

CHAPTER II

La Seyne-sur-Mer Part III 1855

A Total Vision for the Third Order

The House of Nazareth

Preparations for the Cenacle

- contact with Church Officials
- contact with potential candidates (men and women)
- preparation of Constitutions for the Eucharistic Work
- search for a diocese
- Spiritual Correspondence
- House of Nazareth

The Bernard orphans

Ill Health - Convalescence at Maubel

Departure from the Boarding School of La Seyne

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 124/395 VI 2)

A. J. Eucharistic¹

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 1, 1855

Thank you, my daughter, for your gifts which were so good and so tasty. I really enjoyed them, I was expecting them. Thank you for your good wishes in the Lord. Yes, may this be a Eucharistic year! May a cenacle of love and praise come to be in this thankless and forgetful world! May I be its first adorer and its first victim! This Eucharistic thought doesn't leave me, I bless it, I surround it with sacrifices of every kind;⁽³⁾ I offer it to God as a crown of hope and longing.⁽⁴⁾ However, does our Lord want it at this time? Will he give me the honor and happiness of calling me close to his golden tabernacle? My daughter, this is what we must request from the King of all hearts.

You ask me what will become of the Nazareth where Jesus and Mary dwell?

From Nazareth, Jesus went to the Cenacle, and that is where Mary made her final dwelling.

I would like you to go to the feet of our Lord, so that he might put a word in your heart for you and for me.

Individuals are being prepared. Of course, I inscribed you at the head of the list. I haven't yet begun the conferences to the T. of Toulon,² I will do so shortly. My health is always somewhat deficient; Praise God! However, my migraines are less frequent. I can say holy Mass now, how good God is!

My New Year's wishes to all your sisters. I had begun a collective letter, but I don't have time [to finish it].

I haven't written to anyone for a long time.

My best wishes to your good sisters. I'm devoted to all of you in God and for God.

All in the love of Jesus and Mary, in whom I am

All yours,
Eymard

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST
(IV 15/52)

January 1, 1855

A happy and eucharistic year to you my dear daughter, in your heart, and in the heart of all people! I lifted you on the paten of the holocaust,³ so that you might be consumed in the love of Jesus Hostia. That is surely all I desire. Can there be anything sweeter or greater on earth!

In your charity you will forgive me if I delayed so long, especially after your good letter. I was in the midst of the Jubilee,⁴ which God blessed.

I didn't forget your dear and excellent husband, nor your children; because they are you, more

¹ Abbreviation perhaps for *Amour a Jesus Eucharistie*: Love to Jesus Eucharistic or Adored by Jesus Eucharistic

² Perhaps Third Order.

³ Literally: thorns and flowers

⁴ Literally: I like to shape it into crowns of hopes and desires.

³ Offered her to God at Mass.

⁴ A parish mission he preached.

so than you are yourself, since it is for their dear souls that you are constantly suffering and praying. 12th - Excuse this date, my dear daughter, it will tell you how busy I've been. I received your kind letter yesterday. The news about your dear sister really left me sad. The only remedy is prayer: we will pray for her peace of mind. A novena is beginning today in honor of Blessed Mary Immaculate.

A director would need to take charge of this poor soul and lead her little by little to look down on it all. Alas! This isn't the first example of such sad results. Our Lord prophesied that miracles would occur at the end of the world to deceive even the Elect.

When you write to me, please give me news about your dear sister. She would need to take a trip to distract herself. If she could come this way, I would be entirely at her service.

Let me tell you a word about adoration. Souls which know this secret are happy and on fire with the desire to dedicate themselves to the service of our good Master. They are waiting impatiently for the time when they can enlist for a eucharistic service. When will this blessed hour come? When will the new Cenacle open? In his mercy will our Lord give me the honor and happiness to be invited to it?

That is the mission I am entrusting to you, my very dear sister, in the presence of our good Savior. Storm heaven to hasten that blessed moment. - In another letter I'll tell you about the basis for this Order of fire, and the zeal which ought to give it life.

Goodbye, write to me. Your letters give me great joy in our Lord. My respects to your dear sister, whom I entrust entirely to our good Master.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.M.⁵

483

CO 479

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 14/75)

January 1, 1855

On this day of [New Year] wishes, I want to tell you that you were the first to be remembered at the feet of our Lord. It's only right. I owe it to you, so I come wholeheartedly, to wish you a happy New Year in our Lord. He wants you to be entirely his; give everything, and you will have everything. He is giving you a particle of his cross; receive it with faith. Place it on your heart as a heavenly treasure. Yes, my dear daughter, bear this Cross well, and it will bring you to Jesus. Bear it without sadness of heart, but like the worthy woman [of the Scriptures] God will draw his glory from it. I am praying for dear Mr. Jordan so that God may restore his health and the joy of being a son of God. I am so pleased that your dear daughter is yours and with you. Have no regrets, and don't blame yourself for anything. She has plenty of time to belong to another, if that is her vocation. Keep her as long as you can. It is better for her to be close to you. I wish this dear Mathilde would write me a few words.

Well, my good and dear daughter! We are now in 1855, a great year which is beginning with war! How will it pass? The dogma of the Immaculate Conception replies, with peace, and a new era for the Most Blessed Virgin. We really need it. The world is so evil and Christians so weak! Still, the good Lord loves us, and makes the nations capable of being healed. I personally hope for it; I expect great things; every sign is there. There is a general expectation of a better future. People feel a need for God. I would so love to bring about the beautiful kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth!

⁵ Abbreviation: Society of Mary.

Oh! If at least I could find it in my own heart and in the heart of my friends, that would be better.

Well, it's a bit absurd to wish you a happy New Year on January 12th and to be so late to finish a letter begun January 1st. I haven't been able to put my hand to the pen since, and you are the first. With this large family, I often act like a mother who hardly has time to eat.

So now, do pray for me. I have a great plan in my heart, pray so that God may bless it; then write to me a little longer. You are doing a little like lawyers who are afraid of sealed letters. And yet I read them with so much pleasure!

Goodbye dear daughter and dear sister. When shall we be in Paradise? Or at least on the path which leads quickly to it?

All yours,
Eymard, P.M.

484

CO 480

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)

(V 5/14)

La Seyne, January 13, 1855

Very dear friend and brother in Mary,

I certainly deserve all the reproaches which come from your unchanging friendship; you are better than I. Nevertheless, I dare tell you that you are ever present to me. I will use a constant headache to excuse myself in your regard. Dear Mme. Marceau gave me news about you with gentle reproaches, and so I am writing to make amends.

Dear brother, thank you so much for your New Year's wishes. They were what I love and I am returning them with all my heart, because, since God gave me the blessed opportunity to know you, there is something more personal in my heart for you. Similarity of feelings has created a religious closeness. I regret only one thing, it is that you should be so far.

If God gives me the grace to go as far as Tours where there are so many beautiful and personal memories, I will be happy to go see you. I would be very happy to speak with you about Heaven and earth, the past and the future.

You let me perceive a beautiful dawn of [future] graces upon you. May God lead you to its perfect fulfillment. I am searching in my mind as to what it may be; I respect its mystery and I bless it. - I would also like to speak to you about a beautiful thought which God has put into my heart, which I love, which I nourish, which I would be so happy to see fulfilled for the greater glory of God. I mean the establishment of the Order of the Most Blessed Sacrament. That is the idea, the rest is understood.

Dear friend, pray for this work of love, as I will pray for yours, as I pray for O... Alas! May God have his soul!

Goodbye, dear brother, believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted and loving servant,
Eymard, P.M.⁶

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
near Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seine et Oise)

⁶ Marist Priest.

TO MME. GRISAUD (NEE CHAMBORD)
(VII 2/2)

[La-Seyne], January 13, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I am very grateful for your kind letter and the wishes you are presenting to God on my behalf. Your soul is doubly dear to me, you are the sister of our good Father Chambord, and now you are our sister in Mary.

We often speak about you with your dear brother, about your problems, your difficulties, but also about God's graces.

My dear sister, I understand how heavy the cross must be, naturally speaking, especially since you are obliged to run your business alone, surrounded with sick people. - Oh! How you must need God, his grace and his love, in order to rise above these problems.

It seems that the good Lord wants to sanctify you by the cross. It is the surest and most rewarding path. Without the Cross our salvation would be in great danger. - Love this cross well, my dear daughter, since our Lord loves it and God wants it; but especially ask your Mother the secret of uniting the cross to love, sadness to the joy of the Holy Spirit, recollection to action. - It's a great thing to know how to find God in our duties, in the midst of the demands of the world. - That is certainly what you try to do every day.

When we work hard, we must eat well. What a joy, that you can receive Holy Communion often! It's our life and support in this sad life. - Receive Communion often, and Jesus will change you into himself.

