

Life and Letters
of
Saint Peter Julian Eymard

Volume Six
1867 - 1868

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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1867 - 1868
Through The Tempest

*“We must bow our heads beneath the Cross and pray for those
who persecute and cause suffering.” (May 1, 1867)*

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout the first five volumes of the Life and Letters of St. Peter Julian Eymard we have followed the saint step by step through the major experiences and decisions of his life, described in his own words. We have benefited from the advice and direction given to countless contemporaries. We have discovered his humanness and his holiness and followed the development of his spirituality.

In this sixth and final Volume, we will learn even further how to face difficulties, accusations, challenges. St. Peter Julian teaches us by his life the meaning of personal transformation in Christ, of heroic hope in time of crisis and difficulties which were particularly acute in these last two years of his life. (1867-1868)

It is best described in his own words: “My soul is sad and crushed. Our Lord is leaving me in a vast desert. No doubt I deserve it.” (To Sr. Benoite, Feb. 22, 1868.)

Through it all he followed his own counsels to others: “If you don’t have any consolations, you have what is worth more, the strength and peace of trust in God. Hold onto these two possessions at any price, for they rise above the waves of the sea and the clouds of this life....

...Keep your heart uplifted and happy, keep a light spirit toward your troubles, but keep singing your love for both this and the eternal homeland.” (To Mme. Lepage, May 20, 1868.)

In this Volume, we also have access to a listing of conferences given to the Blessed Sacrament priests, brothers and novices, from the notes taken by the then brother, later Father Albert Tesniere SSS. The titles of these have been indicated here in their proper place. The frequency of the talks given here provide us an inkling of the frequency of his teachings to his community in the previous undocumented period.

In 1837, St. Peter Julian had written to his sister Marianne: “It is in the Lord that I come to speak with you in a spiritual way. Since our affection is rooted in God and for Heaven, it is only right that we assist one another on the long and difficult journey to eternity...”

Throughout these six volumes of Letters, we have been witnesses and beneficiaries of this desire of his, and we also have in some way been assisted on our own spiritual journey.

It is with a certain regret that we reach the closing final documents of his life... feeling the emotion of parting with a dear and beloved companion. Through his correspondence he has become also for us a caring friend, father and sure guide. May he continue through the Communion of Saints to be at our side and to guide us on the way.

Sr. Catherine Marie Caron SSS,
Translator

Commentary on the Collection of Letters

The collection of the correspondence of St. Peter Julian Eymard represents only a small part of the letters he wrote during his life. That is because he did not keep a copy of his letters, or only exceptionally so. Besides, we do not know of all his correspondents; he personally regularly destroyed the mail he received as a matter of discretion. He assured Mother Marguerite and other correspondents of it. Therefore, we only have the letters which his correspondents preserved, and even these collections are not complete. Certain letters were lost, even among those written to his sister Marianne. Other correspondents destroyed those letters which referred to personal issues, as Mme. d'Andigne declared in the investigative processes.

As for the specific question of July 19, 1968, we only have about three of the twenty or so letters which Father wrote.

As for the correspondence dictated to Fr. Tesniere at La Mure, there is no trace of it, nor hope of finding it.

Fr. Andre Guitton SSS
September 1, 1994

Key

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The list of topics taught at retreats and conferences is incomplete. But it is the one presently available to the translator. Conferences given to the priests and brothers of the Blessed Sacrament are indicated by the abbreviation SSS, those given to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament by the abbreviation Conf. Serv.

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

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

The Letters are divided into six volumes as follows:

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

CHAPTER I

Beneath the Cross January - June 1867

*“We must adore his cross as we do his Eucharist”
(May 1, 1867)*

From “Nazareth to the Cenacle”

- Compulsory sale of Faubourg St. Jacques (April 1, 1867)
- Purchase of property and transfer to Blvd. Montparnasse (April 12, 1867)

In the Tempest

- Closing of Nemours (May 29)
- False accusations

1893

CO 1892

TO MILES MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 138/145 VI 10)

A.R.T.¹

Paris, January 1, 1867

Very dear sisters,

You have my first wishes and my first blessing in our Lord.²

What a beautiful year is beginning for you! Now you are with the Blessed Sacrament and religious in the holiest of vocations. May God be praised and thanked a thousand times! You were so deprived in the world, so forsaken in your illness, now you are close to our good Master; you only have a few steps to take to find him. You find all the supports of religious life in the house, you have no more worries about temporal things. You belong entirely to God in his holy service.

How happy I am, dear sister, to see you share my good fortune, to know that you are happy! Oh! is there any greater happiness than to be with the Most Blessed Sacrament! to live only for him! So then, thank our Lord constantly and always be very faithful to your grace, for in heaven you will realize what a great grace it is!

I bless you again, dear sister. I will soon have the consolation to come to see you, around January 15th.

May our Lord, whom you have always loved and served, be your all.

All yours in our Lord,
Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.³

1894

CO 1893

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 91/104)

Paris, January 2, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your spiritual good wishes. They are the same that I also offered for you, or rather I was the first to offer them to God, since I was at adoration at 3:00 a.m., and I presented all my dear friends there at the throne of Jesus, especially you, whose soul and life are very dear to me in God's sight. I wish only one thing for you: greater love for God, a flame which grows higher and more intense. To love God and be loved by him, what more could we have or desire?

These are also my wishes for your dear devout sister because of her great love for the good Lord!

I'm sorry I didn't write to you immediately, you could have come here. I was expecting you to come and then occupations took all my attention. Well then! Another time!

¹ Abbreviation for *Adveniat Renum Tuum*: The Kingdom Come.

² For the New Year.

³ Sup. - Abbreviation for Superior

Beneath the Cross

It will be a sacrifice for me not to go to my Bethany at Nantes, but I couldn't resist the Superior's insistence.⁴

Please pray for me. At this time we are looking for a little Cenacle for our Lord who is being expelled by compulsory sale.

Believe me ever in our Lord,
Dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1895

CO 1895

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 29/36)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, January 3, 1867

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am very pleased to be the first to wish you a God-ly year, a year that flows from his heart and his most tender love!

You have really suffered, dear daughter! Oh! So much agony, so many deaths! and for what a cause! God willed it so! for your greater good and his greater glory. Adore his merciful plans. For bread to be good, it must be sifted, ground and baked. Let yourself be ground as was St. Ignatius, the martyr!

Don't look below or before you, but look above toward our heavenly Father who looks at you with pleasure. Accept this beautiful and fine humiliation; do so without turmoil or fear. Let the good and fatherly Providence of God act, and one day you will bless these trials which will have taught, purified and sanctified you.

Now I am more stable here in Paris. On Christmas day at midnight, we had the [joy] of opening a new house of adoration outside of Paris. It will be the novitiate and, later, a house of retreat and solitude. However, the devil is causing us difficulties. In the end, he is always overcome and expelled.

Take care of your health. I am afraid that all these frustrations might affect you too much. Have courage! pass through the wind, however strong it might be; it will purify you.

I bless you very reverently in our Lord and beg you to believe that I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

⁴ Fr. Jubineau, the local priest, invited Fr. Eymard to stay with him when he would come to Nantes.

1896

CO 1896

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 69/75)

Paris, January 3, 1867

Dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for prayers and wishes;⁵ I did repay them [in kind] and continue to do so every day because we have known each other for so long.

I sympathize with your fears and sorrows over your husband's illness. Yes, I will really pray for him, for soul and body. It's fortunate that he is accepting his situation quietly, but you do well to hope for greater devotion and holiness. Let's hope that God will hear our prayers, because he would be so admirable⁶ and happy if he were a little more devout!

I am very pleased with the happy news about your dear daughter and her child. Yes, God will bless them all and make him a great saint.

Poor Mme. Nugues! so she returned from Rome! To leave for such a reason is understandably very sad and hardly a blessing from above. A peaceful Rome astonishes the enemies of the Pope.

They were expecting a disaster, but the noble victim is again free and at peace!

Poor people! They do not include God in their plans. God could certainly exclude them from his. There are so many prayers for the Holy Father! Above all, God loves his Church.

We must hope against all hope, and raise our eyes toward the mountain of salvation without looking for human support.

Do become a saint! It's time. In order to become a great saint be a soul of prayer and service. The essential thing is to desire it and pursue it.

Don't forget me in your prayers. You know that you are engraved in my calendar.

Goodbye, I bless you in our Lord and in Him I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1897

CO 1897

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 349/395 VI 2)

Paris, January 10, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm very happy to know that you are in Nemours. This visit will be good for everyone.

I also hoped to go, but I am over-burdened with serious matters. I'll go later.

I must leave for Angers Monday or Tuesday at the latest. However, since you are at Nemours, stay there as long as you can.

Mr. Ravon would have liked a down payment. I think we owe him 6,000 francs for candles. He seemed a bit surprised that we ordered 400 additional kilos from him without paying him anything for the past [orders].

⁵ New Year's wishes.

⁶ French: *meritant*.

How are we going to proceed? We will pray to our good Master, in whose honor the candles burn, to send us some resources.

We are also up short because of our new house at St. Maurice.

The good Lord is so good! A father doesn't forsake his children. I sent [the price for] the weight of the balance.

My blessing to everyone and especially to our dear patient.

All yours,
Eymard

1898

CO 1898

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 179/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, January 11, 1867

Very dear Father,

I am a bit late in writing to you.... That is because the New Year's gift [I received] was an infection which is still bothering me.

Here enclosed, I'm sending you two documents about your pension; wouldn't it be easier to arrange to withdraw it in Marseilles? That would be easier for you. Find out what would be best.

We have a few sick members: Fr. Cardot, a novice; Brother Marius is having trouble with his eyes; Fr. Champion has just sent him back to me. Another also has a cold. Here is sad news: Brother Eugene could not correct himself and humble himself for a bad fault; he had begun to drink. He left, poor brother! I pity him with my whole heart, and we pray for him.

We celebrated the royal feast of the Epiphany, making it as beautiful as possible. Brother Frederic took his vows that day; his first vows had expired. I find him very dedicated to the Society and to his duties as an adorer. He had become discouraged in Angers without his theology classes.

I couldn't find out the exact amount of the cashed check. Brother Eugene was the one who had cashed it. On my books I have 1500, but if that isn't the amount you have, you may have added something from Brother Charles or others to round off the figure? I vaguely remember that you had told me so.

Next week I'm going to see Angers, and the plans to be drawn up, since the Bishop made us tear down the theater building. Although it was new, it was very light, not very solid. It may really be Providential, as we might have had some bad luck in a storm, especially with the roof.

Nothing new yet about the compulsory purchase. They are constantly coming to try to settle it outside of court; they are offering 300,000. I'm told that the jury will go higher. They have dealt with everyone; no doubt they want to wear us out. Then, it's useless to try to settle down elsewhere, since we don't know anything. Nevertheless, I am searching, but everyone has such high prices.

Pray for me; there are times when I could give up! Since you are more fortunate and more recollected at the feet of the Master, you can at least adore him in peace and tranquility.

I am in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Finally your two books from the Land Credit are leaving in the mail. They were in the library desk, and we didn't know where the keys were.

For the journal, we had agreed that each house would take turns to pay for one year; it is your turn. Fr. Chanuet would also like to receive it; I don't know what to do. If you could reach an agreement in Marseilles or subscribe to it yourself, you could [then] send it to him.

1899

CO 1899

TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS, SSS
(VI 6/7)

Paris, January 11, 1867

To dear Brother Marie

Very dear brother,

I am thanking our good Master for healing you. I prefer to see you work a little longer for his good and royal service.

You were quite ready⁷, since you had just made your vows; but it will only serve to make you even more courageous and devoted to the service of the good Master. So I do pray to him for you in order that the good dispositions you expressed to me in your last letter may ever be the blessed law of your life. God will bless you, dear brother, because you seek and want him alone. Always continue to be a good servant.

I bless you very affectionately⁸ in our Lord, and I am, dear brother,

All yours,
Eymard

1900

CO 1900

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

Paris, January 11, 1867

Mademoiselle,

I am late to tell you, first of all, that I received the Masses you sent me for your dear beloved brother, for whom I so love to pray, because I do not separate him from you and we do not forget our first and longstanding friends.

I was very sad to learn that you are feeling worse - but also [happy to know] that you accept it fully and are very closely united to the holy will of God. Yes! Surrender to the fatherly Providence which has always watched over you so caringly and has guided you so well in your duties and in [finding] trust.

What God wants is always the best, even death, because his holy will makes everything holy and more perfect.

⁷ Perhaps a close brush with death

⁸ Lit: with all the affection of my soul

I do pray for you, in order that the divine Goodness may give you some relief and [the grace of] total surrender into his hands.

If I didn't write to you sooner, it's because I was still ill, although able to function for necessary things.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Mademoiselle,

All yours

1901

CO 1901

TO THE BISHOP OF VERSAILLES

(VIII 1/1)

9

Your Excellency,

The Superior of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament begs Your Excellency to give him the faculty to establish, in the novitiate house founded at St. Maurice, the Way of the Cross in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin, so that those who live there may, by honoring the Passion of our Lord, benefit from the many indulgences attached to this holy exercise, when legitimately established.

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament began in the house of St. Maurice at midnight on the holy Day of Christmas. We have dedicated the house to the Child Jesus, so that our novices may be reborn in his spirit and virtues. So, Your Excellency, we are yours, and most happy to be the children of a Bishop so dedicated to the Holy See and its pure doctrines.

It is with the greatest veneration that I am, in our Lord, Your Excellency,

Your humble and devoted servant,
Pierre Eymard
Sup. Cong. S.S.¹⁰

St. Maurice
January 12, 1867

1902

CO 1902

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS

(I 23/29 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, January 15, 1867

Very dear Father,

I am leaving immediately for Angers. Take Brother Anatole aside and tell him with kindness the observations you shared with me about his character; that poor child would be dismayed by so much attention.

⁹ At this place is the seal of the Archives of Versailles, which reads as follows: Ecclesiastical Archives, Bishop's house, Versailles S&O that is A G

¹⁰ Abbreviation for Superior of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Study their temperaments and approach them ordinarily with kindness and patience, because people do not know or admit their defects of character. Self-love covers and protects our ego. Never let yourself be moved by antipathy against any of your children; that is an ordinary temptation of the devil.

Hold to silence, to prompt, blind and cordial obedience. When you have given an order and specified a time and place, that is still not enough. Go to see whether they have obeyed literally. You must see for yourself and enforce expected sanctions after infractions.

It was a real sacrifice for me that I could not come to see you. I'll go when I return.

Please come Thursday for the 4 o'clock instruction and to hear the confessions of the community on Friday.

I bless you all in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Let the urgent work be done in the garden. On Sunday we were given notice for the compulsory sale.

Jan. 17, 18, 19 - Triduum at Nantes during which he explained the method of the four ends of Sacrifice.

1903

CO 1903

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 8/11)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Nantes, January 18, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I thank you for your letter which is so repentant and so devoted. I read it all and tried to rack my brain to remember what you might have told me that could have hurt me. But you did not hurt me at all. I don't know anything about it and I assure you this is really true. I only think of my children's welfare, their graces and how I can help them. Therefore, the thought of you here at Nantes is unmarred and my dedication to your dear soul is still the same.

You mention the fool... I forget what she said. - I only remember a daughter who is fully dedicated to our Lord and to the Society. Our dear Master is very kind.... He is blessing his poor servant with strength and courage - I didn't finish my letter to your dear children. On Sunday, I will try to find a moment to do so as I am preaching three times a day. Everything will be over Sunday night.

I leave you, dear daughter, at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.¹¹

<i>Jan 21</i>	<i>Conference Servants: (Angers) The cord of the Blessed Sacrament, the holy habit.</i>
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¹¹ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

1904

CO 1904

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

(I 180/181 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, January 27, 1867

Very dear Father,

Here enclosed is the document returned and signed. The papers that you are requesting are, I hope, in a desk for which Fr. Chanuet must have the key. I'll be seeing him these days and I'll ask him about all that.

I didn't respond to your request for one more priest because I don't have any. Fr. Champion is making the same request, and I am answering in the same way. In a month and a half, Brother Chave will be a priest.

Here, I have Fr. Billon and a priest-postulant who might leave at any time. So please have a little more patience.

As for yourself, do not have any scruples because you cannot do like the others: it's not your fault; you are ill and it comes from God. So therefore, God wants you that way.

As for the Superiorship, I want you to continue with it. However, if this responsibility increases your illness and takes away your peace, I certainly do not want to hold on to my opinion any longer. I would allow you to be dispensed from it.

For the 1500 francs, I believe the simplest way is for you to hold on to your pension until there is a good price. Also, please take the necessary steps to withdraw it in Marseilles. It would be unfair on the part of the Administration to refuse you that. You have a right to it, and it would simplify things.

We are always kept busy by the concerns regarding the compulsory purchase. Pray for me; I hardly have time to breathe.

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

<i>Jan 28</i>	<i>Conference Servants: (Angers) Novena, providence, politeness and joy.</i>
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1905

CO 1906

TO MR. RAVANAT

(III 4/5)

Paris, January 28, 1867

Dear Mr. Ravanat,

I've just returned from Angers. I bestowed the cord on Sr. Marie Louise, she is very happy. She and her sister would be more so if their dear father and sister Marie were with her and Sr. Euphrosie.

Before giving her the cord, I took her aside and asked her if her desire to stay came from a willing heart and free will. She gave me a full-hearted yes.

Now, as your three daughters will become Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament, it is necessary that papa Ravanat be with them, and be the temporal father of the house of these fine Adorers.

God allowed that the [previous] helper of the Ladies should leave them; the post is vacant. If you feel that it would suit your piety and your heart to be there as their temporal father, I would wholeheartedly urge you to do so. If you didn't feel at ease with it later, we would always receive you here with us very fondly.

I need a prompt response please, for I'm asking the Ladies of Angers not to take anyone before I receive your answer.

Believe me in our Lord, dear papa Ravanat,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Best wishes to your dear daughter. We are waiting for her with joy.

1906

CO 1905

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 350/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, January 28, 1867

Very dear daughter,

I'm really sorry that I didn't see your dear ... tell her from me:

1. That the desire for death ... is not a sin at all.

2. That when she confesses her complaints, which are only temptations, she is accusing herself for having failed in trust in God, in a moment of temptation.

As for Joseph, he is wrong to say that my silence means consent. When he accompanied me, he spoke to me like someone who had decided to leave you, and was especially very angry against Mr. Dussouchet and the head carpenter.

He showed in it all not only that he is hot-headed, but also has a bad spirit.

Do not commit yourself for a few more days. It is better to pay someone to do your errands.

However, if you want to wait and keep him a few more days, you may do so. As for me, I say that it may be better to replace him. As you are there, you can judge better than I.

I bless you all in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - This week I hope to put in an appearance at Nemours; I'll see how things are going.

I'm very happy that Sr. Anne¹² is adjusting well and that my poor sister is giving herself totally to God.

If Mr. Ravanat does not want to go, the man from here will be happy to go and for less.

¹² Nanette Bernard and his sister.

1907

CO 1907

TO MISS PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)
(VI 1/7)¹³

[Nemours, January 30, 1867]

I hereby authorize Sr. Philomene to go, with one of the Sisters of the Community chosen by Rev. Mother - to spend a few hours in Faij to collect the papers and other personal effects which belonged to her mother, as requested by her sisters and her father.

Nemours, January 30, 1867
Eymard, Sup.

1908

CO 1894

TO EDMOND TENAILLON (FR. E. TENAILLON SSS)
(III 2/3)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, January 3, 1867

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your wishes on my behalf, which are so genuine and kind! I offer the same for you with my whole soul at the feet of our dear mutual Lord.

What I wish for you, is a love for our Lord and his glory which are as great as your graces, as great as his Heart. Yes, dear friend, work to love by [means of] divine love. Be set on fire in the Cenacle as you prepare for your priesthood. Be molded on the divine model of the eternal Priest, on Jesus.

Piety indicates that the soul is on fire with divine love. Therefore, be devout, but let your piety be tender, strong and interior. For we must take care of the hearth; preserve the vitality and intensify the action of the Holy Spirit within us, in order to rebound with greater strength and power toward God.

February 1. - I am so ashamed to see the date of this letter. Forgive my delay. However, it will prove to you that you three were the first ones on my list; but the flood came and pushed my fragile boat into the high seas. It is coming back to you today, sailing toward friendship. Your dear devout mother often gives me news about you, dear Mr. Edmond, and about your brothers, too. I am happy about it, for I see that your sun is rising toward its Creator and Savior. The season of family holidays is coming quickly. You must prepare a bouquet for it. Cull one flower each day at the altar, another at Montparnasse...but one that is Christian.

Goodbye, dear and good friend.

I bless you and love you.

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

¹³ This letter can be found in the Oratory of St. Peter Julian at the Generalate in Rome.

1909

CO 1908

TO ALPHONSE TENAILLON (FR. A. TENAILLON SSS)

(III 1/1)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, February 1, 1867

Dear Friend,

I am the last to come and express our good wishes to you, or rather, express my joy about your feelings and your decision. Tomorrow you will be invested with our Lord's venerable and sacred robe, the courtly attire of holy Church, the uniform of divine service. What a beautiful day! because the livery reveals the soldier and manifests his qualities and virtues.

Receive it with joy, wear it proudly, keep it ever beautiful. Oh! dear Mr. Alphonse, God really loves you! that is [almost] tangible, and yet we could say that we can only glimpse the rising sun. What will it be like at full noon? So then, be a good satellite of the divine Sun! I am not telling you: work to acquire knowledge. You are doing so with fervor and constancy. But add to these combined elements one which will make them all divine, a spirit of faith, that is, the divine reason for things and the spirit of love which is its holiness.

I am praying a great deal for you, dear friend. I feel that it is a duty for me, because I love you all as my own family. Think of me a little before God.

Goodbye, dear friend, my blessing is the same as my love for you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mr. Alphonse

Feb 3	Conference to SSS Religious (novices?) Paris. Spiritual Reading. Surrender.
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1910

CO 1909

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 351/395 VI 2)

Paris, February 3, 1867

Dear daughter,

I also received a letter from papa Ravanat with the same thoughts as yours; he was answering mine.

I urge you to return the silk robe. I've now received three unpleasant letters from Mr. Lafon, he is very upset. We'll find another way to withdraw your 180 francs.

Let Joseph leave. Such stubborn behavior shows heartlessness, and a propensity to do it again.

I'm waiting for the petition from Mr. Chesneau. My reply will be negative; that elderly woman has no right to it, the document from the city archives proves it. Only the riverside residents are listed, it is incomprehensible why that poor old woman should prefer to use the dead-end to go to Cordelle Street. That is nothing but gossip.

However, they may oblige you to channel the sewerage as far as rue de l'Hopital, if you don't have it made in the middle. Look into it; there have been complaints; it would be easier to put it in the middle. Get an opinion on it.

You have the right to receive and dismiss aspirants, postulants, and novices, without the Chancery. Is it possible that they would be inclined to give their support to strangers and unsuitable persons, rather than to the house itself!

Sr. Benoite is well enough, as well as her little family.

Goodbye, dear daughter. Eat very eucharistically.

I bless you all in our Lord, especially my sister and Nanette.

Eymard

1911

CO 1910

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 9/15)

A.R.T.

Paris, Feb. 3, 1867

Before answering your [letter] I wanted to see Mr. Rattier.¹⁴ I saw him January 31st at Nemours. He took the initiative to speak to me about the will¹⁵ and I found that he was very set in his ideas:

- 1) that the will is null, that the transferable share of the will exceeds the legal share since it donates one-half instead of one-third.
- 2) that it isn't possible that his sister would have changed her mind. He said: she assured me a hundred times that she would not disinherit her daughters for becoming religious. It was on this point that Mr. Rattier said that the change and the excessive share given in the will prove to him that his sister was influenced.

The answer I gave was that Madame had consulted me about it, and that I had told her that she could very well give her daughter Blanche what was transferable, etc. I even affirmed that you had nothing to do about it, and were not even informed about the will. I don't know if I was right, but I said that the will gave only the legal quota.

None of that seemed to have much effect on Mr. Rattier, not that he is upset or frustrated against you, but, as he wrote to Mr. de Couchies, he believes that it's a matter of justice, if there is an excess of the transferable share.

I will see him again; surely, your dear mother-in-law could benefit her daughter who has a large family and show her this sign of love and devotion.

Besides, I am sure that Mr. Rattier has kept all his good will and love for you.

As for your sisters-in-law who are religious, they are and will always be as their love and veneration for their devout mother has led them to be, both in the past and in the present.

Believe me ever, dear Mr. Amedee,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. If you need me, I will be happy to do some errands for you, because we belong to the same family and are one in our Lord.

¹⁴ His wife's uncle.

¹⁵ of Mme. de Couchies.

1912

CO 1911

To FR. JUBINEAU¹⁶
(VI1/3)

Paris, February 4, 1867

Dear Father Superior,

Kindly forgive me. I have been away from Paris, and for several days I have been almost like the holy Cure d'Ars, leaving my cell and returning to it merely for a short rest in the evening. I am sending you your certificates. I shall mail you the Aggregation papers. Also, I have already written two-thirds of the method of adoration and you will receive it shortly.

I am preaching a retreat in Paris, and that is keeping me busy at the moment. I was very pleased with my brief stay with you; I found your missionaries most edifying. They have such a fine spirit of simplicity, charity and zeal, and so I continue to think of you. I hope the grotto is completed, and that your zeal will be able to accomplish what your heart and grace desire.

Pray for me, dear Father Superior; our compulsory sale is keeping me very busy, but once we are on the battlefield we can fire ten shots as well as two.

I am most faithfully united with you in our Lord and am all yours,

Eymard

If the persons to be Associated wish to donate a small sum to cover expenses, it would be fine,
- but it isn't necessary.

1913

CO 1912

To FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I42/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 11, 1867¹⁷

Dear Father,

I praise God wholeheartedly to see the good that you are doing in Marseilles! The hundred Guards¹⁸ made me the happiest! Marseilles is the leader for adoration and its heart.

I admire their generosity toward our Good Master; that is what proves their love for his glory....

How good God is to console us a little! May he fill your good and beautiful apostolate with all the graces of his holy love and all the joy of the Holy Spirit.

I'm enclosing the plan of the church of Angers, in order that you may study it and give me your opinion. You need to understand that the entrance to the sacristy is from the house behind the property.

The figure given to us by the architect for the expenses is 40,000 francs; that is the minimum. There are 5,000 to 6,000 francs worth of materials from the demolition.

They could not begin anything yet because of the cold. The good weather will soon be here.

¹⁶ Sup. of Missions of the Imm. Conception, Nantes.

¹⁷ Published in French as 1862. The contents indicate 1867.

¹⁸ Guard of Honor members.

Mr. Coltat will strike the medals for you; he has the raw materials. I'll advance the 30 francs to him, it was hardly worth it. But when in need, people should say so and not make others wait like that.

We are all involved in all the errands and anxieties surrounding the approaching compulsory sale and we are being threatened with eviction on short notice. Have a Novena said to St. Joseph for us for that intention, beginning Wednesday so that we may know where the Master wants to go.

Have courage and confidence, dear Father; we are working with and for such a good Master, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1914

CO 1913

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 24/29 VI 2)

Paris, February 11, 1867

Dear Father,

I forgive you wholeheartedly for your impatience against Mr. Madrid, because to a certain extent, you were right. But God is teaching us a good lesson that way: we don't gain anything by getting angry or speaking too emphatically. Let us try to see our Lord in all these difficult situations, and to prefer gentleness to strength, patience to rudeness. I need it myself; ask God to take care of my weakness, dear Father.

Kindly send me the report for the Masses said by your Fathers. I don't have Fr. Augonnet's for the month of December.

I don't know whether I will succeed in having Brother Anatole ordained as a sub-deacon. Since it would be the Society's responsibility, I will have a council meeting. If his vocation is doubtful and if he is really not working to correct himself, we will leave him as he is. So, dear Father, through charity and through justice, put his back to the wall so that he may have nothing with which to reproach you.

Remember that people seldom see or blame themselves for lack of upbringing or character defects because people are used to themselves.

Fr. Durand will spend about a week with you. Give him the freedom to go out and to do his devotions when he wishes. You can put him in my room.

I learned about your stonework. That's fine, but take about an hour and a half of rest after dinner, to allow time for digestion.

I really want to go see you all, but a thousand and one things are holding me back, especially the preparations for the compulsory sale; we received the notice from the board of examiners.

1915

CO 1914

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST

(IV 23/28)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 12, 1867

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

I am so upset with myself for having made you wait so long for an answer so rightly due! I did like bad creditors do who believe they have paid, but it was only in their sleep.

To sum up, here I am, repentant.

Do continue, always continue your daily holy Communion. It's better to give up that confessor, if you must. Live above all, then the spiritual and godly plan of life we gave you with just reasons and complete information.

You know from experience that you need strength more than moralizing, grace more than virtue, love more than spiritual practices... So, put aside all your scruples and worries, and go forward by the strength of a good breeze or standing in the wind; but in that case, we must walk the plank of trust in God and continue to go forward with full sails.

You belong to God, are totally and always God's: therefore, you must live by God, rest in God, and rejoice in God. Well, how can you do it, if not by holy Communion?

Therefore, you must receive Communion, with your eyes on the Heart of our Lord who is calling you, [listening to] the voice of obedience which is telling you: Go! not with your eyes on yourself in the mirror of your actions or virtues. If that were the case you would need to go and hide in the deepest recesses of a cave in the desert and cry because you are still alive.

Write to tell me that you are better and that you are following my direction, because I know you better than anyone else.

So now, you are with your friend! *Deo Gratias*¹⁹... Always be happy, devout and joyful, but in your own way, as God has made you.

I promise that one of these days I will write to your friend Miss Bonis.

Goodbye dear daughter. I bless you and I am ever devoted to you in our good Master.

Eymard, SS

1916

CO 1915

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 15/26)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 12, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

If you hadn't told me that I haven't written to you since January, I wouldn't believe it! You know how the thought of you and Miss Antonia are etched in my soul; I can say that you are always present in my heart's thought and even more: I was sad that I wasn't receiving news from you. The outcome is that I am the one at fault and I will try to repay my old debts. So then you are at Rennes, welcomed, loved and at peace. May God keep you so for a long time, because peace is a great

¹⁹ Thanks be to God.

blessing. However, we need to receive it knowing that it is a passing gift: you know that people are like the weather.

Thank God for it and do what you can to increase it. Don't worry about illness or death. God is watching over you now and will do so in the future. You still have a lot of good to do! You are at the height of your strength, age and zeal; it was only a trial. God allowed it so that you would progress in holy childlike trust, without being so concerned about what you lack, but more about his goodness, mercies and love for you.

I would really like to see you. Who knows whether I may have some business in your area? In that case my first visit would be yours, as are my first prayer and blessing.

I will stop now since I want my letter to go quickly to greet you: my heart wasn't late.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1917

CO 1916

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 30/36)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 13, 1867

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I share deeply in your sacrifice. God has taken your esteemed and very kind Father from this world²⁰ to take him with Him in Paradise. It's the hour for the blessed harvest for him! The death of the Just is precious in the sight of God, a gentle sleep on the heart of our Lord. Oh! May ours at least be one of love! We must now pray for the total purification of this dear soul. I will do so with you so much more fondly since I also knew and loved this good Father.

It will be one less bond for you on this earth. Two major ones were broken this year - the parish and the house.

Go directly to God alone, without complaining that you no longer have a director close at hand. The more you advance, the less you will have. There comes a time when God wants us for himself and he is enough for us. Live deeply within your own soul in our Lord, because that is your real home and your real life.

Goodbye, dear sister and daughter in the divine Eucharist. I bless you as I am always united to you in this good Master.

Eymard, S.S.

<p><i>Feb 14 Spiritual Teaching - Beginning of a series of weekly conferences on the divine Eucharist given to religious and public together in the chapel in Paris, based on the text: "I am the bread of life." (Fr. St. Pierre L'Heure du Cenacle p. 362 and the new Series published in 1950.)</i></p> <p><i>Public Conference: Communion, our bread of life.</i></p>

²⁰ Spiritual director.

1918

CO 1922

TO MR. RAVANAT
(III 5/5)

Paris, February 14, 1867

Dear papa Ravanat,

I thank the good Lord for your fine resolve to come and join your daughters. It will be an intimate family for you. You will only be changing residence and occupation. If you're not satisfied there, you can come with us and we will always receive you with open hearts and arms.

Try, good papa Ravanat, to come as soon as you can. However, take your time, but come as quickly as you can. Bring us some of the tools that you make because we will certainly need them at Saint-Maurice. However, if you can't, let's forget it.

I can imagine the joy and happiness of your dear daughter Marie, coming with her dear father to join her sisters who are so happy at the service of our dear Master.

Please pray for us. We will certainly do so for you.

Goodbye, or rather see you soon, dear papa Ravanat.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1919

CO 1924

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 32/36)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 14, 1867

My dear sister in our Lord,

Your letter arrived on time. I hadn't finalized the sale yet, so you are free to buy the one you would like at Rennes.

I advise you to read sacred scripture often, both the Old and the New Testaments, and also whatever you can find in French from St. Bernard, St. Bonaventure, St. Jerome, such as his Letters. Read them; they will really help you. We must listen to the word of God in its divine source.

Goodbye, dear Sister Anne; your name means grace; obtain it for me with God.

I bless you in our good Master.
Eymard

<i>Feb 15</i>	<i>Conf. to the SSS Religious (novices?) Theology Class: Spirit and Method. Conference: The Rule, its Approbation at St. Peter's (Pius IX).</i>
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1920

CO 1917

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 92/104)

Paris, February 17, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Finally, this morning, I finished writing my little method of adoration and I am sending it to Fr. Jubineau. If they find it adequate and likely to be helpful, you will see. You would have needed to imprison me in Nantes before leaving and tell me that I wouldn't get out before finishing it. It's just that I'm not free in Paris. They shackle me with things to do and I don't know how to get around it.

So I am settled here in Paris. However, I need to give a retreat at the Novitiate soon, but we haven't yet decided when [it will be]. I think you should wait a little for your retreat for the weather to improve because it's so depressing when it rains!

You know that I will be entirely at your service; I came back from Nantes the same as when I left.²¹ That is, I made no new acquaintances there, you are the only one I kept and know.

However, I was really impressed by people at Nantes. There is a lot of good potential to be set on fire for the most Blessed Sacrament. For it seems to me that worship of the Blessed Sacrament is quite cold there, and that except for the adoration, preaching about the Blessed Sacrament is lacking.

France isn't like Rome, where Forty Hours Adoration is sufficient because of its solemnity; we need preaching also because we are less educated and devout. I won't comment about you, because I presume you are wholly God's.

Your telegram really pleased me, because I read two small reproaches into it. First, that I wouldn't read your letter. Secondly, that I would put it off until the next day. Well, you really succeeded, because I set to work immediately.

I leave you in our Lord. My religious regards to your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.²²

1921

CO 1918

TO FR. JUBINEAU
(VI 2/3)

Paris, February 17, 1867

Dear Father Superior,

At last I am sending you my poor little method of adoration. Do what you like with it: prune it, shorten it, add to it.

One can do nothing worthwhile on the battlefield, and that is the position I am in since I left Nantes. One must stay at one's post, but sometimes one would like to escape.

²¹ Literally: I was like new.

²² Abbreviation for Superior.

I still remember with joy the few days I spent with you. Your fine gentlemen edified me greatly.²³ They are good and excellent religious, well-deserving of Holy Church and souls.

In reply to your questions:

1. The only essential thing to become an Associate is to give the designated person the signed certificate of Aggregation. The rest is only complementary. If you wish to have a ceremony as we have in our houses when we receive several at once, you may - I usually do this - have the person kneel, and recite over him the formula "I, because of the faculties." This is done without ceremony, without a surplice. This is more impressive - but you must decide for yourself.

2. There is only one obligation: to make a monthly adoration; but even if it is missed, the person remains an Associate, since he is unconditionally affiliated to the spiritual benefits of the Society. It is just that one is depriving oneself of this grace of adoration, and doing some harm to others.²⁴

3. All the other practices indicated on the certificate are merely suggestions.

4. When the delegated priest recites "I, because of the faculties," he recites it in his own name - it is always the same source and the same faculty.

Pray for me, dear Father Superior, I have great need of it; every day my duties increase and extend further, and my strength and virtue diminish.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

1922

CO 1919

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 352/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 20, 1867

Dear daughter,

I received your letter and its contents. I'll take care of all your errands and business with Mr. Ravon.

My God! Let's get rid of Miss Sterlingue. She no longer loves a Work she had longed for with such generosity. She hurts me every time I see her. She ought to pay the taxes for the house and the places for which she has the keys and use; the rest is ours.

Blessed be the Cross! Let this storm pass. It will pass like so many others. We must pity these poor people.

You ought to write yourself to Mme. Ratel, rue Traversiere, Tours. She should pay board, but they will find it a little high. Leave it more or less to their discretion, saying that it is 600 francs for the novices, and 3 francs a day for retreatants.

Be smooth with Mr. Trottier.

Nothing new about our house now or in the immediate future. We are praying and placing our confidence in divine Providence.

I bless you in haste,

All yours,
Eymard

²³ Religious Community.

²⁴ perhaps by their example? Ed.

Yes, have my sister and yours eat meat and you most of all.
I wrote to Mr. Ravanat; I hope he will come soon.

1923

CO 1920

TO DR. GERMAIN BONNES, LA MURE
(VII 2/2)

Paris, February 20, 1867

Dear Mr. Bonnes,

Let me thank you for your last letter and for your dear friendship. It means a lot to me.

If you come to Paris for the Expo, I hope that you won't look for any other place to live than ours. You will be received as a friend.

My sister writes to tell me that you want to make a kitchen out of the shed. It is only right that we should pay for it and not you. So get an estimate and kindly send it to me. Also, she told me that she offered to let you rent the whole house, except my room. As for me, I don't make any exceptions, because when I go to La Mure, I am there so briefly that I wouldn't want to deprive you of that large room. So, if you prefer it, please use it as your own.

My sister wrote that she was very happy with your portrait. She is fine; she will stay in Angers as long as she wishes - she often thinks about La Mure and about you who were so kind to her. Please accept my fond gratitude, and believe me ever in our Lord,

Dear Mr. Bonnes,
All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

<i>Feb 21</i>	<i>Public conference in Paris: Communion, our daily bread.</i>
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1924

CO 1921

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 10/15)

Paris, Feb. 21, 1867

Dear Mr. Amedee,

We all join with you in the novena for the healing of your dear mother, our dear sister in our Lord.²⁵ We began it with you yesterday and we will make it in union with you all.

Please tell this dear mother how fond and dedicated I am to her, and how I would like to see her. She must be suffering a great deal to be absent from her angelic duty as an adorer, but our good Master wants her to adore him now on the cross, and in union with his sufferings.

They gave me the package of 6 photographs of Mme. de Couchies, your devout and holy mother-in-law; what should I do with it? to whom should I send them in your name? I don't know whether the bill is paid; rather, I don't believe it is. I will ask Fr. Chanuet about it.

²⁵ Sr. Camille du SS.

The lovely chapel of All Saints which I love wholeheartedly is surrounded with small calvaries which bind souls and bodies to the cross, but my heart goes there often, and you, dear Mr. Amedee, you must bear the cost of everything. Find the time to go visit, greet and pray to your divine Guest who is the Head of the house.

Remember me to mother and to Madame, for whom I wish a full return of good health.
Believe me ever very fondly,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

Feb. 24 - Eymard related to the chapter of the Paris Community the story of his ecstasy at St. Peter's on Jan. 5, 1859.

1925

CO 1923

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT)
(IV 31/36)

A.R.T.

Paris, February 24, 1867

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I received your letter and the 2 francs enclosed for a Mass which we are pleased to say for these intentions. Your ciborium will be ready, I hope, for about that price.

I won't write anything personal to you today because I am too rushed; I will do so later. However, let me tell you that fire feeds on itself when a good hearth supplies it. Activity is its element that's true, but the true activity of love is within. You can see that our Lord imprisoned you within yourself and in himself by the storms which occurred.

When our Lord will desire that this flame should have an external function and make it blaze, a small wind will quickly bend its flame toward the wood which surrounds it. When that wind blows in your direction, then let it consume you totally. God is the one who is stirring it.

Goodbye, good and dear sister in our Lord. I bless you. Pray to St. Joseph for us; we have many burdens because of the compulsory sale, and we still don't know where we will lodge our Master. We are told that April 1st may be our deadline here. Make a novena to St. Joseph for me for this intention.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

Conferences to SSS Religious (novices?). (Could he have gone to St. Maurice at this period?)

Feb 26 Historical detail: Paris.

Feb 27 Historical detail: with the Pope.

Mar 3 Conference on the Rule. The Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

Mar 4 Monday before Lent. Politics.

Mar 5 Class. Method.

Mar 6 Ash Wednesday. Fasting and the Law of the Church.

1926

CO 1925

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 353/395 VI 2)

Paris, March 5, 1867

Dear daughter,

I'm sending you Fr. Courtois' letter. Keep this note in the meantime.

I threatened Nemours, they are beginning to understand.

Receive the Lieutaud Ladies well and as they wish, for they are so good; then it is a providential plan of God for you. They had always thought about the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Were it not for their mother, they would have been among the first to enter.

Kindly send us lace from Lyons, or rather, wait. I'll look for some in Paris, that would be more practical.

Be broad-minded for Lent, but firm for what is possible, evidently.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

1927

CO 1926

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)
(IV 93/104)

Paris, March 5, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I'm sending you the address you requested and I really hope to see you get better. They tell me that this remedy is the best there is.

You must have received my method.²⁶ I don't know whether it deserved to be circulated. At least I showed good will. I told Fr. Jubineau to cut, eliminate, remove whatever he wishes. I still don't know when I'll be able to write to you about your retreat. On March 8th, our compulsory sale will be decided upon by the jury with resulting concerns for reinstallation. Please pray for the 8th and the four following days. Pray to St. Joseph for us.

I am sending you the address of Saumur, here enclosed. I am asking God to heal you.

Goodbye, I bless you heartily in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

Conferences to SSS Religious (novices?).

Mar 8 Chapter of faults; Surrender to Providence.

Mar 14 Chapter of faults. Architecture for our buildings.

Mar 17 Conference Servants: (Angers) The transfiguration, the cord, the habit.

²⁶ of adoration.

1928

CO 1927

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 16/26)

Angers, March 17, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing you these few words from Angers: I came here about the construction of a church of the Blessed Sacrament and for the ordination of one of our religious. I will be in Paris on Monday. The City has just imposed a compulsory sale upon us. We must be relocated between now and April 15th. We certainly need St. Joseph's help. My sister is quite well. She is happy at the Blessed Sacrament.²⁷

I am happy about the peace which exists in the family. It is a grace; may God preserve it!

I certainly agree with that preacher, that we must avoid tension of mind and virtue which is only sacrifice. Rather we need to live in thanksgiving, which supposes a soul experiencing the joy of the Lord's gifts and blessings.

As for you, your path should consist in freedom of heart in God with some charity toward your neighbor.

Find your happiness in God and in whatever he sends you from his infinite goodness.

Love is strong, it refuses God nothing, joyfully giving him whatever he asks or wishes.

So enter well onto this grace-filled path.

I bless you as well as your dear friend. Give me news about your retreat.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1929

CO 1928

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VII 14/14)

Angers, March 17, 1867

Dear Mr. Perret,

I do hope that we will have the pleasure of seeing you in Paris. We have had a big problem; we have been expropriated by the city for Boulevard Arago. Everything has been concluded. We are now looking for a house to lodge in and especially to lodge our Master. We have several in mind.

I don't think that we will be allowed to stay here very long, because they are hurrying to open the Boulevard very quickly. I will let you know as soon as the decision is made, in order to come to Paris. For you it may be a frustration, but for us a pleasure to receive you. It has been so long since we have seen you! It's true that you haven't been idle, since Notre Dame de Roche is finished and very well done.²⁸ You must find comfort that this holy devout place of Pilgrimage will become a source of graces and consolations for so many people!

²⁷ His sister entered the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. She stayed approximately six months.

²⁸ A sculpture perhaps - or the decoration of a church? Ed.

See you soon, dear Mr. Perret, believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

Mar 18 Conference Servants: Protection of St. Joseph. The religious levels, be happy.
Mar 21 Public Conference in Paris: The Sacrament of God's goodness.
Mar 22 Conference to SSS Religious: Chapter of faults. Historical details. Confidences to Albert Tesniere.

1930

CO 1929

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

A.R.T.

Paris, March 27, 1867

Very dear Father,

I am very grateful to you for giving me news about yourself, and even more so, that you are feeling better.

Alas! Dear Father, these are warnings which Divine Providence sends us, and that is how you interpret these accidents. However, it is certainly permissible for us to ask to work a while longer for the service of the Good Master and to suffer for his love.

I'm sending you the form for your pension. At the Ministry we were told that Marseilles had received the order to pay your pension over a month ago. At the Chancery they told us the same thing. However, they said that if it had been forgotten, the gentleman should address a second request to the Chancellor, and his rights will be immediately redressed.

You are asking me for a priest in order that the house of Marseilles may suffice to itself for ordinary things in your short absences. I have Fr. Chaves but it is only right that Angers should enjoy his new priesthood a little while.

Besides, I don't think you want to go out during Lent. After Easter, I will send a priest-novice rather than deny you the possibility of going out a little for your health.

The Jury set the amount at 350,000. That is 50,000 more than the city was offering us. The jury is very strict; in our neighborhood, we received the best allotment. We still don't know when our payment will be received, we are told it will not delay. We will rent a house while waiting to buy something; it isn't the right time to buy. Land and houses are at very high prices, either because of the Exposition, or because of the Luxembourg or the boulevards that have been made or will be re-made.

Besides, we aren't finding anything. With the money, we will take shares on bonds for the Orleans Railroad.

I saw Mr. Coltat again about the medals for Fr. Leroyer. Really, it is unpleasant to deal with such distributors.

Don't forget me before our Lord, dear Father. I need it greatly.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.²⁹

²⁹ Abbreviation for *Societas Sanctissimi Sacramenti*: Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

1931

CO 1930

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 94/104)

Paris, March 27, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

Our compulsory sale is over. The jury granted us 350,000 francs! It's the price for our sector. It wasn't generous, but [it was] just, however. The City was offering us only 300,000 francs. It seems like a large amount, but given the price of land and houses near all these boulevards, it's nothing. So, we are going to rent an empty boarding school on Boulevard Montparnasse, 112. We will be very quiet there. We are told we must leave here by April 15th.

If you would like to have your retreat next week, I expect to be a bit free. The weather isn't very nice, it's true, and since you are just recuperating, it might perhaps be better to wait a little!

You will always find me at your service.

I received a copy of my little meditation for adoration. The word "of" is missing on the 5th page, 29th line: "and you will obtain everything from the love of Jesus."

I would really like to have a few copies for my children.³⁰ I am counting on your charity. Even though it (the meditation) isn't perfect, nevertheless, it can still help people for adoration.

I prefer Nantes to Angers. Will God want us there? Whatever he wills.

I bless you in our Lord,

All yours in him,
Eymard, S.

1932

CO 1931

TO FR. JUBINEAU

(VI 3/3)

A.R.T.

Paris, March 27, 1867

Dear Father Superior,

Thank you very much for your kind and friendly letter - you have put me to shame! The sin will be yours, if sin there be. Thank you also for the copy of the adoration you sent me. I would like to have some copies of it for my religious; it would help them a little in their frequent adorations.

To gain the Indulgences of our Congregation one must recite 5 Our Fathers and 5 Hail Marys as customary and prescribed.

I still have a spiritual and grace-filled memory of Nantes and of your saintly house, but the memory I prefer is of you, in your "*Memento*"³¹ of priestly charity. I love to keep you in mine.

Believe me, in our Lord, Father Superior,

All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

³⁰ i.e., religious, followers, friends, or directees.

³¹ Remembrance at Mass.

Mar 28 <i>Public Conference: Communion, the joy of the Spirit.</i>
--

1933

CO 1932

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 354/395 VI 2)

Paris, March 28, 1867

Dear daughter,³²

Mr. False is asking me to pay for the dead-end street. I've received two letters now, but I thought he had been paid. Let me know, send me the receipt, so that I may show it to him as well as the letter he had written, in which he said he did not want anything for himself, but that we should make our arrangements with his tenant Mr. Barret.

I'm afraid that Mr. False will go back on his word and that we will have to pay again.

Apr 1 <i>Conference to SSS Religious (Paris) - the guiding principle of the Society.</i>
--

1934

CO 1933

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 17/26)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 3, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. As for its contents, I did like poor people who have nothing left (I was at that point then). I knelt down, I said an Our Father and a Hail Mary for you. I thanked divine Providence: because grace was never more timely. May God repay you, dear daughter! We are already in the process of moving, because the demolition crew will be on our roof, April 15th.

We will move to 112, Boulevard Montparnasse, near the station of Rennes. We will get established there between the 10th and 14th.

So, you haven't been well, dear daughter! Yes, it comes both from Heaven and earth. It's a hardship which can help you really surrender into the hands of divine Providence, especially in childlike trust in God's great and fatherly Mercy.

God shows us in this way that we cannot rest on our good works, nor on our virtues, but only on his grace.

I hope that this struggle will not repeat itself, but if it ever knocks at your door again, don't receive it, put it quickly into the hands of obedience and the Director of your soul. During such a terrible storm, we get dizzy; it's like sea-sickness - once we reach the ground of trust, everything disappears. I certainly hope to see you come to Paris someday with your dear friend, she is also very dear to me. Her nephew Tholin came to say goodbye to me a few days ago. He was happy about his special assignment to the post at Agen. His mother will go to be with him when she returns from his brother's at Hyeres.

³² Copy of a letter returned to Father upon his request.

I will write to your fine sister. I am behind with her. Oh! What a debtor I am! I owe everybody!

I do a little like poor people do. I pray for everyone, especially for my friends.

I bless you, very dear daughter, as well as dear Antonia.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

Apr 4 <i>Public conference: Communion and the love of God.</i>
--

1935

CO 1934

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 95/104)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 4, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

We must praise God for everything. When the time for your retreat will have come, God will remove all difficulties.

It's important for you to stay in during this changeable weather; there are so many colds and flu in the air. I'll always be there for you if our good Master wishes.

We are moving to Boulevard Montparnasse, 112. We hope to be settled there on the eve of Palm Sunday.

I do bless you in our Lord,

In him all yours,

Eymard, S.

1936

CO 1935

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 70/75)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, April 4, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

Your letter followed me to Anjou. No one else reads my mail.

I don't have any plans to leave Paris before Easter. I am ready to receive your letters and, even better, you in person, who are so dear to me in our Lord. And so, take advantage of me.

We are moving. We have had a compulsory sale; by the 15th of April, the masons will demolish our house. We are going to Boulevard Montparnasse, 112. We will be there beginning the 12th or the 14th.

Thank you for the good news about the family. Poor twisted [muscles]! it's a forced retreat. May it become a devout and useful [retreat].

I bless this wonderful boy, your hope and a saint for the Church.³³
I really bless you in our Lord,

All yours in him,
Eymard, S.

1937

CO 1936

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 33/36)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, April 8, 1867

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter; it gave me a moment's rest. I understand your desire for Purgatory; it is a good thing no longer to offend God - that's perfection already; but let God act in you, that's better. He separates, prunes, cuts, grafts; he cultivates and waters: he is a good Gardener.

He is the one who is surrounding you with all these little ones. Be like a child with the little girls.

You are very fortunate to enjoy our Lord after your Communions. Enjoy them well; it's a personal proof of the love of Jesus for you.

We will be in our new dwelling: 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, at the end of the week, next Sunday the 14th. We are in the process of moving, deserving both pity and congratulations, because St. Joseph found us a truly isolated place in the heart of Paris.

Goodbye, I bless you and I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

Apr. 12 - Passion Friday. Transfer to Montparnasse. Worship inaugurated in the chapel of Boulevard Montparnasse.

1938

CO 1937

TO SR. PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES
(VI 2/7)

Jesus-Hostia

Paris, April 25, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Let her take what she likes from our Lord, and give her what she asks of you.³⁴ This is the time for putting into practice our good Master's advice: "If someone takes your tunic, give him your cloak as well."

³³ Her new grandson.

³⁴ Miss Sterlingue.

Beneath the Cross

Before pouring the wine back in the bottles, hang them upside down over the fire, and that will be enough to dry them. If there is some water left, it doesn't matter. -

Don't worry about what you said to that poor soul! Don't say anything more to her.

Place your trust in God; all human beings are in his hands - his ministers even more so.

I am praying hard and I bless you all in our Lord.

Eymard

This morning I received the letters which Mother in Angers sent me from M. St.

1939

CO 1938

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I43/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Paris, April 26, 1867

Dear Father,

I am sending you good Fr. Chave, your dear son and student. Fr. de Cuers has been asking me for help in his absence. I didn't find anyone better who would be very dear to you. He is happy to go with you, as he considers you his good Teacher. You must train him for the sacred Ministry, and soon let him begin to hear confessions. He is instructed, and he must be placed on the battlefield right away. He must also be trained for preaching: there is much to be done, but the basics are there, and he will eventually overcome his timidity and exercise the heart of an apostle.

I couldn't refuse good Fr. de Cuers what he is requesting; that is, a vacation. He tells me he needs it and is hoping that it will improve his health. I desire it with my whole heart and ask for it insistently from our Good Master.

When he leaves, you will govern St. Peter's little ship, and you will be the Father and Teacher of his dear children.

God has given you a beautiful mission, dear Father. You are fortunate that you must prepare him such a beautiful harvest of glory. Always continue to have the same spirit of faith, devotedness and love: time for work is short, time for reward is eternal.

Dearest Father, I am with faithful affection in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - I gave Fr. Chave permission to go to the Plan Thursday. Please confirm this permission.

1940

CO 1939

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 16/17)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, April 26, 1867

Dear Mother and dear Sister Camille,

I was hoping to bring you my letter, but I cannot leave our house yet in its present condition of transfer. We are now at Boulevard Montparnasse 112. A few days ago we abandoned our dear house of Nazareth at Faubourg St. Jacques, where we had prayed so much.

We found a little chapel here, so that our exposition was not suspended for a single moment; that was such a comfort to us.

So, dear Sister Camille, [it seems that] you are not well! Unfortunately, you have to stay in your room! The cross is heavy and long, but remember that it comes to you from Heaven, and that the Heart of Jesus gave it to you as to the Servant of his Passion. Don't look too much at the cross, but rather, look at the hand which sends it, then your heart will make it blossom.

At this time, you are the disciple of Calvary; be faithful to your great mission.

I pray a great deal for you, as I should. Since I cannot go to see you at this time, I am sending you Fr. Chanuet.³⁵ I will try to go as soon as I will be a little freer.

Good Fr. Chanuet will arrive Sunday morning and will say Holy Mass for you around 9:00.

My best regards to your dear beloved family.

Father will bring you news about Sr. Benoite.

I bless you very tenderly, good and dear Sister and in our Lord, I am,

All yours,
Eymard, SSS

<i>Apr 27 Conference to the SSS Religious (Paris? St. Maurice?) - The purpose of the Society: go to Jesus Christ by Jesus Christ.</i>

1941

CO 1940

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 5/12)

Paris, April 29, 1867

Dear daughter,

I have received a final letter from Mr. Saunier: Miss Sterlingue is no longer satisfied not to ask for anything; she is demanding 86,700 francs in damages and interest. When I saw this injustice I wrote to her father. I am writing to the notary; this is the last straw. Courage and hope. Send me the letters from Miss Sterlingue which I sent you. I need them urgently.

³⁵ Her son.

God will be there in his good time. I see that you will have to leave Nemours. It is time. Your absence may appease the storm.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

1942

CO 1945

TO THE RAVANAT SISTERS, SERVANTS SSS FRAGMENT
(VI 1 II 6)

[End 1866 or beginning 1867]

Greetings, dear daughters; your Father is a real inspiration to us. He is well and seems content. - And so your whole family belongs to our Lord, and your mother is in Heaven. Pray for me, dear daughters.

Eymard

1943

CO 1941

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 6/12)

Paris, May 1, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I would very much like to see you in Paris ... what is to be done in this tempest? I have not heard from the Bishop yet. I would like to inform him. Ask the good Master to come and give you strength. - We must bow our heads beneath the cross, and pray for those who persecute and cause suffering.

We must wait to see what effect my letter will have on the father.³⁶ As for denunciations, I find the idea distasteful.

What does the good Master want? We must adore his cross as we do his Eucharist.

I bless you in our Lord and I am expecting you. If Sr. Philomene can help you, bring her.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁶ Mr. Sterlingue.

1944

CO 1942

TO MISS PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)³⁷
(VI4/7)

St. Maurice, May 8, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I do not forget you in the presence of God. I am praying often for your dear, good Father.

It is comforting, in one's sorrow, to be sure of the salvation of our loved ones.

I don't know what to say about your dear uncle's advice. I don't see any serious obstacle to it. It would be a last effort, and a satisfaction for your uncle. - If you write, keep a copy.

I would never have believed that avarice could go so far! and never imagined such a want of delicacy.

I did not wish to add to this greed and jealousy, but, alas! the hatred and spirit of revenge which led her to create such an uproar, make the source of this evil all too evident.

We must pray hard for her: she needs it badly. It is a real trial, dear daughters. Be happy to suffer something for the service and glory of Jesus.

I bless you, my daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

<i>May 9 Public conference (in Paris?) - The state of grace.</i>

1945

CO 1946

TO FR. JULES GAYRAUD SSS
(VI1/3)

A.R.T.

St. Maurice, May 12, 1867

Dear brother Jules,

In answer to your personal letter: I thank our Good Master for inspiring you to write it. It was enlightening for me, and has strengthened a feeling I share with Fr. Chanuet.

About two weeks ago, Fr. Chanuet asked about you for his novitiate, to reside there as a professed member - with a more solitary than active vocation. Your letter has shown me this need.

So, I do not hesitate to tell you, dear brother Jules: come here to St Maurice; here you will find all that your soul desires. Do not try anywhere else - that would be a wrong move. Your condition is a trial, but not a motive for a non-Eucharistic vocation. God is using this to open to you the most perfect path and house of the Society.

Wait for me in Paris. Get ready and remember that joy will return under the warm sun of the eucharist. This is between you, God and me.

³⁷ This is the first of 8 letters copied from photos of the originals, belonging to the Sacerdotal Fraternity, Montematrio (Rome), addressed either to Sr. Philomena or Sr. Benoite.

I bless you truly in our Lord and I am, dear brother,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1946

CO 1943

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 355/395 VI 2)

St. Maurice, May 12, 1867

Dear daughter,

I'm sending you the form for the power of attorney which Sr. Louise must fill out in the presence of the notary. Have her do it right away, and send it immediately to Mr. Saunier, the notary, at Nemours. (Seine and Marne).

It is urgent. We must get out of this Calvary. I know they are afraid that poor Miss Sterlingue will go even further.

Write to Mr. Saunier, return the form, and say that you will pay the loan to Mademoiselle ... after six months.

I have time only to bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. Mr. Chesneau, the Vicar General, is still talking to me about a payment to the lady at the entrance of the alley for the dead-end street. Mr. Lorient inquired about it. Give him 100 francs: I will return yours for that purpose.

