to prepare for your exam on a treatise of theology of your own choice, and then enter on retreat, Monday of the following week.

However, finish what you have begun for the Altar.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

1884

CO 1883

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 8/15)

Paris, December 8, 1866

Dear Mr. Amedee,

No doubt you know that I was the first to receive your father-in-law.⁵⁸ He arrived here directly, without knowing anything. I brought him gradually to the sad and painful news. He cried a great deal, but he is resigned.

The handwritten words of Madame, which I read to him and which he is keeping, showed him Madame's loving reasons not to have him there when she died. He really edified me. Sr. Vincent⁵⁹ saw him a half-hour later; she completed the good that had been started. This dear father left with her for Lille. He promised me he would come back.

I gave the will and its postscript to Mr. de Couchies.

I kept a lock of hair from her devout and holy mother for your dear wife, and a little pious writing which I am sending you.

I will leave tomorrow for Brussels. I will stay about 10 more days, then I will return to Paris.

I am praying for you and for Mme. Blanche who is undergoing this great trial. She had such a good mother. Now she has a saint in heaven.

I bless you all very respectfully in our Lord,

Eymard, Sup.

Dec. 10-c19 - To Brussels.

⁵⁸ Mr. de Couchies.

⁵⁹ Sr. Vincent de Couchies, a sister of Charity, daughter of Mr. de Couchies.

1885

CO 1884

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET, SSS
(VI 2/2 I 29)

Ghent, Quai au bois 40, [December 10, 1866]

Very dear Father,⁶⁰

Here I am in Ghent - the House of Brussels is going well - but they are very few to maintain adoration from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. I promised to send them someone.

Dear Father, aim for the octave of the Immaculate Conception to obtain Marie-Therese - without saying so. Also plan a retreat for our four candidates for Ordination. On Monday, give them the following schedule:

6 a.m. Mass
7-8 Reading on Holy Orders. Olier.
9-10 1st Meditation
10-11 Notes on the previous meditation
11 1st Rosary
2 p.m. 2nd Rosary
2:30 Way of the Cross
3-4 2nd Meditation of adoration
5-6 Reading of Rodriguez. Choose a treatise for them.

Separate them from the others - for the whole Retreat.

Please have this letter sent at once, with Brother Albert or another, to Father Bedel. His parents were living with Remquet, the printer, at St Sulpice - Brother Charles knows about this.

Please pray for my retreat. I have a cold and I am hoarse. I don't know how I am to make myself heard - I leave it to God's grace.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Please mail this letter from Mr. Darterac with a stamp of 10 centimes.

1886

CO 1885

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 90/104)

Brussels, December 17, 1866

Madame in our Lord,

I share in your sorrow, and even more in your trust and hope. Yes, have confidence, God has heard your prayers for this dear soul. In his infinite mercy God has miraculous graces in reserve.

We will really pray for her. In the same mail, I will write to Fr. Jubineau, the Superior, to accept the Triduum on the 17th, 18th and 19th of January. The Superior is asking and insisting that I accept his hospitality. I don't see how I could refuse. Therefore, I will repay you in some other way.

⁶⁰ At the top of the letter was written: "read the letters from Paris and send me the others, adding 10 cents. Postage 50 cents."

I will be in Paris tomorrow. If you should be free after Christmas, or at the beginning of January, I would be entirely at your service in Paris.

I have time only to bless you and to say that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

1887

CO 1886

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 347/395 VI 2)

Brussels, December 18, 1866

Very dear daughter,

I am in Brussels. I have just learned from Fr. Champion about the death of your dear and holy sister Jenny, yesterday at 2:30. I knelt down immediately to pray for her, and I offered all the merits and indulgences of the Society to God for her for nine days, so that, if she needs to be further purified, God may let her enter Heaven as soon as possible.

Your dear sister had the comfort of receiving our Lord yesterday morning at 6:00. It was a great grace, because the good Master whom she had always loved and served so purely and devoutly, must have welcomed her into his arms of mercy and love.

Poor sister! I would grieve for her, if her death were not so beautiful and holy. So, instead of grieving for her, I envy her. I would like to be in her place. Yes, yes! Tomorrow, I will say holy Mass for her and also for you, dear daughter, and for your dear sister Mariette. In addition to physical fatigue, your soul must be very sad, a very legitimate sadness, because it is a loss for the heart. Poor daughter, it is a meeting place, where your good sister has arrived first.

I'm leaving Thursday morning from Brussels for Paris. I will get there at 5 p.m.; I'll expect news from you there. Write to tell me the day and time of your arrival, so that I may go for you or send someone to get you at the station.

You did well to convince Sr. Camille to follow her treatment. Her dear son, Fr. Chanuet, is sad to see his mother outside the convent, and I understand that very well.

Do for the best, dear daughter, for your belongings. You have the grace and experience for it.

Goodbye. I bless you, you and your dear sister Mariette. Don't travel right away, you need to rest a bit.

May God be your comfort and strength!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1888

CO 1887

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET, SSS
(U 1129 VI 2/2)

MANDATUM (LETTER OF OBEDIENCE)⁶¹

To Reverend Father Michel Chanuet, Superior of the house of St. Maurice, of the diocese of Versailles, heartfelt wishes and love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We, the undersigned Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, in the presence of the Lord and for His greater Glory, elect and name you, most beloved Father, as Superior and master of Novices of the house of formation, Saint Maurice, for a term of three years so that, in the name of the Lord and by our authority, you may direct those under your care and teach them the rules and discipline of our vocation. Trusting in the grace of God and Holy Obedience, you will be able to accomplish this.

For so important a work of our Institute, by which the vocation, virtue, life or death of our religious depend on you, most dearly beloved, work diligently and we do and will always commend you to God and the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, so that you will always be faithful, strong and comforted by divine love.

Given at Paris, from the general house on December 22, 1866.

Eymard
Superior of the Congregation
of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Dec. 25 - Foundation of the Novitiate of St. Maurice at Midnight Mass with 14 novices.

1889

CO 1888

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 178/181 VI 2)

Paris, December 30, 1866

Very dear Father,

Your reflections about Brother Marie are too true for me to resist them. May God give him the strength to return to his eucharistic service.

I thank you and your family wholeheartedly for your Christmas wishes: Christian Rome wishes happy feast days; faithless countries wish Happy New Year's Day. Oh yes! I placed you all on the paten of the sacrifice at midnight, especially you, dear Father. I was celebrating Mass at the Novitiate house of St. Maurice, which was inaugurated that night with royal exposition of the divine Master having 15 adorers, among whom were Fr. Crepon, the pastor of Angers, and Fr. Augonnet. We worked hard for that moment, because the workmen had let us down.

The Master is well lodged; that is the main thing.

⁶¹ Translated from the Latin.

I stayed at St. Maurice until Thursday night. Now I'm in Paris, busy with our children's First Communion which they just made today. Now, New Year's Day visits are beginning: alas! What a busy life! Provided that our Lord may find his glory in it....