Goodbye, my dear Sister. I often give you, as well as your whole family, to God.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 125/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, January 25, 1855

It seems that you are very ill, my dear daughter. Our Lord has placed you on his cross. So then, he wants you to continue to be crucified with him. But what a difference! He was crucified by his enemies, but in your case, it comes from his divine hands. It comes from his love, so that he may share with you the value of his death and the glory of his cross. What joy to suffer for love and through love! So, my poor daughter, suffer for the love of Jesus Christ. Love which refuses to suffer doesn't deserve the name of love.

Will our divine Master crucify you until death? Your part is to let him act and say to him: "Whatever you will, my dear Lord ...". Then, let your life be like the virgin who is waiting for the arrival of the divine Bridegroom.

Write to me when you can, but don't let it tire you. I'm making the novena for you. It will only finish on the 29th, since I didn't begin it until the 20th. You can imagine that since I stand to gain from it, I really want our Lord to bless it.

Since January 13th, the Work of the Blessed Sacrament is unfolding and being prepared, the proposed rules are finished. The Bishop of Frejus and Toulon finds them beautiful, he will be giving a fine priest. Several others are preparing for it, everyone is happy. As for me, I haven't presented anything to Very Rev. Fr. Favre yet. I am praying and waiting a little longer to explain my thoughts to him.

I often wonder: how will the good Lord use me, since I am ill and worthless? I am no longer any good for anything, I am worn out. I would need to go hide at the feet of our Lord. I hope our good Master will grant me that grace.

I would be happy if I could see at least one Cenacle before I die. That is what the houses of adoration will be called.

When St. John fell asleep on the divine breast of our Savior, he drew his love and God-given mission from him. I would also greatly need, not such a great honor as that one, but at least to be at Jesus' feet! It has been almost twenty years now that I have always been in the active life, now I need a little of the Cenacle.

Goodbye, my good daughter. I entrust you to God's grace, and I pray that Jesus and Mary will heal you.

Eymard

P.S. When you see ... give my apologies. I haven't been able to write to her yet, nor to ... I will do it. My regards to all at Nazareth.

487

CO 483

TO COUNTESS ADELE DE REVEL DE NESCE
(VIII 12/26 VII 17)

(L & S)

La Seyne Boarding School, January 26, 1855

Very dear sister in Mary,

I wanted to be the first to wish you the kind of year which is worth a whole life in God's sight. I had started my letter, but it was left unfinished, and now I will just say that I presented you to our Lord and asked for his holy love for you.

Thank you also for your good wishes and prayers; I am counting on them, and to be remembered by you.

1. You can count on the novena for your dear brother. I am happy to pray for him. He is one of my favorite among the dead.

2. I don't think the two letters from Paris were by the same hand: don't get involved in that business.

3. What happiness for your beloved Froissard family! May God be praised! it is a great joy for me as well.

4. You complain about your prayers - pray the prayer of the poor; but keep praying - on one side is poverty and want; fix your gaze on the other side - the goodness of God and the prayer of Jesus Christ which make up for all you lack. - As for your doubts and reactions - none of that is important - it is the feverish agitation of our wretchedness. Pay no attention to it, and rise above it.

5. I approve your idea about that room; it is a fine idea. I advise you to go to confession to Fr. Huguet during the retreat: just make your confession and a general review since the Third Order: that is - your spiritual practices and your besetting fault.

6. The resolve you made last time for purity of intention is fine, but too spiritual: take fidelity to your rule [as your resolution]. - As for the souls in purgatory, pray for them, but don't promise any money.

7. Try to be more patient with your long, extended illness. Forget it if possible, but if not, fight against sadness and inward fears. Be a disciple of confidence in God.

What you tell me of Miss Marguerite is very sad - alas! she would have nothing to lose. May the holy will of God be done.

Goodbye, dear sister in our Lord. Be assured of my great concern for your dear soul.

All yours in Jesus,
Eymard, S.M.

P.S. My respects to Mme. (Hypolite)⁷ Poui. I am praying hard for her elder son.

Mademoiselle de Revel
rue Ste Helene 13
Lyons, Rhone

488

CO 484

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

(V 15/76)

[La Seyne], January 29, 1855

Dear Madame,

I am really late, my dear daughter in our Lord, in answering your good letter. I still don't know how it happened. In your charity, please excuse me.

I praised God for the news you gave me about your dear patient, who, I hope, is feeling better. God guides everything in his divine mercy and by the means he chooses. Our part is to pray well and have others pray.

Courage, my good daughter, have confidence! God will save your whole family. I was also happy to learn about the decision taken by the brothers toward this poor man. It's a grace of God. Continue to place your trust in our good Master and he will direct you in all your ways.

Serve our good Shepherd with true fidelity and love. Try to find the time to feed your poor soul with prayer and a few holy thoughts.

When we economize and regulate our time well. There is time for everything .

I don't need to tell you the wishes I presented to God for you during this New Year, you know them. May God give you his holy love and the conversion of all those you love.

Give me some news about yourself.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. No doubt you know how ill Miss G.⁸ is, unfortunately! I'm praying that God will leave her yet awhile for the Third Order.

⁷ Illegible in the original, perhaps: Hippolyte.

⁸ Probably Miss Guillot.

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 12/52)

January 29, 1855

Miss Stephanie,

My dear daughter, I will answer your good letter, the simplicity and openness of which I loved. My answers may perhaps be too late, but they will confirm the principles given in the past.

1. Don't worry at all about what you told me about P.H.⁹ It doesn't diminish my respect at all and proves his dedication to your soul.

2. "But, I ought to take advantage of it!" If God strongly inspires you to do so, yes, or if you should feel the need for it, yes again; but in the ordinary way of life, draw from your interior life and its rule.

For ordinary things you have your kind mother.

3. Always go to our Lord with great simplicity of mind and holy surrender. Notice only two things: your weakness and his goodness, his love for you. Work firmly and constantly to sacrifice your will for the love of God, that is the wood for the divine fire.

Mortify your pride which is reborn daily.

You are already mature now; so follow the life of our Lord at your age. What joy to be able to say: Jesus was my age!

In your meditation, continue to tend toward the love of our Lord by the sacrifice of yourself. It's the shortest and most perfect way.

Then pray for me. I offer you continually to the divine Spouse of your soul, in order that he may fill you with his virtues and love.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER

(VII 2/19)

[La-Seyne], January 29, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I am finally sending your good gifts. I hope they will please you.

I was really sorry that I couldn't see you when I passed the other day. I stopped to see Beauregard's sick young son and I had no more time. When I return, I will try to give you an hour.

Pray for the one who is totally devoted to you in our Lord.

Eymard

⁹ Perhaps Fr. Huguet.

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 126/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, March 19, 1855

My dear daughter, I want to begin at least by wishing you a happy feast day on this beautiful feast of St. Joseph. I mean to tell you that I wished you a happy feast day, in God's presence first of all, and that I am wishing you the spirit as well as the humble and spiritual gifts of this great Saint.

You must find that I am quite lazy and almost forgetful. Forgetful, no, I cannot forget your soul, nor your needs and difficulties. Lazy, yes, it has been a long time that I haven't had the energy to write letters, in spite of the fact that I would have almost fifty to write; it comes from some fatigue. My migraine headache takes over almost every morning, without always obliging me to stay in bed. I am able to say Holy Mass, half sick, but I go; add to that the thousand and one duties which are pulling at me from every side. Still you are number one and I begin with you.

1. Thank you and thank you very much for your last letter and for the information you gave me about that conversation, and the feelings about me in Lyons.

Very Reverend Father is right to say what he said, since I am late again and I don't have any energy for this work. The Fathers are right to complain. I haven't written to anyone for a long time.

I assure you that I thanked God for it. They thought I was good for something; at least, they won't think so any more.

2. For the second letter. - I pleaded for you in God's presence for all the trials that you are having with Fr. H.¹⁰ Yet, in the depth of myself I felt a different answer, that is: that you shouldn't run away from the cross, but sacrifice Father Huguet's esteem and trust. Your decision to go and be open with Very Rev. Fr. Superior General is very wise; follow it and do what he says. Do so out of love for the Third Order, that dear family which has been the object of so much sweat and tears! - As to your personal details, I understand that you can barely go into them, but count on my good will to make up for the difference. I don't think you should go to Fr. B. any more. However, my dear daughter, where you should really go is to the feet of Jesus, your crucified and crucifying spouse: that is the true place of rest, of comfort and strength. Oh! how good our tender Savior is to help you to die both to what is natural and spiritual in human support and consolation! But, you are afraid to offend him, or to stray? No, no, we can never stray on Calvary. There is only one path which leads directly to the feet of Jesus. We must always walk on it and stop only when we reach his heart.

So, good daughter, everything is fine; don't worry too much about your hostilities and natural dislikes. That is the victim you are to sacrifice to Jesus' pure love. You are pleasing to his heart; that should be enough for you.

