

# **CHAPTER I**

## **Faubourg St. Jacques 1858**

### **Transfer from “Bethlehem to Nazareth” April 1858**

- Search for funds
- Repairs and construction

### **Foundation of the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

### **Foundation Plans for Marseilles**

### **Mission to Belgium**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 182/395 VI 2)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 1, 1858*

Very dear daughters in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,

Miss Marguerite,

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

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

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

I bless you. Goodbye.

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<sup>1</sup> Desire that she come to Paris for a foundation for women.

<sup>2</sup> Cenacle in Jerusalem: Apostles and Holy Women gathered in prayer.

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

All yours in Jesus Christ,  
Eymard

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

Eymard

**730**

**CO 727**

**TO MLLS. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 108/145 VI 10)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 1, 1858<sup>4</sup>*

Very dear sisters,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goodbye dear sisters, may God bless and keep you.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, S.S.S.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> finished January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> SSS abbreviation for Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 183/395 VI 2)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 10, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

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

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

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

I am praying very much for you all....

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

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

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

All yours,

Eymard

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

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

<sup>7</sup> French: Literally, this man of my heart.

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

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

<sup>9</sup> Doubts about her call to religious life.

**TO FR. HUAN**  
(VI 1/1)<sup>10</sup>

*All for the love of Jesus-Hostia*

*Paris, January 10, 1858*

Very dear colleague,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>10</sup> Father Huan had tested his vocation at rue d'Enfer

<sup>11</sup> Provincial of the Marists.

<sup>12</sup> The service of Adoration with Exposition was transferred to the new location.

<sup>13</sup> One of the first candidates at rue d'Enfer.

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 16, 1858*

Dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

Please, dear daughter, don't forget to take care of our eucharistic wishes.<sup>14</sup>

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard, SSS

Mme. Tholin

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

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 16, 1858*

Madame and very dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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<sup>14</sup> New Year's wishes expressed for the Eucharistic apostolate - perhaps to prepare the way for his Eucharistic apostolate in the Tarare-Amplepuis area.

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

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

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

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

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

Goodbye.

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

**735**

**CO 732**

**TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET**  
(VII 13/17)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 16, 1858*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>15</sup> They are still friends as they were when Fr. Eymard was a Marist, although circumstances called for a halt in communications.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

Goodbye, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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

**736**

**CO 733**

**TO MME. SAUVESTRE DE LA BOURALIERE**

(V 3/3)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 19, 1858*

Madame,

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

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

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

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

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

See you soon, dear Madame.

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

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<sup>16</sup> The Blessed Mother.

**TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)**  
(III 6/21)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 29, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

You can do the same for any other subject.

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>17</sup> Mary listening at the feet of Jesus.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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

**738**

**CO 735**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 184/395 VI 2)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, January 31, 1858*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

Take good care of the fine postulant.<sup>21</sup> It is necessary... tell her to pray much.

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<sup>18</sup> stone: figure for a significant donation.

<sup>19</sup> Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and her companions.

<sup>20</sup> Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and the women from Toulon.

<sup>21</sup> Mme. Benoite Richard.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

I have time only to bless you.

Eyd.

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

**739**

**CO 736**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**

(II 185/395 VI 2)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, February 22, 1858<sup>23</sup>*

Good daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>22</sup> Fr. Bruneau, perhaps.

<sup>23</sup> Letter finished on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> Probably in a letter from Mme. Duhaut-Cilly.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

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

740

CO 737

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**

(IV 22/75)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, February 26, 1858*

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>25</sup> literally: make you better.

<sup>26</sup> Perhaps, that courage is the door to union with God.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

Goodbye, I bless you and all your loved ones.

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

**741**

**CO 738**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**

(II 186/395 VI 2)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, Miss Marguerite March 6, 1858<sup>27</sup>*

Good daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There was never even a cloud between us.

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

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

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<sup>27</sup> finished on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

I didn't tell her anything about Mme. Richard.<sup>28</sup>

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

All yours,  
Eymard

**742**

**CO 739**

**TO CLAUDINE GUILLOT**  
(III 2/2)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, March 6, 1858*

Miss Claudine  
Very dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

I bless you in our Lord.

All yours,  
Eymard

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

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<sup>28</sup> The future Sr. Benoite.

**TO MISS MARIETTE GUILLOT (SR. ANNE MARIE DU SS)**  
(III 7/21)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, March 8, 1858*

Dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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<sup>29</sup> Literally: scorn.

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, March 8, 1858*

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

Be entirely eucharistic in your life and in your works.

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

All yours,

Eymard

**TO VIRGINIE DANION**  
(IV 4/36)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, March 8, 1858*

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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<sup>30</sup> meaning unclear.