I'm pleased with our scholastics. I'll begin their classes until I send for Fr. Viguier from Brussels to help me. Brother Jules is in minor orders, Brother Anatole from Paris in minor orders, Brothers Frederic and Albert tonsured; Brother Anatole is only a novice, and left us. I am staying here with the three others, Brother Charles, Brother Alexander, a novice and Fr. Billon with his three little brothers: that is our entire household. The service hasn't suffered from it; we continue nocturnal adoration as before.

In addition, we have a priest on retreat. Everything is going fine. I hope that the Good Master will be pleased with our good will.

Goodbye, dear Father.

1890

CO 1889

TO MR. RAVANAT

(III 3/5)

Paris, December 30, 1866

Dear papa Ravanat,

I keep expecting you to come here with us, you belong with the Blessed Sacrament with your three daughters. Your cell is ready at Saint-Maurice. At Midnight Mass we exposed the Blessed Sacrament in this lovely chapel: everything is finished, and everything is beautiful. Be assured, good papa Ravanat, that everything will become easy for you there. Our fasts are the same as those of the Church, we don't have extraordinary penances. Your health is more than sufficient for this style of life.

I was very sorry to learn that Brother Eugene had hurt you. Excuse him because he was a little upset. Besides, he is no longer at Saint-Maurice and is not due to return there. I'm expecting you for Epiphany, with your dear daughter Marie, and it will be a feast for your friends to see you again and to welcome you.

I also wish you a happy and holy New Year, the best that you have ever had, with the grace of the religious life.

When you come, bring us a bottle of Chartreuse liqueur. You will find it at Grenoble at Miss Marsalat's, Place Notre-Dame. She also sells church vestments.

Goodbye then. I bless you and your dear daughter Marie.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1891

CO 1890

To Fr. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS

(12/20)

A.R.T.

Paris, December 31, 1866

Very dear Father,

Your feelings for the Society, which are always so thoughtful and devoted for the Society and so kind toward me, always touch me to the depths of my soul. It is true that our souls have been united in our Lord and for our Lord for so long. You have been a friend since the first moment, and you keep your privileged rank. Thank you then, very dear Father, thank you in the love and blessings of our Good Master, for your wishes and for your wishes that are so eucharistic. At the foot of the throne of grace I will try to express the same for you and ask our Lord once again to increase his blessings on your work and desires for his glory and service.

On Christmas Day we opened the house of St. Maurice. At midnight, our Lord took over the altar and his throne; I hope that he will be better there than in the crib at Bethlehem. I left 14 Novices there. I couldn't let you know, because nothing was ready. On Christmas Eve, there were still workers and painters in the chapel. We rushed the work, because it would never have come to an end. This proved to me that Brother Eugene can only lend a helping hand, but cannot follow a project to completion, much less several things at the same time. He has lost my confidence: I thought he was more capable and especially more thrifty. As for me, he is a man of little worth, and I would even say dangerous, because he doesn't know how to count: to gain a penny, he spends a franc.

At the Ordination we had two who received the tonsure: Brother Frederic and Brother Albert; two tonsures and two in minor orders: Brother Jules and Brother Anatole, novice.

I was pleased with Brussels. There will be a retreat for the Associates at the beginning of Lent. Fr. Champion really wants to have you. You would find a lovely family there. The Belgians are fine people; a bit cold, but sincere.

I will come to see you in mid January. The Bishop of Nantes is begging me to preach a Triduum on the 17th, 18th and 19th to his Adorers at Nantes. I accepted. So, I will come to see you first.

When you write to your dear family, remember me to them. Dear Father, I am in the holy love of our Lord,

All yours,

Eymard, S.S.S.

1892

CO 1891

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 348/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 31, 1866

Very dear daughter,

Thank you for your wishes. I repay them a hundredfold at the feet of our good Master. He knows how dear your soul is to me, how consoling are your sacrifices for his service and his glory.

In all things, we should consider only the eucharistic Service of Jesus, and esteem, love, and desire only the things which relate directly to the divine Eucharist. We ought to love the Society only because it is the blessed and faithful servant of our good Master, most fortunate to have been chosen to work at its beginnings.

Please give your dear sister Mariette also all my fond and devoted regards, [tell her] that God will repay her a hundredfold for everything she has done for him.

You would do well to go to Nemours. Sr. Benoite needs you, and your daughters too. These poor children suffered greatly from the initial difficulties. Try also to give them two more sisters, because their service is too difficult, being so few.

You'll find me in Paris, where I hope to see you and give you your little gifts. I received everything.

I bless you reverently in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, SS

APPENDIX I

In his letter of February 10, 1865, to Mr. Leo Dupont, Fr. Eymard informed Mr. Dupont about the evolution of things regarding his request for the Cenacle. The study of the matter was still in course. Fr. Eymard began a retreat on January 15, which was to conclude only when the matter was settled. This was to go beyond March 7, which he had hoped for. It would be settled definitively by the General Assembly of Cardinals on March 28th. The answer was negative and Fr. Eymard was notified the following day.

But the principal purpose of this letter was something else. On December 8, 1864, Pope Pius IX issued the encyclical *Quanta cura*, to which the Syllabus was joined. Strong reactions emerged everywhere. In France the anti-clerical press and liberal thinkers flew into a rage. In a circular letter of January 1, 1865, the government forbade the bishops from publishing the Syllabus. Finally, on January 5, Napoleon II signed a decree allowing the publication of the last part of the encyclical.

The French bishops protested against this usurpation of civil power over doctrinal matters. On January 26, Bishop Dupanloup, the Bishop of Orleans, published a work [entitled] “The Agreements of September 15 and the Encyclical of December 8.” By the Agreements of September 15, France promised the Piedmontise Kingdom to gradually withdraw its troops from the Papal States with a two year delay: for French Catholics, this amounted to a change of the political position maintained until that time. As a citizen, Dupanloup was requesting clarifications.

Commenting on the doctrinal part of the Syllabus, Bishop Dupanloup concentrated on justifying the Pope’s opinion, using the distinction of thesis and hypothesis. The leaflet received considerable success. The Apostolic Nuncio in Paris congratulated the author and hundreds of bishops did the same.

Among Catholic advertisers, the Syllabus was perceived otherwise: liberals were upset and Montalembert considered giving up the direction of the “Correspondent.” He presented an intervention to the Congress of Malines which was held April 18-22, 1863: if he proclaimed his absolute submission to the Church and to the Pope in matters of dogma, he denounced the “marriage of the throne and the altar.” His intervention, published under the title *The Free Church in a Free State*, was very successful. But the context was difficult: Emmanuel II was stripping the Pope of his States and promoting religious indifference in his kingdom. Bishop Pie of Poitiers accused Montalembert in Rome of supporting opinions condemned thirty years earlier, and Cardinal Antonelli, under pressure, blamed the author in a secret communication. The work of Bishop Dupanloup reassured liberal Catholics and the Vice-Count of Meaux kept Montalembert at the head of the newspaper. He remained submissive, not without sadness of heart.