Now to speak about the House of the Third Order. This has always been a serious question in my heart. Ever since I became aware of Fr. Favre's thinking, I have been unsure. The reason is that, because of Fr. Huguet's ideas and plans, I don't see how it could work if he were to be responsible for it, and especially if he were moved from Lyons. Then I was also held back by what I saw when I visited Lyons the last time. I saw that Very Rev. Fr. Favre was giving a simple permission that would be delayed until my return. - "If you come to Lyons, will you take care of that house?" - If they want that from me, I want it. - "Will you come to Lyons?" - I don't know, for if my health isn't any better, I don't think I will be able to give myself to the active work of the sacred ministry.

"But, your idea for the Work of the Blessed Sacrament?" - Nothing is settled yet. I haven't written to Very Rev. Fr. Favre about it, because the matter will not be settled until the holidays... The people will not be free until then, and, if I continue to be sick, how can I be useful? I am praying, encouraging, waiting for a sign from God: that is where I am.

¹⁰ Fr. Huguet.

In a few days I will send you the Constitutions of the Blessed Sacrament, in order that you may tell me your opinion about them. I will tell you the reasons in favor of keeping the Work separate,¹¹ and you will consider before God what can give him greater glory.

This thought places me on Calvary. I feel that one must die to everything, in order to deserve to work for such a beautiful undertaking: God is preparing me for it.

Kindly remit fourteen francs to Mr. Vacher, the son-in-law of the widow, Mme. Monteillet, next to the Cathedral, to pay off our bill for the reliquary of St. Victorius.

Write to me when you can. Your letters are like a visitor in my illness.

Goodbye, good daughter. I am blessing you and the divine cross of crucified love.

All yours,
Eymard

P.S. - My respects to your house of Nazareth which I love as my own family. I'm not saying anything to you about your resignation. It isn't time to give it yet. So, submit lovingly to his cross.

Miss Marguerite Guillot
Rue du Juge de Paix, 17
Fourviere, Lyons (Rhone)

492

CO 489

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 100/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, March 22, 1855

My very dear sisters,

I'm really lazy about writing to you and yet I know how much it pleases you to receive my letters. When one is surrounded by so many duties and especially by so many people, I don't know where time goes.

I knew that you had had news about me, that is why I put it off. I am well enough, my migraines aren't as severe. They say that my stomach is the cause.

We have very nice weather here. I was told that the cold had not been too severe in the mountains. I hope so for your sake.

My dear Nanette, I am really praying for your dear patient.¹² Oh! I know that it is a great and very painful cross, but see it as the good Lord sees it. After having done all that you can, abandon yourself in the hands of God's eternal Providence.

This morning I received a letter from Mr. Morel. I will hurry to get the information he is asking for about Mr. Malifaud.

I will write to the Pastor shortly. Please tell him that I will go to Marseilles next week. I will go to the Capuchins and Jesuits for him. I share in the good pastor's sorrows. Oh! He really deserves pity for the smearing caused by gossipers.

Continue to pray for me and believe me always in our Lord,

Your affectionate brother,
Eymard, p.m.

¹¹ Separate from other projects being considered.

¹² perhaps Marianne.

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 3/19)

[La-Seyne], March 26, [1855]

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I was still hoping to come see you to speak to you.

1. about the lithograph of Laus. They cost fifty francs for the stone and ten for a hundred. - How many hundreds do you want?

Another lithographer asks for eight francs as percentage, without charging for the stone, but he would like several thousand.

2. I must order an exvoto¹³ for a sailor whose home was protected in Crimea at the time of the great storm. - All business establishments were on a hill. His was the only one left standing. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. This exvoto needs to be ready in a month. They would like to give about a hundred francs, more rather than less. I hope to see you in Hyeres, but in the meantime write to me in Lyons... please make a drawing for the exvoto.

I am all yours in our Lord,
Eymard

TO MME. JOSEPHINE GOURD (SR. JOSEPH DU SS)
(V 16/76)

L.J.C.

La Seyne, March 28, 1855

Last night, my dear daughter, I received your letter which I had been anxiously expecting. I was really worried! Put your trust in the ever merciful goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the intercession of our good Mother! This morning I said holy Mass for your dear mother and father. You understand the grace I am most requesting. Yes, have confidence, God will give them to you¹⁴. You did well to attend the close of Fr. H.'s¹⁵ retreat. There are some religious proprieties which must be observed and honored, and then God is always the motive for everything.

Your three resolutions are perfect. Try to be very faithful to them, especially the third one. It will be a prolonged prayer.

You may make the vow for the souls in purgatory, for the greater glory of God and because of his love for the souls who suffer in purgatory.

Now once again about confession.

We must pray a great deal, especially to St. Joseph during this beautiful month. The devil does everything he can. God has his moments for which we must wait in order to act. You will know this moment when it comes, by an inner inspiration, by a favorable and decisive event. Then peacefulness and strength urge us on. I was pleased to learn about the purchase of the chapel. May God be glorified by it.

¹³ A symbol of a favor received offered as a gift to God.

¹⁴ The conversion of her loved ones.

¹⁵ Fr. Huguet.

Be sure to take the sleep you need. When you can, have someone give me a little news. Your sorrow is my sorrow.

Good-bye, dear daughter.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

495

CO 493

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.

(V 7/8)

La Seyne, April 14, 1855

M.¹⁶

The high price of food is obliging us, in spite of ourselves, to ask you, for this year only, a supplement of 100 francs for ordinary room and board.

Last year, we decided not to follow the example of other houses of education. We were willing to make a sacrifice; but it is becoming too great for this year. Therefore, we hope to count on the help of the parents, in order that it may become less of a burden for us.

It is my honor to be with respect, M.

Your most humble and devoted servant,

Eymard, Superior

496

CO 494

TO FR. FRANCOIS JOSEPH MORCEL, S.M.

(V 8/8)

La Seyne, April 25, 1855

Good and very Rev. Fr. Morcel,¹⁷

We threw down the nets and hope that it will bring in from 8 to 10 thousand francs, which would help us greatly this year.

I am sending you a model of the circular letter.¹⁸

The Boarding School is going well. We had good examinations at Easter. We didn't give any time to review, and everything succeeded. Only 4 were held back during the holidays.

The Fathers are all feeling weak in varying degrees, but they are all fulfilling their duties. Fr. Souchard is ill, but you know that his nervous system accounts for a lot of it. Fr. Perret is not well these days; I hope that things will get better. However, he keeps going.

As for me, I keep going, weak one moment and a little better the next. My cough doesn't give up, what can I do? Leave it alone.

My dear Father, I hope that you aren't forgetting my substitute. It will be the end of the year soon, and I am at the end of my strength, fortunate if I make it to the end, which I hope. From time to time I go to spend two or three days at Maubel when I can.

¹⁶ Circular letter - name of addressee.

¹⁷ It seems that Fr. Morcel was his immediate Superior at this time.

¹⁸ cf previous Document.

However, I hope that you won't think that my request for rest is the result of discouragement or any other thought. No! No! I have such good colleagues here that it would be quite wrong on my part to complain. They are all so kind and so devoted! The house would suffer from it, and so would my conscience.

You must have received my report. If you need any explanations I would be very pleased if they would ask me for them in Lyons, while it is still fresh in my mind.

Dear Father, allow me to remind you about my thoughts and desires for the Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament. I wrote to Fr. General about it to ask permission for the holidays. I opened my soul to you so that you would pray, and especially that you would help me to do something for the glory of Jesus Eucharistic. I feel that I am ever more strongly pulled toward that, and it has been so for a long time... What happiness if our Lord wanted to use my disabilities and weakness to bring forth a eucharistic flower from the earth! Shouldn't eucharistic religious spring forth from Mary? I reflected carefully on your idea of joining with Rev. Fr. Colin, I don't feel inclined to that - or to make it a Marist house, at this time. It would be too soon. It is better to let this work take shape in its originality¹⁹ and struggle with the trials of foundation.

In asking for this permission, my intention is simply to work at this time and exclusively for the birth of the eucharistic Work. I feel that my request is extraordinary; but if this thought comes from God, it's good, and as Rev. Fr. Favre said last year: "If God wants it, what a pity for me not to desire it with my whole heart."

I had told you that when the Sovereign Pontiff was consulted on this project, he found it very good and blessed it.

You know that the crowning of the Virgin of Laus by Pius the IX through his delegate Bishop Deperly will take place May 23rd. If it hadn't been so far, I would have asked for that little holiday. I received a very attractive invitation.

Goodbye, dear beloved Fr. Morcel, pray for my poor soul. It is suffering and wants to do better.

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard, PM

497

CO 495

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER

(vii 4/19)

La-Seyne, May 10, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

May God repay you a hundredfold for the eucharistic offering that comes from your charity. - I cannot accept it yet, since the big question of the exact day when the Work will begin has not yet been determined.