1947

CO 1944

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 356/395 VI 2)

Paris³⁸, May 12, 1867

Dear daughter,

In my preoccupation, I forgot the form for the power of attorney by Sr. Louise. The postman was in a hurry, so I am hurrying to correct my omission.

Write to Mr. Saunier, as I told you, to inform him that you received his letter requesting in Miss Sterlingue's name the reimbursement for your two notes acknowledging the loan. Say that you will be ready to reimburse at that time.

You will have to let my sister and Nanette leave, since things are so.

In your letter to Mr. Saunier, tell him that he will immediately receive the document for the power of attorney which I sent you for Miss Louise Chabert.

³⁸ Printed in French as Paris. However, from May 8-14 he was at St. Maurice.

Alas! Poor daughter, is that enough? I received another letter today from Mr. Saunier.... Pray that all this will come to an end ... *[three lines erased]*.

Poor daughter, your suffering is also making me suffer but we must know how to benefit from it all.

Sr. B. came here with Sr. Phil. who needed advice. I believe they are still in Nemours. I would have liked Sr. Phil. to stay in Nemours for the transfer. She more or less had promised me that.

Sr. B. should leave quickly, and you should avoid coming to Nemours; the Mayor and the notary are too angry, and even the Pastor.

We'll get out of it as best we can.

Please tell dear good Sr. Antoinette that I bless her, that I pray for her, to have great trust in our Lord, who was always so kind toward her. See to it that she makes her perpetual vows before dying, if God wills.

God and the Blessed Virgin will welcome her, because she is so kind and charitable.

I do bless you dear daughter; have courage and be strong: now is the time to suffer for our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - Do you have a sacristan and a gardener? I still have Brother Peter.

1948

CO 1947

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 7/12)

St Maurice, May 12, 1867

Dear daughter,

Brother Charles³⁹ will send you a proxy form, given your civil status, so that you can sign the deed for Miss Sterlingue before leaving Nemours. Find out from Mr. Saunier if you need to have a proxy. Do it simply and politely, as usual. Tempers are so high that the slightest thing may cause an explosion. You must simply finish the whole business and leave and, when you leave, pray for all those men and women who have caused us suffering; even excuse them, following the example of our Lord.

Try to see the Dean, or at least tell him that you are going and thank him for his charity towards you.

Stay very close to our Lord, and see his holy will in everything that happens.

I bless you, dear daughter, in our Lord.

Eymard

³⁹ Her husband from whom she had separated enabling both to enter religious life.

1949

CO 1948

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 357/395 VI 2)

St. Maurice, May 13, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

So you are now in Paris! May God be praised! I sent to you there in Angers the document for the power of attorney for Sr. Louise, similar to Brother Charles'. If he has his, read it.

What to do? Since you are in Paris go to Nemours, but don't see anyone unless, once you are there, you would judge it helpful to do otherwise. If you meet Miss Sterlingue, do not express any blame or anger.

The truth is that it may be a great grace for us to leave that place because this foundation did not rest on a solid basis. God has his designs. If we deserved this lesson and needed to be humbled, here it is. Let us welcome it!

I won't be in Paris until tomorrow morning around 9:30.

I bless you sincerely in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - In the evening I wrote to Sr. Marie telling her to open my letter and have Sr. Louise sign the power of attorney right away according to the form, and to send it to Mr. Saunier in Nemours.

1950

CO 1949

TO CAROLINE DE BOISGROLLIER (SR. MARIE DU SS)
(III 5/5)

Saint Maurice, May 13, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I wrote to the good Mother. Open the letter which contains the authorization for Sr. Louise. Have it done by Mr. Neveu, the notary, and send it immediately to Mr. Saunier, the notary at Nemours (Seine-et-Marne).

I want to bring this unfortunate situation of Nemours to a quick conclusion.

I will be here until tomorrow, then I will go to Paris. Mother must still be in Nemours. Poor Mother! How her heart must suffer! we must pray very much for her.

It may be a very good thing that you⁴⁰ are leaving Nemours.

I bless you, dear daughter, in our Lord,

Eymard

⁴⁰ The Servants.

1951

CO 1950

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 358/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 15, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was very sad to learn that you were still in Paris, when I had been told that you were gone. It was with that conviction that I hurried to Mr. Meignen, the notary, at 370 rue St. Honore, to consult him about the document for Nemours, and to ask him for Brother Charles' power of attorney.

He finds problems with it. He will write about it to Mr. Saunier, the notary at Nemours. However, I told him that we didn't want to pay the expenses for the deeds, that Miss Sterlingue should pay for them; once is enough.

When I returned from the notary, I wrote to Angers immediately by the next telegraph, to have them do the same thing. So, as you can see, I was kept busy just taking care of your affairs. I would really have liked to see you, the good Lord didn't will it. He will be your counsel and strength. I couldn't leave the novitiate sooner, because the schedule needed to be set up. If at least you had come there, it would have been quicker.

Don't let yourself be upset in Nemours by whatever they might say. The good Lord knows very well that we neither bribed nor influenced Miss Sterlingue: that is an excuse. In any case, I consider it as a great grace; we were in an ambiguous situation. Sooner or later we would have had to break away.

I received news from Angers; Sr. Antoinette is still the same.

I bless you, you and your daughters, in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - I don't think you can excuse yourself from seeing the Dean. He is kind and devoted I constantly pray for you and poor Nemours.

<i>May 16 Public conference: The desire for Communion.</i>
--

1952

CO 1951

TO MR. NEVEU, NOTARY
(VII 1/2)

Paris, May 17, 1867

[Sir,]

They refuse to accept the power of attorney which you sent. It will only add to the difficulties of that crazy head.⁴¹ Therefore, Sir, please prepare the power of attorney using the model I sent you. I am eager to have the Ladies leave there.⁴²

Thank you in advance for all your kindness toward the Ladies. They really need you.

Sir, please accept the respects of your very humble S.⁴³

[Eymard]

1953

CO 1952

TO MR. NEVEU, NOTARY
(VII 2/2)

[Paris], May 18, 1867

Sir,

They are sending me another form which is less humiliating for all concerned; if there is still time, look at it. - When we are dealing with crazy or misguided heads, we come to such sad results, but I advise the Ladies to surrender their rights rather than to create a lawsuit.

Please receive... etc.

1954

CO 1954

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 9/12)

Paris, May 18, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am worried about you all - send me a line. Has Mother gone yet? Where is she? and how is she?

I am rushing to get all the powers of attorney in order. I would like to see you soon, free of this wretched and miserable calvary.

So, let us entrust it all to the good Master; everything happens for the best. Later we shall understand the merciful hand of God. We could not escape from this awkward position and this burdensome and fragile situation without being hit by a storm, but I like to think about our good Master asleep in his boat at the point of sinking.

⁴¹ Miss Sterlingue.

⁴² The Servants of the Blessed Sacrament in Nemours.

⁴³ Servant.

Look not on the Cross with its thorns, nor on those who crucify and insult, but [look] on Heaven which wills it so, and on Jesus who desires a place of peace.

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

Eymard

1955

CO 1953

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 359/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 18, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was truly inspired by the holy death of Sr. Antoinette. Hers was the death of an adorer, what a gentle death! a joyful awakening at the feet of Jesus, king of glory, the king of love and our Good Master, whom she had served and loved so well.!

It's good to die in the Service of Jesus Eucharistic! May our death be the death of a good servant!

For the second time, I've just sent another form for the power of attorney which would be less embarrassing. However, we must be resigned to pay the expenses for the deed. This troubled woman doesn't want to, and she is still threatening a scandal and a trial.

Yesterday I received a very unpleasant letter from Mr. Saunier, always about the bribery which he believes to be true, even after I explained everything to him. What can be done? We must be resigned, suffer, and forgive everything, without bitterness and without change of heart.

Oh! How many times do I say: My God, I offer it to you!

What hurts me is to think that our Lord will lose a throne of adoration. I can't resign myself to this eucharistic loss for his service.

I read the letter of dear Sr. Marie to me, but there is nothing that can be said or done, since we don't know whether you will be dismissed⁴⁴ and humiliated to that extent.

I bless you, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

<i>May 19 Conference to SSS Religious (Paris) - Holiness: its basis.</i>
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⁴⁴ from Nemours.

1956

CO 1956

TO MISS PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)⁴⁵
(VI 5/7)

Paris, May 19, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have written to the little Mother⁴⁶. I shall send her the power of attorney from here to save time.

I shall come to Nemours next Thursday to draw up the Deed with you.

Ask for strength, courage and calm. What is happening is a grace, the situation was wrong.

It is from God's mercy, we must adore and bless it. As for the rest, the good Master is with us. You must all keep praying and be calm - forgive sincerely - pray for her - no retaliations; we must glorify the good Master worthily on the calvary where he has placed us.

I bless you all in our Lord.
Eymard

1957

CO 1955

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 360/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 19, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

In this same mail I'm writing to Mr. Neveu to whom I sent another form for the power of attorney which is less embarrassing. I received two unpleasant letters from the notary at Nemours. We will have to drink the chalice to the dregs.

We know that people are talking about nothing else than the affair of Lafond and Sterlingue, of you and me. Oh! Oh! What can we say and do! if not humble ourselves, pray and suffer!

If there were a trial ... in the process, became public news, then what would have become of the Works of the Most Blessed Sacrament? God knows! the storm keeps increasing.

We must then pray and do penance. I say penance, because we surely all have something to blame ourselves.⁴⁷ We must appease God's anger perhaps irritated by the sins which surround all these troubles.

What will the Bishop say Tuesday?⁴⁸ Whatever God wills; it will be God's answer. So I pray that God may enlighten and guide him in his decision.

I bless you in our Lord and pray for you.

Eymard

P.S. - We will need 7,000 francs Thursday for the cost of the deed and where can we get them?

⁴⁵ Letter presumably addressed to Sr. Philomene, Treasurer at that time in the Nemours House.

⁴⁶ Nickname for Sr. Claudine of the Blessed Sacrament, Assistant in Angers.

⁴⁷ for the outcome of the events.

⁴⁸ Perhaps Bishop Angebault in Angers. cf Doc. 1988.

1958

CO 1957

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 361/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 21, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Today is the day when the Bishop will decide on the fate of the sisters.⁴⁹ May God be praised and glorified for everything! I'll go to Nemours Thursday. It would be useless for you to send two sisters to Nemours, I will be there.

The sooner we leave the better.

We must pray very much for the final phase, because it can all be brought to a halt over mere nothings. It is better to be magnanimous.

Send me the form for the life annuity if you have it, as well as Miss Sterlingue's bill. Send it all to me at Nemours; it will get to me sooner.

My sister and Nanette arrived safely. She feared me like a child, I can hardly reassure them.⁵⁰

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

1959

CO 1958

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)⁵¹
(VI 10/12)

Paris, May 21, 1867

Dear Sisters in our Lord,

I am writing these few lines to tell you that these trials will soon be over. Be patient and trusting to the end. Keep in your hearts the peace and charity of your good Master.

You have not been unworthy of his service and his glory.

What has happened is for the good of the Work. At present all we can see is the trial and the cross; later we will see the mercy and the grace.

I do not forget you, dear daughters: I pray for you constantly and I am taking care of your situation.

On Thursday, about 10:30 or 2:30 (more likely), I shall be in Nemours.

Pray hard for the person who is causing you these trials. She deserves more pity than you.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

[P.S. Continued]⁵²

very much the Dean, who has been so good to us and whom I do not forget.

⁴⁹ Perhaps Bishop Angebault of Angers. cf Doc. 1988.

⁵⁰ Over their departure from the Servants in Angers.

⁵¹ Probably addressed jointly to Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene.

⁵² The lower part of the page, where the P.S. began, had been cut 23 millimeters.

1960

CO 1959

TO MISS PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)
(VI 6/7)

Paris, Ascension 1867⁵³

Dear daughter,⁵⁴

I shall come to get you all tomorrow, Friday. You will all leave together at 2:22. If, due to some unforeseen event, I should not be there by 10:30, do not wait for me.

Make no concessions, refuse everything. Before you come, ask whether Miss St[erlingue] has signed. If she has not signed, protest to Mr. Germain.

She owes half for the pump, that much is certain. You are not to pay the 20 francs for the⁵⁵ ordered by Belin.

Do not let yourself be intimidated. If they threaten, we will be stronger in God than they. The time will come for justice, even human justice. Have nothing to do with the mill. It does not concern you.

If she talks about a lawsuit, answer that we are ready to defend ourselves, but that she might well regret it.

However, remain calm and silent as far as possible.

I bless you all.
Eymard

P.S. Have someone take you to Fr. Dhe's when you arrive; rue Brezin 19, Orleans Road. Take a small omnibus at the Lyons Railroad Station - that is more practical.

(The following directions were annexed to the letter of May 30th, Ascension)

- (1) Let each Sister bring her personal effects - bed linen, sheets, pillow and blanket, - her prayer books, etc. In other words, all she will need to spend some time away.
- (2) All are to leave on Friday. Mother, Sr. Philomene and Sr. Marie-Joseph are to leave last, by train at 2:22 or 7:29 p.m.
- (3) Take whatever can be removed without difficulty, as the architect will decide: the altars, the credence, the Communion rail and all furnishings.
- (4) Today - Wednesday - send by regular transport, a case of mattresses - iron bedsteads - kitchen utensils - addressed to Mr. Eymard, 112 boulevard Montparnasse.
- (5) The keys of the community house, kitchen, parlor, refectory, sacristy and chapel are to be handed over only to Mr. Saunier, the lawyer, or Mr. Germain, his Head Clerk, and not to Mr. Spinet or Miss Sterlingue.
- (6) If there are any further problems, refer them to Mr. Douillard, architect, 53 rue Madame.

May 29 - Travel to Nemours.

⁵³ May 30

⁵⁴ Unidentified, but probably to Sr. Philomene who was Treasurer at Nemours.

⁵⁵ French: Cris

1961

CO 1960

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

Paris, 30 May 1867

Come at once by express [train]. I expect you tomorrow morning. I have some important things to tell you. EYMARD

May 31 - Closing of the House of Nemours.

1962

CO 1964

TO FR. PAUL-MARIE MARECHAL, SSS
(VI 1/3)

RETREAT SCHEDULE
June 2, 1867

6 a.m.	Rising Meditation 1/2
7 a.m.	Holy Mass
8 a.m.	Breakfast, free time
9 a.m.	Ascetic reading 1/2
10 a.m.	2 nd Meditation 1hr.
11 a.m.	Notes
11:45	Examen of one's attitudes
12 a.m.	Dinner, rest
2 p.m.	Rosary together - beneficial reading
3:30	3 rd Meditation 1/2
4:30	Benediction
5 p.m.	Free time
6 p.m.	Supper, walk
8 p.m.	Adoration before the most Blessed Sacrament in the form of a recapitulation of the meditation topics of the day, the positive touches of grace and the difficulties [experienced by] our nature - jot them down.

Profile of the day:

1 st day	Recollection, prayer, put aside all worries.
2 nd	Self-purification - Confession.
3 th	Analyze the dominant ⁵⁶ grace of one's life in piety, religious and priestly life.
4 th	Analyze the contrary motions of one's nature.
5 th	Persevere in the presence of God, keep oneself ready to do anything.
6 th	Plan for one's new life, whatever the outcome.
7 th	Arm oneself with light, courage and strength.

⁵⁶ Literally: grace of attraction.

1963

CO 1961

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 362/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 2, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

This is to thank you for having sent me Mme. Gourd's letter and news about yourself.

I am too depressed to reply to the details in your letter. I mean the plans I suggested to you which you didn't understand, perhaps for lack of explaining myself clearly enough.

Sr. Marie Joseph returned to Paris with me and I sent her to spend a little time with her grandfather who is 86 years old and wants to see her before he dies. She really needs that time away and a rest as well for she is in such a poor state of health! She suffered very much.

Sr. Emilienne left today, I told her to keep it short and only for business matters and then to go to Angers which she will be happy to do. She is a fine person.

Sr. Benoite and Sr. Phil. came with me as far as Fontainebleau. They left from there for Thorins, to pick up their belongings and see Sr. Camille who is much sicker than usual.

I gave her some money. She had very little left after paying 222 francs in taxes in addition to the coaches for transport; she hardly had enough left for her trip.

I was very sad when I returned from Nemours. Although that troubled woman finally signed the deed, she is still causing problems and I'm really afraid we may still have to settle in the courts. Is it a punishment or a trial? I think it is both ... [*five and a half lines erased*]. May God be praised and glorified for everything!

We must reimburse 7,400 francs in expenses for the deed of registration. I borrowed them for a few days only. They will be claiming them from me. I can't borrow them here, since I had to empty the purses of all my friends to find 41,000 francs to give Mademoiselle, who wouldn't wait for Mr. Le Clere, nor sign the contract without them. Try to see what you can do.

I myself am very inconvenienced by Mr. Le Clere's delay in reimbursing the amount. Then we will have to think about the 20,000 francs which are to be paid in five months. I'll also have to pay 25,200 francs with Mass stipends for that poor Mademoiselle ... in six months.

Finally, all of that is just a financial loss. However, I am disconsolate to see one throne less for our Lord.

I am really praying for you all, and giving you to our good Master, in whom I am, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - We don't know what can happen after the court trial which is likely to take place with Nemours. It would be prudent for you to review all your papers and put them in order.

I'll write to Mr. Baudin and to Madame Aubry to send you the Sisters' personal belongings. You know that Miss Sterlingue served notice of bailiff for the rest.

Please buy a scale for your letters. We had to pay an additional 40 centimes. You know you only have right to 10 grams.

1964

CO 1962

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 58/76)

Paris, June 2, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I heard of your misfortune and about the grace which alleviated it and must have comforted you. I would have liked to go to be with you and your dear daughter immediately to console you for this great loss, and it is still my intention, for you must be quite crushed though very resigned.

I could see your husband's good dispositions, his good confession, the sacraments. God made up for holy Communion by other graces.

In your sorrow, dear daughter, you must still thank the good Lord who did everything for the greater good of his elect and who in his mercy determines the hour of death to be the best one in our life.

So now you are really alone and left to your own life. Begin by providing rest for your body and your mind, for you must really need it.

Stay with Martha and Magdalene at the feet of our Lord to cry, to listen to him and to pray to him for dear Lazarus in the tomb.

Do not blame yourself over the past; there is no reason to get upset. No, no, that would be a temptation. Be confident in the fatherly kindness and mercy of God. Stay in this divine center. Then write me a few words, because I am very worried about the two of you.

I am praying very much; that is my whole consolation, since I cannot do anything else. I believe that Sr. Benoite must be with you and that her presence will console you a little.

I bless you in our Lord, and I am,

All yours,
Eymard

1965

CO 1963

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 42/52)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 2, 1867

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am closely united to your sacrifice, your prayers and your sufferings.⁵⁷ Everything isn't over for you, because your good mother must really need your help and comfort. I was leaving for a trip when your mother sent me your telegram. I was not expecting such a sudden misfortune. I was praying for your dear patient convinced that the good Lord would save this soul which was surrounded by so many prayers and blessings.

⁵⁷ The death of her father.

There is no doubt that we would have liked him to live after his conversion so as to edify and glorify God; but divine Mercy was more powerful than the doubtful or uncertain merits to be acquired. It's better to go to Heaven than to risk losing everything.

As for you, dear daughter, find your rest in your piety and solitude with God, because you must need it.

Write me a few words. I am quite worried about both of you, and if I had three days at my disposal I would like to go comfort you in our Lord.

I bless you deeply in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1966

CO 1965

TO MME. BLANCHE CHANUET (NEE DE COUCHIES)
(VII 1/3)

Paris, June 4, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I am forwarding the letter from Lantignie to Sr. Philomene at Thorins-Romaneche, near you. Sr. Benoite is there and is not very well. She left Nemours with the intention of going to see you and dear Sr. Camille, to whom I will write soon, as I cannot today.

Dear Lady, I wish you a good journey and complete health at the springs where you are going. I was happy to learn that you are feeling better.

My friendly regards to Mr. Chanuet. All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

1967

CO 1966

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 71/75)

Paris, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, June 5, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

So you will be at Calet until the end of June. I would love to go and greet the Angel of your house⁵⁸ if I should go to Marseilles at that time.

I have been wanting to see the dear villages of Chatte and St. Romans for such a long time! I read the letter from your dear niece. I do pray so much for her, for her sisters, for her mother and father; in a word, for your whole family.

I wish that Miss Marie would be completely open with her sister Edmee, whose friendly direction would be very helpful to her. Her ardent heart needs her sister's heart more than individual or secret advice. Father's advice to maintain the secret is wise, but were he to know this family of sisters as intimately as I do, he would think as I do.

⁵⁸ Her new grandson.

To read a recommended book, to seek practical advice in a particular circumstance, to share our sorrows, our state, can all be done perfectly well with a Confessor, without needing to change one's path, one's direction on life principles. Initial direction determines the rule and form of life, the second applies it; this application is subject to the approval of the person because it is only advice, spiritual direction based on trust.

Remember me to the prayers of Miss Edmee and her dear sisters. Tell them to continue to love and serve our Lord, to be more faithful to him than to a royal crown, to be good and pleasant toward their parents, polite and charitable toward all, but loyal to Jesus alone.

Goodbye, dear Madame, I bless you and I am in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard, S.S.

<i>June 6 Public conference: The Ascension, the heaven of the Eucharist.</i>

1968

CO 1967

TO MME. CAMILLE CHANUET NEE CROZET (SR. CAMILLE DU SS)
(VII 17/17)

Paris, June 6, 1867

Dear Sr. Camille,

I am writing to greet you briefly with my pen. I [greet you] several times a day before the Blessed Sacrament, because I constantly offer you to our Good Master as his first adorer, since you adore him, united with him on the cross. Look closely at your good Savior suffering next to you and through you for the glory of his Father and for your greater love. Stay very close to his Holy Will, to the desires of his divine heart. Dare to repeat the seven adorable words he spoke on the cross. Have a daily devotion to the seven words which you know and love. They will help you to sanctify your state of suffering. Receive Communion in union with the sufferings of Jesus.

I would really like to go see you. This consolation may soon be mine.

Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene must be with you. I encouraged them to go see you. Besides, their heart was leading them to it.

Have courage and confidence, dear Sr. Camille. I bless you very fondly in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1969

CO 1968

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 11/15)

Paris, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, June 6, 1867

Dear friend,

We are almost out of ordinary wine; please send us two units of the wine you sent to St. Maurice from the same cask.

I do want to go see you and your dear mother. I hope I can do so without delay.

All our sisters have left Nemours now. On one hand I am happy about it, because they would all have fallen ill. This foundation had been made on a defective material basis. We will make another better one. We are working for it.

I believe that Sr. Benoite, who was at Romaneche-Thorins at Miss Boisson's with Sr. Philomene, is now with you, and that Sr. Camille is happy to see her as well as her dear companion.

My wishes for the complete recovery of your good mother and of Mme. Blanche, since she is already a little better. There is every reason to hope; we know that God is all powerful.

Dear Mr. Amedee, believe me in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1970

CO 1969

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 44/54)

Paris, June 11, 1867

Very dear Father,

Fr. de Cuers is here with us. He came to speak about a eucharistic project which has been on his mind for some time. If God wants it to be realized, so do I. However, he is asking to try it out only personally during the time of rest and liberty which he is asking of me. He will explain it to you. He wants to withdraw to Roquefavour, to live there in solitude; that is, to begin a house of adoration in solitude. He has found a good Christian man who could help him with this project. The Society would not be committed to it. It would be something he would take personal responsibility for.

I can see that this plan has restored his courage. He fears the difficulties of the cities, and especially the winters. He would be quieter there. Then, if God blesses it, he would be doing something more for the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Father has just arrived from Brussels, where he went to see Fr. Champion. He came back very pleased with that house.

Thank you for your good and gracious invitation, but I am very busy here. On Saturday, we will have an Ordination: tonsure for Brother Marius; four minors, Brother Frederic and Brother Albert; sub-deaconite, Brother Jules. Please pray for them and have others pray.

I am somewhat frightened by the enormous amount we would have to spend for this new purchase. I spoke about it with Fr. de Cuers and Fr. Champion. They think as I do, that it isn't time

to go into debt. Angers will cost us a great deal. Paris still has nothing. We have not finished paying for St. Maurice. So, in spite of the beautiful location, we have to give it up.

I certainly want to come to see you all. I will do so later.

Act as Superior in the house, and you are. Don't speak yet about Fr. de Cuers' project. He will be leaving tomorrow night for the south, either for Marseilles, or for Roquefavour.

Believe that I am always in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

June 13-15 - Retreat to the ordinands.

1971

CO 1970

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(VI 11/12)

Paris, June 13, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,⁵⁹

Thank you for your letter. It gives me some consolation to know that you are at home with dear Sister Camille and her lovely family. Try to get some rest while you are there. You have the good Master at your side. You must go to adore him, place yourself at his feet, and continue your life of adoration.

I would very much like to visit you all at Lantignie, but at the moment I am giving a retreat to the candidates for ordination, and next week I must preach the retreat for the adorers in the city - which I promised to do a long time ago - so I am very tied up at present.

I would so much like to make that journey now, when you yourself are suffering so, and are so sad. It is one more suffering which we will all offer to the good Master.

Write again to Angers. I am surprised by this silence. I have not written for some time, and they have not written to me for a week.

I am very sorry for her too, for she is in great financial straits - and has many problems - we must really pray for her and for everyone.

Write to me. If I had any way of going to see you on Sunday or Monday, I would. But as it could be only a few hours, I prefer to wait.

Every blessing, dear daughter in our Lord,

Eymard

P.S. Be sure to tell dear Sr. Camille that we are praying for her, and that I desire to see her even more than she does - that she must keep very close to the good Master by Holy Abandonment - and be united to his Heart.

<i>June 14 Public conference: Union with the Holy Spirit.</i>

⁵⁹ Unidentified, but contents indicate it was probably to Sr. Benoit.

1972

CO 1971

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 363/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 14, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Miss Sterlingue's representative is claiming the interest due since June 1 for a total of 20,000 francs. You know that she demanded full payment of her pension, and ... everything she had promised on the 6,000 francs... was refused as a partial payment of the amount. She wouldn't sign the deed without the guaranteed payment of the 20,000 francs.

Try to pay her the interest, send it by registered mail.

Write to Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomena at Lantignie, they have been there since they left Nemours ... [*twelve and a half lines erased*].

I didn't have time to read or respond to a letter from Sr. Marie Joseph. I'll do so after the ordination. We have four to be ordained tomorrow. That, in addition to so many other things, doesn't leave me a free moment.

Every day I keep waiting for the final outcome, or for a call from the president, in order to terminate with that poor woman.

May God be praised for everything!

I bless you all personally at this crucifying moment.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - I am still in straits. We needed to borrow for a few weeks, in order to repay Miss Desfrances for the money she has requested again.

When will we get out of all this? Fortunately, God is a good Father who corrects his children but doesn't kill them.

1973

CO 1972

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 18/26)

Paris, June 14, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

I am back in Paris. You were right, I was absent. Sadly enough I am like a poor slave who never has a moment to himself; but God wills it, may he be praised!

I'll be here until the 24th. You may come at the time you indicated. It would make me very happy, if I could help your souls as much as I would like.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ She and Miss Antonia Bost.

Beneath the Cross

So then, I am expecting you.
Believe me in our Lord,

Dear Madame,
All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

I like to believe that the strong sun of trust is ever shining over you. May God always grant it to you!

June 15 - Ordination of four candidates.

1974

CO 1973

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(125/29 VI 2)

Paris, June 17, 1867

Very dear Father,

I am very sad about Fr. Augonnet's departure. Is it true that silence is beyond our novices' strength? They tell me that they are deprived of recreation three times a week because of their service, that tension will result from that situation, that people will easily get upset. I am also told that the Benedictine Fathers tried to establish a half silence, as we did, and they didn't succeed. It had to be full and absolute. Study that before God, dear Father. If we went too quickly or too fast, it might be better to pull back, not from virtue, but from something too difficult.

Be both father and mother; let them rejoice in God. Pray to obtain light and strength.

We are really tried from all sides at this time. So is the Church.

I may go see you tomorrow morning.⁶¹

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

<i>June 20</i> Public conference: <i>Corpus Christi, solemnity for our times.</i>
<i>June 21</i> Public conference: <i>The Sacrament of Life.</i>

⁶¹ at St. Maurice.

1975

CO 1974

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 364/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 21, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Sr. Marie-Joseph is happy to leave for Angers. She really suffered. Her trip to Rouen restored her to her now deceased grandfather's good graces.

I'm sending you letters about a fine young woman, 37 years old. She came here; she is a friend of Miss Billard and ours. She seems to be a fine spiritual person.

It has been a long time since Mme. Aubry put the belongings and furniture on the train at my request. You should be receiving them shortly.

I really wish that Sr. Benoit would hurry to go to the springs. Why lose so much precious time? I had promised to go see dear Sr. Camille, no doubt she was expecting me.

I hope to go to Angers about the end of the month. Then we will have a longer visit together.

We are working to close the affair at Nemours but the notary, Mr. Spiney, is against us. He is very clever and totally against religion.

I requested a note from the notary to review the accounts.

See you soon, dear daughter in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

1976

CO 1975

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

(V 59/76)

Paris, June 21, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

My prayer follows you everywhere, as well as your dear daughter and your dear deceased one.

Here is the rule you should follow in your present situation. You have all [necessary] permissions related to the vow of poverty. Act as if you didn't have it whenever propriety, gratitude, or your position as head of the house require it.

It is better to be broad. On that point consider yourself as the head of the house who is obliged to do whatever seems suitable, and in case of doubt, lean toward freedom.

I would really like to come see you. I don't foresee any opportunity until the end of June.

Here are the detailed answers which you requested:

1. Yes, give each of the curates 50 francs for 20 masses. 2. The same for the Pastor whom you mentioned, 100 francs. It's an honorable means of showing gratitude. Same for the Chaplain at the Visitation; same for the friends of the family.

In general, in your present position, it's better to consider proprieties than a greater number of Masses.

As for me, send it in the mail, but register it, indicating above the address the amount [enclosed] in all the letters.

On the 24th, I will say the first Mass, on his birthday. Yes, give 100 francs to the Sisters of St. Francis; it's a very good work.

Yes, give the vestments to whomever it seems best.

I would really like to come see you. If you are going to Thorins, write to tell me. I would prefer to see you there, in any case.

I will write to you ahead of time. I bless you.

Eymard

I will write to Miss Stephanie shortly.

<i>June 22 Public conference: Communion, rehabilitation for those who are fallen.</i>

1977

CO 1976

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 45/54)

Paris, June 23, 1867

Dear Fathers and Brothers in our Lord,⁶²

As good Fr. de Cuers has asked me for some time of rest and temporary freedom under Holy Obedience to follow an attraction which is drawing him to solitude, I felt that I should not oppose such a sincere desire. Therefore, I am permitting him to work toward this eucharistic project.

God will show whether he wants it to grow and bear fruit. Pray for his heavenly blessing.

In this state of affairs, Fr. Leroyer, whose loving dedication for your good, whose great love for the Society and whose ardent and untiring zeal for the glory of the Good Master are known to you - this good Father will replace Fr. de Cuers as Superior. You will obey him as you would me, or rather, as you would our Lord Jesus Christ, whose place he holds in your midst. You will love him as a father and encourage him in his laborious ministry.

I really would like to visit you, dear Fathers and Brothers. As soon as I am somewhat freer I will go there. We have had our difficulties for the new establishment. I must go to Angers shortly to bless the cornerstone of the first church we are building and do it on the feast of St. Peter.⁶³ Unite yourselves to our joys and hopes.

I am blessing you all with the affection of our Lord, and in this Good Master I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

⁶² Letter to the Community in Marseilles.

⁶³ This plan was delayed.

1978

CO 1977

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 26/29 VI 2)

Paris, June 23, 1867

Very dear Father,

Go back to the former rule for the employments, so that they may be allowed to speak for necessary things. Especially, tell Brother Leon about Brother Antoine who is here with us, well healed of his temptation. Because of his sore feet, he is waiting a few days before returning there. He is a good Brother who returned immediately to the house, seeing his mistake clearly. I am sending you the letter dear Fr. Ferron wrote about him.

The strictness we had given to silence will nevertheless have a good effect. It will show what can happen when we don't know how to keep it.

Founders were right to pray a lot, to reflect a lot and to try out the rules and mortifications to be done. Oftentimes we deal only with obstacles and faults that need to be overcome and not with true virtue. We ought to pray more before acting, seek counsel with God, like Moses did. God is teaching us some good lessons: *oportet sapere ad sobrietatem*.⁶⁴

I hope to come see you Tuesday morning by the first train at 6:30 with Mr. Marechal. Don't bother to come because if something happens, I would only come Wednesday.

Goodbye, dear Father. Have both courage and confidence; these are our two wings.

All yours,
Eymard

I will bring the trunk which belongs to Brother Jules Neys. Mr. Biaise took back our cover; he is making your dalmatics.

1979

CO 1978

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 60/76)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 25, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I want to send you a greeting in our Lord, to whom I constantly offer you.

Try to see everything [as coming from] God's fatherly kindness; see the past in that way, without remorse or personal regrets. That will make you more pleasing to his Heart.

Tend to your duties of position, propriety and family love with simplicity, without turmoil or worries of conscience.

You have every [needed] permission and full freedom for whatever is a duty of state, propriety, and relationships of gratitude in keeping with your position. If you have any fear or doubt, do what you think you should do if you were free. Then, if you judge it opportune, write to tell me after the fact.

⁶⁴ We need to learn moderation.

You are having many prayers said for that dear soul and you do well; but in that also, there should not be any excess. Yet one must follow the feelings and movements of grace at every moment and those of divine Providence [as well].

Remain closely united to God by your heart and intentions and then follow the circumstances of the moment. There will come a time for rest and holy solitude at the feet of Our Good Master, at Romaneche.

Read my letter to your dear daughter for the other details.⁶⁵

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

1980

CO 1979

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 34/36)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 26, 1867

Dear Sister Anne,

The other day I read your letter in a hurry; I am rereading your old letter from last April which contained the note for 100 francs, and I am writing to chat with you a little while.

It seems to me that our good Master is really making the grain of wheat die, and that this grain is sprouting well because it is truly dead to the world. It needed many blows and many little deaths to make it die; now it must grow.

I understand your loneliness and distaste for the world as well as you do. When the wind is to the back such storms help the ship move quickly.

What will you do? your Work of Thanksgiving? It's really beautiful and worthy of your life and death. But we need a center of life, and in Mauron you are only one worker, one poor individual. You need a society; it is high time! Who knows whether God didn't call your devout and esteemed Father⁶⁶ to himself in order to give you more freedom?

I believe so, because the life you are living at Mauron, both in your family and in the city, strikes me as having very little future and possibility for development. Therefore, you need to get to work without delay; the sun will soon be setting. You have found everything; the purpose of the Society, Jesus Hostia, the law of the Society, its means, its character. The impetus has been given, so what is lacking? That Sister Anne, who is sleeping at Mauron, consuming herself in a little drop of water, should come out of her sleep and her little prison and say to our good Master: "You need a doorkeeper, an errand girl, a poor little servant? Here is a poor one, but she is all yours. Where should she go? How should she begin? In what direction? What kind of external life?" That, dear Sr. Anne, is the big question that must be resolved.

You must work for the glory of our good Master; it's time. Or else you should ask him to suffer and die for the Work of Thanksgiving.

I'm expecting a long letter from you about this. I wasn't able to send you your books and crosses yet. I'll do so as soon as possible. Fr. Caussade's book hasn't been reprinted yet as far as I know.

⁶⁵ That letter is not available.

⁶⁶ Spiritual director.

Beneath the Cross

Do pray for me. My soul is very sad. It needs a little rest at God's feet; but I don't know where to find any, or how to take the time for it.

On Saturday I will be going to Angers (rue Lyonnaise, 9) to bless the cornerstone for the first church which we will build for our good Master.⁶⁷ I'll stay only a few days.

I do give you to our good Master and truly bless you in the divine Host.

Eymard, Superior

<i>June 27</i> <i>Public conference: The Life of Jesus in us.</i>
<i>June 29</i> <i>Conference Servants: On St. Peter.</i>

⁶⁷ He went to Angers. The blessing of the cornerstone of the new church did not take place then.

CHAPTER II

The Earthquake July - December 1867

“Test the shifting grounds.” (Aug. 7, 1867)

Departure of Fr. de Cuers for Roquefavour

Defection of Sisters from Nemours

Encounter with Bishop Angebault re:

- Location in Angers
- Defection of the sisters
- Naming of an Ecclesiastical Superior for the Servants
- Possible foundation in Brussels

Bankruptcy of Le Clere Co.

Search for new location in Paris

Expansion in Brussels

The Spiritual Director

- Retreats to SSS Religious
- First Communion of Adults
- Spiritual Correspondence

1981

CO 1980

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

(V 61/76)

Angers, July 1, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your registered letter. I will fulfill your intentions¹ but you gave too much, especially now when you have so many expenses.

I came here to visit our two houses. The Sisters' house is going well. The Sisters of Nemours² are nearly all sick because of the humidity of the house, which became dangerous after the flood. These dear Sisters are better.

It was truly Providential that we left Nemours. The trials we had there were a means which freed us from even greater difficulties!

I expect to leave here tomorrow. Since you will certainly be at the Thorins on July 5th, because of the 40 day memorial Mass, my intention is to leave from Paris for Romaneche on Friday the 5th. I will get there in the evening.

Please don't tell anyone about my family visit, so that we might have some quiet.³ From your house I will visit Lantigni, but I don't want them⁴ to know about my arrival at your house.

I will see you soon, dear daughter. I have been wanting to see you for a long time, especially at this time to pray with you for this dear soul.⁵

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

1982

CO 1981

TO MME. BLANCHE CHANUET (NEE DE COUCHIES)

(VII 2/3)

Angers, July 1, 1867

Dear Lady in our Lord,

I received a fine letter from Mr. Amedee.⁶ We are joining in the novena begun the 24th for the healing of dear Sr. Camille.⁷ If I had known that I could have delayed my visit to Angers a few days, I would have left sooner for Lantigni. I thought that everything was ready for the blessing of the cornerstone of our Church. But no, it will require a few more weeks.

¹ Mass stipends for her husband.

² Who had been in Nemours.

³ Without uninvited visitors.

⁴ Srs. Benoite and Philomene, now at Lantigni.

⁵ Her recently deceased husband.

⁶ Her husband.

⁷ Her mother-in-law.

The Earthquake

I will return soon to Paris and I will go to Lantignie from there Sunday night, the 7th, or Monday, July 8th. In any case I will write to tell you more specifically the time of my arrival at Belleville. It will be a great comfort for me to see you again, dear Lady, as well as your dear, good Sr. Camille, and Sr. Benoite and Philomene if they are still there.

In the meantime, I pray a great deal for all of you. I know that Mr. Amedee must have left for Bauzon. I deeply regret his absence, but duty comes first.

Dear Lady, believe me in our Lord, your respectful and dedicated servant,

Eymard

1983

CO 1982

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

(V 62/76)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, July 4, 1867

Madame,

I will arrive Saturday morning at 7:21 at the station of Romaneche. I only have time to bless you and to tell you the consolation I feel that I am going to see you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

July 5	<i>Conference to SSS Religious (Paris): The Eucharist, a garden to cultivate.</i>
July 5	<i>Public conference: Means to honor the Blessed Sacrament.</i>

1984

CO 1983

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(VI 8/10 III 145)

Paris, July 6, 1867

Very dear sisters,

Thank you for your letters, which made me very happy. I was not able to reply at once, because I had to go to Angers.

Be assured, very dear sisters, that nothing has changed in my thoughts and feelings for you: you are my sister and my sisters, and nothing will cast a shadow over my heart, nor [over] my affection for you. - Besides, no one has said anything against [you] - no one would have dared, and I would not have allowed it. No, everyone has been perfectly proper about the matter in Angers. You have indeed been missed; you are missed, and I am pleased about that.

The short stay you had near the Blessed Sacrament will have done you good; you will be not only daughters of Mary, but above all, adorers of the Most Blessed Sacrament and apostles of adoration.

And so you must find a way to establish adoration among your followers of the Third Order - and the little children of Mary - and have the Third Order of St. Francis join you; and so your return will be truly blessed by God and the Church.

We lost poor papa Ravanat while I was in Angers. He died in the novitiate of a stroke, a cerebral hemorrhage. And yet he was happy; he had written a few days earlier to his daughters telling them that he was quite determined to stay with the Blessed Sacrament, that his temptations had vanished, that he was content to see their happiness, and especially to know that they were going to take the holy Habit.

Last Monday, I gave them the Habit, and I did not have the courage to tell them of their misfortune. - On the other hand, dear papa Ravanat must have died the death of a saint, and God gave him a great grace by calling him to himself in such good dispositions.

Goodbye, my sisters; or rather, until I see you. I shall write and send you the form from the post office which Mr. Bonne had enclosed in the letter, with the plan for the repairs, which I had not seen. The poor letter was found hidden under a pile of others. So I am sorry about that mishap. I shall make up for it. Arrange everything for the best with good Mr. Bonne and if I can help you, I shall be glad to.

Many blessings, dear sisters & daughters in our Lord,

Eymard

1985

CO 1984

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 2/11)

Lantignie via Beaujeu (Rhône), July 7, 1867

Dear Brother,

Since I forgot to give you Brother Bruno's certificate, I am sending it to you. Put the seal on it. I wasn't too fatigued from that bad night.

Reach an understanding with Fr. Vignier⁸ about Thursday, the day of preaching. I will not be back. I will probably not arrive until the end of the week. Since I am so close to Lyons, I will go there for a visit.

May God bless you all, and you in particular.

Eymard

⁸ Perhaps: Fr. Viguier.

1986

CO 1985

TO EDMEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND
(IV 3/4)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*⁹

Lyons, July 12, 1867

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am writing to you from the home of your dear aunt. I read your letter here. I'm writing to respond categorically, and as you know that I am direct, I will do it with directness.

1. Yes, I am willing to be your director, but now that your sisters are married and well married, you have the right to write your direction as openly as you think and are in the sight of God and within yourself.

2. My thought is clear. It is that you should refuse any mission, any work, which takes away your freedom. Keep your independence as you keep your heart, keep it for God to whom it belongs and whose possession it will be.

3. Yes, you are where God wants you, consequently where you find good to be done, with the grace which precedes, accompanies and follows it. So, you are not wasting your time. On the contrary, it is used well. Act in such a way that it may always be so, with these three conditions:

1. May the law of God's love always be the rule and motive for your love of neighbor, in keeping with your duties and priorities.

2. May the spirit of devotion make you rise above all external duties. Nourish your heart by frequent outpouring to God, your spirit by the daily practice of meditation, your will by virtuous self-denial.

That is the rule of holiness which you need to acquire and nourish constantly.

3. Always keep your heart free of anything that might trouble it. No sadness, distress or worry about the future. Your future is God and God loves you. You are all his; you are consecrated to him. Work and sleep quietly in Jesus' little boat. I will answer for the rest.

I was very pleased to receive news from your sisters and your whole family. I can see that the good Lord is blessing you very generously. That is how his divine Providence is pleased to show his fatherly kindness to those who entrust themselves to him.

May God ever be, dear Mademoiselle, your center and your joy.

I bless you in his divine charity,
Eymard, Superior

Here is my new address: 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris

⁹ Thy Kingdom Come.

1987

CO 1986

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I 46/54)

A.R.T.¹⁰

Paris, July 14, 1867

Dear Father,

I leave it to you to make your plans for the trip to Angers.¹¹

Fr. Audibert must have told you that your dear brother is feeling better.

However, this trip will be good for your health, as you have really worked as a good servant, and I will be very happy to see you.

Arrange everything in Marseilles. If you don't have enough priests for Sunday, I hope you could find some easily in Marseilles, or else Fr. Audibert could go to spend a day.

I remain very united to you in our Lord, very dear Father,

Eymard, S.¹²

1988

CO 1987

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 365/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 18, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord Jesus Christ,

I received your letter informing me that the two wagons had arrived. The greatest damage to the furnishings didn't happen between Paris and Angers, but between Nemours and Paris. Everything was so badly packed.

At the Paris station, I had ordered that the three wagons be sent directly to you. The Orleans Station found that the shipment of furniture was not sufficiently well packed and requested [it be sent in] a second shipment to be packed in better condition. Hence the delays and difficulties.

So, I went to oversee the work, which lasted 7 hours.

So then, to have one less wagon, and considering that you had mentioned Fr. Bompais's visit in your letter, I thought it would be prudent to hold the prie-dieu and chairs here; they would have filled a wagon. I stored them in a free area. We kept the beautiful unfinished Gothic vestment for you: it would have been ruined.

Sr. Philomene and Sr. Benoitte had taken their belongings.

Since Sr. Philomene had arrived Monday morning, the day the shipment was to take place, I asked her to come to the Ivry station to give us the necessary information.

I kept two beds for them, or rather, which belonged to them, fearing that Angers would be closed to their return.

Your letter informed me about the Bishop's decision made under duress. I didn't go to see His Excellency, as you had requested, because I didn't think my presence would have led him to change

¹⁰ *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*: Thy Kingdom Come.

¹¹ Fr. Leroyer was in Marseilles asking permission to go to Angers. To do so entailed passing through Paris.

¹² Abbreviation for Superior.

his “Breton-like” decision -I mean inflexible. I consider the Bishop’s feelings and sentence to be against me more than against anyone else. My only regret is to see so much suffering for which we are all somewhat to blame. The Bishop may have seen Fr. Fosse, the Vicar General from Meaux, in Rome. He was so stern and so negative.

As for Sr. Benoite, when I left her she had decided to return to Angers with the promise to send her to the next foundation which would take place. I told Sr. Philomene the same thing.

If the Bishop no longer wants Sr. Benoite, what shall we do with her? It is hard to see that poor child condemned and rejected like that. Alas! She doesn’t realize her situation and what may be ahead of her!

She is very unhappy and is crying a great deal. May God be praised through everything!

Stories have come from Tours, about letters with news and fears in writing ... to Mme. Rosenberg, (I believe).

I received a cold letter from Mr. Guerin of Marseilles, asking for the interest due July 2: 500 francs, with a prompt reimbursement of his 15,000 francs. He has just married his two sons and needs the money. The good sister ... must hurry to sell her house....

We are now in straits, too. I am constantly being asked for the reimbursement of 7,400 francs for the deed of Nemours. I don’t know where to get it, since I can’t borrow in my own name without the Council, which I cannot request.

We have come out of the big storm of Nemours, but only after losing everything there.

May our Lord at least take all our sufferings into account!

I saw Sr. Camille, she is still very infirm, especially very frustrated. Fr. Chanuet was telling me recently: “I made great sacrifices for those ladies for my mother’s sake, I do hope they will always consider her as a sister.”

I had her renew, or rather make, her perpetual vows, Sunday July 7; she was deeply moved.

I saw the Gourd ladies, who are still as pious and devoted as ever. Their situation isn’t settled yet. They still don’t know exactly what their financial situation will be. They will go to Vichy, and they certainly need it.

I also saw Miss de Revel, who spoke a lot about you. She is fairly well.

I am praying for the visit you will receive from the Bishop. He is very dedicated to you; he is even fond of you. He will listen to your reasons.

Now, listen well to me: give yourselves over to episcopal authority I would always be in an unfavorable¹³ position. You need the Bishop more than me. You must put yourself into his hands; that is the wise and prudent way.

Ask him clearly to be your Superior. You understand that it’s ridiculous to have a Superior in Paris or in Brussels. The Bishop would be pleased about that, because a father always loves his smallest children.

That would in no way diminish my affection or dedication for the welfare of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament nor your personal welfare. But it’s time now for things to follow the ordinary course.

I bless you in our Lord, and pray continually for you, and all your very dear daughters in our Lord.

Eymard

We’ll have to put in a claim for your shipment at the Paris-Lyons station. Send me the receipt from the two stations.

¹³ Literally: false.

1989

CO 1988

To Fr. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I 47/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, July 20, 1867

Dear Father,

I leave it to your judgment to choose the time for your trip to Angers. Surely your two families¹⁴ and many friends will be greatly pleased. I also want you to see the plan and the realization of our church in Angers.

I share your opinion: let Brother Louis make only triennial vows. Under these conditions, we will be able to test him. That is the stand I took for Brother Rene of Angers, in order to teach a good lesson to the brothers who have qualities, no doubt, but not enough for perpetual vows.

If you think it well to do so, receive the triennial vows of Brother Anthelme and the vow of obedience of Brother Joseph. I'm very happy with the news you give me about the other brothers.

About Fr. O'Kelly, I know that he is happier now, but he has a difficult temperament, as you know: I think we shouldn't give too much importance to the things he says when he is under pressure.

You are right; Fr. de Cuers needs activity. Since he has been weighed down with certain thoughts and sorrows for some time, he experienced sadness, and, probably without realizing it, temptation. His letters to me are very fine. He expected me to oppose him. I esteem him too much to contradict him. I know his good intentions. God can draw his glory from it. That is all I want. You do well to give him what you can; I want to do as much.

I am sending you 600 francs for the Tenaillon brothers, from their good mother. They are coming to Marseilles from Rome on the 28th of this month. Their mother is like a mother to our Society: she would like to give us her four sons. I will be grateful to you for welcoming them graciously.

Believe me in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

1990

CO 1989

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)

(II 366/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 21, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to acknowledge reception of your registered letter with 500 francs for Mr. Guerin from Marseilles.

I don't have time to enter into the details of your letter at present.

Sr. Philomene must have put aside the things which belonged to her, or which come from her mother. I had told her: "If you have decided not to return, take what belongs to you. It's useless to claim them later. I advise and urge you with all my might to return to Angers."

¹⁴ The Fathers and the Servants.

At the station, I let her take her belongings. I know that she didn't want to take everything. When she took what she did, it was more with the idea that we would make a foundation for her. When I read your last letter with the Bishop's feelings expressed by Fr. Bompois, I saw that any possibility of return was lost and I told them to put aside the things you haven't received. I was also afraid to think that we would have to pay 150 francs to ship a third wagon... I kept the small monsternice I had given because it was broken into several pieces. It will also be a sad souvenir from Nemours.

As for the list of objects from Nemours which were stored helter-skelter, Sr. Philomene has it; they also have it at the Ivry station.

I'll ask for it. I thought that Brother Frederic, who was there to help, had taken it. He doesn't have it.

I'll send you the list as soon as I can.

Sr. Philomene is so ill and suffered so much in Nemours that I can almost excuse her. My hope is that God will relieve her ill health, and set her back on the path to the Mother-house. She is afraid of Angers, yet she is suffering very much from being without the Most Blessed Sacrament and her Society. I am also suffering a great deal from it all; but, my hope is that if Sr. B. were to return, all this suffering would disappear.

I also wanted to write to you for the feast of St. Marguerite. I offered you my wishes at the holy Altar, and I asked God for all the graces you need so badly during this time of trial. These graces won't fail you.

I bless you in our Lord. Someone is waiting for me.

Eymard

1991

CO 1990

TO EDMOND TENAILLON (FR. E. TENAILLON SSS)

(III 3/3)

Paris, July 21, 1867

Dear Friends,

I would have thanked you sooner for your welcome letters if I could have met you in Rome. I was following you with my heart and prayer, I imagined your happiness and how your heart must be filled with good things to be assimilated during your whole life. God has loved you so much! What a lovely holiday prize! What a beautiful and successful study accomplished in such a short time!

It is said that travel is a good teacher. In the past people said: Pilgrimages are a help to holiness. You did both.

Now I am asking dear Father Leroyer to welcome you like members of the family.

If I could have done so, I would have planned a visitation to [our house in] Marseilles and taken you to your family's home.

How fortunate you are to have such good parents! From Marseilles, try to go see the Holy Balm of St. Magdalen, that great saint! It isn't far and you will like it. From there go down to St. Maximin. It isn't far, you will be shown two ways to go from Marseilles.

Then leave for Gap by the Aubert coach, on the Avenue. You will arrive in Gap in the morning; leave your baggage at the coach for Gap. After a good breakfast, leave for Notre Dame du Laus unless you wish to receive Communion there. It takes two hours on foot. It's the most beautiful and holiest place of pilgrimage in the world after Notre Dame de Loretto.

It's the pilgrimage place of my youth, I owe everything to it. After you arrive there, pray the litanies of the Blessed Virgin behind the altar for me,¹⁵ and offer my old and ever strong regards to dear Fr. Superior and dear Fr. Blanc.

¹⁵ Possibly a practice of his.

Leave from there in the evening to spend the night at Gap and leave for Corps. When you arrive from Marseilles, get your reservations for the next day, on the bench if possible,¹⁶ to see the astounding beauty of the Alps.

Stop at Corps at Mme. Dumas', hotel du Palais. Give her my best regards. - If you need a mule to go up to La Salette, she will give you one.

At La Salette remember me to Father Superior and to Fr. Archier, and pray a little for me. Spend the night at La Salette, receive Communion there the next day and go down for the coach from Corps to La Mure around one o'clock.

From La Mure leave for Grenoble where there is nothing to see. Then spend the night at the hotel de Gap near the coach. The Monet restaurant is across the way. The hotel provides lodging only.

The next morning leave for Voiron and go from there to the Chartreuse, that marvel of the physical and moral world. Then, you will need to return through Lyons, a beautiful and devout city. See Fourviere, the heavenly citadel of the Rome of the Gauls, and from Fourviere go to St. Ireneus, the reliquary of the Martyrs of Lyons. And finally, in the city, visit three churches: St. John, St. Nizier, Gothic style, and the church of the Capuchins at Brotteaux. There you can visit the tombs of the victims of the Revolution. Finally you will return to Paris pleased to find good papa Tenaillon and the best of mothers.¹⁷

While waiting for you, dear friends,

I am all yours,
Eymard, Sup.¹⁸

1992

CO 1992

TO MISS ANN DE MEEUS
(U2 RE¹⁹ VI 22)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

112 Blvd Montparnasse, Paris, July 22, 1867

Very Reverend Mother,

I kept hoping to go personally to congratulate you for the outstanding grace of your Decree of Approbation, but instead, I am the last to come and tell you how pleased I was about it, and to thank the Good Master for having given you the fruitful and perpetual blessing of the Church, and lastly, for having approved this Work which is so beautiful and which cost you so many prayers and sacrifices. God will complete His grace by giving many fine daughters to you and fervent and perfect adorers to our Lord.

I have just written to Father Champion to say that I hope to be in Brussels on the night of the third or the fourth. I hope to spend Monday in Ghent, the day when the association has its monthly adoration in your Chapel. I will say a few words about the work of adoration. I promised it to Madame de Courtbonne whom it was my consolation to meet when she returned from Rome.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Very Reverend and dear Mother,
All yours,
Eymard, Sup.

¹⁶ The outside seat near the driver.

¹⁷ Parents of the Tenaillon brothers.

¹⁸ Abbreviation for Superior.

¹⁹ The original is in the Archives of the Religious of the Eucharist in Belgium. (F.E. Stalmans SSS 1994)

1993

CO 1991

To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)
(IV 96/104)

Paris, July 22, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing just a few words to you today. I have had two long periods of absence. I received the notes from your monthly retreat in Lyons.

I burned the letter you mentioned - Stanislas - I saw immediately that it wasn't worth it, I withdrew without making any offer.

We are praying for your relative and all your intentions.

I'll be here until August 3rd. Then, I'll go to visit Brussels for about a week.

I'll write to you about your retreat shortly. I have time now only to bless you and say that I am,
In our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

July 26-27 - Purchase of the house of Brussels, Feast of St. Anne.

1994

CO 1993

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 63/76)

A.R.T.

Brussels, July 27, 1867

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter and its contents. It is my turn to thank our Lord for having opened our eyes. No, no, your daughter did not sin at all. She goes too directly to God and to obedience to have strayed.

However, her obedience was misplaced. I would like to excuse that person as ignorant, or in temptation, or in damning childishness.

Dear daughter, you see how my words to you at Thorins are true, and how God proved it to you right away.

Let us remain close to the direction of holy Church, through those who have the mission for it.

However, that does not make me doubt the rest, because, as I told you, a free gift is independent of the person's virtues - especially in this case, since it often happens that they don't understand what is said.

Whatever it may be, we must always submit everything to our spiritual Director; that is God's law for souls.

I will be here only one or two days. I will go back to Paris.

Write to me from time to time. Your letters are always very dear to me in our Lord, in whom I am, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

1995

CO 1994

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 43/52)

A.R.T.

Brussels, July 27, 1867

Miss Stephanie

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I praise God for your letter, for having opened your eyes to recognize the truth of the direction which God gave me the grace to give you during my last trip. I was far from expecting such a trial. It also opens my eyes on a very important point. Remember, dear daughter, that no one in the world has the right to impose a secret upon your conscience.²⁰ There isn't any vow that could possibly stand against this law.

You didn't offend God at all, I assure you. So, have no worry or anxiety. But you have learned a lesson for others.

As for her, I think that she is sinning through ignorance or being led astray by the evil spirit. She can be such a child, sometimes!

Your good mother is your good guide, after God. Always be open with her.

If I had two free days, I would go to see you, but I am afraid I will be too busy.

I am in Brussels for two or three days. Then I will return to Paris.

Do all that you can to get the treatment at the springs. This treatment must be your rule of health.

As for the service of the good Master, it's always time, [always] our duty and our love.

I bless you, dear daughter, in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

1996

CO 1995

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES

(VI 4/7)

Your Eminence,

I have the honor of sending Your Eminence a copy of the Constitutions of the religious Sisters, "Servants of the Blessed Sacrament." If, in your wisdom and zeal for all that could further the glory of God and the salvation of souls, Your Eminence is pleased to welcome this little community of adorers in Brussels, I am sure that they will respond to this favor by their constant prayers for the Pastor and his flock, and that they will be a powerful help to saving souls called to this life of perpetual immolation.

Awaiting a decision which we consider to be the expression of the will of God, I dare say, with feelings of most religious respect that I am,

Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant,
Eymard
Sup. of the Society of the
Most Blessed Sacrament

²⁰ Perhaps Sr. Benoite during her visit with the Gourds.

Aug 1 <i>Public Conference: The Transfiguration and the Eucharist.</i>
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1997

CO 1996

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 12/14)

Paris, August 1, 1867

Your Excellency,

I have just arrived from Brussels where I stayed a few days to visit our house. I am sorry I was not able to answer immediately.

I was very touched by Your Excellency's kindness toward our house of Marseilles. Good Father Leroyer told me how happy he was about your kind visit, and I also, Your Excellency, want to express my gratitude to you.

We learned a hard lesson at Nemours about Sister Benoitte. We made a mistake: that poor sister should have been left in her cell with God alone. There were many things about her that I didn't know. And so, Your Excellency, your letter has found a convert. I did more: I told her my decision, and that I would change her name and, if possible, I would see that she not be remembered.

I don't know where to put her, other than Angers.

It's true, that in Belgium they are asking for a little colony of adorers. There she would be unknown and so, unnoticed.