The attitude of the ultramontanes was quite different. Veuillot was in Rome at the time of the publication of the Syllabus. He rejoiced, he saw it as a condemnation of liberal Catholics. He strongly reproached Bishop Dupanloup for an incomplete reading of the document. And when, on February 4, 1865, the Pope addressed a letter of congratulations to the Bishop of Orleans, Veuillot only referred to the last lines where the Pope urged the bishop to pursue his task, not only to refute erroneous interpretations, but also to spread his thought. It is clear that Veuillot used the Pope’s letter to attack his adversaries, the liberal Catholics!

The letter of Fr. Eymard is a burning testimony on those current issues. He was also in Rome at the time the encyclical and the Syllabus were published. He was aware of the letter of Bishop Dupanloup. The congratulatory letter from Pius IX to the Bishop of Orleans had just been published. Fr. Eymard first attacked the “so-called liberals,” the heirs of the Revolution of 1789. As for himself, he sympathized with the ultramontanes and he feared that Montalembert might act upon the publication of Dupanloup. The school of liberal Catholics still bore the weight of the condemnation which had struck Lamennais in the past. This letter, written to a friend, is without doubt, the most explicit document we have on the political choices of Fr. Eymard.

Appendix I

In passing, we might also notice the strange interpretation of the number of the Apocalypse. Who is the Ludovicus/Louis about whom Fr. Eymard is thinking? Should we see it as the name of the Emperor, Louis Napoleon, because of his reversal of opinion on the Roman question?... This crime of lese-majesty would not have displeased a legitimizing royalist like Mr. Dupont!

- by Fr. Andre Guitton SSS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

AGNES DE ST. JOSEPH, MOTHER

Superior General of the Reparatrix Sisters. Plea to reinstate one of their sisters.
(VI 1/2) #1813

ALMERICI, FR., Barnibite

A friend of Fr. E. whom he met in Rome. The correspondence is scanty. It seems that Fr. A. had missionary aspirations for Russia.
(VI 2/2) #1779

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 15/52)	#1858	(V 28/52)	#1614	(V 35/52)	#1724
(V 22/52)	#1518	(V 29/52)	#1629	(V 36/52)	#1743
(V 23/52)	#1535	(V 30/52)	#1644	(V 37/52)	#1755
(V 24/52)	#1580	(V 31/52)	#1658	(V 38/52)	#1809
(V 25/52)	#1582	(V 32/52)	#1662	(V 39/52)	#1818
(V 26/52)	#1589	(V 33/52)	#1701	(V 40/52)	#1834
(V 27/52)	#1594	(V 34/52)	#1718	(V 42/52)	#1869

ANGEBAULT, BISHOP GUILLAUME, Bishop of Angers

Well-known for his piety and for his attachment to the Holy See. As early as 1850 he had established Nocturnal Adoration for men in his diocese and in 1854 perpetual adoration with the help of all the parishes. He welcomed the foundation of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament in his diocese and later that of the Servants.

Bishop Angebault was one of the three bishops to provide testimonial letters to support Fr. E.'s request for approval by the Holy See. Fr. E. consulted Bishop A. for the Third Part of the constitutions of the Servants. Eventually a strain occurred between Eymard and the Bishop over the transfer of the Fathers to a new location and the foundation of the Servants at Nemours. But later, Bishop A., Mother Marguerite and Fr. E. met to handle the most sensitive issues facing the two communities.

(V 9/14)	#1605	(V 10/14)	#1659	(V 11/14)	#1725
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AUDIBERT, FR. JOSEPH SSS

Priest of the diocese of Frejus, Assistant Pastor at the Cathedral of Toulon, renowned for his public speaking. He preached at the ceremony of the translation of the relic of St. Victorius, organized in La Seyne by Fr. E. in 1853.

Although he first approached the Society of the Blessed Sacrament to discern his vocation in 1856, he was not to enter until 1863 after false accusations were leveled against him in his home diocese of Toulon. He was named Superior of the Community in Angers in 1865 and entrusted

Biographical Notes

with the task of transferring the community and building the first Church of the Society. In his letter to Bishop Angebault, Fr. E. described Fr. A. as the most qualified member of the Society.

(VI 1/1) #1569 (I 2/20) #1891

MR. AUDIBERT

Father of Fr. Joseph Audibert SSS. St. Peter Julian wrote him only a few letters, but full of esteem and respect, especially concerning the false accusations surrounding his son.

(I 1/2) #1544

BAGARRE, LOUIS (BROTHER CALIXTE SSS)

Letter of admission to the Society.

(VI 1/1) #1866

BARET, FR. JEAN-VICTOR

A childhood friend of Fr. E. with whom he had made his first pilgrimage to go to confession as a child at Villard St. Christophe. Eventually they became fellow-seminarians and were ordained the same day by Bishop Philibert de Bruillard. Fr. Baret became the pastor of La Motte d'Aveillans. Fr. E. tried unsuccessfully to draw him to the Marists.

(V 6/6) #1808

BARNABO, CARDINAL ALESSANDRO

Prefect of the Congregation of the Propaganda in Rome. It was through him that Fr. E. presented his request to Pope Pius IX to establish the Third Order of Mary, Sept. 8, 1850. From Jan. 2, 1864 to March 1865, Fr. de Cuers and Fr. E. frequently visited and corresponded with Cardinal Barnabo concerning the possibility of a foundation at the Cenacle of Jerusalem. Cardinal Barnabo supported this effort which eventually failed.

(VI 3/5) #1553

BETHFORT, MME.

Parishioner of Chalon where Fr. E. had given a mission.

(VII 1/1) #1681

BILLON, HENRI, (later FR. BILLON SSS)

Director of the Work of First Communion in Paris.

(III 1/1) #1668 (III 1/1) #1716

BLANC DE ST. BONNET, ADOLPHE

Brother-in-law of Fr. Michel Chanuet SSS and philosopher-writer. Born in 1815, this French philosopher is described as belonging to the "Mystical School of Lyons," and known as the "philosopher of sorrow." They became friends when Fr. E. was Visitor General of the Marists. In 1863. Fr. E. accepted his hospitality and it was at his home that he found the atmosphere and support he needed to draw up his Constitutions for the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. Mr. B. sent copies of his works to Fr. E. who always expressed a deep appreciation for them.

(VII 3/4) #1655 (VII 4/4) #1680

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.

(V 3/3) #1709

BLESSED SACRAMENT COMMUNITIES

(VI 2/2) #1564

Biographical Notes

BOISGROLIER, CAROLINE DE (SR. MARIE du SS)

Born in Niort in 1820 of an aristocratic family, her family had ties with French nobility. As a young woman she had consecrated her virginity to the Lord. Drawn to the Blessed Sacrament, she had searched for her vocation. When she heard of Fr. E., she came to the Servants at a moment when they had lost half their community and were only three; May 30, 1859.

