

CHAPTER I

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

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

The Cenacle of Jerusalem - failed attempt

The Great Retreat of Rome

- **The Interior Cenacle**
- **The Vow of Personality**

The Spiritual Teacher

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

Preparations for the General Convocations

1515

CO 1518

TO POPE PIUS IX¹

(U)

Most Holy Father,

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

1516

CO 1519

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 273/395 VI 2)

*Adveniat Regnum Tuum*³

Rome, January 3, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

You must have received my letters; I received yours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

² In case of illness.

³ Thy Kingdom Come.

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

⁵ famille bnue: literally, “blessed family.”

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

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

I bless you.

All yours,
Eymard

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

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

1517

CO 1520

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

Epiphany 1865, [Rome]

Monsignor,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ *dilata*: decree of prohibition.

⁸ "grow, multiply and fill the earth."

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

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

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

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

1518

CO 1521

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE

(V 22/52)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, January 20, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

Goodbye Madame, I bless you in our Lord.

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

1519

CO 1522

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

(I 149/181 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, January 21, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

⁹ Superior of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament.

¹⁰ Permission to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in her home.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

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

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

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

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

Goodbye, or better, see you soon.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

1520

CO 1524

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 274/395 VI 2)

Rome, January 21, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

¹¹ Literally: my weakness allows.

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

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I28/54)

Adveniat Regnum tuum

Rome, January 21, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

¹³ publicly.

¹⁴ permission.

¹⁵ Servants of the Blessed Sacrament.

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 3/15)

Rome, January 21, 1865

Very dear Mr. Amedee,

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard,S¹⁸

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

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

¹⁶ The Blessed Sacrament.

¹⁷ We do not have that letter.

¹⁸ Superior.

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

1523

CO 1526

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 150/181 VI2)

*Adveniat R.T.E.*¹⁹

Rome, February 3, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My health is good.

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1524

CO 1527

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

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

Rome, February 3, 1865

Dear daughter,

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

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you wholeheartedly in our Lord.

Eymard

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

²⁰ See Doc. 1523.

Great Retreat (cont.)

Feb 4 First meditation: Trial.

Second and Third meditations: omitted.

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

1525

CO 1528

TO MME. LEPAGE

(IV 6/26)

Rome, At the French Seminary, February 4, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

1526

CO 1529

TO MSGR. VALERGA, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

(VI 2/3)

Rome, at the French Seminary, February 4, 1865

Excellency,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Great Retreat (cont.)

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

1527

CO 1530

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

Rome, February 10, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1528

CO 1531

TO MR. LEO DUPONT, TOURS
(U)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Rome, French Seminary, February 10, 1865

Dear respected Friend in our Lord,²¹

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

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

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

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

²² in the day.

²³ at the home of Mr. Dupont.

²⁴ you are the light of the world.

²⁵ Be as prudent as serpents.

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

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

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

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

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

These are the headlines.

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

²⁶ The number of the man is 666.

1529

CO 1532

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

Rome, February 18, 1865

Dear Madame,

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

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

My religious respects to your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1530

CO 1533

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

Rome, February 18, 1865

Dear friend in our Lord,

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

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

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

²⁷ Some request she wanted to make.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

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

1531

CO 1534

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

(I 151/181 VI 2)

Rome, February 21, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

Nothing new, except to wait.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

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

1532

CO 1535

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 276/395 VI 2)

Adveniat Regnum Tuum Eucharisticum!

Rome, February 25, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eyd.

²⁸ Literally: bonne fille.

TO BROTHER MARIE RATONS, SSS
(VI4/7)

Rome, February 25, 1865

To dear Brother Marie,

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

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

I bless you affectionately in our Lord,
Eymard

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

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

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

Rome, March 4, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That is how the strictest groups in Rome fast.

Have confidence, the Cenacle is on the way.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.³¹

³⁰ Cardinal Barnabo.

³¹ SS: Abbreviation for Superior of the Society.

TO COUNTESS D'ANDIGNE NEE DE MONTAGU
(V 23/52)

Rome, March 4, 1865

Madame,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

³² Collection to help finance the Work of First Communions.

³³ The Servants.

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

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

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

The conclusion then is easy:

The best state to glorify God is my present state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you in our Lord,

Eymard

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

1536

CO 1539

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

Rome, March 4, 1865

Dear friend,

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

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

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

God is blessing you and will bless you and yours,

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

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

1537

CO 1540

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I29/54)

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 7, 1865

Very dear Father,

Another little trial!