As for the question of our new foundation,²¹ I am extremely sorry about all these complications. I really understand the pious desire of the good souls in that quarter of the city where we live; some people are criticizing us, no doubt with a good intention. I was told about Mr. De la Ville-Boisnet, a builder and a neighbor to the lot which we purchased, who is protesting because of the diminished revenues to the parish; about Madame of Richeteau, who is saying that we disdain the poor, etc... And yet we did everything to settle among them, but were unable to find a proper location. Now, Mr. Allard's house is available, and they are offering it to us in exchange. They are leaving it for us at 35,000 Francs. For 92,000 Francs we bought the lot of the theater; we would need to find 57,000 Francs in return. Should we lose part of it, it would still be a large amount, if we could not sell the property for a comparable sum.

Father Audibert will be arriving from the South tomorrow or Saturday. He has just visited his father who is ill. We will confer together about this serious matter. I will go to Angers to determine on location what decision can be made and present the state of our personal point of view to Your Eminence, in order that you might be the judge. I beg you to believe that my desire is entirely to please you and to do what is best with your paternal blessing.

It is with the most profound respect that it pleases me to say that I am, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and devoted servant in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

²¹ Transfer of the Church of the Society from one part of the city to another.

1998

CO 1997

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 139/145 VI 10)

Paris, August 2, 1867

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to you in haste to tell you that dear Mme. Tenaillon's four sons are on the train for La Salette, and they will visit you in passing. Do welcome them and offer them dinner. I love them as I would my own children.

I have just written to Marie Ravanat telling her to go to La Mure to settle all her business matters.

So dear Mr. Ravanat died of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was so wise and devout! We really mourned for him, but a beautiful soul like his must be in heaven.

I am well, I have much to do, but God is sustaining me.

I have just come from Belgium to visit our house and prepare another one.

One of these days I will send you the voucher for Mr. Bonnes' mail. It had slipped unnoticed among my letters. I have just found it.

I am happy to know, dear sister, that you are able to go to church alone! that proves to me that your health has improved. May God be praised for it!

For now, stay in our village and let Angers be.²² It will have been good for your life of piety.

Goodbye dear sisters, I really bless you in our Lord.

Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

Miss Marianne Eymard
rue du Breuil
La Mure (Isere)

1999

CO 1998

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 64/76)

Paris, August 3, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letters really please me.

You are right, we must fear the illusions of Satan in this poor child.²³ We are keeping watch and we will keep watch.

I am writing to her to give Marie-Therese back to her parents, and I am giving her the reasons. She received the 500 francs.

²² Perhaps a desire to return to the convent of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

²³ Probably Sr. Benoite du SS (Mme Richard). Marie-Therese was the niece of Sr. Benoite and was staying with her at Nemours.

The Earthquake

If you have an opportunity to write to the family of Marie-Therese, it would go faster. They were wrong to take charge of this child at Nemours. It was done without my permission, and so God did not bless it.

Do not say anything to P. M. about the past. I take responsibility for it, together with all the other things which need to be corrected.

I will make it the object of a profound act of charity.

Poor child! She has been so alone and so neglected, she who more than others needed a strong and gentle obedience.

Go spend your season at the springs. The good Lord wants it. We have much work yet to do for the glory of our good Master. Here is my prescription:

A head free of all worries, entirely given to the Will of God at every moment;

A heart belonging totally to God, to adore, love and serve him as he wills;

A childlike will;

To work without aiming for success, but only to fulfill one's duty;

Relationships with our neighbor, limited by propriety and charity - simple and Christian, tender and kind toward those who suffer;

Prayer as God lets it be; its basis: the gift of self and thanksgiving;

Holy Communion, bread of strength and life; - go to receive it as a poor, weak, grateful and loving person.

Examen on your duties, that's all.

I give you constantly to our good Master. Be his possession, his servant, his adorer.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

2000

CO 2000

TO MISS EMILIENNE TAMISIER²⁴
(VII 1/9)

A.R.T.

Paris, August 4, 1867

Dear sister in our Lord,

I am writing to give you some news about myself. I have been back in Paris only a few days. I don't know when I will go to Tours, perhaps soon. I don't know when! Sr. Benoite is at Luc-sur-Mer, via Caen (Calvados) at Mme. Lemarchand, the grocer. The last news I received was that she had improved a little.

I am not aware of any opportunities [to send things] to Tours - if I were going, I would bring you a few packages.

What are you doing, poor daughter? They have been writing me letter upon letter about you from Angers, to know whether you are returning or not. - Alas! there are so many crosses in this world! so many weaknesses! My heart is bursting. May God be praised for everything!

I bless you, dear daughter, continue to be the little servant of our good Master and write me your thoughts about Angers - Mother Guillot - your hopes.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

²⁴ At Tours.

2001

CO 1999

TO SRS. EUPHROSIE, LOUISE & MARCELLE RAVANAT

(III 1/1)

A.R.T.

Paris, August 4, 1867

Dear sisters in our Lord,

I haven't written to you yet. I have been travelling almost all the time. Besides, I knew that in my absence, good Brother Aime had given you all the details about the holy death of your dear father. How happy he was to belong entirely to the Blessed Sacrament, to be a religious, to have given his three daughters to God! Poor father! I never would have thought that the good Master, pleased with his sacrifice, would call him so quickly to himself in his glory! He had made all the sacrifices of a religious.

A few days before, he had turned in all his money to Fr. Chanuet, the Superior, saying to him: "A religious should no longer have anything. I want to give up everything."

See, dear daughters, how the good Master loves you! He wanted you all to have the same vocation, to have the same crown and the same glory. So, if death makes you grieve for such a good father, may the Holy Eucharist help you to find him in Jesus. He must still be its adorer, for he was so pure and so devout.

So, Sister Euphrosie, you are the one who opened the door to the Blessed Sacrament, you were the first one to come. Then you, Sister Louise, with your dear father, and finally, dear Sister Marcelle, you were the one to close the house after having sent everyone ahead of you. Since God had called all three of you, remain ever united at the feet of the Most Blessed Sacrament. How I do thank the good Master for having been the humble instrument of your beautiful and holy vocation! Be convinced that I will try to replace your father, or rather that Jesus will replace all good things for you.

Therefore I bless you, and ask our Lord to keep you, and to make you ever happy in his holy service.

Eymard

P.S. I am sending you your father's purse with 360 francs in gold, and also two billfolds and a book.

When I go to Saint Maurice, I will gather up his books and pious objects. I don't know what he had, but I will keep it to give you at the first opportunity.

I understand that it is useless to travel to La Mure, since Sr. Louise is still a minor. I will take care of your errand for papa Ferrat. - He was also of the opinion that this trip is not necessary, and that letter from La Mure had indicated disrespect for Sr. Louise's position as a minor.

To dear Sr. Marcelle of the Blessed Sacrament, Angers

2002

CO 2001

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

(V 65/76)

A.R.T.

Paris, August 5, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am sending you Sr. Benoite's letter. I wrote to tell her that she must return her²⁵ to her parents. I will write to her again [to tell her] that it would be better not to continue to take responsibility for her. Poor Sr. Benoite is forgetting that since she owns nothing, she cannot impose sacrifices on others.

If you want to approach the Ursuline Sisters at Thoissey, that would be a real charity, but warn them about the child's faults, and if they don't want her, we will leave it at that. Also, please give the address of Sr. Benoite to the Ladies at Macon, in order that they themselves may explain the child's faults.

I think that it is better to delay Miss Stephanie's visit to your niece. Take the time you need at the springs and surrender the rest to divine Providence. There are so many troubles in this world! We must pass through it all as through a cloud, without letting it stop us.

Let us see God and his divine goodness in all things. Let us adore the motives of his divine Providence, which are ever wise and gracious.

I bless you both very paternally in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

2003

CO 2002

TO MME. EMILIENNE TAMISIER²⁶

(VII 2/9)

Paris, August 5, 1867

Dear sister,

I give you permission to see His Excellency, the Archbishop, and to speak to him heart to heart about your vocation. He is a saint and a scholar - two great qualities for good counsel.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

Aug. 6 - Father de Cuers and three companions go to Roquefavour.

²⁵ The child Marie-Therese, her niece.

²⁶ at Tours.

<i>August 7-14 - Retreat to SSS religious (men), Paris.</i>		
<i>Aug 7</i>	<i>1st Conference:</i>	<i>Purpose of the retreat - Reflection on one's state of conscience - service of God - spirit of adoration.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference:</i>	<i>Benefits of the Religious Life.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference:</i>	<i>The Eucharistic Vocation.</i>
<i>Aug 8</i>	<i>1st Conference:</i>	<i>Conditions for admission to the Society.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference:</i>	<i>Sin, the sovereign evil toward God, toward Jesus Christ.</i>
<i>Aug 9</i>	<i>1st Conference:</i>	<i>Effects of venial sin.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference:</i>	<i>Our Lord's Expiation of Sin.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference:</i>	<i>Hell.</i>
<i>Aug 10</i>	<i>1st Conference:</i>	<i>The mercy of Jesus.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference:</i>	<i>The Family of the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference:</i>	<i>Love, the principle of the Spiritual Combat.</i>
<i>Aug 11</i>	<i>1st Conference:</i>	<i>Mortification of one's senses.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference:</i>	<i>Spirit of Penance.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference:</i>	<i>The Gift of Self.</i>
<i>Aug 12</i>	<i>1st Conference:</i>	<i>All must be well done.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference:</i>	<i>The Rule, source of Holiness.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference:</i>	<i>Prayer, our means of Holiness.</i>
<i>Aug 13</i>	<i>1st Conference:</i>	<i>Fraternal charity.</i>
	<i>2nd Conference:</i>	<i>Simplicity.</i>
	<i>3rd Conference:</i>	<i>The seriousness of Life.</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>Fruit and Resolutions of the Retreat. Closing.</i>	

2004

CO 2003

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(13/20)

Paris, August 7, 1867

Dear Father,

I am sending you Fr. Anatole. He will help you to teach the two brothers. Give him two half-hours of Adoration, at 11:00 and at 3:30, or another hour. We are beginning our retreat today at 9:30 until the feast of the Assumption.

I learned that the Bishop said to the Augustinian Sisters: "Those Gentlemen persist in their desire to establish themselves at the Cloisters, while the Allard house is vacant and is offered to them as a gift, etc., etc. Well! I will be opposed to it. All the upper clergy agree with me. They are doing good work up there: God wants them there. They will not transfer, even if I have to dismiss them."

Fr. Carri wrote to tell me that. If that is how things are, it's a real difficulty. If we are sent away the Master will be humiliated. We must avoid that humiliation for his sake, and then, one of two things: either we leave first (but then we would still have to sell that land, and how could we withdraw without great losses!) or thoroughly examine the question of the Dautre. If they are serious, what guarantees do we have of the help they promise? If we were purely and simply given the Allard house, which would seem [like a] serious [offer] to me, we would study the rest. You are there, dear Father, see what it is like to deal with an authority which allowed us to move forward, have the theater demolished, lose half the value of the land, and then abandon us because a few people complained.

The Earthquake

However, in order not to show bad will on our part, study things in depth.

I am told that not a single stone has yet been laid on the foundation. Does God want to leave us at the Dautre? Place us at the Cloisters? Withdraw us from Angers? “*Loquere Domine, quia audit servus tuus*” [Speak Lord, your servant is listening]. Let’s pray to know his holy will and have strength to do it. Test the shifting ground.

Believe me, dear Father,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, p.²⁷

G.S.J.²⁸

2005

CO 2004

TO MISS ANN DE MEEUS
(U 3²⁹ RE VI 22)

A.R.T.

Paris, August 10, 1867

Very dear and esteemed Mother,

Thank you for your kind letter, and for telling me about the arrival of Msgr. Chaillot. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing him in Paris when he returns.

His surprise will be brief when he learns that I am not the Superior of the Ladies of Angers; the Bishop of Angers is the one who has final and direct [authority] to name a diocesan priest as their ecclesiastical superior. I gave them to him unconditionally three years ago. The care of our religious is surely enough for me. I know that there was question of a foundation for them in Belgium. The Bishop of Angers is studying whether he should accept it for them or not. He does not strike me as being very pressed to do so, and whatever be the outcome, dear Mother, that would never weaken our union with you in the service of our common Master. You know how much good I hope for you in our Lord.

Believe me ever,

Dear and very esteemed Mother,
All your,
Eymard

Aug 8	<i>Public Conference: The Eucharist, our All.</i>
Aug 13	<i>Public Conference: The Assumption.</i>

²⁷ Abbreviation for Priest.

²⁸ Abbreviation for: *Gloire soit a Jesus*: Glory be to Jesus.

²⁹ Original in the Archives of the Religious of the Eucharist, Belgium. (F.E. Stalmans SSS 1994)

2006

CO 2005

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 4/20)

Paris, August 17, 1867

Very dear Father,

The Bishop wrote to me, saying that he was waiting for me in order to treat serious matters. I think it has to do with the proposal for a foundation in Brussels. However, if it concerns our foundation, and the Diocesan administration should be against us, after having been favorable, or at least consenting, that will settle everything. What! Is that the outcome we should have expected toward us from his Eminence! In the presence of this difficulty, which hurts deeply, consider whether we should impose such great sacrifices upon ourselves.

I am willing to go to Angers when you write to tell me that the Bishop will receive us, and also after you have looked into the matter to see how serious these verbal promises may be. Please, definitely consult Fr. Carri about this and find out what guarantees they are providing. I was given two names: Mr. Dulavoir and another.

I beg you, dear Father, get to the bottom of the matter. I'm fully aware that Angers doesn't owe us anything, but they don't have the right to accuse us, and especially to say that we are ambitious, that we look down on the poor, as if we had not tried to stay among them! So write to tell me when you think it is the right time for me to go.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, p.

P.S. Congratulations to our two new and old professed. My affection for Brother Ren has certainly grown through this situation which was decisive for him.

2007

CO 2006

TO SR. CAMILLE DU SS (MME. CHANUET, NEE CROZET)
(III 3/3 VI 17)

Paris, August 21, 1867

Very dear Mother and sister in our Lord,

I wanted to come with your dear son who is [also] ours and very dear, because it would be a great comfort to me to come see you, to bless you and pray over you. You are ever present to me in the presence of our Lord, I never cease praying to him for you. Dear Sr. Camille, surrender to his love for you; it is great and all merciful. Everything he has done through your lifetime, especially in recent years, certainly gives you the most consoling and constant proof of his love.

Good sister, struggle against the fears which are afflicting you, by holy surrender into the hands of the mercy of Jesus, your good Master.

You are his servant, you have given him everything, you are entirely his. He has accepted you into his service and has even crucified you with him. How would you not rest in his arms like a beloved child! You will go to heaven, good Sister Camille. As for me, I only ask that you work a while longer. However, it is more perfect to say: "May your kingdom come, may your will be done."

The Earthquake

Father³⁰ is leaving. I only have time to bless you and say that I am,
Dear mother, sister and daughter in our Lord,

All yours in O.L.,
Eymard, S.

<i>Aug 24 Public conference: The Mystery of Faith.</i>
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2008

CO 2007

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 27/29 VI 2)

Paris, Saturday, August 24, 1867

Very dear Father,

We all said Holy Mass this morning for the repose of the soul of your dear, devout mother, our good and beloved sister in our Lord. That is the best way of showing her our love, and [telling] you how we share your grief.

I offered to God all the merits of the Society for eight days for this dear mother and daughter in our Lord. I was hoping to have the consolation of seeing her again, but it wasn't God's will. We will see her again in heaven. Do what seems fitting, dear Father, then come back to us.

Please share with your whole family my very deep and prayerful sympathy in our common loss and also all our hope and trust in God's goodness.

All yours,
Eymard

2009

CO 2008

TO MME. BLANCHE CHANUET (NEE DE COUCHIES)
(VII 3/3)

Paris, Aug. 25, 1867

Dear Mme. Blanche,

I rejoiced greatly in our Lord and in our Lady of Deliverance, [when I learned] about your healing. I celebrated Mass in thanksgiving and we join in your novena. This favor tells you very eloquently that God loves you and that his Holy Mother holds you with special tenderness. Therefore, continue to trust in their goodness.

Therefore, we hope to have the consolation to see you soon in Paris when you return. We must now admire the goodness of divine Providence leading you to S. Brieuc via Bayeux - that is because Our Lady of Deliverance was waiting for you at Luc. May she be praised forever!

³⁰ Her son, Fr. Michel Chanuet.

The Earthquake

Our Lord has just called good Sr. Camille, your dear mother to himself. Do not let this death afflict you too deeply, because it is the death of the Just; she went to Heaven to continue the adoration of earth. She suffered a great deal. It is finished now, now is her time of joy - Life is but the seed of heavenly glory.

In one year God has harvested from among, you three fields filled with a beautiful harvest. You will replace them, dear Lady. God has tilled your field with so much love! He planted so many good graces in it. Let them flower in blessed virtues!

Goodbye

2010

CO 2009

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 5/20)

Paris, August 26, 1867

Very dear Father,

I still cannot come to Angers. Fr. Chanuet has just lost his dear mother; he must be replaced. I am waiting for him.

If God wants us at the Doutre, I want it as much as you do, dear Father; not because of what the Bishop was quoted as saying, because he would be misjudging us and the Society would be humiliated, but because of the dedication of these good Christians. After all, how could we refuse without incurring blame, after what we said, you and I? If they take us literally, we are somehow bound.

So then, I will go to Angers at the first opportunity. I am waiting for Fr. Chanuet; so examine everything, and let's pray.

All yours,
Eymard

2011

CO 2011

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 72/75)

A.R.T.

Paris, August 27, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

It has been a long time since you've given me any news about yourself. In a sense I am happy about it; it proves that you are fine, that your soul is well fed, that it is progressing on its true path.

You understood me well. Your summary of my advice is very precise. However, let me come back on it.

1st Principle:

Fidelity in fulfilling one's rule of life is the primary virtue, we must come back to it constantly! A schedule is a requirement of health.³¹

³¹ Spiritual health.

The Earthquake

2nd Principle:

Let your fidelity consist first in fulfilling the external practices of your rule well, that is, in accomplishing them at their appointed time and place, in keeping with their accompanying circumstances; that's what the sacrifice of virtue consists of. What is more, they should be done according to the rules which their nature requires; in a word, as a moral action with its ordinary attributes. Their perfection consists in this. Therefore, when you have done your meditation following the prescribed rules, your reading in a determined author during the required time, with ordinary attention, so as to benefit from it at that moment, you will have done a very good reading.

Leave the spiritual success to God as well as the sentiments of grace to be received. You are only bound to sow, plant and water. To say is otherwise: God is asking you to give it your care; the success depends on him.

3rd Principle:

In your prayers, aspire to nourish yourself upon God rather than to purify yourself, or humble yourself. In order to do this, nourish your soul with the truth personified in God's divine goodness towards you, with his tenderness, his personal love. This is the secret of true prayer; to discover God's actions and plans in his love for us! Then the soul is astonished, relieved and cries out, "How good you are, oh my God! What can I do for you? What could please you?" That is the flame which rises from the hearth.

But to attain such a living prayer, we must strive very hard to forget ourselves, to avoid seeking ourselves in any way in prayer. We must especially simplify the work of our mind by a simple and calm view of God's truths. The secret of this simple view is to see things at first glance, under the aspect of God's goodness for us, the reason for this grace, what it cost our Lord, its actuality and permanence for us.

When the soul has the joy of finding this good side, prayer becomes more like a delightful contemplation, where the hour passes quickly. Oh! Dear daughter, how often I wish and desire that you may taste God in this way! It lasts a long time; it is my rock of St. Romans.

But I see that I have strayed from my first thought which was to recapitulate your letter. I will leave it at that, convinced that you might prefer to read me than to reread yourself.

Believe what I say, accomplish acts of zeal only through duty, but aspire to the interior life by the attraction of divine love.

We are getting older and we still have a long way to go. We should take the shortest way, the way of love which gives everything without self-seeking.

I have often thought about my visit in Lyons. Sometimes you found that I was more a friend than a father. The joy of seeing you after so long made me think I was in my family; and then, my heart had been suffering so much lately, that it blossomed out when it encountered its eldest daughter.

I saw dear Miss Gerin. She is truly everything you had told me. It was like seeing you, since she is your friend.

Goodbye dear Madame, sister and daughter in our Lord, don't delay too long before giving me news about yourself.

I would really like to know where to find Mme. Nugues.

I bless you in our Lord, and I am, in Him and for Him,

All yours,
Eymard, S.

2012

CO 2013

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 66/76)

Paris, August 27, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

We must always adore our good Master's plan of mercy and love, and see in this temporary separation the growth of his glory in our neighbor.

Your soul was longing to live at the feet of God,³² and see how he is giving you each a mission. But, dear daughter, you know that the holy Will of the God of Providence is the best and surest rule for our life.

However, you must often go to be with your dear daughter, for you are two beings in one.

Take care of your temporal affairs with trust in the light and strength of the moment, but without mental stress and especially without too much fatigue, doing only what your strength allows and prudence indicates.

In the morning, feed your soul with our Lord for the day.

When in church, remember that you are only a servant adorer of the Blessed Sacrament. Consequently, don't worry too much about your responsibilities, or about yourself. Pure love forgets itself and glorifies the goodness and tenderness of God in himself and in us.

Your letters console me greatly, but I don't want them to tire you by losing time meant for your rest.

Goodbye dear daughter and sister in our Lord. I bless you in your holy vocation.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.³³

P.S. Thank you for the wine. Everything arrived safely.
Madame Gourd

2013

CO 2014

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 44/52)

Paris, August 27, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

You are now at Thorins, to teach your nieces and have your nieces as companions. You must tell yourself: God wants it so.

Charity will determine the external [details] of your life. It is the virtue of the present moment. See how our good Master knows how to place us on the path of self-denial.

You could have hoped to live calmly and in solitude close to your dear mother, but see how our Lord is separating you and is surrounding you with noisy activity. May he be praised! The more you expend yourself exteriorly, the more you must cover and fill yourself interiorly with Jesus.

³² After the death of Mr. Gourd, both she and her daughter had planned to join the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

³³ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

The Earthquake

Take my word for it, when you are with our Lord, don't allow yourself to think of others, busy yourself with our Lord, with our Lord alone. Say little about yourself to Jesus, much about Jesus to yourself, for yourself. In real love, we need to forget ourselves, achieve a life of union in our Lord by deep awareness of the heart. That is not tiring and can harmonize with everything else.

Always maintain control over your external situation in order to guide it with the fine and straightforward³⁴ helm of the holy Will of God at each moment.

I bless you, dear daughter in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

2014

CO 1010

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 19/26)

Paris, 112 Blvd. Montparnasse, August 27, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for the letter you sent after your return.

I am happy about your good dispositions, your present state, especially your desire to follow your schedule faithfully. You do well.

A rule of life is like a physical diet. You must be faithful to it, because your soul will always be happy when it is well fed with God. It is only in prayer that you will find that delightful peace, calm and rest which is often more tangible than in holy Communion.

In prayer God feeds us; in holy Communion we often feed God with the bread of [our] suffering and the laborious fruit of [our] virtues: that is why we often suffer after holy Communion.

When you are joyful, meditative, one with God, feed your prayer with gratitude, and enjoy God and his goodness. When dryness comes, draw water from the well, water with hope, and if you are experiencing any suffering of soul, let that suffering be the subject of your prayer in order to supernaturalize it, or eliminate it if it springs from disappointments and turmoil.

I'm very happy about the good faithful affection which welcomed you when you arrived. Keep it alive, as you do. There is greater peace and benefit in doing so.

I hope that your civil proceedings are over and won. How sad it is to always be at war! that is how things are in this world.

I've just indulged your crosses and given them to good Fr. Garnier.

I count on your prayers, just as mine are also guaranteed for you and your dear beloved friend.

I bless you both,
All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. Why did you send me stamps? Don't you want to owe me anything? or perhaps, not to forget anything!

³⁴ Algernate translation: fine direct helm.

2015

CO 2012

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 14/19)

Paris, August 27, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,³⁵

Here I am, always behind as usual. Don't imitate me. We have finished our long retreat. I went to Belgium, then I forgot your address. Finally, here I come to pay my debt. It may be like mustard after the meal is over, as the proverb says to those who are late.

After all, we need to know that when we receive a great grace of interior renewal, everything seems easy and pleasant at first, because we are under that gentle and pleasant impact of grace. This is followed by a time of trial. That is the great shock. Either we do too much at the beginning, or not enough. If we do too much, we become discouraged at the first infidelity. That is the fruit of pride. We were counting too much on ourselves. If we don't do enough, we feel bitter reproach, not from our conscience, but from the devil, to tell us that everything is already lost, that we are already unfaithful.

- But, you will say, I received Communion, as I had promised you, and I did what you told me, or at least what I could. - If you have done all that you could, everything is fine in God's sight.

- But I am not God!... That's good... You would think that you were a saint!

In the winter, we hardly manage to get warm while working. You are in the winter now.³⁶ So you must work, but not to the point of perspiration... That's always dangerous, because there is too much effort.

Remember that, in God's service, we need fidelity and generosity, but not strength. God is the strength!

- But you weren't able to pray as you wanted to, peacefully and alone. - That's unfortunate, because you weren't able to begin and finish your prayer well. However, try to attain a peaceful and tranquil meditation, in order to enjoy God in yourself.

A great rule of holiness is to know how to find time for one's soul. The devil makes us waste it. Prayer! Prayer with God and with yourself: that is the first law.

The second law: generosity in fulfilling the holy Will of God over us through self-denial, through love of duty - which comes back to pure love - to do things in order to please God.

Do you want to be transformed interiorly and quickly in God? - and consequently, exteriorly [as well], since the flame comes out of the hearth? Be mistress of yourself: command your old self with authority, and dominate it in order to live by the spirit of our Lord.

I won't discuss what was troubling and worrying you so... Can one become so upset!

Remember this rule forever: when anxiety follows an action, it's a temptation. - When it comes during an action, if the action is good in itself, or if it was begun with a good intention, it must be continued in spite of the agitation. - If the worry comes first, we must either suspend the action, or form a good principle for ourselves, based on duty or obedience or a virtue, etc..., and proceed.

That's enough; I will run out of paper and I wanted to tell you how comforted I was to see your good mother again, whom I consider as my family, with her dear daughter.

I was happy to meet that lovely young woman. Thank you for it.

I am counting on having news from you soon. Your letters are destroyed. No one reads mine.

I bless you in our Lord. Have confidence and courage!

Eymard

³⁵ This letter was not copied on an autograph by Fr. Eymard, but on a copy done by Mme. Giraud-Jordan.

³⁶ Spiritual winter.

2016

CO 2015

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 6/20)

A.R.T.

Paris, August 28, 1867

Very dear Father,

I see that Fr. Chanuet isn't coming yet. You would do well to let Fr. Carri come to Paris, if you don't need him. I think that Fr. Leroyer's presence could make up for his absence, which won't be long.³⁷

Discuss the problems about the Cloisters and the Doutre with good Fr. Leroyer. You have no idea how much I am suffering over this about-face by the Bishop, as well as about our sensitive situation regarding the proposals of the Doutre. To bury 200,000 francs in the Cloisters, with an administration which is giving us so little encouragement, and to desire to do good there in spite of them, is a terrible position to be in. I am waiting for Fr. Chanuet's return in order to come see you. I think it may be on Sunday. The Bishop is expecting me, but I don't have a free moment with the novitiate and the house of Paris on my hands. I am one with you in your suffering, dear Father, and in your sincere desire for the glory of God. We will always be in complete agreement on such beautiful and holy ground.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2017

CO 2016

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 43/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Paris, August 28, 1867

Madame in our Lord,³⁸

I have owed you an answer for such a long time! I was hoping to come and reply [in person] in Angers. I will come next Sunday, God willing. I would need to come right away; I am waiting for a letter from Angers to leave sooner.

There are great difficulties in Angers about our new house at St. Martin's Cloister. They reneged on their promise at the Chancery. People who live at the Doutre are doing everything they can to keep adoration; in that, they are praiseworthy. - But we are in a delicate position.

It's enough to make us leave Angers and accept Arras right away, where they would give us a church, a house and a garden, and where the Bishop would be happy to welcome us. But how can we leave Angers, the cross and suffering?... That is what I must resolve during my next trip.

You are fortunate in the countryside, with your divine Guest, with the calm and solitude of adoration, the spontaneity of the grace and love of our Lord! May God increase it in you, and may you find joy in it.

³⁷ Probably referring to the absence of Fr. Chanuet.

³⁸ Taken from a copy, not the original.

The Earthquake

Enjoy God, your graces, your Tabernacle, your good Master. To enjoy him means to desire Him alone; to enjoy him means to live through Him and for Him, at his feet, on his Heart, in his divine Person.

At his feet, listen to him like Mary: it is the bread of life and knowledge. It is the banquet of the soul which comforts you in every way. It is the prayer of silence, of a glance, of the happiness of being under the influence of the divine Sun - on his Heart in holy Communion, or when your heart suffers, or when your soul is sad. When Jesus seems dead, his Heart does not die, his blood was still warm even after his death. - In his divine Person: Jesus said, "Whoever eats me abides in me, and I abide in him."

A beautiful and divine sharing of life! To dwell with Jesus, in Jesus, that is to be his servant adorer.

I am running out of paper....

I leave you to our Lord.

<i>Aug. 29 Public conference: The Beheading of John the Baptist.</i>
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2018

CO 2017

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 12/15)

Paris, Aug. 29, 1867

Dear Mr. Amedee,

After much thought, I advise you to keep preciously the religious habit of your holy devout mother. You had them for her burial. You buried her in others; therefore, they are yours. The purpose has been fulfilled. Your devotion determined the means.

I am sending you a little [?]³⁹ received this morning, which I opened by mistake. I did not read it.

I hope that everything will go well with your sisters-in-law, in fraternal understanding.⁴⁰ It is right that you should be informed about the difficulties and problems of the inheritance and also of the family's affection.

I hope to see you again soon. I am making your novena. My fond respects to your dear wife.

Believe me in our Lord, all yours,
Eymard, S.

³⁹ Illegible.

⁴⁰ Settlement for Mme. de Couchie's inheritance.

2019

CO 2018

To Fr. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 7/20)

Paris, August 30, 1867

Very dear Father,

I will be there tomorrow night, Saturday at 5:30.

We will see His Eminence on Sunday. I told Fr. Carri how sorry I was to know that public opinion made him favor the Dautre, contrary to his Superior. He told me that he had done nothing against it. I told him that God blesses only order and obedience.

Fr. Chanuet arrived this morning. Therefore, I will be with you tomorrow night.

Believe me, very dear Father, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

2020

CO 2019

To Mme. Antoinette De Grandville (Nee Du Cornulier)
(IV 97/104)

Paris, August 30, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I am leaving for Angers tomorrow, Saturday morning. I'll stay only a few days. I would really like to receive news about you (rue Lyonnaise, 9). If I had half a day to myself, I would like to pay you and your kind sister a quick visit in Nantes.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

2021

CO 2200

To MISS EMILIENNE TAMISIER⁴¹
(VII 9/9)

I am going to Angers. I will try to see you on my way back next Wednesday or Thursday. God wanted this sacrifice.⁴²

⁴¹ at Tours.

⁴² This note was written on the reverse side of a business card.

2022

CO 2020

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 368/395 VI 2)

Angers, Sunday, September, 1867⁴³

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just seen the Bishop. His Excellency will be there⁴⁴ at 1:30 tomorrow. I will arrive around 1:00 p.m.

The three of us will discuss the major issues which the Bishop mentioned to me, and your note.

The first thing is to accept a Superior named by the Bishop. His Excellency holds to it. Otherwise he would leave you on your own, and we don't want such a withdrawal.⁴⁵

We spoke about Brussels. I explained the material situation to him. It is fine. However, there is a condition which I didn't have time to mention to His Excellency, that His Eminence the Cardinal of Malines would like us to assign Belgian members there by preference. He is even setting this as a condition for the acceptance of the foundation. You'll have to study that attentively.

The Bishop spoke to me about the sisters who haven't returned. I saw Sr. Benoite when she came back from Lantigni. She stayed only an hour and a half in Paris. She was very swollen and very tired.

You may know that Sr. Benoite went to Lantigni and that I didn't see her, nor did I know about her departure. However, she was very helpful to poor Sr. Camille, who found it so difficult to accept death.

I won't be able to come say holy Mass for you, as I must stay here to make a report for the Bishop and bring it to him immediately.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2023

CO 2021

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)
(V 7/14)

Angers, September 2, 1867

Your Excellency,⁴⁶

"Fr. Eymard communicates the steps taken to remain at Doutre: the purchase of the Aubert Theater, the work already completed, the impossibility of giving up the project which is underway."

Fr. Audibert, the Superior of our house in Angers, informed me about the difficulties which have arisen against the foundation of our house and chapel and St. Martin's cloister. I have come to study this on location and to make a final decision. Therefore, I dare, with all simplicity and

⁴³ September 1st. (Troussier)

⁴⁴ at the convent.

⁴⁵ of support.

⁴⁶ Handwritten note on the above letter, by Bishop Angebault:

"Fr. Eymard communicates the steps taken to remain at Doutre: the purchase of the Aubert Theater, the work already completed, the impossibility of giving up the project which is underway."

confidence, present to Your Eminence the situation of the matter and wait for a decision which we will receive with respect.

The devout inhabitants of the Doutre regret the loss of the chapel of Adoration as a result of our change of location, and, with this spiritual desire, they collected a tax and we are told they collected the amount of 15,000 Francs (which, however, is not guaranteed, since no one visited the Superior of the house about it; therefore, these matters are hearsay). But, I suppose that they did succeed in collecting 15,000 Francs. That is beautiful on their part, and we are profoundly touched and would like to respond to their desires by staying at the Doutre. What makes us grieve even more is the thought that we would be contradicting the wishes of Your Excellency and that of your esteemed Vicar Generals who are always so kind toward us.

But, what can we reasonably do? Ought we, to remain at the Doutre, impose such great sacrifices on ourselves? And if they were asked of us, should we take such a great responsibility toward Society? In fact, what is at stake is nothing less than the loss of at least 60,000 Francs, since we already have spent the amount of 100,000 Francs and more, that is:

purchase of the Aubert House	75,000 Francs
purchase of the house at the cul-de-sac	12,000 Francs
expenses already incurred	10,000 Francs
total:	97,000 Francs

The contracts have been signed with the contractors. They have ordered the materials, so we cannot rescind our commitments without providing a large indemnity.

Well, in view of this amount exceeding 100,000 Francs, with a house being donated to us in exchange, a deficit of 60,000 Francs would be left.

And would the Allard House which is being offered really be given? And if it is given to us without being fully paid, doesn't our position become extremely ambiguous? And how could we urge the payment of this collective debt, once we would be established in the building? Doesn't prudence indicate that we should even refuse what is being offered to us?

Add to that, Excellency, that the foundations of the chapel are almost finished, and the materials are on location. And then, the considerable losses incurred were we to sell a piece of land which has lost half its value by the destruction of the theater and the house at the cul-de-sac.

To mention nothing of the humiliation which would be ours in giving up what has been begun, and I dare say, of what was done following the general permission given by diocesan authority to look for a proper locale in the center of the city. - We had taken active and positive steps for the Church of St. Martin, for the cloister of Abraham. When nothing came of it, while keeping authority informed, with pressure from the Carmelites on the other hand to withdraw from the precarious situation which we were told in writing was an inconvenience to them, and Mr. Allard absolutely refusing to surrender his building, we then purchased the Aubert theater, and informed the diocesan authority immediately.

Please God that things should not be at this point! The Society would not need to impose a sacrifice of at least 160,000 Francs upon itself, nor the grief of contradicting the opinion and desires of authority. We would have preferred to withdraw.

However, although the losses would be considerable, if Your Excellency judges that we cannot stay there, we will stop the work and withdraw as best we can from this painful situation. I hope that we will know how to obey, we have already done so.

So I will wait for a reply from Your Excellency in order to take the necessary steps before leaving for Paris, because it is difficult for everyone to stay in such a tense situation.

Please receive my expression of most profound respect and deepest gratitude; it is my honor to be, Your Excellency,

Your very humble and obedient servant,
Eymard, Sup. Soc. S.S.^{47 48}

⁴⁷ Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

2024

CO 2022

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 369/395 VI 2)

(Tuesday, September, 1867)⁴⁹

Dear daughter,

I cannot come to say holy Mass for you tomorrow. I am suffering a little from a dull intestinal pain. I'll try to get there before the time set by His Excellency.

The Bishop has just left here. He is fully dedicated to you and your Community. We must thank God for that.

Don't offer the cincture now. It isn't time to do so.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - I'll tell you everything that the Bishop told me.

2025

CO 2023

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 370/395 VI 2)

[Angers, September, 1867]⁵⁰

Dear daughter,

The wind and the weather tire me out. I wanted to leave tonight but I don't dare to do so.

I'll leave tomorrow at 9:00. Send me your monstrance.

I'll try to send you the confessional by having it dismantled.

I think it would be well to copy the Bishop's letter except for the part that is personal to you. It would please Fr. Bompois.

I bless you. Pray for the sisters who are outside. Storm heaven.

All yours,
Eymard

⁴⁸ "Moved by this noble plea, Bishop Angebault changed his decision and went personally to the chaplain's quarters at Carmel to notify Fr. Eymard, who was ill, to give him his total consent for the project underway at St. Martin's Cloister. As a proof of his unconditional trust in him, he promised to come personally to bless the cornerstone." From *Pierre Julien Eymard*, by Fr. Andre Guitton SSS.

⁴⁹ Probably September 3rd. (Troussier.)

⁵⁰ Probably September 4. (Troussier.)

2026

CO 2024

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 13/20)

Paris, September 11, 1867⁵¹

I am writing to thank you for the favor you obtained for me on the Marseilles railroad. I would be amazed by your success if I didn't know how dedicated you are. I decided to go spend Sunday, the feast of Our Lady of La Salette, with you. I will leave late Saturday night for Richebourg. Do not disturb yourself. I will certainly know how to find you.

May I ask you to present my respectful regards to Madame your mother whom I will be happy to meet?

My faithful regards to Mr. Paul.⁵²

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2027

CO 2025

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 371/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, September 12, 1867⁵³

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm sending you the person who was recommended by the nephew of the Cardinal of Lyons and by Mr. Toccanier, the Cur d'Ars, my friend. She seems very fine to me. I heard that several Communities wanted her. I'm very happy that she should be with the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament: it might open the doors for Lyons.

I'll write to our sisters from Luc, I've just come from St. Maurice. We must really pray, this is the decisive moment.

I only have time to bless you and say that I am, in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - My sister is still asking about her belongings. I imagine that you were kind enough to have them sent to her.

⁵¹ Excerpt from a letter.

⁵² Later Fr. Paul Marechal.

⁵³ Archives of the Servants.

2028

CO 2026

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 14/20)

Paris, September 14, 1867

⁵⁴Impossible to go to Richebourg on September 22. I will have an ordination on that Saturday and the next day a Mass for our new priest. I must assist him. To show you my good will, I will see you tomorrow, Sunday. I will leave here at 6:55. I will arrive there around 9 a.m. - My respectful regards to your whole family.

All yours,
Eymard

2029

CO 2027

TO MISS EMILIENNE TAMISIER⁵⁵
(VII 3/9)

A.R.T.

Paris, September, 1867

Dear sister in our Lord,

In order to fulfill my promise to the Bishop of Angers that I would write you his decision, I am writing to beg you to weigh it carefully before God.

As the Bishop desires that the Sisters who have not returned to Angers should return as soon as possible, he held a Council Meeting of the House and declared that he is giving to the absent Sisters only three weeks to return and place themselves under obedience. After that delay they would be considered as no longer wanting to be part of the Society of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. That is the order which has been given and I am transmitting it to you, dear Sister. With all my heart, I desire that you should follow your vocation without letting any human or personal motive stop you. God is the one you want, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament whom you serve and want to serve.

Human beings pass and God remains. I beg and beseech you, dear Sister, not to say anything against the Mother of Angers and her house. I see a great danger and a great evil in that. You would hurt me deeply if you did it. As the Archbishop is already upset and has even judged her severely I beg you, leave it at that.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

⁵⁴ Excerpt from a letter.

⁵⁵ at Tours.

2030

CO 2028

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS

(I8/20)

A.R.T.

Paris, September 16, 1867⁵⁶

Dear Father,

Fr. Carri is leaving again for Angers. He was careful and prudent.

Fr. Leroyer told me about your sadness and fears regarding the Loriol debt. Let us put our trust in God. We have what we need to pay it, except that we cannot withdraw our funds yet. If you haven't given the small amount I brought you, try to do so right away; otherwise you will have to pay interest on the interest, and also because money is unproductive in a drawer.

The house of Angers is a heavy burden, it's true; but how can we turn back? We all believed God wanted it. Let us have trust and confidence.

Goodbye, dear and good Father; they⁵⁷ are leaving now.

All yours,
Eymard

2031

CO 2029

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)

(VI8/12)⁵⁸

Paris, September 16, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am not free these days, - today I am preparing the letter for our candidates for ordination.

Wait a little before you come; I shall write to you as soon as I am freer - shortly, I hope.

Thank you, Sr. Philomene, for your letter - written with your heart and simplicity.

All this means that the situation is difficult and requires light and strength from on high.

Pray hard - I bless you.
Eymard

P.S. If I could come to see you, it would be less tiring for you.

⁵⁶ Published as Sept. 11. However, on that date he was not in Paris. Listed as Sept. 16 by Fr. Garreau.

⁵⁷ Unclear: they or we.

⁵⁸ This letter is in the Oratory of St. Peter Julian, at the SSS Generalate of the Fathers in Rome.

2032

CO 2030

TO MISS CLARISSE DE THOMAZ DE BOSSIERE

(V 1/2)

Paris, September 18, 1867

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am sending you what I had promised; I do so in gratitude and with the hope that you will kindly pray for me, as I like to do for you. Your zeal and devotedness for the glory of our Lord in his divine Sacrament establish a eucharistic relationship between you and us. We are working in harmony for the same Master. I hope that our Lord will bless all your desires, dear Mademoiselle. There is nothing you can do that would be more pleasing to God the Father than to glorify his divine Son, and to have him glorified until the end of the world.

We are happy to work with you. Your thoughts are ours. I don't know what God wants from us at this moment. - His Excellency, who is so wise and devout, will tell us.

I can certainly foresee many obstacles and difficulties on the part of Miss de Meeus! But if God wants it, we want it with our whole heart, with all its difficult consequences which will no longer be so for us.

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord, please accept all my faithful sentiments of devotion,

Your very humble servant,
Eymard, Superior

Miss de Thomaz de Bossiere
20, rue Royale
Brussels (Belgium)

2033

CO 2031

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES

(VI 5/8)

Your Eminence,

The request for the religious Sisters of Angers made by Miss Thomaz de Bossiere has been postponed for a considerable amount of time because of commitments undertaken by the Ladies. This excellent foundress, who is very upset by these unexpected difficulties and had already had her house adapted for religious use, is asking whether we could not go there ourselves, if Your Eminence agrees to it. She told us that the district near the railroad in the Leopold area has no church or chapel, that religion suffers from this, and that many people were missing Mass on Sundays because they had to go too far; and that she would undertake to have a chapel built, adequate for these districts, etc...

Before replying to this suggestion, Your Eminence, I am submitting it to your Wisdom; [I am] quite prepared to welcome it, and we would devote ourselves to it with all our strength, if it has your blessing.

I think that our departure from the Salazar Church will not cause any great reaction in that district, where our ministry bears so little fruit, as it already has so many means of spiritual help.

The work of Miss de Meeus will not be disadvantaged by this either, since we are not personally helpful to it.

The Earthquake

It is true that we are there to honor the fact of the miracle, which would not stop with our departure since the Ladies are founded for that local purpose - and as for ourselves, we would have the consolation of a more apostolic adoration in an entirely new district.

I submit all these reflections to your esteemed and holy consideration, Your Eminence. We shall always be happy to be where Your Eminence blesses us and looks on us as his children.

It is with the most filial veneration in our Lord, that I dare say that I am,

Your Eminence's humble and devoted son,
Eymard
Superior of the Congregation
of the Blessed Sacrament

112 Boulevard Montparnasse
Paris, September 18, 1867

<i>Sept 19 Public Conference: Communion, Remedy for our Sadness.</i>

2034

CO 2032

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

(V 67/76)

A.R.T.

Paris, September 27, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I am really praying for your dear mother, for you, and your dear daughter. I feel that you are following the law of charity and self-denial, and that after receiving your measure of grace and strength in the morning, you need to devote yourself all day, you to your good mother, and Miss Stephanie to her family.

Be content with the morning, and when you can make a brief visit to the good Master in the evening, to rest at his feet, do so.

Your nephew's offer is truly Providential. You do well to accept it and follow his advice, which seems very wise to me.

I am convinced that it isn't urgent to share yet.

Be simple with your little family established at Thorins. Tell Miss Stephanie not to worry about guardianship, nor even about the possibility of doing better. She should count on the teacher and be content with an ordinary life to a great extent.

You would do well if you could help your niece, at least this year, for the board and room of her little boys. It is in God's order of things to begin with one's own.

It is a good thing that Sr. Benoite's sister will take over the responsibility for poor Therese! I praise God for it. It is one less major responsibility, and also a matter of safety.

Keep your soul ever in God's hands, dear daughter. Recommend all your affairs to Him and follow the path of divine Providence every day and every moment.

You know how much joy your letters give me, but I would be upset if they tire you out.

In October, I hope to go to Marseilles and I will try to see you on the way.

I bless you and your dear daughter.

Eymard

2035

CO 2033

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I48/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 2, 1867

Dear Father,

Thank you for the letter you wrote when you arrived. I thank our good Master that you found everything well. That proves the good spirit of your house and how our Lord is protecting it in spite of its trials.

Thank you for the monstrance you sent us for St. Maurice. It will be a great help to them.

I cannot promise to give you a priest during Fr. O'Kelly's absence. I don't have any, except novices.

This is what I plan to do: have Fr. O'Kelly wait for my visit to Marseilles, probably in November. If Fr. Augonnet makes his vows at the end of October, change him, since he wants it so! I pity him for wanting a change so badly; he may very well regret it some day. So then, I will send him to Brussels, where there are several from Angers. Fr. Champion likes him; God grant that he may be happier there.

Dear Father, continue to work for the greater glory of God; be like a hearth which spreads the Eucharistic fire everywhere. Believe in your grace and mission; it is faith which brings about the works of God.

I do recommend myself to your prayers. Next week, I expect to go for my retreat at St. Maurice. To give to others, we must be full of God.

Goodbye, dear Father, all the Fathers and Brothers thank you for remembering them.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

2036

CO 2034

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I9/20)

Paris, October 2, 1867

Very dear Father,

Thank you for your two letters. I wanted to answer right away, then I was carried away by a thousand and one other things.

It will be difficult for me to immediately withdraw the sum of 15,000 francs which are with Mr. Lorient. It is true that we have them [also] with Mr. Le Cle. I am pressing them to pay me, and these good gentlemen are in such straits that I cannot have anything at the moment: the bookshop has no business. I will try to find it elsewhere.

I really hope we will succeed. I was telling good Fr. Champion: we will have trouble withdrawing our money. If necessary, we have our bonds on the Pontifical Loan.

Be strong, dear Father; you are doing a great and beautiful work. The struggle has been quite hard, but Heaven has been on our side.

Our intentions were right. We were forced by circumstances; we couldn't do otherwise. Put pressure on Mr. Dussouchay⁵⁹ so that the walls might be as high as possible before the cold sets in. I would really appreciate it if you would excuse me from going for the blessing of the cornerstone. I've had such a bad cold recently that I'm afraid of the trip. Then I would like to make a good retreat at St. Maurice: it has been so long since I have been able to recollect myself! I feel a great need to do so, I am like parched land.

I don't know whether Sr. Benoitte will go to Angers. I am urging her to do so with all my strength, even commanding her to do so. Right now she is ill at Miss Thomas' house. Poor Sister, she would be so well in Angers! It is a terrible situation and a great temptation, I have no more influence upon her. I believe that Sr. Philomene, who is now freed from her vows,⁶⁰ doesn't want to return to Angers. She is due to arrive in Pairs tomorrow. She is in Nemours to get her things.

Believe me, dear Father, in our Lord,

All and always yours,
Eymard, S.S.S.

2037

CO 2035

TO MISS EMILIENNE TAMISIER⁶¹
(VII 4/9)

Paris, October 2, 1867

Dear Sister in our Lord,

You may receive Communion. You may keep your vows of poverty and obedience or ask for dispensation from the head Vicar General. Besides, they are only temporary and will soon expire.

Your letter tells me your final decision. Peace is better than war. If, however, you could decide to be in Angers like the others from Nemours, it would mean continuing your vocation as an adorer: human beings pass, the Work will remain. That is what I am telling Sr. Philomene.

I summarize my thought as follows:

I do not want to make a foundation. I urge you to return to Angers if you can be content with Adoration and a life of death [to self].

You would be even better there than in the world. If you don't have the courage to do it, it is better to terminate. However, I can tell you the grief I feel to see you who are so devoted to the Blessed Sacrament, remain outside. - Sr. Philomene does not want to return. Sister B[enoite], I believe, cannot reconcile herself to it, in spite of my strongest words. - She has been here for a few days.

I bless you, dear daughter, and I pray for you in this solemn moment, in order that you may fulfill the Holy Will of God in its entirety.

Eymard

⁵⁹ The curator for the new church in Angers.

⁶⁰ She had had temporary vows.

⁶¹ at Tours.

2038

CO 2036

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 372/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 4, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,⁶²

The question of Brussels is over; the hoped for foundation cannot take place. The Foundress is withdrawing her promise because the Ladies of Adoration, our neighbors, made strong objections and obliged us to refuse any competitive situation.

I cannot get anywhere with Sr. Benoite. I tried every means: reason, piety, vows, even an order, it is all useless. I had two long talks with her, but without success. I think she is sick today as a result.

Sr. Philomene is absent taking care of her business. She will return tomorrow. However, I believe she has made up her mind not to return. She told me so formally.

Alas! I still had hope, but today I don't have any more hope. I'm crushed. What will become of Sr. Benoite? She said she would go to the Reparatrix Sisters as a boarder. - But your financial resources? - Nothing stops her.

Therefore, I'll send your belongings from Nemours⁶³ as soon as they take what belongs to them. I expect to send them to you via railroad.

Today I began the novena for your sister Jenny. I'm sorry that you sent me so many stipends. I'll apply the surplus to the Nemours' expenses.

Don't forget Miss Sterlingue at the end of the month. She would take you to court. You know that I must also reimburse Miss Sterlingue 25,000 francs to pay for the deed of the notary from Nemours.

If Mr. Chanuet sends what his mother willed, I want to take the 7,400 francs from that amount to repay the loan of a friend.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear daughter,

Devotedly yours,
Eymard

2039

CO 2037

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 24/28)

Paris, October 5, 1867

I am praying and I will pray a great deal for your intentions which I make my own.

I assure you that I carry you daily to the holy Altar. You are so near and so dear to me in our Lord!

Tomorrow I will hurry to write to Miss Nelly and to your dear friend as soon as I receive her letter.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

⁶² Copied from a manuscript of Mother Marguerite, not the original.

⁶³ They had left some things behind in the hope of a new foundation.

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 15/19)

Paris, Holy Rosary 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,⁶⁴

My thoughts followed you all during your spiritual pilgrimage and I joined my prayers and wishes to yours. You must have been very happy with your whole family.

So you have weaned your dear little one. You did well: it will only make him stronger.

I rejoice with you that you are with your dear mother and for being the only daughter of such a wise and devout mother. You must continue to love her as you did at fifteen.

Now about you.

May God protect and increase your growing fervor and recollection: two great gifts of divine love. The first makes us serve God well: it is the activity of love. The second fills us with the strength necessary to work: it's the bread of life and understanding. The second always leads to the first but not the first to the second. - Since recollection cannot be your duty of state, since you must belong to your neighbor more than to yourself, you must make your meditation the principal practice of recollection, where you find your strength and make your spiritual provision for the day. I'm very happy to see that you have been faithful. Meditation should be the last exercise you give up!

It's quite certain that your rising cannot be so regulated that you are always faithful to the same hour. The rule for you is that when you are free, you must be virtuous. Remember that the sacrifice of rising is always new: we never get used to it. God allows it so.

When it gets to be 10:00 at night, and you haven't done your ordinary exercises of piety, you must put them aside, except night prayer and a little examen.

How I wish I could see you be as energetic for good, calm (you are) and strong as your mother, with the wisdom of prudent virtue! It will come and it is coming every day. The *Imitation* says that we must work daily for strength over ourselves. It is the true sign of progress...

Good St. Anne! Do love her: she is the mother of mothers. Everything works out well and benefits those who love God.

All I hope for you is to enjoy the goodness and beauty of God in prayer. I cannot formulate a more beautiful wish for you. In the world people ordinarily love God only when they feel happy in his service. In fact, God only attaches us to himself by his gentle gifts of love. The heart lives by comparisons and gives itself to what it knows and enjoys the most.

See dear daughter, I am doing a little as you do, I am long. This is to reward you for having done so yourself.

I bless you in our Lord, you, your dear mother, your child, your husband, and all your loved ones.

Eymard

P.S. I hope to go to Marseilles toward the end of the month. If I can greet you all in passing, it will be a joy for me.

⁶⁴ This letter was not copied on an original by Fr. Eymard, but on a handwritten copy of Mme. Giraud-Jordan.

2041

CO 2038

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 373/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 7, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your two letters. I am begging our good Master to heal you, because there is too much work still to be done! Oh! how I do implore him, so that heartaches and frustrations won't leave you so upset! You need strength, and especially that God should prepare you for these hard times. It's too late when we have been stuck by the blow.

I haven't given in on anything. I want them to return to Angers; however, I haven't gained anything, or very little; it's true that they are tired. Again yesterday, I told her formally to go to Angers; I've decided to be silent. So I don't think we should count either on Sr. Benoite or Sr. Philomene. I've said everything I can, presented it from every angle; it's their business.

The possibility of [a foundation in] Brussels is closed. The Ladies presented a Roman Prelate toward whom we have debts of gratitude. They would have presented their opposition to His Excellency at Malines. The Superior General [of the sisters] came here to tell me, that if you came to Brussels, their Congregation would be lost. Hearing all that, I said: No, we don't want war, but charity.

So goodness is always attacked, crucified, as it was at the beginning. We shall see later.

I bless you sincerely in our Lord,
Eymard

2042

CO 2039

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 98/104)

Paris, October 7, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Don't feel so sorry you didn't receive me in Nantes: the good Lord did not will it, so I'll try, on another trip, to repay you for it. The law of duty passes ahead of the comfort of counseling.

What you tell me about your dear sister, her increasing weakness, your fear of losing her, of seeing this beautiful flower culled by Heaven, would all grieve me for your sake if I didn't hope that God would leave her with you a while longer. She isn't losing anything by staying a little while longer with us. So, you should pray and I will pray with you, that God may delay his call. I must admit that it would be a great misfortune for you, because your sister is so kind and your soul gains so much just by living with her.

You tell me that you are dragging yourself in God's service.

It is better to drag oneself than to let oneself fall to the ground. Continue to go to Holy Communion: that is your life and only virtue. I say "only" because it is Jesus forming himself in you. Consider Holy Communion as a pure gift from God's merciful goodness, an invitation to his table of grace, because you are poor, weak and ill. So, you should go joyfully.

The Earthquake

Don't speak about responsibilities in relation to our Lord, but about thanksgiving, that's better. Begin with this principle: the poorer I am, the more I need God.

How happy you would make me if you followed this advice!

"I see that you are discouraged, sad, a bit impatient toward everything. You go to duty through duty, to the state of grace because of your conscience. - Oh, how I would like to see all these storms far from you! All this self-blame over with! All this weakness turned to strength! How can you come to that? Jesus is good, gentle, gracious. He loves me. He wants me to belong to him, - but through trust, in the holy poverty of love."

I only have time to say that I am

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2043

CO 2041

TO MISS EMILIENNE TAMISIER⁶⁵
(VII 5/9)

Paris, October 7, 1867

Dear Sister in our Lord,

I have nothing more to say to you about the decision to be made. But I can see that your heart is suffering too much toward the Superior and that you do not respect her, and that you are even tempted to grief. That [in itself] would be enough to tell you: either control it or don't return.

I am suffering a great deal to see you outside and far from a vocation that is so holy in itself. I am advising your sisters here to put aside all feelings that are too personal and to see only the adorable Host; but once that is done, I cannot do violence to anyone's conscience.

I can see that these Ladies will still not return.⁶⁶

You yourself should not continue to be undecided. Either settle down in Tours or elsewhere, but settle the matter. Do you still have the same frame of mind against Mother Guillot? See whether you have the courage to put everything behind you and return to your place. If not, well! say no. You are not bound by perpetual vows.

I leave you and bless you always in whatever state of mind, and I am and I will be, in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

⁶⁵ at Tours.

⁶⁶ Srs. Benoite and Philomene.

2044

CO 2042

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 10/20)

Paris, October 9, 1867

Very dear Father,

I still haven't thanked you for your shipment of candles, they burn perfectly; Mr. Dagnaire found the real secret. I am returning the seal to Brother Frederic which I had given to Fr. Chanuet. It will be with the things he is due to send you.

I am actively searching for the money. I understand clearly that we must pay that account as soon as possible. It would already be done if Mr. Le Clre had been able to reimburse us.

I'm writing to the Bishop; he was hoping to this very day that we would win the two sisters; I can see that it is useless. The need for religious life and for Exposition will be more powerful than I; at least that is my hope.

One of these days I will send the mold for the hosts to the Mother Prioress of Vannes. I will write to dear Mother Raphael, as soon as it is on its way.

I believe that the poor girl from Lyons will find it difficult to adjust to community life. She is a good person, but she needs to forget herself.

I have many fond greetings to convey to you from Mr. & Mme. Liautaud of Toulon, on Bourbon Street. They came to see me yesterday and eagerly asked me for news about you and showed real interest. The Dalacas continue to have marital problems.

Toward the end of the month I will have to go to Marseilles about the Compassion and Gurin affairs,⁶⁷ and also to visit the house.⁶⁸ I will write to tell you more definitely when it will be finalized.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2045

CO 2045

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)
(V 13/14)

Paris, October 10, 1867

Your Excellency,

I am writing to give Your Excellency a report on the steps which I was to take for the projected foundation in Brussels, and with the Sisters who did not return to the Motherhouse of Angers.

The foundation of the Sisters in Brussels must necessarily be postponed, because of difficulties which have arisen and were occasioned by a Community of Women adorers in Brussels. This obliged the foundress⁶⁹ to postpone her spiritual plans.

The Sisters who did not return, without formally refusing to return to Community, pretexted

⁶⁷ Loans to be re-imbursed.

⁶⁸ The SSS Community.

⁶⁹ Miss Thomaz de Bossiere.

that they could not do so now: Sister Benoite because of her illness, Sister Philomene because of her business matters relating to the sharing of her inheritance with her sisters. At this time they⁷⁰ are with their married sister at Lantigne (Lyons). It is all equivalent to a departure. In truth, Sister Philomena was without vows.⁷¹ That leaves Sister Emilienne, at Tours (16 Rue St. Martha). I asked for her formal reply and notified her, like the other two, about the decision of the council. If she has not replied to Mother Superior, her abstention must suppose a refusal. However, I am writing to her for the last time in this same mail.⁷² At least these women will not be able to complain that they were not warned and challenged. I sincerely pity them, for they are good and have fine qualities.