I am leaving today for Maubel, where I plan to stay until Monday. In that case I would arrive in Toulon around 10:00 a.m. and go to the Malta Hotel to get news about you, to see whether you have arrived to depart for Laus. I am writing to the Superior to reserve a room for you. I am also writing to Lyons to deposit the package of lithographs with Fr. Julien, the canon at Gap.

The ex-voto which I asked you to make is for Mr. Latty, the wine merchant, rue des Trois Oliviers, 73.

¹⁹ Original form or inspiration.

At the bottom you must inscribe:

from December 1 - 10, 1854 ex-voto + Latty of Toulon

If I should not see you then, remember me at the feet of the Good Mother,²⁰ and especially the little family of Jesus Eucharistic.

I bless you and my wishes journey with you.

All yours in Jesus Christ,

Eymard, Sup.

498

CO 487

TO FATHER GABRIEL-CLAUDE MAYET, S.M.

(VI 2/4)

[La Seyne], March 11, 1855²¹

The Work of the Most Blessed Sacrament is maturing. The Constitutions (in draft form) are progressing. They seem quite perfect. Since we shall be at the source of all graces and virtues, everything will be easy. And a vocation with a more contemplative than active life must have a virtue which is more perfect and more sacrificial.

Mr. de Cuers is still full of enthusiasm for the eucharistic Work. He writes to me on occasion. He is still the same man - the sailor, and the fervent Christian.

Several priests want to be part of the Work, and a few young laymen - ten to twelve in all.

We would like to meet around September, in the Diocese of Marseilles - we would begin by retiring to a country house for a few months, to be re-cast in this new Cenacle.

What gives [me] greatest pleasure is the generosity, the humility, and the seraphic piety which inspires them all.

As for the personal²² question, it has been put off until the holidays by Very Rev. Fr. Favre. I am praying, please pray for me. - This thought is a harsh Calvary, a prayer of Gethsemane. What does that matter, as long as our Lord is to be known, loved, and served! - That is all I desire. I admit that I would be very happy to serve as manure for the tree, but it is too great an honor, which I don't deserve.

I can feel my poor health weakening. I would dearly like to do something for the glory of our good Master before I die. I offer myself constantly and surrender myself to his good pleasure.

Eymard

²⁰ Popular name for Notre Dame du Laus.

²¹ More likely May, 1855 - Troussier

²² Whether the Marists would allow him to be dedicated to this Work

TO MISS STEPHANIE GOURD

(V 13/52)

La Seyne, May 11, 1855

Thank you, my dear daughter, for telling me about the beautiful grace you have just received.²³ It's really the greatest one of all, which cannot be bought too dearly. Your house has now become like the house of Bethany where our divine Master lodged. How happy you must be to live next to Jesus, to have him for yourself, to adore him, keep him, serve and love him!

Your soul ought to be the spouse of the heavenly King. That is why he has come to dwell in your midst.

You ought to be like the eucharistic lamp which enlightens, burns and consumes itself to the glory of the hidden God, whose sign and guard of honor it is.

Forget the fiery skies to concentrate on the eucharistic heaven.

May the presence of our eucharistic God be the nourishment and center of the practice of the presence of God.

That is where you need to give everything, sacrifice everything in order to have everything.

Pray there a little for the great needs of my soul.

Thank you for the good news you give me about your whole family. May God flood it with his graces.

Always be like a little girl with your dear mother. Ignore the painful feelings of selfish nature and pride except to turn them into virtue or to reject them.

Do you want to be very pleasing to our Lord? Work to become like the seed of the eucharistic wheat.

My respectful and devoted sentiments to your dear mother.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

May 11-15 - At Maubel, House of Theology.

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 16/52)

*L.J.C.E.*²⁴

Maubel, May 14, 1855

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am very grateful for your note sent by means of the navy chaplain. That dear man is a fine person. He was in such a hurry that I couldn't help him in any way.

I was sorry to learn about your suffering. You may say that it is a natural thing. That's true, I would like to see you a little stronger, because you still have a long way to go. It's true that the Cross is the means by which we go to Jesus, unite ourselves to Jesus, that we live of his love. The grace of suffering is a great grace and much virtue is needed to suffer alone in his love. God, in his divine goodness, is giving you a little particle in his beloved Cross, so he must be praised for it.

²³ Permission to have the Blessed Sacrament reserved in their home.

²⁴ Abbreviation for Praised be Jesus Christ Eucharistic.

Your letter of March 17th really helped me, especially about the eucharistic Work. Yes, my dear sister in Jesus, center your life in this loving thought which will give much glory and love to our good Master.

The Constitutions are written. Twelve members are preparing: 6 priests, and 6 scholastics. These poor gentlemen form a group around me; while in Lyons²⁵ they don't want to give me permission to set them free. I was expecting this difficulty, it's so natural! But if our Lord wants it, it will happen. In this same mail, I am sending the plan for the Constitutions to the General of the Dominicans in Rome so that he may have them reviewed. Good Fr. Jandel is entirely in favor of the eucharistic Work. Help us in the presence of Jesus and Mary. I consider the Society of the Blessed Sacrament as a flower that Mary has chosen among her poor children to offer to her divine Son. I hope that someday, at least one of your dear children might become a Eucharistic Religious.

What you tell me about your friend is very sad. She is in God's hands; we will pray very much for her.

I finally wrote to Mr. Adolphe. I really don't know how I could have neglected him ever since January. I've been so busy and a bit ill, so that I have barely written to anyone.

Don't tell me again that your letters are too long, my dear daughter. Let your pen run through the fields.

I was happy that you had the joy of having your eldest son at home. Watch over his heart, his beautiful soul.

My affectionate regards to Mr. Tholin; a remembrance in God to your dear sister.

All yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,
Eymard, S.M.

P.S. I am writing to you from our house of theology, six hours from La Seyne, where I have been for the last 2 or 3 days. I am leaving here tomorrow.

Mme. Tholin-Bost
Tarare (Rhône)

501

CO 497

TO MISS ELIZABETH MAYET
(VII 10/17)

La Seyne, May 18, 1855

It is high time, isn't it, my dear daughter in our Lord, to break such a long silence? You must have thought that I was either dead or very indifferent. I am neither one nor the other, but like bad creditors who always say tomorrow – it's time to say: today and to begin.

First of all, my dear daughter, thank you for kindly remembering me and especially for your prayers. - I also pray for you, in order that our Lord may comfort you and replace everything for you, that Mary, your good Mother, may take you with her. - You really need to surrender yourself into God's hands in order not to give in to sadness and discouragement. My daughter, think that your parents are in Heaven, in the bosom of blessed Eternity, waiting for you: death is only a bridge from time to Heaven. God has willed to let you be last in your paternal home, in order that you would be the heiress of so much devotion and virtue.

I will not try to give you advice about your future. You must go slowly, and carefully study the pros and the cons. As for Oceania, however, I say "no" without hesitation. They say there is still nothing for the sisters to do there.

²⁵ The Marist Superiors.

Dear Father Mayet wrote to me recently. It seems that he is the same as usual and always more devout. What a beautiful crown of Nazareth this dear Father will have!

I leave you, my dear daughter, in the arms of Mary, and beg you to pray to her for my faults.

A thousand and one regards to your beloved brother and his very dear wife, to Mr. and Mme. Perroud, to her dear and blessed family.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, Superior

502

CO 505

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 128/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 19, 1855

My dear daughter,

I just received a letter from Nanette who is very upset. She has just lost her brother, which leaves her to care for three children without any means: a little boy who is two years old, and two little girls. One is ten and the other six. Nanette is asking me to see whether it would be possible to find a place for the two little girls, or at least for one of them, in some orphanage or house of providence²⁶ in Lyons. Please inquire about it, I have lost contact with those institutions. I've almost forgotten the names. Find out what the conditions would be.

I received your last letter, I was so happy to read it. I received it on the very day of Pentecost, with my gift of Counsel; on that day, I had drawn the gift of Fortitude by lot. Oh, how I need strength! If God wants this eucharistic project,²⁷ I want it wholeheartedly, as he wants it, and forever. However, human nature is sometimes [experiencing] the Garden of Olives. I am praying, waiting, I am surrendering myself to God's grace.

As for the house you want to buy, if Fr. Huguet has 50,000 francs as he says, it would be fine.

Do you know where things are for the eucharistic Work? - In the Garden of Olives, with the grotto of Bethlehem as our only expectation.²⁸ The 60,000 that had been promised to me for the beginning have been spent elsewhere - that is a good sign of success. We must build on poverty, humility, and love.

Goodbye, good daughter,

Ever and all yours in J.C.,
Eymard

²⁶ Public institution.