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

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

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

Fraternal regards to all.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

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

1538

CO 1541

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

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 11, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

So then, abide more in our Lord.

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

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

All yours,
Eymard

1539

CO 1542

TO MOTHER GUYOT
(V 6/8)

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 11, 1865

Dear Mother in our Lord,

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

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

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

³⁴ Her sister-in-law.

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

By putting yourself aside.

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

All yours,
Eymard

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

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

³⁵ New spiritual insights.

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

(I 153/181 VI 2)

Rome, March 18, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My fondest regards to all our dear family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

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

Great Retreat (cont.)

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

1541

CO 1544

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

Rome, March 21, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

I bless you in our Lord,
Eymard

Copy my letter to the Bishop

1542

CO 1545

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

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

Dear Sister Benoite,

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you in our Lord.
Eymard

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

1543

CO 1546

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

(I 154/181 VI2)

A.R.T.E.

Rome, March 30, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

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

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

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

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

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

See you soon, I hope.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.S.³⁸

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

1544

CO 1548

TO MR. AUDIBERT
(I 1/2)³⁹

1865⁴⁰

Dear Father,

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

³⁷ Thy will be done.

³⁸ S.S. = Superior of the Society.

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

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

1545

CO 1549

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

Paris, April 18, 1865

Dear daughter,

Patience, prayer and trust.

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

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

I am better, but still very weak.

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

My wishes and blessings to all your dear daughters.⁴²

I bless you.

Eymard

I'll write you a longer letter tomorrow.⁴³

1546

CO 1550

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

Paris, April 20, 1865

A.R.T.

Dear Father,

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

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

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

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

All yours,
Eymard, S.

⁴¹ Reference to Easter.

⁴² The novices.

⁴³ There is no evidence of such a letter.

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

1547

CO 1551

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)

(IV 60/75)

A.R.T.

Paris, April 22, 1865

Very dear Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

Regards to the dear daughter of your heart.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

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

1548

CO 1552

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESC

(VII 13/17 VIII 26)

Paris, April 22, 1865

Mademoiselle,

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

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

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

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

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

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

Our character⁴⁶ is ourselves.

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

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

All yours

Eymard, Superior

1549

CO 1553

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I 31/54)

Paris, April 24, 1865

Dear Father,

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

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

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

⁴⁶ French: caractere: character, temperament, personality.

⁴⁷ Your kingdom come.

⁴⁸ Section of Angers.

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.

1550

CO 1554

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

A.R.T.

On the train, April 26, 1865

Dear Lady in our Lord,

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

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

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

All yours,
Eymard, S.

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

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

1551

CO 1556

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

Angers, May 5, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

I bless you.
Eymard

1552

CO 1557

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 67/104)

Paris, May 6, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you in our Lord.

Eymard, S.

1553

CO 1558

TO CARDINAL ALESSANDRO BARNABO, PREFECT OF THE PROPAGANDA

(VI 3/5)

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

Your Eminence,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1554

CO 1559

TO MSGR ANNIBALE CAPALTI, SECRETARY OF THE PROPAGANDA
(VI3/3)

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

Monsignor,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pierre Eymard, Super. Soc. SS.

1555

CO 1560

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 279/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 10, 1865

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

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

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

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

I am in the midst of so many heavy responsibilities.

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

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

Eymard

1556

CO 1561

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

Paris, May 10, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

Good bye, I bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S

1557

CO 1562

TO MISS MARIE GAUDIOZ
(VII 1/1)

Paris, May 11, 1865

Dear Miss Marie,

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

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1558

CO 1563

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I 32/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 13, 1865

Dear Father,

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

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

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

Father will take care of your errand for the medals.

Religious and Eucharistic regards to the whole dear family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

1559

CO 1565

To Miss Marguerite Guillot (Mother Marguerite du SS)

(II 280/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 16, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

⁴⁹ Mother Marguerite.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

“Mr. Prefect,

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

I am respectfully yours, Mr. Prefect,

Your very humble servant,

Marguerite Guillot.”

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

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

In our Lord I bless you and all your daughters.

Eymard

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

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

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

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

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

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

I bless you.

Eymard

1560

CO 1564

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS

(I33/54)

A.R.T.

Paris, May 16, 1865

Dear Father,

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

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

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

Your wine is on the way.