Your Excellency, allow me to thank you for the fatherly heart you have shown toward us and these good women whom your charity has kindly adopted. It's a debt which we will maintain until our last breath, for it is consoling and worthy of respect.

Please accept our best wishes full of the deepest respect and filial affection, and Your Excellency, I am pleased to say that I am,

Your very humble and obedient servant and son in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, Sup. Cgnis S.S.S.⁷³

2046

CO 2043

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 25/28)

Paris, October 10, 1867

Very dear Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I have replied. I hope that my letter will satisfy your hopes and mine.⁷⁴

We must join prayer to it, to water the tree and make it blossom.

I am praying very much for this intention.

I believe that your dear brother would be happy and become even better...

This union, which comes from Heaven, can only open his heart to God and help him relive his early religious feelings.

Be careful, dear daughter, you must not make yourself sick over it. Let us hope in God and in the prayers of your good parents in Heaven.

Goodbye, dear daughter. You know how I am all yours in our Lord.

Eymard

⁷⁰ Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene, or Sr. Philomene and her sister religious?

⁷¹ As a temporary professed sister, her vows had expired.

⁷² We do not have that letter unless it is the letter of Oct. 14.

⁷³ Abbreviation for Superior of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament (Latin).

⁷⁴ An effort to bring her brother back to the practice of the faith.

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 374/395 VI 2)

*Paris*⁷⁵

Dear daughter in our Lord,⁷⁶

Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene left this morning for Lantigni via Beaujeu, Rhne. Sr. Benoite needs to take a purge and Sr. Philomene is ill.

I'm brokenhearted because they didn't choose to return to Angers. Other than forcing them like children, I haven't omitted anything. My only regret is the outcome of this mission from the Bishop and the House Council which I had taken on myself.

I expect that Sr. Emilienne will stay in Tours. However, in her last letter, she seemed to cling to her vocation. No doubt she was influenced by example [of the others].

Thank you for the offer to take whatever might be useful to us.⁷⁷ I prefer to send you everything, except for the scales which had been bought, but not paid by Nemours, as well as a little case of jam, which was broken on the train.

I'm keeping the monstrance I had given. It is partly broken, it would only break completely.

I'll keep a prie-Dieu for you as a model, because they are well made. Therefore, I'll send your chairs, the prie-Dieu, the cases of dishes, and whatever is left that belongs to the Community.

I'll write to Mme. Aubry for the box of sacred vessels which I'll send to you by the safest way, as well as the vestment. These ladies wanted it. I said no, that I would return it to the Mother-House.

I forgot the records and the bills: at the first opportunity, I'll ask Sr. Philomene for them. They may be with the sacred vessels.

I'll rent a wagon on the train: it will cost less.

Please ask the ladies yourself for their habit. I don't have the courage to do so.

Poor sisters! They are now on the outside, while their sisters, and you, you are inside, sheltered from the world, from its spiritual weakness and poverty. I sincerely pity them and find them most unfortunate. This morning they broke my heart, they were sobbing.

I can only pray for them. Will they return to Paris, be boarders at the Reparation, or get a rent somewhere near us? I don't know. Alas! Must we witness such an ending! May God be glorified by everything!

I am in our Lord, dear daughter,

Respectfully and devotedly yours,
Eymard

P.S. I wrote to the Bishop.

⁷⁵ Probably October 10, 1867. Troussier.

⁷⁶ Letter copied from a manuscript of Mother Marguerite, not the original.

⁷⁷ From among the belongings of the Servants which were still in Nemours.

2048

CO 2044

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 20/26)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 10, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I wrote to Miss Martin in the same mail. I am really praying for this marriage. I am sure that Mr. Claudius will honor it: he has such a fine heart and a religious background. In any case, I am taking the responsibility for the religious aspect. I will be happy to go and perform this wedding if I can.

I heard through Fr. Garnier that your court case hasn't been won yet. I hope it will be.

Yes, yes, dear daughter, you have the best part, protect it carefully. It is the royalty of the love of Jesus Christ. Adorn these royal virtues daily by your fidelity, especially by the joy of serving God.

Struggle against sadness, which I call physical,⁷⁸ and the temptation contrary to trust and holy surrender.

The good Lord loves you very much, I assure you. You also love him, you want only Him, I am sure of it.

Do meditate on the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, not as a model of expiation and penance, but rather, as a proof of his love for you and for us all. In order to remove the bitterness and horrors of the cross which are intertwined with this life, Jesus in his love made this cross blossom with the flowers of Paradise.

I do bless you, dear daughter.

I will be even happier than you to see the dear house of Toulouse once again.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2049

CO 2047

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 375/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 11, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

It seems to me that we had really put your accounts in order. The Bishop likes details: show him your journal with the monthly balance.... His Excellency is skilled in accounting. Let him make his remarks and put them into practice, that's all.

You must resign yourself to receive a Superior from him since he holds to it. In any case, following what was settled in Council, a Superior cannot change nor add anything important.

The accounts from Nemours are settled. The house of Angers only has the Sterlingue debt. The debt from the contract will be eliminated by Sr. Camille's gift.

I believe that Sr. Benoite will be asking you for all the clothing she brought. Have them ready.

⁷⁸ literally: organic.

The Earthquake

Make your adorations well, and our Lord will favor you ... [*two and a half lines erased*], for if Jesus is well served, he will serve you in the same way.

I bless you all in our Lord, dear daughter.

Eymard

2050

CO 2048

TO MISS PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)

(VI 7/7)

[*October 12, 1867*]

Dear daughter in our Lord,⁷⁹

Mme. Aubry has been to see me. You must write and tell her to send the chests belonging to the sisters as well as those she has in storage, to Angers - also the cash box of the household accounts. The Bishop wishes to see them.

As for the chest with the sacred vessels, Mme. Aubry will send it to me here, and I will take out your ciborium. -

Do this as soon as you can. Mme. Aubry will be in Nemours on Monday evening.

I have just had a letter from the Bishop of Angers who considers you to have given your resignations - you, Sr. Benoite and Sr. Emilienne - because, since you did not reply at the appointed time, it is assumed that you have given up and withdrawn.

I am praying for you, dear daughters - it is all I can do at the moment.

May God be blessed for everything, but I need to shut my eyes and let myself be led like a blind man.

I bless you and Sister Benoite. You must have great need of rest, quiet, and prayer.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard

2051

CO 2049

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 73/75)

A.R.T.

Paris, October 14, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Yes, I did receive your 8 page letter, and I thought, what a conversion! She has learned how to speak a little and share about her spiritual life and feelings. If your last letter had been like the first, I would have concluded that the roots were becoming stronger. Nevertheless I do thank you for it, you did say enough.

⁷⁹ Letter addressed to Sr. Philomene (?) This text is added to a letter of 12 lines, signed: T. THOMAS. The only date given is Saturday. By comparing its contents with those of the letters addressed to Bishop Angebault on October 10 and 15, 1867, and the letter of September 15 to Miss Tamisier, the Saturday in question must be October 12th, 1867. (Fr. Garreau)

Do allow me, not so much to praise you to your dear daughter, but to tell her the things I do. I do know there is a reason why saints are declared only in Heaven. You are striving to become one: the tree is blossoming under the beautiful sunshine of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the news that interests me. I will pray for Miss Agarithe whom I respect a great deal, she is so good and noble! I would like to see her live more closely with our Lord.

Yes, I bless this dear child of the 16th, and his whole family.

Oh! My soul is very sad when I see Christian Princes fold their arms and watch Garibaldi against Pius IX.⁸⁰ It takes all my Christian charity not to be overcome with fear that the same will happen to them [other princes]; as if the child doesn't always suffer the same consequences: an eye for an eye!

God is slow to waken from sleep in the shaken capsizing boat. He is allowing the enemies to advance. Will he let them enter into the Holy City? Will he let them profane his temple? Chase his Vicar and kill his ministers? It's possible, almost probable, some say that it's certain. This comedy comes from personalities who mock the on-lookers and victims. May God send us a Judas Maccabeus.

You know that there are 6,000,000 free masons in Europe; 16,000 in France. All the opponents of the Pope in Italy are carbonaro. This represents a large number of daggers ready to fight unto death! Where are we headed? To the society of the Antichrist; his armies are getting ready. [Now] a word about you.

You give me the greatest pleasure when you tell me: With the grace of God I will remain faithful. - Yes, we must remain faithful; there are enough defections. It's time to gather strongly together around Jesus our Master. Dear daughter, try to come closer to Him, and to remain in his service. Strength is the soldier's virtue; love is that of the child; pure dedication that of the apostle and religious. Have these three virtues; let them be your Trinity of life. Strength issues from Love; so then, love well. Love issues from the heart of prayer. First be a disciple of prayer, I mean a prayer which is your own: affectionate, recollected, inward, which enjoys God, feeds on God and always aspires toward the mystery of the truth, of the goodness of the love of God. Because a flame which comes to a halt either dies down or loses its light; it comes to nothing, it either goes out or turns to smoke. There is only one thing I would like to see in you - the desire, the hunger, the happiness of prayer in our Lord! That would be a beautiful hearth. Well, until our stomach gets used to food, digests it, or feels hungry, it is sick. So then, speak to me about your prayer, about the formation of the soul by grace, by God himself. That would please me the most.

I will go to Marseilles toward the end of the month. Will you still be at Calet? It might be only at the beginning of November. But if I am coming to see you, it will have to be on the way down because on the way back I am always rushed.

They are asking me to give a 7-day retreat on the way to the adorers at Tarare. I wish I had the time and strength to give it, because there are beautiful souls there. When will I give one in Lyons, where [devotion to] the Most Blessed Sacrament could be strengthened among the devout?

I leave you, or rather I am, in our Lord,

All and ever yours,
Eymard, S.

⁸⁰ In 1862 and again in 1867, Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882) participated in assaults against Rome and the Papal States, which failed due to the opposition of other civil rulers. Father Eymard, who was totally devoted to the Holy See, saw these events as a great evil. Shortly after Eymard's own death, however, Italy became a unified nation and the Papal States ceased to exist. (Fr. Joseph Roy SSS)

2052

CO 2050

TO MISS EMILIENNE TAMISIER
(VII 6/9)

Paris, October 14, 1867

Dear daughter,

Two days ago I received a letter from the Bishop of Angers, a letter by which he considers that you have resigned from the House, since you did not reply to the delay he had granted, the same for your two sisters - it had to be expected. - Nothing can be done except to wait for a better time or another grace.

I urge you not to make any effort to [see] the Bishop of Angers, you would not be well-received, he is hurt by your silence.

Our two sisters are at Lantigni via Beaujeu (Rhône); your letter was forwarded to them. I am extremely sad because of all this. However, peace on the outside is better than war inside.

What you can still do is request your belongings from Angers. Unless, rising above everything, you want to go and live there at the cost of all the sacrifices.

Surely, although the Bishop wrote that he considered you as having resigned, if you knocked at the door, the Blessed Sacrament will open its sanctuary to you.

I bless you, dear daughter, and I do pray for you.

Eymard

2053

CO 2052

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 367/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 15, 1867⁸¹

Dear daughter in our Lord,

1. I'm writing to the Bishop to say that you no longer owe anything on Nemours, except a few hundred francs to pay for moving and repairs, not beyond four or five hundred francs.

2. That we returned to Angers the things that Angers had sent to Nemours, except the chairs, the prie-Dieu, a few cases which are still here, but which I will send later.

3. That Fr. Chanuet, in memory of⁸² his mother, a religious, gave 24,000 francs for the repairs and furnishings. The cost of the second deed of withdrawal, 7,400 francs, is paid for by the sons of Sr. Camille.

I concluded that the house of Angers has no debts for the foundation of Nemours.

I didn't mention Miss Sterlingue's 20,000 francs: that didn't regard Nemours ... [*ten and a half lines erased*].

I [made] the Bishop aware that I had proposed to sell the large objects which were left behind to avoid another 150-200 francs for shipment. However, for fear of losing too much on them, I would ship them to Angers.

⁸¹ Published as Aug. 15. However, the content indicates Oct. (Garreau).

⁸² literally: in consideration of.

The Earthquake

I won't be able to do so for another three or four days, because it is difficult to get moving vans at this time. Finally, it's all coming to an end.

I would really like to find something so you can pay that troubled Sterlingue.

Enough for now. The Office bell is ringing.

I bless you, and beg our Lord to help and comfort you.

Eymard

2054

CO 2053

To Mlles. Marianne Eymard and Nanette Bernard

(III 140/145 VI 10)

Paris, Boulevard Montparnasse, October 15, 1867, 112

Very dear sisters,

You have been expecting me every evening, and you haven't seen me yet. That is because I have so many things to do at this time that it's impossible for me to leave. However, I am thinking of going to Marseilles around All Saint's Day and I'll take a day or two to visit you briefly in passing. I won't be able to stop for long because of the many retreats I have to give.

Be at peace about your so-called debt to Angers; it has been paid for generously and they would owe me much more. You must be in great straits, dear sisters. That trip must have put you short.

In my letter I am sending you a note for one hundred francs to help with your supplies for the winter.

I am well. The good Lord is very kind. With all I have to do, I can still fulfill my night adorations without fatigue.

The good Master continues to bless us more than we deserve. I don't count the small rocks on our path, the small crosses of the journey. That is all nothing. It is even necessary, because we would forget heaven if we didn't have a few trials on earth.

I bless you, dear sisters, and I give you every day to our dear Master so that he may keep you, make you holy and happy.

Your brother,
Eymard, Sup.

2055

CO 2051

TO BISHOP GUILLAUME ANGEBAULT (ANGERS)

(V 14/14)

Paris, October 15, 1867

Your Excellency,

This is to give Your Excellency the information you desire about the personnel and the temporal situation of Nemours.

For the personnel:

The Earthquake

My last letter, which crossed the one I received from Your Excellency, informed you about the decision of Sister Benoite and Sister Philomene not to return to Angers; the silence from Tours indicates the same reply.

Temporalities:

The house of Nemours which had been ceded by Miss Sterlingue by a common deed of sale to four of our Sisters from Angers was returned to her by an outright sale, in order to avoid court proceedings on her part, for she was so wicked as to say that the house had been acquired by the improper solicitation of a legacy and she was trying to create a scandal. Her cession of the building had certainly not been for free, since she had her apartment and income of 5,000 Francs, which, according to her, was to be given for her board and room as she wanted to be a member of the Community.

The house of Angers paid the expense for the first deed: 7,300 Francs; the Chanuet family paid the expense of the second: 7,400 Francs. The house of Angers did not give any furniture to Nemours; everything was bought there. Fr. Chanuet, in memory of the religious vocation of his mother, Sister Camille, had advanced a rather large amount to pay for the repairs and furniture of Nemours, 24,000 Francs. This dear Father wrote to tell the Mother Superior of Angers that he was surrendering it to the Society of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

We are the ones who ordered the beds, the furniture for each cell and who purchased all the dishes. These Ladies brought only their personal belongings from Angers, the linen for the community, mattresses and blankets, and vestments for worship. Well, that was all returned to them.

There are still chairs here, prie-dieus, all the dishes, and a few cases of little value. The order has been given to return it all to Angers (although we could have some rights to them, since we paid for them ourselves).

To avoid heavy expenses, I had proposed to sell the larger objects in Paris, which are not very useful for the house of Angers. On the other hand, we might lose by selling them here.

In short, the house of Angers no longer owes anything on the foundation of Nemours, except a few hundred francs for moving and small repairs on the ceded building.

I don't have the exact amount yet, I know that it will not be more than 400 or 500 Francs - I am waiting for the bill and I will pay it.

This, Your Excellency, is the precise situation of financial and personnel matters at Nemours. We preferred to make a sacrifice rather than let scandal break out over this matter. Everyone knows Miss Sterlingue. The notary told me that she is capable of anything.

Your Excellency, the choice which your paternal heart has made of Father Grolleau⁸³ can only be excellent. What pleases me most is that he will remain close to Your Excellency. I can therefore only thank you for it and beg you to name him as soon as possible.

It is with the most profound respect that I am, Your Excellency,

Your very humble servant and devoted son in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

⁸³ To be the ecclesiastical Superior of the Servants in Angers.

2056

CO 2054

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI 6/7)

Paris, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, October 15, 1867

Eminence,

Miss Thomaz wrote to me this morning to say that she had had the pleasure of submitting to you the idea of setting up a second residence for religious of our Congregation in the house she was to give the Adorers of Angers. In this way we could continue the bit of good we are doing at the Salazar Church, and also devote ourselves to doing more in the isolated district which has been proposed to us. We will be happy to favor this project, Your Eminence, if it has your approval. We would establish the scholasticate there, and supply the main house of Salazar with good Belgian candidates, if God sends us some. It's always difficult to leave one's country.

I kiss your Roman Purple with veneration, and am always happy to call myself,
Your Eminence's most humble and devoted servant and son in Jesus Christ,

Eymard
Sup. Cgnis SSS.

2057

CO 2055

TO MME. VAN HINSBERG
(VII 1/1)

Paris, October 15, 1867

Dear Mme. Van Hinsberg,

I wanted to write to you via your husband, but there was not enough time. I am taking advantage of it today.

We were pleased to have dear Mr. Van Hinsberg with us. It seemed to me that his presence included his entire dear family, which I love and esteem very much, and for which I pray as for my own; - and you are my family, since you are all members of the Aggregation!

I do thank you, dear Madame, for having written to me about the success of your dear Ernest, and for having expressed such faithful and devoted sentiments. It pleased me greatly and I wanted to reply immediately, but time was lacking. I hope that Ernest, your dear son, will work hard, because it often happens that by missing a single class everything is lost. I know that your dear daughters are studious and responsible. I praise God for it.

Dear Mother, please keep me in your prayers and thoughts in the sight of God. It means a lot to me and

Believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours and your family,
Eymard, Superior

*Oct. 17 Conference to the SSS Religious (Paris): Necessity and nature of priestly holiness.
The excellence of priestly dignity.*

2058

CO 2056

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 15/20)

Paris, October 17, 1867

Madame in our Lord,⁸⁴

I waited for you all day. I thought I had seen you leave during the Office. I went after you but didn't see you again. I did not know that you were there that evening. - How sorry I am! because I also had so many things to tell you! We must believe that God wanted this sacrifice which cost me as much as it did you.

If I could be in Paris for All Saints, I would be happy to go to your Richebourg as you wish. I will know later, because I am expected in many places.

Whatever happens, I will go to see you, if not at this time, then at another. - Your soul is dearer to me than others. - I do pray for you, for your dear Mother and your dear Paul.

Believe me in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

*Oct. 18 Conference to the SSS Religious (Paris):
1st Conference: Holiness (cont.); scope.
2nd Conference: Source of Holiness; Purity.
Oct. 19 The Religious Vocation.*

2059

CO 2057

TO FR. X.^{85 86}

Paris, October 19, 1867

My dear Colleague,

I am very pleased to know that Mr. Anatole Jerome, in minor orders, is giving himself heart and soul to your fine Work for First Communions. I trust that you will be satisfied with having chosen him. You will find him to be a simple, docile person, willing, hard-working and devout.

⁸⁴ Excerpt from a letter.

⁸⁵ Concerning Mr. Anatole Jerome, Schol. SSS

⁸⁶ Perhaps to Fr. Chevrier?

The Earthquake

You will be completing his theological studies. He has completed one year of Theology.

It is hard for him to leave us. We loved him very much, but everyone has his own place in the Church, and Mr. Anatole needs an active life; he has to use his energy.

Please accept, dear colleague, the religious and devoted sentiments of your most humble servant,

Eymard, Sup.

2060

CO 2058

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)

(II 376/395 VI 2)

112, Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris, October 21, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Today we are sending via railroad the rest of the furnishings from Nemours. We rented a wagon, for better terms. I hope you'll receive everything in good condition.

Fr. Baudin wrote to me that the large table in the linen room was left in Nemours: it would be too awkward and heavy.

I'm pleased that the Bishop was satisfied with my answer. It was precise.

The question of Sr. Benoite's deed on the house shouldn't worry you. The heirs have no rights to it, since it belongs to the last survivor.

I'll see what the Bishop will write to me. His opinion shows his sympathetic interest and affection for your house.

I received and am keeping in reserve what you sent me, because I asked for all the small accounts that are left in Nemours.

I am asking our good Master to heal you and sustain you in his service. You are too afraid of people: if God is for you, who will be against you?

I'm sending you the canteen of La Salette water which my sister sent me, I took some.

My sister tells me that she is missing 6 bed sheets. Were they perhaps stolen on the way? Look [and see] whether you might find them.

I'm writing to Sr. Emilienne to ask for her things. Her address is: 14 Quai St. Symphorien at Tours. It might save time to send them to her as her hesitation to return shows me that she thinks or is afraid that she will not be able to stay.

I bless you in our Lord, dear daughter.

Eymard

2061

CO 2059

TO MISS EMILIENCE TAMISIER⁸⁷
(VII 7/9)

Paris, 112 Bd Montparnasse, October 22, 1867

Dear Sister in our Lord,

I received your last letter; ask Angers to send your belongings. Today, I have just sent the rest of the furnishings from Nemours. The house is now buried and it's over. Alas! How sad to see this outcome! May God be praised! At least you did spend some beautiful and happy days there! They will count in God's sight.

Get yourself organized at Tours to pick up whatever [pieces] your situation will allow of your religious life. Make your hour of Adoration every day, recite the Divine Office for the love of God, forget all those who made you suffer. You belong to God and are an Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament until death, such a treasure makes us wealthy.

I bless you, my daughter, in Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Eymard

P.S. We are going to send you what we have here via railroad. First, I will wait until they send whatever you may still have at Nemours. - I am writing to Sr. Philomene about it.

2062

CO 2060

TO FR. BOONE S.J.
(U 1/1)

Paris, October 24, 1867

Very respected and dear Father,

I am writing to you personally to tell you the news of a little foundation which we will make in Brussels, not in conflict with the one we have on rue Salazar, but rather to support it.

When the Lady who wanted to provide for a foundation of religious sisters who are cloistered adorers saw that the matter was becoming difficult, she offered us her property on condition of having a house of adoration there in that sector which is without any chapel. After studying the project, we referred it to His Eminence. Our thought is to place the scholasticate there to favor religious vocations for adoration in Belgium, as we can see that Belgian subjects do not like to leave their country. With this means more accessible to them, they may more easily come to try out this beautiful and holy vocation.

His Eminence was pleased to approve our project and so we will carry it out as soon as possible. Father Champion, who is here in Paris with us at this time, has received the order from us to prepare everything.

We surely did not expect this new house, but since Miss de Meeus and Msgr. Chaillot expressed their regrets to us that the Sisters from Angers should be established in Brussels, and this

⁸⁷ at Tours.

The Earthquake

request being taken into consideration, it seems that Divine Providence has in a totally unexpected manner put us in their place and will thus enable us to do some good in that area which has no [spiritual] help whatsoever.

I am recommending this little foundation to your good prayers, dear Father Boone. This is the daughter of the mother whom you invited with so much insistence for the glory of God.

Believe me in our Lord, dear and respected Father,

Your respectful and devoted Servant,
Eymard

Oct. 23 - Blessing of the house of Roquefavour by Father de Cuers.

2063

CO 2061

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS

(11/20)

Paris, October 25, 1867

Dear Father,

I am looking for some money. I was counting on the men at Le Clère. I can see that we cannot count on it in any way, at least for the moment, although they are very honest. Business went so badly for them this year.

I will try to withdraw a few of our bonds from the Pontifical loan.

Surely, I suffered as you did, and perhaps more than anyone did about the decision taken by the Ladies not to return to Angers. I did all that I could: promises, threats, etc.; nothing could make them decide [to return].

I understand their fears a little. They knew about the letters which the Bishop had written against their return, the feelings expressed several times by His Eminence. They didn't have the courage to overcome this fear and this sorrow.

I expect to go to Marseilles toward the middle of November, and to Brussels around the 8th, to handle the contract with the foundress about the little house to be opened. We expect to establish a small scholasticate there and so favor Belgian vocations, if there are any.

May God always bless your work, dear Father: to build a church is to buy a place in Heaven, how much more so, a church of Exposition. It will be a beautiful throne.

Believe me ever in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard, p.⁸⁸

P.S. You did well to give Mr. Dussouchay that small amount. Pressure him for the work.

⁸⁸ Abbreviation for priest.

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 377/395 VI 2)

Paris, October 25, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

You must have received the rest of the furniture from Nemours. Everything was arranged carefully here. I hope that everything reached you in good condition.

At the first favorable opportunity, I'll send you the chalice and ciborium, as well as the records. I have them here.

Brother Frederic didn't send the vestment for fear it would be ruined. We still need to have Nemours send the altar frontals embroidered by the sisters. I'll have them put everything together.

If you prefer, let Miss Sterlingue be paid by our lawyer, Mr. Chauveau, 84 rue de Rivoli. Were she to cause some difficulty, he could deal with it quickly. You need to send me all the receipts you have from Miss Sterlingue to see whether there might be a way to reduce the 20,000 francs. I submit that for your consideration.

Fr. Champion was here yesterday, he is gone now. He is asking for the white marble altar stone.

I'll try to have the little monstrance of Nemours fixed. I would like to give it to him for his new house. You probably have the little wooden crown.

Please send it all to me via railway express around the beginning of November only, between the second and the fifth.

The Bishop sent me the summary of your accounts: there is a surplus of 1,646 francs. His Excellency seems satisfied and is very interested in you. He wrote me the following words:

"Please remove this difficulty: Sr. Benoite is one of the four subscribers on whom the acquisition of the house of Angers was based. Sister contributed only her name and didn't give any money. She is too delicate to keep rights which she cannot carry out, since she is no longer part of the Congregation. Therefore please ask her for a suitable document of renunciation ... [2 lines erased].

I announced the nomination of Fr. Grolleau as Superior."

As a result of the Bishop's letter, I wrote to Sr. Benoite and I copied His Excellency's words ... [2 lines erased].

May God draw his glory from everything, and may we learn from it.

I am in our good Master, dear daughter.

Eymard

2065

CO 2063

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 26/28)

Miss Antonia

Paris, October 25, 1867

Dear daughter,

Don't thank me so profusely. I don't deserve it. What a heart you have!

I understand your joy: I share it, I bless it.⁸⁹ God is really the one who did everything. Now only the great action remains to be done. I am writing to your dear brother today.

I will do all that I can possibly do for the 6th; but at this time I am torn between Brussels and Marseilles. Two days more or two days less. Friendship also requires some sacrifices.

I do bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

2066

CO 2066

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 16/20)

Paris, October 25, 1867

Dear Lady,⁹⁰

It's my intention to come to see you next Sunday to make up for your unproductive visit. - I expect to leave tomorrow night at 4:35 and arrive there around 6:20. But if I fail tomorrow, I will leave Sunday morning at 6:55. However, I must add: God willing.

My respectful regards to Madame your Mother.

Eymard

⁸⁹ Efforts to bring her brother back to the faith.

⁹⁰ Excerpt from a letter.

2067

CO 2064

TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS, SSS
(VI 7/7)

Paris, October 25, 1867

Dear Brother,

I read your letter with great interest, especially the fine feelings you express about your vocation, and the dangers which can attack the most firm and holy of them.

You are right, dear brother: we must be wary of ourselves, distrust our own ideas, especially those which are too self-centered; a religious is like a soldier enlisted under the flag, and at the service of God by obedience.

God has made you triumph over this dangerous temptation, which assailed and subjected your poor brother - he wanted something other than the Blessed Sacrament? Alas, what an illusion!

This Most Blessed Sacrament is yours - you are bound to its service by perpetual chains of love - remain ever faithful to it.

I have nothing to tell you about Sr Benoite, except that her illness may have largely influenced her decision, and I hope she will return someday, God willing.

Well, dear brother Marie, don't worry about others. Be like the Angels in Heaven - attentive to God alone and to his service - be happy.

I bless you warmly in our good Master and pray that he may unite you closely to himself.

All yours,
Eymard

2068

CO 2067

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 378/395 VI 2)

Paris⁹¹, October 29, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I received your registered letter. I'll use the 500 francs for interest as indicated, and if we can obtain a rebate on the issue date, we will certainly do so.

I'll try to withdraw the letters, but we don't have the right to them. They were filed with the notary and left to his discretion. He promised to keep them. I have already written to Miss S. to ask her to return them; I didn't receive any answer. I'll see whether our lawyer can do it, he may have better success. We will threaten if necessary, but we are dealing with a most unusual person who is capable of anything.

I've just received a letter from Sr. B. who is still at Lantigni and says that she is very unhappy. She wants to go to Angers. No doubt it would be to reproach and correct you. I replied that I don't have any light on that subject, but that I don't see any good coming from it. Will she go to see you? It's quite possible. If so, do as God inspires you. Oh! what if our Lord kept her at the foot of his throne in Angers! If he would speak a word to her, that would overcome all her resistance and blindness!

⁹¹ On the original it was written: Lyons, but had been corrected.

The Earthquake

I cannot be consoled when I see her so far away from her grace and her center. I can't understand it at all. I keep silence, because I cannot perceive her interior state clearly, nor God's will upon her. Some things are beyond me, which I cannot reconcile, or explain, which seem to me to go beyond natural powers. I am silent and I wait.

Fr. Champion has requested his missal again.

I'll try to have repairs done to the monstrance I had given to Nemours and is broken into 5 or 6 pieces. I'll give it to him with a covering that I had also given.

Thank you, dear daughter, for your offers. We will manage well in Brussels: it's a very small house.

Wait before sending me your money and receipts. I must see our lawyer first, and then I'll write to tell you what has to be done for Sr. Ben. and her document for Angers: there is nothing to worry about, precisely because of the signature.

I am more than surprised about Sr. Benoite's savings. Did she foresee what would happen? ...
[3 lines erased].

There is no need for you to write to Sr. B. Wait for her and pray very much for her.

I must go to Brussels on the 9th, and to Marseilles around the 20th.

I'm praying for you all, and bless you all in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. -Close the matter with that poor girl from Lyons, if she is still undecided. Unfortunately it is difficult to deny oneself at an advanced age, or after an independent life!

2069

CO 2068

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

(V 68/76)

Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris, October 29, 1867, 112,

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have just received your letter and I thank you for it. It had been so long since I had received anything from you!

I really thank divine Providence which has given you the means to help Angers. It's a real charity, because it was in need.

I thank our good Master even more for the healing of your dear, kind mother. I was really worried because of her late years. So now she is well, thanks to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I am not going to Marseilles yet. On November 9th, I must be in Brussels to open a little house of adoration for us on the 10th.

I will stay there a few days. Then, toward the 16th - 18th, I will pass through Lyons. I will write about it to the Thorins a few days in advance, for you are my Bethany, I cannot leave you.

I do not condemn Sr. B., for she is an exception, a personality, so much beyond any experience, any rule, that I no longer dare to judge her severely. She is also unhappy. But this poor daughter has made such a rule of following what she wants, has seen or hopes to see, that she does not know how nor is she able to obey. It is impossible to persuade her; it's beyond my understanding. Along with that, there are some things that are so strange and so extraordinary, so beyond and above the human mind, that one is left very impressed! Oh! Dear daughter, blind, simple and faith-filled obedience is worth much more! The beaten path, the common way, are worth much more. I know that God is the one who gives his graces, gives each one her place in his service; but, it is very dangerous to live alone and to lead oneself through the oceans of diverse personal ideas.

The Earthquake

Always be humble, simple, obedient, trusting, and fully given to the holy grace of your vocation.

It is a family feast for me to think that I will see you for a few hours.

In the grace and glory of our Lord, I bless you both very paternally in our Lord.

Eymard, Superior

2070

CO 2069

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS

(U⁹² 4 VI 22)

Paris, October 29, 1867

Very Reverend Mother,

I wanted to write to you via Father Champion. I only had time to write to Rev. Father Boone about our accepting the foundation offered to the Ladies of Angers. Before accepting, we submitted this offer to His Eminence, as well as our desire to place the Scholasticate there in order to favor the vocation of Belgian candidates. His Eminence received this idea with pleasure. Its purpose, at least I hope, is to give birth to some vocations in that country which is both so Catholic and so sterile for us, and to increase our numbers.⁹³

I must go to Brussels shortly for that purpose and I will have the honor of discussing it more at length with you. Very Reverend Mother, it is with religious devotedness that I am in our Lord,

Your respected and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup. Congr. SSS⁹⁴

2071

CO 2070

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 379/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 3, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Send me:

1. All your Sterlingue receipts
2. Your 20,000 francs. You can get a note at the Angers bank for the Paris bank
3. A letter to Mr. Chauveau, the Paris lawyer, written as follows:

“Sir,

“It’s my pleasure to send you the power of attorney to deal with my affairs relating to Miss Sterlingue, in Nemours. Please do all you can, using the law, if necessary, to withdraw my letters

⁹² Original in the Archives of the Religious of the Eucharist in Belgium.

⁹³ Literally: strength.

⁹⁴ Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The Earthquake

deposited with Mr. Saunier, a notary in Nemours, and return Miss Sterlingue's to her.

"I believe I have the right to claim them, because, contrary to stipulations, she kept a copy through her representative, Mr. Spinay. I have proof that Mr. Spinay showed them to several persons who told me so, personally.

"Respectfully yours...."

I'm waiting for your letter in order to handle all this before the 7th.

May God draw us away from this path of misery. I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

2072

CO 2071

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 380/395 VI 2)

112, Boulevard Montparnasse, Paris, November 4, 1867

Dear daughter,

If Sr. B. goes to Angers, receive her in the house. I thought that the sight of the Blessed Sacrament would overcome her. However I told her that if she was going there to scold you, she should stay where she is.

She has letters ... [*4 lines erased*].

If she ever dared use them, I would be there to answer about it.

Oh! what foolishness, acts of imprudence, and illusions!

Did we deserve to go through that!

Finally, it is a closed question with me. I hope that it will be a good lesson. Sr. Benoit like the others will have helped to bring me out of a childish simplicity and unquestioning trust.

I sent you a dispatch asking you to send me the letter in which I was asking you to advance 6,000 francs to Miss Sterlingue. I wanted to see whether we might recover something.

I saw the lawyer. He will do all he can to obtain the letters.

Pray very much for that; they should be withdrawn.

I bless you,
Eymard

[4 lines erased]

2073

CO 2072

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 381/395 VI 2)

Paris, November 6, 1867

Dear daughter,

I received everything. It is being taken care of, but what will we gain? Nothing much. At least we will have done everything possible. I'm leaving to spend three days at Rennes.

All yours,
Eymard

When I return, I'll write to Fr. Grolleau.

Nov. 6, 7, 8 - To Rennes, possibly for an Adoration Retreat.

2074

CO 2073

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE

(IV 99/104)

Paris, November 10, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

Finally, I received news from you! Thank you for writing. I was beginning to worry. Last Saturday, I almost had the opportunity to go surprise you. I was at Rennes on Friday. I had decided to pass through Redon and to go spend the night at Nantes, when I felt weak because of some sort of flu. I hurried to take the coach for Paris. I am better now, however, and I found your letter when I arrived.

You accuse yourself very forcefully of laziness: it's possible; of not being sufficiently generous in those things that God is asking of you: it's probable. Suppose even that it is certain. Good Fr. Rich doesn't challenge you very much. To sum it up, it seems that you aren't very satisfied with yourself. Is that also true of the good Lord? It's possible. Then what should you do?

From now until Christmas, sacrifice those things which are unnecessary or useless for your personal use or suitable to your situation. - Then you will find peace with yourself.

Our good Master has been asking you that for such a long time, that you will do it for his divine Christmas gift! Do even more on the day of your monthly retreat: examine what personal objects you have which might be superfluous, then write to tell me and we will see together what could be done that would be either good or better. Especially dear daughter, you must get out of this continual state of self-blame from your conscience. There may be a great deal of temptation in it. Well! We will have to see to it in reality.

Find peace, then devotion in your prayer and finally union with our Lord, but a union of life and thought.

I am very happy about the slightly reassuring news regarding your dear sister. Your letter had made me fear her possible departure for our heavenly Home.

Yes, I will ask the good Lord again to leave her with you. Be very faithful to your prayers, to holy recollection and to the presence of God!

The Earthquake

At the end of the week I must go to Brussels for 4 or 5 days. Then around the 25th, to Marseilles for about 2 weeks. I don't know when I'll go to Angers, perhaps sooner than I expect. I will be going to Brussels to raise one more little throne for our Lord.

I bless you dear daughter. In the divine charity of our Lord,

I am always and ever yours,
Eymard, Superior

2075

CO 2074

TO FR. PAUL MARIE MARECHAL, SSS
(VI 2/3)

Paris, November 10, 1867

Dear Friend,

I was due to leave for Brussels yesterday. Urgent business kept me back and obliged me to stay here until next Friday. So I am available to accompany you to St Maurice.

I shall visit your dear mother to comfort her shortly after your departure.

Accomplish well this supreme sacrifice of Abraham, dear friend - we make it but once in a lifetime. It is the supreme act of the love of God. It has the value of a baptism and a martyr's victory. Besides, God rewards a hundredfold whatever we leave for his sake.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear friend,

All yours,
Eymard

2076

CO 2075

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 44/52)

Paris, November 11, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to thank you for your letter, I was expecting it. I praise God for your divine ownership of a Tabernacle. You are the most fortunate of secular Catholics. You have everything that one could have which is heavenly and divine in this world, together with everything necessary to enjoy it: the peace of the country, solitude from the world, domestic independence, the ability to go - when you will and as often as you will - to visit our Lord in person. Then also, holy Mass daily, loving devotion, and Jesus, your eucharistic center, your grace, your law, your consolation, your world in this world. What more could you have and desire?

So, have a great love for your house of l'Isle, that Bethany of our Lord, the permanent Cenacle of his eucharistic life!

I find that you are very fortunate: at least, no one disturbs you when you are at the feet of Jesus! Oh! Remain there as he wants you to be, in the way he lets you be, as he makes you be. Our state of soul is its thought, prayer, and natural love. We must be ourselves in God's sight. - God changes the seasons to vary the work, the fruit of the earth. Well, our soul is the soil of grace.

The Earthquake

Apply yourself to achieve a stable spirit of divine love in your various duties, actions, and interior states.

The nature of the sun doesn't change because the clouds veil it in passing.

I beg you, never hold on to black clouds. These black clouds can only harm you; because they are black they are bad and come from the devil. Oh! You are so sensitive! It takes so little to disturb your soul!

I understand that we can't always experience the joy of Heaven, but you can always dwell in our Lord's obedience and wait patiently for the return of the sun which will not delay ... (five lines erased).

I will leave for Brussels (2 bis rue des Douze-Apotres) on Saturday. Sunday, we will raise up a second throne for our Lord at 8:00 a.m. Unite yourself to us; I will place you at his feet as an adorer.

I expect to be back in Paris on Thursday the 21st, and leave to go to Marseilles the following week for 2 weeks (7, rue Nau). I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

2077

CO 2077

TO CARDINAL STERCKX, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI7/7)

Paris, November 12, 1867

Your Eminence,

I cannot bless God and Your Eminence enough for the new house of adoration we are to open in Brussels. I hope it will bear some fruit of salvation in these new districts. I have heard by letter that the Pastor there is most happy about it, and that the people in these districts are delighted to see this chapel open.

Next Sunday [Nov. 17th], Your Eminence, we wish to bless the house and begin adoration in this new chapel. I shall go there myself.

In submitting this small foundation to Your Eminence's approval we have been counting on the favors granted for the first: the faculty of Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and daily Benediction.

We are happy to be yours, Your Eminence; our whole desire is to make ourselves useful, and thus manifest our deep gratitude for your kindness to us.

It is with the deepest veneration and gratitude that I dare say that I am,

Your Eminence's most humble and devoted servant,
Eymard,
Superior of the Congregation
of the Blessed Sacrament

2078

CO 2076

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 49/54)

Paris, November 12, 1867

Dear Father,

Next Sunday, we will be opening a second house of adoration in Brussels. It will be the beginning of a Scholasticate.

The excellent foundress is giving us a beautiful house and a magnificent garden in the new quarter, called Leopold, where there are no convents, nor churches.

His Eminence accepts the foundation with pleasure. It may become the principal one, for it is better to be in our own home. If ever the Ladies of Adoration of Sols Street wanted us elsewhere, we wouldn't be homeless.

This matter is entirely providential. We are going because the Ladies of Angers could not go.

Dear Father, I still can't specify the date of my trip to Marseilles. It will be when I return from Brussels.

Pray very much for us. I will aim to send you someone, but look for someone for next Sunday's Mass.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2079

CO 2078

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 16/19)

Paris, November 14, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I will go to Lyons only in about 12 days, if I stop on the way; or in about three weeks, if it were only when I return from the south. You can be sure that you still have the priority when I pass.

I read your short letter attentively. You are acquiring the quality or the fault of your dear mother: to say a great deal in a few words.

1. Don't be troubled by your distractions of mind and life when you first reached Calet. It's not surprising. You were in a hot-house at St. Romans, and now you are exposed to all the winds. However, you must become acclimatized to your new and usual position in life. You must find God in your varied activities: how can this be done? By frequent aspirations, by frequently renewing the offering of your intentions during your actions. The essential thing that nothing can replace is to get a supply of strength and recollection for the whole day during your morning prayer. That is the first and absolute condition of your spiritual, even natural life, because God has willed that the spiritual life complete and help you succeed in your exterior life and duties as head of the house.

That is not a reason to pity you because your kindness depends on living more abundantly in God: fortunate necessity!

As much as possible, give the best of yourself to your prayers when you are alert and renewed by grace.

It would be good to vary your subjects of prayer in order to avoid distaste for a never-changing diet. I would like to see you vary according to the liturgical seasons.

During Advent, meditate on the preparation for the feast of Christmas, and after Christmas on the feasts that follow. During Lent, on the Passion. You have “*L’Horloge de la Passion*” by St. Alphonsus Liguori; marvelous “Meditations on the Passion” by F. Alleaume, Jesuit; “*Pensees et Affections sur la Passion*”, in three volumes, at Widow Rusand, rue Cassette.

Here is another plan.

On Sundays, meditate on Heaven: Chapter 47, 48 49 of the *Imitation*.

On Monday, on the law of the love of God: you will love the Lord your God with all your mind and with all your heart, with all your senses, through all your works. That is the Law! To consider the graces of love we receive, the proofs of God’s love for us, our promises of love; and lastly, our infidelity, our negligence. That would be the starting point for the week.

On Tuesday, on the interior life, which consists in:

1. observing one’s insights and stirrings of grace;
2. adoring our Lord by all our faculties;
3. praising, loving and embracing the holy Will of God upon you as you do or will know it.

On Wednesday, the external life, modeled on the Holy Family of Nazareth in one’s duties, external contacts, in zeal.

On Thursday, on the Eucharist.

On Friday, on the Passion.

On Saturday, on the Blessed Virgin.

Be attentive to relate these subjects to the holy Communion which is to follow, and which must be the center, inspiration and the end of the whole spiritual life.

Always be gracious and pleasant within, holy and dignified externally, virtuous for yourself and tender for God: these are your four cardinal virtues.

I will stop now and I’m going to celebrate Mass. I bless you both: father and mother, and dear little Gerard.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.S.⁹⁵

2080

CO 2079

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 69/76)

Paris, November 14, 1867

Dear daughters in our Lord,

I didn’t travel to Belgium. I will go only on Saturday; I will stay about a week. I am going to raise a new throne for our Master. Pray that it may be solid and fruitful.

Therefore, I will not be able to go to Marseilles for another 12 days. In any case, I will write to tell you, for you are my true eucharistic family, and I owe myself to you first of all, happy if I could help your dear souls.

Now that you have to attend to everything, you must budget your time, in order that God may always have his. Then, your various external duties must have theirs, according to their order and importance.

⁹⁵ Abbreviation for Priest of the Society.

The Earthquake

Also watch over your health, for it is necessary to be able to deal with our duties without fatigue, especially when they are so numerous.

Dear daughters, I leave you to our good and mutual Master in whom I am always happy to be,

All yours,
Eymard, SS⁹⁶

P.S. I just received your letter and I reopened mine to tell you not to change anything in your way of praying privately with private intentions.

Following the schedule, pray and act interiorly as if you didn't have distractions or scattered thoughts, even when this manner of praying would seem to feed them or give them birth, because it's better. Do not fight your distractions directly, even during the essential parts of holy Mass. Be satisfied to renew your attention at that time. The most you can do is to humble yourself about it in passing.

Nov 16-21 - To Brussels for the inauguration.

Nov 17 - At 8 o'clock Father opened the second house of Brussels which was to be the beginning of a Scholasticate.

2081

CO 2080

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(U⁹⁷ 5 VI 22)

Brussels, November 21, 1867

Very Esteemed Mother,

I was hoping to come see you, but I could not. I would have been very happy to see Rev. Father Boone, and to assure him that this new foundation is more for the good of the first one than against it. His lack of response to my letter announcing it would have hurt me if I was not aware of his many occupations. I would also have hoped to hear a word springing from your love for our little Society. God desired this sacrifice from me. However, I cannot be silent about the satisfaction which I felt when I learned that, dear Rev. Mother, you had suppressed the collection and the subscriptions for the chairs.

As for the work of Madame your Aunt, we can only praise it, but not take responsibility for it. However, if there were need only to substitute for someone, we would always be happy to render service. You can surely have Fr. P... say the Mass without, however, promising that this Mass would be said at the altar of exposition. For you know the rules, and I do not like to favor a devotion which would take away from a point of canon law. I have given orders to carry out what should have been done for the foundations and Masses.

Please accept my feelings of respect in our Lord, Very Reverend Mother,

From your very humble,
Eymard, Sup. Congr. SSS

⁹⁶ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

⁹⁷ Original in the Archives of the Religious of the Eucharist in Belgium. (Fr. E. Stalmans SSS Belgium 1994)

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I50/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, November 28, 1867

Very dear Father,

It is impossible for me to go to Marseilles at this time, in spite of my great desire. In sixteen days we will have a large First Communion and perhaps an ordination on the 21st. What is holding me back the most is the proposal to buy ourselves a house. The house in question must be sold by December 11. If we could buy it, it would suit us very well. It is on Grenelle Street, at St. Germain's, facing La Fontaine's, with 1750 meters of land. We are not at ease here, and we would never do anything worthwhile: our chapel is too small, and we cannot enlarge it. These, dear Father, are the three major events which are keeping me here. They are too important for me to leave [now]. But when February comes, I will be happy to come see you.

I see that you are overworked. So, even though we can manage with five, I will try to bring you someone. We must pray to our Good Master to choose a few adorers in that locality. Provence is so poor in vocations!

I was greatly edified and consoled in Brussels. On November 17th we placed our Lord on this new little throne, in the midst of a large gathering, which was devout and enthusiastic: the Ixelles sector is very pious, and welcomed us joyfully.

On the 21st, we had the profession of Frs. Cardot and Crepon, of Brothers Francois and Vincent. The Pastor of the Parish attended and had dinner with us. He is a holy priest.

Five religious are with Fr. Champion in the new house: that is, Fr. O'Kelly, Brothers Francois, Theodore and Vincent. In the house at the Twelve Apostles,⁹⁸ we have Fr. Crepon, Superior, Fr. Cardot and three new brothers from the country.

Fr. Augonnet left us during my absence. He is the one I wanted to send to Marseilles to replace Fr. O'Kelly, but he felt that his health wasn't strong enough, and he withdrew.

There are a few new vocations which are being tested.

See you soon, dear Father, for I really want to see you and your whole household.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

⁹⁸ rue des Douze-Apotres, Brussels

2083

CO 2082

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)
(VII 17/20)

Paris, November 28, 1867

Madame in our Lord,⁹⁹

Monday I accompanied Brother Paul¹⁰⁰ to St. Maurice, I settled him in his cell and I left him happy and generous. When we parted I promised him I would bring you there some day. You will see this delightful place. Your dear son was very generous. His will is such that he is apt to become a great saint. I admired his love for duty, the life of the law - just like the others. With such principles one can go far and fly high. - You will not lose your dear Paul, dear Madame. I am keeping him for you with God, and he will be even more of a son and more helpful.

I would like to come see you and your fine mother on Sunday. I will arrive toward Saturday evening as formerly. So then, unless I write you to the contrary, I will leave Saturday night.

I would like to see you before my trip to Marseilles. I was due to leave tomorrow, but I have so much business that I am putting it off till later.

There are three major affairs which are holding me back: the purchase of a house on December 11th; the first Communion of our workers on the 15th; then, the ordination on the 21st. Pray for all these things, please. Please remember me to your good, dear mother and to your dear children who, I know, are with you at this time.

Believe me in our Lord,

Dear Madame,
All yours,
Eymard S.G.¹⁰¹

2084

CO 2083

TO FR. PAUL MARIE MARECHAL, SSS
(VI 3/3)

Paris, November 29, 1867

My dear friend and brother,

I am returning Piny's book for you to copy. While writing, correct what is out-dated in the style. It can no longer be found. Don't tire yourself over it, just give it your free time. I will not go to Marseilles before Christmas.

I wrote to your dear mother last night. I shall go to see her on Saturday evening and Sunday; I shall go to give her good news about you.

Dear friend, find God in the calm and peace of solitude. It is easier to find him there. Enjoy God in his goodness to you and follow the path of his divine Providence which has so sweetly and powerfully led you to where you are now.

⁹⁹ Excerpt from a letter.

¹⁰⁰ her son.

¹⁰¹ Abbreviation for Superior General.

Reflect diligently on our Lord in his divine Sacrament and you will be as happy as one can be on this road to Heaven.

Believe me ever in our Lord, dear friend and brother,

All yours,
Eymard

2085

CO 2084

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 100/104)

Paris, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1867

Madame and dear daughter in our Lord,

I read your retreat letter carefully. I am answering it with simplicity as usual.

1. God loves you with a very special and merciful love. He is giving you many graces. He wants you to belong totally to him, but his love is frustrated by the fact that you see your weakness too clearly, know it too well, and keep it ever present. This chills and troubles your heart; it can't be otherwise. Since your poor soul is almost always blaming itself or at fault, you must change your way. The path you are following is too thorny and doesn't help you move forward. I accept your words that you are falling off, but it isn't effective to stop on the slope, to despair, or slip.

Believe me: forget yourself more with God, look more closely at the details of his goodness, of his divine Providence in action. Let his love be your point of departure; its greatness is seen in proportion to our unworthiness. God loves us though we are poor and unfaithful and so deserves our gratitude all the more: that is the means that would help you to get up and find courage. Do this without delay and try to forget yourself. You will see your faults better in God's mercy than in yourself.

Find recollection not in yourself, nor in your actions, but in this divine goodness. Then heaven will seem purer and the sun more life-giving. You don't savor God sufficiently in himself.

2. Well then, keep your 100 sets of sheets and your other pieces of furniture and personal items. Especially, don't neglect your personal attire: have more rather than less, because at your age a person would tend to be negligent and neglectful. Please don't give up what you have, take good care of it. However, it seems to me that you have enough clothing and that it would be well to limit yourself to that. As for books, especially old ones and also new ones, I would urge you to acquire some rather than deprive yourself. They will always be fine furnishings for you and for others.

I haven't gone to Marseilles yet. I expect to go after the Christmas holidays. I would really like to go to Angers and Nantes, but Heaven's wind isn't yet blowing in that direction.

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

All yours,
Eymard, S

2086

CO 2085

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 70/76)

Paris, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1867

Dear daughters in our Lord,

I am still in Paris in the midst of a thousand and one things to do. I don't expect to go to Marseilles until the beginning of January. I will let you know in advance.

I am praying for you and I so much want to see you. Our good Master will give me this pleasure shortly.

In the meantime, I visit you in our Lord, in whom you both are ever present to me.

You are all his, as he is all yours. Do what he says and what pleases him. Let his gentle and holy Will lead you. Consider the necessities of your position and life as the present law of his divine Will. The demands of your duties and the propriety of your situation are the marks of his holy Will.

A soul that belongs to God finds its whole life in these two laws: God wills it or God does not will it.

The perfection of love consists entirely in doing each thing as God wills it and in God's spirit.

The best grace is the grace of our interior state, which then becomes our form and law of action.

Always consult it carefully.

Dear daughters, I leave you to our Lord, whom I will consecrate and offer to his heavenly Father. You will have a generous share in it.

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

2087

CO 2087

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 45/52)

Paris, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

On this beautiful day I want to write you a few lines. I read your last letter carefully, and I see that your soul is a little sad, and sometimes barren in the presence of our Lord. That is our situation in this poor life of exile and weakness. We must expect it, the Heavenly sun doesn't always shine on it, but there is always enough light to see and follow the narrow path which is ever widening for a faithful soul.

What is more, you are walking in our Lord's company. You dwell with him, how fortunate you are! - Jesus Savior is working at your salvation with you. This Jesus, the future Judge you fear so much, of whom you are so afraid, is nevertheless working with you and shares your life and actions. Therefore, he will judge himself when he judges you. Then, he will be kind, so kind. So don't make him out to be nasty or severe. You wouldn't dare to do that to a friendly and faithful heart.

I would be pleased if you would use the thorns and storms of the journey to find our Lord better still. We enjoy the fire when we return from a cold place; we love our good Master even more when we have experienced one that isn't as good.

The Earthquake

It's better for us if the path to the promised land isn't too beautiful or too lovely; we would become attached to the desert and to the path.

Our Lord loves you too much to let you be happy without him and outside of him.

Your life would be too secular if you found life too pleasant. Let our Lord act and follow him with love and gratitude for everything.

Next Sunday, 38 young workers will make their First Communion at the 8:00 Mass. If only you were here! Poor children! Poor of everything and in everything, except in the goodness of God. Their clothing is ready. God will pay for them, because we don't have anything left.

Isn't it on Septuagesima Sunday that the sermon will be given at St. Clotilda's? Our collectors will not all be there; think about calling on yours.

I will leave you to go sing holy Mass and I will pray for you, for your husband and your good little Charlotte. Is she forgetting the stole for her vestment which I am still happy about, because it comes from her?

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

<i>Dec. 12 Public conference: Jesus Christ our Model in the Blessed Sacrament.</i>
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2088

CO 2088

TO CARDINAL ALESSANDRO BARNABO, PREFECT OF PROPAGANDA

(VI4/4)

Paris, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, December 22, 1867

Your Eminence,

I have the honor to send to Your Eminence, following the order received from you in your letter of the 14th of the current month, the two Rescripts from the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda. The first was asked of me by a Nuncio of His Holiness to whom I had rendered some services to help him in his difficult mission in 1848. This Rescript concerns the sick and infirm. - The difficulty they experience in reciting 20 Our Fathers, 20 Hail Marys and 20 Glory Be's - the normal conditions - was reduced to a shorter prayer which I would determine in each case. I did no more than follow what had been determined by Mgr Douarne, Vicar Apostolic of New Caledonia, who had a similar Rescript.

I have often complained of certain false certificates containing incorrect conditions, and I correct them whenever they occur.

I know that this favor from the Holy See has awakened some reactions. Your Eminence is Judge of that. You will keep or return these two Rescripts to me if you consider it wise. God preserve me from trying to do a good thing which was not according to the spirit and devotion of the Gift, which was made to me by His Holiness at your request.

It is with the deepest respect that I kiss the hem of your sacred Purple and call myself in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Your Eminence's most humble and obedient servant,

Pierre Eymard

Sup. Cong. SS. St.¹⁰²

¹⁰² Abbreviation for Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

2089

CO 2096

TO REV. FR. JEAN-CLAUDE COLIN, S.M.
(VI 6/6)¹⁰³

[Paris], December 26, 1867

I call upon you an outpouring of graces and merits for the intention you expressed, and I do so with joy, for I come from that beautiful and beloved Society of Mary. I am and will be part of it until my death. I have a burning desire to see the Father Founder once again.

2090

CO 2089

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 51/54)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Dear Father,

I kept waiting to specify my departure date for Marseilles before answering you. I have been so busy with matters at hand: the house, the ordination, the First Communion, the novitiate, that I couldn't settle on it. However, I hope to be in Marseilles on the holy day of the Epiphany. At least, that's my wish.

I have nothing definite to say about this property. However, I am more inclined to the negative, given the bankruptcy of Le Clere which puts us in a difficult situation. Angers will cost us a great deal, and Paris has nothing, for we did not get the house I had spoken to you about, on Grenelle Street, at St. Germain. It's a good thing because given this loss, we would have really been in a difficult position. God does for the best. If those gentlemen want to wait for my arrival, we will study it again. Otherwise, we must wait.

You can send Brother Francois when you see that his substitute is capable and stable. However, since it is only a few days, it's better to wait.

Here is a thought I want to share with you. If I gave you Fr. Billon, at least for a short time, while he was there he could put his interests in order and sell his house. We would miss him here, because he is doing much good, and he is an excellent religious, but he is also your protege. Tell me how you feel about this.

Brother Jules is too new for a change, since he still needs to study a little.

Dear Father, receive my most eucharistic wishes¹⁰⁴ for you, who are so dedicated, so zealous in your holy vocation, and for your dear Brothers.

Adveniat regnum eucharisticum;¹⁰⁵ that is all we hope for. May heaven grant us to see it grow in our Society.

¹⁰³ At the end of 1867, Father Colin was to put the last touches of his "Constitutions"; he asked Father Eymard to pray for that intention. The above is his reply.

¹⁰⁴ Wishes for the New Year.

¹⁰⁵ May your eucharistic kingdom come.

I remain very united to you in our Lord.

Very dear Father, all yours,
Eymard

2091

CO 2090

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)
(II 382/395 VI 2)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I'm writing to thank you for your spiritual gifts and your kind wishes for me.¹⁰⁶ I return them with my whole soul, and ask our Lord to comfort you for so many trials, relieve you from so many sufferings, and give you joy and happiness in his holy service.

You have suffered very much this year, poor daughter! It was enough to kill someone, if God's grace were not greater than the cross!

God has drawn his glory from it all, and you will have gained much merit for Heaven. However, don't let the cross drag you down, you must be stronger than the cross. - You must especially bear it as the sowing of God's glory. So, rise up, renew your courage and strength. I ask this from our Lord for you and your daughters.

I didn't write to you because I hardly have the strength to do so; I was afraid of the consequences of having strained myself, and I couldn't write very much. Today I feel better; I was afraid of a hernia but the doctor said no.

I didn't give Mr. False the 600 francs, that's all I can remember. It will then be necessary to terminate with him; I'm returning his letter to you. There is no use in making objections. He could cause you difficulties, especially by an absolute claim.

What did I do with that amount? - I don't remember: at the time of Nemours, everything was being swallowed up.

That affair isn't over yet. You cannot believe what trouble it is causing us.

I sent our lawyer to Nemours to settle everything with the notary and that wretched woman. Even though she had been informed by the notary, she wouldn't come to receive her money. However, now we only have to be still. The bill is settled with her notary.

We had to reimburse Miss Sterlingue the 25,000 francs invested with Mr. Le Clere for her Masses. We had to get a loan for that. It was impossible to retreat, because she wouldn't sign the deed without it.