<sup>31</sup> Doubts at the Chancery questioning the status of this new Work.

<sup>32</sup> Meaning unclear.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

We hope to be there for Easter. It'll be a great consolation for me to rise there with Jesus.<sup>33</sup>

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

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

Dear sister,

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

Eymard, Superior

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

**746**

**CO 743**

**TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON**

(V 7/9)

*All for Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, March 8, 1858*

Mademoiselle,

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

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

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

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<sup>33</sup> Be there for Easter.

<sup>34</sup> Permission.

<sup>35</sup> Your writing.

<sup>36</sup> Perhaps the Mr. Marziou referred to later in the correspondence as a financier.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**747**

**CO 744**

**TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST**

(IV 28/52)

*All for the love and glory*

*Paris, of Jesus Hostia + March 16, 1858*

Dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard, S.

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 187/395 VI 2)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, March 23, 1858*

Good daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

Everything is going well here.

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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

**TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD**  
(III 109/145 VI 10)

*All for the love of Jesus Hostia*<sup>39</sup>

*Paris, April 2, 1858*

Very dear Sisters,

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

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<sup>37</sup> Perhaps her sisters.

<sup>38</sup> Perhaps the father of Miss Bouillon who was considering a vocation.

<sup>39</sup> This heading is printed on the original.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

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

Dear sister,

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

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

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

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

**750**

**CO 747**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 188/395 VI 2)

*Paris, April 8, 1858*

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard

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

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 189/395 VI 2)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, April 14, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,

Eymard

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

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**  
(II 190/395 VI 2)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, fg<sup>42</sup> St. Jacques, 68, April 23, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

I have been counting the days and it seems so long.<sup>43</sup>

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

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

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<sup>40</sup> Mr. and Mme. Charles Richard separated to enter the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

<sup>41</sup> He may have been sharing her letters with Fr. Champion, who had previously been her director.

<sup>42</sup> Faubourg.

<sup>43</sup> Counting the days until the arrival of Marguerite and her sister in Paris.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

Your house is progressing.<sup>46</sup> I am eager to see it finished and to see all of you occupying it.

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

I bless you all.

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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

... [2 lines erased].

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

**753**

**CO 750**

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**  
(IV 23/75)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, April 23, 1858*

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>44</sup> Mme. Pauline Duhaut-Cilly.

<sup>45</sup> Evidently Miss Bouillon, mentioned earlier.

<sup>46</sup> The construction is progressing.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

Mme. Jordan, at Mr. Giraud's<sup>47</sup>  
rue St. Jacques, 13  
Grenoble (Isere)

**754**

**CO 751**

**TO MR. CREUSET**  
(V 8/8)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, May 2, 1858*

Very dear friend,

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard

**755**

**CO 752**

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, May 5, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

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

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<sup>47</sup> Her daughter's home.

<sup>48</sup>Mr. Creuset's wife is pregnant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in Jesus Christ,  
Eymard

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

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

**756**

**CO 753**

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, May 5, 1858*

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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<sup>49</sup> Alternate translation: arrange things with him.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

In his divine love, I am

Always yours, dear daughter,  
Eymard

To Miss Mariette Guillot  
Lyons

**757**

**CO 754**

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 25/76)

*May 9*

Madame,

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

Ever at the feet of our Lord.

**758**

**CO 755**

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 26/76)

*Paris, Faubourg..., May 11, 1858*

Madame,

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

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

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

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<sup>50</sup> In 1856, therefore the Anniversary is approaching.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

**759**

**CO 756**

**TO MR. BETHOUX**

(VII 1/1)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, fg St. Jacques, 68, May 14, 1858*

Dear Mr. Bethoux,

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

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

I would be so happy to help you! Please make use of me<sup>51</sup> and give my respects to dear Fr. Pellat.

All yours in Jesus Christ,  
Eymard

Mr. Bethoux, Postman  
at La Mure d'Isere

**760**

**CO 757**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**

(II 192/395 VI 2)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, May 15, 1858*

Good daughter,

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

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<sup>51</sup> For any errands he might need in Paris.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

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

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

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

The mail is leaving.

All yours,  
Eyd.

**761**

**CO 758**

**TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)**

(II 193/395 VI 2)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, May 21, 1858*

Dear daughter,

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

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

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

I will arrange all the rest.

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

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

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<sup>52</sup> Mme. Duhaut-Cilly and her companions.

<sup>53</sup> Mme. Benoite Richard, his former wife.

<sup>54</sup> with Mme. Duhaut-Cilly.

