

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*.

Beneath the Cross

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

Beneath the Cross

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.

Beneath the Cross

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>
---------------	---

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>
--

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.

Beneath the Cross

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)
(VI1/7)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

<i>Feb 3 Conference to SSS Religious (novices?) Paris. Spiritual Reading. Surrender.</i>
--

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. Benoit 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
(I24/29 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.

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.)
Public Conference: Communion, our bread of life.

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

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

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>
--

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.

Beneath the Cross

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 Public Conference: Communion, the joy of the Spirit.

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 Conference to SSS Religious (Paris) - the guiding principle of the Society.

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.

Beneath the Cross

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

<i>Apr 4 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].

Beneath the Cross

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

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

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.

Beneath the Cross

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)

St. Maurice, May 12, 1867

A.R.T.

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. Loriol 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.

Beneath the Cross

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)

(VI7/12)

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.

Beneath the Cross

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

May 19 Conference to SSS Religious (Paris) - Holiness: its basis.

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)

Paris, June 2, 1867

A.R.T.

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.

Beneath the Cross

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. Benoit 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.

Beneath the Cross

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. Benoitte, 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

Beneath the Cross

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.

June 14 Public conference: Union with the Holy Spirit.

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
(I 25/29 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

June 20 Public conference: Corpus Christi, solemnity for our times.

June 21 Public conference: The Sacrament of Life.

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.

Beneath the Cross

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
(I45/54)

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
(I26/29 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. Biais 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

June 27 Public conference: The Life of Jesus in us.

June 29 Conference Servants: On St. Peter.

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