Alas! Poor woman, she really victimized us and took what was not hers. May God forgive her, as I forgive her and ask her salvation from God!

I saw Mr. Le Clere. Since your loan was in shared partnership for liturgy, you didn't go bankrupt as we did. We had 67,000 francs there on which we were counting. May God be praised! Nothing can be done at this point. I'll keep you informed.

I must still go to Marseilles. I expect to do so toward the beginning of January.

Send whatever you can of the things Sr. Philomene is requesting. I understand her request for the jewels, but the rest is really not worth it.

I'm maintaining silence with everyone. I know that Sr. B. is not very well, but as you know that is her condition.

¹⁰⁶ New Year's wishes.

My compassion for them may be greater than their suffering.
I bless you, dear daughter, and beg you to pray for me. I need it.

Eymard, Sup.

2092

CO 2091

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 12/20)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Very dear Father,

I am very grateful for your kind letters. They always do my heart so much good, because they come from the heart of a friend and of an old friend, and a great love for the Society which inspires them, and, most of all, the love of our good Master. Thank you, dear Father, for your wishes;¹⁰⁷ I know how genuine and devoted they are. May God repay you a hundredfold, he will repay you for them. He must pay my debts, which are always so great.

Yours is the first mission in the Society to build the first model church. You have endured long and difficult struggles for it. The victory is yours, and you will be praised for it until the end, as long as there is a stone left.

I was busy with ordinations, it is true, then a numerous first Communion, and especially the affair of buying a house on rue Grenelle, St. Germain 11 and 13. It housed the offices of the newspaper "*Le Monde*." We lost it by 50 francs at the auction today. I am not very upset about it, because it was becoming expensive, and we would have been at a loss.

You may have heard about the catastrophe which is affecting us so profoundly: the Le Clre bankruptcy. They say that if we can get 60% we should be satisfied and we had 67,000 francs with them, and I was counting on that for some money for you. I have been putting pressure on them for a long time. Alas! what a trial! it has paralysed my pen and my joy, because you will suffer from it, dear Father.

I will send Fr. Billon to Marseilles to replace Fr. O'Kelly and also so that he may be there to sell his house.

I would have been willing to sell a few Pontifical bonds for a satisfactory sum, but they are so low that we would lose too much. Then also, they have not yet been quoted.

As you can see dear Father, we are not without worries; but our Good Master is there and he sustains and comforts us by the good spirit and fervor of all the members of the Society. The novitiate is beginning to fill up a little. There are 17 in all; 3 Parisians from very good families have entered: that will help the others.

I will be able to go to Marseilles at the beginning of January. They have been asking me to come for so long.

I've just written to poor Mother Marguerite. I'll write to the Bishop of Angers for New Year's Day.

If I can find a day, I would be happy to go visit your dear family.

Believe me ever in our Lord, very dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

¹⁰⁷ Wishes for the New Year.

2093

CO 2093

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 27/28)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I wanted to visit the newlyweds before answering you. I still haven't been able to do so.

I was very happy to see her; we can see how attentive your brother is and how this young bride is happy! I didn't perceive any cloud.

I will see them more personally and tell you my impressions.

So be comforted and happy. It's a great thing you did by marrying them. A great grace of salvation! I'm still very happy about it, because I love dear Claudius. I didn't know he was so gifted.

And you, dear old daughter, you are the anvil of the cross: that is fine, because it only makes the anvil better. When wheat is well threshed it is totally pure, and the most active flame is the most pure. So each of your relatives must cost you a few blows of the hammer.

Always look for the best in your situation, especially for the goodness of God and the good of your neighbor. That is the great secret of the spiritual life, and of happiness in this world. You know it, because I find that your thoughts have been matured by the sun of trials.

Continue to love our Lord dearly since your heart has been given to him and needs him.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard

2094

CO 2094

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 21/26)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Dear Madame Lepage and dear daughter in our Lord,

Things have settled down today and I turn to you; you had written.

I went to Belgium. I wanted to see our newlyweds. I saw them; everything seemed fine and they said they were happy. I would have liked to see the young bride to scold her. She is happy, she told me so; is Mr. Claudius as happy? I think so. I will go to see them on the first free day to return their visit. We did a good thing, have no regrets about it. Everything is going well and will go well. I was in Brussels when I read your letter! If I had been closer to you, I would have gone quickly to say: Don't listen to that worry. There is no basis for it; it is a temptation against the good.

Let me wish you a happy New Year. Yes! A good, holy, and happy one in God's service!

Be at peace! God loves you as his privileged child!

Be confident! God has never refused you anything, nor will he refuse you anything!

Be patient toward yourself, your trials will pass; they come from scruples and also from the cross. Place yourself in holy obedience, do everything as if you weren't suffering.

I am sure that you are pleasing to God. Love our good Master attentively and he will hide you in his mantle on stormy days. There is nothing to fear there; we can rest in peace.

I bless you, dear daughter. Give me news about yourself.
After New Year's, I will leave for Marseilles for a few weeks. What are your plans?

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2095

CO 2095

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 46/52)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing first of all to thank you for the 200 francs. You are the one who requested them; consequently you have an important part in the gift and the charity.

Our First Communion was very edifying; I had never had such edifying and recollected children. Our good Master must have been pleased with these little souls who were so well-prepared. In the afternoon, Bishop Amanthon came to confirm them and was moved by it.

So that is our mutual work. It isn't known very well in Paris: blessed shall it be if it is well-known by God. I received Miss Charlotte's stole and I thank her for it and for her little note, too. Her vestment is used for our second feasts, and it served for the ordination of Brother Jules, on Saturday the 21st.

I would really like to have you come to Paris soon. Don't create any obstacles to it, on the contrary, work for it, for the greater glory of God.

If your soul were dear to me from the natural point of view, I would ask God with all my strength to take away your crosses and sadness, to take you away from yourself; but I cannot become upset with the good wind which fills the sails for God's blessed port. The ship is going faster, although it is more troubled.

The sins which are most severely punished are sins of sensuality. There is much suffering in Purgatory for sins of desire.¹⁰⁸ Well, you don't have any, God gave you the great grace of surrounding your heart and life with the thorns of the desert: that is your greatest grace of salvation. You would be ineffective with natural pleasure. God knows it. But you still have one very great temptation, it is the temptation to find spiritual peace and happiness in God's service. You are too sensitive in that regard. Love and serve God for Himself, be in love with his holy Will over you, in whatever state he may place you, and you will find peace which is beyond human tribulations, even pious ones.

Let me wish you the very first, a good, holy, eucharistic year for the love and glory of our Lord and the joy of his Heart in your heart.

I bless you in this good Master.

Eymard

¹⁰⁸ Literally: affection. Perhaps, lust.

2096

CO 2097

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 13/15)

Paris, Dec. 26, 1867

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I still don't know when I can go to Lantignie; I am burdened with work and it soon will be New Year's. I must resign myself to stay in Paris. I can assure you that it is difficult for me because I cannot accept your gracious invitation at this time.

Father Chanuet told me guardedly about your plans for Bauzon. I no longer have the grace for this branch of adorers. No doubt it has my eucharistic love. I have a fatherly concern for Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene. I would be very glad to know that they are happy in their eucharistic grace; but things have changed for me. I cannot, according to Rome, be an active agent, and so I can only pray and be silent.

Please receive and offer to Mme. Blanche all my wishes for a holy, and happy New Year.

I bless you and your whole dear family which I love as my own.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup.

2097

CO 2092

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 101/104)

Paris, December 26, 1867

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to return my New Year's wishes to you. I was about to do so when your letter reached me this morning. On New Year's day and the following days, I'll probably be on the train to Marseilles where I expect to stay about 10 days, (7, rue Nau). May Jesus be your divine center: that is my whole wish for you; a total and all-embracing center - that is, the source of your thoughts and desires, the impulse of your actions, the basis of your love, the measure of your sacrifices.

How I would like to see you find your life in God!

My God, dear daughter, our lives are based so much on ourselves, by ourselves, for ourselves! A very negative life, because we concentrate almost only on our sins and faults, our imperfections which need to be healed and deplored! That is what crucifies me so about myself.

So, when shall we love God for his own sake! When will his divine perfections be the delightful subject of our prayers! His divine and unlimited goodness, our recurrent feeling of affection! The love he showed in his life and mysteries, the recurrent subject of our piety! Since unfortunately we are always in this poor world! The heavenly fire is barely a wisp of smoke! Oh! It's high time to make Jesus our life in order to glorify him alone! During your monthly retreat, try to think only about these thoughts.

With my fatherly blessing in our Lord, in whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

TO FR. HENRI BILLON, SSS
(VI1/212)

Paris, December 30, 1867

LETTER OF OBEDIENCE

I, the undersigned, Superior of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, 112 Boulevard Montparnasse, authorize Father Billon, Director of the Work of First Communion for Adult Workers, to withdraw the amount [of money] which the Welfare Office is entitled to donate for the sake of destitute children.

Eymard, Superior

CHAPTER III

On the Breach January - June 1868

*“Reassure Mother Marguerite ... I will be on the breach.”
May 12, 1868*

The Spiritual Teacher

- Retreats at Marseilles, Angers (Servants) Ghent
- Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul
- Forty Hours to Benedictine Sisters
- First Communion of Adult Workers
- Spiritual Correspondence

The Good Shepherd

- Lantigni - Dialogue with Srs. Benoit and Philomene
- Roquefavour

Financial Difficulties

- Leclere Co., Pontifical Bonds, Ladies of Compassion
- Loans
- Construction in Angers
- Payment of St. Maurice
- Court case in Nemours
- Requests from Sr. Benoit and Sr. Philomene

2099

CO 2100

TO MLES MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 141/145 VI 10)

Paris, January 1, 1868

Very dear sisters,

I have a free moment, so I hasten to wish you a happy New Year as I did when I was a young man, and with a brother's heart.

God is giving us these years of grace, dear sisters. Let's make good use of them.

I am truly grateful to God for restoring your health. I do ask him to keep you well. You are the whole world to me, my only relatives and my heartfelt love.

I will leave soon for Marseilles. I will keep a day for you, in spite of the rigorous cold. It will be either toward the middle of next week or within two weeks, when I return from Marseilles. I will send you specific notice by dispatch.

I will bring you my gifts and you will give me yours.

I bless you, dear sisters, and embrace you fraternally in our Lord.

Eymard

True to my custom, I said the midnight Mass for you; and my gift?

2100

CO 2102

TO MR. JOSEPH-AUGUSTE CARREL
(V 23/24)

Paris, January 1, 1868

Dear Mr. Carrel,

I have a few moments. I am hurrying to give them to you, to wish you a good and holy year in our Lord, a year as Mary's servant, an adorer of Jesus Christ, an apostle of His charity, in addition to being a father, spouse, and employer, happy in God's peace and trust. I will go to explain my New Year's wishes to you shortly.

I hope to be in Lyons, January 7th or 8th, at least for a few hours. You will have my promised visit which is overdue.

I embrace you wholeheartedly in our Lord, in whom, I am

All yours,
Eymard, S.¹

¹ Abbreviation for Superior.

Jan. 2	<i>Public Conference: Humility (Part II) Continuation from Dec. 26, 1867.</i>
Jan. 3	<i>Conference to the SSS Religious: Personal independence.</i>

2101

CO 2103

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 14/15)

Paris, January 3, 1868

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I will go to wish you a happy New Year on Sunday morning. I will arrive in Belleville at 6:00 a.m. If your coach is there we will leave immediately for Lantignie; I say, we, because a friend of Sr. Benoite who is going to Nice is asking me to bring her to All Saints in order to see Sr. Benoite on the way.

It is Mme. de Thievres with her son.

So, do not come to get us. We will arrive. I will tell you all my wishes and blessings in person.

My deep respects to Madame, to Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene.

All yours,
Eymard

If the coach has not arrived by 6:15 or 6:30, we will go to the hospital for Holy Mass.

2102

CO 2099

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 383/395 VI 2)

Paris, January 1, 1868²

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I wish to renew all my wishes and blessings upon you. May God heal you, that is my New Year's gift. May your trust be equal to your responsibilities and your needs!

I share deeply in all your suffering, in all your trials, because I feel them very deeply. It's the grace of state and the blessing of God. However, we need to consider only God and his will. I am leaving tonight for Lyons and Marseilles.

January 4. I will stop at Lantigni one day to see what those poor women are doing. Oh! Can one be so blind, or tempted or confused!

I'm sending you the receipt from Mr. False. He was expecting 800 francs. I told him that we always thought it was 600. He'll accept that amount which is already quite high. Thank you for your 200 francs. I'll return them when I can.

The Nemours affair has been concluded. At this very moment, I received that announcement.

I bless you and all your dear daughters with my whole soul.

Eymard

² This letter was begun Jan. 1, but completed on Jan. 4.

On the Breach

Jan. 4 - Departure for Lantigni to visit Srs. Benoite and Philomene.

2103

CO 2104

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

(V 71/76)

A.R.T.³

Lantigni, January 7, 1868

Madame in our Lord,

I am here in Lantigni. Tomorrow morning I will be in Lyons at noon, and at your home from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

I want to see you the very first, wait for me.

I will come to bring you my Eucharistic wishes.⁴ I really want to see you. I could not write to you from Paris.

The little mother has been very ill.⁵ She is better, she was able to go to holy Mass this morning.

May God bless you and keep you in his holy love!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

<i>Jan. 11 Public Conference: Preparation for Communion.</i>
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Jan. 15 and 23 - Visits to Father de Cuers at Roquefavour.

Jan. 18 - Around this date, beginning retreat to Marseilles community.

2104

CO 2105

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS

(I 28/29)

Marseilles, January 18, 1868

Very dear Father,

We must definitely take out a loan to settle our accounts on St. Maurice: make arrangements with Brother Marie-Paul or with the landowner's Credit for the amount due. We will be more at peace, because it is so hard to have debts.

I thank our Good Master for having freed us of Brother Claude. He was not honest with me; he hid things and more

Poor Brother Antoine! He was another proof of the rule that once a novice leaves, he should not return.

I cannot get to the bottom of things about Brother Francois of Angers.... He has good qualities but, I think, a weak mind! We must see the doctor, and if his illness might become serious, make the decision you believe to be the best.

³ Abbreviation for *Adveniat Regnum Tuum*, Thy Kingdom Come.

⁴ New Year's wishes.

⁵ Sr. Claudine Guillot.

Oh! Dear Father, God has revealed to you the whole secret of religious life and even of the Christian life in this thought: sovereign mortification for the sake of one's duty first of all. - Everything is contained in that: it is the root of the tree, it is the sap of the virtues and true love for God. Without such mortification, there is nothing but self-love, which controls and spoils everything. Oh! Hold to that above all, in everything and in spite of everything.

God loves you: that is the direct line he has shown you, the *abneget semetipsum, the semper mortificationem Christi in corpore vestro circumferentes*⁶, life through death. You must really convince your novices of this basic law, and make them practice the letter of the rule in all its positive points.

The Good Master is blessing this retreat in Marseilles. He is sustaining me in my weakness. I am preaching three or four times a day, and I don't have any time to breathe. So, I got up earlier in order to write to you.

Oh! Let us pray very much that we may have good adorers! How scarce they are! Is it possible that our Lord can't find souls that belong fully to him, that are totally his!

I bless you, dear Father, as I am very fondly united to you in our Good Master.

Eymard, p.⁷

P.S. Your dear brother gave me 12 bonds upon my request. He doesn't think he can dispose of the rest unconditionally. We will talk about it.

2105

CO 2106

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 8/14)

A.R.T.

Marseilles, January 18, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I was sorry to learn that you are ill. Take good care of yourself, because the rheumatism surely comes from the cold. I was sorry that I wasn't in Paris, as you may have lacked proper care.

I pray a lot that you may have some relief. I heard that there had been some improvement. May God be praised for it!

I'm consoled by the good attendance at this retreat. The good Master is sustaining my strength, I am fine.

The religious of Marseilles are well. I saw Fr. de Cuers briefly. He is happy. I will go to see him on Thursday.

I couldn't go see my sister, the weather was too nasty. I found Sr. Benoite quite ill, but nothing serious. They are both quite unhappy; they suffer from their deprivation.

I still don't know when I will arrive in Paris. If I go to La Mure, it would probably be only a week from Thursday.⁸

I bless you, dear daughter. Continue to be the humble servant of our Lord, unknown and forgotten on earth, but known, loved and privileged by our Lord.

Eymard

⁶ the "deny oneself", the "always carrying in your body the passion of Christ."

⁷ Abbreviation for priest.

⁸ at Roquefavour.

2106

CO 2107

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 3/11)

Marseilles, January 18, 1868

Very dear Brother,

I am returning to you the letter of notification from Leclerc, in order that you may send it immediately to Mr. Chauveau, 84, rue de Rivoli. He has all the necessary powers. Your distribution of small amounts is fine; I suppose that you paid the rent first of all. If you cannot find anything for the Bloun loan, I will ask Mr. Guerin to lend us the amount rather than lose too much by it. Fr. Chanuet spoke to me about a loan at Foncier Credit at 4%. See him about it.

Fr. Billon will explain the cards to me. I don't think you can withdraw the money. I must be the one. Thank you for the good news about Miss Thomas. Everything is going well here. The retreat is well attended, the weather magnificent. I saw your sister several times and she is well.

You did well not to give money to that priest; it was beginning to bother me.

My fatherly blessing to all of you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. I notice that I am too late for Mr. Chauveau; but he must have been summoned, since he is responsible for this matter.

See him and ask him where things stand in regards to Nemours.

Send my letters here until next Wednesday. I am planning to leave Thursday for Roquefavour.

Ask Mr. Bloun for a few more days if necessary.

2107

CO 2108

TO MR. AUDIBERT
(I 2/2)

Marseilles, January 19, 1868

Dear and venerable Mr. Audibert,

I have been in Marseilles for several days. I am planning to have the joy to go and pay you a little visit tomorrow, Tuesday. I will leave here at 7:50 a.m. Please don't disturb yourself in any way. I want to have the honor and the happiness of embracing you in the name of your dear son who is so fine, and in my own name, and to present my fond respects to his dear mother and brother.

I'm sorry that I can't see Madame, his sister.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,

Eymard,

Superior of the Congregation of the S.S.S.⁹

⁹ Abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

2108

CO 2109

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 4/11)

Marseilles, January 22, 1868

Dear Brother,

I am sending a thousand francs here enclosed. Pay the rent first. The rest can wait until I arrive. It was truly divine Providence that sent me this help.

I will arrive toward the end of next week. I am discussing the balance of the Bloun account with Mr. Guerin. A thousand and one difficulties [have emerged] about the reimbursement to the Sisters of Compassion! May God be praised for everything! The cross surrounds us, but God is above everything.

I bless you all and you in particular very paternally.

Eymard, S.

2109

CO 2110

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

Marseilles, January 29, 1868¹⁰

Dear Friend,

I am still in Marseilles. I will leave here soon for Grenoble and La Mure, then I will go to see you for a quick visit. May I ask you to have a dozen small photographs of my poor person printed immediately by the [same] photographer who did yours. I will go for them around Tuesday of next week.

I am so busy here I don't have time to pray; that's because I don't know how to flee to the mountain of God.

See you soon, good and dear friend. My best wishes to all your dear family.

All yours in Our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

¹⁰ Published as Feb. 29th. The contents indicate January (Garreau).

2110

CO 2111

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 19/19)

Marseilles, January 29, 1868

Dear Madame in our Lord,

No stranger, or unknown [person] will make me forsake an old acquaintance and a dear soul in our Lord.

I don't know anything about that young woman, nor do I try to ask her anything. I have never spoken to her about her past, nor sought to enter into her present; time will unveil it.

Dear daughter, remain as you are and do not worry about anything. We must keep silence and let the wind blow. If anyone brings it up to you again, ask them to say no more, because "he says," "she says," are often broadcast on the street.

I still don't know when I will leave. It will be soon.

Pray for me, dear daughter in our Lord. I bless you in his divine love.

2111

CO 2113

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 5/11)

Marseilles, January 30, 1868

Dear Brother,

Today, Thursday, I am leaving Marseilles. I will be at La Mure Sunday. Send my letters there only until Monday. Then I will leave from there for Paris. My migraine headaches take hold of me every day now. I think it comes from the south wind.

The transaction with the Compassion has failed. God be praised! It kept me here eight days longer. It is one more trial.

All yours,
Eymard, S.

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 9/11)

From Marseilles, January 30, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to you as I leave Marseilles. A complicated business matter kept me here an additional eight days, and I have to leave and it is still unsolved.

I wanted to write to you sooner. I was so engrossed during the retreat that I could not. Marseilles is almost like Paris, I am too busy there. Another reason that also led me to put it off was that I had a letter for you from my sister and I couldn't find it. Finally, as I am leaving, I've found the letter which I had lost, so I'm sending it to you.

I will go to see my sister on this trip and spend two days there. I will be there Saturday and Sunday. We will speak a lot about you, and from there I shall return to Paris.

The Good Master kindly blessed the eight day retreat in Marseilles. He did everything and really sustained me.

There are people in Marseilles who are very devoted to the Most Blessed Sacrament. I saw Fr. de Cuers and his Hermitage. God is lovable everywhere, and there more than elsewhere. He alone is lovable there; the place is so wild and arid.

At Roquefavour, I was reflecting that a religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament is well anywhere when he lifts up his good Lord in exposition and he is even better in a place where there is something to suffer for him.

I hope I will not find you ill, dear daughter, and that our dear Jesus, who is your life and happiness, replaced everything for you.

I knew that Brother Alphonse was better. I praise God for that. Fr. Chanuet is very happy with him and finds that he has a beautiful and generous eucharistic soul.

I read your entire letter and it really pleased me, except for your gratitude. I don't deserve it. On the contrary, I should do more for you. Perhaps I count too much on our Lord whom you love so much and who loves you with such great love. Your poor Father doesn't understand your happiness, but he can't take it away from you.

Your dear brother Joseph no longer understands you, his mission is finished. That is what we must seek in everything: God's mission through his creatures. Some crucify us, others try us, a few edify and help us. It is all for the greater glory of the Master.

I can see that he gave you great consolation and favors, dear daughter, during the beautiful Christmas holidays. You were well at the crib, and your place is even more beautiful near the Tabernacle.

Your two children are now adorers, and one day they will be apostles of the Eucharist. That is how you will continue to adore him, to love him, and serve him through your new eucharistic family until the end of the world.

Oh how blessed you are!

May you always be so!

Jesus is taking you to be his spouse. Live through love, always!

I bless you, my dear daughter, and offer you constantly to Jesus, you and all your loved ones.

Eymard

Feb. 2 - Two days spent at La Mure.

Feb. 10 - Return to Paris.

2113

CO 2116

TO FR. HENRI BILLON SSS
(VI2/212)¹¹

Paris, February 12, 1868

Dear Father Billon,

I was sorry not to see you again before I left. I asked the brothers to convey my best wishes to you.

Be so kind as to arrange promptly for the return of this document. I am very embarrassed at being obliged to ask for this loan. If, at least you could sell your house, that would help us out of difficulty. Be assured, dear Father, that I have no wish to influence your decision in this matter: you have so often, and so warmly, offered us your support, that I cannot imagine your withdrawing this filial affection for the Society - your mother.

Please believe that my decision about your assets is unchanged. It is just that because of your offer, I was counting somewhat on the sale of your house to benefit St Maurice, of which you are co-owner. Brother Eugene ineptly made me spend not only 20,000 but 40,000 francs.

Dear Father, I'm afraid you forgot about the letter you had promised me that same day. You must guard against this tendency of yours to procrastinate all the time; it's most regrettable.

I am, in our Lord, dear Father,
One with you from the heart,
Eymard

2114

CO 2114

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I13/20)

Paris, February 12, 1868

Very dear Father,

Thank you with my whole soul for your kind letter and its contents!

The church is rising towards heaven! What joy! May you also be blessed because you paid for it dearly, and so good-heartedly.

I will come to see you either before Lent or the first week. I am so behind here in Paris! I stayed 10 days longer for the sad affair of the Compassion, and it is still not over.

We will sell Fr. Billon's house in Marseilles. It will provide us with 25,000 to 30,000 francs. I wrote to him again this morning. The sad Le Clère affair puts us in the greatest difficulty, and a refund on the Pontifical loan would make us lose too much. That is why I am pressing for the sale of Marseilles. However, believe me, very dear Father, I would prefer to lose the 30 francs on the bonds than to leave you in difficulty.

If I must wait to be able to bring you money, I'm afraid I wouldn't be ready right away. You will receive me just the same, won't you?

¹¹ Addendum to a letter from Fr. Stafford.

I was very, very happy to see your good and wonderful family! what a wonderful father you have! and what a young mother! your dear brother pleased me very much, he is feeling better. What a beautiful home they have!

See you soon, dear Father. My best regards to the whole eucharistic family.

All yours,
Eymard, Superior

2115

CO 2115

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 47/52)

Paris, February 12, 1868

Madame in our Lord,

I've just come back to Paris. I'm writing to let you know immediately about my arrival. I haven't been able to go to St. Clotilde yet.¹² I was hoping you would be here. I am expecting you at the first opportunity, certain that you will not delay this trip, as soon as divine Providence makes it possible.

We really need you.

When you return, I will tell you about my trip to Lantigni. They continue to think in the same way; they wanted to establish a community in the mountains of Vivarais. I opposed it totally, because, having come out of the difficulty of Nemours, I don't want to commit myself elsewhere. I would need a very clear order from Heaven and from the wisdom which my position gives.

If you were living above the clouds and storms, always facing the beautiful sun, you wouldn't worry so much about the winds and storms under your feet!

Try to be like a blessed soul whose heart and life are in Heaven.

Don't feed the fever of fear and sadness; let it drop from starvation and everything will go well.

I bless you in our Lord.

2116

CO 2117

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 52/54)

Paris, February 13, 1868

Dear Father,

It is also my turn to thank you for your kind hospitality and constant dedication to the glory of our Lord and the good of the Society!

We have so many things on our hands and the weather is so bad that I prefer to wait for Marseilles. To buy land is little, but to build would double the expense.

You are doing well where you are, for the moment. The land will continue to lose value as things are going so badly! We will not lose anything by waiting a little longer: that is my great concern at the moment.

¹² For a Sermon-Collection in favor of the Work for First Communion.

On the Breach

I am sending you the letter that I am writing to the Superior.¹³ If she accepts and pays the interest right away, we will leave it at that. If she continues to cause difficulties, then I will let Mr. Guerin initiate and proceed with the lawsuit. No doubt, Mr. Martini is waiting for the document, and I have done everything to stop it. They will discover that Mr. Guerin is stronger than they think.

Please bring her this letter yourself and wait for the outcome.

Regnum Coelorum vim patitur.

Regnum Dei pax et gaudium in Spiritu Sancto.¹⁴

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

P.S. Here I found everyone at their duty and in good health.

To Rev. Fr. Leroyer
Superior of the religious of the Blessed Sacrament
7, Rue Nau
Marseilles

2117

CO 2118

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 384/395 VI 2)

Paris, February 13, 1868

Dear Daughter in our Lord,

I've just seen our lawyer. He will represent you and us, next Saturday, at the meeting of the commercial court, to settle the Le Clre bankruptcy. Please send me immediately 2 pieces of paper stamped with 50 centimes. On the bottom of the page have these words handwritten by Chabert and Bourne with their names:

Bond for powers of representation at the Le Clre bankruptcy.

Here: Signature

I don't have time to write any longer. I'll do so later. The mail is pressing.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

¹³ The Superior of the Sisters of Compassion who was causing difficulty over a loan.

¹⁴ The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence. The Kingdom of God means peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2118

CO 2119

TO MISS CLARISSE DE THOMAZ DE BOSSIERE

(V 2/2)

Paris, February 14, 1868

Mademoiselle in our Lord,

I am so far behind with you! I had begun a letter for New Year's Day; that letter remains unfinished and has become like a bouquet when the feast is over. However, let me tell you for my own consolation, Mademoiselle, that I really did wish you a happy New Year in my heart in God's presence, a year which in itself would be worth as much as a whole life.

The year which has just passed was also beautiful, since St. Anne¹⁵ stands there with the flowers of youth and hope. What will it be like when the flowers receive the beautiful sun of springtime and summer!!!

How fortunate you are, Mademoiselle, to have the honor and happiness to be more than Martha at Bethany! more than John Mark the happy master of the Cenacle! You must love life so that you may have time like Solomon to enjoy the eucharistic temple which must become a throne of grace and love for so many faithful souls.

May God give you a long life, Mademoiselle, for his glory and our consolation!

I hope to have the honor of seeing you around the second week of Lent and telling you once again my regret and my devotion.

Please receive the faithful and very eucharistic wishes, Mademoiselle, from

Your very humble and respectful servant,
Eymard, Sup. Congregation S.S.S.¹⁶

2119

CO 2120

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS

(VI 22/22)

Paris, February 14, 1868

Very Reverend Mother,

Fr. Champion tells me that you wrote to me a month and a half ago. That letter must have stayed in Paris. I don't know what it contained since I left at the beginning of January to visit our houses in the south.

So I offer you my apologies. I am very sorry about this delay. I must go to Ghent to give the novena of reparation requested by Madame de Coutebonne, on the counsel of the Fr. Director of the Work, and if it is not too late, you can tell me or write to tell me the thoughts in your letter which may perhaps call for a reply?

I am very sorry to hear that dear Fr. Crepon is not well. He will be missed in the chapel, as people must like to hear him.

¹⁵ Foundation of the House of Chaussee de Wavre, Brussels, which she provided.

¹⁶ Abbreviation for Superior of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

On the Breach

Perhaps he is feeling discouraged? He told me that he no longer preaches for lack of hearers. Really, I don't understand this in the case of souls who like a good preacher, for Fr. Crepon certainly has that quality. It is doubtless a test from God.

I commend myself to your prayers, most Reverend Mother. I do the same for you and your devout Congregation.

Please accept the religious sentiments, very Reverend Mother, of your respectful and obedient servant.

Eymard
Sup. SSS.

2120

CO 2121

TO THE MODAVE FAMILY
(VII 4/4)

Paris, February 14, 1868

To Mme. Modave

Madame in our Lord,

I was really sad that I could not see you again at the time of my last trip. I shared in your sorrow, near your dear patient. I prayed for your husband and for the two sisters.

I hope that our Lord has lightened your suffering and that everything is fine at this time. Dear Lady, I hope to have the consolation of seeing you around the middle of Lent on my way to Brussels. Take care of your fragile health. There is a long road ahead for the service and glory of our good Master.

May God fill you with his most fatherly consolations. In his divine charity, I like to say that I am, Dear Lady,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard

Feb. 15 - Around this date, a priest came to entrust him with a Host which had been profaned for several years.

2121

CO 2122

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 385/395 VI 2)

Paris, February 15, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Your must send me the notes of Sr. Felicie and Sr. Louise. They should have put the writing and signature at the bottom of the page. If the forms aren't good, I'll write to tell you.

It is fortunate that Sr. Marie had placed the investment with the liturgical society; at least you won't lose anything.

At Marseilles, I saw Mr. Coste, I was pleased with him. He told me that he would go to Angers next May. I invited him to stay with us in Paris.

I carried out your errand with him for the Lieutaud sale. He told me that he would do everything he could.

Dear daughter, I can't tell you precisely the day of my trip to Angers. I must go either at the beginning of Lent, or around Passion Sunday. It will depend on a trip to Brussels.

I hope and ask for your healing. The illness you mentioned to me doesn't kill that easily. With a regular diet, a person can live for a long time.¹⁷ Besides, our Lord and the Blessed Virgin have already healed you from so many other serious illnesses!

On my way to Marseilles, I saw Sr. Benoitte and Sr. Philomene. Sr. Benoitte is in the same state of soul and body. Sr. Philomene takes very good care of her. Those poor sisters are suffering, being so far from Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

No doubt the Lord is permitting such a trial for a greater good. They don't want to have anything to do with Angers where they would find what they need!

So Sr. Benoitte is without the Le Clre pension. See, dear daughter, how the good Lord has taken everything away from her

My thought was not conveyed to you correctly. I don't want a mixed order, but I would like to see eucharistic fraternities established around all the Tabernacles of the world, so that our Lord would have adorers everywhere. There is quite a difference between that and a convent!

Goodbye, dear daughter. I really bless you and all your daughters in our Lord.

Eymard

2122

CO 2124

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 15/15)

Paris, Feb. 22, 1868

Dear Mr. Amedee,

I would like to go to Lantigni to give you a reply regarding your lovely idea of a confraternity at All Saints, but it is impossible - a two-week delay - major business awaiting me - we had to greet one another from afar - and now we are ill with the flu - may God be praised!

¹⁷ Her diabetes.

I surely like your idea to make your lovely chapel a center of devotion toward all the Saints and I was planning to find you as many relics as possible - As for establishing it canonically, that is difficult - it would definitely require the fervent and constant support of His Eminence with Rome.

If I could go there soon, I would try to help you with this precious project.

I was pleased with the few days spent at All Saints. Thank you for it; it is like a real family. Also please thank fine Mme. Blanche for me, tell her that I do not forget her, nor her dear children.

I was very happy to spend a pleasant evening with the family of St. Bonnet! It lingered like a delightful perfume, with ever growing admiration for the beautiful mission of Mr. de St. Bonnet.

Goodbye, dear Mr. Amedee. Always all yours in our Lord,

Eymard, S.

Mr. Amedee Chanuet

2123

CO 2123

TO MME. BENOITE RICHARD (SR. BENOITE DU SS)
(U VI 8)

Paris, February 22, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to tell you that I am sorry I was unable to return to Lantigni. Serious financial matters called me back to Paris. I was in Marseilles too briefly. God wills that I should ... [illegible word]. I really need it.

I am continually eaten alive here. God wills it. I spoke to Fr. Chanuet about your desire: he finds that there are so many obstacles that it must be given up because of the evil people in the village, he says, and brother Eugene who goes there misbehaves.¹⁸

I was happy to learn through Mme. de Thievres that you are feeling better - may God be praised! My sister and Nanette told me to tell you everything that is in their hearts. I had told them that I would be seeing you; they do love you.

Mme d'Andign is still at the Lion d'Angers. I am being requested in Angers from all sides. If I am not too tired, I will go around the first Sunday of Lent.

Mother is still quite ill. She has sugar diabetes - a mortal illness.

[cut in the page] ... you. It seems she was blind. I do pity her. Do pray for me. I am so sad and almost crushed! Our Lord is leaving me in a vast desert. No doubt I deserve it.

I bless you, dear daughter, until I can do more.

Follow your diet even during Lent.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

¹⁸ He had a drinking problem.

2124

CO 2125

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 10/11)

February 24, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. Yes, go see your mother and father, and do not fast. Eat meat on the days when it is permitted. Take care of yourself and come back to us in better health.

Steal our Lord when you can. However, you will have to sacrifice it from time to time for the sake of peace in the family, because they cannot bear this burden which is so light for the one who loves Jesus Hostia.

Don't worry about me. I am feeling better. The pain in my side is decreasing, my cough is quieting down and my headaches disappear during the day.

I went to dinner today.

Goodbye, dear daughter. I bless you and give you a good Guide in whom I am,

Devoted to your soul,
Eymard

2125

CO 2126

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 14/20)

Paris, February 25, 1868

Very dear Father,

I have had a bad flu for 10 days, with a sinus fever which confines me to my room.

I wanted to go see you next Sunday, but I can see it is hardly possible, and I don't know whether I'll be strong enough to preach the exercises of the retreat to the good Sisters.

However, I won't leave for Brussels without going to see you first because the question of our church in Angers passes ahead of everything else.

Determine all the spiritual questions by balancing the Lenten penance and human weakness: "*Justitia et veritas, misericordia et pax.*"¹⁹

May God sustain you, dear Father. Work and have others work: the spirit of God is one in what is beautiful as well as in the holy ones.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

¹⁹ "Justice and truth, mercy and peace."

2126

CO 2127

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 386/395 VI 2)

Paris, February 25, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have had a bad flu for the last 10 days and I've been limited to my cell. The flu has degenerated into a sinus fever.

I was hoping to come see you next Sunday, but I hardly think it will be possible. Then, I won't have the energy to give you the exercises of the retreat.

I thank God for this little retreat he is giving me. At least I have a bit of solitude ... [*three and a half lines erased*].

I'm asking God to heal you, dear daughter, and I bless you in our Lord.

I'm improving. Don't worry about me.

Eyd.

2127

CO 2128

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 142/145 VI 10)

Paris, February 25, 1868

Very dear sisters,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I had a good trip and arrived safely under the fatherly care of Providence.

My work had accumulated. Little by little, things are getting done.

This lifetime is a time for work, work which is often difficult. "You will eat your bread by the sweat of your brow", God told Adam and us.

God and our sins have sentenced us to the galleys of penance. But these galleys lead to heaven if we accomplish God's pleasure well, and do so for his glory. The Lenten season is here, the Church wants us to increase our prayer, do penance, and so imitate our Lord's fasting in the desert.

Do what you can, dear sisters, but don't fast, you cannot. You must maintain the little lamp of strength that God has given you so that it might continue to shine a while for his glory.

As for me, I had the flu which suited me fine because it gave me a bit of free time. But now it is leaving me and I must go back to my battle horse. May God be praised for everything.

I was very happy to see you a few hours, dear sisters. It is always too short for the heart, no doubt, but we must know how to make sacrifices even in fraternal affection when God calls.

Goodbye, dear sisters, do pray for me, and make us some stockings.

Your brother,
Eymard

2128

CO 2129

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 22/26)

Paris, February 25, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am very sick. They were afraid it might be a chest infection. I have been confined to my cell and I still don't have the freedom to leave.

This grace of a forced retreat has done me good. It is calming my poor interior life which is always up in the air or on the road.

God has spared my poor head, so that I am able to think a little about him.

You are right to scold me about Tarare. Can you imagine that it happened twice that I missed the train I was supposed to get.

On my way, I came across people who delayed me. Were they doing it purposely, knowing my plan, since I had said goodbye to Mr. Carrel when I was due to leave for Tarare?

I couldn't put off my return to Paris for too long, so I left sadly, saying to myself: I will make a special trip from Paris and I will not stop in Lyons.

So then, you made a retreat. That's fine! But Jesuit retreats are like hot springs: they are tiring at the time, but later on we feel their good effects. Blessed be your resolution to spend an hour in silence each day. It will be the hour of the good Lord. You did well to stay until the end; to do otherwise would have been infidelity.

Dear daughter, I am stopping now. I bless you and your dear friend, my long-time friend. The newlyweds are happy with each other. I did scold Madame a little, but everything was already fine. They said they were happy. I will leave you, dear daughter. Let Miss Antonia consider this letter for her as well. I don't have the strength to write a second one.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2129

CO 2130

TO MME. COUNTESS DE THIEVRES
(VII 1/1)

Paris, February 25, 1868

Dear Madame,

Thank you for your bouquet, your kind letter and all your thoughts. I praise God to know that you are in good health, and I believe, in a good state of soul, in spite of your absurd thoughts, etc. They should all be treated like smoke, we open the doors to let it escape; like dust, we shake it without measuring it, examining it; like a bad gust of wind, a grain of sand, beware of it.

You received Communion 4 times in a row! That's a victory.

You must try to do that often during this holy season of Lent. You are weak, you need strength.

Ah! If only the heart could enjoy Jesus in his divine Sacrament. His service would be so much easier for you!

I would really like you to be convinced that our Lord has a special and tender love for you! Keep that mirror in front of you instead of the one which comes from your troubled conscience, and you will feel drawn to him.

Request your Lenten permission there, because it is a local matter.

I saw Mme. de la G. - The sermon will take place at Notre Dame des Victoires and she is willing to do the collection.

Saturday, I received her magnificent vestment. It is really the most tasteful of all those we have!

You might do well to try out little Joseph in a boarding school.

I engaged Mr. Lombard for you. He already has a double lesson for 100 fr. a month.

I have a photograph which was given me in Lyons. I am sending it to you just as it is, to show you my good will.

I have been very sick with a bad flu for the last 10 days and I am confined. I am taking advantage of it to write to you and to bless you paternally in our Lord.

Eymard

2130

CO 2131

TO MISS PHILOMENE DE COUCHIES (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)

(VI 3/7)

Paris, February 26, 1868

Dear daughter,

Send me immediately the note you say you have from Sr. Louise Chabert; we need it at once to establish her credit at liquidation.

Also, if her mother has not made a claim as creditor, you must now send me a sheet of paper marked 50 centimes for our notary, and write at the bottom of the page: valid for authorization - to defend my rights in the Leclerc liquidation (with signature). Since the mother will not be able to write all that, guide her hand, and send her Title Deed as well, as we have only 20 days' grace for that.

I bless you both in our Lord,
Eymard

2131

CO 2132

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN

(IV 17/19)²⁰

A. We must know where mediocrity of spirit comes from.

The first is the worst: it's a scattered mind, a life which is too active. Nothing can cling to it. It's like the seed of the Gospel falling on the open road. The remedy is to bring the mind back to natural reflection by some reading or serious meditations which strike it and help it to be focused.

In general, it's better to choose a great truth than a pious feeling. The work of truth is to refocus our attention, reflection, and finally, devotion.

²⁰ Notes of F. Eymard, following a conversation, written on the train at the beginning of 1868.

The second source of mediocrity of spirit is mental boredom toward what is serious and positive. This illness can only be healed by openness to divine love, since it is based on discouragement.

The third source is laziness of the mind which fears to consider the truth.

The fourth source is when we counteract the grace, the attraction of the moment. The mind becomes closed and foolish. We must follow the need and light of the moment.

People are afraid to be powerless and so are off their path. We are neither natural nor supernatural. What can we do? Follow grace. Let the mind become accustomed to the truth which God's grace is offering. It takes a week or two for a truth to become natural and habitual, but we must make it the center of our piety and let everything converge toward it.

Be serious about the presence of God, the knowledge of Jesus Christ, a definite thought of some virtue, and you will have a center of strength and consolation.

Our Lord said: "Eternal life consists in knowing you, you the only God, and the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ."

So, to know is life: God is light, truth, and then, God is charity.

B. As we are always going downhill when we use up our spiritual strength, and as our pious exercises only sustain us for a moment, from time to time we must have exercises of reparation and exercises to renew our strength for the extraordinary events of life. I mean: a weekly or monthly examen, in order to know what condition we are in. This examen bears on our graces, duties, sins and virtues. It is an examen of our situation and we must be faithful to it.

Above all, have good will based on God's grace and a very firm will to favor God over yourself, if necessary.

2132

CO 2133

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 387/395 VI 2)

Paris, March 1, 1868

Dear daughter,

Thank you for your letter and its contents. This is how you are becoming poorer.

I'm feeling better, but not enough to take the train. I'm too weak.

Please send me the title for Sr. Louise (Chabert) on Mr. Le Clère. No further claims can be made on the bankruptcy after two weeks.

I learned yesterday that Sr. Marie's money is secure and that the liturgical society will continue. I had sent Brother Frederic to the meeting to represent you.

I thought that Sr. Philomene had Sr. Louise's note. She wrote that she didn't.

I really hope that I won't go to Belgium without [an opportunity to] see you and Fr. Audibert.²¹ If I can, it would be toward the end of the week.

Goodbye dear daughter. I do bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

²¹ An opportunity to go to Angers where they both reside.

2133

CO 2134

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 74/75)

Paris, March 2, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been confined to my room for the last 10 days, because of a bad flu or sinus fever. I've been quiet and a little to myself. So, it's a good thing.

I am truly sorry that I wasn't able to see Miss Belle, and then toward the middle of next week, I will go to Belgium to preach for nine days, if God gives me the strength.

In Lyons I was tired from so much preaching and errands, and I didn't notice it. You can see that I am a good soldier on the battlefield.

What good news that was about the return of Mme. Belle's son! Poor son! How much I prayed to God for him! Finally, he is back. May God be praised for this, a thousand times over!

I would have liked to send a note in your letter to dear Edmee; but it is surely too late! So then, we will see them in three months! 58 years old! Dear daughter, we are surely at the eleventh hour. Oh! If the clock of life could return to the first hours of our life, how much more spiritual we would be! But we must be satisfied with the few hours we have left to reach the high noon of Eternity.

Let's be very supernatural in everything! That's the compass of real life sowing the fruit of life for Heaven. That contains everything: God rewards nothing other than the life of Jesus Christ in us.

But how can we become supernatural? By a divine active charity. - What is this divine active charity? The cooperation of our will to the grace which is given us. It is our fiat in God, it is the loving adherence of our soul to God.

In a word, it's the love of God, the law, center and end of our lives. May God really grant it to us!

I was really sorry that I didn't go to see Mme. Mouly. I was on the way, but I was prevented.

So now you are with your dear daughter. She must be pleased to have her kind mother with her.

Goodbye, dear daughter,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

2134

CO 2135

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 15/20)

Paris, March 12, 1868

Very dear Father,

The whole affair which kept me here concerns Miss Sterlingue. She went to Meaux to frighten that good old Bishop, saying that she was going to create the most scandalous trial against us, myself and the Mother Superior of Angers, that the Tribunal had returned her letters. She did the same thing at the Chancery in Paris. She frightened Fr. Lagarde with threats against us and with so many calumnies, saying that I didn't want to give her her money, that I wanted to keep her letters

when she wanted to burn them, that I had caused difficulty between her and her father, that I had wanted to take all her fortune, that I had poisoned her father, that I had made him crazy, etc., etc. - Hearing that furious woman's words, Fr. Lagarde begged me to provide him with some information, saying that the Archbishop was worried, etc.

I told him that the money had been deposited since November 23rd with our lawyer, Mr Chauveau; that twice, on December 8 and March 1st, Mr Chauveau had brought her money to her. The first time she went into hiding; the second time she refused to put the letters under the perpetual care of the notary, as had been agreed upon before the contract.

Her businessmen advised her to do as Mr. Chauveau wanted, but she didn't want to. Then he replied: "I am waiting for you in Paris, and the money is available there for you under the required conditions."

Miss Sterlingue tried to frighten us, as she did the first time, but it's over. I am ready for her. She also wants to involve Mother in Angers in a trial, but Mother should answer that she has given me the money, that I am the one to be contacted, that she isn't placing any conditions on the reimbursement, that it concerns me, that she had nothing to do with the contract. That is the state of the matter.

Miss Sterlingue had told Fr. Lagarde, the Vicar General, that if I didn't render her justice by Monday, she would have me subpoenaed. I am waiting for her, standing firm, convinced that God will not abandon us to the fury of this poor woman.

If nothing extraordinary happens, I will certainly come to see you Saturday night.

Please reassure Mother Marguerite: she has nothing to fear. I will be on the breach. Our lawyer is very good.

See you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. At this moment I have just received the Sterlingue subpoena to appear three days from now before the President of the Tribunal of La Seine. We will answer with an offer through the bailiff. We will see the outcome, but I want to hold firm on our rights.

2135

CO 2136

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 102/104)

Paris, March 12, 1868

Madame in our Lord,

I hope to go see you tomorrow evening, leaving here tomorrow at 9:00. I prefer to stop to see you on my way going rather than on my way back, because I'm always limited by many things.

I was ill for 2 weeks and traveling for one month. That's the reason for my silence.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2136

CO 2137

TO FR. BOUX, S.J.

(VI 1/1)

Paris, March 12, 1868

Very dear and reverend Father Bouix,

Just a short greeting [which is] most respectful and even more devoted. I am very pleased about your decision and your letter to Father Leudeville. It confirms all I had said to him a few years ago about the so-called mission and revelations of Mr. de L. I had urged him to withdraw from that path, and I had succeeded. I thought the whole affair was over, when he brought me your letter.

I considered Mr. de L's house to be a Catholic workplace and nothing more. I felt I must tell you that, my dear and esteemed Father Bouix, since I am wary of bearers of revelations, either men or women, and today there are so many of them!

Father Chesnel left on Tuesday evening for Rome. He hoped to go and see you, and the Bishop too, but he didn't have the time.

Our house in St. Maurice has a true mission for that area. There are 15 to 20 heads of families who approach the Sacraments in a most edifying manner - at Christmas there were about 15. Now the women are the ones who are attacking the men who have been to confession.

But it will soon be Easter; perhaps we shall be able to get a few men to receive Communion in the Parish. Many will not have the courage, on account of the constant petty persecution against them.

I am afraid, also, that the young Pastor at St. Maurice may take offense at this, and especially his mother. It would be a pity, however, not to support this religious movement among the men, which is starting to increase. I am sending the Fr. Superior of our house in St. Maurice to His Eminence and to you, to get some advice. After Easter I shall come and wish you Alleluia!

Please accept all the sentiments of respect, affection and devotion - both new and old - most dear and revered Father, from your faithful and grateful servant.

Eymard, Sup. SS.²²

2137

CO 2138

TO MME. MARECHAL, WIDOW (NEE DUFRESNE)

(VII 18/20)

Paris, March 12, 1868

²³ I will come back for your Easter duties. Do not cry about - No, no, he is with you. Think about God, about others, and little about yourself.

March 13 - On the train to Angers via Tours.

²² Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

²³ Excerpt from a letter.

2138

CO 2101

TO MISS VIRGINIE DANION (SR. ANNE DE JESUS/SR. MARIE OF THE BL. SACRAMENT)
(IV 35/36)

Paris, January 1, 1868²⁴

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Yes, a good, holy, happy, joyful year! May it be your greatest year, the one which God has chosen to make you perfect and, consequently, happy!

On the train to Angers, March 13 - Dear Sister Anne, this date will show you that you have been really present in my eucharistic thought from the first hour. This letter remained unfinished because I left immediately for our houses in the South. I stayed there a long time, then I was ill. This is my first trip. I'm going to visit our house of Angers, where I must stay for about a week. After that, you can write to me in Paris. I will willingly say the Masses for your uncle who was so devout. He had asked me to receive him as a boarder. I had to refuse him, since I don't receive any. You are right, dear sister, we must pray for him, because not even a grain of dust can enter into Heaven.

I haven't spoken to you for a long time because I was under heavy crosses, and I still am. Pray for me, good and old Sister Anne, I really need it.

This little illness that lasted two weeks has done me good. It recollected me a little.

In your charity you may perhaps ask what are my crosses? I don't count them any more. They almost swallowed up my spirit, and even my heart a little. When I suffer well, I go to God better. Tell me some good news. If you weren't so far, I would come to see you; but in Mauron!!

Be at peace! If I return to Rennes, I will let you know.

Decipher my writing as best you can. I bless you in our Lord.

Dear sister,

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, Superior

2139

CO 2139

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 23/26)

On the train to Angers, March 13, 1868

Dear daughter,

I am writing to give you news about myself. I am fine, at least as much as one can be when recuperating from a complicated, serious flu.

This is my first trip. I am going to one of our houses in Angers.

If you weren't so far, I would surely go see you and your dear friend.²⁵ So you will have more proceedings, since justice has been jeopardized. Right must be obtained. This is a service to your adversaries and obliges them to pay back. Consider only your rights, and veil the rest.

²⁴ Completed on March 13.

²⁵ Antonia Bost.

On the Breach

Continue to insist on your freedom and independence in order to serve God more peacefully. God has given you this freedom; protect it as his primary gift for your holiness. Struggle for it. Please, dear daughter, keep your heart and mind lifted toward your good Father and gentle Savior. Those who fly do not look at their feet.

We cannot always have happy feelings, but always be happy when our will is united to God's.

Joy, peace, childlike piety: these are still my wishes for you.

To you and to my long-time daughter Antonia, my dearest blessings in our Lord.

Eymard

I will return to Paris in a week. Give me news about yourself. I would like to have some.

2140

CO 2141

TO BROTHER AIME FERRAT, SSS
(VI 2/2)

On the train to Angers, March 13, 1868

Dear Brother Aime,

Our Lord has exempted you from military service so that you can be wholly [given] to his eucharistic service. I praise him with you and thank him for it. When I return from Angers I shall come to see you at St Maurice and we shall see what is best for you.

God has loved you very much, dear brother, since he has called you to such a holy vocation, to serve his adorable person. Could we have a better Master?

Serve him most purely, dear brother, for himself and for his pure love. Be content with everything.

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

2141

CO 2140

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 48/52)

Tours, March 13, 1868

Madame in our Lord,

I am now on my way to Angers. I will arrive there tomorrow. I expect to stay next week and give a little retreat to the Ladies. I hope to see you there. Give me news about your dear patient; I still think and pray for him.

Dear child, so close to Heaven! How fortunate to have finished his journey and be at the door of the Homeland!

I need to tell you so many things!

On the Breach

I almost thought that the hands of my life were going to stop.²⁶ God didn't find me ready, and that's true. So many faults need to be amended! So many duties need to be done well!

Pray for me.

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

All yours,
Eymard

March 14 - Arrival in Angers.

Mar. 15-22: Last retreat preached to the Servants in Angers.
Mar 16 Opening - Jesus speaks to the heart in solitude.
Mar 17 God has chosen you. Reception, tradition, foundation, perfection.
Mar 18 All for the eucharistic service. The service and the society.
Mar 19 Meditation, adoration.
Mar 20 Reparation, pure love.
Mar 21 Live, work, rest in the goodness of God. Dominant Grace.

2142

CO 2142

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 6/11)

Angers, March 17, 1868

Dear Brother,

I received everything you sent me. Write to St. Maurice for me, so that Fr. Durand will come to Paris during my absence. It had been agreed upon with Fr. Chanuet if Fr. Dhe were to leave.

Have a good and holy feast day for St. Joseph's. I will arrive for the feast of the 25th. I'm preaching only twice a day, and that is all I can do, because I am still weak. My legs don't hold me well.

Everything is going well for the new church: it already looks good. It will be very lovely. They hope to see the roof finished by the end of June.

We will ask Fr. Audibert whether there is a way of obtaining white wine for Paris.

I bless you and all the good Master's family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

P.S. - While I am absent, have my mattress remade. It is so long since it was remade; and see whether others need to be done.

Mr. Chauveau has received everything for the Ladies. If you see him tell him that I prefer to have a trial rather than leave the letters in the hands of that raging woman.

²⁶ Like a clock.

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

(V 72/76)

Angers, March 17, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I have been here in Angers since Saturday.

I am giving the retreat to our Sisters until Sunday. I will be in Paris by Wednesday, the Feast of the Annunciation.

I will still be there on Thursday morning. Then I will leave again for Brussels for 10 days, until Tuesday of Holy Week.

I don't want to deprive you. Really, you are depriving yourself! It would make me sad to take advantage of your charity at the expense of your needs.

Mother told me about your generosity, she needed it. You were her good Providence. I am very pleased to see this poor Mother again. It is because she was so upset about Nemours and Sr. Benoite that she has been so sick. She is far from healed, she seems to be a little better. My presence had a good effect on her.

Poor daughter! She suffered so much from the one who owes her so much! and who has been so ungrateful and uncharitable towards her mother! Oh! My eyes have been opened. he devil really tricked us!

Through charity, they had hidden so many reprehensible things from me! What a misfortune it was to have taken Sr. Benoite out of her obscure and hidden life! How much damage we did to her and she herself did! Since she is no longer a Servant of the Blessed Sacrament, I no longer believe in her grace, nor in her virtue, and it had even been a long time that she was off course, since Nemours, even since Angers. There was only one time when she was edifying, when she was in Paris.

I beg you, dear daughter, discontinue your relationships of trust with her, there is nothing to be gained. We should even see whether it might be better, at the close of the year at the boarding school, to tell her that you are no longer taking charge of Marie-Therese. Really, this poor Sr. Benoite would have made us responsible for all her relatives!

Do not invite her at all. She must learn through the facts that we do not approve of such conduct or behavior. These two poor sisters always try to lean on me, while I told them so often my desire and will that they should return to their vocation!

Yes, dear daughter, we will never forget March 13th! That beautiful day for our Lord and for you! Observe it well. I bless it, for it is God's day.

We are really praying for your dear mother; it is the moment to do so. The whole Society is praying for her, I give you all the adorations of the Society until she is healed or reaches her last hour.

I bless you, dear daughter, and our little sister Stephanie.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2144

CO 2144

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 18/19)

Angers, March 18, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Better late than never!

You surprise yourself in the process... Surely, when nothing is regulated, we don't find time to do anything serious or of consequence.

It isn't necessary to regulate everything in detail: it isn't possible. But we should plan our day in the morning, foresee some major thing that must be done. Five minutes of preparation would be helpful.

I like your penance at twenty.²⁷ Later you will reduce it.

You do well to go with M.... When we become tired from running, we must rest to renew our strength.

It isn't the weather outside which is at fault, but poor windows which let it come inside.²⁸

I am not forgetting Mr. Henry Belle, even less our Japanese and Chinese travellers.²⁹ Your dear mother and you are first in line and have the priority as the eldest.

And so I bless you, your little Gerard and all the family.

Eymard, Superior

P.S. I'll be here until March 23rd; I'll stay in Paris until the 27th; I will go to Ghent (Quai aux bois, 48) until Tuesday of Holy Week.

2145

CO 2145

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I 53/54)

Angers, St. Joseph, March 19, 1868

Dear Father,

What you tell me about His Eminence favoring your plan for the property near the Prefecture is truly attractive. This is already a first sign from Heaven. Surely, we shall never find anything better in Marseilles. The whole question revolves around the expenses. You know that the motherhouse has the responsibility for Angers and St. Maurice, and cannot promise anything for Marseilles. If there were sure resources in view, at least to go forward without being presumptuous.... Therefore, dear Father, look into it, get a feel for it. Try pledges, ask about the exact cost of the land and the terms of payment, so that I might propose this important question to the Council of Superiors.

Please God, that Marseilles should become the most beautiful throne and the most powerful center of adoration!

²⁷ Perhaps, the number of blows for the discipline. Ed

²⁸ He is speaking here of inner peace in the midst of difficulties. Ed.

²⁹ Her cousins.

On the Breach

When I return, I will look for Mr. Guerin's documents, or else I will request it in Brussels where I must go for Passion Sunday.

Everything here is the same as usual.

Today our Sisters had a ceremony with four postulants who took the habit, three who made temporary vows, and three with perpetual vows, the two Lotand ladies.

May St. Joseph give you his beautiful eucharistic gift.

My fondest affection in our Lord, to you, dear Father, and to your whole eucharistic family.

Eymard, S.S.³⁰

2146

CO 2146

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS

(III 7/11)

Angers, March 19, 1868

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter this morning.

I answered Fr. Lagarde this evening to tell him how upset I am. Is it possible that we would be treated so on the basis of an accusation made by such a person who is unknown to them! and receive threats!

I am convinced that Miss Sterl ... is afraid of a trial and that she wants to intimidate us through the Archbishop, but this trick will not succeed.

We must hold firm. I prefer an act of justice than this treacherous sword in the hands of a raging woman.

Please ask Brother Charles for a hundred and fifty copies of the explanation of the *Via Crucis*. Send them to me by mail.

My health is keeping up. Pray for me, I bless you all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

<i>Mar 22 Conference Servants (Angers): Communion, a preparation for heavenly glory.</i>
--

³⁰ Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

2147

CO 2147

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 8/11)

A.R.T.

Brussels, March 28, 1868³¹

Dear Brother in our Lord,

I arrived here safely.

I am sending you the open letter from Miss Sterl.... It's time for this to end.