My blessing to all,  
Eyd

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

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

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

762

CO 760

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, June 6, 1858*

Dear daughter in Jesus,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>55</sup> Her spiritual direction.

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

**RETREAT TO THE FUTURE SERVANTS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

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

763

CO 761

**TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)**  
(I 23/181 VI 4)

Paris, June 18, 1858

Good Father,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>56</sup> Self-sacrifice, dying to self.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

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

Give us news about yourself, please.

A thousand and one regards to Fr. Brunello.

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

**764**

**CO 762**

**TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)**  
(I 24/181 VI 4)

*Paris, June 19, 1858*

Very dear Colleague,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Very Reverend Father,

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

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

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

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

"I would be grateful if you would answer me as soon as possible..."<sup>57</sup>

June 16

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

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

A priest is here discerning. The mail is leaving.

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

**765**

**CO 763**

**TO MOTHER FRANCOISE DE LAROCHENEGLY**<sup>58</sup>  
(VIII 1/2)

*Paris, fg St. Jacq. 68, 20 June*<sup>59</sup>

Very Reverend Mother,

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard

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

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

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

*July 4 Conference Servants: Father related a choking spell. Benediction in the chapel of the Servants: Sermon on the Angels.*

*July 6 Conference Servants: That we must tend to perfection through love, solitude and obedience.*

*July 13 Conference Servants: God wants the Work. Virtues which foundresses ought to have: death to self, spirit of charity.*

*July 16 Conference Servants: Our Motto: All for the Service of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The vows and charity.*

<sup>57</sup> This offer was eventually refused because they stipulated that it should be a House for Reparation.

<sup>58</sup> First Superior of the Cenacle of Fourvier

<sup>59</sup> Undated.

<sup>60</sup> Capitalized as in original.

July 20 *Conference Servants: Explanation of Chapter 1 of the Rule.*

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

**766**

**CO 764**

**TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE**

(IV 9/104)

*Paris, July 9, 1858*

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

**767**

**CO 765**

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS, FOUNDRRESS OF THE CONSTITUTE OF PERPETUAL  
ADORATION**

(VI 1/22)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus-Hostia*

*Paris, Fg St. Jacques, 68, July 11, 1858*

Mademoiselle,<sup>62</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>61</sup> If the new community cannot receive her.

<sup>62</sup> Miss de Meeus would eventually be instrumental in bringing the Blessed Sacrament Congregation to Belgium.

768

CO 766

**TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER**  
(VII 10/19)<sup>63</sup>

July 30, 1858

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

*Et ego aggrego vos societati sanctissimi Sacramenti et dido vos participes omnium gratiarum adorationum precum et meritorum insuper omnium indulgentium quae a Sancta Sede nobis et agregatis concessa.*<sup>65</sup>

769

CO. 767

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

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

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

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

Eymard

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

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

<sup>64</sup> A text for Profession in the Third Order of the Blessed Sacrament in French, followed by a Latin text of association to the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

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

Paris, August 3, 1858

Dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

Eymard

Mme. Tholin-Bost  
at Amplepuis (Rhone)

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

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, August 8, 1858*

Very dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

God continues to love us so much.

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

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

**772**

**CO 770**

**TO MISS GIGUET**  
(VII 4/6)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*fg St. Jacques, 68, Paris, August 10, 1858*

Mademoiselle and dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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<sup>66</sup> Literally: child.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

Your ever devoted,  
Eymard

Aug 13	<i>Conference Servants: God has chosen older candidates. The science of death [to self].</i>
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**773**

**CO 771**

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

(L & S)  
*All for the love and glory of Jesus-Hostia*

*Paris, August 14, 1858*  
*Faubourg St. Jacques, 68*

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

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

Here are my answers, in sequence:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>67</sup> more fervent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aug 24	<i>Conference Servants: The directress is given the title of Mother. On the Divine Office.</i>
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**774**

**CO 772**

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, August 26, 1858*

Madame,

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

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

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

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

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<sup>68</sup> meaning unclear.

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

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

Aug 27 <i>Conference Servants: Joy and love.</i>
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**775**

**CO 773**

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, August 29, 1858*

Madame,

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard

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

**776**

**CO 774**

**TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET**  
(VII 14/17)

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, August 30, 1858*

Mademoiselle and very dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,  
Eymard

Miss Mayet, Elizabeth  
6 Place St. Clair  
Lyons

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

777

CO 775

**TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS**

(VI 2/22)

Paris, September 16, 1858

Mademoiselle,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Believe me, ever in our Lord, Mademoiselle,

Yours sincerely,  
Eymard

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

<sup>69</sup> Jesuit chaplain of the community.