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

Recommend me to the prayers of your house.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO FATHER BOONE, S.J. (RE MISS DE MEEUS)
(VI8/22)

Paris, May 16, 1865

Very Reverend Father⁵⁰,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1562

CO 1567

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 281/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 20, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1563

CO 1568

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 282/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 20, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

I only have enough time to bless you.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

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

CIRCULAR LETTER OF CONVOCATION FOR THE GENERAL CONGREGATION⁵¹

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

Dear Colleague in our Lord Jesus Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

J. P. Eymard
Sup. Societatis S.S.S.⁵⁶

Feast of Mary Auxiliatrix
Paris, May 24th 1865

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

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

⁵³ Literally: General Congregation.

⁵⁴ "I have fought the fight."

⁵⁵ One sows, another reaps

⁵⁶ Superior of the Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

1565

CO 1569,2

TO FR. MICHEL CHANUET, SSS
(VI/2I29)

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

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

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

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

P. Eymard
Superior General

Feast of the Ascension
Paris, May 25th 1865

1566

CO 1569,3

TO FR. CYR AMAND CHAMPION, SSS
(VI/2I5)⁵⁷

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

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

1567

CO 1569,4

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER, SSS
(VI/1I54)⁵⁸

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

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

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

1568

CO 1569,5

To FR. CARRIE, SSS
(VI1/2)⁵⁹

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

1569

CO 1569,6

To FR. JOSEPH AUDIBERT, SSS
(VI1/1)⁶⁰

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

1570

CO 1570

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

Paris, May 26, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eymard

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

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

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

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

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

1571

CO 1571

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 284/395 VI 2)

Paris, May 28, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

Eymard

1572

CO 1572

TO MSGR. VALERGA, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

(VI 3/3)⁶¹

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

To His Eminence the Patriarch of Jerusalem,
Your Excellency,

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

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

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

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

⁶¹ Manuscript copy.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

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

I am, with the deepest veneration,

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

P. Eymard

Superior of the Society of the
Most Blessed Sacrament

1573

CO 1573

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD

(III 131/145) VI 10

Paris, June 2, 1865

Dear sisters,

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

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

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

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

I am, in our dear Master,

All yours,

Eymard, S.

1574

CO 1574

TO MISS ANNE DE MEEUS
(VI9/22)

ADVENIAT REGNUM TUUM

Paris, June 2, 1865

Mademoiselle,

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

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

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

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard, Sup.

1575

CO 1575

TO FR. ALEXANDER LEROYER SSS
(I34/54)

Paris, June 3, 1865

Very dear Father,

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,
Eymard

1576

CO 1576

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 285/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 5, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

Thank you for your letter, your money and prayers.

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

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

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

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

I'm enclosing the bill for the censor.

I'll reach Angers only Thursday night.

I bless you all in our Lord.

All yours,
Eymard

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

1577

CO 1577

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 286/395 VI 2)

A.R.T.

Paris, June 6, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

I am in our Lord, dear daughter,

All yours,
Eymard

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

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

1578

CO 1578

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

Angers, June 11, 1865

Dear Lady,

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

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

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

Eymard, P.S.

1579

CO 1580

TO MR. AMEDEE CHANUET
(VII 4/15)

[Angers], June 11, 1865

Dear Mr. Amedee,

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

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

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

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶³ In heaven?

⁶⁴ Sr. Camille du S.S.

1580

CO 1579

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

Angers, June 11, 1865

Madame,

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

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

1581

CO 1581

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

A.R.T.

Paris, June 16, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

My health is satisfactory.

I bless you as well as all your daughters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

⁶⁵ Perhaps Miss Stephanie Gourde and her mother.

1582

CO 1582

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

Paris, June 21, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

Believe me ever in our Lord,

Madame,

Your respectful and devoted servant,
Eymard

1583

CO 1583

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

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

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

⁶⁶ Literally: General Congregation.

⁶⁷ Recollection.

The Third Journey to Rome (Part II)

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

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

I bless you and all your dear sisters.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

1584

CO 1584

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

Paris, June 23, 1865

Madame in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,
Eymard, S.

1585

CO 1585

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD AND MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD

(V 37/52)

Feast of the Sacred Heart, Paris, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,
Eymard

Miss Stephanie

1586

CO 1586

TO MME. ANTOINETTE DE GRANDVILLE (NEE DU CORNULIER)

(IV 71/104)

Paris, June 29, 1865

Madame,

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

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

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

I bless you in our Lord, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard, P.S.

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

Paris, June 30, 1865

Dear daughter in our Lord,

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

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

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

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

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

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

All yours,
Eymard