I will have Fr. Le Marchand come here. He needs a cassock. Have it rush ordered for him, and have him come immediately, as soon as it is made.

Fr. Crepon is a bit weary but not as badly as I had feared. He cannot stay in Brussels, he needs peace and quiet.

Tomorrow night I will be in Ghent.

Do pray for my weak condition.

I bless you and the whole family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mar. 29-Apr. 8 (?) - In Ghent?

<i>Apr 9</i>	<i>Public Conference: Holy Thursday. The testament of Jesus Christ.</i>
<i>Apr. 10</i>	<i>Public Conference: Good Friday. The love of Jesus Christ.</i>

2148

CO 2148

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 16/20)

Paris, April 10, 1868

Very dear Father,

I informed you by telegram about the 3,000 francs I am sending you immediately. I know that you need 4,000. I'll send the rest as soon as possible. Or rather, as I think about it, I'll send you only 2,000 today, because the mail will not register a letter beyond 2,000 francs. I'll send you the other two (thousand) at the first opportunity.

I will reply to Mr. Dussouchay to tell him not to slow down the work: we will look somewhere else to find the necessary resources to finish the house of God.

I found Brussels doing quite well. Nothing has been decided about beginning the new chapel at St. Anne's. However, the Benefactress is firm in her decision to do it. She is putting one of her beautiful properties up for sale.

³¹ Listed as March 26, 1868 (Garreau).

Best wishes for the Paschal Feast.³² You deserve it, because this was a difficult Lent.

Very dear Father,
All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2149

CO 2149

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 17/20)

Paris, April 10, 1868

Very dear Father,

I don't want to leave you with this debt of our Lord's for the Holy Day of Easter. Therefore, I am sending you 2,000 francs, which totals 4,000 francs. Our Lord, for whom every sacrifice is a debt of honor and love, knows that we would be happy to give him our shoes, our food and our life; but he repays us as a God does.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2150

CO 2150

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 388/395 VI 2)

Paris, April 16, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letters and for the 500 francs for Baudin. I paid yesterday. I'm sending you the receipt here enclosed.

I didn't have a moment to answer you since my arrival here on Wednesday of Holy Week.

I didn't receive anything from Lantigni. I think that Sr. Emilienne must have told them about my categorical reply.

Poor children! I do pity them. It's the greatest cross among crosses.

The court trial for the letters is taking place in Paris. We prefer to have this trial rather than leaving them with that raging woman. Alas! see how far malice and greed can go!

A second trial instituting proceedings for the repairs of the mill against Brother Charles, as husband,³³ will begin at Fontainebleau. It will come to 7,000 francs. Since we don't owe them anything, we have to prove it legally; that is what we will do.

Do pray very much for us, dear daughter. Don't worry about us; this is the chalice we will have to drink to the dregs, but with the grace of God, the dregs will change to sweetness.

I bless you sincerely.

³² Easter.

³³ Brother Charles and Sr. Benoite had been married before separating to enter religious life.

I recommend you to good Fr. Crepon, who is so dedicated to you.

Eymard, Sup.

2151

CO 2151

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

(V 73/76)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 17, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to thank you for your package. I received everything. May God repay you through his eucharistic Heart! If our Lord were not our center and mutual life, I wouldn't know how to thank you; but you don't want to hear this word, so be it! I will have another one in the presence of God.

St. Joseph, in his kindness, came to close your dear mother's eyes.³⁴ Our Lord came to visit her in the morning³⁵ and bring her with him in the evening!! What sufferings endured by this poor body and by this devout soul! It was her Purgatory. She loved God so much, and for so long, poor mother! I prayed a lot for her. I am happy to see that she lacked nothing. Good Fr. Durand, my old friend, was very good to her! Now we only need to complete her deliverance, if she still bears any dust from the journey. I assure you that she has the priority of my [prayers] here.

What can I say about your plan?³⁶

I accept it wholeheartedly. Your parental home will become a Cenacle and you will dwell next to it like the Blessed Virgin at the Cenacle of Jerusalem.

Everything seems to be falling into place.

Fr. Durand, the Pastor, is my friend, and I am sure that he will be pleased to see us there and that he will even take the initiative to promote it.

His Eminence has never actually refused us, he only adjourned the decision. And as the Croix-Rousse³⁷ awakens neither jealousy nor ambition, they will let us go there without difficulty.

That, dear daughter, is my first impression. Does it come from God? I want it. I pass it on to you first and spontaneously.

Now, we will go to pray to our good Master, because the decision and the will are His.

Now, dear daughter, get some rest from so much fatigue. Yes, let total surrender to God and to his good pleasure be the rule and virtue of your life.

Rest your soul at his feet. Speak little and receive everything from his goodness and love.

I thank you, very dear daughter and Sr. Stephanie, for having written to tell me the details of your dear mother's illness and last breath. I would have written to you immediately if I hadn't been traveling in Belgium.

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours in Him,

Eymard

³⁴ She died.

³⁵ In Holy Communion.

³⁶ She offered her home for a religious foundation.

³⁷ Probably a section of Lyons.

As for the young man you mentioned to me, do as your husband would have done. As for little Therese, so be it! For the trip to Lantigni, consider in prayer what good could come from it. I am afraid that there will be some trap for your charity, because they are silent toward me. I would be upset if I didn't know the reason.

2152

CO 2152

TO MR. LOUIS PERRET
(VIII 1/2 VII 14)

Paris, April 19, 1868

Very dear and respected friend,

I have many reasons to ask you to forgive me. I was on my way to go to see you when I was in Lyons, but as I was stopped along the way, time got away from me and by nightfall I was still far from you, and weary. I was very sorry. Our good Mr. Tissot would have had to pick me up and take me to you. I hope you will come to see your cell, and your brothers who love you as always.

St. Maurice (our novitiate) awaits you also.

I am returning your letter; I heard that Mr. Dausse has left for America. There's a piece of news! and I didn't see him before he left.

I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy of the Latin Brief for the Way of the Cross I sent you earlier. There was a great to-do over it at the Propaganda. The Holy Father is on my side.

We are all hoping to see you, dear friend.

All yours in Our Lord,
Eymard

2153

CO 2153

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

A.R.T.

Paris, April 21, 1868

Dear sister in our Lord,

I received your 200 francs for Masses and we will not leave them idle.

Besides, I love both the uncle and his niece in Jesus, our mutual Master.

So you have been ill! poor sister! and you seem sorry to be back among the living! You are right! in Heaven there are no more sins! in Purgatory, the same! However, the divine Sower must harvest something from his little field! and God's great harvest is suffering; love [springs] from death.³⁸

Have courage! poor Sister Anne! So much suffering is going to make you young again.

So when will you have this house of Thanksgiving? You are there paralyzing yourself and

³⁸ French: *c'est l'amour de mort*.

On the Breach

doing nothing when you should at least be gathering stones for the building, which I would like to see and bless. But you must stay with your mother!³⁹ Yes! as long as God wills, and until the Angel comes to tell you! It is time!

Do pray for me, dear sister; I need it immensely. Sadness is overtaking my soul with desolation. Fortunately, it doesn't show. Oh! How often I feel like burying myself alive in eucharistic solitude!

I remain very closely united to you in Jesus, who is ever and always love.

Eymard, Superior

2154

CO 2155

TO FR. FAURE, PASTOR AT LAVALDENS, ISERE
(VI1/1)

112 Bd. Montparnasse, Paris, April 22, 1868

Very dear Friend,

I am longing to receive news from you. - Have you received my book? what do you think of it? Is your health adequate? Were your Easter celebrations lovely?

Are you still God's hermit? In the midst of the Babylon, so many times I envy you your mountains, the silence of your churches!

Where are we headed, dear friend? Evil has reached its climax. Famous and learned men, professors, students, all, everything is moving to war, the denial of God, of Jesus Christ, of the Church, of virtuous living, of honesty.

Revolution has taken place in people's minds; the time has come when it will be translated into deeds. Now we have reached universal heresy. Meanwhile people laugh, sleep, recreate when they should be weeping and seeking conversion.

I am like a man who is waiting only to be arrested and flogged, who tells God: it is only right and it is merciful.

Give me news of La Salette and of Miss Victorine. Tell her to make a novena for me - I need it - and you, dear Friend, have nothing else to do but pray up there and I, I hardly have time to do so. You must be charitable toward me and if you were to go to La Salette, think of me. Otherwise, I am fine.

Farewell, dear and good Friend in our Lord,
All yours,
Eymard

³⁹ He imagines her response.

2155

CO 2154

TO THE CARDINAL, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES
(VI 1/1)

Paris, April 22, 1868

Your Eminence,

His Eminence, your venerated predecessor, having kindly approved our plan to establish a Scholasticate House in Ixelles to encourage religious vocations in Belgium, I sought canonical authorization to do so from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regular Clergy, sending along the letter of approbation from His Eminence of Malines.

His sudden death has necessitated a letter from Your Eminence as I learned in a letter from Rome. So, I humbly request your support and confirmation of our request saying: that the house is maintained by our own funds; and that it is properly constructed and well-situated to do good in a district which is deprived of a chapel.

I also wish to apply to Your Eminence for the dismissal of Vincent Bougaerts of Antwerp, a professed religious qualified in theology so that, by virtue of a special Rescript from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regular Clergy, we may present him for Holy Orders.

I am aware, Your Eminence, of your benevolence towards Religious Groups. It pleases me that our two houses are under your paternal authority, and I trust that our religious will always show themselves worthy of it.

Kindly accept the sentiments of deepest respect with which I am happy to be, in our Lord,

Your Eminence's most humble and devoted servant.
Eymard

April 23 - Public Conference: Thursday in the Octave of Easter: "To abide in faith."

2156

CO 2156

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 389/395 VI 2)

Paris, April 26, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Tomorrow I will go to St. Maurice for my retreat. Pray and have others pray for me. I have such a great need for a little recollection.

I will write to you later for your direction, and give you something which springs from greater recollection in God.

Sr. Benoite and Sr. Philomene haven't written to me any further.

In the Dialogues of Surin, read the 9th chapter of the 3rd book. There is some material there for reflection.

Receive Mme. Le Blanc as your daughter; hers is a beautiful soul, she is totally dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament.

I didn't study Sr. Marie's plan enough. It doesn't matter very much to me how it is done, provided the sisters have a free night each week. Consider whether it would come to the same thing by retiring sooner and rising later. With our communication system from the chapel,⁴⁰ we don't need as many people.

You could try Sr. Marie's plan. It's understood that 8 and 4 would count only as one of the two hours. However, I would really like that free night. I bless you.

Eymard

P.S. - Take care of your poor health. I heard that you aren't well. Please ask our Lord for an improvement for his greater glory.

If you received Sr. Marie-Joseph's summons, send it to me.

2157

CO 2157

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE
(IV 103/104)

Paris, April 26, 1868

Madame in our Lord,

Thank you for your little note. I'm addressing the enclosed letter in return. [Find your] delight in God. Those are fine, beautiful moments which give rest to the soul and strengthen it. In such moments of spiritual abundance be generous with God: that is the response that God wants to elicit from you.

You have no reason to fear illusions, but only too much self-preoccupation. Don't think of yourself, or very little. When we are in the presence of a beautiful scene, we don't look at ourselves. We admire it, we enjoy it.

I'll certainly pray for the poor brother you mentioned to me. He is blind since he doesn't see God and Jesus Christ our Savior.

On Monday, I will go into retreat at our Novitiate for 7 days. Pray for me; that would be true charity.

May God keep your good sister by your side! She mustn't go to rest, not even to Heaven. There's so much to do here!

I saw Fr. Superior, who spoke to me about your idea of a retreat. He seemed to me to be putting it off until a later time: the good Lord will decide.

I remain very close to you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eymard, S.

⁴⁰ To awaken the following adorer.

<i>Apr 27-May 2 - Personal Retreat at St. Maurice.</i>		
<i>Apr 27</i>	<i>First Meditation:</i>	<i>Grace of graces</i>
<i>Apr 28</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Graces</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic faith</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Eucharistic vocation(Conf. to SSS novices)</i>
<i>Apr 29</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Just cause: the mind-Thanksgiving</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Gift of the mind</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Silence(Conf. to SSS novices)</i>
<i>Apr 30</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Humility and its enemy</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Examen and nature of this enemy</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Pride</i>
<i>May 1</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Virtue of positive humility in Jesus</i>
	<i>2nd Meditation:</i>	<i>Contrition</i>
	<i>3rd Meditation:</i>	<i>Life of Prayer</i>
<i>May 1</i>	<i>Opening of the month of Mary: “We will honor Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.”(Conf. to SSS Novices)</i>	
<i>May 2</i>	<i>1st Meditation:</i>	<i>Nature of the sin of pride – contrition</i>
	<i>2nd meditation:</i>	<i>Serving God. Important Resolutions</i>

2158

CO 2159

TO MISS ADELE MARTEL

(V 1/2)

To Miss Adele

St. Maurice, April 27, 1868

Dear Miss Adele,⁴¹

I really loved your letter. You must always write to me with that same simplicity and good will. You promised me you would and so did I. I didn't answer you right away this time because I was in Angers and in Belgium, and then [I was] ill with a bad flu which made me very lazy; I am barely over it. - Nevertheless it was good for me, because illness brings us closer to God.

Well, have you become accustomed to your situation? I say yes right away, because you must not hold either to place, or village, or to any external thing, not to yourself, not even to passing graces: these all pass. You must hold only to God, to his holy will at each moment, because God loves you infinitely, as he is and desires only your greater good in everything and through everything. So then, everything that happens comes from Above, except sin. Every change in our life is determined from Above, the wind of the holy will of God is always beneficial for the sails of our little ship. We only need to keep the sails open and firm, and to look at Jesus Christ who precedes us. With that, you will always be pleased with God, not yourself, and with everyone in their divine missions toward you. You will always be happy then because God takes care of your affairs better than you [can].

You will always be free. When God changes your work you will accept it with pleasure, because what pleases him, pleases you.

So then, although that beautiful Carmel made your heart beat, now your heart will be God's Carmel. The beautiful religious habit pleased you, but now it [your habit] will be that of obedience, of your position. You went into the Carmel you had so desired, and now, from morning to night you will have to do what nature dislikes, deny yourself constantly, and do it as if it pleased you. If

⁴¹ Cousin of the Mlles Bourges.

you do this, dear Mademoiselle, I promise you that in God's sight you will be doubly a Carmelite.

I am beginning my retreat today.⁴² Please contribute all the prayers and sacrifices you can so that I may do it well, and you will also benefit from it.

I bless you, dear daughter in our Lord, and I am

All yours, dear soul.

Eymard

2159

CO 2158

TO M^{LES}. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 143/145 VI 10)

Saint Maurice, April 27, 1868

Very dear Sisters,

I left you for a long time without any news about myself. I have almost always been traveling. I arrived a few days ago from Belgium, and then the Easter Season left me without a free moment. I came here today, for seven days, to make my retreat and rest a little at the feet of our Lord. It will help both body and soul. - My health is good. I had a little flu in February which I had to nurse, but I was not bedridden. The good Lord forced me into a short retreat and I was pleased about it.

Thank you so much for your letters. I praise God to see that you are well. Please take care of yourselves, don't neglect yourselves. I am and will always be your affectionate and very devoted brother. If you should ever be in straits, tell me. If I can do something for you, I would only be too happy to do so.

Continue to serve the good Lord well and take care of the dear persons whom our Lord has entrusted to you. We must always suffer a little for those whom God intends that we should help. Just obtain the permission to direct your disciples⁴³ from the Pastor, that is all you need.

You know him, his heart does not enter into it. Anyway, it doesn't matter, provided the good Master be served and adored.

Come now, dear sisters, always be pleased with God, with his divine Providence, and your heart will be at peace.

I shall not stay so long without writing to you. I hope to be a little more settled now.

All yours in our Lord,

Your brother,

Eymard, Sup.

<i>Apr 29</i>	<i>Conference to SSS novices: Preparation for Adoration.</i>
<i>Apr 30</i>	<i>Conference to SSS novices: On Humility as Truth, Faith, Love.</i>

⁴² It was the last of his life.

⁴³ Literally: daughters.

2160

CO 2160

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 9/11)

Saint Maurice, April 30, 1868

Dear Brother,

I will arrive Saturday evening, unless there would be any major reasons to the contrary.

Please inquire from Mr. Meignen, at the Worker's Circle, at what time their retreat is to begin.

If Fr. Le Marchand should arrive from Brussels, don't receive him in the house. It is another failed vocation.

Don't give anyone the cases for the Ladies, not by any order of theirs, nor to them personally, without me. There is another question to be settled with them.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

P.S. - It would be desirable that Fr. Grolleau go to Lantigni as soon as possible.

Open the Ladies' cases, and tell me whether the religious habit is there, etc.

2161

CO 2161

TO FR. JULES GAYRAUD, SSS
(VI 2/3)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum*⁴⁴

St. Maurice, April 30, 1868

Very dear Father Gayraud,

God and Holy Obedience are sending you to Brussels to begin your eucharistic Apostolate,⁴⁵ in the very place where the Great miracle of the Synagogue took place, and it was heard of throughout the whole world. Go, dear brother and Father in our Lord. Grace awaits you there, the glory of our Lord is calling for you, and there you will become a saint.

I am sad to be sending you away from us so soon, but God needs his soldier. He will complete on the battlefield whatever may be lacking in his military training.

Your house is "rue des 12 Apotres 2 bis." Fr. Cardot is Superior of the house, which remains under the direction of Fr. Champion.

Leave as soon as you are ready, and go via Maubeuge at 7:30 a.m., that is the best time. I hope to go to see you soon in Brussels.

If you wish to wait for me, I shall arrive on Saturday evening; otherwise, I give you the blessing of the Cenacle and of Pentecost.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Sup. Cgnis SSS⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come.

⁴⁵ Irregular capitalization as in original.

⁴⁶ *Superiorem Congregationis Sanctissimo Sacramento*. Superior of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MISS EMILIEENNE TAMISIER⁴⁷
(VII 8/9)

St. Maurice, April 30, 1868

Dear Sister,

They sent me your little note. - I will be on retreat until Saturday. I will be in Paris Sunday. Although [I am] giving a retreat to the community of Fr. Le Prevost, I will find a way to receive you in Paris.

In our Lord, dear Sister,

Your devoted and respectful servant,
Eymard

Miss Emilienne Tamisier
14 Quai S. Symphorien
Tours
(Indre-et-Loire)

Conferences to the SSS Novices:

May 2 On Contemplation.(Undated) To die daily.

May 3 Opening of a retreat to the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul, Paris
The Blessings of a Retreat in the Religious Life

The Service of God

The Religious Calling

Prayer: Necessity and Characteristics

Meditation, the Gift of our Intellect

Meditation, the Gift of our Heart

Meditation, the Gift of our Will

Does God Love Me?

Do I Love God?

The Love of Forgiveness

The Eucharist, Source of Sanctification in the Religious Life

Jesus Eucharistic, Model of the Three VowsHumility

Meekness

The Rule, Source of Sanctification for the Religious

Vows

May 6-8 Forty hours devotions preached at the Benedictine Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Paris

May 6 The faith that springs from love

May 8 Communion, a divine education

⁴⁷ at Tours.

2163

CO 2163

TO FR. JULES GAYRAUD, SSS
(VI 3/3)

Paris, May 13, 1868

Very dear Father,

I only have time to say hello and recommend good Brother Aime to your care.
May God bless your Holy Obedience and confidence in his Holy Grace!
I was sorry to be separated from you, but we wish only the greater glory of God, in Whom I am,

All yours,
Eymard

2164

CO 2164

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 390/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 14, 1868

Dear daughter,⁴⁸

I didn't write to you while all the following were happening. I wanted to wait until it would be all over.

Tonight, Sr. Philomene is mailing the document for the powers of attorney stipulating 11,000 francs. I had them write to Sr. Benoit about a pension of 550 francs. Either she didn't understand, or she didn't accept that arrangement.

Sr. Philomene told me that they are not requiring it immediately, if it can't be done. I would have preferred a pension, while leaving you free to pay it off.

It seems that according to the law, an amount representing her rights must be stipulated.

It all makes my heart and soul sick. What! To enter religious life and leave with an amount one did not bring in! As if a religious, who has made a vow of poverty, could keep the gifts and money of the community for herself!

I really told Sr. Philomene what I think about such behavior. I told her that conscience and justice would require that they return all they had taken which belongs to the Community, especially the crucifix and painting from the Lieutaud sisters.

Dear daughter, please send to Sr. Philomene as soon as possible everything that belongs to her and is still in Angers. It would be better for you to get rid of them.

She left tonight for Lantigni.

Poor girl! She has changed so! She is very frustrated. I pity her: that is partly the work of Sr. Benoit.

Yes, dear daughter, I'm really praying for your healing. I want you to ask God for it through Our Lady of La Salette. She already healed you once and relieved you so many times!

I bless you sincerely in our Lord.

Eymard

⁴⁸ Text from a copy by Mother Marguerite, not from the original.

2165

CO 2165

TO FR. GROLLEAU, ANGERS
(VI 1/2)

Paris, May 14, 1868

Dear Fr. Grolleau,

I have advised Sister Philomene to send you the powers of attorney stipulating 11,000 francs, and as she told me, they will not be demanded at present.

If the Sisters in Angers think that they should not, or cannot, accept this condition, I think we can persuade Sister Benoit to settle for a life annuity. You still have the title deed in case of difficulty.

I was very sorry I could not go and say goodbye to you, but I hope you will stay with us again another time.

Consider me as one of your family.

Believe me, in our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

2166

CO 2166

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 49/52)

Paris, May 15, 1868

Madame in our Lord,

I thought I was ahead with you, having written last. However, you asked me for a word, and here it is. First of all, I always read your infrequent and short letters carefully (except the last one).

I understand your interior state, a bit by analogy, and I sincerely and frequently sympathize with you in the sight of God. At least, you have your solitude and your solitary chapel where one hears only the echo of one's prayer or one's tears, and I don't have that. You have our Lord for yourself, alone, and he always welcomes you, watches over you and blesses you as the hostess of his Cenacle. But I, I hardly have time to see him, or my mind is so agitated! Pity me more than yourself, and I will repay you. But at all cost, keep our Lord in his Ciborium of gold and fire. If he should leave you, follow him, but you will keep him. There is a great spiritual secret that I will share with you: eliminate interior agitation by forgetting yourself and others even more; then begin to praise our Lord and try to please his Heart by the beauty of his own graces, the wealth of his merits, those of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints.

Make yourself so beautiful and so good that he will look at you with indulgence and recognize himself in you.

I must tell you that on Thursday, June 11 (Corpus Christi), we will have our collection at Notre Dame des Victoires.

I will give the instruction at 4:00. I don't have any tickets, I would like to have some printed. - Would you have one as a sample? If only you were here! God didn't will it. I understand and appreciate your reasons and just motives. God didn't will it. We must say: May his holy Name be blessed!

On the Breach

Pray for us and often for me.

In a month's time we will have First Communion for our 40 workers.

I am waiting for news about you, especially for a eucharistic flower. In our Lord, Madame, I am,

Your respectful and devoted servant.

2167

CO 2167

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS

(I 18/20)

Paris, May 16, 1868

Very dear Father,

I had to send Fr. Gayraud to Brussels to replace Fr. Crepon, as each house has only the bare minimum: two priests. We are only three here, and consequently very tight, for I must often be absent and then we can have only two Masses. It's true that Fr. Durand is in the novitiate, but we cannot withdraw him beforehand. So you can see our difficulty.

We may have one more priest at the Feast of the Trinity, that's true: Brother Frederic and a deacon, Brother Marius. But how can we let such a young priest go into the ministry so soon when he still has some Treatises to study?

Here is what I am proposing for your two scholastics: Fr. Gilles, who is a professor here with us, and who would be so with you. We wouldn't say that he is a priest. He would make his adorations like the brothers. He is a good priest, has a fine temperament and would really help the brothers. He said holy Mass after his initial fault; since his Bishop didn't want to take him back into his diocese, he sent him a document to that effect. If you don't want him, then you will have to find a professor in the city at a set price, and we will help you with the cost.

I am negotiating to sell a few Roman bonds for Angers. I am waiting for the outcome of the negotiations to write to Mr. Dussouchay.⁴⁹ I am so far behind with him, but I trust you must have given him my apologies.

There are times when one doesn't know where to turn! and that often happens here.

My only hope is to see your church finished quickly, and I would willingly do the impossible for that to happen.

I'm very sad about good Mother Marguerite's illness. The Blessed Virgin, who healed her so often, will surely heal her again: she is so needed!

Don't get overtired in this heat, dear Father. Your courage always makes you go forward without consideration for your strength. No doubt it's for our Good Master that you give yourself so joyfully.

Believe me in our Lord, dear Father,

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. Fr. Crpon seems better.

⁴⁹ The contractor.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 391/395 VI 2)

St. Maurice, May 18, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,⁵⁰

I came to spend the day at St. Maurice. I'm taking a moment to write to you.

I understand your sorrow about Sr. Benoite more than anyone, and you understand mine also. How pitiful! How does she settle her conscience? Oh! How is it that our eyes were not opened sooner, you and I? When we begin to esteem someone it is difficult to believe what we see.

Let us say that God allowed this difficult trial. Notice that she left dissension wherever she went; that isn't God's spirit. Then, what about this self-importance? She alone was noticed, esteemed, loved and you know what resentment she had for those who judged her severely (or better, truly)!

She didn't want to return to Angers, because some there did not like her. What is the meaning of all this which left her neither humble nor sincere? Miss Houdon was right; that is my opinion.

Goodness! Let us thank God for the crosses and blows we received, we were so blinded! Don't be angry with yourself, poor daughter, for having brought her. You loved the Society and you thought you were serving it well.

It seems that you haven't read the 9th chapter of the third part of the Dialogues of Fr. Surin. You must get it.

Yes, may God be praised for everything! Be patient and have confidence!

Now, would it be better to give her a pension, or the 11,000 francs? I was leaning toward the pension, in order not to burden you. But it isn't urgent, since you have the document in hand.

We can not count on the money left by Sr. Camille any longer. Mr. Chanuet has been completely turned.⁵¹ Well! May God be praised again!

They no longer write to me from Lantigni, no one. Sometimes I would like to thunder my indignation against such behavior. It is better to wait for the moment God will indicate.

I'm praying for your healing, dear daughter. If I could, I would go to see you. I'd like to bring some money for the church.⁵² That is what is holding me back at the moment.

Please, let us not bite the cross, nor the thorns, but kiss them, because they bear Jesus Christ, our good Master.

You must adore and receive Communion on your bed of suffering; that is the altar of God's glory at this time.

Let's drive away the mosquitoes that sting, and stay calmly at the feet of Jesus or in one of his beloved wounds.

I do bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

⁵⁰ Taken from a handwritten copy by Mother Marguerite, not from the original.

⁵¹ Mr. Amedee Chanuet, the brother-in-law of Sr. Philomene.

⁵² The church of the Fathers under construction in Angers.

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 75/75)

St. Maurice, May 19, 1868

Dear Madame and daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to you from our novitiate house where I came to spend a few days, since I had been extremely busy because of two retreats, etc, etc.

Your dear daughter hadn't told me about the death of the poor brother. I learned about it in your letter. Oh! The vanity of life, of youth and of honors! It all evaporates like smoke!...

So your poor nephew has died! I hope and I believe that he died with contrition and forgiveness... There are graces for a happy death, as there are some for good actions. The grace of a happy death is a grace of mercy. God prepares souls for it long in advance. We can feel ourselves dying or weary of this world. Before falling, when he saw the danger he surely must have recommended himself to God, all the more fervently because danger was imminent and God was there. Then the Blessed Virgin did not fail him. His mother had prayed to her. For myself, I believe he has been saved.

Would you please send me his photograph? It would make me pray for him even more. If you only knew that it takes very little to save a soul! So we must praise his mercy.

Now about you, dear daughter.

You are in solitude now, that means closer to the good Lord because you are closer to yourself, more with yourself. Open wide the doors and windows to chase away the smoke of cities and crowds. When the smoke is chased away, close the blinds to enjoy and breathe in God.

Read much in the beginning, especially until your soul can live from truth, your heart can enjoy it, and your life can become fruitful under the beautiful sunshine of grace. Spend a half hour in loving prayer mornings and evenings.

Then admire the beautiful stars, the flowers and the fruit of the field which obey the laws of divine Providence.

Now, good and eldest daughter, you must definitely work at gentleness of heart. Jesus said: "Learn from me that I am gentle of heart."

If I didn't know that you have your faults, I would almost say that you are working very hard at becoming supernatural, since our natural feelings revolt from time to time, and so foolishly. Oh! What miserable self-love, what a traitor it is! Peace comes only through war; make war upon it.

Now about Miss Edmee.

I thought I had written to her. However you make me question it, I am doing so through you. Since she told me in her last letter that they might return to France, I may not have written. May God be praised for the return of Mr. Belle. He was in danger in every way.

Goodbye dear daughter, we are getting old. We must hurry to take advantage of the lamp which is lighting the rest of our path.

This thought struck me this morning during my adoration:

We are now on the last stretch of life and we let ourselves be distracted by meaningless things.

I bless you with all my soul in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.S.

TO MME. MATHILDE GIRAUD-JORDAN
(IV 19/19)

St. Maurice, May 19, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I couldn't write to you by the time you had indicated, so I'm doing it from here, from our novitiate, where I came to spend a few days to prepare myself for the feast of the Ascension. The feast of the Ascension is such a beautiful feast for me!

It's the day when I began a retreat in Paris to examine at the feet of our Lord whether he wanted me to labor for the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. That was on May 1, 1856.

It was truly the Ascension for me! Because I didn't deserve that our Lord would look at me and choose me for such a beautiful, such a great Work, which needed a saint, a learned man and a prince at the service of such a great Master.

It has now been eleven years since that date. So many graces received, and so many deficiencies in me!

Oh! our Lord wanted to prove once more that he is the one who is everything, that he can do everything, and that the weakest and most vile instrument in his hands is the one he prefers.

And so dear daughter, on the holy day of the Ascension, please pray for the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament and for its poor Superior.

Now about you.

I was really sorry to learn about the death of your relative, Mr. Giraud, substitute in Lille. Although he died suddenly when he fell, he had time to recommend himself to God, since he saw the danger for 8 kilometers, an act of contrition is quickly made and at such a time it is well made. Then, it's the month of Mary, to whom his devout mother prayed so much!

We must really pray for him; I am doing so, since he is your relative and I knew him.

So then, you saw Msgr. Mermillod! That is a great grace, that you benefited from it is even better, and so thank God for it. The saints who reflect something of the gentleness and goodness of our Lord are like a proof of how excellent the sun is - of which they are just a few rays. But rays pass, the sun remains, and you can receive this sun every day. You are very rich and very strong; but we must constantly rewind the watch of virtue and even of grace. We use up everything.

Do it, dear daughter, and take as a royal virtue inviolable fidelity to the service of Jesus.

Serve him through your generosity and not through your feelings. Serve him at your own expense: then you will truly love him. I bless you as he loves you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, PSS⁵³

⁵³ Abbreviation for Priest and Superior of the Society, or Priest of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO EDMEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND
(IV 4/4)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum

Paris, May 19, 1868

Mademoiselle Edmee

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

Your dear aunt⁵⁴ has shared your letters with me. I read them in the presence of our Lord and I thanked him for the graces he has given you.

I can see that he is your director of love and Providence.

Let yourself be led within by his divine Spirit, and externally by his fatherly Providence following your grace and total gift. Often repeat the *Introit* of the third Sunday of Lent.

Always remember these rules of direction:

1. When your soul gives itself to God as you have, the service of God becomes a set state, virginal love for our Lord becomes the heart's sovereign law. The glory of God, the purpose of all our actions, is legitimate and pleasing to God only according to the law of duty, or fidelity to one's interior spirit, which inspires us to do what is good and what is better.

2. Once our gift has been made, our state in life under vow, our rule of life determined, all external graces must adjust to this state, to this rule, as means [to it]. External works have value only as an exercise of this state; and if they are contrary or foreign to this state, they must be set aside. God cannot contradict himself. We do not ask a tree to give us fruit other than its own kind.

3. Once a person has determined a direction, a principle for their life, this direction only applies the laws and rules of their spiritual and personal vocation, it shouldn't be submitted to the decision of others. It relates to one's state. If God changes the state, this principle of direction ceases.

However, since we must never hold back the work of grace, and especially God's plan for us, we cannot be the slaves of a state which is not vowed, or of a given rule, because God is always the God of the heart.

In a new situation, we must begin by praying, by holding to what has been done, by testing the new spirit, judging it even by the interior proof of peace and divine strength, wait for obedience if possible, and finally only give in to a two-fold insight and a two-fold sign of holiness.

4. Finally, and I thank God for helping you understand the following rule:

In your condition, as I know you, let yourself be the last to judge God['s will] and the works and matters proposed, because in many ways your grace and attraction leave you free because you cannot and ought not give or promise anything other than what is free, and finally because, as a spouse of Jesus, Jesus must say the last word.

Therefore, you did well regarding the offer made by Msgr. Delaplace. Now listen to a little advice:

Nourish yourself on our Lord, on his spirit, his virtues, his evangelical truth, on the contemplation of his mysteries. Do not leave him. He said: "If you abide in me and my words abide in you, everything that you want will be done."

Place yourself not in the rays, but in the sun, and you will have all the rays in their essence.

In everything you do, discover the bread of life of Jesus, and then nothing will weaken you. May your faults, even your sins, be purified and rectified, like the rust on a sword thrown into a fire instantly disappears by its sudden impact.

Dwell more in the light of God's goodness than in his sweetness. Light is the knowledge of his perfection, of the details and motives for his love, his gifts and his manifestation to mankind.

⁵⁴ Natalie Jordan.

On the Breach

Be happy when Jesus shows you the reason for his goodness, his love, his virtues, even, or rather, especially for the trials and sacrifices which he imposes on one he loves.

Dear daughter, study, study our Lord, and try to understand him, to discover his secrets, the motives of his heart, and you shall be thrilled.

Always go towards his heart: this source and happiness of life. Give your neighbor the flames of your devoted heart, but leave this heart in the heart of Jesus, and you will have nothing to lose, nothing to fear.

Then, when you write to me, let your thoughts flow and always do so with simplicity, for we love the morning light.

I bless you in Jesus, our common center and Master.

Eymard, SS

May 20 - At the Community chapter, he related his interview with Father Favre at Chaintre on Apr. 22, 1856. Conference to the SSS Community.

2172

CO 2172

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 24/26)

Paris, May 20, 1868

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

It has been so long since I have written to you! It seems to me that it has been even longer since I received any news about you!

I am finding the time long. Tell me how you both are.

I saw Mr. Bost with the heart of gold and his dear daughter, who had been awarded her wonderful diploma. They are going to see you and are happy about it, and I for them. Don't you have any plans to travel to Paris? If Rennes weren't so far, I would go see you with the spring flowers during the beautiful month of Mary.

I believe that you both enjoy good health, except for a few little thorns, which protect the flowers of Paradise.

In your last letter you were telling me that you no longer feel any consolation in your devotions, nor do I. Now is the time to serve God for God's sake, by the faithfulness and dedication that come from love. Dear daughter, if you don't have any consolations, you have what is worth more, the strength and peace of trust in God. Hold on to these two possessions at any price, for they rise above the waves of the sea and clouds of this life.

Never give up daily Communion - that would be like giving up your place at the family feast of God's children.

In this matter we shouldn't consider our unworthiness, nor our dryness, but rather our weakness, the loving invitation of our good Master and the company of our dear Mother.

So continue to go to the holy table, as long as you can still drag yourself in spite of your pain. That is the sign that you are expected. You will return from it like the paralytic of Siloam.

Always keep your heart uplifted and joyful, keep a light spirit toward your troubles, but ever singing of his [your?] love in this life and forever in the eternal Kingdom.

A thousand and one blessings from God and Miss Antonia's family, Antonia, the silent one.

I bless you as one.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

Mme. Lepage
8 rue de Toulouse
Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine)

2173

CO 2173

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS
(I 19/20)

Paris, May 24, 1868

Very dear Father,

Yes, grant that holiday to your community: it will do them good.

I wish I could tell you the exact day when the money will be paid to the contractors. Again today I begged Mr. Rosemberg, the director at Rothschild's, to sell some⁵⁵ for us for a sufficient amount; he promised he would. In addition, I have another important person who is looking into it, the Count of Sussex. I assure you, very dear Father, that I will bring you all that I can, as soon as I succeed in getting it. Unfortunately, Mr. Blount, the banker for the Pontifical Loan, did not keep his word to us.

You will be happy to have a real royal feast for our Good Master. Here we are choking in our prison. Solomon saw the last stone placed on his famous temple and rejoiced over it. It will be the same for your zeal and dedication toward Angers, dear Father. You are a real Father for those dear children!

May God sustain you and give you the hundredfold of his grace.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

2174

CO 2174

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 74/76)

*A.R.T.E.*⁵⁶

St. Maurice, May 25, 1868

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing to you from our Novitiate House where I came to rest a few days at the feet of our Lord.

I didn't answer you right away, since I would have told you: I approve your charity for 500 francs. You are and you have been pleasing to God to act in this manner, because this person deserved it.

Please don't put yourself in [financial] difficulty for Angers. I know that these poor Sisters have their crosses and especially this last one by Sr. Benoite which hurt me. To claim what has not come from one's own property, to keep objects of the community knowing well that they were not

⁵⁵ Some bonds.

⁵⁶ Abbreviation for May your Eucharistic Kingdom Come.

hers, to appropriate gifts made to the community; and then to say that she is a rejected victim, when she is the one who did not want to return, alas! how much that has hurt me! Provided, at least, that God not be offended and that he may save their souls! that is what I am constantly asking of him.

I am suffering so much from palpitations again! - Let it pass, provided alas! that salvation may remain in their soul.

They do not write to me, nor do I to them. Should they do so, we wouldn't be able to come to an understanding.

So now I come to you, dear daughter.

Please, take care of your health, avoid any excitement or difficulties which are not presently necessary. Do this because to exceed your strength would be equivalent to exceeding the holy Will of God. Besides, you have a good reason, your state of health.

As you must be besieged with requests for help, money, etc., do whatever is necessary without any further permissions, whatever is appropriate to your social and family situation. For yourself and your dear daughter, do whatever is helpful at the moment. Become broad in applying this spirit of the rule.

Don't bind yourself for new works of piety. We must learn how to limit our zeal, to set boundaries even in what is good. Every good thing is fine, is beautiful and useful in itself, but it isn't good for everyone. The decision comes from grace, situation and virtue.

Mr. Colon's house is fine. I am familiar with it. That good woman will be well there in every way.

Then, when you can, hurry to come to Vichy. You really need it. If I can, I will come there to visit you, if you like.

Yes, try to rest in God, at the feet of our good Master, in silence, resignation, and adoration of his holy and ever gracious Will..

It isn't a matter of working, but of resting, of coming closer to our Lord, of breathing his air of grace, goodness and love. Calm and peaceful rest renew our exhausted strength so well!

I hope that our Lord and his holy Mother will restore Mother Marguerite's health.

I had proposed a pension of 550 francs to Sr. Benoite, rather than the 11,000 francs that she is asking. It seems to me that the pension is preferable, except for the possibility of buying it out.

May God be praised for everything and glorified through all sufferings.

Give us some news about yourself, when you can, dear daughter. It consoles me in our Lord.

Eymard

2175

CO 2175

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD
(V 45/52)

A.R.T.E.

Saint-Maurice, May 25, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I came to spend two days in our novitiate house. I am writing to you at the feet of the Blessed Sacrament, because fortunately my cell is in line with the rays of his throne.

So then, you are suffering so much? poor daughter! I could foresee this would happen after so many nights of insomnia, and so many vigils! But since God wanted you to be caring for that dear patient,⁵⁷ no doubt he wanted some of the consequences which are a bit difficult for poor human nature.

⁵⁷ Her father who died.

So, dear daughter, it is a wise rule to take care of your neuralgia without worrying about the rest, because suffering determines the condition of your life. So, don't scold yourself for being useless. On the contrary, your life is very worthwhile in God's sight.

Unite yourself to God by offering this situation. The pious thoughts that come to you from time to time are dew from heaven. Perform only your necessary exercises of piety (and no more). Yes, try to calm down your exhausted nervous system. Take some codeine syrup. It helps me a lot when I have insomnia. All druggists have some.

You did well to follow the Third Order retreat a little. It is a grace of introduction to the Blessed Sacrament.

P. ... is a man of God. He helps souls a great deal. He seeks only God.

The gentle morning dew helps every little plant, no matter where it falls. It always comes from Heaven.

I wish I had some opportunity to travel in your direction to come to see you. My soul longs to see you, you have had so many trials!

I bless you, dear daughter, with the finest blessing of the Most Blessed Sacrament to which I give and consecrate you constantly as his own.

Eymard, S.S.S.

2176

CO 2176

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 392/395 VI 2)

St. M, May 27, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I've just received your letter of the 25th. I'm writing to answer it.

1. If the Blessed Virgin doesn't heal you, you must go to Vichy. Your health belongs to the family.

2. Sr. B. has withdrawn her niece, that is done. She understood her position in regard to those ladies.

You would do well to give Sr. Benoite's address to the father of the little one. She has the child. Prudently keep silent about the rest; it is up to him to do what he wants.

3. The vows at Nemours were always under the Episcopal authority of Angers, for the Bishop has forgotten that he had consented to the foundation. In any case, I never thought otherwise and I always considered the Sisters of Nemours as daughters of Angers.

Well, I am the one who is involved, not the professor at the Sorbonne, who has neither the mission nor any knowledge about it. I would really like to know him. No doubt he answered as we would answer a sick person who complains about an illness which is unknown to us.

Didn't the Sisters renew their vows into my hands at the last retreat?

Tell them that their vows always were of the Society and for the Society.

4. You do well to protect Fr. Champion. They are leaning on him now, because they feel condemned by me.

I wrote to him. He answered me that they would quote him to the contrary.

See how these women are stirring up and disturbing the world with their personal questions! Poor heads! God delivered you from them. It's one cross less!

Nothing new about the two trials; they are proceeding normally since there is no other way. However, the letters are still hidden; we do hold to getting them and we will hold to it.

5. Let Fr. Grolleau's zeal and devotedness work in your favor. I'll read Sr. Marie's notes. Be patient about the future house.

6. Strive to eliminate feelings of irritation against anyone. Strive even harder to forget them.

We must regain our serenity and freedom of spirit, to be simply and clearly present to everything.

Let your spirit feed on the glory of God in your diverse physical and spiritual states. God replaces us when he is using us for something else. We serve well, only where God has placed our work and our bread.

God replaces sacramental Communion by communion with his presence of grace and love. However, we must desire the first, because Jesus and the Church so will it.

I don't know when I'll go to Angers, perhaps soon. I am negotiating the sale of a few Roman bonds. I'm praying to God for that. See you soon then, dear daughter, if God so wills.

I bless you and order you to request your healing from our good Mother before the end of her beautiful month.

All yours in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - Fr. Dauphin, the Superior of the Marists in Paris, introduced a fine young woman to me for you: 34 or 35 years old, a skilled seamstress, in good health. She seems to be very virtuous and a spiritual person.

I'm evaluating her. I saw her twice. It might be a hidden treasure. However, we must wait. I'm considering her humility, self-denial, and mortification in little things.

2177

CO 2177

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS

(III 9/14)

A.R.T.E.

St. Maurice, May 28, 1868

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter. God enabled you to have a good trip, I had asked him for that. So you are now with your aunt; be with her like an angel of prayer and consolation. There is nothing more to do for personal self-denial except to raise one's eyes to heaven frequently and send up Calvary's incense. It always receives the first welcome.

God truly wanted that trip, it enables you to see things first hand.

I understand that you can only observe, and that your position is delicate, even painful. However, that is the law of prudence: remember that no one is as arrogant as a servant who becomes a necessity or who believes herself to be so.

How long will you remain on this Calvary? Remain there, dear daughter, as long as duty or genuine charity requires it at the time. If this situation should become prolonged, it would surely be better to return.

Stay united to God especially by means of your spiritual practices. Read my good little book, I hope that it will greatly help you. I will leave for Paris. I am feeling the same as when you saw me on Sunday, I continue to have heart palpitations. I think it is just nerves. Migraine headaches threaten and then go away. It is caused by the heat. - On Sunday, our candidates for ordination will begin their retreat, pray for them. I never cease doing so for you, dear daughter, and I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

Miss Theodorine Thomas
1 rue des Gobelets
Saulieu (Cote-d'or)

2178

CO 2178

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 50/52)

A.R.T.E.

St. Maurice, May 25,⁵⁸ 1868

Madame in our Lord,

I am writing to you from St. Maurice, where I have come to spend a few days of peace and quiet.

Don't worry about my letter, it was forgotten: God willed it so. I was writing to you about crosses, you had your share!

Do you know what people do when they swim during a storm? They try to keep their head always above water and to close their eyes against the waves. Always keep your heart turned toward divine submission. Close your eyes in order not to see the horrors of the waves, and cry out to God: He will surely come! Then when you are suffering in every way, and when everything is a cause of suffering, thank God for purifying you, sanctifying you through human beings, so that you may make amends for yourself and for others.

However, the essential thing which should never weaken is to act through pure faith in mercy, in the goodness and power of God; to serve him nobly for Himself, for his Will and his glory by the sacrifice of one's comfort and happiness, the loveliness of his service, of his gentle consolations, of that healing assurance that he loves you and that his love is satisfied with you. - You have often been quite privileged but it is better to give than to receive.

See how kind our good Master is. He stays with you, in your home, at your side, in spite of the will to take it away. I admire how well you were able to defend it, and obtain the gift beyond all gifts. So keep it carefully and don't worry about future difficulties and limits. You have him, you possess him, forget the rest! You only need to enjoy this possession; he will know how to defend himself.

Our collection will still take place on June 11th. I will preach at 4:00 p.m. I didn't have the tickets printed. They told me that it would be useless. I will have them announce it in the "*Semaine Religieuse*" and in a few newspapers.

I don't know when I will go to Angers; perhaps soon. It depends on a sum of money which I must withdraw and take for the church we are building.

I leave you with our Lord your only possession and say, Madame, that I am,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, S.

⁵⁸ Published as May 25 - Father Troussier indicates May 29.

TO MISS ADELE MARTEL

(V 2/2)

St. Maurice, May 29, 1868

To Miss Adele

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Do not get discouraged about writing to me, even though I do not answer right away. At least I answer immediately in God's presence. I pray especially according to your state [of soul] and the needs which your letter expresses. Then, always write your real thoughts to me: at least it is natural and simple. Besides, you couldn't do otherwise.

I may not tell you anything that you don't know already, dear daughter; but you will know it better, since both of us will know it.

It is good to render an account of our soul from time to time. The devil cannot hide in the folds, nature doesn't have a chance to get drowsy, and grace benefits because it is perceived more clearly.

Live from day to day, dear daughter, and you will accomplish your duties much better, accomplish the sacrifices of the journey better by telling yourself: "It will be over tonight."

Besides, there is a great law of holiness which is ever true, ever good and ever powerful in works: the law of the Holy will of God upon us. We find our special grace of sanctification in this present and personal divine will, and this special grace is attached to every hour, every action. When the time for action has passed, this grace has also passed.

Now listen carefully to my advice, dear daughter: 1. You are a religious of the love of Jesus. Carmel has given way to this personal vocation: act according to the meaning of that beautiful name!

2. A master feeds his servant: so receive Communion every day. Imagine how hard your work would be if you did not eat the bread of life! Eat in order to be able to work.

As you are the traveling spouse of Jesus, protect your fidelity to his honor and love. Let him console and strengthen you. Give him the glory of everything.

Always be gracious in the presence of duty; pleasant towards your parents and your friends; pleased with everything and everyone, since God wills it so.

But give priority to prayer: it is the morning provision of manna for the day, your orders for the whole day; and doing so, you will spend a good day. And then, put me in the budget of your prayers; I need them so!

I bless you very eucharistically in our Lord, dear daughter,

Eymard, Superior

<i>May 31 Public Conference: Pentecost, glorious birth of the Church.</i>

2180

CO 2180

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS

(III 10/14)

Paris, June 2, 1868

Dear daughter,

I received your letter this morning. Thank you because you understand our sadness and our prayers.

You will have to drink the chalice to the dregs, since God is the one who is offering it to you; but drink it as a true disciple of the cross, because that particular one will never return.

I do understand your disappointment. I expected your generosity. Feed the fire of grace with prayer and spiritual reading, in order to find consolation in God.

This morning I went for your La Salette water. I am sending it to you immediately. You will receive it by the same mail. I found two letters under your door; I am sending them to you.

Have courage dear daughter, it is time to work for God and for him alone. Keep working for his glory.

Be assured that we don't forget you in our weak prayers.

In Jesus,

Dear daughter,
All yours,
Eymard

2181

CO 2181

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS

(III 10/11)

Paris, June 2, 1868

Very dear Father,

Impossible for me to go to Saint-Maurice. Replace me. Our Lord had you begin the retreat. He is the one who will help you to continue and finish it.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

2182

CO 2182

TO MME. EULALIE TENAILLON
(III 11/11)

Holy Trinity, June 7, 1868

Dear daughter in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

I am writing you a few words to carry out my promise and calm your worries. I've been feeling well for the past two or three days. I've returned to my schedule since Thursday.

Our ordination was very edifying. It took place in Versailles. We have one in minor orders, one deacon, and one priest.

This morning Brother Frederic said his first Mass at 8:00 a.m. I assisted him. He said it well and with piety. Good Mr. T[enaillon] attended it, he is well. I wanted to keep him for dinner; he already had another commitment. Your daughter is looking forward to seeing you. I believe she will eventually overcome that temptation. It is my hope, because her salvation will find grace and strength therein.

And you dear daughter, what are you doing? Everything God wills and as he wills. No doubt you are yearning for the Blessed Sacrament which also keenly desires you. But duty! your major duty called you there!

May God bless you and bring you back in better health.

I bless you abundantly in our Lord.

Eymard

2183

CO 2183

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 52/52)

*Feast of the Holy Trinity*⁵⁹

Do not set aside holy Communion because of worries over the past - under pain of penance.

You must know that:

1. Loathing for one's duties is never a sin.
2. The Will of God at each moment must be the sovereign rule of life, as shown by necessity or what our state in life indicates toward our neighbor.
3. When God has replaced a devotional exercise with a duty [that springs from] charity, for example, visitors to welcome, the exercise of piety has been replaced by something better.
4. A doubtful sin - is not a sin.
5. A doubtful duty - is not a duty.
6. A state of agitation - is a temptation. Let it pass and wait until the cloud passes. Or, if you must do something, think: if I didn't feel this turmoil, what would I do? Well then, do it.

Let yourself be led by the grace of the moment - go to God in freedom - recollect yourself in his love.

May Jesus bless you!

Eymard

⁵⁹ Probably 1868.

2184

CO 2184

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS

(III 11/14)

Paris, June 8, 1868

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

Your letters console us over your absence, and would make us double our prayers were we not already devoted to you. So, Brother Frederic is now a priest. He is writing you a few words. Yesterday, he said his first Mass with piety and edification. In the evening I preached about the Priesthood: how God prepares and forms priests, and what priests must do for his glory. Now Brother Marius is a deacon and Brother Vincent from Brussels is in minor orders.

The good Master is increasing his little family imperceptibly. It will be blessed if it may always please him.

We took the material for the canopy from your apartment. Fr. Frederic will have it sewn by a relative who came from Marseilles for his ordination.

You are still on the cross, dear daughter, do stay close to Jesus crucified. You are proving your love, and your virtue will come through wounds and blood. Yes, when your natural feelings could explode, put the hand of grace over them and hold them firm. Better to stifle them than to let them take the upper hand. Oh yes, it costs an agony and a death to maintain a virtuous silence.

Now I will leave you. I am going to St. Maurice for a day, to give them the monthly retreat. - May God bless and console you, dear daughter!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

June 8 or 9 - Monthly retreat at St. Maurice.

June 11 - Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Preached a sermon at Notre Dame des Victoires to raise funds for the First Communion of Adult Workers. He also preached for the Octave of the Feast.

2185

CO 2185

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 393/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 12, 1868

Dear daughter,⁶⁰

I received your two letters. Thank you. Today I wrote to Fr. Grolleau about the advance I had requested from you when I was at St. Maurice when I had had time only to send a dispatch. I explained it to him.

I knew how Providence had helped you. I had written about your difficulty on that matter.⁶¹

If there is no answer from Lantigni, they want the 11,000 francs. Those women no longer write

⁶⁰ Taken from a copy handwritten by Mother Marguerite, not the original.

⁶¹ Perhaps the help received from Mme. Gourd.

to me, I can't impose myself. I'm sending you your list with a few notes.

Be generous for the small things.

Brother Charles is the one who put the case which I brought from Angers on the train. Have a Sister write them a letter and tell them to claim it at the Belleville Station.

I gave Sr. Philomene Sr. Benoite's watch.

I pity those poor women so! They don't see, they only see from a natural point of view. Oh goodness! Yes, we have our faults, but it is God's Work we should consider, his service.

They thought we would found a convent where they would be in charge. The good Lord preserved us from that mistake and misfortune.

I believe they have a certain degree of faith which excuses them and I forgive them even more. I would like to see them in their proper grace at the service of the Master.

Obey your doctor and your Superior, especially as regards Vichy, if they hold to it. Your health does not belong to you. We must take care of the mount for the journey and turn the wheel of obedience.

Illnesses are retreats of grace for Superiors; it is their time for rest in God. God is then the Superior of the house, and things only function better for it.

I bless you, dear daughter. As soon as our bonds are sold, I'll go to Angers. That's all I'm waiting for.

All yours in our Lord.

2186

CO 2186

TO FR. GROLLEAU
(VI 2/2)

Paris, June 12, 1868

Dear Father Superior,

I wanted to write to you on Wednesday, but the preparations for Corpus Christi kept me so busy that I did not have a single moment.

I found myself caught up in a request from Fr. Audibert - urgent. He was not in Paris, and he needed 7,000 francs. I had sent in some shares to sell on the Stock Exchange, but since I was not in Paris, and the matter required a waiting period of several days, and knowing from the donor to whom I had written about the demands of Sister Benoite, that she had sent the 11,000 francs, I sent a telegram to Brittany to tell Fr. Audibert to ask Mother Marguerite for an advance of the 7,000 francs, as they were required by midday. Please forgive me, dear Father Superior, for not approaching you directly at once, but I was afraid of being too late. I shall bring them in a few days.

I had a visit from Sr. Philomene's uncle, who came to ask me many questions to which I had already given an answer. (It was Mr. Rattier). So as not to upset things, I cut it short and said that the whole thing could perhaps be worked out later. This fine gentleman is a very good Christian, but he is distressed to see his niece leave. He will certainly be writing to you. I wanted to let you know that I said nothing definite. The Ladies of Lantignie⁶² no longer write to me; they have understood my position very well. I am sorry for them, I pray for them. They are confused about their situation in relation to the Mother-House in Angers; - after all, they were simple religious, under the laws and order of obedience. The house is in peace since their departure.

I hope, dear Fr. Grolleau, that I can come to Angers soon. As soon as I have sold our shares, - and that will be within 10 to 15 days I believe - for I have to stay here for the Octave of Corpus Christi.

⁶² Sisters Benoite and Philomene.

On the Breach

I am writing to Fr. Champion about the pictures and the Christ; I am confident that he will immediately order the Ladies to give back what does not belong to them.

Fr. Champion could not give them away without my permission, and I could not give away something which was not given to us. That is the simple truth we must teach the Ladies.

Believe, dear Father Superior, the affection and devotion of your servant,

Eymard, Sup.

<i>June 13 Public conference: Worship and love.</i>

2187

CO 2188

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE
(V 51/52)

A.R.T.E.

Paris, June 13, 1868

Madame in our Lord,

Here is the result of the collection:

Sermon	450 fr	
Lady who did the collection brought		<u>1100</u> fr
total	1550 fr	

So now we are rich to clothe our little children. The Pastor at Madeleine promised me a sermon in his church next year.

I hope to go to Angers toward the end of June, God willing. I will bring some money for the church we are building. I am going to sell a few bonds. I am very happy to give our Lord the money that belongs to him, since he is the only Master and we are only his poor servants.

As for you, Madame, keep this good Master with you; do not let him leave you at any price. - There is a Tabernacle at the prison, in the hospitals, in parishes of unbelievers, and you are our Lord's Bethany.

I approve what you tell me about concentration and indifference, as a result of suffering and virtue which is constantly sacrificing itself.

If you could relax by looking at flowers, your beautiful countryside, the visit of some Angel from Heaven, you would do well. I wish that for you. What misfortune ... (a line erased).

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS

(III 12/14)

A.R.T.E.

Paris, June 13, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for today's letter. I was expecting to have news about someone's death, this thought is pursuing me today. I am praying for your aunt: in fact, it is unexplainable. God is allowing her to make expiation; she is receiving many graces. It is a time of mercy for her, greater, perhaps, than we can imagine.

You are also suffering very much, dear daughter. God wants it for his glory and your greater good. You have never tried to lessen a sorrow or a cross that comes from God, for fear of being unfaithful. Although suffering may be great, naturally speaking grace is victorious. God is victorious. Let the fulfillment of God's will be your compass. Let your heart bear the brunt of your service. Don't worry about your thoughts, nor your helplessness. Fire lives by its heat, not by its light.

Often go to God as he is, by his means, his deeds, and you will be in the right ambiance.

We had a lovely feast for Corpus Christi: we sang a beautiful Mass. Fr. Crepon preached at Vespers, and I at Notre Dame des Victoires for the Work of First Communions.

Collection	450 fr.
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From my collector, Mme. Marechal	<u>1.100--</u>
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Total:	1.550 fr.
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You can see how we must be grateful to God. In the evening at 7:00, we had the procession. Tomorrow we will have a second one. I don't say: if only you were here! we truly miss you! come home! We must desire that you be where God wants you, where the law of duty lies.

How blinded the Good Master let us all be at the time of your Aunt's crisis! He wanted you to be near her. Take care of yourself; if you need anything, write to us.

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

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. I am keeping the paid invoice for 14 fr. 10. Don't worry about your aunt's vow, her condition dispenses her from everything.

I just received a letter from Nanette; she tells me that my sister caught pneumonia on Monday, however, she is no worse. She writes as follows: - Fr. Stafford asked me to tell you that the canopy is finished.

Miss Theodrine Thomas
1, rue des Gobelets
Saulieu (Cote-d'or)

2189

CO 2189

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

Paris, June 13, 1868

Very dear sister,

I was sorry to hear that you aren't well and that you had the chills on Monday. May God comfort and cure you! You are so courageous. When you notice that you are losing strength, look after yourself, take some thick soup and eat some meat - the doctor's decision is sufficient.

Then make a novena straightway to the Supreme Doctor, at Notre Dame de la Salette; and if I can come to see you, we shall go and thank the good Mother together on the Holy Mountain. Write to me, dear Nanette; otherwise, I shall be anxious. Please. The good Lord likes to visit his own with a few little crosses. They are the flowers of Calvary.

Please, dear Nanette, be good enough to ask the brother of our Brother Aime if he received a parcel containing some tobacco for the Pastor, and if he gave it to him.