She was an organist, worked at the ministry of First Communion for poor girls and helped the community. She was part of the first group to make vows after the “foundation retreat” on July 31, 1859. Sr. Marie is the one who faithfully kept the notes of the Conferences given by Fr. E. to the Servants. These notes were reviewed by him. Some were then copied by others and passed on.

At the time of the foundation of Nemours, Sr. Marie became the Mistress of Novices.

(III 1/5)	#1591	(III 3/5)	#1771
(III 2/5)	#1751	(III 4/5)	#1878

BONNES, DR. GERMAIN

Doctor in La Mure who was the family doctor for the Eymard family. He rented part of the living area in the Eymard home. He diagnosed Fr. E.’s final illness as cerebral congestion.

(VII 1/2) #1876

BOONE, FR. JEAN-BAPTISTE, S.J.

Chaplain of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Brussels and collaborator with the Foundress.

(VI 8/22) #1561

BOST, ANTONIA (JULIE-ANTOINETTE)

The sister of Mme. Clotilde Tholin-Bost, who was closely associated to Fr. E.’s apostolate. Antonia was a lay consecrated virgin who belonged to the Third Order of Mary. She wanted to be a religious, but Fr. E. encouraged her to stay at home to care for her parents. She entered the Sisters of Charity in 1857 and was dismissed in 1864.

Fr. E. encouraged her when her mother died and supported her contacts with her brother, who was not church-going. He especially gave her rich counsels for spiritual life and prayer. In 1864, she went to Rennes to live with Mme. Lepage, a widow, who was also a correspondent of his, and Antonia arranged for Fr. E. to preach a mission at the church of St. Aubin, Rennes, from September 8-16, 1864.

(IV 18/28)	#1667	(IV 20/28)	#1720	(IV 22/28)	#1857
(IV 19/28)	#1714	(IV 21/28)	#1767		

CAPALTI, MSGR. ANNIBALE

Secretary at the Congregation of the Propaganda in Rome at the time when Fathers de Cuers and E. sought permission for a foundation in Jerusalem. Fr. E. expressed a fear that Msgr. Capalti’s presentation of the matter to the Cardinals would be a disservice to his cause.

(VI 2/3) #1517 (VI 3/3) #1554

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 20/24)	#1530	(V 21/24)	#1536	(V 22/24)	#1708
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Biographical Notes

CARRIE, FR. MARIUS SSS

As a young priest he and some laymen were responsible for the catechism classes of the Adult Workers preparing for First Communion. Later he worked with Fr. Chanuet in this apostolate in Paris. He was part of the first group to renew perpetual vows after the Approval of the Institute and he participated in the first General Chapter. He was missioned to Angers at the time of the construction of the new church.

(VI 1/2) #1568

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 became the third Superior General of the Congregation, from June 29, 1871 to January 22, 1881.

(VI 1/2 I 5) #1566 (I 4/5 VI 1) #1631 (I 5/5) #1736

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 3/15) #1522 (VII 5/15) #1630 (VII 7/15) #1837
(VII 4/15) #1579 (VII 6/15) #1669 (VII 8/15) #1884

CHANUET, MICHEL, SSS

He was a young law student from Lyons when he entered the novitiate of the Society in September 1859, and left his doctorate unfinished. He would eventually become Fr. E.'s chosen Master of Novices. With Fr. E. they visited various novitiates in France to prepare their new Constitutions and formation program. Fr. C.'s desire for solitude and silence made him the confidante of Fr. E.'s plan for a house of solitude. Fr. E. corresponded with several members of the Chanuet family: his mother, Mme. Camille Chanuet, who eventually became Sr. Camille SSS; his brother Amedee; his sister Marguerite (Mme. Adolphe Blanc de St. Bonnet) and sister-in-law, Miss Zenaide Blanc de St. Bonnet. The Chanuet family contributed financially to the foundation of Nemours.

(U1 I29 VI 2/2) #1888 (I 11/29) #1741 (I 17/29 VI 2) #1800
(VI 1/2 I 29) #1565 (I 12/29) #1748 (I 18/29 VI 2) #1804
(VI 2/2 I 29) #1885 (I 13/29) #1754 (I 19/29) #1825
(I 8/29) #1688 (I 14/29) #1756 (I 20/29 VI 2) #1841
(I 9/29) #1734 (I 15/29) #1781 (I 21/29 VI 2) #1849
(I 10/29) #1740 (I 16/29) #1784 (I 22/29 VI 2) #1852

Biographical Notes

COUCHIES, 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 8/9) #1663 (VII 9/9) #1702

THE COUNCIL OF THE SERVANTS

(III 1/1) #1737

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.

(VI 2/4 VII 181) #1564	(I 158/181 VI 2) #1682	(I 169/181 VI 2) #1806
(VI 4/4 I 181) #1673	(I 159/181 VI 2) #1699	(I 170/181 VI 2) #1810
(I 149/181 VI 2) #1519	(I 160/181 VI 2) #1707	(I 171/181 VI 2) #1821
(I 150/181 VI 2) #1523	(I 161/181 VI 2) #1711	(I 172/181 VI 2) #1826
(I 151/181 VI 2) #1531	(I 162/181 VI 2) #1719	(I 173/181 VI 2) #1828
(I 152/181 VI 2) #1534	(I 163/181 VI 2) #1729	(I 174/181 VI 2) #1833
(I 153/181 VI 2) #1540	(I 164/181 VI 2) #1746	(I 175/181 VI 2) #1843
(I 154/181 VI 2) #1543	(I 165/181 VI 2) #1773	(I 176/181 VI 2) #1846
(I 155/181 VI 2) #1623	(I 166/181 VI 2) #1789	(I 177/181 VI 2) #1880
(I 156/181 VI 2) #1650	(I 167/181 VI 2) #1791	(I 178/181 VI 2) #1889
(I 157/181 VI 2) #1674	(I 168/181 VI 2) #1797	

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 24/36) #1593	(IV 26/36) #1766	(IV 28/36) #1864
(IV 25/36) #1700	(IV 27/36) #1799	

Biographical Notes

DHE, FR. ARTHUR

Diocesan priest, Paris. Shared with Fr. E. the desire to establish a Work in France for the rehabilitation of needy priests and jointly presented this project to Pope Pius IX, who blessed this plan.

(VI 1/1) #1865

UNKNOWN DIRECTEE

(VII 1/1) #1617

DUPONT, MR. 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.

(U) #1528

ENGLEBERT, CARDINAL, Archbishop of Malines

Welcomed the Society in Brussels in 1865 and the Servants in 1867. (This latter foundation did not materialize.) The Cardinal died suddenly early in 1868.