²⁷ Pensee eucharistique: idea, project or plan.

²⁸ In a state of suffering while hoping to begin.

TO MISS AGARITHE MONAVON

(V 5/9)

L.J.C.E.

La Seyne, May 19, 1855

Mademoiselle and dear sister in our Lord,

Your fine letter reawakened all my old feelings of war. Don't admire what is so natural: during two weeks we gave a military retreat to the soldiers of the 43rd. What comfort it was for me to give those courageous men four hundred scapulars, five to six hundred medals, books, etc! We loaded them down, especially with prayers and blessings.

It was so beautiful to see our church full of these future martyrs, to see them at the Communion rail, - a great number have already fallen on the battlefield. - Poor soldiers, or rather happy soldiers with a double crown! The French soldier is a Christian! When you see him close to danger, he loses his human respect.²⁹

I think as you do about the crusade of the Orient. For me, it's God's war: truth against error, slavery, and tyranny. Sacrifices and Christian blood are needed to give birth to new generations. The sword of our Lord will not return to its scabbard until the victory is won. It seems to me that this is the dawn of a great century.

I pray often for dear Mr. Foloppe. I will be pleased to say nine Masses for him, beginning on May 22nd, finishing at the end of the month of Mary. I feel sorry about accepting the stipend, but since you wish, kindly give it to Mr. Gaudioz, the wallpaperer at place Leviste, 10; or to Father Poupinel.

The biography of our dear friend has been sleeping.³⁰ We are still taking notes. However, I am going to shake myself a little.

Why didn't you follow your good inspiration for Toulon? It would be short; what a pleasant surprise! so many things to say! I haven't given it up totally yet.

Continue to remember your poor servant in prayer. My soul is somewhat like my body: what would it matter if this poor, weak machine fell apart, if my soul were truly pleasing to God! I can see that the best wealth is to surround oneself with the mantle of divine Mercy, like the two brave Zouaves, who lay down on the flag they had just conquered and died.

Steal a few minutes to tell me that you are still in this world.

Goodbye,

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, P.M.

²⁹Fear of being open about his faith.

³⁰ Biography of Captain Marceau is still unwritten.

TO MME. EMMA PERROUD (NEE MAYET)
(VII 6/7)

La-Seyne, May 19, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

I'm just starting to pay my old debts. Yesterday I began with Miss Elizabeth, today it's your turn. How many others are going to stay at Vaise! For the last few months I had decided to declare bankruptcy,³¹ things had gotten so bad. However, I will try to give you a report. It is too important to me to be in debt to you and to receive news from you.

First of all, thank you for remembering me so kindly. You know how dear your family is to me! This family of God and the Blessed Virgin - which Jesus visits from time to time with his little cross, because he likes to rest there, and to visit there as [he did] at Bethany.

Oh! How blessed you are my dear daughter, that you knew how to appreciate the graces of your situation, to have preferred your solitude to the deafening noise of the world, your home to the pleasures and celebrations of the cities, your Nazareth to everything. That is the better part among the graces of divine goodness. Therefore, love this little garden which God has entrusted to you. - He has planted the flowers of all the virtues there.

Continue to serve our good Master in a spirit of gentleness, trust and love.

Let gentleness form the character of your life: it's the Queen of virtues, and, as good St. Francis de Sales said, to be gentle in the midst of trials and tribulations is to be perfect.

Let trust be the soul of your humility, of your prayers. The weaker I am, says St. Paul, the stronger I am in the one who strengthens me.

Love is the purpose, the center, the crown of everything... It is through love that you ought to do what costs you the most, go to the cross as to the eucharistic Banquet, pray... and belong to everyone.

But don't look too closely at your weaknesses - put aside the sight of your progress - divine love is like an abyss. The more we love, the deeper it is.

I am happy to know that your dear children are fine at St. Chamond.

See, the time was right! God loves you so much! Goodbye, my dear kind sister. Forgive my laziness and believe me ever in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.³²

³¹ Inability to keep up with his correspondence.

³² P.M. - Abbreviation for Marist Priest.

S.M. - Abbreviation for Society of Mary.

505

CO 500

TO MME. FRANCHET
(VII 26/33)

La-Seyne, May 21, 1855

Madame and dear sister in Mary,

Since you wrote to me twice, it's only right that I should at least answer once. For a while I have hardly answered the good wishes which nevertheless really please me in God's presence. I have become lazy.

I am happy to learn that you are pleased with the direction of dear Father Marcel. He is your Ananias: be very obedient and you will gradually attain the holiness of your state.

I really like what you told me about the eucharistic lamp and especially that you want to be this solitary lamp, which burns and consumes itself for the interior service of Jesus. If you do this you will share in the same [life] as Magdalen, as the Blessed Virgin in the Cenacle before the divine Tabernacle. Pray for me, I do so for your dear soul, for your dear child whom I love very much and for your good and devout husband whom I love as a brother.

Goodbye, Madame and dear sister.

Ever yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.M.

506

CO 502

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 127/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, May 23, 1855

My dear daughter, I've been wanting to write to you for a long time. I'm happy to do so at this moment, while our good Mother of Laus is being crowned. It would have been such a great joy for me to witness it. It is so even from here, and I wholeheartedly applaud all the praise being given to the august Queen of Heaven by the thousands of believers who are filling the heavenly valley.

I read and reread your last letter. I thank God for your fine Retreat, which must undoubtedly have helped many people. I wrote to Fr. Huguet about it (without mentioning you). In such a case, your retreat consists in benefitting from whatever you can in haste, then, being accessible to everyone for the love of our Lord who wants you to be his servant. Then, you should be happier with the progress of your sisters than your own.

How good Mary is to grant such great spiritual favors to her daughters!

Your short report was fine. In dealing with Fr. Huguet, give in, submit, accept humiliation; then war becomes impossible. Know how to profit spiritually from everything. Then, regarding your personal life and your vows, follow the former rules.

What a good idea you have to put yourself under the direction of St. Joseph! Follow the advice of this great Patron and protector of spiritual persons. He will direct you well in the spirit and virtues of Jesus and Mary. Especially, my poor daughter, be very humble, like a beggar who is very poor, at the feet of this good Saint.

Nourish your inner life with the spirit of penance and renunciation, in order to die to the old self. Let your piety consist in union with our Lord, in order to lose your life in the life of your soul's bridegroom. Delight in having a small room in the Cenacle and on Calvary, the divine dwelling places of love and our Lord will be happy.

Let us speak now of the great Work of the Blessed Sacrament. It is still in the ground, where it is rotting. I sent the Constitutions to Laus so that they would be placed on Mary's altar today, and be a bouquet of love for our good Mother.

I hope that they are also reaching Rome today. They are being sent to an influential friend for examination. See how you must pray.

What will be the outcome of it all? I don't know. What form will the Eucharistic project take? The one that our Lord wants through Mary. I pray and beg this good Master to be pleased with this idea, this desire, and to allow this little grain of wheat to grow in the presence of his divine Tabernacle.

I received the answer from Very Rev. Fr. Favre. He is putting off his study of it until the holidays. In the meantime, this good Father has given me very wise considerations, which would even seem strict, if he were not the Superior General. No doubt, he is right, if we see the thing from an ordinary point of view. I didn't answer. I am waiting, praying. While it crucifies me, this thought gently wounds my heart.

I am doing as you do for your house. It is really desirable that you should buy a house, if you had the money on hand. There is nothing to lose.³³

I wish God would choose Lyons for the first house of the Blessed Sacrament, especially the Nolaque house. Everything would be ready. Do you know how much they want for that house?

Goodbye my good daughter. I'm not giving you any news about myself, except that I must thank God and his Holy Mother that I can still go on. A week ago, I thought that a chest infection I had would get worse, and now it is going away.

My fraternal wishes to the whole House of Nazareth.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard

P.S. - Please give Mr. Gaudioz the money you have. Let him keep it to pay for the lithographs.

507

CO 503

TO FR. JEAN-VICTOR BARET

(V 4/6)

Var, May 24, [1855]

Dear friend,³⁴

Fr. Cat led me to hope that I would have the pleasure to see you here during the holidays. Thank you in advance; it would be a great pleasure for me; I would be happy to welcome you, the sooner the better.

About a month ago I had the opportunity to see one of your parishioners here from Malbuisson. We spoke about you and your parish. It seems that they are very happy to have you as a pastor.

If I have the joy of going to Notre Dame du Laus, I will go to see you on the way and we can speak at ease.

What can I tell you about this [place]? Not much. You know that it's a house of education, with little things constantly following one another. However, we have reason to thank God. Our house is going well. We have 114 students, all young. There is a great mission to fulfill here,

³³ House of Nazareth for the Third Order.