Since he hasn't heard anything from the Pastor, I am afraid he is still waiting for it and it may have been lost.

Miss Thomas has been with her sick aunt for 3 weeks, and Mme. Tenaillon has lost her brother. I remembered you to them.

Many blessings, dear sisters. Take care of yourselves, and if you need anything, write to me.

Your loving brother,
Eymard

P.S. Tell the Misses Cros that Mr. Baron, their nephew, is well. I expect him tomorrow.

2190

CO 2190

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

Paris, June 14, 1868

Dear Father,

I am very happy that you visited good Fr. de Cuers. He must have been touched by this mark of fraternal affection. It pleases me very much that you come to his help, for he deserves it.

I can see that Divine Providence continues to watch over us: some leave, others come to replace them at the service of the Good Master. It will always be so: *Multi vocati, pauci electi. Beatus qui non fuerit scandalizatus in me*,⁶³ in Jesus who is so poor and so neglected.

There are so few vocations who come only for our Lord!

Our novitiate has a dozen novices, among whom are five scholastics.

So Brother Frederic has become a priest, Brother Marius a Deacon, and Brother Vincent from Malines is in Minor Orders. The Society is growing slowly, but it is growing toward our Lord.

⁶³ "Many are called, few are chosen. Blessed is the one who is not scandalized in me."

What a joy for me to think that, on the feast of Corpus Christi and during this royal octave, our Lord will be truly honored and glorified in the houses of the Society. Please God that we may count Eucharistic thrones by the hundreds! We do what we can here in our little chapel; we preach every day.

As for the note from the Ladies of Compassion, if those Ladies agree to make a new one, I will agree to cancel the first: they cannot be offended by that. Mr. Martigny confused the issue. If they should annul the first note, we would have to make one for Mr. Guerin for the amount that is due to him. Send me the model, and I will sign it here.

What has happened to the rent that Fr. Billon was supposed to receive? Could it be only at the next feast of St. John?

The Bishop from Constantine came to see me. He is a very apostolic and very simple Bishop. I venerate him, but I will not grant his request for a Lenten preacher at Constantine.

Be happy and glory in the royal feast of our God and King, dear Father.

All yours in his love,
Eymard, S.S.

2191

CO 2191

TO MISS ADELE JULHIEN

(VII 2/2)

Paris, June 14, 1868

Mademoiselle, very dear in our Lord,

Finally, you decided to write to me! Thank you, because your letter pleased me. I do thank our Lord for the tonsure received by your dear, devout nephew!⁶⁴ This proves that he is truly in his vocation and that he is esteemed by his Superiors. May God bless him and lead him to the Holy Altar soon, for the glory of God, the good of souls and your consolation.

I would like to hear that you are in good health. That requires that you should avoid any upsetting reactions, any anguish about others, be a little stronger against external winds and storms.

What I desire most is that you would place your trust in God for the future. Sleep quietly in the hands of divine Providence! Be joyfully devout in the service of our Good Master, [you are] the virgin of his heart and the happy servant of his love. Be merciless and strict about the past, forbidding yourself a broad view, firm conclusion or even just anger. Baptism erases everything; the second baptism increases its merit.

You must do so at any cost, without any pretext. You know very well how dear your soul has always been to me, that I asked God for your healing in order [that you might] serve him better and for a long time.

So then, let your love for our Lord be youthful, rediscover the joy of the Springtime of life. - You are white, why darken this beautiful flower? You are the beloved of our Lord; discontinue your crying and rejoice in his divine goodness.

May God keep you and always be all in all for you. My very fond regards to your dear Anais whom it pleases me to bless with you.

Eymard

June 15 Public Conference: Worship and trust.

June 15 Public Conference: Corpus Christi: Public Worship.

⁶⁴ First step to priesthood.

2192

CO 2192

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 28/28)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 15, 1868

Mademoiselle Antonia

Very dear sister in our Lord,

I myself certainly deserve the accusation I made to you several weeks ago. However, I assure you that it isn't forgetfulness or indifference. I don't know how time flies [so fast] for me. How could I forget what has been given by God and rooted deeper by time?

I'm not waiting to hear your accusations face to face. I prefer to circumvent them.

Trust me. Have devotion to holy absolution. Find a few rays of light and warmth if there are any on your sacramental journey: some consolation from God if he sends you any. But now you know the way to Heaven; you know our Lord is⁶⁵ with him and pleases him. Your spiritual schedule has been outlined, your state of life is settled.

Well, just go forward and, if there should be some unexplored paths, some impenetrable darkness, some people who misunderstand you or leave you confused, find out why from God and from me.

You know that I am slow [to respond] when things are going well. I will be prompt when you are suffering and in need.

I am very happy that you will take that little trip with your fine friend. Body and soul will both benefit [from it]. I am waiting for you.

In this same mail I am writing to your friend from Nancy.

With all my soul I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard, SS

2193

CO 2193

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 25/26)

Paris, June 15, 1868

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

I am expecting you either the 25th, the 26th or the 28th of June, as you let me hope. I would be so happy to see you again! It has been so long since my trip to Rennes!

You know that Allevard is like a home to me. I know many people there. I have a good friend there, a doctor, who is as devout as he is knowledgeable - Mr. Laure. You would only need to use my name, I raised his son⁶⁶ and I am a friend of his whole family.

You are so close to La Salette at Grenoble! Wouldn't you go? I am wondering whether I might have some reason to go that way. I would accompany you and introduce you to my dear sister at La Mure.

⁶⁵ Some words seem to be missing in the French copy.

⁶⁶ Probably a student at the boarding school of La Seyne. Ed.

We are preparing our royal feast⁶⁷ as beautifully as we can, but our chapel is so small! You give me the greatest pleasure when you tell me about your state of consolation.

Oh! Yes, hang on to trust and holy surrender; it is an unbreakable chain. It's the sun without eclipse, the true life of the heart.

I bless you, in close union with our Lord, dear daughter.

Eymard

2194

CO 2194

TO FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT SSS

(I 20/20)

Paris, June 18, 1868

I am sending your letter to Mr. Ratons. I read it to our Fathers; they all praised its moderation and logic. I don't know whether he will answer, but if he doesn't wake up and consult his conscience, I pity him. They say that he really ought to understand religious life, that he had been a brother.

Dear Father, I hope to come to see you in a week or two to bring you the borrowed money that I already have in hand, and to bring you a little more. The First Communion of our young workers will be June 28. I can come only after that. I do so want to see you enjoy your great undertakings for the greater glory of our Lord! Because of the great heat, spare yourself a little.

The Ladies from Lantigni have just sent Fr. Champion the Christ and the painting from the Lieutaud Ladies. *A fructibus eorum...*⁶⁸

We will see you soon, dear Father.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, p.

To Rev. Fr. Audibert,
Superior

2195

CO 2195

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 394/395 VI 2)

Paris, June 18, 1868

Dear daughter,

The best way to Vichy is to take the evening express in Angers, arrive in Paris in the morning, leave again at 11:20 a.m. to reach Vichy at 7:51 p.m.

That would give you a few hours of rest in Paris, and I would have the joy of seeing you. If you write to let me know the day and time of your arrival, I would have you rest in a room which has been made available to me nearby.

⁶⁷ The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

⁶⁸ By their fruits you shall know them.

On the Breach

Here is another plan:

Leave Angers at 9:00 a.m: you would arrive in Paris at 5:00 p.m., rest a little, and leave the same evening at 8:20. You would arrive at Vichy at 4:10 a.m. and so avoid the heat.

Fr. Champion wrote to tell me that he received the Christ and the painting of the Lieutaud ladies. I will bring them when I go to Brussels.

I leave you. My sciatica is making me ill. I don't know when I can go to Angers.

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. - They wrote from La Mure to tell me that my sister has been sick with pneumonia, but there is some improvement. Pray for her.

<i>June 19 Public Conference: Corpus Christi. Sunday in the Octave.</i>

2196

CO 2196

TO MME. X⁶⁹
(VII 1/1)

Paris, June 19, 1868

Very dear Madame in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank you for giving me news about yourself. You want to have some from me: I am better and I am back to the service of adoration. The pain is almost gone.

So, dear Madame, you have been very ill. Interior graces kept you all the closer to God as external pain increased.

May our Lord heal you. Oh, you do well to go to God just as he is, good and loving. It is the best and most powerful means of always serving him with joy. May God always give you this joy, [joy] of the heart which lessens so many difficulties and charms away so much pain. Joy! The happiness that comes from serving such a good God! the consolation of being loved by him.

You have devotion for absolution: you do well. It means loving purity of soul, as people in the world love cleanliness and external luxury.

We are praying for you every day, dear Madame, repay us in your devout charity and please believe me ever in our Lord,

All yours,
Eymard

⁶⁹ Anonymous.

2197

CO 2197

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET SSS
(I 29/29)

Paris, June 20, 1868

Very dear Father,

Don't expect me Monday. I came back here. On Tuesday, Mme. Marechal will arrive at St. Cheron at 11:30. Please send the coach for her.

I would really like to have an opportunity to send you some money. If I don't have any, then it will be on Tuesday.

That is surely a basic principle: without mortification, no virtue; without a spirit of sacrifice, no progress is possible.... Spiritual life is reached only through dying.

You have been inspired, dear Father; maintain that inspiration.

Oh, how fortunate you are! how much I envy your grace to be far away from the world!

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, p.

2198

CO 2198

TO MME. ANDRE MARECHAL
(VII 1/1)

Paris, June 22, 1868

Dear Madame,

First of all, I want to ask you to forgive my delay, it was involuntary. We are constantly praying for the blessed fruit and son of grace which God has given you.

Tonight we are beginning a Novena to the Blessed Sacrament for your prompt and safe delivery.

As soon as this greatly desired child is born, consecrate it immediately to the Blessed Virgin. - She will watch over it for you. - Have courage and confidence, dear Lady. Remember the words of Jesus, that the joy of being a mother makes one forget the pains which preceded that happy day.

Please receive and offer to your husband my feelings of fidelity and dedication in our Lord Jesus Christ. Madame, from your humble servant,

Eymard

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

(V 75/76)

A.R.T.E.

Paris, June 26, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am writing a quick hello through Mother.⁷⁰ She is going to Vichy. No doubt our Lord could have healed her in Angers, but he has his plans of grace.

Sometimes we have a purpose in mind, but our Lord has another which is greater.

If you could bring Mother to the Thorins to see and breathe in the good Lord's pure air, you would do a fine thing.

If I can have four free days, I will come and pay you all a little visit.

I really bless you in our Lord.

Eymard

June 18 - First Communion of 40 Adult Workers.

June 30 - To Angers to place the cornerstone of the new church.

⁷⁰ Mother Marguerite Guillot.

CHAPTER IV

The Final Days July - August 1868

*“We die by degrees. We must resign ourselves to it.”
July 19, 1868*

Preacher and Superior

Plans for a Foundation in Lyons

Return to La Mure

Illness and Death

July 2	Conference Servants: (Angers) The personality.
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July 7 - Panegyric on St. Peter Fourrier at l'Abbaye-aux-bois: How to become a saint. Fr. Eymard was accompanied by Father Albert Tesniere, then Brother Albert, to whom he related many details about the foundation years.

2200

CO 2201

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 13/14)

A.R.T.E.¹

Paris, July 11, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your little note. I was waiting to hear from you.

You must certainly expect some thorns, because at such a time self-interest often manifests itself full force. If you soften the thorns in the fire of charity, you might even burn them away.

You want real news about my health. I am suffering rheumatic pains caused by gout; sometimes more, sometimes less. The doctor said it would last a week. May God be praised! Will you be staying a long time? He wants me to go either to the country or to the springs at Neris, etc.

I received the 500 francs from M. Michel. I recommend myself to your prayers. We pray very poorly when we are ill.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

My sister is better, but she is still home-bound.

I may go to see her if I must go to the country. I haven't told them anything, for I'm not in any condition to travel right now.

2201

CO 2202

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

Paris, July 12, 1868

...² So now you are a grandmother - that does indeed make me happy! God's gifts are good and when well-cultivated, are very good! - I am very ill with a rheumatic gout in my left hand. It is one of the small thorns of life.

¹ Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum, Thy Eucharistic Kingdom Come.

² Excerpt from a letter.

2202

CO 2204

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

Paris, July 13, 1868

Madame and dear daughter in Our Lord,

I have been suffering for a week from rheumatic gout in my arm, and that is what prevented me from answering you. I hope to come to see you Wednesday the 15th or the next day. The pain is less acute. But don't trouble yourself in any way, because I don't expect to stay with you very long since I want to go see my sister who is ill.

I will see you soon. I remain very united to you in our Lord.

Eymard

P.S. My best regards to Mother.³ I'm not writing to her, since I will see her and it's difficult for me to write.

2203

CO 2203

TO FR. HENRI BILLON SSS
(III 2/2)

Very dear Father,

Happy Feast of St. Henry!⁴ I thank you for your wishes for St. Peter's feast day! May God grant you every grace of holiness and joy in his holy service.

Until later, when I can write longer.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.⁵

2204

CO 2207

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

I will be traveling to Lyons, dear sisters. I am planning to come to see you. It will be around the 25th of this month, but I will let you know the exact day.

I had some rheumatic pains, I am better.

I will be seeing you soon, dear sisters.

Eymard⁶

³ Mother Marguerite Guillot. They were together in Vichy.

⁴ July 13.

⁵ Abbreviation for Superior.

2205

CO 2205

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 395/395 VI 2)

Paris, July 16, 1868

Dear daughter,

I couldn't leave today. I expect to leave tomorrow, Friday, and get to Vichy in the evening just as you did.

⁶ Written in pencil as a footnote to the following letter of Mme. Eulalie Tenaillon (A.T.) to Fr. Eymard's sister:

J.M.J. [Jesus, Mary, Joseph]

From my dear solitude

My poor dear and holy Sister,

I am writing you a few words to reassure you about our dear father. He is neither dead, nor sick, nor displeased with you. Since he knows that I give you news about him, he worries less. I realize that it is not the same thing for you. I would be the same. I understand perfectly how pleased you are to receive news from him. That is only natural and right.

How wicked and intelligent the devil is to put all those worries in your mind! Could you imagine that our dear father, who loves you so much, would allow anyone to say anything against you! If you had seen how sad and pained he was when he heard about your illness, you would have no such thoughts.

It is just the lack of time; he is always so busy! And then he was suffering badly, but he was not sick. He had rheumatic pains which wore him out, and I believe I can tell you without being indiscrete, that he is planning to go see you. I am sure that if he knew all the grief you are going through on his account, he would really be hurt by it.

I will leave space in my letter for him and I will not mail it until he writes a few lines on it.

I am pleased to learn that you are better. Renew your courage then and eat well so that he may find you strong when he comes.

However, don't expect him in the next few days, because he must go elsewhere before going there. He has not left Paris yet. He was due to leave today, but he was prevented from doing so. Have courage and trust, and do not doubt the affection of our dear and holy father any longer. That would hurt him too much.

I feel very badly about our dear Nanette's accident. Nevertheless let's hope that she is wrong in thinking that she will no longer be able to work. Please tell me precisely what happened to her. I assure you that I am praying very much to God for both of you, every day in the dear chapel of love of our dear Jesus. Please pray very much both of you, for my fourth son in order that he also may go to increase the ranks of the holy Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament. At this time he needs to have us pray for him in a very particular way. Poor little one! The devil is really doing all he can to prevent him from following the way of God's call. Do not miss praying for him every day and for my dear Zouave.

Do not forget me in your prayers either. I have greater need of them than you would think.

Miss Thomas is not in Paris right now. She left for a short time to be near her aunt who was very sick and died. She was 85 years old. At that age there was little hope for healing. She returned to Paris for a few days and left again for family affairs, so I cannot give her your errand.

Courage, farewell, my two dear holy souls. May our dear Jesus tell you all my love for you! If I could go to console you myself, you can be sure that it would soon be done. But God does not will it. He wants me here at his feet. Should I not consider myself very fortunate? Oh! Pray to him very much for me so that I may at least love this dear Jesus a little!

The one who loves you more than you can imagine and who embraces you both very tenderly. Could I do otherwise than love the sister of my dear Father, since I don't know how to do anything by halves!...

⁷ The original copy of this often quoted text cannot be located at this time. However, because of its beauty and frequent use, it is left here as a footnote:

"We have known the charity of God" (I Jn. 4:16). To believe in love is everything! It is not enough to believe in truth: one must believe in love. The love, that is, that our Lord Jesus Christ shows in the Blessed Sacrament. It is by living faith in the Eucharist that we make return for Christ's love for us. Pray for a simple and pure faith in the Eucharist. Men may teach you the subtleties of its dogma, but Jesus alone can give you belief in it. Come and receive not only its consolation, but be strengthened in faith. Yes, here is the Eucharist! What more do you want?

The Final Days

My pain is bearable, but makes it impossible for me to write.
My spiritual and fraternal regards to your very dear sisters in the Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

Madame Guillot
Barre House
rue de la Tour, Vichy (Allier)

2206

CO 2206

TO MISS THEODORINE THOMAS
(III 14/14)

Paris, July 16, 1868

Dear daughter in our Lord,

I am leaving tomorrow, at 9:00 a.m., for Vichy, where I will spend a few days and then I'll go immediately to La Mure. I will expect news from you there. I hate to leave without blessing you and getting you settled in your new apartment.

This morning, everything was moved to your place. Fr. Stafford and Brother John directed and supervised everything. Everything is done. Nothing was broken. It took an hour and a half to bring up your piano: it is fine.

My rheumatism is nothing during the day. It is more bothersome at night. Perhaps the trip will make it disappear? If La Mure were not so far, I would invite you to come to see my poor sister. Your prayers will accompany me.

I bless you, as we are united in our Lord.

Eymard

July 17 - Departure from Paris for Vichy, where Mother Marguerite, her sister Anne-Marie, Mme. Josephine Gourd and her daughter Stephanie were at the mineral springs for their health.

2207

CO 2208

TO MME. LEPAGE
(IV 26/26)

Paris, June 17, 1868

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

I am always late with you! It is because of a trip, and then of an acute rheumatism in my left arm. I have had it for the last 12 days.

2208

CO 2209

TO MILES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 144/145 VI 10)

Vichy, July 19, 1868

Very dear sisters,

I hope to reach you by the end of this week. I came here to see Mother Guillot and others I know. I will be going to Lyons and then to La Mure to thank God and Our Lady of La Salette for having healed you. Your illness had really worried me and I prayed God so much to heal you!

I am feeling better from the rheumatic pains which were not serious after all, since they were going from one limb to another. That is why the doctors sent me to get some fresh air and have a little vacation.

I am very happy to be able to come see you, dear sisters. I wasn't expecting this favor from the good Lord, because there are so many things which should keep me in Paris!

I will see you soon then! Don't come to meet me, and don't prepare anything in advance. When I get to Grenoble, I'll send you a dispatch immediately to inform you about my arrival at La Mure.

Your brother in our Lord,
Eymard

2209

CO 2210

TO FR. FREDERIC STAFFORD SSS
(III 11/11)

Vichy, July 19, 1868

Very dear Father,

I am here [at Vichy]. The doctor doesn't want me to follow a treatment for my rheumatic gout, but to go to the mountains.

Therefore I will leave here tomorrow or the next day (to La Mure d'Isere). I can see by several letters from Brother Aime, especially his last one on the 16th, that he is mentally ill. The best thing to do is to send him to us in Paris. - It would be unfortunate if he should go mad. The sternest letters do him no good. He might even be inclined to take very regrettable means to leave. So, send him immediately.

I gave orders to Fr. Crepon in Paris about it. This trial shows us that we must leave him in the lay state and in humility. - He was put forward too much at Saint-Maurice. Fr. Chanuet recognizes it. It is a good lesson for us.

Goodbye, dear Father. Pray for me. I'll try to go to make my retreat at my Pilgrimage place of graces, at Notre Dame du Laus, if the rheumatism leaves me a little peace.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

P.S. Miss Guillot is here, quite ill. She must discontinue her treatments; she is very sick. The Gourd ladies are here also.

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

A.R.T.

Vichy, July 19, 1868

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

Finally, I received news from you!

Thank you, because I expect it. We never forget our first acquaintances from the beginnings and you were in Paris when we began our Work.

I see that you are still complaining about your old faults; you must shake them when you can, because they are making the road to Heaven longer, more tedious, and fruitless for this life.

There are some virtues which blossom only with our last breath: such as mortification, gentleness, patience and self-denial. Therefore, we must water them every day: we must cultivate them anew. Here, faithfulness is the real virtue; to get up again is to heal.

Never become discouraged, that would be ingratitude or spiritual pride. Always walk in obedience and trust and you will reach the heavenly goal.

As the years increase, they weaken us physically. We die by degrees; we must resign ourselves to it! But fortunately the heart doesn't age. On the contrary, it becomes younger as it inherits what is lost by the other faculties.

Love our Lord very much. Yes, I will certainly pray for your devout and beloved sister, in order that Heaven might leave her with you awhile.

I came here to see some people who are ill. I have rheumatic gout which won me a few weeks of rest; from here I'll go to see my sick sister at La Mure d'Isere and from there go to Notre Dame de la Salette where I will remember you.

I bless you with all my soul in our Lord.

Eymard, Superior

July 20	<i>Farewell to Mother Marguerite and Mme. Gourd. He set out for La Mure.</i>
July 21	<i>Last Mass at the sanctuary of La Salette in Grenoble. That evening arrived at La Mure.</i>
July 29	<i>He rose out of bed for the last time.</i>
July 30	<i>Mass and Communion were held in his room by Fr. Chanuet, who was called from Paris.</i>
Aug. 1	<i>Communion given as viaticum. Holy death at 2:30 p.m.</i>
Aug. 2	<i>In the evening, funeral.</i>
Aug. 3	<i>Burial service.</i>

APPENDICES

I Illness and Death (Fr. Andre Guitton)

II Letter of Marguerite Guillot

III Proceedings toward Beatification

Introduction of the Cause - August 12, 1908

Beatification by Pope Pius XI - July 12, 1926

IV Proceedings toward Canonization

V Canonization by Pope John XXIII - December 9, 1962

VI Proclamation of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament

APPENDIX I ILLNESS AND DEATH¹

Dr. Douillard, his doctor, could clearly see that he was at the point of total collapse. He succeeded in convincing Fr. Eymard to leave Paris and to go to La Mure to rest. As a result, Father planned to spend a few days at home with his family and then proceed to Laus where he could quietly, far from all the usual pressures, renew his strength. He had even authorized Brother Tesnere to meet him at that renowned sanctuary. He was aware of his weakness and the imminence of his death. "Our Lord demands such sensitivity from me that the end must be near," he had said in the spring of 1868.² During his visit to Angers at the end of June, he had asked Mme. d'Andign to come and see him. She later declared:

"He had me come, and told me that he would soon die. He heard my confession, telling me it would be the last time. He asked me to have fifty Masses said for him, as soon as I heard of his death."³

On the morning of July 17, he left his community and boarded the train in the Orlans station. He planned to meet Mother Marguerite in Vichy, in order to discuss some questions under study. About 8 o'clock in the evening, he arrived in the city of mineral springs, where he was welcomed at the hotel by Mother Marguerite, accompanied by Sr. Anne Marie, and Mme. Gourd and her daughter. There were plans to create a community of Servants in Lyons, thanks to the financial assistance of these ladies. Father spent two and a half days in Vichy. He wrote about twenty letters.⁴ On July 20, he greeted Mother Marguerite on her feastday, and had lunch with his hosts. In early afternoon, he made a final visit to the church of Saint Blaise, which faced the hotel, and proceeded to the train station. That evening he was in Lyons, where he spent the night in a hotel near Perrache.

The following morning, he left on the first train for Grenoble, arriving about 9 o'clock. He met one of his friends, Fr. Bard, pastor of Villard-Saint-Christophe, who was also taking the coach for La Mure in the afternoon. Together they made reservations, and Fr. Eymard even invited the desk clerk to share lunch with him. He was still fasting and had not yet offered Mass. It was nearly 11 o'clock when he presented himself in the adoration chapel, owned by the Missionaries of La Salette, on rue Saint-Vincent-de-Paul (today rue Voltaire), and asked if he could celebrate Mass. He was so tired that Fr. Archier, who knew him well, attempted to dissuade him. But Fr. Eymard insisted and the missionary remained to assist him. "I practically carried him in my arms when he left the altar. I gave him a bit of chartreuse," Father recalled later.⁵

Fr. Eymard had to forego his rendezvous in the restaurant. He was so weak that he could hardly stand. He had no appetite, and simply rested while waiting for the departure of the stagecoach. Fr. Archier tried to dissuade him from making the trip, and invited him to remain with him a few days, but in vain. Around one-thirty, Father got up. With effort he took a little food, and went to join Fr. Bard at Grenette place, from where all transportation left. With his companion, he took the front seat of the coach and, in the oppressive heat of mid-summer, he left Grenoble for La Mure. The trip was very rough. According to his companion, "Father became taciturn, answering only in monosyllables. At every relay, however, he got down, took a few breaths of fresh air and some refreshments, and had enough strength to re-board the carriage by himself."⁶ Fr. Bard got off and left him at Villard, carefully advising the coachman to watch over Father Julian. About 8 o'clock at night, the coach arrived at Pelloux in La Mure. No one was there to meet him.

¹ from the book "*Pierre Julian Eymard*" by Fr. Andre Guitton SSS. (1992), translated by Fr. Conrad Goulet SSS (1994).

² A. Tesniere, Eymard, p. 125.

³ Testimony of Sr. Francoise de Chantal, (French) *Ordinary process of Paris*, Cop. pub., p. 200.

⁴ Only three are now available.

⁵ P. Archier, account taken from R. Ullens, *Devant la mort, le bienheureux Pierre-Julien Eymard* (Blessed Peter-Julian Eymard Faced with Death), Montreal, 1950, p.20.

⁶ A. Tesniere, APSS, Rome, 0 1, pp. 337-374. The following quotations without references are taken from this account.

Appendix I - Illness and Death

“When I arrive in Grenoble,” he had written to his sisters from Vichy, “I’ll send a telegram to tell you of my arrival in La Mure.”⁷ His sisters had received nothing. When notified, they came immediately; Annette Bernard was the first to arrive. Father embraced her, but said nothing, even forgetting his hat in the coach. Then came Marianne. Again, not a word. At a nearby house, with great pain he wrote a telegram addressed no doubt to the Paris community, but only the date and the signature are still readable. They led him to his room on the second floor and he went to bed. No one suspected how serious his condition really was, and he himself could not ask for anything. “We thought he was simply tired, as had so often been the case,” Annette later innocently confessed.⁸ In reality, he had suffered a cerebral blood clot. The journey and the heat merely aggravated his condition: he was aphasic, with total loss of speech.

His Last Days and His Death

On the following morning, Wednesday, July 22, there was no improvement. Father could not get up. Dr. Germaine-Bonne, a faithful friend, was renting the ground floor and first floor of the house. He came to see him and prescribed some medication. His mouth was deformed, and speech was not returning. On Thursday the 23rd, his condition was stable. In the afternoon, the pastor of La Mure, Fr. Cat, came to see him and heard his confession, but he could not receive Communion. On Friday the 24th, “there was a noticeable improvement and we wrote some letters,”⁹ reported his sister. In Paris, they were waiting for news. They knew nothing of what happened since the time he had left the previous week. Brother Tesniere, among others, was impatient to join him so that he could go to Laus with him. It was only on Sunday morning about 9 o’clock that the community was informed of his illness and how serious it was. Fr. Crepon sent Brother Tesniere to La Mure as quickly as possible to take care of him. He arrived Monday afternoon about 4 o’clock. Father was then in a state of frightening prostration.” He was unconscious. Tesniere dared not embrace him, nor even shake hands with him. A quarter of an hour later, however, Father regained consciousness and with joy recognized his young confrere, yet he could still barely speak.

A slight improvement had actually occurred and he had partially recovered his ability to speak. Then visitors started coming. He willingly acceded to these numerous signs of friendship. He also entertained some persons whom he knew to be suffering severely, such as Victorine Sauvet from La Mure; he had called for her, in order to comfort her and save her from despair.

Father was lying in the alcove of the parlor on the second floor. His sisters and Brother Tesniere were having their meals in this same room. In spite of his splitting headaches, he joined as much as he could in these family gatherings. They took turns keeping watch at night. On Monday night, it was Annette’s turn. Before sleeping, Tesniere sent a telegram to Paris. This led to the decision of Fr. Chanuet and Miss Thomas to leave for La Mure.

Tuesday, the 28th, was a relatively good day. He received a few visitors. Brother Tesniere, in particular, was able to give him his mail, which was piling up on his table. Father scanned the return addresses, and asked Brother to answer two or three letters which he thought were more important. The night was calm. On the following day, Tesniere acted as secretary. He read the mail and Father indicated in a few words the answers to be given.¹⁰ A telegram arrived from Fr. de Cuers, asking whether he should come. Father answered no. He gave the same answer to others. Wednesday, the 29th at noon, was a time of respite. Feeling better, he wanted to get up and even sat at table with his sisters and Brother Albert. He blessed the food and ate a piece of fish and some grapes. Then he returned to bed.

That night Fr. Chanuet and Miss Thomas arrived. She had been caring for the linens and clothing of the community in Paris, serving the Society with complete dedication. Now she assisted Marianne and Annette in caring for Father and putting a little order in his room. As for Fr. Chanuet, when passing through Grenoble, he had obtained the Bishop’s permission to celebrate Mass in the

⁷ To Marianne Eymard, July 19, 1868, *Lettres*, t.3, p. 148.

⁸ G. Troussier, t.2, p. 540. (Thompson, p. 250).

⁹ Not presently available.

¹⁰ no copies presently available.

room of the sick person, but only twice a week.¹¹ It was a difficult night. Tesniere, who watched for the first part of the night, was struck by his gasping.

The following day, Thursday the 30th, the room was prepared, and Fr. Chanuet celebrated Eucharist. What a joy for him to share in the Mass and receive Communion! During thanksgiving, he even wanted to drink the wine that remained in the cruet. Touched by all this, Brother Tesniere wrote: "I approached Father and embraced him for the first time since my arrival. As for Father, he was surprised to see Fr. Chanuet; 'It seems strange to me that you came,' he told him. 'What for?'

'But Father, don't you deserve it?'

'Oh! bah!'

'You used to do it for others, yourself, Father!'

"He was satisfied with that reason," added Tesniere.

Around 9 o'clock, Brother Albert placed a silk band around Father's body in honor of Notre-Dame du Laus. "It's for her that I suffer -- or to her that I offer it," Father answered him. Once Fr. Chanuet and Miss Thomas had arrived, Brother sensed that he was no longer needed. He asked permission to go to La Salette on pilgrimage, to pray for a cure. He left with Father's blessing.

The night of July 30 was relatively quiet, but there was absolutely no hope for a cure. Miss Thomas decided to protect the patient both by stopping visitors from coming, and by having all meals taken elsewhere than in the room. Fr. Chanuet celebrated Mass in the room that morning. Twice, he asked Father if he wanted to receive Extreme Unction. Each time he answered simply: "No, not now." The evening of the 31st, it was Miss Thomas' turn to watch. Later, she would testify that, around midnight, she saw Father "staring attentively at the wall near the foot of the bed. He smiled, and his eyes lit up. He seemed to be very, very happy." There was a luminous cloud and what resembled the folds of a garment of someone whose face she could not see. She was convinced that the Virgin Mary had appeared to him to notify him of his death. Quickly his appearance changed, his breathing became difficult. She went to get Fr. Chanuet, who suggested that he receive Extreme Unction. Father willingly agreed and participated in the celebration with full consciousness. It was about 2 a.m.

At about 7 o'clock in the morning, Fr. Chanuet offered to get Holy Communion for him. "Father expressed dissatisfaction; he wanted the Mass," reports Tesniere. "Fr. Chanuet was afraid to act against his conscience and Father submitted himself to this new sacrifice." There was nothing more touching than this final wish of Father to share in the celebration of the Eucharist. He who had so generously celebrated Mass for his sick sister everyday, in that very house in September 1865, saw himself denied his last Passover. "He received Viaticum."

About 10 o'clock, aware of his condition, he began to say good-bye. He embraced his sister and said to her: "And so, dear sister, *adieu*; it's the end!" Towards noontime, he lost consciousness for a while, and people realized this was the final hour. Fr. Chanuet recited the prayers for the dying, and Miss Thomas, the litany of the Sacred Heart. Those present came to kneel at the foot of his bed to receive a final blessing. When he awoke, he seemed to be looking for someone, probably Brother Tesniere who had not yet returned from his pilgrimage. Fr. Chanuet asked if he had something to say. "No", was his simple reply. They were expecting a kind of testament from him. He was giving his entire Work to God.

Around two o'clock, when Fr. Chanuet was leaving the room to send a telegram, he [Eymard] wanted to expectorate. Miss Thomas lifted him slightly on his pillow. His breathing stopped. He fell back, lifeless, blessing with his hand, and holding a statuette of Our Lady of La Salette on his heart, with his eyes fixed on the large picture of the crucified Christ which was at the end of the room. Notified, Fr. Chanuet had just enough time to give him a final absolution and the blessing *at*

¹¹ Tesniere speaks of only one celebration of Eucharist in the patient's room. From this, he concluded that the Bishop of Grenoble had authorized only one celebration per week. But he himself was absent on July 31, and other well-informed sources speak of two Masses: Mme. Giraud-Jordan speaks of Masses "on Thursday and Friday", (French) *Inquiry Process of Lyons, Summarium*, p. 1258, and Mother Marie Clmence, 'on the 30th... and the 31st', (French) *Inquiry process of Angers*, *ibid.*, p. 1272-1273. This opinion explains better the "dissatisfaction" of Father on Saturday, August 1, when Fr. Chanuet did not deem himself authorized to celebrate the Eucharist in his room.

Appendix I - Illness and Death

the point of death. It was almost 2:30 in the afternoon. Father Peter Julian Eymard gave his life to God in this small family house in La Mure, surrounded by his sisters, and only one confrere, Fr. Chanuet. It was Saturday, August 1, 1868, a day traditionally consecrated to the Virgin Mary, at the hour for the first Vespers of Sunday. He was fifty-seven and a half years old.

Burial in La Mure

When the first moment of grief had subsided, those present considered exposing his body. It had to be washed and dressed; a black stole was placed on his cassock. Miss Thomas and Mme. Gras took care of this. While cleaning his body, they were able to notice traces of bloody macerations which he had inflicted upon himself. They placed his body on the bed in the alcove, in the room on the second floor where he had just given his life over to God.

Fr. Chanuet quickly informed the communities by telegram. In Paris, the Fathers received the news in the afternoon; in Angers, that evening. In Saint-Maurice, they learned of his death only the following noon. Mother Marguerite, undergoing therapy in Vichy, learned about it only three days later. But in La Mure, news spread rapidly, and everyone was in dismay. "The Saint is dead," they were saying. Everyone loved Fr. Eymard; he had remained simple and close to everyone. Among the people, he was Father Julian. And whenever he returned home to visit, "They called him in the dialect: '*A siou lou paourou de Diou*,' which means: 'I am the poor one of God,' an expression frequently used by the Servant of God speaking of himself," according to a witness.¹² That evening, some close and intimate friends silently reflected near his remains and prayed with his family. He was resting in peace. "If only you could have seen how beautiful he was!" wrote Fr. Chanuet to Fr. Mayet shortly after. "There was never such serenity and gentleness on his face."¹³ Dr. Douillard, from Paris, arrived on the night coach, hoping to offer his services. But he was too late.

Around 9 o'clock, Brother Tesniere returned from La Salette. He had hoped to obtain a miracle, but finally resigned himself to accept God's Will. It was at Ponthaut, shortly before arriving in La Mure, that he received news of the death. Great was his sorrow, but he was able to describe the remarkable beauty of Eymard's face: "Father's eyes were open and as animated as on the most solemn feast of our Lord." Then, towards midnight, his face lost that astonishing impression of life which struck those present. He maintained, however, a serene look: "It was calm and peace that characterized his features, a peace from on high which nothing troubles." On the following morning, someone tried to take a picture of his face, but the results were very poor. Besides, some close friends had already clipped some locks of his hair.

On Sunday morning, Tesniere barely had time to go to Mass. Spontaneously people flocked from everywhere to pay a final visit to the priest, the countryman whom they venerated. Very early, there was already an unceasing flow of people of all ages and of all conditions. They were struck by the beauty of his face and its expression of serenity. Secretly they were taking souvenirs. Brother Tesniere, standing next to the bed, applied rosaries and medals, and even house keys to the body. It was an endless coming and going through the small corridor and narrow staircase. A group had to be organized to keep order. At certain hours, the waiting line stretched to more than one hundred meters. With its low ceiling, the room was very hot and some feared an accident.

Around 3 o'clock, Fr. Leroyer, Superior of the community of Marseilles, arrived. He was able to see Father's uncovered face. On the advice of the doctor, it was decided that the burial take place that very night. They brought the body down from the second floor to the ground floor, which Dr. Germain-Bonne offered to the family. He was clothed with violet-colored priestly vestments, offered by the parish. They then placed him in a coffin, but left his face uncovered. People continued to come and Tesniere estimated the crowd at ten thousand. Evidently, he exaggerated, since La Mure numbered at that time only about 3,500 inhabitants.¹⁴ At least, this estimate reveals

¹² Testimony of Fr. Maurice Eymery, *Procès ordinaire de Grenoble*, fol. 143. During the funeral, this witness was one of the pall bearers "from the church of La Mure to the cemetery. While offering him this final duty, I was asking God that I might walk in his footsteps on the way to holiness," he remarked.

¹³ Letter of Fr. Chanuet to Fr. Mayet, August 19, 1868, quoted by R. Ullens, *Devant la mort*, p. 47.

¹⁴ Census of 1866: 3,565 inhabitants. Cf. V. Miard, *La Mure et la Matheysine travers l'histoire*, 1965, p. 245, note (4).

the exceptional crowd that spontaneously manifested their esteem and veneration.

At 5 o'clock, the clergy proceeded to transfer the body from the house. About twenty priests from the nearby parishes were there to assist. They felt honored to carry the coffin on their shoulders. Tesniere, ever conscious of the Society and its prerogatives, arranged for Fr. Leroyer to be among them. A large crowd accompanied the cortege on its way to the parish church, which was too small for the occasion. On this Sunday afternoon, they celebrated Vespers for the dead. Fr. Cat, the archpriest of La Mure, gave the final blessing. Then the cortege proceeded to the nearby cemetery. The face of Father was still uncovered. A grave had been dug at the side of the church. The coffin, which was made of oak and doubly enclosed in a tin casing, was finally closed, and the burial proceeded. Slowly, the crowd dispersed; at about 6 o'clock, everything was finished.

The following morning at 9 o'clock, in the presence of a large crowd in the parish church, a Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul. "Before the final prayers, the Superior of Marseilles (Fr. Leroyer) related the edifying life of our venerable Father. The congregation was in tears; even the speaker had to control himself," according to the testimony of Mother Marie-Clmence.¹⁵

The events had passed so quickly that some people arrived only after the ceremony; such as, Fr. Champion, Superior of Brussels and Assistant General, and Mr. Amde Chanuet, with Sr. Philomene and Sr. Benote. The excessive heat of the season, no doubt, had influenced the decision to proceed quickly with the burial. The people of La Mure also feared that the religious might take the body to bury it elsewhere. In fact, on Sunday morning, Fr. Stafford had sent a telegram from Paris to proceed with the request to transfer the body for burial at Saint-Maurice.¹⁶ The telegram was intercepted in La Mure, and arrangements were made for the burial to take place without delay. Besides, it was very difficult to insist on rights while Marianne Eymard was still alive.

For the thirtieth-day service in La Mure, Fr. Stafford was present. He had a small monument erected over the grave: a prie-dieu carved in white stone with a monstrance above it and a stole and open book bearing these words:

LET US LOVE JESUS WHO SO LOVES US
IN HIS DIVINE SACRAMENT.

This epitaph, in its simplicity, seems to summarize the essential message of the apostle of the Eucharist.

Last Will and Testament of Fr. Peter Julian Eymard

"In the name of the Most Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, I, the undersigned, Peter Julian Eymard, born at La Mure d'Isere, declare that I make my will freely and willingly as follows:

"1. I give and will the usufruct [profit] of all movable and immovable property of mine which will be in La Mure on the day of my death, to my beloved sister Marianne Eymard, and after her death in gratitude to Miss Anne Bernard if she is still living with my sister until death.

"2. As responsible for the above and any other rightful claims, I name and establish as my universal heirs in equal partnership, M. Raymond de Cuers, priest, who lives with me in Paris in rue d'Enfer 114, and M. Champion, Cyrus, Amant, from Charios (Drome), priest.

"By this present document, I break and annul any other previous will. I recommend my soul to the infinite mercy of God and the charity of my sisters and friends.

Paris, June 22, 1856."

¹⁵ Testimony of Mre Marie-Clmence, second Superior General of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. *Inquiry process of Angers, Summarium*, p. 1280.

¹⁶ Testimony of Fr. Stafford in the *Apostolic process of Paris*: "The following morning (Sunday), I telegraphed these words to Fr. Chanuet: 'Take care of all the formalities needed to have the body brought to Saint-Maurice; Father loved this house so much.' *Summarium*. p. 1244.

Appendix I - Illness and Death

The notarized copy of this will can be found in the archives of the Founder in Rome, together with a little sheet without any signature, dated Oct. 21 1868, entitled The Will of M. Julien Eymard, Blessed Sacrament Father, with the following detail:

Notary: The Will of M. Julien Eymard, Blessed Sacrament Father.

House and garden at La Mure, rue du Breuil

Income	300 fr.
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Price of Land at Genevray - 65 acres

Income	<u>60 fr.</u>
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Total	360 fr.
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1/2	180 fr.
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Capital	3600 fr.
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On Aug. 6, 1868, the Will was opened in Paris by Mr. Meignen and his colleagues (notaries) on rue St. Honore, when Frs. Augustin Crepon and Frederic Stafford presented the death certificate released by the town of La Mure.

The original document was kept by the notary.

Condolences from Pope Pius IX

“His Excellency Bishop Chigi, Apostolic Nuncio to Paris who showed such keen interest in the new-born Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, encouraged the Religious of this Society to inform the Holy Father directly about the death of Fr. Eymard. His Holiness issued the following document which he signed personally and stamped with the pontifical seal, a clear witness to the affection with which he honored Fr. Eymard and of his tender concern for the religious group founded by this Venerable and holy priest.

Here is the text:

‘To my Beloved Son, Father Cyr Champion, designated vicar of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Paris, France.

Pope Pius IX

Beloved Son, Greetings and Apostolic Blessing.

From your very sad letter, written on the 16th of this month, we learned the sorrowful news of the death of the beloved founder of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, our beloved Son Peter Eymard, who passed from this life on the first day of this month. We have not ceased to humbly commit the soul of the deceased to the care of a most merciful and generous Father, so that if, by chance any traces of weak human nature needed to be expiated, his soul would be admitted to the joys of the blessed in heaven. Because you are the designated Vicar of his Congregation at this time, Beloved Son, never cease caring for the good of his Congregation with all your zeal. As a sign of Our paternal affection, We lovingly ask the head of all the heavenly powers to impart our Apostolic Blessing with the love of our heart, to You yourself, Beloved Son, and upon all the members of your Congregation.

Given at Rome near Saint Peter on August 20, 1868.

In the Twenty-third Year of Our Pontificate.

Pope Pius IX”

- Excerpt from the newspaper “*Le Bien Public*”
Ghent, Belgium, August 20, 1868

APPENDIX II

Letter of Marguerite Guillot to her Sisters

My very dear daughters in Our Lord,... Since I cannot leave you anything of my own, I will bequeath to you as a precious heritage what our mutual Father has left us.

If only I could have collected everything! I am sorry about that! It was impossible to do so because of the trials and continual illnesses which our Good Master willed to send me.

Dear daughters, my final wish and last recommendation to you is to maintain, preserve and spread around you, in this dear little society of Servants, our Blessed Father's spirit of faith and love for the most Holy Eucharist; that is, his spirit of kindness and charity toward one's neighbor; his humility, his modesty, his love for the simple and hidden life in everything that concerned him personally.

Following his example, my dear daughters, be generous in the service of the Master, kind toward everyone, humble and emptied of self, never lifting yourselves up, remembering that a Servant cannot, nor should not, seek personal glory for anything.

Yes! may the spirit of our Father always reign among you. Never forget what he has done for us; the happiness of having known him, of having been nourished by his holy words, formed by him for the religious life. Rejoice in the favor of being part of this little eucharistic family, to which he has given birth and which developed at his side, in our divine Master's sight.

Esteem and love your precious vocation. May its initial spirit be communicated to future Servants! That is my wish for you, dear daughters. May Our Lord be pleased with it and bless it through the hands of his holy Mother. This blessing will please our Father and will be followed with his own. My dear daughters, I dare to add my own to it, and say that I am your loving and devoted mother in Jesus and Mary.

From our Mother house in Angers, Saturday, August 28, 1869.

(signed) Sister Marguerite of the Blessed Sacrament
Servant of the Blessed Sacrament.

APPENDIX III
PROCEEDINGS TOWARD BEATIFICATION

Transfer of his Remains
1877

June 27	Exhumation from the cemetery of La Mure.
June 29	Arrival of the body in Paris.
July 3	Solemn funeral in Paris. The body was placed in a niche in front of the altar steps.

1885

July 7	Death of Mother Marguerite Guillot
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Proceedings toward Beatification
1898

Jan. 6	Father Edmond Tenaillon was elected by the General Council to be Postulator of the Cause. He began to gather information and research the writings. His journal began on Jan. 28, 1898.
July 6	His mandate was registered with the Sacred Congregation of Rites. He returned to France to continue his search for information.
Aug. 1	A circular letter announced to the Congregation that the Cause would be promoted.
Nov. 26	Document of the Sacred Congregation of Rites ordering the research of the writings.

1899

June 29	The Postulator signed the Articles in view of introducing the Cause.
Aug. 17	The Postulator began to take steps with the Chancery of Paris to constitute a tribunal in view of the informative process.
Oct. 30	Opening of the Process of Inquiry in Paris.

1900

Feb. 5	Opening of the Process of Inquiry in Grenoble.
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1905

Apr. 8	Decree relative to the revision of the writings.
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1908

Aug. 12	Introduction of the Cause. DECREE
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Decree for
the Introduction of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization
of the Venerable Servant of God
Peter Julian Eymard
Priest, Founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament

Wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached in the whole world, and wherever the pure oblation is immolated and offered to the divine Name, the Children of God and the Church are led by the Holy Spirit and never fail to have, cultivate and manifest in a variety of wonderful ways, faith, worship and devotion toward the precious Banquet, the greatest of miracles, the permanent memorial of our Savior's Passion and love, the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. However, among those who, in the past centuries established religious Institutes for adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, we must single out the priest Peter Julian Eymard, founder of the Congregation of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and rightly so. He wanted his religious to be entirely dedicated to serving this ineffable mystery, and so at the beginning of his Constitutions he wrote: "Let all our religious know that they have been chosen and admitted to profession for the sole purpose of devoting themselves to the service of the divine Person of our God and King Jesus Christ, truly, really and substantially present in the Sacrament of His love. Therefore, as good and faithful servants of so great a King, they shall consecrate to His greater glory all their talents and virtues, their studies and labors, without any self-seeking." That is why he imposed on his disciples adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, not only during the yearly feast and octave of Corpus Christi or during Forty Hours, but daily and perpetually. He asked them to dedicate themselves to the contemplative and the active life, this latter subordinated to the first, and to work toward their religious perfection, taking the divine Eucharist as their motive and means.

The Servant of God was born at la Mure d'Iserre, in the diocese of Grenoble, on February 4, 1811, from upright and devout parents to whom it is said it had been predicted they would have a child who would be the glory of the family and the founder of a religious Institute dedicated to honor the Blessed Sacrament. It should be noted that his mother visited the holy Eucharist at church every day and that she would offer little Julian, who received God's blessings with her. The child who was growing in innocence, piety and an inclination for spiritual things, was barely five years old when he began to reveal his desire to be a priest to his sister Marianne, his desire to dedicate himself to the service of God in the sacred ministry, begging at the same time for the help of her prayers in order to reach this holy state by a virtuous life. When he reached the age of reason, he would often receive the sacrament of Penance and earnestly sought to keep himself pure. On May 16, 1823, after a pilgrimage to Notre Dame du Laus with his sister, a place which is not far from la Mure, and having prayed for the intercession of the Virgin Mother with her dear Son, he approached the Table of the Angels for the first time with great devotion. Later it would be his custom to celebrate this day as the beginning of his conversion and vocation and the source of singular graces.

As Julian felt God's call to him becoming stronger, he studied Latin, first at home, then at Grenoble until the age of 17. Recalled to his family because of his mother's death, he was soon to meet the one who would be the instrument of divine Providence in his life, Fr. Guibert, from the Oblates of Mary, and after a few months he received the clerical attire. He had hardly returned to his studies, which had been interrupted, when he fell ill and had to return home where he spent two years with his father, who died devoutly on May 3, 1831. With the help of the Blessed Mother, he successfully passed the exam of philosophy and entered the Major Seminary of Grenoble. His progress in knowledge and virtue led him to be ordained as a priest on July 20, 1834. Three months later, he was named curate in the parish of Chatte. He fulfilled this responsibility faithfully and at the end of three years he was sent to Monteynard as pastor. There, he made himself all to all, and followed the example of the good Shepherd, filled with remarkable devotion to God, he taught his neighbor the way to salvation and demonstrated much charity, especially toward those faithful who were entrusted to his care. However, he aspired to a more perfect state of life. On the advice of Fr.

Appendix III - Proceedings Toward Beatification

Touche, an Oblate of Mary, and with the permission of his bishop, he went to Lyons, at the foot of the hill of Fourviere, and after a brief novitiate, made his religious vows in the Society of the Marists. He was immediately put in charge of the college (boarding school) of Belley. Later named Provincial in Lyons, he established the Third Order of Mary in that city. He was then named master of novices. In 1851, he was transferred to the college of La Seyne-sur-mer, where his devotion toward the Eucharist grew and together with Captain de Cuers, he founded the Work of Nocturnal Adoration in Toulon.

During that year until 1856, under divine inspiration, the Servant of God dedicated all his energies to establishing the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. He overcame great obstacles and with the help of the Blessed Virgin and the support of church authorities, he obtained a regular dispensation and the paternal blessing of Fr. Favre, the Superior General of the Marists, and founded the new institute with the approval of the Archbishop of Paris, who offered the Servant of God the house where he was to begin his work. On June 1st of that year, the first members of this Institute began to have the reserved Sacrament where they adored the Eucharistic King who finds his delight to be with the children of men. However, it was only at Epiphany of the following year that the Work was finally established. Later, for various reasons, its headquarters had to be transferred to Faubourg St. Jacques, where it developed gradually. We must add a second Institute to this one, that of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, in which Miss Guillot had a great part to play: she was its first Superior. Following the advice of St. Jean-Baptist Vianney, she left Lyons and went to Paris to place herself wholeheartedly under the direction of and obedience to the holy priest, Julian, as the Saint had urged her to do. The Servant of God gave the members of this new Institute a white habit and the name of Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, which they were to adore perpetually. He wrote their Constitutions, their directory, and addressed beautiful letters to them to lead them to the perfection and purpose of the Institute. On November 9, 1859, he himself opened the second house of his Congregation in Marseilles, as requested by Bishop de Mazenod.

The Servant of God added to these two institutes other works to favor Eucharistic worship and apostolate; such as the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the secular Third Order or Fraternity. The first request he made to its members was to make an hour of adoration each month and become attentive to whatever was closely connected to the Holy Eucharist. The second request was one hour of adoration a day. The Guard of Honor, which assures a regular service of adorers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament; The Eucharistic Weeks, whose purpose is to assure the splendor of the cult of Exposition, with each enrolled person making a contribution toward paying the cost of this worship for four weeks a year; and the first Communion of Adults.

The Servant of God also fulfilled the ministry of preaching in several cities and dioceses of France. He did so with genuine doctrine, edification and in a praiseworthy manner. In 1862, after founding another house in Angers, he went to Rome with letters of recommendation from several bishops of France. He visited several novitiates and houses of various Orders; then he completed his Constitutions and modified them in keeping with the remarks received from the Apostolic See. He also worked to buy back the Cenacle from the hands of the Moslems, in order to set up a throne of adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament; but because of several difficulties which arose, his efforts failed. Between times, he had the consolation of founding new houses in Brussels, then at St. Maurice near Versailles where he established a novitiate and retreat house, and began a Work for the sanctification of secular priests which later grew and now counts around 20,000 associates.

Finally, the Servant of God, broken by work and illness, followed the advice of doctors and left Paris on July 17, 1868, to rebuild his health in his native town. On the way, he stopped at Vichy, where he gave a final blessing to Sr. Marguerite, who, under his guidance, had founded the Institute of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. He celebrated Mass on the 21st day of the same month in Grenoble, in the chapel of Notre Dame de la Salette, Reconciler of Sinners, and arrived at night at la Mure where the loving hospitality of his sister was awaiting him. But his illness became serious, he became paralyzed, and received the Last Sacraments of the Church with great devotion. Finally, in the presence of his sister, his friends and two of his religious, Father Albert Tesniere and Father Chanuet, the master of novices, who had been called from Paris to be close to their beloved Father

Appendix III - Proceedings Toward Beatification

Founder, on Saturday, August 1, the Feast of St. Peter in Chains, while praying devoutly and with his eyes fixed on the picture of Jesus Crucified, he died peacefully, at the age of 57, 5 months and 28 days. On the following Sunday, after the funeral in the Parish church which a large gathering of clergy and people had attended, the body of the Servant of God was buried and was to remain there until 1877, where it was found and brought to Paris in the middle of the choir of the church adjacent to the motherhouse of the Congregation.

The reputation for holiness which the Servant of God had acquired grew from day to day after his death and was strengthened, it is said, by miracles and prodigies. This led to the ordinary process of inquiry. After these inquiries were over and sent to the Sacred Congregation of Rites, with his writings, which were already reviewed and approved, a dispensation was granted to the 10 year delay [ordinarily required], as well as the intervention and vote of the consultors, and there were no obstacles remaining. On the insistence of Rev. Edmond Tenaillon, Procurator General of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and its postulator, considering the Letters of Postulation from her Royal Highness Princess Blanche of Orleans, of several Eminent Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, of a great number of Bishops, of Cathedral Chapters, of religious Orders, of confraternities of the Blessed Sacrament and of persons distinguished by their dignity, either clerical or civil, his Eminence, the most Reverend Cardinal Ferrato, Ponent or Relator of this Cause, proposed the following question in a regular session of the Sacred Congregation of Rites assembled at the Vatican: Should the request for the Introduction of this Cause be signed? The Most Eminent and Reverend Fathers responsible for the Sacred Rites, after hearing the reports of the Most Eminent Cardinal Ponent, after the oral and written report of Rev. Father Alexandre Verde, Promoter of the holy Faith, and everything was duly examined, replied affirmatively, that the Commission was to be signed, if it pleased His Holiness, August 11, 1908.

A Report of the above was made to Our Holy Father Pope Pius X by the undersigned Cardinal prefect of the Congregation of Rites. His Holiness ratified the reply of the Sacred Congregation and graciously signed by his own hand, the Introduction of the Cause of the Venerable Servant of God, Peter Julian Eymard, priest, founder of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, on the 12th of this month and year.

SERAPHIM Card. CRETONI
Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites
DIOMEDE PANICI
Arch. de Laodic. Secret. of the S.C. of Rites

Appendix III - Proceedings Toward Beatification

1909 Aug 10	Decree of non cult.
1910 Dec 5	Decree for the opening of the Apostolic Process.
1913 Apr 9	Decree of reputation for holiness.
1914 Nov 11	Decree of validity of the Process.
1916 Apr 30	Healing of Ms Lucinda Cifuentes at Santiago, Chile.
1918 Apr 30	Antipreparatory Congregation for the study of the virtues.
1919 Jan 17	Healing in Angers of Ms Renee Fouchereau.
1920 Nov 23	Preparatory Congregation to study the virtues.
1922 May 16	General Congregation on the virtues.
Jun 11	Proclamation of the heroicity of the virtues.
1924 Jun 17	Antipreparatory Congregation on the miracles.
1925 Mar 10	Preparatory Congregation on the miracles.
May 5	General Congregation on the miracles.
May 9	Approval of the miracles.
May 11	Exhumation of the body in Paris.
May 12	Congregation de Tuto.
Jun 2	The Pope proclaimed that the process of beatification could proceed.
Jul 12	Beatification by Pius XI DECREE

Decree of Beatification

Piux XI Pope

In perpetual memory

From the beginning of the Church of Jesus Christ until now, as century followed century, we have witnessed an ever-growing number of saints. They were providentially sent by God and wonderfully suited to the needs of their times. During the last century, the nineteenth since the birth of Christ, the public worship of our Savior Jesus Christ hidden under the sacramental veils increased notably in all nations. Great Eucharistic Congresses have especially contributed to bring this about, so much so that the last years of the century have been called the era of Eucharistic Congresses.

Hence it was fitting and timely that there should appear a man deserving of high praise, who would make it his life work to promote worship of the Holy Eucharist and be recognized by all as the apostle of this public worship. Without any hesitation we declare this of the Venerable Servant of God, Peter Julian Eymard. He burned with a very great love for Jesus in the Eucharist and was inflamed by that love throughout his life. He also founded two religious Congregations, one of men and one of women, especially devoted to the worship of the Eucharist. He established several associations to cultivate a love for the Eucharist among people of every social condition, thus preparing the way for the institution and development of Eucharistic Congresses through the initiative of Miss Emilie Tamisier.

Peter Julian Eymard was born of upright Christian parents on February 4, 1811, in the town of La Mure d'Isere, in the diocese of Grenoble. His early childhood foretold, in a way, what he was to accomplish later on. One day his sister found him in the church, standing on a stool behind the tabernacle. When she asked him what he was doing there, he answered: "I am near Jesus and I am listening to Him." At five years old he envied the happiness of this sister who spoke of her joy at receiving holy Communion. After such a childhood, it is not surprising that he was wonderfully prepared, at the age of twelve, to approach the heavenly Banquet of the Lamb and afterwards to receive Communion frequently. He went several times to a distant shrine of the Blessed Virgin, called Notre Dame du Laus, regardless of the fatigue. At this time, impelled by a holy and extraordinarily ardent love that inflamed him, he set upon a more perfect way of life.

When he became a young adult, he clearly understood that he was called by God to the priesthood. But, because of difficulties arising from his father's opposition, he was not able to join the Oblates of Mary until he was eighteen years old. But, as he became seriously ill, his Superiors soon had to send him home. He stayed there two years to recuperate. After his father's death and overcoming further difficulties, he was admitted to the Grenoble Seminary in 1831, with the recommendation of the founder and Superior General of the Oblates.

At the end of his theological studies, he became a priest. On July 22, 1834, he said his first Mass at Mary's altar in the church of Notre Dame de l'Osier, placing himself entirely under the special protection of the Mother of God. Shortly afterwards he was called to the apostolate; first, for three years as curate at Chatte, then as pastor at Monteynard where he worked most zealously for the spiritual welfare of his people.