(VI 1/7) #1656 (VI 2/7) #1728 (VI 3/7) #1780

EYMARD, MARIANNE

Sister and godmother of St. Peter Julian Eymard. Born in 1799, the fifth and only survivor of the first marriage of Julian Eymard. She was the main source of the childhood anecdotes that have come to us regarding our saint. She was the first to learn of his desire to become a priest. She supported this desire in spite of their father's opposition. Marianne and their adopted sister Nanette left La Mure temporarily to keep house for Peter Julian when he was a pastor at Monteynard. She tried to oppose his Marist vocation without avail. Later, having returned to La Mure, she would be associated to the Third Order of Mary and become its president there. Later she joined and promoted the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

The La Mure family home became a center of friendship for those whom Fr. E. would direct to La Salette. So, friendly ties were established especially with the Guillot sisters, Srs. Benoite and Philomene, Mmes. Jordan, Tenaillon and many others. Marianne and Nanette attempted a vocation to the Servants, but did not persevere.

In September 1865, Fr. E. spent 2 weeks in La Mure because of Marianne's long illness. He was to return to his family home to die in 1868. From July 21 to August 1, his sisters and friends cared for him. They were by his bedside in his last moments. Marianne died February 17, 1876.

(VI 6/10 III 145) #1611	(III 132/145) #1592	(III 136/145) #1686
(VI 7/10 III 145) #1870	(III 133/145) #1612	(III 137/145) #1675
(III 127/145) #1620	(III 134/145) #1651	
(III 131/145) #1573	(III 135/145) #1666	

FAURE, FR.

Pastor of Lavalans, (Isere). Friend of the Eymard family. Fellow-priest of his home diocese. Relatively unknown.

(VI 1/1) #1786

Biographical Notes

FERRAT, BROTHER AIME, SSS

Letter welcoming him to religious life with his cousin.

(VI 1/2) #1783

A FOUNDESS OF A CONGREGATION OF ADORERS

(VIII 1) #1648

FRAGUIER, COUNTESS DE

Sister of the Countess d'Andigne. Together the two sisters worked to raise funds for the Work of First Communion of Adult Workers. His letters indicate that she was a woman with deep inner trials.

(V 1/2) #1744 (V 2/2) #1763

GAUDIOZ, MISS MARIE

Lyons. Niece of Marguerite Guillot. Blessings on her marriage.

(VII 1/1) #1557

GAUTHIER, MME, (nee COURT)

La Mure. Friend of the Eymard family.

(VII 1/1) #1615

GIRAUD-JORDAN, MME. MATHILDE-SYLVIE

Daughter of Natalie (Mme. Camille) Jordan. Lyons and Calet. She began spiritual direction under Fr. E. in 1855. She married Paul Giraud in 1856 and bore him a son 10 years later. She received spiritual direction for many minute details of life - including advice specific to her change from the single to the married life.

(IV 10/19) #1695 (IV 12/19) #1823

(IV 11/19) #1706 (IV 13/19) #1845

GOURD, MME. JOSEPHINE (SR. JOSEPH du SS, nee MOREL)

Directee of Fr. E. from 1848-1868. He considered her as a saint, as his correspondence to her daughter Stephanie attests. He respected her as a mother. His correspondence is a constant support of prayer and sacrifice for the conversion of her father and her husband.

The Gourds were well-to-do. They had an estate in Lyons and a country residence, "Les Thorins," north of Lyons in Romaneche. At "Les Thorins" they had permission to keep the reserved Sacrament in their chapel. They were close friends of the Guillot sisters and the Mayet family. They met Fr. E. through the Third Order of Mary.

After the failure of Nemours, Mme. Gourd harbored Sr. 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 54/76) #1769 (V 56/76) #1831

(V 55/76) #1812 (V 57/76) #1835

GOURD, MISS STEPHANIE

Stephanie received many letters of spiritual direction from Fr. E. which contain some of his most beautiful passages on prayer and the spiritual life. He encouraged her in caring for her sick parents and supported her choice for virginity during a time of testing. Stephanie and her mother were present at Vichy with Marguerite Guillot during her last meeting with Fr. E. to discuss a foundation of the Servants in Lyon. On March 13, 1861, in the Oratory of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Mme. Gourd and her daughter Stephanie made perpetual vows in the presence of the community of the sisters and 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 37/52)	#1585	(V 39/52)	#1768	(V 41/52)	#1832
(V 38/52)	#1836	(V 40/52)	#1814		

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 65/104)	#1529	(IV 74/104)	#1642	(IV 83/104)	#1802
(IV 66/104)	#1550	(IV 75/104)	#1664	(IV 84/104)	#1805
(IV 67/104)	#1552	(IV 76/104)	#1665	(IV 85/104)	#1816
(IV 68/104)	#1556	(IV 77/104)	#1704	(IV 86/104)	#1827
(IV 69/104)	#1578	(IV 78/104)	#1731	(IV 87/104)	#1856
(IV 70/104)	#1584	(IV 79/104)	#1762	(IV 88/104)	#1868
(IV 71/104)	#1586	(IV 80/104)	#1777	(IV 89/104)	#1874
(IV 72/104)	#1613	(IV 81/104)	#1790	(IV 90/104)	#1886
(IV 73/104)	#1628	(IV 82/104)	#1798		

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.

Biographical Notes

(VI 1/2 II 395) #1824	(II 298/395 VI 2) #1609	(II 324/395 VI 2) #1753
(II 273/395 VI 2) #1516	(II 299/395 VI 2) #1677	(II 325/395 VI 2) #1760
(II 274/395 VI 2) #1520	(II 300/395 VI 2) #1619	(II 326/395 VI 2) #1770
(II 275/395 VI 2) #1524	(II 301/395 VI 2) #1621	(II 327/395 VI 2) #1774
(II 276/395 VI 2) #1532	(II 302/395 VI 2) #1622	(II 328/395 VI 2) #1775
(II 277/395 VI 2) #1541	(II 303/395 VI 2) #1624	(II 329/395 VI 2) #1778
(II 278/395 VI 2) #1545	(II 304/395 VI 2) #1625	(II 330/395 VI 2) #1782
(II 279/395 VI 2) #1555	(II 305/395 VI 2) #1626	(II 331/395 VI 2) #1792
(II 280/395 VI 2) #1559	(II 306/395 VI 2) #1627	(II 332/395 VI 2) #1801
(II 281/395 VI 2) #1562	(II 307/395 VI 2) #1632	(II 333/395 VI 2) #1807
(II 282/395 VI 2) #1563	(II 308/395 VI 2) #1635	(II 334/395 VI 2) #1811
(II 283/395 VI 2) #1570	(II 309/395 VI 2) #1639	(II 335/395 VI 2) #1815
(II 284/395 VI 2) #1571	(II 310/395 VI 2) #1640	(II 336/395 VI 2) #1829
(II 285/395 VI 2) #1576	(II 311/395 VI 2) #1654	(II 337/395 VI 2) #1838
(II 286/395 VI 2) #1577	(II 312/395 VI 2) #1657	(II 338/395 VI 2) #1839
(II 287/395 VI 2) #1581	(II 313/395 VI 2) #1671	(II 339/395 VI 2) #1840
(II 288/395 VI 2) #1583	(II 314/395 VI 2) #1678	(II 340/395 VI 2) #1850
(II 289/395 VI 2) #1587	(II 315/395 VI 2) #1683	(II 341/395 VI 2) #1863
(II 290/395 VI 2) #1588	(II 316/395 VI 2) #1691	(II 342/395 VI 2) #1871
(II 291/395 VI 2) #1590	(II 317/395 VI 2) #1692	(II 343/395 VI 2) #1873
(II 292/395 VI 2) #1597	(II 318/395 VI 2) #1713	(II 344/395 VI 2) #1877
(II 293/395 VI 2) #1599	(II 319/395 VI 2) #1722	(II 345/395 VI 2) #1881
(II 294/395 VI 2) #1600	(II 320/395 VI 2) #1730	(II 346/395 VI 2) #1882
(II 295/395 VI 2) #1601	(II 321/395 VI 2) #1735	(II 347/395 VI 2) #1887
(II 296/395 VI 2) #1603	(II 322/395 VI 2) #1738	(II 348/395 VI 2) #1892
(II 297/395 VI 2) #1606	(II 323/395 VI 2) #1749	