³⁴ This letter doesn't have a date but, according to the text, it was certainly written in 1855. At that time Fr. was preparing a project of Constitutions which was submitted the following August 24th to Pius IX by Fr. Touche and received this explicit approval: "This thought comes from God, let them hurry to carry it out, the Church needs this help!"

because the formation in non-Christian families (that is the greater number) is so depraved!

I will give you some news which may perhaps please you very much. At this moment a new Order is beginning, magnificent in its purpose: the Order of the Blessed Sacrament, perpetual Adoration.

And, astonishing thing! all the other mysteries of the life and death of our Lord have had their religious body and the greatest of all the mysteries has not had one. This new Society pleases me very much. When you decide to withdraw from the world, that, dear friend, should be your affair, your beautiful part.

Give me news about yourself and news about our old friends. That will please me a lot; and take care of yourself for the glory of God.

Goodbye, dear friend.

All yours *in Christo*,
Eymard,
Sup.of the B. School³⁵

508

CO 504

TO MME. NATALIE JORDAN (NEE BRENIER DE MONTMORAND)
(IV 15/75)

La Seyne, May 28, 1855

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

How fortunate you've been! To see Catholic Rome and the Pope with faith and Christian devotion: that's truly the favor of favors. It will take your whole life to relive such spiritual memories! Hold them sacred. They help us to serve God and to become generous.

God really led you like children. Everything works out for those who love him and who seek him in a spirit of simplicity. I was happy to learn that you returned safe and sound. I was hoping that you would return through Toulon. Your visit would have been a Lyonese celebration. God didn't will it.

My dear Madame, daughter, and sister; whatever title you prefer you are now at St. Romans with your silkworms. You are in the peaceful countryside. Enjoy it and may God especially bless your little silk creatures. Isn't it an image of the Christian life; an inert seed, a state of death, breakthrough, resurrection, life, ascension, work, palace, - in our case, Heaven. What a beautiful lesson of humility we learn from these worms! They accomplish such beautiful things in the weakest state.

When the prophet David compared the Divine Messiah and Redeemer to a worm, he was putting him on the lowest scale of beings: it was that divine Worm who clothed us with his glory and fed us with his substance.

Now what am I up to, [I am talking] about your worms instead of telling you to take care of yourself, to become a saint, to pray for me and mine. Remember me to your dear daughter whom I always recommend to our Lord so that she may be your joy and crown?

Goodbye, good and dear sister, write to me again between now and the holidays. Then, during the holidays, we will see one another, God willing.

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, P.M.

³⁵ Superior of the Boarding School.

TO MR. EMMANUEL DE LEUDEVILLE (FR. DE LEUDEVILLE)
(V 6/14)

*L.J.C.*³⁶

La Seyne, June 5, 1855

Dear Sir and brother in Mary,

I received your gracious letter of May 18th. I immediately enrolled the child you mentioned. I hope that the Blessed Virgin took him under her care and protected him for the love of his dear family.

Yes, dear friend, I prayed for you and your great undertaking. When God inspires a soul he loves with the thought and the mission of prayer, it's proof that he wants to grant it some grace, some favor. The inspiration of prayer comes from the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit prays with us and in us.

So you are praying for the project³⁷ I shared with you, and I shall surely pray for yours. God is preparing great events for the salvation of mankind and for the glory of Jesus Christ our Savior. The time will soon come when the two-edged sword of the word of Jesus Christ will confound the errors which insinuate themselves everywhere; it will scatter the abysmal darkness of the wicked, where, as in a hellish counsel, they plot against Jesus Christ and his Church, against the principles of justice and equity, against every good man.

The All-Powerful Immaculate Virgin will reward the Catholic world for our celebrations of her Feast.³⁸

And you, dear brother, continue to help others and become a great saint in the hands of Jesus and Mary. Goodbye.

All yours,
Eymard

Mr. E. de Leudeville
at Leudeville
near Marolles-en-Hurepoix
(Seine et Oise)

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 5/19)

La-Seyne, June 5, 1855

Madame and dear sister in our Lord,

I am in admiration of the way God placed a few painful and unforeseen thorns on your journey when everything seemed fine and beneficial! What can be done? Look only at God and veil the human face which has become the thorn. If I had had time to arrive like the telegram, I would have

³⁶ Abbreviation for *Louz, soit Jesus Christ*. Praised be Jesus Christ.

³⁷ French: pensee.

³⁸ Declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception and the Jubilee year that followed it.

said: take care of it yourself. - But it is over - God will consider your desires as reality. - Believe that you have succeeded - and bring your soul back to peace and solitude. Again, surrender yourself into the hands of divine Providence. - Oh! When will this cenacle of peace, prayer and love be opened! Let us pray.

For the drawings of the Eucharistic month, I have not been able to take care of it yet. We shall see. It is getting close to the time for tests and I'm very busy, but I will always be at your service.

I believe that your lithographs in storage will always be saleable. Don't worry about them. Goodbye, my dear sister, have confidence.

All yours in Jesus Christ,
Eymard, SM

511

CO 508

TO COUNT JEAN RAYMOND DE CUERS (FR. DE CUERS SSS)
(I 3/181 VI 3)

Vivat J.E.

La Seyne, June 11, 1855

Very dear friend and brother in the Lord,

Rejoice! God's work is beginning; and its roots are on Calvary. Everything is going well. They are suffering joyfully and wish to suffer even more in order to drench it (the Work) more abundantly with the divine blood of Jesus Hostia. Our four brothers³⁹ are being tried more and more severely. Two of them were dismissed by their director, who even refuses to give them absolution unless they retract. They are being ridiculed. It's a storm but they are suffering like children of Jesus Christ, and are only the stronger in their resolve. They are worthier than we are.

As for us, I received the answer to my second letter. Rev. Fr. General tells me:

"You are a Marist before all else. The society is your ship of salvation. Therefore, be so prudent that there will not even be any shadow of a pretext to accuse you of giving priority to a project which is only an idea and which is not your own, in preference to the one to which you owe your full attention because of your absolute and irrevocable consecration. The better is often the enemy of the good."

Then he said that he will come to La Seyne toward the end of the month. So I am applying myself to fulfill my duties as best I can. It seems to me that I am doing more than I have ever done.

Now, I'm waiting for his visit which should settle the matter. I have definitely decided, with God's grace, to do his holy will, to put aside all human motives, all natural fear. Please pray for me. God doesn't want me to go to your ordination. I was told that V. Rev. Fr. General will leave Lyons June 21st. Mr. Audibert will be there in my place. He will go to Marseilles. He continues to be totally in favor of the Work.

Now here is something new! Think about it in the presence of God, as we do here.

1. Should we decide to establish the first house in Marseilles? I mean the first house for preparation, formation, the motherhouse. You know the reasons in favor. Here are a few reasons against:

1) Will the Bishop want it? If he consents, will he leave us free? Since he is the Founder of an Order, would he try to interfere in this one? They say he is meticulous, sometimes narrow in his ideas. Experience proves that an old founder has only one idea.

2) Missionaries from Marseilles are not highly esteemed in France. Would that keep vocations away? The diocese of Marseilles and even Provence have few vocations. They seldom persevere.

³⁹ Students and potential vocations for the Work of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Bishop of Marseilles would find it difficult to give up his candidates.

Here is another plan: the diocese of Valence would receive us willingly. The Bishop has shown much interest in me. He has never founded anything. His diocese has excellent vocations and the neighboring dioceses are rich in good candidates.

They are offering to sell us a convent which is already built and in perfect condition. It was a Benedictine convent. The beautiful church has three adjacent naves, and a magnificent enclosure of over four acres, all enclosed. The convent can lodge 40 persons. Near the church there are 400 inhabitants, and nearby, the city of Montelimart with a population of 10,000.

There, we would be quiet to form the first candidates, with an excellent climate for our young people. The price is about 60,000 francs. It would cost 150,000 if it had to be built. We would be given time for the payments. They are writing to [ask] the owner not to sell it without first informing me.

Then, when we are transformed into true adorers, we will go to establish our first foundation in Marseilles. There we would immediately set up our plan of action.

I'm waiting for an answer from Rome. I heard that it was being presented.

We are praying very much for you, dear brother. On the 24th especially, I will be kneeling before the King of Kings, asking him to give you the fullness of his spirit of love. Pray for me, that I may sacrifice my natural self and be very faithful to grace. All these storms will clear the air. God will have the last word.

Goodbye, I have time only to say that I am

All yours in our Lord,
Eymard, S.⁴⁰

P.S. Please remember me to dear Father Brunello.

Mr. de Cuers
Deacon at the Major Seminary
B. du Rhone
Marseilles

512

CO 509

TO FR. HERMANN COHEN, OCD⁴¹

[La-Seyne], June 14, 1855

I was really envious of you [visiting] such a beautiful sanctuary.⁴² But do continue to pray there. Now is the time. We are waiting for Very Rev. Father-General. A decision will be made toward the end of the month. You know that the project is in Rome.