But God was calling him to other forms of ministry. With his Bishop's permission, the Venerable Servant of God went to Fourviere in the Archdiocese of Lyons and, after his novitiate, became a member of the recently founded Society of Mary. Two motives led him to make this decision: he wanted to consecrate himself to God in a Congregation dedicated to honor the Blessed

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Virgin and he hoped to be sent to the missions among the uncivilized people of Oceania. His Superiors first sent him as spiritual director to their College at Belley. Then, after entrusting him with other important offices and duties, they appointed him Superior of the College at La Seyne-sur-Mer.

The Servant of God devoted all his free time to preaching and hearing confessions. Having been entrusted by his Superiors with the direction of the Third Order of Mary, he developed and perfected it, ingeniously adapting it to the various classes of society. He also successfully directed the Perpetual Adoration Society which the Bishop of Frejus placed under his care.

On the feast of Corpus Christi, 1845, enlightened by what may rightly be considered a divine revelation, he perceived the work he was soon to undertake to further the worship of the Blessed Sacrament. But not until he received two inspirations from the Blessed Virgin, whose help and guidance he had implored in the Fourviere church, did he begin laying the foundations of his new Institute. However, all sorts of obstacles and serious difficulties arose in opposition to the realization of his purpose. From the outset the Venerable Servant of God assigned a twofold aim for the new Institute. The first was perpetual adoration of the Eucharistic mystery. The other was to promote the honor of the Blessed Sacrament and awaken love for it with tireless zeal.

In 1856, after leaving the Marist Society, Father Eymard founded in Paris the Institute which he called the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament. Its beginning was most humble. But first Peter Julian sought the advice of men with a reputation for prudence, assured himself of the permission of the Archbishop of Paris, and also obtained the preliminary approbation of the Supreme Pontiff. From the Holy See he received a Letter of Praise three years after the foundation of the Congregation. The Society was finally approved and canonically erected by Apostolic Letters, under the Fisherman's ring, on June 3, 1863, the vigil of Corpus Christi. For some time before, the Institute called the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament was founded. This Society, also founded by the Servant of God, resembles the Congregation of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament in its constitutions and purposes, except in matters relating to the priestly ministry.

The Servant of God governed his Congregation until death, wishing constantly that his disciples should consider themselves as being wholly attached to the Lord Jesus present under the Eucharistic veils. At the time of his death (August 1, 1868), the number of its houses and members was very limited. But soon, after Father Eymard's death, the principal Society founded by him which had already extended beyond the boundaries of France, spread in the world. Today, it has houses not only in various European countries, (Italy, Holland, Austria, Spain, Germany and Belgium) but also overseas, in Canada and the United States, as also in Argentina and Chile. In these houses, by public and perpetual adoration day and night, honor is paid to Christ the King, the Victim of propitiation and peace, exposed upon His throne under the Eucharistic veils. Daily from these centers love is poured out for the Holy Eucharist, love which is nourished in so many ways and keeps increasing as is evidenced by the testimonies which the faithful have given and still give. Thus have the desires of the Servant of God been heard.

He also undertook and sustained many other popular movements, destined to promote the glory of the Holy Eucharist. To introduce the practice of perpetual adoration among the faithful, he instituted the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament, which requires the practice of adoration from its members. To accomplish this more fruitfully, he recommended a method of prayer well suited for the purpose. He established the pious work of First Communion of Workers, principally adults. He strove especially to awaken a zeal for the Holy Eucharist in the clergy, because he was convinced that the number of adorers depends upon the priests and that the Lord's ministers should be real apostles of Eucharistic worship among the people.

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Thus the Servant of God labored all his life for the greater glory of God in the Lord's vineyard. His principal undertakings were based from childhood to the end of his life upon his devotion toward Jesus hidden in the Eucharist, and toward the Mother of God, whom he especially honored in pilgrimages to Le Laus and the church of Fourviere in Lyons. He always showed total and filial respect toward the Holy See, and explicitly required the same from the priests of his Congregation. He showed exceptional prudence and gentleness in performing his priestly duties and in directing his works. His thoughts were ever centered upon the divine Mysteries of our holy religion.

The holiness of his life and the spiritual value of the works he founded were publicly affirmed by John Baptist Vianney, whom We solemnly inscribed in the catalog of the saints on the feast of Pentecost. It is, then, not surprising that his reputation for sanctity, even during his lifetime, because of his shining virtues, has continued to grow since the time of his death. The Ordinary Processes [of inquiry] were completed, according to custom, in the dioceses of Grenoble and Paris, and in the year 1908, the Cause for the Beatification and Canonization of the Servant of God was submitted to the judgment of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

After all the prescribed formalities had been concluded, the inquiry into the virtues of the Venerable Servant of God was begun. By a solemn decree, dated June 11, 1922, We proclaimed that they had every indication of being genuinely heroic.

What was left to be done was the study of the two cures performed, it was said, by God through the intercession of Venerable Peter Julian Eymard. After the Antipreparatory and the Preparatory Congregation and finally after the General Congregation held in Our presence on the fifth day of last May, following a rigorous examination of the facts, on May ninth We solemnly declared the miraculous character of these two cures. The Cause could therefore advance. All that was left to be done was to consult the cardinals of the Sacred Congregation of Rites and the others whom it is customary to consult in these matters, to reply to this question: May the solemn beatification of the Venerable Servant of God be proclaimed with all certainty? The cardinals, prelates, and consultors of the Sacred Congregation, in the General Session held in our presence on the twelfth day of the same month, unanimously replied that this beatification might be proclaimed with full certainty. Nevertheless, in a matter of so great importance, We postponed the expression of Our judgment until We had implored the Father of lights for the help of heavenly wisdom.

Having, then, addressed fervent prayers to God, on the second day of June, after offering the Holy Sacrifice, We summoned our venerable brother Cardinal Vico, Bishop of Porto and Saint Rufina, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites and Ponent of the Cause, also our beloved sons Alexander Verde, secretary of the said Sacred Congregation, and Angelo Mariani, promoter general of the faith, and in their presence We solemnly proclaimed that the beatification of the Servant of God might be proclaimed with certainty.

This is why, moved by the petitions of many bishops and by the earnest request of the priests of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, and of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, by virtue of Our apostolic authority, We decree that the Venerable Peter Julian Eymard, priest, founder of the Congregation of Priests of the Blessed Sacrament and of the Institute of Servants of the Blessed Sacrament henceforth receive the title of Blessed, that his body and relics may be exposed for public veneration, however not to be carried in solemn processions, and that images of the Servant of God may be surrounded with rays. Furthermore, We decree, by virtue of Our authority, that each year his Office may be recited, taken from the Common of a Confessor not a Bishop, with the special Lessons approved by Us, and that his proper Mass may be celebrated, likewise approved by Us, in conformity with the rubrics, but only in the diocese of Grenoble, in which Blessed Eymard

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was born and died, and in the diocese of Paris, where his body rests,¹ as also in all the churches and oratories of the Congregation of Priests of the Blessed Sacrament and in those of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Lastly, We permit the solemn feast of the Beatification of the Servant of God to be celebrated in those same dioceses, churches, and oratories above mentioned, upon the day appointed by the Ordinary of the place, in the year following the celebration of this feast in the Vatican Basilica.

Notwithstanding, etc.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, under the Fisherman's ring, the twelfth day of July 1925, in the fourth year of Our Pontificate.

P. Card. Gasparri,
Secretary of State.

¹ Ave Friedland, Paris.

APPENDIX IV **PROCEEDINGS TOWARD CANONIZATION**

1926 Jul 26	Decree to pursue the Cause.
1928 Feb	Father Troussier published a biography in two volumes.
1938 Jan 8	Father Bouffe, due to illness was replaced as Postulator by Father Vincent di Lorenzo. World War II was to delay the Cause.
1939 Apr 28	Pius XII praised Blessed Eymard at the close of the Congress of Priest-Adorers.
1947 Dec 7	Death of Father di Lorenzo, Postulator of the Cause.
1948 Jan 17	Father Henry Evers was named Postulator.
May	Msgr. Trochu published a biography of Blessed Eymard.
May 29	Healing of Father Charles Verdier (France).
1949 Aug 3	Healing of Mariadora Bartels (Australia). At that time the 3rd of Aug. was the liturgical feast day of Blessed Eymard.
1962 Jul 15	Approbation of the two miracles.
Dec 9	Canonization by John XXIII with Antonio Pucci (Servite of Mary) and Francesco Camporosso (Capucin) at the close of the first session of Vatican Council II, in the presence of all the Bishops of the world.

APPENDIX V
CANONIZATION BY POPE JOHN XXIII

DECREE
by which are discerned the honors of Sainthood for
Blessed Peter Julian Eymard
for perpetual memory

John XXIII, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God.

The splendid crown of holiness with which Christ willed to adorn the Church He founded, seems to shine even more brightly when we can attribute to its children the honors due to the saints.

Today the entire assembly of the faithful rejoices. These honors are a right granted to Blessed Peter-Julian Eymard... All are invited together to celebrate the Sacrament of the altar and to receive this food which gives immortality and life eternal.

This holy priest turned all his energies toward the Sacrament of the altar with ever-growing fervor. He spent himself without counting the cost to nourish everyone with love for the Eucharist and to awaken the zeal of religious groups so that all would go to be in adoration in the presence of Jesus Christ exposed in the Blessed Sacrament, without interruption, day or night.

For his part, Peter Julian Eymard, while meditating on the Sacred Banquet, understood that the divine promises of Christ would be fulfilled at all times: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him. (Jn. 6:5) and "I am here with you for all time, until the end of the world." (Matt 28:20)

Seized with an ardent love for this ineffable Mystery, he learned to bear humiliations and calumnies courageously, to practice a most profound submission toward his Superiors, to sustain patiently difficulties of soul and body, to show great kindness toward everyone, but especially toward the poor and simple people.

He rekindled the fire with fire and fed his own love for the Most Holy Body of Christ with greatest care, desiring to rekindle the devotion of every believer, especially that of priests. He believed that the duty of priests was to offer the bread of Angels to the army of faithful Christians, so that they might feed upon it.

By his way of living his whole life and by his behavior, he showed how productive is sincere devotion toward our God hidden under the Eucharistic veil, and most particularly, how it can form true adorers who adore the Father in spirit and in truth. (cf. Jn. 4:23) This can be seen clearly if we make a brief list of his works. Peter Julian Eymard, of French nationality, was born of devout parents, in the city of La Mure d'Isere, of the diocese of Grenoble on February 4, in the year 1811. The next day he was cleansed in the Baptismal waters.

It is wonderful to see the depth of religious spirit with which he would refer to this source of purification and salvation until his old age. From his early childhood he was brought almost daily to the chapel of the Holy Sacrament by his mother and elder sister, to bring his prayers and also to reflect on the cruel sufferings of the Redeemer of mankind.

That is how he was guided almost by a heavenly instinct from his earliest age, to perceive the close bond between the heavenly Banquet prepared for mankind by Christ and the sufferings He endured in his death.

As a child, Peter Julian had a quick and alert mind, a gentle and kind temperament, a peaceful and just [spirit]. He never strayed from the divine commandments, even in slight matters. He maintained his integrity by purity of conduct. He was invited to the Eucharistic Banquet as an adolescent. It is not surprising that he prepared for it with ardent piety. From that time on, he tried to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the altar as often as he could. Also, as a promising adolescent, he never ceased aspiring for the day when he could attain Sacred Orders, although he worked eagerly for his father.

This desire to become a priest became stronger even as his father opposed it. Finally, at the age of 18, he was accepted in the novitiate of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, at Marseilles, then a few months later, when he was suddenly affected by a serious illness, he was forced to return home. He was healed by a special intervention of God, but as he could not return to Marseilles with such weak health, he entered the Seminary of Grenoble to study for the priesthood.

Consecrated as a minister of Christ on July 20, 1834, he was first a curate, then a Pastor with ardent and inspiring zeal. When carrying out his responsibilities, he felt that he should impress an evangelical spirit upon the faithful entrusted to his care, to guide the children vigilantly, visit the sick, help the poor, call back to religious practice those who had strayed from the right path.

Together with so many tasks assumed for the love of the Christian people, he continued to give full attention to his own progress by keeping up to date in religious studies, by spending time in prayer day and night, imposing corporal penances upon himself in order to put on the new man, created according to the will of God in justice, holiness and truth. (Eph. 4:22-24)

In order to serve God with even greater perfection, he asked permission of the Bishop of Grenoble to enter into the Society of Mary in Lyons. It is easy to understand how ardently he made his religious vows when he was admitted into the Society and dedicated himself to the responsibilities indicated by his Superiors.

His responsibilities became ever more serious and his spirit of submission grew with the importance of these responsibilities. It is amazing to find that he still remained available in his priestly duties to look after the salvation of the faithful. The center of all his concern for the Christian people and the point of convergence of all his activities was that Jesus Christ, hidden in the august Sacrament, should be devoutly honored by all the faithful and even more so by the priests. By divine inspiration, he knew that this devotion would spread to the whole world.

This happened while he was praying in a basilica consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the city of Lyons. Christ Jesus let him perceive that he would spread adoration of the Sacrament of the altar by public worship, which would be perpetual and widespread, that he would found a Society of priests who, by the Eucharist, would be particularly on fire with zeal for their own holiness and for that of the faithful. However, this project was to take place outside the Society of Mary and it was not accepted by his Superior, who did not want to lose such a precious companion. Finally, opposition dropped and the Congregation of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament began in Paris on January 6, 1856. He desired to carry out what he had promised to the Archbishop of Paris, to bring him young adults, indigent homeless people, provide for their physical needs and teach them also the elements of Christian doctrine, to feed them at the heavenly Banquet.

In spite of the greatest poverty of places and persons, the Congregation grew little by little and received the approval of the Apostolic See, signed with the Seal of the Fisherman, on May 8, 1863. To increase the number of adorers of the August Sacrament, with the cooperation of Marguerite Guillot he founded the Congregation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and then, the group called the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

Seized with a great desire to spend his remaining years in prayer at the feet of the Eucharistic Christ and considering that the Work that he had erected no longer needed his direction, he planned to resign from his post as Superior General. But the members of the Congregation, in convocation for the first General Chapter, unanimously elected Peter Julian Eymard as Superior General for life. He understood that this charge was imposed upon him as an order from God. He accepted it with modesty, courage, and fidelity.

During the last years of his life, controversy added to controversy. He bore with singular patience, illness, worries stemming from new foundations, numerous difficulties, certain defections in the two Congregations, in his willingness to suffer for Christ. Jesus had said: "Unless the grain of wheat falling into the ground dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (Jn. 11:24) Reflecting on these words of the Divine Master, he spent himself for his Work, until the last hours of his life, to spread the reign of Christ on earth.

His physical strength was spent and so to improve his health, he returned to the village where he was born. He died a holy death, after receiving the Sacrament, on August 1, 1868, at the age of 57.

Immediately after his death, his reputation for holiness spread further and further. People wanted him to be honored as Blessed. After the usual procedure prescribed by Canon Law was fulfilled, His Holiness Pius X, our predecessor, signed the Decree of Introduction of the Case on August 12, 1908. After the preparatory Congregations had completed their work, the general Congregation studied the virtues of the Servant of God, Peter Julian Eymard, and Pius XI, our predecessor, solemnly decreed the heroicity of his virtues on June 11, 1922.

This step having been accomplished, the question of the two miracles was raised. It was said that they had occurred through the intercession of the Servant of God.

After thorough investigation by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, on May 9, 1825, our predecessor declared the authenticity of the two miracles accomplished by God attributable to the intercession of the Venerable Peter Julian Eymard, that is, the instant and perfect healing of Lucinda Cifuentes, suffering from stomach cancer and that of the child Renee Fouchereau, suffering from gonarthridite or arthrosinovitus of tuberculous nature on the left knee.

On June 2, 1925, it was decreed that the process could without doubt advance toward the Beatification of Peter Julian Eymard and the solemn celebrations took place on July 1, 1925, according to the habitual ritual, at St. Peter's Basilica.

Later, new miracles were attributed to the prayers of Blessed Eymard. The cause was taken up again to move toward Canonization. The apostolic process included two astonishing healings obtained by his intercession.

After studying the two healings at the preparatory meetings of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, they were presented to Pius XII, our predecessor, then to us, on July 10 of the same year.

At a general meeting, our venerable brother Benoit, Cardinal Louis Masella, Bishop of Palestrina, postulator of this cause, presented the dubious question: Did any miracle occur and what miracles are in question? After having verified that prayers had been addressed to Blessed Peter Julian Eymard, in the cases mentioned, all those present: the Cardinals, the Official Prelates and Father Consultors affirmed that the healings presented for study should be considered as true miracles.

And we, before giving our opinion on such an important matter, having implored the supernatural light of God, have finally on July 15 of the same year, declared as certain the sudden and complete healing obtained through the intercession of Blessed Peter Julian, of Charles Eugene Verdier who suffered from chronic Tuberculous osteide of the fistula on the left foot and also as certain the healing from cardisclerotic chest angina of Mariador Christine Bartels.

As the two miracles had been proved, a doubt remained to know whether it were possible to give the honors of sainthood to the Blessed. Therefore, after prayers addressed to God, we pronounced by Decree on September 22, that we could proceed with surety to the solemn canonization of Blessed Peter Julian Eymard.

The holy consistory which we convoked on last November 15, took place in the Vatican Basilica. Arcadius, Cardinal Larraona, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, agreed that the memory of the Blessed be consecrated by supreme honors and asked with insistence that it take place as soon as possible.

Having thus requested the vote of the Cardinals and holy Bishops who were present, they unanimously agreed. We concluded that the shining crown of sainthood should honor the Blessed and we set his canonization for the 9th of the coming month of December.

On this day of great solemnity, we went to St. Peter's Basilica, accompanied by many of the faithful and bishops come from the whole world to celebrate the Ecumenical Council, Vatican II. Then our respected son Arcadius, Cardinal Larraona, by the voice of our respected son Camille Corsanego, advocate of the Consistorial, asked "*instante, instantius, instantissimi*,"¹ as is the custom, that Peter Julian Eymard, with Antoine Marie Pucci and Francois Marie de Camporosso be declared saints. To this consistorial Advocate, our respected son Amleto Tondini, the secretary for letters to Princes, replied in our name that we granted his request. Having implored an abundance

¹ Urgently, more urgently, most urgently.

of heavenly light from the Holy Spirit, in the Cathedral of St. Peter, exercising the functions of supreme magisterium in the Catholic Church, we solemnly made the following pronouncement:

“In honor of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity, for the exaltation of the Holy Catholic Faith and the progress of Christian religion, by the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and our own, after mature deliberation and persevering prayer to request divine assistance, following the advice of our venerable Brothers the Cardinals, Patriarchs, Archbishops and Bishops of the Holy Roman Church, gathered in Council and present in Rome, we have discerned and define as Saints, Blessed Peter Julian Eymard, Antoine Marie Pucci and Francois DeCamperossa, Confessors, and we inscribe them in the catalog of saints, decreeing that each year, on the day of their birth, that is, August 1st for Peter Julian, January 12 for Antoine Marie, and September 17 for Francois, their memory shall be devoutly kept among the holy Confessors. In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Then having given thanks to Almighty God together with the whole assembly, we implored the protection of these Saints and spoke about their virtues to the assembly. After careful study, with sure knowledge and Apostolic authority, as mentioned above, we confirm and decree that the same authority given to our own letters when presented should be attributed to the copies, even printed ones, signed however by our notaries and bearing our seal.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter’s December 9, 1962, the 5th year of our Pontificate.

I, John, Bishop of the Catholic Church

HOMILY OF POPE JOHN XXIII, AT CANONIZATION OF SAINT PETER JULIAN EYMARD.

The solemn ceremony in which the supreme honors of the Church have been given to Blessed Peter Julian Eymard, Anthony Mary Pucci, Francis Mary of Camporosso, is one which very deeply moves Our soul. This rite, while performed by Us here below, is ratified by almighty God in heaven, which resounds with joy. It brings back to mind and, so to speak, sets before Our eyes that note of holiness which marks the Catholic Church, the Spouse of Christ.

For Catholics it is a joy and pleasure to call our dearly beloved Mother the Church holy, as part of the very foundation of our belief. This is also strengthened by many good reasons. First of all, her Founder is holy. In very fact, He is the Source and Model of holiness. Next, we must esteem also as holy those means which she uses for the perfection of souls committed to her care - divine grace and the sublime sacraments. Her doctrine is holy, the one she received from Jesus Christ and which she keeps inviolate, defends with vigor, actively imparts to her children, and, as widely as possible, preaches to all nations. Furthermore, very many of her children who shone with marvelous virtue have now been publicly declared to be possessors of eternal glory.

All these things, We say, are held as certain and clear by all Christian men. But there is no one who will deny that by the striking scene that We are witnessing today, the notion of the Church’s sanctity strikes even more deeply into their souls.

It is also very fitting that the sacred ceremony occurs during the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council which has as its special purpose to see to it that the pearls of holiness belonging to the crown which encircles the head of the Church should sparkle and shine ever more and more. This extensive gathering of her holy shepherds united with the infallible successor of St. Peter not only proposes and reaffirms once again the unchangeable truths left by the divine Master, but also clearly urges that daily, more and more, there be used those holy helps which make us possessors and sharers of divine grace. Furthermore, she enjoins on her children precepts destined to make the Christian way of life better lived.

The council can therefore be said to have no other purpose than to show that here below, the Spouse of Christ possesses every kind of holiness both in deeds, in words and in spiritual acts of

every kind; that here below she inspires her sons with that holy purpose of the Church expressed so clearly by the Redeemer of the human race: “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matt. 5:48).

Once these things are understood, it is easy to see that Christians should glory in having such a mother whom everyone ought to admire because of her incredible beauty, divinely infused. Her grandeur does not shine because of gems or pearls that can be seen by human eyes, but rather glows in the splendor and grace which derive from the blood of her Founder and the marvelous virtue of many of her children. As a result, whoever calls himself a Christian ought to observe a way of life which in no way detracts from the supreme honor of their mother and which is not foreign to her precepts and teachings. No one can truly say that he loves his mother who is not afraid of dishonoring her beauty, even a little, by his way of life.

Venerable Brethren, beloved Sons.

We would like now to continue our discourse as a familiar conversation in Italian, in order to associate more closely to the intimate joy of Our heart the numerous faithful assembled in this basilica and all the others who are following this ceremony by radio.

Starting today, the whole family of the faithful behold three new brilliant stars in the heaven of sanctity: Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Saint Anthony Mary Pucci and Saint Francis Mary of Camporosso. And if three religious families, of ancient and new tradition - the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament, the Servants of Mary, and the Franciscan Capuchins, - rejoice at the honor that befalls them, the whole Church, with them, joins in prayer to the new saints in order to receive the first fruits of their intercession and of their heavenly favors.

The luminous personality of each would deserve to be brought out immediately, and this will doubtless be done by orators and writers. For Our part, it pleases Us to signal at this time a certain significant affinity in the teaching and in the example of these three men of God who belonged to the same generation. Three things stand out in their existence on earth, in spite of their different occupations in line with their special vocation: their eucharistic life, their very tender piety for Mary, and their imitation of the Good Shepherd. There flows from these three examples an intensely moving message for the faithful and for all mankind.

The Eucharist, Source of Sanctity

1) Eucharistic life: The Holy Eucharist is the source and the nourishment of all sanctity. Our Predecessor, St. Leo the Great, expressed this when he said: “The participation in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ has no other effect than to transform us into Him whom we receive.”

How visible is this progressive transformation into the very life of the divine Saviour, in the admirable development of the virtues of the saints canonized today! And what dealings of particular intimacy with Jesus Eucharistic do we not discover in their ascent to sanctity! The name of Peter Julian suffices to unveil to our eyes the splendid eucharistic triumphs to which, in spite of trials and difficulties of all kinds, he wanted to consecrate his life which prolongs itself in the family founded by him. This little child of five who was found on the altar, his forehead resting on the little door, was the same person who in time would found the Congregation of the Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament and that of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, and who would radiate into innumerable armies of priest adorers, his love and tenderness for Christ living in the Eucharist. As for the holy pastor of Viareggio (St. Anthony Pucci), had he not imbued the lay associations founded by him with the same deep eucharistic spirit, which is the distinctive mark of the Christian? This thirst of eucharistic apostolate sprung from a heart full of love for Jesus Victim. Eye-witnesses have left us moving descriptions of this love for Christ in the Eucharist. An identical eucharistic piety also characterized the humble beggar Brother, Francis Mary of Camporosso, whom everyone called “the Holy Father.” And justly so, for his passing here below renewed the perfume of the Franciscan fioretti.

The eucharistic life is the secret of the generous impulses which raised these three religious to the heights of sanctity.

Mary, Queen of Saints

2) Marian Piety. At the side of Jesus there stands His Mother, the Queen of all the Saints, the source of sanctity in the Church of God and the first flower of its grace. Intimately associated with the redemption in the eternal plans of the Most High, the Blessed Virgin, as Severiano di Gabala expressed it in song, “is the Mother of salvation, the source of light become visible.” Hence filial piety is pleased to consider her at the beginning of all Christian life to insure its harmonious development and to crown its fulness by her maternal presence.

Thus it is not surprising to meet the Blessed Virgin Mary in the life of the three new confessors whom she accompanies step by step. Saint Julian Eymard proposes her as model to adorers, invoking her as “Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament,” Saint Anthony Maria Pucci, faithful to the traditions of his community, forms the seat of his apostolate into a City of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, by confiding to her every arduous undertaking of his ministry; Saint Francis Mary of Camporosso, with filial boldness, does not fear to send to her the unfortunate and the suffering, telling them: “Go in my name to the Virgin of graces. Tell her that her servant Francis sends you.”

What devotion fired the saints in the supernatural transport of confidence in the intercession of the Mother of God and our Mother! This delicate Marian piety has certainly added to the joy of this day.

The Image of the Good Shepherd

3) Imitation of the Good Shepherd. Only one of the newly canonized has had direct charge of souls, reproducing on Italian soil the examples of the holy Cur of Ars; but all three reflect with admirable fidelity the image of the Good Shepherd. This pastoral aspect gives us great consolation at the end of the first session of the Second Vatican Council that Our Lord has desired for a general renewal of all the forms of Christian life.

This pastoral radiance - the new saints prove it - can be described as the formation of good priests, with fervent souls of adorers, whose ranks have multiplied throughout the world and who offer these days in Rome in their International Congress the edifying spectacle of their piety. This radiance also expresses itself in the fervor of popular missions; a direct and effective form of catechetical instruction on the gospel, and in other institutions of a parochial nature which were as the dawn forecasting the organizations of Catholic Action. In simple terms, this radiance is called the apostolate of good example, exercised with untiring zeal for sowing in souls the love of Christ and for serious, solemn and solid resolutions. This constant solicitude of charity for the poor, of which the lives of the new saints give us moving examples, is itself a very high form of imitation of the Good shepherd. It spreads His sweet influence in souls and constitutes a concrete and moving testimony in answer to the words of St. Paul: “He has loved us and delivered Himself for us.”

Perfect Adorer of the Blessed Sacrament

We now desire to add a word for the French pilgrims who have come to assist at the glorification of St. Peter Julian Eymard, priest, confessor, founder of two religious families consecrated to the worship of the Blessed Sacrament.

He is a saint with whom We have been familiar for many years, as We said above, when as Apostolic Nuncio to France, Providence granted Us the happy opportunity to visit his native land, La Mure d’Isre, near Grenoble.

We saw with Our own eyes the poor bed, the humble dwelling where this faithful imitator of Christ gave up his beautiful soul to God. You can surmise, beloved Sons, with what emotion We recall that memory on this day when it is given Us to confer upon him the honors of canonization.

The body of St. Peter Julian Eymard is preserved in Paris: but the saint is also somehow present at Rome, in the person of his sons, the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament; it is also a sweet memory for Us to recall visits that We used to make to their Church of St. Claude-des-Bourguignons (San Claudio), to unite Ourselves for a few moments to their silent adorations.

Appendix V – Canonization by Pope John XXIII

Besides St. Vincent de Paul, St. John Eudes, the Cur of ARs, Peter Julian Eymard takes his place in the ranks of the incomparable glory and honor of the country that witnessed their birth, but whose beneficial influence extends far beyond, namely, to the whole Church.

His characteristic distinction, the guiding thought of all his priestly activities, one may say, was the Eucharist: eucharistic worship and apostolate. Here, We would like to stress this fact in the presence of the Priests and of the Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament, in presence also of the members of an Association which is dear to the heart of the Pope, that of the Priest Adorers assembled at this time in Rome, who have come in great numbers to honor his great friend of the Eucharist.

Yes, dear Sons, honor and celebrate with Us him who was so perfect an adorer of the Blessed Sacrament; after his example, always place at the center of your thoughts, of your affections, of the undertakings of your zeal this incomparable source of all grace: the Mystery of Faith, which hides under its veils the Author Himself of grace, Jesus, the Incarnate Word.

Venerable Brethren and dear Sons, such are the lessons inspired by today's triple canonization. Our hearts are filled with joy and emotion and from Our lips praise and thanksgiving rise to the Lord who has given new splendor to the countenance of the Church in the year of the Ecumenical Council.

New Saint Confessors, Peter Julian Eymard, Anthony Mary Pucci, Francis Mary of Camporosso, stand by the altar of the confession of St. Peter while Mass is being offered. Through your intercession maintain in our hearts the extraordinary fervor of this historical hour, by obtaining for mankind abundant gifts of heavenly peace which have their law and their security in Jesus Christ - gifts of peace which are the joy of the Church, the consolation of pastors, the honor of the clergy and of God's holy people. Amen. Amen.

APPENDIX VI
PROCLAMATION OF OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament
proclaimed Principal Heavenly Patroness
of the two Congregations of the Fathers and
the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament

Paul VI, for perpetual Memory

A new name but a very ancient reality, is the one which was used by St. Peter Julian Eymard, the tireless apostle of the divine Eucharist, to whom John XXIII, our predecessor of immortal memory, granted last year the honors of the altar, when he spoke to his sons about “Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament.” To discover this wonderful title, which shows his keenness of mind, he must have lived in close friendship with God and studied deeply all the reasons, both known and hidden which link the Virgin Mary to the Sacrament of love. That is how he added, as a precious pearl, a new title of glory to the Marian crown. It is permissible to believe that Father Eymard would have reasoned as follows: “Does the Church not call the Eucharist the ‘true body born of the Virgin Mary?’ During her earthly life, was the Virgin not the living tabernacle of Christ Jesus, whom she engendered, adored and gave to mankind? Consequently, should the Virgin not be seen and invoked as the model of perfect worship by all adorers and especially by the priests who are ministers of such a great sacrament?” Urged on by these motives Peter Julian opened a fruitful source of devotion for the religious societies he had founded. He gave this title to Mary shortly before his death and gave her to his religious as their patroness par excellence. He also willed that in the pursuit of the purpose of his Institute totally dedicated to the worship of the Holy Eucharist, his sons would honor the name, person and virtues of the one who was the first adorer of the Word of God made man. We know and rejoice that the Congregation of the Priests of the Most Blessed Sacrament was and is faithful to this desire expressed by its Founder. Recently our beloved son the Procurator General of the same Institute, acting upon the orders and in the name of the General Council and the various provinces, humbly asked us to solemnly and publicly approve the patronage of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Trusting that with the help and prayer of the August Mother of God, these religious can attain the perfection for which they strive and will be strongly incited to sustain the apostolic Works undertaken to establish the kingdom of Christ, we willingly accept to respond to their request. Therefore, after seeking advice from the Sacred Congregation of Rites, with sure knowledge and mature reflection, with the fullness of our Apostolic Power, by means of the present Letters, we constitute and declare for all time that the Blessed Virgin Mary be called “Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament” as principal heavenly patroness of the Congregation of the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament and of the Society of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, with all the honors and liturgical privileges which apply to the principal patrons of groups.

*Non obstant*¹⁹ anything to the contrary, we proclaim, declare and decree that the present Letters are applicable, valid and efficacious and fully effective, they can be used now and in the future by all those to whom they have been or could be addressed. The matter is to be so judged and defined: Whoever or whatever could be said to the contrary, knowingly or through ignorance, from wherever or whatever authority it might come, shall be considered as null and void.

Given in Rome, near St. Peter’s, under the seal of the Fisherman, on September 18, 1963, the first year of our Pontificate.

M. J. Card. Cicognani
Secretary of State

¹⁹ Not withstanding.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

with document numbers and references to French edition

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 43/52)	#2017	(V 47/52)	#2115	(V 51/52)	#2187
(V 44/52)	#2076	(V 48/52)	#2141	(V 52/52)	#2183
(V 45/52)	#2087	(V 49/52)	#2166		
(V 46/52)	#2095	(V 50/52)	#2178		

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 7/14)	#2023	(V 13/14)	#2045
(V 12/14)	#1997	(V 14/14)	#2055

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 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.

(I 2/2)	#2107	(I 9/20)	#2036	(I 16/20)	#2148
(I 3/20)	#2004	(I 10/20)	#2044	(I 17/20)	#2149
(I 4/20)	#2006	(I 11/20)	#2063	(I 18/20)	#2167
(I 5/20)	#2010	(I 12/20)	#2092	(I 19/20)	#2173
(I 6/20)	#2016	(I 13/20)	#2114	(I 20/20)	#2194
(I 7/20)	#2019	(I 14/20)	#2125		
(I 8/20)	#2030	(I 15/20)	#2134		

Biographical Notes

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 4/4) #2088

BILLON, HENRI, (later FR. BILLON SSS)

Director of the Work of First Communion in Paris.

(VI 1/2 I 2) #2098 (VI 2/2 I 2) #2113 (III 2/2) #2203

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 Communions 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 5/5) #1950

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 2/2) #1923

BOONE, FR. JEAN-BAPTISTE, S.J.

Chaplain of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Brussels and collaborator with the Foundress.

(U 1/1) #2062

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 23/28) #1915 (IV 25/28) #2046 (IV 27/28) #2093
(IV 24/28) #2039 (IV 26/28) #2065 (IV 28/28) #2192

BOUIX, FR. S.J.

Author of a 2 volume presentation of Canon Law for Religious. Translator of the writings of St. Teresa. Consulted by Fr. E. about the extraordinary graces of Sr. Benoite Richard.

(VI 1/1) #2136

Biographical Notes

BRENIER DE MONTMORAND, MISS EDMEE

Niece of Mme. Natalie Jordan. We have 4 letters from Fr. E. to her, ranging from 1862-1868. She had consecrated her virginity to God in spite of her father's opposition. (The brother of Natalie Jordan.)

(IV 3/4) #1986 (IV 4/4) #2171

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 23/24) #2100 (V 24/24) #2109

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 9/15) #1911 (VII 12/15) #2018 (VII 15/15) #2122
(VII 10/15) #1924 (VII 13/15) #2096
(VII 11/15) #1969 (VII 14/15) #2101

CHANUET, BLANCHE (MME. AMEDEE, NEE DE COUCHIES)

One of the three daughters of Mr. and Mme. de Couchies (nee Rattier). Her sister Philomene entered the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and her sister Sr. Vincent was a Sister of Charity. Her mother-in-law, Sr. Camille Chanuet, and brother-in-law, Fr. Michel Chanuet, also joined the eucharistic family. Mme. Blanche had several children.

(VII 1/3) #1966 (VII 2/3) #1982 (VII 3/3) #2009

CHANUET, MME. CAMILLE (nee CROZET) (SR. CAMILLE, SS)

Mother of Fr. Michel Chanuet, Amedee Chanuet and Marguerite Blanc de St. Bonnet. In her son and daughter-in-law's home, St. Eymard felt so at home that he went to write the Constitutions for the new Communities. She eventually became a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament. She died at the home of her son Amedee.

(III 3/3 VI 17) #2007 (VII 16/17) #1940 (VII 17/17) #1968

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.

(I 23/29 VI 2) #1902 (I 26/29 VI 2) #1978 (I 29/29) #2197
(I 24/29 VI 2) #1914 (I 27/29 VI 2) #2008
(I 25/29 VI 2) #1974 (I 28/29) #2104

Biographical Notes

COLIN, FR. JEAN-CLAUDE, S.M.

Founder and Superior General of the Marist Congregation. He received Peter Julian with warmth and paternal care into the Marist Society on August 20, 1839. A close relationship existed between the two men at first, if we can judge from the positions of responsibility he entrusted to him. Fr. E.'s initiative and zeal frightened him. He was favorable to the establishment of a men's group for eucharistic adoration and he was in dialogue with Mother Dubouche and Fr. de Cuers for its realization. After his resignation as Superior General, he attempted to establish a Marist Work of adoration (Reparation) at La Neyliere. It lasted two years. Fr. Eymard presented his idea to Fr. Colin, who encouraged him to proceed and to request a dispensation from his vows in order to carry it out.

(VI 6/6) #2089

COUCHIES, NATALIE DE (SR. PHILOMENE DU SS)

Entered the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament and made vows in Angers on May 29, 1864. On Dec. 5, 1865, she was part of the group of 12 sisters who left Angers for the Nemours foundation. After the close of Nemours, she refused to return to Angers. She followed Sr. Benoite, and with her founded the Sisters of Jesus-Hostia. The close family ties of Sr. Philomene with the Chanuets caused a strain between the Servants and the Society of the Fathers.

(VI 1/7)	#1907	(VI 4/7)	#1944	(VI 7/7)	#2050
(VI 2/7)	#1938	(VI 5/7)	#1956		
(VI 3/7)	#2130	(VI 6/7)	#1960		

CUERS, COUNT JEAN-RAYMOND DE (FR. DE CUERS SSS)

Born at Port de Ste. Marie in Spain on July 29, 1809, and baptized the following day. He was the eldest son of a noble family. He had made a career in the Navy, where he had engaged in military activities all over the world. He had been indifferent to religion until his conversion in 1848 after the death of his sister.

Ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Marseilles, June 24, 1855. First companion of Fr. E. They had met in Paris when Fr. E. was Provincial of the Marists. Count de Cuers and Hermann Cohen had collaborated to establish Nocturnal Adoration for men in Paris. He and Fr. E. met again in Toulon where the Count was involved in establishing adoration. Fr. E. was named chaplain to the group. Fr. de C. urged Fr. E. to join him in a project to found an Order of the Blessed Sacrament. His zeal made him impatient with Fr. E.'s slow discernment. He studied for the priesthood and was in Paris during Fr. E.'s discernment retreat. Shortly after the foundation he left Paris to begin the House of Marseilles and be its Superior. There he began the Aggregation of the Blessed Sacrament and dedicated a chapel to Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.

De Cuers was radical and ascetic, which made it difficult for others to live with him in such extreme poverty. He was sent to Rome and Jerusalem to explore the possibilities of a foundation at the Cenacle. Later he was to ask for the dispensation of his vows to begin Roquefavour, an experience of solitude. Permission was granted by Fr. E. to begin the Work without dispensation. He returned to the Congregation to be its Second Superior General Aug. 9, 1868 until June 21, 1871.

(I 179/181 VI 2)	#1898	(I 180/181 VI 2)	#1904	(I 181/181 VI 2)	#1930
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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.

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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 29/36)	#1895	(IV 32/36)	#1919	(IV 35/36)	#2138
(IV 30/36)	#1917	(IV 33/36)	#1937	(IV 36/36)	#2153
(IV 31/36)	#1925	(IV 34/36)	#1980		

ENGLEBERT, CARDINAL, Archbishop of Malines

Welcomed the Society in Brussels in 1865 and the Servants in 1867. (This foundation did not materialize.) The Cardinal died suddenly early in 1868.

(VI 4/7)	#1996	(VI 6/7)	#2056
(VI 5/8)	#2033	(VI 7/7)	#2077

EYMARD, MARIANNE and NANETTE BERNARD

Sister and godmother of St. Peter Julian Eymard. Born in 1799, the fifth and only survivor of the first marriage of Julian Eymard. She was the main source of the childhood anecdotes that have come to us regarding our saint. She was the first to learn of his desire to become a priest. She supported this desire in spite of their father's opposition. Marianne and their adopted sister Nanette left La Mure temporarily to keep house for Peter Julian when he was a pastor at Monteynard. She tried to oppose his Marist vocation without avail. Later, having returned to La Mure, she would be associated to the Third Order of Mary and become its president 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 8/10 III 145)	#1984	(III 140/145 VI 10)	#2054	(III 144/145 VI 10)	#2208
(VI 9/10 III 145)	#2189	(III 141/145 VI 10)	#2099	(III 145/145 VI 10)	#2204
(III 138/145 VI 10)	#1893	(III 142/145 VI 10)	#2127		
(III 139/145 VI 10)	#1998	(III 143/145 VI 10)	#2159		

FAURE, FR.

Pastor of Lavalans, (Isere). Friend of the Eymard family. Fellow-priest of his home diocese. Relatively unknown.

(VI 1/1)	#2154
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FERRAT, BROTHER AIME, SSS

Letter welcoming him to religious life with his cousin.

(VI 2/2)	#2140
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GAYRAUD, FR. JULES, SSS

As a professed religious, requested to live with the novices, in order to live out a more contemplative call. Later he was sent to Brussels.

(VI 1/3)	#1945	(VI 2/3)	#2161	(VI 3/3)	#2163
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Biographical Notes

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 14/19)	#2015	(IV 16/19)	#2079	(IV 18/19)	#2144
(IV 15/19)	#2040	(IV 17/19)	#2131	(IV 19/19)	#2170

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 58/76)	#1964	(V 65/76)	#2002	(V 72/76)	#2143
(V 59/76)	#1976	(V 66/76)	#2012	(V 73/76)	#2151
(V 60/76)	#1979	(V 67/76)	#2034	(V 74/76)	#2174
(V 61/76)	#1981	(V 68/76)	#2069	(V 75/76)	#2199
(V 62/76)	#1983	(V 69/76)	#2080	(V 76/76)	#2202
(V 63/76)	#1994	(V 70/76)	#2086		
(V 64/76)	#1999	(V 71/76)	#2103		

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 42/52)	#1965	(V 44/52)	#2013
(V 43/52)	#1995	(V 45/52)	#2175

GRANDVILLE, MME. ANTOINETTE DE (nee DU CORNULIER-LUCINIÈRE)

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

Biographical Notes

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 91/104)	#1894	(IV 96/104)	#1993	(IV 101/104)	#2097
(IV 92/104)	#1920	(IV 97/104)	#2020	(IV 102/104)	#2135
(IV 93/104)	#1927	(IV 98/104)	#2042	(IV 103/104)	#2157
(IV 94/104)	#1931	(IV 99/104)	#2074	(IV 104/104)	#2210
(IV 95/104)	#1935	(IV 100/104)	#2085		

GROLLEAU, ANGERS-EVREUX

Canon of the Cathedral of Angers, Secretary to Bishop Angebault. Named by Bishop Angebault in agreement with Fr. E. to be the first ecclesiastical superior of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament in Angers. That is, he would represent both the Bishop and Fr. E. toward the sisters while remaining in dialogue with both and leaving to Fr. E. his spiritual authority. Mother Marguerite felt that he was a "true Father" to the community, in unity with Fr. E. and faithful to his spirit. With the Bishop and Mother Marguerite, he worked for the official approval of the Congregation of the Servants and of their Constitutions. On May 17, 1870, he was named Bishop of Evreux. On Sept. 8 of the same year, before leaving for his new See, he preached the annual retreat for the Servants.

(VI 1/2)	#2165	(VI 2/2)	#2186
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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.

(VI 2/2 II 395)	#1961	(II 358/395 VI 2)	#1951	(II 368/395 VI 2)	#2022
(II 349/395 VI 2)	#1897	(II 359/395 VI 2)	#1955	(II 369/395 VI 2)	#2024
(II 350/395 VI 2)	#1906	(II 360/395 VI 2)	#1957	(II 370/395 VI 2)	#2025
(II 351/395 VI 2)	#1910	(II 361/395 VI 2)	#1958	(II 371/395 VI 2)	#2027
(II 352/395 VI 2)	#1922	(II 362/395 VI 2)	#1963	(II 372/395 VI 2)	#2038
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(II 356/395 VI 2)	#1947	(II 366/395 VI 2)	#1990	(II 376/395 VI 2)	#2060
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(II 381/395 VI 2) #2073	(II 387/395 VI 2) #2132	(II 393/395 VI 2) #2185
(II 382/395 VI 2) #2091	(II 388/395 VI 2) #2150	(II 394/395 VI 2) #2195
(II 383/395 VI 2) #2102	(II 389/395 VI 2) #2156	(II 395/395 VI 2) #2205

JORDAN, NATALIE (MME. CAMILLE, nee BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

St. Peter Julian often referred to her as “my eldest daughter.” Born in March, 1810, she outlived Fr. E. who directed her personally from 1846 and by correspondence from 1850 - 1868. He appointed her as Rectress of the Married Women’s branch of the Third Order of Mary.

Both were born in the Dauphine Region of France and were proud of their common roots. They were close in age, conviction, feelings and ideals. On a visit to Lyons in 1865, Fr. E. told her that they were sister-souls going through the same stages of the spiritual life together. He kept her informed of the principal events in his life and visited her and her family in Lyons and Calet when he could do so. He also corresponded with her daughter Mathilde Giraud-Jordan and her niece Edmee de Montmorand.

(IV 69/75) #1896	IV 72/75) #2011	(IV 75/75) #2169
(IV 70/75) #1936	(IV 73/75) #2051	
(IV 71/75) #1967	(IV 74/75) #2133	

JUBINEAU, FR.

Superior of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Conception, Nantes. He offered hospitality to Fr. E. at the time of a Mission Fr. E. preached there. He became enthusiastic about Fr. E.’s teaching on prayer and requested to have it in writing. Thus the method of “the four ends of sacrifice” was printed as a leaflet and widely distributed in France.

(VI 1/3) #1912	(VI 2/3) #1921	(VI 3/3) #1932
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JULHIEN, ADELE

From Marseilles. Miss Julhien was cured miraculously by Our Lady of La Salette.

(VII 2/2) #2191

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 15/26) #1916	(IV 19/26) #2014	(IV 23/26) #2139
(IV 16/26) #1928	(IV 20/26) #2048	(IV 24/26) #2172
(IV 17/26) #1934	(IV 21/26) #2094	(IV 25/26) #2193
(IV 18/26) #1973	(IV 22/26) #2128	(IV 26/26) #2207

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

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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.

(I 42/54)	#1913	(I 47/54)	#1989	(I 52/54)	#2116
(I 43/54)	#1939	(I 48/54)	#2035	(I 53/54)	#2145
(I 44/54)	#1970	(I 49/54)	#2078	(I 54/54)	#2190
(I 45/54)	#1977	(I 50/54)	#2082		
(I 46/54)	#1987	(I 51/54)	#2090		

CARDINAL, ARCHBISHOP OF MALINES

(VI 1/1) #2155

MARECHAL, MME. ANDRE

Daughter-in-law of Mme. Marechal Sr. and sister-in-law of Fr. Paul. Blessings on her pregnancy.

(VII 1/1) #2198

MARECHAL, MME., WIDOW (nee DUFRESNE)

Mother of Fr. Paul Marie Marechal. She was a directee of Fr. E.

(VII 13/20)	#2026	(VII 16/20)	#2066	(VII 19/20)	#2201
(VII 14/20)	#2028	(VII 17/20)	#2083		
(VII 15/20)	#2058	(VII 18/20)	#2137		

MARECHAL, FR. PAUL MARIE SSS

Born July 27, 1840. Entered the Society November 25, 1867. His mother was a directee of Fr. E. Fr. Marechal became Assistant General and at the General Chapter of 1887 proposed an affiliation with the Benedictine Order. After dramatic debate, Fr. Marechal was left alone. He left the Congregation July 12, 1888, and founded the Cistercian Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament at Pont-Colbert, Versailles in 1891. The Congregation was suppressed in 1950 for lack of recruitment.

(VI 1/3)	#1962	(VI 2/3)	#2075	(VI 3/3)	#2084
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ADELE MARTEL

(V 1/2)	#2158	(V 2/2)	#2179
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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.

(U2 RE VI 22)	#1992	(U 4 VI 22)	#2070	(VI 22/22)	#2119
(U 3 RE VI 22)	#2005	(U 5 VI 22)	#2081		

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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 4/4) #2120

NEVEU, MR.

Notary in Nemours. Mr. Neveu was the trusted notary who, with Mr. Chauveau, handled Fr. E.'s legal matters in Nemours regarding the controversy with Miss Jenny Sterlingue, Srs. Philomene and Benoite, and the Congregation of the Fathers and Servants.
(VII 1/2) #1952 (VII 2/2) #1953

PERRET, LOUIS

An architect in Lyons. Was a member of the Third Order of Mary. He was in Paris at the beginning of the Society and was instrumental in gathering the first group of Workers for catechism. He left Paris in Aug. 1849 (1859?), to establish a place of pilgrimage. (Notre Dame de la Roche at Sauvages - Rhone.)
(VIII 1/2 VII 14) #2152 (VII 14/14) #1929

RATONS, BROTHER MARIE SSS

Brother Marie joined Fr. de Cuers in Marseilles as a youngster from Lyons. He left the community for a while, but later returned.
(VI 7/7) #2067

EUPHROSIE, LOUISE & MARCELLE RAVANAT RAVANAT FAMILY

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 1/1) #2001

MR. RAVANAT

(III 4/5) #1905 (III 5/5) #1918

THE RAVANAT SISTERS, SERVANTS SSS FRAGMENT

(VI 1 II 6) #1942

REVEL DE NESCE, 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 17/17 VIII 26) #1900

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.

Biographical Notes

(U VI 8)	#2123	(VI 7/12)	#1948	(VI 10/12)	#1959
(VI 5/12)	#1941	(VI 8/12)	#2031	(VI 11/12)	#1971
(VI 6/12)	#1943	(VI 9/12)	#1954		

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 19/19) #2110

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 2/11)	#1985	(III 6/11)	#2142	(III 10/11)	#2181
(III 3/11)	#2106	(III 7/11)	#2146	(III 11/11)	#2209
(III 4/11)	#2108	(III 8/11)	#2147		
(III 5/11)	#2111	(III 9/11)	#2160		

TAMISIER, MISS EMILIE (SR. EMILIENNE)

Tours. The Tamisier family were friends with the Rosemberg family. Emilie entered the community of the Servants in 1863. She was sent to the new foundation of Nemours one year later. Shaken by the dramatic events surrounding this foundation, she left as a temporary professed sister and let her vows expire. She eventually was the foundress of International Eucharistic Congresses. Her last meeting with Fr. E. was May 3, 1868.

(VII 1/9)	#2000	(VII 4/9)	#2037	(VII 7/9)	#2061
(VII 2/9)	#2003	(VII 5/9)	#2043	(VII 8/9)	#2162
(VII 3/9)	#2029	(VII 6/9)	#2052	(VII 9/9)	#2021

TENAILLON, ALPHONSE (FR. ALPHONSE T. SSS) AND EDMOND (FR. EDMOND T. 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 1/1) #1909

EDMOND TENAILLON

(III 2/3)	#1908	(III 3/3)	#1991
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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 8/11)	#1903	(III 10/11)	#2124
(III 9/11)	#2112	(III 11/11)	#2182

THIEVRES, COUNTESS DE

Mme. de Thievres was one of the group of women who collected money to help finance the Work of First Communions. Mme. Thievres was a friend of Sr. Benoite and went to visit her after she had left Nemours.

(VII 1/1)	#2129
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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 8/14)	#2105	(III 11/14)	#2184	(III 14/14)	#2206
(III 9/14)	#2177	(III 12/14)	#2188		
(III 10/14)	#2180	(III 13/14)	#2200		

THOMAZ DE BOSSIERE, CLARISSE DE

Brussels. Regularly attended Salazar St. Chapel. Her desire to establish a group of women for adoration and to support them led her to buy a large property at Ixelles and to invite the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament from Angers. The opposition of Miss de Meeus blocked the project. The property was then offered to the Society of the Blessed Sacrament, who accepted it to establish a Belgian scholasticate.

(V 1/2)	#2032	(V 2/2)	#2118
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VAN HINSBERG, MME

Her whole family were members of the Aggregation.

(VII 1/1)	#2057
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BISHOP OF VERSAILLES

(VIII 1/1)	#1901
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MME. X

(VII 1/1)	#2196
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FR. X.

#2059

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Acknowledgement of Sources for these biographical notes:

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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

January - March 1867

Jan 6	Profession ceremony for a brother.
Jan 17, 18, 19	Triduum at Nantes during which he explained the method of prayer known as the "Four ends of Sacrifice." Return via Angers.
Jan 21, 28	Conferences to the Servants (Angers).
c Jan 29	Return to Paris via Nemours.
Jan 30	In Nemours.
Feb 3, 15	Conferences to SSS Religious.
Feb 4	Preached a retreat in Paris (to whom? how long?)
Feb 14, 21	Public sermons.
Feb 24, 26, Mar 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 14:	Conferences to SSS Religious.
Mar 17, 18	Conferences to the Servants (Angers).
Mar 22, April 1:	Conferences to SSS Religious
Mar 28	Public Sermons.

April - June 1867

Apr 1	With a heavy heart the founder signed the lease for Boulevard Montparnasse. The breakthrough for Boulevard Arago obliged him to leave Faubourg St. Jacques. (He came back to get the cat.) The sumptuous International Exposition of Paris began that very day.
Apr 4	Public sermon.
Apr 12	Passion Friday. Worship inaugurated in the chapel of Boulevard Montparnasse.
Apr 27	Conference to SSS Religious.
May 8-14	At St. Maurice - return to Paris the 14th.
May 9, 16	Public sermons.
May 19, 28	Conferences to SSS Religious.
May 29	To Nemours to close the house; closed on the 31st.
Jun 6	Public Sermon.
Jun 13-15	Retreat to the candidates for ordination.
Jun 14	Retreat to the adorers in Paris.
Jun 20, 21, 27	Public Sermons.
Jun 28(?)-Jul 2	To Angers to survey the progress of the Construction of the Church.
Jun 29	Conference to the Servants (Angers).

July - September 1867

July 1	Conference to the Servants.
July 2	Left Angers for Paris.
July 5	Conference to SSS Religious (Paris), public sermon.
July 7	To Romaneche, Lantigne and Lyons.
July 12	In Lyons.
July 14	Return to Paris.
July 24(25?)-27	To Brussels to purchase a house; feast of St. Anne.
Aug 1	Public sermon.

Aug 6	Father de Cuers and three companions went to Roquefavour.
Aug 7-14	Retreat to SSS Religious (men), Paris.
Aug 8, 13, 24, 29	Public sermons.
Aug 31-Sep 3 or 4:	To Angers -To meet with the Bishop regarding the differences of opinion regarding the location of the Society. To meet with the Bishop and Mother Marguerite regarding: a) naming an ecclesiastical Superior for the Servants. b) the possibility of a foundation for the Servants in Brussels. c) the problem of the Nemours Sisters who had not yet returned.
Sep 18	Plan for a second foundation in Brussels.
Sep 19	Public sermon.
Sep 22	Ordination in Paris.

October - December 1867

Oct 17, 18, 19	Conferences to the SSS Religious (Paris).
Oct 23	Blessing of the house of Roquefavour by Fr. de Cuers.
Nov 6, 7, 8	To Rennes (purpose unclear).
Nov 16-21	To Brussels for the inauguration.
Nov 17	Inauguration of the second house of Brussels at 8:00 a.m.; beginning of a scholasticate.
Nov 21	Profession ceremony in Brussels.
Dec 11	Study of the possibility of purchasing a different house in Paris (Grenelle St.)
Dec 12	Public Sermon.
Dec 15	First Communion of 38 adult workers (Paris).
Dec 21	Ordination Ceremony (Paris).
Dec 26	Public Sermon.
cDec 26	Attended an auction with the view of acquiring the house on Grenelle St. (failed)

January - February 1868

Jan 1, 2	Public sermons.
Jan 3	Conference to SSS Religious (Paris).
Jan 4	Departure for Lantigne.
Jan 11	Public sermon.
Jan 15-Jan 30.	Visit to Marseilles Community: - Jan. 15, 23 - Visits to Fr. de Cuers at Roquefavour; - c. Jan 18 - Retreat to the Aggregation in Marseilles; (date unknown) - 8 day retreat to the Marseilles Community. - Failed business transaction with the Sisters of Compassion.
Jan 31	Travel (perhaps via Lyons).
Feb 2	Two days spent at La Mure.
Feb.	(date unknown) Visits to Lantigne and St. Bonnet.
Feb 10	Return to Paris.
cFeb 15	Around this date a priest came to entrust him with a Host which had been profaned for several years.
Feb 15-25	Ill with the flu.

March - April 1868

Mar 13	To Angers via Tours, to preach a retreat to the Servants (Mar 15-22).
Mar 19	Profession Ceremony for the Servants (Angers).
Mar 22	Conference to the Servants (Angers).
Mar 23	Return to Paris.
Mar 29	(date unknown) To Ghent.
Apr 9, 10	Public sermon.
Apr 11?	Return to Paris.
Apr 23	Public sermon.
Apr 27-May 2	Personal retreat at St. Maurice. During that retreat, conferences to SSS novices. cf. April 28, 29 and May 1.

May - June 1868

May 3-6	Retreat to the Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul, Paris.
May 6, 7, 8	Preached 40 hours for the Benedictine Sisters.
May 18-19	At St. Maurice for two days.
May 20	Conference to the community at chapter (Paris). Related his interview with Fr. Favre on April 22, 1856.
May 25-29	At St. Maurice.
May 31	Public sermons - Paris.
Jun 8	To St. Maurice for monthly retreat.
Jun 11	Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Preached at Notre Dame des Victoires. Preached Octave of the Feast.
Jun 28	First Communion of 40 Adult Workers.
Jun 30	To Angers to bless the cornerstone of the new church.

July - August 1868

July 2	Conference to the Servants. (Angers)
c July 5	Beginning of acute rheumatic gout in his arm.
July 7	Panegyric in St. Peter Fourrier Church at l'Abbaye-aux-Bois. He was accompanied by Fr. Albert Tesniere, to whom he related many details about the foundation years.
July 16	Final Sermon.
Jul 17-20	To Vichy to see Mother Marguerite and Mme. Gourd.
Jul 20	To La Mure.
Jul 21	Last Mass at the Sanctuary of La Salette in Grenoble. Arrived that evening at La Mure.
Jul 29	Rose from bed the last time.
Jul 30	Mass and Communion in his room by Fr. Chanuet, who had been summoned from Paris.
Aug 1	Communion as Viaticum. Death at 2:30 p.m.
Aug 2	Funeral in the evening.
Aug 3	Burial Service.

July - August 1868

July 20	Farewell to Mother Marguerite and Mme. Gourd. He set out for La Mure.
July 21	Last Mass at the sanctuary of La Salette in Grenoble. That evening arrived at La Mure.
July 29	He rose out of bed for the last time.
July 30	Mass and Communion were held in his room by Fr. Chanuet, who was called from Paris.
Aug. 1	Communion given as viaticum. Holy death at 2:30 p.m.
Aug. 2	In the evening, funeral.
Aug. 3	Burial service.