<sup>70</sup> Perhaps an Adoration Group. Ed.

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

Paris, September 27, 1858

Very dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard

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

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<sup>71</sup> Marguerite Guillot.

<sup>72</sup> Perhaps: enough time for spiritual exercises.

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

779

CO 777

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**

(IV 25/75)

*Paris, October 10, 1858*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eymard

P.S. My affectionate greetings to your family.

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<sup>73</sup> Prayer that her daughter Mathilde will have a child.

<sup>74</sup> The body.

**TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)**  
(V 29/76)

*Paris, October 10, 1858<sup>75</sup>*

Very dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you both and I am in our Lord,

Dear daughter,  
All yours,  
Eymard

Madame Gourd

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<sup>75</sup> Finished Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

<sup>76</sup> Referring also to her daughter Stephanie.

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

## 781

CO 634

### TO MOTHER FRANCOISE DE LAROCHE NEGLY

(VIII 2/2)

Nov. 7<sup>77</sup>

Dear Mother,

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

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

I am, in our Lord,

Dear Mother,

All yours,

Eymard

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

## 782

CO 779

### TO MR. NEGRE, FATHER

(V 1/1)

Paris, rue Faubourg St. Jacques, 68, November 15, 1858<sup>78</sup>

Very dear Mr. Negre,

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

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

<sup>77</sup> Undated. Placed tentatively in 1858 as was his letter to her dated June 20.

<sup>78</sup> Published in French as Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>. However, it was postmarked Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. (Garreau)

*Faubourg St. Jacques 1858*

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

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

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

We are 12 now, 8 priests.

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

Mme. Duhaut-Cilly expects to leave around the end of the week or at the beginning of the next. My very best wishes to the whole family. Your devout "abbe"<sup>80</sup> is doing well.

All yours,  
Eymard

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

<i>Nov 19 or 20</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Spirit of Sacrifice.</i>
<i>Nov 20</i>	<i>Conference Servants: Trust in God</i>

**783**

**CO 780**

**TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)**  
(IV 26/75)

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

Madame and very dear sister in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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<sup>79</sup> His daughter.

<sup>80</sup> Seminarian-son.

**TO POPE PIUS IX**

(2/2)

*December 2, 1858*

<sup>81</sup>The Request of Very Reverend Father Eymard to Pius IX to obtain a Letter of Commendation<sup>82</sup> from the Holy Father.

Most Holy Father,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**I. Concerning the goals of the Society**

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

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

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<sup>81</sup> Translated from the original Latin by Fr. Normand Falardeau SSS.

<sup>82</sup> Sometimes called "Laudatory Brief."

## **II. Concerning the Means proper to its goal<sup>83</sup>**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. The faithful<sup>84</sup> by the Sacred Ministry of Confession and Preaching.

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

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

## **III. Concerning the proper Spirit of the Society**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **IV. Concerning Temporalities**

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

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<sup>83</sup> Capitalizations as in the original.

<sup>84</sup> The laity.

<sup>85</sup> Perhaps: the poor and ignorant.

## **V. Concerning Training and Profession**

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

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

## **VI. Concerning the Vows**

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

## **VII. Concerning the Government of the Society**

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

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

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

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

With what great Thanks, etc.

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

Paris

December 2, 1858

+ F.M. Cardinal Morlot  
Archbishop of Paris<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> For a copy of the "Letter of Commendation," the response of Pope Pius IX, see the footnote to Document 802.

785

CO 783

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

*All for the love and glory*

*Paris, of Jesus Hostia + December 3, 1858*

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

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

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

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

Goodbye, I bless you.

All yours,  
Eymard, S.S.

786

CO 782

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

*All for the love and glory of Jesus Hostia*

*Paris, December 3, 1858*

Dear daughter,

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

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

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

All yours,  
Eymard

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

**TO MISS LEONIE SIGNORET**  
(VII 8 fragments)<sup>88</sup>

I [Between 1858 - 1868]

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

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

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

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

II

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

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

Desire him alone, think only through him.

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

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

III

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

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

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

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

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

IV

(8)

Final letter: July, 1868 (1867?)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in Jesus,

V

(4) ...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you in our Lord.

## VI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>90</sup> the flower: an allegory for herself.

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

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

## VII

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

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

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

## VIII

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

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

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

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

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

*Confidence; Poverty, Fidelity to the Rule, Modesty.*

*Mortification*

*Sadness*

*The Eucharistic Society*

*Meditation*

*Loving the Common Way*

*Holy Communion*

*Purgatory*

*Perpetuity of the Eucharistic Miracle*

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<sup>91</sup> Perhaps, the spouse of Christ. Ed.