ROME ABOVE ALL! Goodbye, dear Father, the Work is on the cross.

⁴⁰ Abbreviation for Superior.

⁴¹ Fragment belonging to Fr. Mayet

⁴² Chapel of Marie-Eustelle Harpain, at St. Palais

513

CO 510

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 129/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, June 19, 1855

I am sorry to cause you so much worry, my dear daughter. If I had known that it would be so difficult, I wouldn't have asked. In conclusion, may God give you the hundredfold! Thank you so much.

I wrote to Mme. D'Haimyue in Paris. We will see what will come from that; may God's will be done! When we have done all we can, we come to rest at the feet of Providence.

So many things seem to be waiting for me in Lyons at holiday time! If God wills, I will it with all my heart. Surely, I would love to see the Manual of the Third Order finished, but my retreat was done so poorly that it would harm the Manual: imagine that I composed it while Miss Daniel was doing it. I was like a baker who feeds his customers fresh bread. I would be happy if only it inspired someone to compose a perfect one.

The house you want so badly is still there waiting to be sold. We must continue to pray. I agree with you - the first person must sacrifice herself. If we are too prudent and thorough, we don't even dare sell pins. We must be sure that God wants it, or desires it, and before casting our net. That is how I am proceeding about the plans for the Work of the Blessed Sacrament. We are expecting Very Rev. Fr. General at the end of the month. I hope he will make some decision. Pray a great deal until then.

Goodbye. Courage and joy of heart.

All yours in J. and M.,⁴³
Eymard

514

CO 511

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)
(II 130/395 VI 2)

La Seyne, July 1, 1855

My dear daughter, thank you for your good wishes for the feast of my Holy Patron. I really need his protection and especially his generosity in loving our divine Master.

Very Rev. Fr. General is at Maubel. I will see him here Tuesday. We will discuss the big issues relating to the eucharistic Work. Pray very much, so that God's glory alone be our only goal.

There is no question of Toulon for the Work, but of the Work for men, before one for women... It is natural that the directors and spiritual fathers be perfected first. It's true, everything could begin at the same time. A few days ago, I received a letter from my sister and Nanette. They had the wrong address. - No, no, Nanette cannot have anything against you, actually she loves you very much. Always continue to act as in the past.

I always burn your letters, as soon as I have read them. That is through prudence. In another month, I may have the consolation to go see you all.

While waiting, pray for me.

All yours in Jesus and Mary,
Eymard

⁴³ Abbreviation for Jesus and Mary.

P.S. Kindly ask Mr. Gaudioz to ask Mr. Brunet, the lithographer, for his bill for the lithographs of Laus. When you write to me, please give me the details about the Masses you have money for.

My sincere regards to Mr. Gaudioz, to his dear wife and to all your sisters.

515

CO 512

TO MME. CLOTILDE THOLIN-BOST

(IV 17/52)

L.J.C.

July 2, 1855

Thank you, my dear sister, for your letter. It made me sad to know that you are ill, and I am praying for your healing.

Take good care of yourself: this advice is given by St. Francis de Sales. There is merit in taking care of oneself. You will tell me to practice what I preach: well, I am doing it and God is doing it for me. They want to send me to the springs at Evians or Vichy. Whatever God wants. However, my migraine headaches no longer force me to bed as they did last year. I am able to bear them better. They say that my heart is not well. Please God, that it were so wounded with his divine love that it would burst from the impact and its every beat were as many acts of love and sacrifice!

Our distribution [of prizes] is set for July 30th, and I expect to be in Lyons around the beginning of August.

My dear sister, I almost hesitate to send you this letter which was begun so long ago. It will show you my good will. What did I hear in a letter from your dear sister? That Mr. Tholin fractured his leg, and that you and your sister were nearly injured! Oh God! What sad news! Is it as serious as I was told? My soul was so saddened to learn about so many crosses! I can only ask our good Master to heal the one he loves, without delay; that will give me a strong reason to go, if possible, to visit this dear patient, comfort him, and if I could, heal him. - Such is life: one day in joy, the next, in sorrow. But sorrow well borne for God becomes the source of eternal and divine joy: that is Christian consolation.

I won't say anything about the happiness and wealth which is yours to have the holy Tabernacle.⁴⁴ My first thought was to have you make your altar in such a way that someday holy Mass could be said there. Everything you are doing is fine. Mr. Adolphe must be happy to be the architect for the God of love. So my compliments for this and also for his Socrates.⁴⁵ At the top I would like to see our Savior holding his chalice of life and immortality.

My thanks to Miss Antonia for her letter, sad it is true, but ever good.

Believe me ever in our Lord,

My dear Sister in our Lord,

Your ever devoted,
Eymard, S.M.

P.S. The Work for the divine Tabernacle is advancing slowly, through the pathways of Calvary.

⁴⁴ Permission to have a chapel in her home.

⁴⁵ meaning unclear.

TO MISS ANTONIA BOST
(IV 9/28)

Boarding school of La Seyne (Var), July 2, 1855

Mademoiselle,

I am writing to visit a little with you today, on the feast of the Visitation. I wish this visit could be like the Most Blessed Virgin's, that it would fill your soul with joy like St. John with the Holy Spirit given to St. Elizabeth.

It has been such a long time since you have shared with me. I offer your soul every day to our Lord, for it has all the power of love in your divine Spouse!

I really share in your painful sacrifice, my dear daughter. It's the greatest you could make. Since union is perfect, you will have to do it, since God wants it. It will make your union more intimate. Absence causes both suffering and love. See how the saints long for God and Heaven.

I was deeply sorry to hear that both your mother and sister were ill. I will really pray to the good Lord to bless them both for you, because you need them so much.

What a cross! What sadness for the poor lady from Chatelux. It was God's will: that's the only cover we can put on such a sad wound.

As for you, dear sister, God wants you to belong entirely to him in the simplicity and fullness of your being. Therefore, belong entirely to this King of hearts, be proud and happy to belong to him. How happy you will be in Heaven one day!

The holidays are coming soon. I don't know whether I will have the pleasure of going to Tarare, I'm tempted to want to [do so].

In the meantime, pray for my weakness and believe me ever,

Dear sister in Mary,
Your ever devoted,
Eymard, P.M.

P.S. When you write to your dear sister, offer my religious regards.

TO MME. ISABELLE SPAZZIER
(VII 6/19)

La-Seyne, July 11, 1855

Madame and dear sister,

What sad news for your heart! Alas! This poor woman is so pathetic! Humiliation might perhaps bring her back to duty - but stay out of it all. You have no obligation to make any useless revelations, which would cause you a great deal of trouble. - Be a stranger to it all. Alas! See what this lovely world is like, where pretentious airs almost always lead to the slavery of sensuality.

If you must write to Madame, write very simply.

Ask to stay at a convent. I will get information during the month of August. Blois is very far! Especially since your aunt doesn't want to have you! Wait a little.

La Seyne-sur-Mer Part III 1855

Ask them to sell the lithographs at Hyeres. I would prefer silence about the Work,⁴⁶ lest it should become known.

It would be fine in Marseilles. If the Work is known there, it doesn't matter. Make many pious stones.⁴⁷

The Work is still on the cross. Let us trust.

Goodbye, in Jesus, dear sister.

All yours,
Eymard

518

CO 515

TO FATHER GABRIEL-CLAUDE MAYET, S.M.
(VI 3/4)

La Seyne, July 24, 1855

Pray hard for me, very dear Father, that I may fulfill the holy Will of God and, above all, that neither flesh nor spirit, nor this miserable ego will be a satan upon my path.

... The eucharistic Work is still underground. Very Rev. Fr. General, in his wisdom, has not seen fit to give temporary permission. Is this a test? Or does the good Lord want another David, more pleasing to his heart? *Quid ad me?*⁴⁸ - Provided he be known, loved and glorified by all, let him immolate me, pulverize me, provided the Work for his glory lives and grows like the mustard seed.

Eymard

519

CO 516

TO MLES. MARIANNE EYMARD AND NANETTE BERNARD
(III 101/145 VI 10)

La Seyne, 26, Saint Anne, 1855

My dear sisters,

I am coming to wish you both a happy feast day, and to tell you first of all, that I expressed my wishes for you this morning at the Holy Altar by saying Holy Mass for you.

I asked our Lord to give you the love of Jesus and Mary, through the intercession of your good Patroness, that includes everything else. I also asked good Saint Anne to be your mother, especially at this time of sorrow and difficulty.

I won't be able to go see you at La Mure at this time. The doctors want me to go to Vichy for my migraine headaches, and as the treatments at the Springs aren't available beyond the month of August, they want me to go right away. So, God willing, I will be able to go see you by mid-September, but not sooner. However, my health is better than it was last year.