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 18/21) #1527	(III 20/21) #1633
(III 19/21) #1602	(III 21/21) #1690

GUYOT, MOTHER, Religious of the Good Shepherd

Mother Guyot was Superior at St. Thomas-de-Villeneuve, administered by the Religious of the Good Shepherd in Paris, near rue d'Enfer. At the time of the foundation of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, she provided some furnishings for the house. Their friendship lasted until the end of Fr. E.'s life. His letters to Mother Guyot show humor and closeness.

(V 6/8) #1539	(V 7/8) #1739	(V 8/8) #1758
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HOMMAY, MME.

Unknown.

(III 1/1) #1616

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.

Biographical Notes

Both were born in the Dauphine Region of France and were proud of their common roots. They were close in age, conviction, feelings and ideals. On a visit to Lyons in 1865, Fr. E. told her that they were sister-souls going through the same stages of the spiritual life together. He kept her informed of the principal events in his life and visited her and her family in Lyons and Calet when he could do so. He also corresponded with her daughter Mathilde Giraud-Jordan and her niece Edmee de Montmorand.

(IV 59/75)	#1538	(IV 63/75)	#1715	(IV 67/75)	#1844
(IV 60/75)	#1547	(IV 64/75)	#1723	(IV 68/75)	#1879
(IV 61/75)	#1646	(IV 65/75)	#1803		
(IV 62/75)	#1705	(IV 66/75)	#1822		

DOCUMENTS OF LA SALETTE

(VIII 3/4)	#1607	(VIII 4/4)	#1608
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LECLERC, JULES

Director of the publishing house where Fr. E. had his largest financial investment. When they declared bankruptcy, the financial resources to pay for the land purchase and church construction in Angers were wiped out.

(VII 1/1)	#1596
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LEPAGE, MME.

A widow from Rennes. Mme. Lepage desired to enter Carmel. However, Fr. E. guided her in her new state of life (widowhood). Another directee, Miss Antonia Bost, went to live with her in 1864. Mme. L. was influential in obtaining an invitation to Fr. E. to preach a Triduum at Carmel in 1866.

(IV 6/26)	#1525	(IV 9/26)	#1721	(IV 12/26)	#1817
(IV 7/26)	#1645	(IV 10/26)	#1765	(IV 13/26)	#1855
(IV 8/26)	#1668	(IV 11/26)	#1772	(IV 14/26)	#1867

LEROYER, FR. ALEXANDER, SSS

Originally a diocesan missionary in Angers, where he had preached 40 hour devotions for four years before coming into the Society. He retained good relations with Bishop Angebault and his former colleagues after his entrance as well. He was one of the Founders of the Angers community. He was part of the initial group to pronounce their perpetual vows after the approval of the Congregation. As Superior of the Fathers, he welcomed the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament to Angers. For a period of time he became confessor to their community. He participated in the General Chapter and was sent to Marseilles as Assistant to Fr. de Cuers. He was sent to Brussels to preach a retreat and to explore the possibilities of a foundation. He preached at Angers, Liege, Ghent and Brussels. He replaced Fr. de Cuers as Superior in Marseilles when the latter resigned. Considered one of the best preachers of the Society, he gave the panegyric at Fr. E.'s funeral. He greatly favored the development of Eucharistic Congresses. He was administrator of the Congregation after the death of Fr. Champion and succeeded Fr. Tesniere as the 5th Superior General of the Congregation.

(VI 1/1 I 54)	#1567	(I 32/54)	#1558	(I 37/54)	#1693
(I 28/54)	#1521	(I 33/54)	#1560	(I 38/54)	#1732
(I 29/54)	#1537	(I 34/54)	#1575	(I 39/54)	#1747
(I 30/54)	#1546	(I 35/54)	#1660	(I 40/54)	#1776
(I 31/54)	#1549	(I 36/54)	#1675	(I 41/54)	#1862

Biographical Notes

LEUDEVILLE, EMMANUEL DE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)

Member of the Third Order of Mary. The de Leudeville family offered Fr. E. the hospitality of a quiet place to write his first draft of Constitutions in 1856. They also gave the first monstrance and canopy. In 1863 when Fr. E. went to Rome to obtain the approval of his Constitutions, Mr. de Leudeville, then a postulant, financed part of the trip and accompanied him and Fr. de Cuers. Mr. de Leudeville did not persevere in the Society.

(V 14/14) #1634

MARECHAL, MME., WIDOW (nee DUFRESNE)

Mother of Fr. Paul Marie Marechal. She was a directee of Fr. E.

(VII 1/20)	#1616	(VII 6/20)	#1676	(VII 11/20)	#1759
(VII 2/20)	#1638	(VII 7/20)	#1685	(VII 12/20)	#1788
(VII 3/20)	#1647	(VII 8/20)	#1697	(VII 20/20)	#1860
(VII 4/20)	#1670	(VII 9/20)	#1752		
(VII 5/20)	#1672	(VII 10/20)	#1795		

MEEUS, MISS ANNE DE

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 9/22)	#1574	(VI 14/22)	#1652	(VI 19/22)	#1717
(VI 10/22)	#1595	(VI 15/22)	#1661	(VI 20/22)	#1726
(VI 11/22)	#1618	(VI 16/22)	#1679	(VI 21/22)	#1787
(VI 12/22)	#1641	(VI 17/22)	#1698		
(VI 13/22)	#1649	(VI 18/22)	#1703		

MODAVE FAMILY

Brussels. Fr. E. corresponded with Mme. Modave and her daughter. They were his principal lay correspondents from Brussels. They were devoted to the Devotion to the Precious Blood.

(VII 1/4)	#1794	(VII 2/4)	#1820	(VII 3/4)	#1819
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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.

(U) #1515

PLACE, BISHOP (Marseilles)

Bishop of Marseilles. Successor to Bishops de Mazenod and Cruice. Request for minor orders and priesthood for scholastics who were originally from Marseilles went unheeded.

(VI 1/1) #1854

Biographical Notes

QUERENEL, MARIE

Mutual acquaintance through her sister in Grenoble and Fr. Burfin, the Provincial of the Oblate Fathers.

(VII 2/3) #1872 (VII 3/3) #1875

RATONS, BROTHER MARIE

Brother Marie joined Fr. de Cuers in Marseilles as a youngster from Lyons. He left the community for a while, but later returned.

(VI 4/7) #1533 (VI 5/7) #1610

MR. RAVANAT

The three Ravanat sisters, Euphrosie, Louise, and Marcelle, entered the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament from La Mure. Their father followed them and entered with the Fathers at St. Maurice as a brother. He died a holy death after a very brief time in community.

(III 1/5) #1687 (III 2/6) #1859 (III 3/5) #1890

THE RELIGIOUS OF MARSEILLES AND ANGERS

(VIII 1/1) #1598

REVEL DE NESC, COUNTESS ADELE DE

Rectress of the Third Order of Mary, Directee of Fr. E., Miss de Revel was a faithful member of the Third Order and supported Fr. E. and Marguerite Guillot in this endeavor. It was to her home that he suggested Marguerite go for some rest. Her loyalty to the Marist Fathers and the Third Order were constant. Fr. E.'s new foundation was difficult for her to accept.

(VII 13/17 VIII 26) #1548 (VII 15/17 VIII 26) #1710
(VII 14/17 VIII 26) #1694 (VII 16/17 VIII 26) #1796

RICHARD, MME. BENOITE nee MONTERIOL (SR. BENOITE DU SS)

Benoite Monteriol and her husband, Charles Richard, separated and joined the Blessed Sacrament communities. He, as a brother, lived simply in the community until death. She was part of the first group from Lyons for the foundation of the new community with Marguerite and Claudine Guillot. She became Mistress of Novices and later founding Superior of the House of Nemours. When Nemours closed, she did not return to community. Eventually, she and Sr. Philomene founded the Sisters of Jesus Hostia, whose sole community in Lyons merged with the Servants in 1951.

(VI 2/12) #1542 (VI 4/12) #1636
(VI 3/12) #1551 (VI 12/12) #1745

SPAZZIER, MME. ISABELLE

Mme. Spazzier joined Mme. Duhaut-Ally and her companions from Toulon to form the nucleus of adorers waiting in Paris for the foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Mme. Spazzier did not have a call to community life. Her bad health and her temperament indicated that she should leave. Fr. E. tried to help her find a living situation near retreat houses of sanctuaries where she could exercise her talents as an artist. He encouraged her to put aside the idea of the religious life and enrolled her (as well as Mme. de Grandville) as the first Lay Associate of the Order of the Blessed Sacrament.

(VII 16/19) #1653 (VII 17/19) #1663 (VII 18/19) #1764

Biographical Notes

STAFFORD, FR. FREDERIC, SSS

From Marseilles. Ordained June 6, 1868, at Versailles. Fr. E. preached at his first Mass on June 7th. Fr. Stafford served as Treasurer for the Paris Community. In his absence Fr. E. directed his handling of legal and practical matters for the closing of Nemours. Present at La Mure for the 30 day Mass after Fr. E.'s death, he directed the placement of his tombstone: a white prie-dieu with a monstrance above it, a stole, and an open book with the words: Let us love Jesus who loves us so in his divine Sacrament.

(III 1/11) #1883

TENAILLON, EDMOND (FR. E. TENAILLON SSS)

Alphonse and Edmond knew Fr. E. as young men. Their mother was a directee of the saint. Fr. E. prayed for the healing of Fr. Alphonse who had been ill, and he rejoiced at his progress in the novitiate. He gave them advice for pilgrimage to the sanctuaries of Southern France.

Fr. Edmond was to become the postulator of the cause of St. Eymard in 1885. In 1898 he began to tour various regions of France to begin the Process.

(III 1/3) #1851

TENAILLON, MME. EULALIE

From Paris. Mother of four children: three sons and one daughter. She was a directee of Fr. E. and a friend of his sisters. Her two sons Alphonse and Edmond joined the Blessed Sacrament community.

(III 1/11)	#1742	(III 4/11)	#1830	(III 7/11)	#1842
(III 2/11)	#1757	(III 5/11)	#1847		
(III 3/11)	#1785	(III 6/11)	#1853		

THOLIN-BOST, MME. CLOTILDE

From Amplepuis-Tarare. She and her sister were early members of the Third Order of Mary. Fr. E. had close ties with the Bost family. (cf. Antonia Bost) Mme. Clotilde helped to establish the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Chamond, Rouen, Tours, Amplepuis and Tarare. She was influential in bringing Fr. E. there for missions, etc. She established home adoration. In his correspondence with her, Fr. E. often discussed the Eucharistic apostolate and shared his spiritual insights and ideals with her. Her father (a widower) desired the religious life and entered the Carthusians for a short time.

(IV 50/52)	#1604	(IV 51/52)	#1643	(IV 52/52)	#1712
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THOMAS, MISS THEODORINE

Miss Thomas resided near the Fathers in Paris and took care of their clothing. She went to La Mure with Fr. Chanuet when they learned of Father's illness. She helped to care for him in his final hours.

(III 2/14)	#1727	(III 4/14)	#1750	(III 6/14)	#1848
(III 3/14)	#1733	(III 5/14)	#1761	(III 7/14)	#1861

VALERGA, BISHOP, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

The Patriarch welcomed the idea of a foundation in Jerusalem and suggested that a temporary foundation take place while waiting for the possibility of acquiring the Cenacle.

(VI 2/3)	#1526	(VI 3/3)	#1572
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VAN DERKER, FR., S.J.

Ghent, Belgium. Unknown.

(VIII 1/1) #1793

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

January - March 1865

Jan 6	Request presented to Msgr. Capalti, the Secretary of the Propaganda, for permission to have a foundation in the Holy Land for the purpose of purchasing the Cenacle.
Jan 6-15	Preaching At St. Andre della Valle during the solemn octave of the Epiphany.
Jan 20 or 21	Visits to Cardinals Barnabo and Petra and to Msgr. Capalti.
Jan	Consultations in Rome regarding formulation of Constitutions.
Jan 25 - Mar 30	Great Retreat of Rome at the Redemptorist Monastery at Villa Caserta on via Merulana, while waiting for a reply concerning the Cenacle.