We will be distributing the prizes on July 30th, so I will be leaving for Lyons on August 2nd or 3rd.

⁴⁶ The foundation of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament - still under discernment.

⁴⁷ Connected to her work as a lithographer.

⁴⁸ What does it matter to me?

I will also attend to the two little ones.⁴⁹ I heard from Lyons that they may take one. I will look into it.

I am very busy at this moment. I will write you a longer letter later. Please continue to pray for me.

All yours,
Eymard, p.m.

520

CO 517

TO MR. CLAPPIER

(V 1/2)

La Seyne, July 26, 1855

Mr. President,

Mr. Dorbes, a friend of our school, needs some advice and perhaps a helpful word. You are so kind, that I dare send him to you with full confidence. If it is possible, he will owe you all the gratitude.

Please accept the respectful and ever devoted sentiments. Mr. President,
Of your loving servant,

Eymard

P.S. I'm finally sending you [a copy of] my poor sermon given last year.

Mr. Clappier
President of the Tribunal
at Toulon

521

CO518

TO MISS MARGUERITE GUILLOT (MOTHER MARGUERITE DU SS)

(II 131/395 VI 2)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, July 27, 1855

I am writing, my dear daughter, to send you at least a few words. Thank you for your good letters. I praised and thanked our good Master for them. Yes, do what he tells you. Be calm, and silent at the feet of our Lord. Handle your issues with this good Lord; men are only instruments.

I was very pleased with the letter from Fr. Ch.⁵⁰ Keep it. His is a beautiful soul. . . [*five lines erased*].

As for me, nothing has changed. Rev. Fr. General doesn't want to cooperate with the Eucharistic Work. It may be a good thing for the Work! God knows.

The question will be settled during the holidays. May God's mercy grant that this Work not be choked underground. Let him rather send an angel to lead it out of the desert, its place of testing, to the promised land.

⁴⁹ Nieces of Nanette, in need of an orphanage.

⁵⁰ Probably Fr. Champion.

Our prize day is July 30th. I expect to leave here the 2nd or 3rd. It's my hope to visit you first. In the meantime, pray for me.

All yours,
Eymard

522

CO 520

TO HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS IX (ARCHIVES SSS)

La Seyne, (Diocese of Frejus), August 2, 1855

Petition to Pius IX⁵¹

Most Holy Father,

Please allow the least of your children, a religious priest of the Society of Mary, to place very simply at the feet of Your Holiness, the intimate thoughts of his soul. Since I could not come to Rome at this time, Rev. Father Touche, an apostolic missionary and the Ananias of my life, has accepted to replace me and to be the interpreter of my heart's feelings.

For the last 4 years I have felt a strong impulse of grace to solicit from my Superior the permission to dedicate myself entirely to the glory and the service of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. I have been resisting this interior attraction for 3 years, for fear that it might be the result of a natural attraction, or an illusion of the devil.

However, the fear of resisting the will⁵² of God led me to open my soul to Very Rev. Father Alphonse, the Provincial [Superior] of the Capuchins, who is now Assistant General in Rome. He advised me to subject this thought to further trial, and if it should persist, to speak about it to my Superior General. That is what I did. Very Rev. Father Colin replied after reflection as follows: "I believe that the idea you have been experiencing for such a long time comes from God, will be for his glory and that one day you will be able to carry it out. In the meantime, pray, continue to die to yourself, and God will do the rest."

Well, Most Holy Father, the thought is the following: At the sight of the love of Jesus Christ in his adorable sacrament, of its isolation due to the lack of devotion of the faithful, of the indifference of so many Christians, of the ever-growing impiety of the men of our time, - at the sight of the great needs of the Church, of so many idolaters and heretics, [people] so distant from the faith of Jesus Christ, a thought which was both gentle and strong kept telling me:

Why does the greatest of all mysteries not have its religious group like the other mysteries; why would it not have men with a perpetual mission of prayer at the feet of Jesus Christ in his divine Sacrament? - Why would the King of Kings not also have his guard of honor, watching day and night in the presence of his divine Tabernacle, in the perpetual practice of adoration, of thanksgiving, of reparation? The mission of these religious adorers could not fail to be all-powerful over the heart of the God of mercies, and the men of good will whom the grace of the [illegible] would call to this angelic vocation would, at the source of so many graces, necessarily become truly spiritual men, men of prayer, of virtue which has become so rare even among the clergy in this century of all-consuming activity and rationalism.

⁵¹ This petition was copied not on an original text by Fr. Eymard, but on a text of Fr. de Cuers; pieced together with care, it was found accurate. Certified by Fr. Tenaillon in Paris, May 1920.

This copy of Fr. de Cuers was sent by Fr. Eymard to Rev. Father Favre on March 17, 1856. It is kept in the Archives of the Marist Fathers. A photocopy can be found in the Archives of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Rome. This is most likely the text to which Fr. Eymard subsequently refers as being presented to the Holy Father on August 27.

⁵² French: voie or voix.

The Society of the Most Blessed Sacrament would not limit itself to this mission of prayer and contemplation. It would dedicate itself apostolically to the salvation of souls by using all the [necessary] means inspired by a wise zeal enlightened by the charity of Jesus Christ. It would work to lead to the feet of Jesus Eucharistic as many adorers as possible, by forming associations of adorers in the world, by giving private and public retreats for men in their Cenacle, especially for secular priests. (This powerful means of salvation does not exist in France. How many times we have heard men, especially priests, complain that they could not even find a place to [make a] retreat in the religious orders, as each one replied that it was not their specialty.)

The Society would gladly embrace all the works of zeal which concern the adorable eucharist, such as 40 hour devotions, clergy retreats, preparations for first Communions, etc.

Considering also the state of isolation, neglect and the spiritual dangers to which the veterans in the priesthood are exposed when they can no longer carry out the sacred functions of the pastoral ministry, would it not be the best of apostolates to offer them decent retirement, to treat them with great respect and thus give them the means to finish their lives with honor and in holiness in a mission of prayer and love close to the King whom they served so well? The Society would call on all the arts and sciences to work for the beautiful apostolate of Tabernacles, whose purpose would be to aid poor churches.

Such, Most Holy Father, is the thought which consumes my heart and which I place humbly upon your heart which is so full of love for the divine Eucharist. Once this idea is blessed by Your Holiness, I sincerely hope it will be one of the blessed fruits of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Six zealous priests and six scholastics in philosophy already ardently desire to dedicate themselves to this Eucharistic project. A former Benedictine monastery is being offered to the Society in the diocese of Valence for the Novitiate House: everything is ready. Only one thing is lacking, but it is everything, Most Holy Father: Your Apostolic Blessing. - Bishop Chatrousse, Bishop of Valence, would be very happy to welcome this beautiful Work, which corresponds very dearly to his piety. My major issue [also] still needs to be resolved. Very Rev. Father Favre, the successor of Very Rev. Father Colin who has resigned, while respecting my heart's desire, and the encouragement given to me by his predecessor, does not want to favor it outside of the Society of Mary, nor to give me permission to work for it, saying that he does not have the power to do so and refers me to the judgment of Your Holiness. - Well, it seems to me, Most Holy Father, that by giving Jesus a poor son of Mary, nothing is being taken away from the glory of his divine Mother. During the 16 years that I have had the joy of being a religious, it is true that I have filled the functions of Provincial and Assistant; - at this time I am free of all responsibilities and my withdrawal can in no way harm the Society of Mary.

Most Holy Father, my cause is in your hands, I will keep my soul in peace while waiting for a supreme decision which will represent the will of God for me. If Your Beatitude gives me to this eucharistic Work in spite of my unworthiness and weakness, I will thank him for it with all my heart for allowing me to cooperate in this way with a Work which must be so beneficial for the church.

If, on the contrary, Your Holiness [who is] ever guided by the greater glory of God should judge otherwise, I will submit to it with total simplicity and limit myself to praying for a Work for which I would be only too happy to give my life and blood.

It is with sentiments of most profound and filial obedience that I am happy to say that I am of Your Holiness

Most Holy Father,
Your humble son,
P. Eymard p.m.

La Seyne
(Diocese of Frejus)
August 2, 1855

TO FATHER VINCENT JANDEL, O.P.
(VI 1/1)

La Seyne, August 2, 1855

My Very Reverend Father,

I had written you a letter, a short time ago, to ask you to give me fatherly advice concerning the Work of the Blessed Sacrament. I did not send it. I preferred to send you good Father Touche, Apostolic Missionary, to whom, after God, I owe both piety and my vocation. He will tell you everything [that is] in my heart. Please receive him as myself.

Very Reverend Father, I don't know how to tell you my gratitude and total confidence. God our good Master will be my help.

I am, in all simplicity, Very Rev. Father,

Your son,
Eymard

To the Most Reverend Father Jandel
Superior General of the Dominicans
Rome