January 25 - March 30, 1865

Great Retreat of Rome

Feb 2	Mass at St. Peter's.
Feb 3	Visit to the Propaganda.
Feb 4	Attended ceremony at the Church of Santa Maria della Pace for the Triduum (presence of Holy Father).
Feb 10	Visited 40 hour devotions at St. Agatha's Church.
Feb 14	Visit in town.
Feb 17	Meditation done at the Church of the Lady Adorers.
Feb 21	Celebrated Mass at St. Praxedes.
Feb 22	On Pilgrimage.
Feb 25	In town.
Feb 27	Day off at Castel Gandolfo.
Feb 28	Visited 40 hour devotions for adoration at the Gesu.
Mar 3	Visited Cardinal Barnabo and Msgr. Capalti at the Propaganda.
Mar 4	Visited the Propaganda.
Mar 9	Received disturbing letter from Fr. de Cuers.
Mar 14	Meditation at St. Peter's; adoration at St. Frances of Rome (40 hours devotions).
Mar 15	In Town.
Mar 16	Visits to three Cardinals.
Mar 21	Pilgrimage to St. Paul's Basilica and San Benedetto in Piscinula.
Mar 25	Ceremonies at the Minerva; the Holy Father attending.
Mar 26-28	40 hour devotions at the Redemptorist Monastery where he was staying.
Mar 28	Meeting of the Congregation of Cardinals.
Mar 29	Negative decision given to Fr. Eymard.
Mar 30	End of the Retreat. Departure at night for France.

April - June 1865

Beginning of April: Return to France from Rome.	
Apr 8-11	Stay in Lyons after brief rest at La Mure.
Apr 12-25	Return to Paris.
Apr 25	To Angers.
May 1, 3, 4	Conferences to the Servants (Angers).

May 24	Letter of Convocation to the General Chapter of the Society.
Jun 5	Correspondence from Paris. (dates of travel unknown)
Jun 11	Correspondence from Angers. (dates of travel unknown)
Jun 12	Retreat Day to the Servants (Angers).
Jun 16	Mission at St. Thomas Aquinas Church (Paris) to 300 lay adorers who maintained perpetual adoration

July - September 1865

Jul 3-12	Preparatory retreat for the General Chapter which was composed of 9 members.
Jul 6	Elected by the Chapter as Superior General for life.
Aug 1-8	(Approximately) To La Mure and then to La Salette to obtain the healing of his sister who was ill. Then returned to Paris.
Aug 21-26	To Angers.
Aug 23, 24	Conferences to the Servants (Angers).
Aug 29	To Brussels, Belgium to meet with Miss de Meeus.
Sep 2-8	In Paris.
Sep 8-27	To La Mure to see his sick sister. Visit to La Salette.
Sep 30	Return to Paris via Lyons and Nemours.

October - November 1865

October	The cholera was rampant in Paris.
Oct 19	At the estate of Ostreignies, near Maubeuge, he signed a contract with Miss de Meeus for a foundation for the first house in Brussels. (Salazar Street)
Oct 21	To Angers.
Oct 23	In Angers, healing of Mother Marguerite Guillot.
Oct 24	Conference to the Servants.
Oct 27 - Nov 2 or 3	Annual retreat to the Servants.
Nov 1	In Paris, First Communion for Adult Workers was taking place during his absence.
Nov 9	Conference to the Servants.
Nov 10	Returned to Paris via Meaux to meet Bishop Allou regarding a foundation for the Servants at Nemours.
Nov 14	To Lyons.
Nov 21	Received a supportive letter from the Cardinal of Malines.
Nov 21-27	To Tours for a retreat to the Ladies of Adoration at the Cathedral of St. Gaitien.
Nov 30	Return to Paris via Nemours.

December 1865

Nov 30	Return to Paris from Tours via Nemours.
Date Unknown:	Retreat to the group of Virginie Danion, possibly at Mauron. Mission at Nemours. cf. Letter of January 3, 1866.
Dec 8	Foundation at Nemours.
Dec 9-16	Retreat at Dreux.
Dec 16-25	To Brussels to preach Christmas Retreat.

Dec 23	Ordination of two candidates taking place in Angers.
Dec 25	Return to Paris.

January - March 1866

Jan 3	To Nemours for the day.
Jan 6-11	He preached the Octave of the Epiphany in Paris.
c Jan 20	To Meaux and Nemours regarding a foundation.
Jan 28	Departure for Brussels to begin a foundation there and to preach the diocesan 40 hours on Jan. 30, 31 and Feb. 1.
Feb 2	Foundation in Brussels on Salazar Street. He stayed there until April 23.
Mar 1	At Paris, beginning of 24 hour adoration.
Mar 2-10	Violent attack of intercostal shingles which left Father at death's door.
Passion Week (date unknown)	Preached retreat in Brussels.

April - June 1866

Apr 13-21	Preached a triduum at Ghent, the capital of Flanders.
Apr 23	Return to Paris after placing the Stations of the Cross in the small room where he had stayed in Brussels.
May 1	Beginning of the Spiritual exercises for the scholasticate in Paris.
May	(date unknown) First Communion of 40 workers in Paris.
May 17-19	Preached a Triduum for the beatification of Blessed Mary of the Angels at the Carmel of Bergerac, courtesy of Mme. Lepage. He stayed at the minor seminary where he preached to the Seminarians.
May 23	To Angers via Tours.
May 27	Conferences to the Servants.
Jun 7	Recalled to Paris for the sick. Preached the Octave of the Blessed Sacrament.
Jun 8	One day to Nemours.
Jun 15-21	Preached retreat at Mauron (Morbihan) to 200 Associates of "Thanksgiving," (Virginie Danion). Travelled via Rennes.
Jun 28	The future novitiate of St. Maurice was decided upon.

July - September 1866

Jul 15-21	Retreat for 200 Associates at Mauron.
Jul 27-30 (approx.)	annual retreat to the SSS Religious (men).
Aug 28	Conference to the Servants.
Sep 1-7	Annual Retreat for the Servants (Angers).
Sep 25-26	Last Pilgrimage to La Salette.
Sep 27-28	Last Pilgrimage to Laus, then Marseilles.
Sep 30-Oct 6	Retreat in Marseilles to the SSS Religious (men).

October - December 1866

Sep 30 -	Oct 6: Annual retreat to his Religious in Marseilles.
Oct 13-14	To Angers to purchase a new house for the Society.

Oct 16	Conference to the Servants (Angers).
Oct 24	To Brussels for one day.
Nov 5-11	Annual Retreat to the Servants (Nemours).
Dec 9-c19	To Brussels.
Dec 25	Foundation of the novitiate of St. Maurice at Midnight Mass (14 novices).
Dec 30	First Communion of Adult Workers (Paris).